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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Answer YES to Readiness

Two hundred and forty years ago, selected members of the Massachusetts militia were called upon to be ready to defend their homes the minute they were called.

These Minutemen were prepared to drop what they were doing, grab their muskets, and muster on the village green with other friends and neighbors to defend their communities. They were our first quick-reaction force, and understood the important role they played in protecting their homeland.

And 125 years before that, in 1640, Dutch settlers in Manhattan, who belonged to the Burgher Guard (the city's Citizens Guard) were instructed to report to the settlement's fort when they heard a cannon shot fired.

Today, of course, that call to duty is going to come as a phone call, or a text message.

I don't expect you to respond in a minute, but I do expect all members of our Army and Air National Guard, as well as the New York Naval Militia and New York Guard, to be ready when that call to duty comes.

After a bomb exploded in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood on Sept. 17, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo turned to the New York National Guard and asked us to increase our security presence at the city's transportation hubs (see story on page 12).

Our men and women responded to the call and we were able to meet the governor's goals for an increased security presence. We rapidly identified Soldiers and Airmen for this duty, processed them, qualified them on their weapons, and deployed them in the airports and train stations.

Whether it is a security concern, flooding, a snowstorm, or a hurricane, the governor and the people of New York are looking to the men and women of the New York National Guard for a response. It is no longer of question of if we get the call, but when. It is up to each of us to be ready.

Winter means snowstorms and inclement weather and there's always a chance that Guard Soldiers and Airmen will be asked to help the state response.



Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the adjutant general of New York, speaks with New York Army National Guard battalion and company-level leaders during his leadership conference at Camp Smith Training Site on Sept 25. Photo by Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

So what does readiness mean for a modern-day Minuteman?

It means making sure your unit has good contact information for you so that you can get that phone call, e-mail or text message quickly, and respond to your chain of command.

It means making sure your employer and family know that you have an obligation to respond when called for military duty. Don't let your boss be surprised when you tell him or her that you've been called upon to serve New York.

It means keeping your gear ready to go. Packing a "go bag" of basics — extra uniforms, toilet items, and other necessary gear — and keeping it on hand is always a good idea. It saves time when you don't need to find basics.

It means ensuring that important documents are in a place where your spouse can find them in your absence, and that your finances are in good order.

It can also mean making sure that your family has emergency supplies — extra water, flashlights, warm clothing — so they can take care of themselves while you are on duty.

If you know somebody on one of our Citizens Preparedness Corps training teams, ask them for some hints on what you can do to have your family ready for a weather emergency. They've got plenty of good tips. You can also take an online course in emergency preparedness here: www.prepare.ny.gov/online-citizen-preparedness-training

Being ready also means being ready to fulfil our federal mission.

We may not be deploying as many Soldiers as we have in the past, but Army Guard units are still going downrange (see stories on pages 16, 17).

In this case being ready means making sure you've met individual training requirements like having a PT test on file, qualifying with your weapon, and meeting height and weight standards. Do everything you can to avoid missing a drill so you don't miss training you need.

Federal deployments, of course, are usually well scheduled in advance, so that gives all of us — Soldiers and Airmen alike — time to get ready for those calls to duty.

So take some time out and plan now for the things you need to do when the call to duty comes. You'll have more than the minute that our colonial forefathers had to respond when their call came. As Brig. Gen. Pat Center asked all of us during our hurricane briefing this summer, "are you ready?"

The answer needs to be YES!!! We have some 380 years of Minutemen response behind us to live up to. Thank you for doing your part to be ready today. **gt**



Maj. Gen.
Anthony German

The logo for the 138th Public Affairs Detachment, consisting of the lowercase letters "gt" in a bold, stylized, green font with a white outline.



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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. — Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 369th Sustainment Brigade throw practice hand grenades during pre-mobilization training here in August. The brigade took over logistics operations in Kuwait in October (see story on pages 16 and 17). Photo by Sgt. Cesar Leon, 369th Sustainment Brigade.

FRONT COVER: New York Army National Guard Specialists Casimir Remond and Rafael Molina, assigned to the New York National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTF-ES) provide security in New York City's Grand Central Station in September. JTF-ES boosted its ranks following bombings in Manhattan and New Jersey that month (story on page 12).
BACK COVER: A 106th Rescue Wing Security Forces Squadron member maneuvers through concealing smoke during Tactical Combat Casualty Care training at FS Gabreski ANG on Oct. 19. Photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Muncy.

Medic's Baby-steps Earn Expert Field Medical Badge

Story by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Infantry Division

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — On the heels of a major training exercise, New York Army National Guard Spc. Brady Douglass rose to the top of his field to earn the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge, or EFMB, here in early September.

Douglass was one of 29 medics, out of 239, who bested a written test, simulated combat training lanes, a 12-mile ruck march and other challenges to win the EFMB. Douglass belongs to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry and resides in Queens, N.Y.

The EFMB qualification training and testing started on Aug. 20, and was capped with a graduation ceremony on Sept. 2.

Eleven members of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) participated in the Fort Drum EFMB event. Spc. Justin Doherty, a member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry — which is now aligned with the 27th IBCT — also earned the badge.

Less than a month before EFMB qualification testing, Douglass and about 3,000 other of his fellow New York Army National Guard troops were sweating through a massive combat exercise at the Joint Readiness Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

"This EFMB is in addition to our annual training for our Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Edward Erbland, health care specialist and medical operations NCO with the 27th IBCT. "We just got back from JRTC, which is another training cycle, where they just got a lot of awesome medical training, so that plus annual training was a really in-depth train-up for them."

The EFMB candidates hailed from the 10th Mountain Division, as well as Army Reserve and Army National Guard units.

Only 12 percent of these candidates qualified for the EFMB and graduated. So far this year, the EFMB graduation rate is 19 percent Army-wide.

Created in 1965, the EFMB recognizes exceptional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel. The EFMB testing measures the individual medical Soldier's physical fitness, mental toughness, and ability to perform to standards of excellence in a broad spectrum of critical medical and

Soldier skills.

Along with passing a 60-question written examination and completing the march within three hours, EFMB candidates must correctly perform dozens of warrior and medical tasks, such as day and night land navigation, control bleeding with tourniquet and other aids, triage and evacuate casualties, administer intravenous fluids, treat head injuries and abdominal wounds, various weapons tasks, move under direct fire, and react to indirect fire.

At JRTC, he and other medics performed some of these medical tasks on "real live patients," Douglass said. Between Louisiana's heat and JRTC's high operations tempo, Soldiers were dropping "one after another," and sometimes simultaneously, he recalled.

But to some degree, JRTC's high operations tempo helped set his pace for success in the EFMB testing, he said. While JRTC is physically demanding, EFMB qualification — minus the road march — is mentally demanding, he explained.

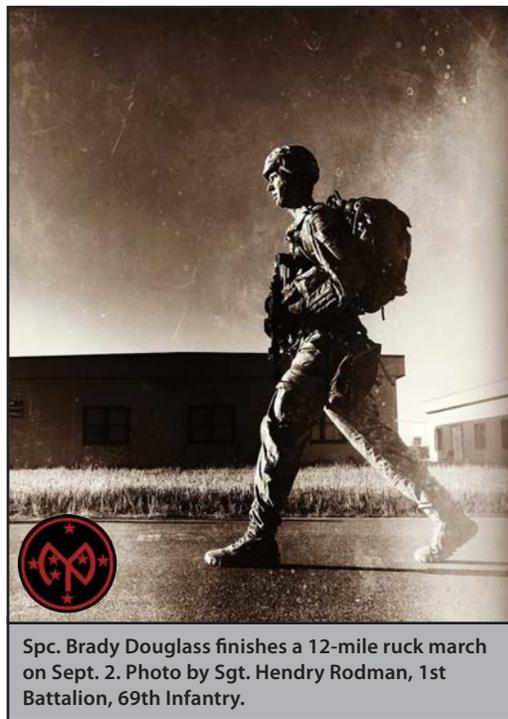
During the first week of EFMB qualification, candidates take the written exam, and are introduced to the tasks they'll be tested on, the high standards they'll be held to and the combat training lanes, which simulate combat situations. The following week candidates are tested on the lanes, where they must perform medical tasks and warrior tasks at the same time, such as treating patients while under simulated indirect fire, Douglass explained.

He found the lanes to be the most difficult part of the EFMB testing, Douglass said. In order to succeed, he forced himself to "baby-step it all the way," he explained.

"The level of detail that was required, it was easy to mess up any part of it," he said. "You can get so overwhelmed with everything you have to do, it really helps to take things one step at a time."

The technique must've worked, because on Sept. 2 — after days of lanes testing and other challenges — Douglass stepped over the ruck-march finish line, completing his final qualification event to earn his EFMB.

Finishing "felt surreal," Douglass recalled. He was so focused on taking things one step at



Spc. Brady Douglass finishes a 12-mile ruck march on Sept. 2. Photo by Sgt. Hendry Rodman, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry.

a time that "it took a while for it to sink in," he explained.

"I couldn't believe I was done, after all that," he said. "I was so tired, I was ready to collapse."

But the pace and detail of EFMB reflect his career as a medic, he said. Like other medical professionals, medics must continually study to keep pace with changes in medical care, he stressed.

"Things are always changing, especially in emergency medicine," he said. "You have to keep on top of it all the time."

Leaders in his unit have set the bar high, and expect them to study in between drill assemblies, Douglass said.

"We get drilled and quizzed every month by our platoon sergeant," he said.

In his civilian career, Douglass works as a bio-medical engineer at Zwanger-Pesiri Radiology on Long Island. But for him, just being an Army medic is its own reward — it gives him a chance to treat Soldiers and help them, he explained.

"I love being a medic," he said. "You can see the difference you're making." **gt**

Couple Strengthens 109th Airlift Wing Family Bonds

Story by Master Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing

SCOTIA, N.Y. — Like many Air National Guard units, Airmen at Stratton Air National Guard Base here have often referred to the 109th Airlift Wing (AW) as one, big family. Many have actual family ties on the base — parents and their children, cousins, siblings, and some have even met the person they'd later marry on base. One such couple met in the Dining Facility line during a unit training assembly in 2012.

Tech. Sgt. Justin Carkner, 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS), and Tech. Sgt. Abby (Nelson) Carkner, 109th Medical Group, got married this past August, surrounded by loved ones and wing members. Chaplain (Capt.) Joshua Choquette, 109th AW chaplain, even officiated the ceremony.

The two started dating shortly after their encounter at the Dining Facility. After a few short years, a proposal was in the works. Abby said she knew it would happen, but she just wasn't sure when or where. Co-workers were certain it would happen during a trip to Greenland they were both on in June 2015.

While a proposal on the icecap in Greenland would've been a unique story to tell, the Carkners wanted it to be at a place they could one day take their children, so they could show them where it all started.

"On June 27, 2015, I had this beautiful ring in my pocket and we went up to Lake George and hiked to the top of Buck Mountain," said Justin.

"Looking back, he was so nervous the whole time," Abby said.

"The weather was supposed to turn to rain, so I had it in my mind that we had to hurry and get to the top," Justin said. "Everything could've potentially fallen apart if we got caught in the rain, so we kept pushing to get to the top."

They reached the top, followed by a couple they'd met midway through their hike. It was then Justin had the idea for them to take pictures of his surprise proposal.

"I asked them to step back to take the picture, and then I grabbed the ring and got on one knee."



Tech. Sgts. Justin and Abby Carkner pose on the runway at Stratton Air National Guard Base. Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

"Although I knew it was coming eventually, I didn't know it would happen then...I was definitely surprised," said Abby.

The couple took a few months to enjoy the engagement and then got right into wedding planning. Because they knew they wanted a lot of guests from the wing, one of the timing factors was the yearly Antarctic and Greenland missions. The couple decided on August.

The Carkners held their wedding at Pat's Barn in Troy, N.Y. on Aug. 20.

"We figured out before the wedding that with all of the military members who would be there, there was over 350 years of service, just at the wedding alone," said Abby. "It was like having one gigantic extended family there, because you get so close to everybody that you work with here. Even as a guardsman."

The Carkners' family ties include 109th LRS members Senior Master Sgt. Michael Decker, Justin's stepfather, and Decker's daughter, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Labunski.

"The 109th has been a part of our family since 1999 and I've been blessed to have not one, but two of our children to follow my footsteps into the 109th family," Decker said. "And now I have a third family member, our

wonderful daughter-in-law, Abby. I still have the pride of wearing the uniform, but my pride in the 109th family has been kicked up a notch with the addition of another member...welcome to our family, Abby."

Justin and Abby have settled into their marital roles, and they've discovered that working at the same unit has many benefits.

"It's great to have that resource and that person who knows what you're talking about when you come home and talk about work," Abby said.

"And we push each other," said Justin. "We're at the same point in our careers. One of us will do something like finish the (non-commissioned officer) Academy and then say, 'so when are you going to do it?' It's a lot of fun. It's nice because it's such a close family (at the wing)."

"There's a lot of statistics out there saying military-to-military marriages fail, 'there's too much adversity,' 'there's too much risk if you have kids and you're in the same deployment cycle.' But I don't see those as hardships, I see them as adventures," said Abby.

"There will be challenges," said Justin. "But challenges just make a relationship stronger." **gt**

Air Guardsman Snatches Victory From Jaws of Death

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times* Staff

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A New York Air National Guard officer has been honored for beating a rare illness that almost killed him in 2010, and excelling since then.

In September, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, based here, gave Lt. Col. Eric Laughton, a 107th Airlift Wing medical service corps officer and New York State Police captain, its Theodore Roosevelt Association Police Award for 2016. Laughton, of Lockport, N.Y., commands Zone 1 in New York State Police Troop A.

The award recognizes police officers who overcome major handicaps to excel in law enforcement — like the way that President Roosevelt, who had been sickly as a child, worked hard to turn himself into the robust leader the nation remembers.

Getting the award was a humbling experience, and it was one of the most significant things that has happened to him during his 28 years as police officer, Laughton said.

“I survived because of the never-ending support and prayers from my immediate family, my Air Force family and my New York State Police family,” Laughton told those attending a dinner where he was honored. “Your support system is so important when tragedy strikes.”

Laughton’s battle to survive and thrive began when he suffered an intestinal blockage and perforation — and went into septic shock — while serving with the 109th Airlift Wing (AW)

at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia in February 2010.

A doctor assigned to the 109th Medical Group drove him to the hospital, and other doctors from the wing prevented the hospital from discharging him too soon. Nurses who worked there and served in the 109th looked out for him, and unit members looked out for his family while he was sick.

Despite their care, Laughton, then a major, came very close to death as an infection set in. His heart, lungs, liver and kidney began shutting down, he experienced acute respiratory distress, and during surgery, he slipped into a coma and was placed on life support.

However, Laughton recovered 13 days later, and began fighting back. Though he was in excellent shape before his illness, he was now a shell of the person he’d been.

“My muscles had atrophied severely and I had lost 42 pounds [weighing only 128 pounds],” he said at the time.

He couldn’t walk or talk or text on a phone, he said. It was a bitter existence for somebody who had prided himself on his athletic ability, he added.

He was tempted to pity himself, Laughton said, but realized that wasn’t an option.

“Tragedy allows you the unique opportunity to give back,” he said. “It can be a blessing. It affords you the chance to change someone’s



Lt. Col. Eric Laughton

life,” he said.

Since then Laughton has been passing along the lessons he learned to others.

He’s become a leadership coach. He’s spoken to groups about what he learned from his illness, and he’s published books based on those lessons: “The 4 M’s of Success: From Coma to Competition,” “The Success Equation” and “Decisions and Consequences.”

“Nothing hits harder than life,” Laughton said. “Getting knocked down in life is a guarantee, but getting back up is always a choice. It will never be about the knockdown. It will always be about the ‘get up.’” **gt**

Last Man In: New Recruit Helps Wing Surpass Recruiting Goal

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — New 105th Airlift Wing (AW) member Senior Airman Terrance Clyburn (left) poses with Tech. Sgt. Paul Messina, 105th AW production recruiter, after Clyburn’s swearing-in ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base here on Sept. 30. Clyburn was the last person recruited during fiscal year (FY) 2016, enabling the wing to achieve 104.7 percent manning and surpass its FY 2016 recruiting goal of 102 percent manning.

Before he joined the wing, Clyburn was an Air Force Reserve photojournalist, and performed drills in New Jersey. Though he spent his formative years in Newburgh, he didn’t know much about Stewart Air National Guard Base until the day he stopped into the wing on the off chance that he might be able to use a government computer.

He came across the 105th AW recruiting office and after a brief conversation, recruiters pointed to a computer he could use.

“I came back over to thank them and they told me I might be able to get a position over here, so I wouldn’t have to make that two and a half hour commute,” Clyburn said.

Clyburn counts himself lucky to have found a new home at the 105th AW.

“I’ve basically been raised up here, so I get to stay in the same environment,” he said. “For my own satisfaction, I get to give back to my own community.” Story and photo by Julio A. Olivencia, Jr., 105th AW. **gt**



NY, UK Troops Trade Knowledge in Exchange Program

Story by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Infantry Division

LATHAM, N.Y. — From Cyprus to Louisiana and points in between, New York Army National Guard and UK reserve troops shared training and the “one team, one fight” spirit this past summer and autumn.

Staff Sgt. Robert Collins trained with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment in June, and Staff Sgt. Kevin Singer trained with the 105th Regiment, Royal Artillery in September. In July, they worked with their UK counterparts, Color Sgt. Neil Bowers and Sgt. Dan Toogood, at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The training was part of the Military Reserve Exchange Program (MREP), which is designed to foster relationships between forces and form a better understanding of partner countries’ operations and tactics.

According to Collins, of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry and Singer, of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, they also learned about the strength of their interoperability.

“It was a great opportunity,” Collins said. “Everyone should apply for it.”

Collins’ training opportunity involved a company-level, force-on-force exercise over Cyprus’ rocky and scrub-brush covered terrain. But before it began, he had to create some interoperability of his own — because, as he joked, he and the Irish troops were “separated by a common language.”

“The northern Irish from Belfast speak very fast and use a lot of slang,” Collins said. But he managed to get the Irish troops to speak more slowly, and he began to observe how they do things.

Along with different terminology, their forces are smaller, so they tend to be more conservative with ammunition and other resources, Collins noted. But they deal with the same tactical challenges in the same ways as the U.S. Army, he stressed.

“Their tactics are very similar,” he said. “They just don’t have as many people to do them with. Their squad attack is the same as ours. They lay down a base of fire and maneuver on the enemy.” And like the U.S. Army, they use things like patrol bases and conduct battle drills, he added.

Along with familiarizing with UK weapons,

Collins learned to scuba-dive as part of the “adventure training” available to UK troops.

Adventure training isn’t just recreational — it builds confidence, and it might be a good recruiting and retention incentive the U.S. Army should adopt, he said. He also enjoyed socializing with the Irish troops and getting to know them, he added.

“The training was great, but the camaraderie was my favorite part,” Collins said.

About a month later, Collins and Singer went to JRTC with their units, which are part of the New York Army National Guard’s 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Brigade troops were among the 5,300 Army National Guard and Army Reserve troops involved in the exercise, which took place in a training area commonly known as “the box.”

Bowers trained alongside Collins and Toogood trained with Singer at JRTC. The UK troops were taken by the magnitude of the exercise, Collins and Singer recalled.

Toogood got a chance to call for close-air support during the exercise, Singer said.

“He got to talk to F-15s and Apache gunships for the first time ever,” he said.

Bowers’ rank of color sergeant is roughly equal to U.S. Army master sergeant, and Bowers was forthcoming and enthusiastic with advice during the exercise, Collins said. Routine idea-sharing was another thing they had in common, he added.

“He was outside of our ‘box,’” Collins said. “He shared a lot of information with us, and helped us a lot.”

About a month later, Singer began training with the Royal Artillery troops. Though Singer is the fire-support NCO for his company, his hosts allowed him to conduct basic battle drills with their troops, and teach them military



Staff Sgt. Kevin Singer (left) trains UK troops in September.

operations in urban terrain, also known as MOUT. Many of the artillery troops had worked with American Soldiers before, and they learned quickly, he said.

“I think they gained a lot from that, and I did, too,” he said.

Singer also gained a lot from training with the UK artillery soldiers and other NATO troops during an exercise in Denmark.

“I learned the nuances of having to call-for-fire with different countries and different countries’ guns,” Singer said. “To me, that interoperability will be crucial if we ever go to war.”

Singer also had fun. Once he got to call for a coordinated illumination missions with UK and Danish guns.

“How often do you get to do that?” he said. “I’m absolutely going to re-apply. The knowledge I got from it, to me, was super.” **gt**

AROUND THE STATE

Guardsman's Son Gives Back to Earn Top Scout Rank

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Katie Gray, 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — A Staten Island Boy Scout and New York Army National Guard officer's son found a unique way to support the troops and earn Eagle Scout rank.

James Seagriff, son of 42nd Infantry Division Operations Officer Maj. Ian Seagriff, raised enough money to buy 50 bikes for children of New York Army National Guard Soldiers serving in the Middle East.

On Oct. 30, James and other members of Boy Scout Troop 37 gathered at the Guard's Staten Island Armory, assembled the bikes and presented them to the 369th Sustainment Brigade Family Readiness Group (FRG). Brigade Soldiers, 250 in all, are providing supply, maintenance and other support to U.S. forces in the Middle East at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait (see story on page 16).

Scouts working on the Eagle Scout badge must plan and execute a community project. He picked this project, James said, because he remembers what it's like to have a family member deployed.

"When my dad went to Afghanistan years ago, I received a bike from the FRG," he said. "I figured for my Eagle Scout project, I would give back to show my appreciation for the children's sacrifice."

James' troop leaders approved his idea and began asking for donations from local businesses this past summer.

"It was weird asking people for money, but as I went up and down Victory Boulevard a few times it got easier, and I raised about \$2,700," he said.

His father was a little shocked that his son held on to the idea for so long.

"I'm extremely proud of him," Ian said. "He's worked hard for this and it's for a good cause, and it's not the same Eagle project that's usually done. He could be home playing video games or doing whatever and he's really trying to give back to his community and do the right thing, pay it forward, which is one of the things they try to teach in Scouts."

The bikes will be presented at a later Christmas party, and the 369th FRG hopes to raise money for another 50 bikes by then. Keiry Vargas, the 369th FRG leader, also praised James.

"It's great to see that kids this age want to give



Keiry Vargas, 369th Sustainment Brigade FRG leader (far left), brigade member 2nd Lt. Neysia Scot (middle left), Boy Scout James Seagriff (middle right) and brigade member Sgt. 1st Class Jaime L. Soto (far right) pose with some of the bikes that will be given to the children of deployed brigade members.

back to people, to the community," she said.

James expressed only one regret.

"I wish that I could have raised a little more money so I could have a bought a helmet for each bike," he said. **gt**

'Boss Lift' Brings National Guard Life Home to Civilian Employers

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — Staff Sgt. Jean Walton of the New York Army National Guard's 106th Regional Training Institute, (right) shows a civilian employer how to fire an M9 pistol at Camp Smith Training Site here during a "Boss Lift" of 18 civilian employers on Sept. 10.

Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) personnel organized the Boss Lift to give the employers a feel for what their employees undergo as Soldiers, according to Darlene Stanton, the ESGR program support specialist.

A Department of Defense program, ESGR was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component service members and their civilian employers, and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. Photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment. **gt**



Dignified Return: NY Honor Guard Helps Bring Fallen Soldier Home



SYRACUSE, N.Y. — On the tarmac of Hancock Field International Airport here, New York Army National Guard Honor Guard members help convey the remains of Sgt. 1st Class Louis Baxter, who was listed as missing in action during the Korean War, back to his hometown of Massena N.Y. on Oct. 5. A member of the 7th Infantry Division, Baxter was listed as missing in action in November, 1950. Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Miller, 174th Attack Wing. 

NY National Guard Hosts SPP Meeting for South Africa, DoD Leaders

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Bilateral Defense Committee Co-Chair Dr. Thobelile Gamade, the Chief of South African Defense Policy, Strategy and Planning (far right) provides concluding remarks alongside her counterpart Amanda Dory, the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, during the 2017 Bilateral Defense Committee meeting at the New York State Military Museum here on Oct 26. Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the New York State adjutant general, is seated at the far left.



The New York National Guard hosted the meeting as part of the State Partnership Program (SPP). The New York National Guard is the state partner with South Africa for combined training and shared military-to-military activities.

The two militaries manage their defense relationship via the committee. The meeting allowed committee members to develop the upcoming engagement plan for 2017, and discuss mutual objectives such as regional security, military support to civilian authorities, peace-support operations, and environmental issues.

National Guard SPPs build capacity and capability within partner nations' security forces, and cultivate personal, professional, and institutional relationships while training National Guardsmen for their state and federal missions. In September, the New York National Guard participated in the Africa Aerospace and Defense Expo in South Africa for the fifth time (see story on page 14). Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters. 



Army Guard Promotions



Promoted to Sergeant



ALLEN KENNETH	1427TH TRANS CO (-) MED TRK
AUGUSTINE SHAUNTE	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
BOYD SARAH	107TH MP COMPANY FWD 2
COLEMAN TAJ	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
ESTRADAREYES FABIAN	145TH MAINTENANCE CO
HAMILTON BRADLEY	FSC 204TH ENGINEER BATTALION
JOHNSON KELVIN	719 TRANS CO (-) (MDM TRK CGO)
KACZMAREK JOSHUA	A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)
LEE JOSEPH	37TH FINANCE DET
LLININCHICAIZA JONATHAN	HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE (-) (BCT)
LOPEZ FRANCISCO	145TH MAINTENANCE CO
MULHERN THOMAS	HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
RINALDI THOMAS	HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
ROCHESTER RICHARD	222D (-) MILITARY POLICE CO
SHEEHE CHARLES	DET 1 B CO BSTB 27TH IN BDE
STONER FITZGERALD	CO C 642D SUPPORT BN
SULLIVAN KATIE	HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
WEAVER JARED	1108TH ORDNANCE CO EOD
WICKHAM THOMAS	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant



ALLICOCK SHAUNITA	719 TRANS CO (-) (MDM TRK CGO)
BENBERT JEDIDIAH	CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB
CERNE CLATRON	HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
EDUSAH KWAMEHHD	501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD
FUERCH DEREK	HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
KUHN DYLAN	A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)
MAYES LASHERI	CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN
MCMILLEN JOSEPH	DET 1 719TH TRANS CO
NA SEA	14TH FINANCE DET
POTTS BENJAMIN	DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
SEGUI JORGE	CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
SWEARINGEN JAMIE	CO C (-) 1-171ST AVI REG
WARNER LAUREN	HSC 642D SUPPORT BN



First Lieutenant Promoted to Captain



BAEK DANIEL	HQ & SPT CO 42ND ID (-)
BURNS JOHN	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
CRABTREE CRYSTAL	HQ 53D TRP CMD
GIOELI JOSHUA	TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
LEE KIN	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
PEDICONE ANTHONY	222D (-) MILITARY POLICE CO
PLANTE RAYMOND	CO D (-) 3-142D AVIATION
PUCKERIN BRITTNY	HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)
QUINONES STEVEN	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
RESPECKI SHELLY	HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE (-) (BCT)
SAXBY ALEXANDER	CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY
SEDA ALICIA	CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN
TRACEY MICHAEL	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
UKPE MERCY	HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
VAZQUEZ MALINDA	727TH MP DET L AND O REAR
WHITE BRETT	FSC 204TH ENGINEER BATTALION



Captain Promoted to Major



AYRES ANDREW	27TH INF (BCT)
BROUNTAS RYAN	27TH INF (BCT)
CHANDLER HENRY	HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION
COUCHMAN ANDREW	HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
DEXTER CALEB	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
HUTCHISON JENA	DET 1 DIV SIGNAL CO 42ND ID
NOVOA BERNIE	HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN
PETRILLO ELLEN	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
REBMANN DANIEL	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
RICH SCOTT	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



WHALEY NICHOLAS	DET 2 OPS CO 42ND ID
BUFFARDI JOEL	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
HERNANDEZ PAUL	DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
JOHNSON YOLANDA	MEDICAL COMMAND
ROTH JEFFREY	DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
ZIZOLFO ROBERT	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel



BOUSQUET STEPHEN	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
FEELEY DAVID	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
MELNYK LES	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
SMITH ISABEL	HQ 53D TRP CMD



Sergeant Promoted to Staff Sergeant



ALCANTARA RAMON	CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN
CASTANEDA AMANDA	HQ 27TH FINANCE MGMT BN
HUBBELL JUSTIN	H & S CO 204 ENGR BN
IVOVSKY VITALY	CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
MCDONNELL GREGORY	105TH MP CO



Staff Sergeant Promoted to Sergeant 1st Class



BRISEE JOHN	HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
GUCKIAN ANDREW	HQ 53D TRP CMD
LEAVITT BROOKE	MEDICAL COMMAND
MONTIFORTE LYDIA	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
MURRAY CASEAN	HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)
TAYLOR DAVID	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
TUCCIARIELLO ANTHONY	CO B (-) RECRUITNG & RETENTION



Sergeant 1st Class Promoted to Master Sergeant



BARNES BYRON	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
JOHNSON PAUL	HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
MANNY BRIAN	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
MILLER DAVID	10TH MOUNTAIN DIV (MCP-OD)
PRUITT AKANKE	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
QUIVEY JEFFREY	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY



Master Sergeant Promoted to Sergeant Major



LEE YUEN	HQ 27TH FINANCE MGMT BN
LUNNY PAUL	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
MOSS CURTIS	DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 3



DANIELS THOMAS	DET 5 CO C 3-135TH AVIATION
QUIJANO MICHAEL	1156TH ENGR CO VERTICAL
REDICK KENNETH	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 5



OKEEFE JACQUELINE	ARNG STAFF ELEMENT JFHQ-NY
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Air Guard Promotions



Technical Sergeant Promoted to Master Sergeant



ZIMMERMAN, MICHAEL EDWARD	174 WG
ZELIPH, COLLEEN THERESA	109 WG
VELLA, MICHAEL JOSEPH	106 WG
TURCO, ANDRE HORN	174 WG
THOMPSON, JIME M	105 WG
TAVAREZ, JOSELITO	105 WG
STANBRO, JEREMY JOHN	AIR DEFENSE
SOLMO, DIANE LEE	109 WG
SMITH, GREGORY MICHAEL	174 WG
SITTERLY, RANDY KANZOG	174 WG
SIMMONS, LEWIS DAVID	174 WG
SCHMIDT, CATHARINE ANN ELLIOT	109 WG
RUST, MICHAEL GREGORY	174 WG
RUPERT, DENNIS EDWARD II	174 WG
ROSSI, JANINE	105 WG
RONCA, KEVIN DAVID	109 WG
ROBERTS, RAYMOND MARK JR	109 WG
RAGUSO, CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH	106 WG
POMERLEAU, MITCHELL WAYNE	174 WG
PIGEON, WALTER ANDREW	174 WG
PAJONK, MICHAEL	105 WG
OSTERHOUT, DAVID ERIC	174 WG
NICKLAS, KERRY ANN	109 WG
NELSON, CHRISTOPHER GRAHAM	109 WG
MUENTE, GLEN A	105 WG
KEATING, SHAWN WILLIAM	109 WG
KAUFMAN, LUKE JAMES	105 WG
HASSIS, DYLAN ERIK	109 WG
HANAVAN, ERIC FRANCIS	174 WG
GUAGENTI, LEE C	105 WG
FASANO, VINCENT A	105 WG
DEVITO, MATTHEW MICHAEL	109 WG
DEPPE, JASON ALAN	109 WG
DENNISTON, JAMES ROBERT	106 WG
DAUPHIN, DENNIS PAUL JR	109 WG
COPE, JOHNNY NEIL	109 WG
COOK, DAVID STEVEN	107 WG
COLLINS, DAVID JOHN	107 WG
CAROLAN, JOSEPH BRIAN	109 WG
CARLTON, CHAD ARTHUR	174 WG
BYRNS, KEVIN MICHAEL	109 WG
BULLOCK, JAMES JOSEPH	174 WG
BROCKI, ELLEN	106 WG
BENJAMIN, PHILIP EDWARD	174 WG
BECKETT, JENNIFER L	107 WG
AMMANN, CRAIG ANDREW	174 WG
ALLEN, WALTER L III	105 WG
ACQUARD, JASON E	107 WG



Master Sgt. Promoted to Sr. Master Sergeant



ZIEGELBAUER, DAVID K	ANGRC
TALBOT, SHAWN MICHAEL	109 WG
SMITHCOFFEY, CATRINA M	107 WG
SCHWANDT, KRISTOPHER L	105 WG
PEARCE, THOMAS EUGENE	106 WG
MURPHY, DANIEL P	105 WG
HULL, ROBERT A II	107 WG
GRAHAM, REBECCA LEIGH	109 WG
GONZALEZ, PATRICK JOHN	106 WG
GIZARA, WILLIAM MICHAEL	109 WG
FARRELL, ROBERT E	105 WG
CASHEL, DANIEL JOHN	174 WG
BOOTH, JEAN KERRY	109 WG
BISHOP, MICHELE MARGARET C	106 WG
BARRETT, TIMOTHY J	105 WG



Sr. Master Sergeant Promoted to Chief Master Sgt.



TROTTIER, JEFFREY JOSEPH	109 WG
PINGITORE, MICHAEL ANTHONY	109 WG
MICOLI, JOEL M	107 WG
LAKE, RICHARD DAVID	AIR OPS
FONG, BRUCE ANDREW	174 WG
CHRISSELY, JEFFREY SCOTT	174 WG



Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant



SWEENEY, KELLI S	107 WG
PRUSAK, CHRISTOPHER DAVID	109 WG
OBOYLE, JOY LYNN	109 WG
MORALES, MELISSA DANIELLE	105 WG
DANA, ROBERT C	105 WG
COOPER, RANDY LAVERNE	107 WG
BOWERS, JOSHUA SHANE	109 WG
BOSWELL, JEDIDIAH SCOTT	174 WG
BODDY, WILLIAM THOMAS	107 WG
ALFANO, BRIAN DAVID	106 WG
ADAMCZYK, KATELYN ELIZABETH	106 WG



2nd Lieutenant Promoted to 1st Lieutenant



PALMATIER, ERIC MICHAEL	109 WG
ORLOWSKI, DENNIS M	107 WG
OLIVER, BENJAMIN JOSEPH	AIR OPS
KILLIAN, COURTNEY JEANNE	106 WG
GROGAN, KELLEN LAWRENCE	107 WG
FOX, SHAWNA MARIE	107 WG
DIETZLER, COURTNEY JON	105 WG
DAMON, JOSHUA DAVID	174 WG
CULLIPHER, TIMOTHY CHARLES JR	174 WG
CASTRO, EDWIN J	107 WG
CALDWELL, ANTOINE L	105 WG



1st Lieutenant Promoted to Captain



VANPATTEN, ASHLEY ANTONIA RO	109 WG
VANHOLTZ, TOBY MICHAEL	106 WG
PHELPS, LAMONT LAFAYETTE	107 WG
MANSOUR, JAMES W II	107 WG
GRIEPSMA, MICHAEL JOHN	106 WG
FRIED, KYLE ALEXANDER	174 WG
DIAZ, XIOMARA N	109 WG
BARBER, FRANK W JR	109 WG



Captain Promoted to Major



SPENDLEY, PAUL BARTEL	107 WG
MCNAMARA, ELIZABETH GILLIAM	109 WG
MARCHEGIANI, DANIEL ELLIOTT	109 WG
BARTH, ALLEN LEE	174 WG
WESTBROOK, SHARON ARLENE	109 WG



Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



WADSWORTH, JEFFREY W	105 WG
VALLIMONT, LYNN S	ENGINEERING INSTLN
THEISEN, NEIL MICHAEL	106 WG
RIETH, MICHAEL CHARLES	152 WG
PEREGRIM, KIMBERLY ANNE	109 WG
PELOW, MARIA T	107 WG
OLIVER, ADAM L	107 WG
LACRETA, JOHN MATTHEW	107 WG
KELLY, KEVIN CHARLES	106 WG
COUSINEAU, STEVEN ALEX	109 WG
CLARK, THOMAS MATTHEW	174 WG
BARTLEY, CAROLYN ROSE	174 WG
ALLEY, MITCHELL L	105 WG



Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel



TESTER, DANIEL NELS	174 WG
SANDER, CHRISTIAN ERIC	109 WG
BACKUS, BRIAN RANSOM	109 WG

THE JOINT FORCE

Soldiers, Airmen Boost Task Force After Bombings

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing



Joint Task Force Empire Shield members patrol Grand Central Station in September, following bombings in Manhattan and New Jersey that month.

NEW YORK — Following the bombings in lower Manhattan and New Jersey in September, the New York National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTF-ES) rapidly ramped up operations throughout the New York City area in a show of force designed to deter copycat attackers.

New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo directed the augmentation of the current task force personnel with up to 1,000 additional Soldiers and Airmen for state active duty, providing additional boots on the ground to assist first responders and law enforcement.

Airman and Soldiers from the New York National Guard who make up JTF-ES conducted roving patrols through various high-traffic locations, often working with the Port Authority Police Department and the New York City Police Department.

The mission is a state one, with the Guard members serving as part of an interagency effort to bring state resources to New York City's critical transportation and infrastructure sites.

For Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the work can feel familiar.

"Since the bombing, it's been all hands on deck," said 1st Sgt. Celso Benites. "We've been working every day. Our presence should deter anything from happening. You stay alert, stay alive and look like a hard target....nobody will mess with you."

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, JTF-ES has placed a visible military footprint on the ground around New York City, including the World Trade Center hub, Grand Central Station, LaGuardia Airport,

John F. Kennedy Airport, the Port Authority Bus terminal, and various bridges and tunnels.

The security force has been in place in varying size continuously since 9/11, with about 500 personnel conducting state active-duty security missions since September 2014.

Based at Fort Hamilton, an Army installation in Brooklyn, N.Y., JTF-ES is used as a tool to deter and detect terrorism. While not law enforcement, JTF-ES service members are utilized as extra eyes and ears in the city.

The Task Force also participates in disaster-relief missions, such as the New York National Guard's response to Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

"Morale is high. Can't wait to get out there," said Sgt. 1st Class William Perez during one of their daily patrols. "I'm in the National Guard for a reason. I'm here to serve and respond."

For rank-and-file members, the response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive.

"People are a lot more appreciative of our presence," said Pfc. Dion Martin, who has been with the task force for three months. "They're a lot happier to see us."

Spc. Nick Austin, another Soldier with JTF-ES, simply wanted to show that he was there for the city.

"We need to show (New York City) that they're not defenseless...that they're not alone." **gt**

Troops and Police Team Up to Prepare for Disaster

Story and photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

BRONX, N.Y. — It looked like a scene from a science-fiction thriller here on Nov. 19 as 90 New York Army National Guard Soldiers and eight New York police officers in chemical suits deployed high-tech detection equipment and wheeled victims on gurneys into a decontamination station.

Soldiers from the 222nd Chemical Company sharpened their skills and exchanged lessons learned with cops from the New York Police Department's Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Awareness (COBRA) training team during a day-long exercise at the police department's tactical training village on Rodman's Neck here.

Fifty New York City Police academy cadets played the victims as the Soldiers and the police officers practiced their ability to locate victims of a chemical attack and decontaminate them efficiently.

"The objective was to conduct a joint exercise with civilians, domestic forces and the Army, and work to understand each other's techniques," said Capt. Lawanda Billings, commander of the 222nd Chemical Company. "If we do have to respond to any type of hazardous material or [chemical] attack, we'll know what they provide, and they'll know what we can do."

As the decontamination component of the Homeland Response Force (HRF), the 222nd is charged with responding to incidents in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region II, which includes New York and New Jersey.

The company trains regularly on that skill with other military units, and has worked with first responders in upstate New York and

New Jersey, Billings said. This exercise was a chance to work with the New York City police officers who train other cops on how to cope with chemical and biological and hazardous materials incidents.

For Police Officer Samantha Sonnett, a member of the COBRA training unit, being able to see the 222nd in action helped her understand how the Guard's capabilities can mesh with those of the police department.

"We wanted to see a mass-casualty set up," Sonnett said. "If we have a major event where you have hundreds or thousands of victims, we need to get those people cleaned off and to medical attention as fast as we can. We don't do anything like that within our department."

The 54-acre facility on Rodman's Neck is the New York Police Department's main tactical training facility. The facility houses a typical city block and an urban landscape used for tactical training exercises, as well as a firing range.

The New York National Guard's 1st Battalion,

69th Infantry has also conducted tactical training at the facility.

For the 222nd, the training event provided another opportunity to exercise the unit's new Soldiers.

"It's totally new for our Soldiers out of basic training," Billings explained.

Training with the HRF and working in a joint military and civilian environment has taught the 222nd Soldiers decontamination techniques that aren't taught to chemical Soldiers in training, Billings said.

"Working with some of the equipment that we have that is different...that's not something they would have learned in their job school," Billings said.

Training with the New York City police officers was a great opportunity for her troops, she noted.

"This is the first time something like this has been done and something we look forward to building upon it in the future," she said. **gt**



A 222nd Chemical Company Soldier (right) assists a New York City police officer during a chemical attack and decontamination exercise at the police department's tactical training village on Rodman's Neck on Nov. 19.

NY National Guard Wows Crowds at African Air Show

Story and photo by Capt. JeanMarie Kratzer, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

PRETORIA, South Africa - The span of New York National Guard air power awed visitors to the Africa Aerospace and Defense (AAD) Exposition at Waterkloof Air Force Base here from Sept. 14 to 17.

New York Air National Guard members, who comprised nearly half of the 100-member U.S. military delegation, displayed a remotely-piloted MQ-9 Reaper, an HC-130 search-and-rescue plane and a C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlifter. They also interacted with South African citizens, military members and students, and fielded their questions.

"I have seen this aircraft in the movies, and now I am here seeing it in person is a dream come true," one South African serviceman said.

The exposition, which is held every other year, features civilian and military aircraft and vehicles from almost 35 different countries, along with flight and static displays from some of the biggest names in aviation. The event combines a trade show and air show, and attracts more than 140,000 visitors and spectators.

The New York National Guard participates in the exhibition as part its bilateral partner-

ship with the South African National Defense Force under the National Guard State Partnership Program. The State Partnership Program pairs state National Guards with the militaries of developing or former Soviet bloc nations. The New York National Guard participates in training and regular exchanges with the South African military.

This was the fifth time the New York National Guard participated in the air show.

The Reaper is operated by the 174th Attack Wing (AW), based at Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y.; the Globemaster is operated by the 105th Airlift Wing, based at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y.; and the HC-130 is operated by the 106th Rescue Wing, based at Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, N.Y.

The 174th's Reaper was the first MQ-9 to appear at the air show, and was the centerpiece of the U.S. military exhibit. But this premiere wouldn't have occurred without the skill of New York National Guard airmen, another New York National Guard aircraft and a 2,560 square-foot shipping container.

The 174th Airmen disassembled the Reaper so the 105th Airmen could transport it to the air show aboard their Globemaster. Six 174th AW members accompanied the Reaper and helped assemble and disassemble it.

"It has been an honor to be the first MQ-9 at the air show, and we also were able to bring the first produced MQ-9 with the 001 tail number," said Master Sgt. Brent Forbes, a 174th AW member and MQ-9 aircraft ground equipment supervisor.

Airmen who operate the Reaper also came along to talk to military representatives attending the air show.

"It has been a really great experience working with all the people visiting the air show and speaking to them about what we do and to answer their questions," said Tech Sgt. William Luddy, a 174th AW member and MQ-9 sensor operator.

The New York National Guard displays also drew the curiosity of student groups visiting the air show.

"I have been to other air shows in my military career, and the major difference is here in South Africa we have had the opportunity to work with several different schools throughout the country," said Master Sgt. Jerry Kruz, a 106th Rescue Wing loadmaster. "The students are asking great questions and are fascinated by what we do, we are so happy to have the opportunity to work with them and they speak so highly of the U.S. and our military forces."

It's an honor to welcome New York National Guard members and other representatives to South Africa, American Ambassador Patrick Gaspard said during the opening of the U.S. pavilion.

"This visit supports our partnership for prosperity with South Africa," he said. "At AAD, we are advancing the impressive wares of the U.S. military and companies and sowing the seeds of growth in Africa. The opportunities then flow in both directions across the Atlantic." **gt**



Tech Sgt. Jake Wolfe, 174th AW, speaks to students about the MQ-9 Reaper at the 2016 Africa Aerospace and Defense Airshow and Exhibition,

NY Army National Guard Gives Lift to NY Air National Guard



FORT DRUM, N.Y. — Airmen of the 174th Attack Wing's 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, New York Air National Guard conduct air-assault and parachute jump training out of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, New York Army National Guard on Sept. 10. The training was part of an annual requirement for parachute jumps, and a larger exercise involving the Civil Air Patrol, which performed simulated close-air support. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Airlift Wing. **gt**

Citizen Preparedness Corps Troops Hold 1,000th Event



STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — New York Army National Guard Soldier 1st Lt. Alexandria Wiedenbaum (right) checks a resident into a session of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Citizen Preparedness Corps (CPC) training program at Immanuel Union Church here on Sept. 14. The church event was the 1,000th session CPC troops like Wiedenbaum have held since the program began in February 2014.

The program provides citizens with the knowledge and tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. As of Oct. 31, CPC troops have trained 82,401 citizens.

New York National Guard troops have been working with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and local emergency management personnel to conduct these training events state-wide. Photo by Maj. Douglas Baker, CPC project officer. **gt**

Sustained Effort Takes Sustainment Brigade to Kuwait

Story by Guard Times Staff and Army Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT — With a ceremony backed by hard work and training, 250 Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 369th Sustainment Brigade took over supply, maintenance and other support operations for U.S. forces here on Oct. 26.

Brigade Commander Col. Stephen Bousquet and Command Sgt. Major Anthony McLean, the 369th's senior enlisted Soldier, uncased the brigade colors during the transfer-of-authority ceremony, signifying the brigade's assumption of the mission from the Nevada Army National Guard's 17th Sustainment Brigade.

The 369th is overseeing sustainment operations in more than six countries throughout the Middle East — including operations that provide supplies and services to units throughout the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

“What sustainment brigades do on a day-to-day basis is vital to protect the U.S. national interests in the Middle East,” said Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Hackett, deputy commanding general of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command-



Col. Stephen Bousquet and Command Sgt. Major Anthony McLean uncasing the brigade colors during the transfer-of-authority ceremony.

Operational Command Post.

The unit — known as the “Harlem Hellfighters” for its World War I service — is headquartered in New York City’s historic Harlem

Armory. The brigade’s mission in theater highlights the importance of the 369th for New York, taking on one of the largest missions that the state has ever had for a brigade headquarters, Bousquet said.

“I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for the Harlem Hellfighters to showcase their abilities, the training, and the expertise that we have inherent to the New York Army National Guard,” said Bousquet. “This is a culmination of efforts for the 369th over many years of preparing through a tremendous train up...through accomplishing a Warfighter this past February, to going through several different staff exercises.”

The Warfighter exercise, which took place at Fort Carson, Colorado in February 2016, kicked off the brigade’s deployment preparation. It focused on supporting a notional Army combat division conducting operations, requiring brigade staff to plan and implement a logistics support plan.

The exercise immersed brigade troops in the Army’s latest computerized command-and-control systems. These systems improved the brigade headquarters’ ability to track in-transit movement of things like fuel, ammunition, replacement vehicles or weapons systems, medical provisions, food and water — critical supplies for Soldiers on a battlefield.

The exercise evaluated and validated the



369th Sustainment Brigade troops conduct a mounted patrol exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap in August. Photo by Sgt. Cesar Leon, 369th Sustainment Brigade.

ability of brigade leadership and staff to execute logistics on the battlefield.

The next step on the road to deployment was two weeks of pre-mobilization training (PMT) at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., in August 2016. With heat indexes soaring well into the triple digits, brigade troops qualified with their individual weapons and took refresher classes in Soldier skills such as map reading, land navigation, casualty care, and hand-to-hand combat. The training was conducted by Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 106th Regional Training Institute (RTI).

The training culminated in combat exercises in training areas known as "fight lanes." The lanes incorporated many of the skills the troops honed during the two weeks.

"The majority of these tasks are perishable skills," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Folta, 106th RTI. "[In a] sustainment brigade, a lot of Soldiers don't normally get out there and operate in a tactical environment. So we go ahead and actually reinforce those skills out in the fight lanes to prepare them for success down range."

In Humvees, Brigade troops patrolled to a simulated village to find a high-value target. Along the route, Soldiers responded to simulated ambushes, artillery fire, improvised explosive devices and role players, who acted as members of the local populace.

Spc. William Batson, of Brooklyn, N.Y., said he gained a great deal from the training, and that it made him feel much better prepared for the deployment.

In September, brigade troops changed lanes again and took on a mission-readiness exercise (MRX) at Fort Hood, Texas. Though it resembled the Warfighter at Fort Carson, the MRX focused on refining skills, and what the brigade will encounter in Kuwait. The importance of the training at Fort Hood and other posts wasn't lost on brigade troops — especially the newer ones.

"As a newer Soldier to the unit, and the Army in general, our training was essential," said Spc. Kyle Beckley, a brigade intelligence analyst.

"The training provided life-like simulations in a tactical environment that helped me acclimate both to my duties as an intel analyst, and also as a member of the team." **gt**

There and Back Again: NY Deployments Continue

Story and photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y.— Soldiers from the 1156th Engineer Co. and the 107th MP Company went downrange, while the 442nd MP company came home in October and November, 2016.

In mid-October, 150 Soldiers of the 1156th Engineer Company left Camp Smith Training Site for Fort Hood to prepare to deploy to Kuwait before the year's end.

The 1156th is part of the 204th Engineer Battalion, and will deploy to Kuwait in support of U.S. Army Central Command.

"Our main mission is to provide engineer support, carpentry, masonry, plumbing and electrical expertise as far as vertical engineering assets in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and the ultimate defeat of ISIS," said Capt. John Scott, the 1156th commander.

The company added Soldiers for the deployment, but because there is no other similar unit in the New York Army National Guard, he couldn't just draw Soldiers from other units — the 80 Soldiers who volunteered for the deployment had to go to school and be trained in a new MOS, Scott said.

Spc. Danielle Dillard volunteered, and now she's now a carpentry and masonry specialist as well as a combat medic.

"We volunteered and so we switched from 204th to the 1156th, which is awesome," she said. "This unit is amazing, all about hard work and getting stuff done, so I'm really glad I am



Soldiers of the 1156th Engineer Company are recognized before leaving for their mobilization training.

deploying with them. Whatever I can do to help my brothers and sisters in the Army, I'll do it."

The company raised the bar on themselves to train up for mobilization, Scott said.

"We have worked really hard, so at this point we are sitting comfortably where we need to be," he said. "Once we get to Texas for pre-mobilization training, it's really the struggle of getting over into theater and making sure all of our equipment gets there with us. I really look forward to getting on ground, getting our

orders and equipment, and at that point we should be all set," Scott said."

The 442nd Military Police Company's 100 troops returned from a 10-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, on Nov. 11.

A few days later, a platoon of 29 members of the 107th Military Police Company arrived in Afghanistan to conduct security missions in support of U.S. and coalition forces. The deployment will last about ten months. **gt**

42nd Combat Aviation Brigade Tackles Warfighter

Story and photo by Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters



42nd Combat Aviation Brigade troops ponder their next move over a map during the Warfighter command post exercise in November.

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – Two hundred Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard’s 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) honed their staff skills here in a high-stress, fast-paced Warfighter exercise that tested their ability to bring Army air power into the fight on a modern battlefield.

“The 42nd CAB made steady improvement throughout the Warfighter, and leaves as an organization more capable and qualified to help win our nation’s wars,” said retired Maj. Gen. Walter M. Golden Jr., the Warfighter’s senior Army aviation mentor.

The two-week exercise began on Nov. 6 and used computer simulations to test the ability of commanders and their staffs to fight a modern battle. The Soldiers controlled the aviation assets for an Army corps in the training scenario.

“Although the aircraft are not actually deployed, our staff is planning, coordinating and launching aircraft to support an array of air at-

tacks, medevac, air lift, security and reconnaissance operations,” explained Col. Jack James, the brigade commander.

Responding to complex computer-simulated events as if they were real, commanders and staff engaged enemy forces, and tracked troop and supply movements.

According to James, the exercise tests all battle staff functions, from operations and intelligence to logistics, personnel, medical and communications.

“Being in this field environment and working together 24 hours a day in such close proximity has provided a unique opportunity for our Soldiers and staff to learn what each other do and refine our readiness to perform in the demanding environment of a modern battlefield,” James said.

As the troops worked through the various steps, coordination and decisions they made during numerous actions each day, civil-

ian coaches and mentors used their military experience and knowledge to evaluate Soldiers’ actions and provide guidance. Golden, for example, is a former deputy commanding general of Eighth Army.

The exercise’s condensed timeline forced Soldiers to react to a significant number of events and engagements each day, said Command Sgt. Major Joseph Marino.

“Our Soldiers are doing a phenomenal job, they’re enduring 12 to 15 hour shifts, working hard and learning a lot from each other,” he said. “I’m impressed with our Soldiers’ ability to grasp and retain all the information they are processing each day.”

The 42nd CAB is responsible for units in 11 states, including the 3-142 Assault Helicopter Battalion and the 642nd Support Battalion, which are based in New York State. **gt**

New Unit to Reinforce 10th Mountain Division HQ

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Members of the newest unit of the New York Army National Guard are wearing the patch of the Fort Drum-based 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

Activated on Sept. 1 at the Thompson Road Armory here, the 10th Mountain Division Main Command Post Operational Detachment (MCP-OD) is designed to augment the 10th Mountain Division's command post during combat deployments.

"The Soldiers of the command post detachment and their mission will play a key role in the combat readiness of the 10th Mountain Division headquarters," said Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the adjutant general of New York. "This new organization reinforces our value as a ready and relevant force."

At full strength, the MCP-OD will have 91 Soldiers, including five members of the Army Reserve, said Lt. Col. Wing Yu, the unit's administrative officer.

The 10th Mountain Division MCP-OD, and other MCP-ODs being stood up by the Army National Guard around the country, are designed to allow the Army to save manpower in their active-duty division headquarters, Yu explained.

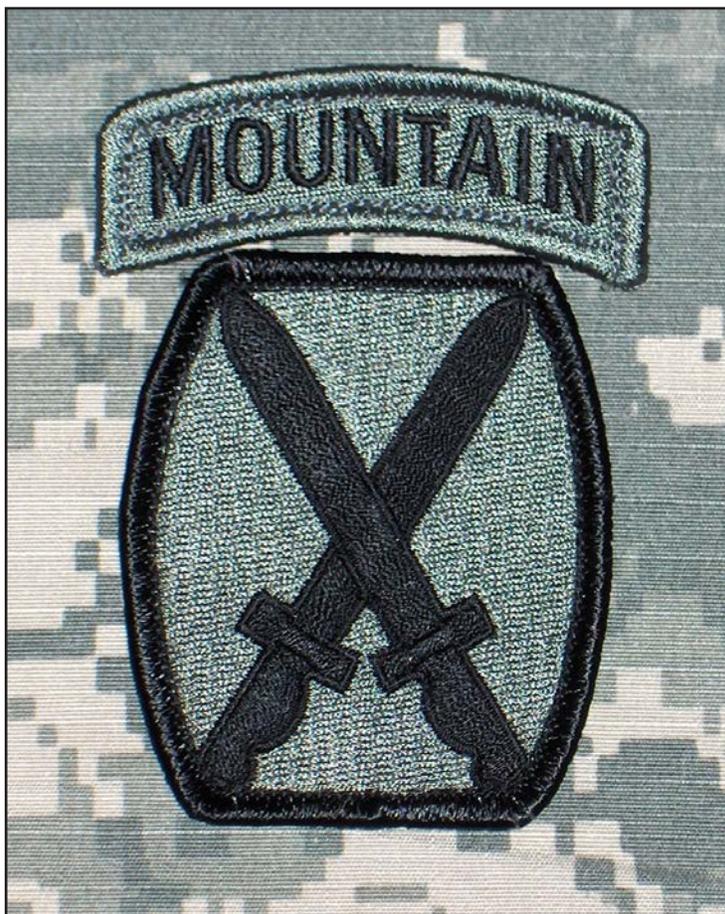
Congressional budget actions resulted in the redesign of active-duty division headquarters, including their reduction from around 600-plus Soldiers to around 500 Soldiers.

Reduced manning produces capability gaps that must be filled when a division deploys to a combat zone and conducts around-the-clock operations or multiple operations, so the Army decided to supplement these reduced division staffs with Guard and Reserve Soldiers, who hold critical skills, when the time comes to deploy to a combat zone, Yu said.

The 10th Mountain Division MCP-OD, for example, has slots for 35 intelligence special-

ists, who are not necessary in a garrison and training environment, but are critical for war fighting, he explained.

The unit is allocated 19 officers, a warrant officer, 35 non-commissioned officers and 36 enlisted Soldiers. There are five Army Reserve Soldiers who hold Civil Affairs and psychological operations slots.



There are four full-time Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the unit.

"The inclusion of the Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard into the planning, resourcing and training of the command post will directly improve readiness, and increase capacity and capability during mobilization and deployment of the division headquarters," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Bannister, 10th Mountain Division commander. "I am proud to welcome the members of the Main Command Post

Operational Detachment to the 10th Mountain Team."

Commanded by Lt. Col. Michael Bice, who becomes a liaison officer when the MCP-OD deploys, the unit is currently at about 14 percent strength and is actively recruiting Soldiers.

Yu said that the Syracuse location provides new options for National Guard Soldiers living in western and central New York. Those Soldiers might've had to drive to the Albany area, or the Hudson Valley to find slots that match their military occupational specialties, he added.

The 10th Mountain Division MCP-OD normally comes under the command of the New York Army National Guard's Troy-based 42nd Infantry Division. When the 10th Mountain Division deploys, the MCP-OD Soldiers will either deploy with the 10th Division headquarters or perform support duties at Fort Drum.

One model of using the new division headquarters structure is to deploy the division tactical operations center into the combat zone, while the division main command post remains at home station, Yu explained.

With smaller numbers of Soldiers in the combat theater, it may not be necessary to deploy the division main command post, as the 42nd Infantry Division did in Iraq in 2005, Yu said. Soldiers at home station can evaluate intelligence, produce planning products and

transmit them to theater via secure computer networks, he explained.

The MCP-OD Soldiers will also train with the 10th Mountain Division Soldiers on a regular basis, Yu said. This will benefit the New York Army National Guard because officers, NCOs and enlisted Soldiers will learn the latest techniques and tactics from their Active Army counterparts and bring that knowledge back into the New York unit, he added. **gt**

Soldiers: Do You Have What it Takes to be The Best?

Story by Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — If you're seeking a competition that's tough and demanding — designed to test you physically and mentally — then the New York Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition is for you, according to New York State Command Sgt. Major David Piwowarski.

The competition, held over three and a half long days (March 29 to April 2) at Camp Smith Training Site here, is filled with warrior tasks that challenge Soldiers' endurance in a realistic tactical environment of artillery simulators, smoke grenades, live fire and more. The event also tests Soldiers' military knowledge and their ability to think on their feet, and demands exemplary military bearing, Piwowarski said.

Day one begins early in the morning with an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), and quickly moves on to rifle and pistol qualification ranges, along with a rifle, pistol and machine gun live-fire stress shoot.

The stress shoot incorporates marksmanship with battlefield tasks like dragging a casualty, carrying water jugs, firing the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, and engaging a target with the M9 pistol while wearing a protective mask. Soldiers must also complete a written test that assesses their breadth and depth of knowledge in 30 military subjects.

Day two begins with another physical fitness test. This one mirrors the German army's standard physical fitness test, and qualifies Soldiers to earn the German Military Proficiency Badge. The test includes 11 ten-meter sprints, a timed flexed arm hang, and a 1,000 meter run.

"The realism and heightened levels of competition allows competing Soldiers a chance

to also earn the German Military Proficiency Badge," said New York State Command Sgt. Major David Piwowarski.

The German Proficiency Badge is a military decoration of the Bundeswehr, the Armed

Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, awarded in gold, silver or bronze. In addition to the German fitness test, road march and pistol qualification includes three other physically demanding events: a 100 meter swim in uniform, first aid and a Nuclear Biological Chemical skill test.

Warrior Tasks, including evaluating and transporting a casualty, reacting and moving under direct and indirect fire, and using chemical protective gear — along with a mystery task. Day three starts at 2 a.m. with a night land-navigation course that continues through sunrise, followed by an appearance board at noon, where all competitors are judged on their military bearing and knowledge of military subjects. Finally, all competitors must complete a 12-kilometer road march while carrying a 35-pound pack.

The top two New York Soldiers will compete for the Northeast Region Best Warrior titles. The winners there go on to compete against other Army National Guard Soldiers to decide who will compete against Active Army and Army Reserve Soldiers.

"Any Soldier who wants to step up to the challenge or thinks they have what it takes to be the best should reach out to their chain of command and let them know they are interested in competing," Piwowarski said.

The competition is open to privates through specialists in the Soldier category, and corporals through sergeants first class at the NCO level, Piwowarski said. Competitors must have a current APFT, with scores of at least

70 points in each event, and an overall score of at least 230 points. Completion of the Combat Life Saver Self-Aid/Buddy-Aid Course through ALMS, within the last three years, is also required.

Troops must first be selected by their unit and compete at their respective command level. Winners are then presented for the statewide competition at Camp Smith. **gt**



Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, awarded in gold, silver or bronze. In addition to the German fitness test, road march and pistol qualification includes three other physically demanding events: a 100 meter swim in uniform, first aid and a Nuclear Biological Chemical skill test.

Competitors spend the rest of their morning and afternoon tackling six hands-on Army

'Whole Soldier' Concept Key to NCO Promotions

Story by Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters

LATHAM, N.Y. — For some NCOs, the enlisted promotion system is a mystery, involving multiple steps and layers. But the process is actually straight forward — once a Soldier knows what to do.

“The New York Army National Guard holds promotion boards to ensure the best-qualified NCOs are selected for promotion using the whole Soldier concept,” said state Command Sgt. Major David Piwowarski, who is also the state senior enlisted advisor.

The whole Soldier concept evaluates and calculates the sum of each Soldier’s qualities and qualifications by reviewing military records, past performance and potential to serve in positions of greater responsibility, Piwowarski explained.

The process permits a panel of board members to objectively look at performance over a longer period of time — generally three to five years — with the heaviest weight given to the recent past. It also allows the board to see overall performance and potential to serve in the next rank, said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Manny, the enlisted promotion program manager.

According to Manny, the board looks at job performance, leadership potential, physical fitness, height and weight history, performance at NCO Education System (NCOES) schools, military and civilian education, awards, NCO evaluations and assignment history. Each area is evaluated and scored by a defined criteria.

The sum of all of these areas is then averaged out to determine an overall individual score. Once all scores are calculated, the program creates an Order of Merit List (OML) that is used to make promotion selections, Manny explained.

Once Soldiers meet time-in-service and grade requirements and complete the appropriate Structured Self Development (SSD) course, they’re eligible for the next board cycle and may be considered for selection and movement into a vacant position.

However, Soldiers must complete the appropriate NCOES before they can be promoted and pin on the new rank. Soldiers selected for these vacancies become first priority for NCOES, provided they’re ready to attend. Specialists selected to sergeant vacancies may be promoted

to corporal by their unit.

“The key to successfully competing for positions is to do everything you can to excel as a Soldier to make yourself and your unit better, meet the board requirements and ensure your accomplishments are reflected in your promotion packet,” Piwowarski said,

Eligible Soldiers receive notification and guidance from their unit that provides suspense dates for updating their Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (iPERMS), Enlisted Record Brief (ERB), the date of the board, and the date the OML will be published. Once the ERB is updated it must be validated in accordance with guidance included in the letter.

There are several steps Soldiers should take to ensure their board packets are accurate, and reviewing and keeping your iPERMS performance file and ERB up-to-date are key, Manny said.

First, ensure all NCOERs, DA Form 1059s and awards are in your record. If any are missing, locate the missing documents and turn them into your unit for processing. If you cannot locate a document, write a letter to the board explaining why the document is missing.

Next, review your ERB at <https://arngg1.ngb.army.mil/SelfService/Careercenter/RBMain.aspx>. The ERB is the Soldier’s resume; a one-page snapshot of all military experience.

This is the first document the board uses to identify and evaluate service records and accomplishments. Inaccuracies or deficiencies on this record brief may result in a lower score and lower placement on the promotion list.

Missing items or corrections must be submitted through the Soldier’s unit, Manny said.

There are several sections on the ERB that are evaluated and calculated to determine an overall score. These include military occupational and additional skill identifiers; security clearance information; physical readiness stats such as PULHES, APFT and Height/Weight; highest level of NCOES and all 40-hour courses relevant to your MOS; highest level of civilian education completed, including credit hours acquired; weapons qualification; military awards and assignment history; deployment tour information if applicable, and finally an up-to-date

DA photo, in Army Service Uniform, for staff sergeant and above.

All military awards listed must be reflected in iPERMS and worn on the uniform in the DA Photo. The board cross references the awards list with the DA photo. A new DA Photo is required every five years, after a promotion and when awarded an Army Commendation Medal or higher.

Soldiers can correspond with the board when there is missing information or errors in their record that couldn’t be corrected. Letters must be submitted along with the promotion packet.

“It takes some focus and determination but every Soldier has control of their own career, Manny said. “First review and correct your records and then take an honest look at yourself and see what areas you can improve. Focus on smaller improvements in all areas.”

“One of the biggest hurdles our Soldiers face in getting before the board is completing SSD,” Piwowarski said. “SSD is designed to reinforce and expand leadership skills at home station and prepare Soldiers for school. It’s time-consuming and takes effort, but in the end it will ensure learning is continuous and enduring, and is a prerequisite for attendance at all NCO leadership courses.”

As an organization, we constantly face the challenge of getting Soldiers to NCO leadership development courses, but it’s up to the individual Soldiers to make sure they’re ready to attend when funding or courses are available, Piwowarski said. The most common reason Soldiers don’t attend is failure to meet APFT and height and weight standards, he added.

The promotion board process impacts enlisted Soldiers from sergeant to command sergeant major.

Specialist promotions are processed using the NGB form 4100 and promotion points are calculated using a formula of points for time-in-service and grade, awards, APFT, weapons qualification, military education, civilian education, Army correspondence courses and leadership appraisals.

“The best thing our Soldiers can do to get promoted is to stay focused, motivated and do their best in all things that Soldiers do,” Piwowarski said. 🇺🇸

A Quick Guide to Promotions in the NYARNG

What is "The Board"

- Promotion Boards are convened annually (semi-annually for E6). This is a non-appearance board.
- For promotion from **SPC to SGT**, Soldiers' records do not appear before the board. Their promotions are calculated based on submitted packets alone.
- For **SSG and above**, Soldiers records appear before a formal promotion board.
- Board members are experienced NCOs in good standing from each GOCOM who represent the diversity in the NYARNG and are senior to the Soldiers being boarded. M-day, AGR and Technicians are represented.
- The board evaluates Soldiers based on established Army Standards. It creates a consistent scoring method to ensure equality. The sum of each Soldier's qualities and qualifications, matters of record, past performance with the heaviest weight given to the recent past, and the Soldier's potential to serve in positions of greater responsibility will be considered objectively. Then the board develops the Order of Merit list (OML).
- Per Army Regulation 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions, Para 7-32, Soldiers may write to the president of the promotion board and are encouraged to do so, with factual information, only when something is not provided or if the Soldier feels it will effect the board deliberation. ie you were on a temporary profile and did not take an APFT during your last rating period.
- "Selection" Boards for CSM and First Sergeant are done differently.

October is the unofficial start of the Promotion Cycle

The most up to date information is published every October through a Letter of Instruction (LOI) and NGB 4100.

Soldier, leader and full-timer responsibilities are outlined in the LOI & NYARNG 600-2.

iPerms

<https://iperms.hrc.army.mil/rms/>

ERB

<https://arngg1.ngb.army.mil/SelfService/Careercenter/RBMain.aspx>

Prepare for the Board

Soldier & Unit ensure the following are completed/ current during annual records review:

- ❖ NGB 4100 (Enlisted Promotion Point Worksheet)
- ❖ The Enlisted Records Brief (ERB)
- ❖ APFT
- ❖ Weapons Qualification
- ❖ Updates to SIDPERS
- ❖ Updates to iPERMS (it's important to keep good records)
- ❖ No missing NCOERS
- ❖ Security Clearance is current if required
- ❖ DA Photo is current (E6 and above)
- ❖ DA Photo matches the ERB

Your Order of Merit List (OML) ranking is based on:

- NCOER performance
- NCOER potential
- Assignment history
- MOS proficiency
- Leadership assignments
- SSD/NCOES level
- School Performance from 1059s, including Exceeded Course Standards & Superior Ratings
- Military education other than NCOES
- Civilian education
- Appearance, DA photo (E6 & above)
- Weapons qualification
- Physical fitness (APFT)
- Height & Weight
- Awards

Bottom Line:

Do your best in all of these and you will do well on the promotion board!

S - T - E - P

Select - Train - Educate - Promote

To be SELECTED for the rank of:	Time In Grade (TIG):	Time In Service (TIS):	Completed:	To be PROMOTED and pin on the stripes you must first complete:
SGT	12 Months	N/A	SSD 1	(Stay a Corporal until) Basic Leader Course (BLC)
SSG	18 Months	N/A	SSD 2	Advanced Leader Course (ALC)
SFC	36 Months	9 Years	SSD 3	Senior Leader Course (SLC)
MSG	36 Months	13 Years	SSD 4	Master Leader Course (MLC) once it's implemented 2017
SGM	36 Months	16 Years	SSD 5	Enrollment in Sergeants Major Academy – completion required to keep the rank

SELECTION: Once the above requirements are met Soldiers are ranked on an Order of Merit List (OML). Soldiers are then eligible to be selected. If selected they are moved into the position and perform there.

PROMOTION: Soldiers can be promoted (pinned) only when the required NCOES is completed.

Fighting 69th Takes Rifle Prize Two Years Running

Story by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri and Sgt. Kyleen Kelleher, 65th Press Camp Headquarters

FORT DEVENS, Mass. — The New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry held on to the prize against the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment of the Massachusetts Army National in the Logan-Duffy Trophy Rifle Match held here on Sept. 10.

But no matter who won, the match allowed both units to retain and strengthen their historic link, which began better than a century ago.

"The Logan-Duffy match is one of the longest running rifle competitions in the nation," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Wisniewski, the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment commander. "It started in the 1930s, but our relationship, the 182nd's relationship with the 69th Infantry of New York, actually started in the Civil War."

That relationship started in July 1861, when Col. Michael Corcoran of the 69th Infantry Regiment and Army Col. Thomas Cass of the 9th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry became acquainted in Virginia.

At the 75th anniversary of this meeting in 1936, it was decided that an annual rifle competition be held to enhance marksmanship and fellowship within the regiments. The match is named for the regiments' commanding officers during the Spanish-American War: Gen. Lawrence J. Logan of the 9th Massachusetts, and Gen. Edward Duffy of the 69th New York.

The match is all about tradition and camaraderie,



A 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Soldier engages targets at the Logan-Duffy Rifle Match. The battalion won the match, so they hold onto the silver bowl (see inset). Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri.

and camaraderie, said Maj. Gen. Harry E. Miller, Jr., 42nd Infantry Division commander. Shooting their individually-assigned weapons is infantry troops' most perishable skill, he added.

"A lot of guys are either naturally good shooters, and for some of us it is a learned, trained, acquired skill, but regardless it still requires putting bullets downrange, and a lot of range time and trigger time," Miller said.

Each year's victorious unit wins possession of the prize — a five-gallon, ornately-designed silver bowl with a matching silver tray.

"It is one of the most historical rifle competitions out there, and there is a lot of pride and

prestige in having this Logan-Duffy bowl," said Wisniewski. "The camaraderie that you can see and feel here today is really amazing, and it is nice for the veterans and the new Soldiers to really come full circle and participate in this historic event."

"I couldn't be more proud of these guys because this is above and beyond," said Miller. "This is in addition to the normal drills and the collective training to learn how to fight wars and conduct domestic operations. This is for the love of the game, and I couldn't be more proud of them." **gt**

Stand Fast for OPAT, Army's New Test for Recruits

Story by Capt. JeanMarie Kratzer, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

LATHAM, N.Y. — In 2017, the New York Army National Guard will begin giving the gender-neutral Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT), which helps place recruits into Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs) that best fit their physical abilities.

"Individual Soldiers have many skills, and are better at one than another," said New York State Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowski. "I like the idea of putting a Soldier into a position where they can succeed."

Ten New York State Recruit Sustainment Programs will administer the OPAT, which is made up of four physical-fitness activities:

- The "Standing Long Jump" assesses lower-body power. Starting behind a take-off line with the feet parallel and shoulder-width apart, recruits jump as far as possible with a two-foot take-off and landing.
- The "Seated Power Throw," assesses upper-body power. While seated on a floor with the lower back against a yoga block and upper back against a wall, recruits use both hands to lift a 4.4-pound medicine ball to the chest, then push or throw it upwards and outwards, at a about a 45-degree angle, as far as possible.
- The "Strength Deadlift," assesses lower-body strength. Starting with 120 pounds, recruits lift a sequence of weights up to 220 pounds. Recruits are scored based on the most weight they can properly deadlift.
- The "Interval Aerobic Run" assesses aerobic capacity. Based on a beeping signal, recruits run 20-meter laps between two points. As the test progresses, the beeps increase, requiring recruits to run faster. Recruits are scored on the level they reach and the number of laps they complete. **gt**

106th RTI Named Best in Supply

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — The National Guard Bureau has recognized the New York Army National Guard's 106th Regional Training Institute (RTI) as having the best TDA unit supply operation in the northeast.

The Supply Excellence Award recognizes units in the Active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve for their ability to meet the Army's logistics standards.

The 106th RTI, which conducts training classes for National Guard Soldiers, is what the Army calls a TDA, for Table of Distribution and Allowances, unit. The unit was evaluated against other TDA units in the New England, New York and New Jersey region. These are training and administrative units.

A separate competition is held for combat and combat support units.

Supply accountability is vital to any Army unit and this award recognizes that importance, explained 1st Sgt. Leah Crisalli, the New York Army National Guard's logistics services non-commissioned officer.

The 106th RTI will now be evaluated against other Army National Guard TDA units from around the country to see if the unit wins the national level recognition, Crisalli said.

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Prewitt, the 106th RTI's supply sergeant for the last two years, was recognized by the New York Army National Guard's logistics community for the work he did in preparing for the evaluation during a short ceremony at Camp Smith on Sept. 7.

As unit supply sergeant, Prewitt plays a key role in assisting the commander in meeting Army requirements, Crisalli said.



Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Prewitt (left) poses with his wife Amanda (center) and Lt. Col. Joseph Richardson, deputy director of logistics (right), after receiving an award for excellence in logistics management on Sept. 7.

It's an honor to be recognized for his work in helping the 106th RTI earn this supply award, Prewitt said. Being a supply sergeant takes a lot of time and dedication, he added.

"I spend a lot of late nights and a lot of extra weekends, it's the attention to detail," he said. "There are a lot of little details that can make or break you as a supply sergeant." **gt**

Recruit Sustainment Program Teaches Combatives at Camp Smith

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — Staff Sgt. Ruben Martinez, a member of the New York Army National Guard Recruiting Retention Battalion, teaches recruits how to defend themselves from a knocked-down position during level-one combatives training at Camp Smith Training Site here on Nov. 5. The recruits are part of the Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), which prepares them to successfully complete their Initial Entry Training. Photo by Spc. Jonathan Pietrantoni, 138th Public Affairs Detachment. **gt**



105th Member Awarded Bronze Star For Valor

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — Tech. Sgt. Flavio A. Martinez of the 105th Airlift Wing (AW) has been awarded the Bronze Star with V for valor for his actions following a suicide attack on his patrol outside of Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in 2015.

Martinez, who belongs to the wing's 105th Base Defense Squadron (BDS) and lives in New York City, received the medal during a ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base here on Sept. 9.

The attack killed six Airmen, including two from the 105th AW: Tech Sgt. Joseph Lemm and Staff Sgt. Louis Bonacasa. The Bronze Star with Valor is the fourth highest award for heroism in combat.

On Dec. 21, 2015, Martinez and the other Airmen were on a routine mission to engage with local leaders when a Taliban fighter on a motorcycle approached his 13-person team.

Martinez was in the lead element of the group when the enemy fighter stopped in the middle of the dismounted patrol — approximately 20 feet behind Martinez — and detonated an improvised explosive device.

Though Martinez was thrown by the force of the explosion and separated from his team, he immediately began treating the wounds of his fellow Airmen and providing security.

Despite the danger of possible follow-on

attacks, Martinez ran back into the kill zone three times to aid the wounded and retrieve sensitive equipment.

Martinez also guided a quick-reaction force to the patrol's location, helped transport the casualties to a landing zone for two medevac missions, and provided perimeter security as explosive-ordnance disposal personnel conducted their assessment.

Brig. Gen. Timothy J. LaBarge, the New York Air National Guard chief of staff and former 105th AW commander, said it's hard to understand the full extent of Martinez's actions by reading the citation.

"When you get the full context of the story, it's actually incredibly awe-inspiring," LaBarge said. "He kept going back in the field of fire to secure the battlefield and to provide first aid to the people that were there and completely in disregard for his own safety."

Martinez later escorted the remains of Lemm and Bonacasa back home to New York State.



Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge and Tech. Sgt. Flavio A. Martinez pose after Martinez received the Bronze Star with V for valor on Sept. 9. Photo by Staff Sgt. Julio A. Olivencia, Jr., 105th AW.

Perhaps the most incredible part of the story was that Martinez wasted no time requesting to return to Afghanistan, so he could finish the deployment with his unit, said Master Sgt. Daniel Rivera, Martinez's squad leader.

"It's amazing what he accomplished," Rivera said. "The fact that he was injured, he actually escorted them home, and he returned to make sure his Airmen were taken care of." **gt**

Change-of-Command Ahead of Mission Change in 107th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Col. Robert Kilgore, 107th Airlift Wing (AW) commander (left), hands the 107th Operations Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Douglas Euote (right), giving Euote command of the operations squadron in a change-of-command ceremony held at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station here on Sept. 26. Euote assumed command of the squadron from Lt. Col. Gary Charlton, who is now the 107th AW vice commander.

Euote is now responsible for the organization, training and equipping of more than 380 Airmen from the four squadrons that make up the 107th Operations Group: the 136th Attack Squadron, 107th Operations Support Squadron, and the newly-acquired 222nd Command and Control Squadron (CCS) and 274th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS). The 107th AW recently acquired the squadrons as part of its upcoming conversion to an MQ-9 Reaper unit.

Euote served in Operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Desert Strike, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. He's a command pilot with over 5,800 hours in aircraft such as the KC-135R Stratotanker, C-130H2 Hercules and MQ-9 Reaper. As an MQ-9 Reaper pilot, Euote is qualified in both mission combat and launch and recovery.

Story by Maj. Elaine Nowak, 107th AW, photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th AW. **gt**



109th Airmen and Aircraft Migrate to South Pole

Story by Master Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing



A 109th Airlift Wing LC-130 "Skibird" departs for Antarctica, from Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, N.Y. on Oct. 18. Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

SCOTIA, N.Y. — Airmen and ski-equipped aircraft of the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing (AW) headed south to Antarctica this fall to support Operation Deep Freeze, the military component of the U.S. Antarctic Program, which is managed by the National Science Foundation.

Two ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules aircraft and 23 Airmen left Stratton Air National Guard Base here for Antarctica in mid-October, kicking off the wing's 29th season of supporting Operation Deep Freeze.

Throughout the season, which runs through February, a total of six LC-130s and 500 personnel are expected to deploy, with between 300 and 350 missions planned. About 120 Airmen will be deployed on the ice at any one time.

The unique capabilities of the ski-equipped

LC-130 aircraft make it the only one of its kind in the U.S. military, able to land on snow and ice.

"Just the capability of landing heavy on the snow is a unique operational capability that only the United States has...that only we have at this unit," said Col. Christian Sander, 109th Operations Group commander.

Like their name says, the primary mission of the 109th Airlift Wing is to provide airlift capability within Antarctica, flying people, supplies and cargo to various remote locations from McMurdo Station. Crews will transport scientists, fuel, supplies, medical supplies and more throughout the season.

Last season, the 109th AW supported Antarctic research efforts by flying an estimated 3,900

researchers and support staff, plus about 4 million pounds of cargo and 1.2 million pounds of fuel to research stations across Antarctica.

Crews will also once again be flying missions in support of the Common Science Support Pod (CSSP), outfitted with IcePod science equipment. IcePod, an imaging system that can measure the depth of an ice sheet, was flown for the first time in Antarctica in the 2014 - 2015 season, and was deemed one of the biggest successes of that year.

The harsh Antarctic climate is probably the biggest challenge crews face each year, but constant training throughout the year enable these Airmen to overcome the demanding environment (see "109th Air Crew Praised For Ice Landing" on page 27). 

Civil Air Patrol Aids 174th Attack Wing Training Operations

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — As seen from a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) chase plane, a remotely-piloted MQ-9 Reaper operated by the 174th Attack Wing flies a routine training mission over central New York on Oct. 23. The Civil Air Patrol provides chase-plane operations for the MQ-9, to and from restricted air space, to meet FAA see-and-avoid requirements of remotely-piloted aircraft. Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Miller, 174th Attack Wing. 



109th Air Crew Praised for Ice Landing

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times* staff

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — The weather was getting worse and they lacked the fuel to turn back, so the crew of Skier 72, a 109th Airlift Wing LC-130, did what they'd trained to do — landed their aircraft safely, despite whiteout conditions, on Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf.

In recognition of that feat, the Air Force Association gave the crew their Earl T. Ricks Award for outstanding airmanship during their 2016 Air Space and Cyber Conference here in September.

Named for the first Air National Guard officer to head the National Guard Bureau, the award recognizes outstanding airmanship by Air National Guard air crew and personnel.

The crew consisted of: Lt. Col. Stephen Yandik, pilot, of Hudson; Maj. Justin Garren, co-pilot, of Gloversville; Capt. Jefferson Wood, navigator, of Wynantskill; Sr. Master Sgt. Kevin Hubble, flight engineer, of Scotia; Tech. Sgt. Michael Wallace, loadmaster, of Mechanicville; and Staff Sgt. Logan Brennan, loadmaster of Broadalbin.

The crew was flying the 2,400 miles from Christchurch, New Zealand to McMurdo Station — America's main base on the continent — when weather conditions began deteriorating.

The crew had already passed the point of safe return, which meant they didn't have enough fuel to return to Christchurch. What's more, the weather conditions made landing at Williams Field, the main airstrip serving McMurdo and a New Zealand base, questionable.

The airmen were forced to land Skier 72 in

the "whiteout landing area" — several square miles of the Ross Ice Shelf, near McMurdo, that's been surveyed, found to be free of crevasses and relatively smooth.

Airmen following a set of protocols can lower their plane onto the ground even if they can't see the horizon.

Skier 72's crew successfully landed in zero foot ceiling and zero miles visibility, the award citation said. The snow and the horizon were the same color, and there were no shadows, which caused the crew to be effectively blind looking outside the aircraft.

"We are extremely proud of these Airmen, and that they will be receiving this prestigious recognition," said Lt. Col. Christian Sander, 109th Operations Group commander. "They exhibited the most amazing compilation of teamwork, risk management, quick thinking, situational awareness, and airmanship in their heroic whiteout landing on open snow."

The association also honored 105th Airlift Wing member Master Sgt. Christian Hammaren with their Chief Master Sgt. Dick Red Award. The award recognizes National Guard Airmen for outstanding maintenance actions, and is named for the first enlisted airman to win the Legion of Merit during World War II. In 1944, Red built a unique camera mount in the nose of a P-38 Lightning fighter, giving the plane photo-reconnaissance capability.

Hammaren, of Westtown, serves as the 105th Airlift Wing and Operations Group first sergeant, and has worked in a variety of maintenance positions in the wing. *gt*

109th Picks Top Enlisted Leader

SCOTIA, N.Y. — New York Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Denny Richardson has been selected as the 109th Airlift Wing (AW) command chief, representing the highest level of enlisted leadership for the wing.



He's responsible for matters influencing the health, morale and welfare, professional development, training, readiness and proper utilization of about 700 enlisted Airmen of the 109th AW at Stratton Air National Guard Base here.

Richardson has been with the Air National Guard for 27 years, and joined the 109th AW in 1997 as the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of air crew life support with the 139th Airlift Squadron. In 2014, Richardson became the Force Support Squadron superintendent, then Mission Support Group superintendent before assuming duties as the 109th AW command chief.

Richardson deployed to Germany in support of Operation Desert Storm in 1990 and to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2009. He's deployed numerous times to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, supporting Operation Deep Freeze, the military support component for the National Science Foundation-managed U.S. Antarctic Program.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Antarctica Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He lives in Gansevoort with his wife, Michele, and sons, Darius and Marcus. *gt*



Gabreski Air Guard Base Airmen Take 2nd Place at Rodeo

Story by Staff Sgt. Christopher Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. — A team of two New York Air National Guard pararescuemen took second place at the “PJ Rodeo” held at Patrick Air Force Base in Indialantic, Florida, from Sept. 19 to 24.

Master Sgt. Samuel Prescott and Tech Sgt. Jordan St. Claire, members of the 106th Rescue Wing’s 103rd Rescue Squadron, competed against 23 other teams to clinch their second-place win. A team from the 350th Battlefield Training Squadron, based in Texas, took first place.

A pararescueman — called “PJ” for short — is a specialist trained to jump into water or hostile terrain to rescue downed Airmen. The competition simulates real-world scenarios and tests the core skill sets of each rescue team.

“The rodeo is a combination of every PJ task, where they try to test your skills and team,” St. Claire said. “[The rodeo] ranged from jumping to swimming to the monster mash. We also had high-angle scenarios with ascension, traversing, raising and lowering of a litter.”

Event scenarios included military free-fall and static-line parachuting operations, tactical carbine and pistol marksmanship, zodiac boat operations, maritime navigation and high angle/confined-space rescue operations. The competition also works to foster teamwork, and esprit de corps among pararescuemen, who are also known as “The Guardian Angels.”

The most difficult scenario of the rodeo was the monster mash event. That required the participants to conduct open-ocean swims, beach runs, litter carries, medical training and other rigorous events that tested their ability to work as a team under physically-challenging conditions.

“The monster mash was brutal,” St. Claire said. “It was at the end of the week at the culmination of the rodeo, and we were competitive the whole time. We pushed ourselves hard. There

was a lot of fatigue through the whole week, then pushing through on the hardest scenario was pretty tough.”

In addition to the rodeo, the event was also a pararescue reunion, bringing together pararescuemen who have retired from the service.

“The theme for this year was legacy, so every-

one from the career field was there.” St. Claire said. “We shared stories, met new people and saw where the career field is going. It’s so small of a career field, everyone knows everyone. You get to hear stories from the guys back in Vietnam to today. It was a great thing to be a part of.” **gt**



Master Sgt. Samuel Prescott and Tech Sgt. Jordan St. Claire cross the last obstacle of the “monster mash” event.



Prescott and St. Claire treat a mock casualty during the PJ Rodeo. Photos by Senior Master Sgt. (retired) Billy Hughes.

New York Guard

New York Guard Troops Muster for Mass-Casualty Training Exercise



CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — Members of the New York Guard's 244th Medical Clinic conduct a mass-casualty exercise at Camp Smith Training Site here on Sept. 17. Members of the unit — which is made up of doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians — worked together to integrate their professional skills and promote team work. The hands-on training included determining levels of patient care required, movement and transportation of patients by means of stretchers, trauma care, application of tourniquets, field amputations, and use of Israeli bandages and pressure dressings. Chief Warrant 1 Humza Bashir, 244th operations training officer (lower right) led the training. Photos by Spc. Zach Perkins, New York Guard.



New York Naval Militia

New York Naval Militia Ends Active Training Season



While the New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS) continues to serve year-round, the rest of the militia ended its active training season in October. In addition to supporting law enforcement agencies, the two MEBS detachments perform port security, surveillance, evacuation and maritime transport missions on the waters around New York City, and on the Hudson River at the Indian Point Energy Center.

TOP PHOTO: Petty Officer Alaina Visconte (left) and Sr. Chief Petty Officer Frank Rogers (right) prepare a boat for launching at the United States Coast Guard Station in Oswego for Harbor Fest in July.

BOTTOM PHOTO: To qualify as coxswains, Petty Officer Bill Kaul (left) and Cpl. Christopher Vega (right) operate a PB400 class patrol boat on the Tappan Zee, a natural widening of the Hudson River between Rockland and Westchester counties. Photos courtesy of the New York Naval Militia. 



A Rewarding Fit At Camp Smith

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

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — An internship program has turned into a win-win situation for a disabled man and the Camp Smith Training Site Visitors Quarters here — thanks in large part to the heart and character of the disabled man himself, Brett Edwards.

“I can sum up having Brett with us in one word...‘rewarding,’” said Diane Barton, the billeting manager at the Visitors Quarters (VQ), which serves thousands of troops every year.

Brett, who has Down syndrome, works two days a week cleaning VQ rooms as part of his internship with the Keon Center, Inc. in Peekskill. He’s worked at the VQ for the past seven months.

Though his schedule is the same week after week — two cleaning tasks with six rooms to clean — he never gets bored or complains. But, that is Brett.

Brett couldn’t walk until almost the age of five, and even then it was only through exten-

sive physical therapy, with splints on his legs and standing for 30 minutes at a time in a brace known as a parapodium.

But he never gave up. He now plays basketball, goes horseback riding and has even helped move furniture as part of his volunteer work.

Brett is part of the Keon Center’s Community Pre-vocational Program, which offers individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to learn new skills, while in work settings, to help strengthen all of the abilities that they possess.

This program matches individuals with local businesses to learn different jobs, so they’re equipped for employment in the future.

Diane could seemingly talk for hours about what an asset it is to have Brett working at the VQ. However, his productivity is not only a benefit to Camp Smith — he’s also learning valuable life skills in the process.

“Our goal for Brett is the same as the Keon Center’s,” said Diane. “We want him to be

trained, independent and ready to the point where he can get a paying job.”

It’s not unusual for someone with Down syndrome to have challenges with communication, including both receptive and expressive language skills.

Brett suddenly stopped talking when he was 16 years old, and arrived at the VQ nearly non-verbal. Part of his individual development plan was to restore those lost communication skills while at Camp Smith — and the results literally speak for themselves.

“We’ve been able to see such improvement in his speech,” said Brett’s mother, Margaret Edwards. “We have Camp Smith to thank for that.”

Lauren Price, Brett’s assigned one-on-one aide from the Keon Center, knows that success for Brett is more than validation from others, it’s Brett being able to see it in himself.

“Not only was he quiet, but he mostly kept to himself when we first started here,” said Lauren. “Now he’ll shake your hand and talk to you for as long as he can!”

Camp Smith is also a special fit for Brett because of his affinity for Soldiers. His father served in the Army and that has made a lasting impression on him.

Brett can be seen every day donning his work uniform. In addition to his monogrammed t-shirt and name tag, he wears a deployment badge and his Army patrol cap, which has the rank insignia of sergeant first class on it.

“He beams with pride when we mention his job at Camp Smith,” said Margaret. “He really loves being around the Soldiers.” While Diane and Lauren envision Brett in a permanent, paid position at Camp Smith, they know that this might only be a stepping stone for him. And though his time at the VQ might be brief, his impact on Diane and her team will be lasting.

“I love having the ability to make a difference in someone’s life,” said Diane. “It’s even more special how he’s touched mine.”



Brett Edwards (left) poses with Diane Barton, the billeting manager at the Camp Smith Visitors Quarters.

