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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

We Need You to Stay in the Guard

Whether we are part-time Soldiers and Airmen, or full-time members of our force, it's easy to forget --in our day-to-day routine-- that service is often about sacrifice.

My message in this issue is for all of the Soldiers and Airman. And it's pretty simple.

I want you to stay in the New York National Guard.

You may not realize it, or hear it often enough, but you are the most valuable assets of the United States, the Army, the Air Force and the state of New York.

Since you enlisted, the Army and Air Force have invested tens of thousands of dollars in training you.

Whether an MP, a truck driver, an intelligence analyst, a supply specialist, a unit clerk, a pilot, aircraft mechanic, doctor, nurse, crew chief, mortar crewman, cavalry scout or medic your skills matter.

But more important than that initial training is the experience you've acquired as you grew into your job over the past four or five years.

Given several annual training periods, repeated weekend drills, and maybe an overseas training deployment or a combat zone mission, you gained experience in what you do and how you do it.

You're a better Soldier or Airman than when you first joined. Now the new recruits look to you for advice and information on how things work and how to do the job.

General Joseph Lengyel, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau touts the National Guard as an operational force.

That means the men and women of the National Guard have a day-to-day role to play in the defense of the United States. That means you have a role to protect the nation.

Sometimes that means simply going to drill and annual training and being part of a force that is ready. Sometimes

that will mean additional training days because your unit is slated to deploy earlier in a crisis as a focused readiness unit or an Air Expeditionary Squadron.

And sometimes that means leaving work, family and friends for deployment to Kuwait, Afghanistan, or Europe and being away from home for a year on active duty.

As I write this, we have some 300 signal Soldiers from the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion deployed across a dozen countries in the Middle East. We've also got 200 members of the 27th Infantry Brigade and 101st Cavalry on duty in Europe training troops in Ukraine, and we have airman supporting combat operations in various theaters daily.

These are vital missions that need skilled, trained, experienced Soldiers and Airman like you.

Here at home over the past year we responded to assist in floods, snowstorms and hurricanes. We sent MPs, helicopter crews, aircrews, airman, and combat engineers to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands last year to help out our fellow Americans there.

You matter when it comes to these missions on our home front.

I know belonging to the National Guard can be frustrating at times.

It can be frustrating to sit and wait for the buses to take you to Fort Drum or Fort Dix when they are late, and they always seem to be late.

It is frustrating when training schedules changes and now you are in hurry up and wait mode.

It is frustrating when things seem disorganized.

It can be frustrating to be on state active duty waiting in the armory or wing to go out on mission but nothing seems to happen.

It can be frustrating when friends are heading to the beach on a nice summer day and you have drill.

It can be frustrating when you're at annual training when your daughter's birthday comes around.

It can be frustrating trying to get a college degree and you have to go to drill before the big test.

And I know it is especially frustrating when opportunities to go to a military school and earn promotion don't seem to be there or doesn't fit in with your other obligations. Service as a Guard Soldier can take a time commitment that is sometimes very ill-timed.

And being a Soldier or Airman also means being miserable at times.

It means being on the range in the rain, sleeping in a tent, eating dinner on the hood of a humvee, and going without a shower long enough to start smelling yourself.

There are plenty of tangible reasons to stay in the Guard.

The extra income can help on a car payment or cover part of the rent or a mortgage.

There's a tremendous life insurance benefit for your family and a chance to purchase low-cost health insurance if you need it.

There's access to the PX and commissary on posts or online.

And if you stay long enough, there is money for retirement.

There are cash incentives for reenlisting ranging from \$20,000 for six years to \$4,000 for two years and up to \$50,000 to repay student loans if you're in the Army.

I would encourage you to ask people who have stayed in why they made that decision.

They may tell you they made the Guard a career for the intangible reasons. They value the opportunity to serve.

They like being part of something bigger than themselves.

They value serving the United States and New York and their hometown.

They enjoy the comradery of their unit and the friendships made at 2 a.m. on the range or in the field in the rain.

They value the sense of purpose that wearing the uniform of our country gives you.



**Maj. Gen.
Anthony German**

If you're thinking about leaving when your time is up, do me a favor and talk to somebody first.

Talk to your retention NCO. Find out what you might be giving up.

If you're tired of one job see if you can reclassify into another. Maybe there is a bonus for your MOS or AFSC.

Talk to your leaders. Talk to the company commander or squadron commander about why you are thinking of leaving.

Find out what training opportunities are coming up. Find out what schools you can qualify for that get you promoted.

Most importantly, talk to the veterans in your unit. Ask them why they stayed in. Why does Guard service matter to them? They were your age once.

They thought about getting out too.

Finally, you can always call me or email me (Anthony.p.german.mil@mail.mil).

Call my office at 518-786-4501 and tell the person that answers the phone that you would like to speak to General German about why you should stay in the Guard.

They'll put you on my schedule for a call back.

We want you. You are an important member of our team and I want you to stay in. Thank you for all you do...





guardtimes

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Soldiers fire M-9 pistols during the Sgt. Thomas Baker Individual Pistol Match at The 39th Annual Adjutant General's Marksmanship Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., June 2, 2018. The three-day event features multiple marksmanship challenges in which troops from the Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia and State Guard compete. Photo by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



FRONT COVER: Spc. Nicole Raterman, a combat engineer assigned to Headquarters Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, New York Army National Guard (NYARNG), dons her protective mask during the stress shoot event of the NYARNG Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., April 19, 2018. Photo by Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

BACK COVER: Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Morton, range operations manager at Camp Smith and assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division, New York Army National Guard, navigates the terrain of a rock wall from one of the newly updated rappel lanes at Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., May 3, 2018. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

FACES of the FORCE

Naval Militia Member Awarded Medal for Valor

Story and photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. --A New York Naval Militia member whose quick thinking, first aid skills and willingness to ignore danger saved a life during a Jan. 4 snowstorm in Peekskill received New York State's top military honor at a March 14 ceremony here.

Naval Militia Sgt. Christopher Vega, a former Marine and currently a New York City police officer, was recognized by his command with the New York State Medal for Valor for responding to a horrific traffic accident which nearly amputated the leg of a truck driver.

Ignoring the power lines draped over the wrecked truck, Vega took charge of the scene, putting a tourniquet on the man's leg and dealing with his shock until emergency services vehicles arrived.

"One can only feel great pride in the presentation of the state's highest military award to such an outstanding individual," said Rear Admiral Ten Eyck "Trip" Powell, commander of the New York Naval Militia, who presented the award to Vega.

"His selfless act saved the life of a fellow New Yorker and demonstrates the core principles of not only the New York Naval Militia, but of the organized militia of the state," Powell added.

Vega's "utter disregard for his own safety, his extraordinary gallantry, courage and valor under blizzard conditions and the threat of electrocution, are in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service," his citation reads.

"I feel extremely honored to receive this award, which isn't just for me, it's an award that represents all the heroic work law enforcement and military servicemen and women do that people never see," Vega said. "This is who we are and what we do."

Vega, 41, while serving on State Active Duty as a Naval Militia boat coxswain, was returning home around 10 a.m. on Jan. 4 in heavy winds and snow when he saw the trapped vehicle under a power pole on Main St. in Peekskill. The driver was trapped in the crushed cab.

Vega grabbed a tourniquet from his car, strapped it on the driver whose leg was hanging by a few tendons, and talked with him till the ambulance arrived.



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y.--New York Naval Militia Sgt. Christopher Vega receives the New York State Medal of Valor, the state's highest military award, from Naval Militia Rear Admiral Ten Eyck "Trip" Powell, during a ceremony on Wednesday, March 14 at Camp Smith Training Site in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.

Peekskill Police Chief Eric Johansen credited Vega with saving the man's life.

"This is the biggest event of my military career," Vega said.

Vega has been a member of the New York Naval Militia since 2016. He previously served in the Marine Corps from 2000 to 2003. Vega serves full-time with the New York City Police Department's counter terrorism task force.

Since May of 2017 he's been on military leave from the police department. Vega serves as the boat coxswain for the New York Naval Militia patrol assigned to patrol the Hudson River at Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, N.Y.

The mission is part of Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the New York National Guard's state active duty security augmentation force which operates in New York City. **gt**





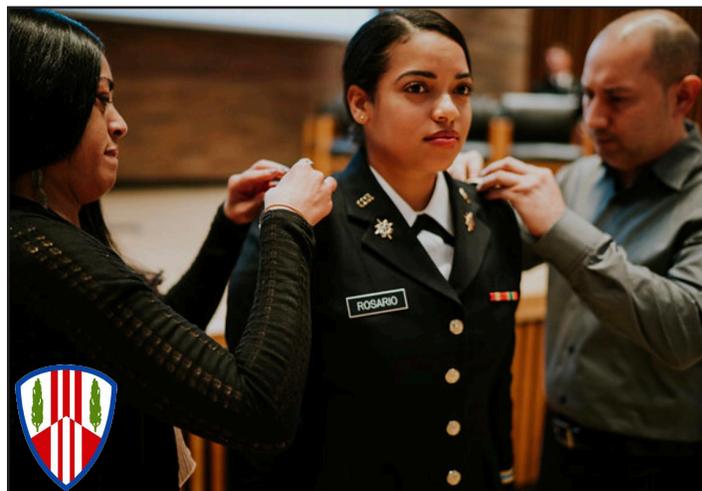
Ruck March Memorial

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- The 1st Ruck March Memorial was sponsored by Security Forces Squadron at the 174th Attack Wing Headquarters, in Syracuse, N.Y. on June 6, 2018. Participants from across the state joined the unit for the event to remember the 14 fallen service members from the squadron that have died in combat since 2001. Photo by Master Sgt. Lillique Ford, 174th Attack Wing.



Soldiers, Airmen Race for the 4th

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. -- Members of Joint Force Headquarters in Latham participated in the Firecracker 4 road race in Saratoga Springs July 4. From left Army National Guard Master Sgt. Luis Barsallo Air National Guard Lt. Col. Peter Keegan his son Conor Keegan Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Christopher Gerardi Army Guard Sgts. Adam Sisson and Steven Waite and Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Daniel Brunner. The team participated to raise funds for a local charity, Saratoga Warhorse, serves veterans at risk. Courtesy photo.



Guard Welcomes Newest Officer

NEW YORK -- Melisa Rosario, assigned to Headquarters Company, 369th Sustainment Brigade, New York Army National Guard, is commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant during a ceremony at 1 Police Plaza, New York, N.Y., May 19, 2018. Born in the Bronx and raised in Harlem, 2nd Lt. Rosario recently earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security from St. John's University and is pursuing a civilian career in law enforcement with the New York Police Department. Rosario was pinned by her parents Johanna Santana and Willi Cruz. Courtesy photo.

New York Remembers Father Duffy

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

NEW YORK -- Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York joined the National Guard's top chaplain in Times Square on Wednesday, June 27, to salute the Army's most famous chaplain: New York National Guard Lt. Col. Francis P. Duffy.

Dolan and Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Kenneth "Ed" Brandt, who serves as one of the Army's Deputy Chief of Chaplains, marked the anniversary of Duffy's death on June 26, 1932, by laying a wreath at the memorial to Father Duffy erected in Times Square in 1937.

Duffy, a member of the New York National Guard's 69th Infantry Regiment, was famed as counselor to the Irish-Americans who served in the unit during World War I.

"Father Duffy was one of those chaplains who allowed his ministry to follow the Soldiers," Brandt said. "In true chaplain fashion he cared about the person more than the ideology. Father Duffy served all, regardless of religion, seeing each person as a child of God."

"I am so grateful that in the middle of this part of the world, New York City, would stand the statue of the priest who exemplified so radiantly that love of God and love of country," Dolan said.

"Millions of folks pass through Times Square every year to feel its energy, experience its excitement and witness its grandeur," said Lt. Col. Don Makay, commander of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry.

"They also get a chance to see some heroes; you got Spiderman over there, Batman, Elmo and even Mickey Mouse. However there is one hero who is out here regardless of the weather and the season, who stands here and watches over

the epicenter of the social universe here in Times Square – Father Francis Duffy," Makay said.

Dolan, Brandt and Makay joined World War I Centennial Commissioner Libby O'Connell to honor Duffy's place in Army history.

"Today we honor one of our own who lived that call (to duty) with guts and gusto to bring alive the love, mercy and compassion of a living God to service members who answered the call to wear the fabric of our nation," Brandt said.

Duffy became chaplain of the 69th Infantry Regiment in 1914 while serving as pastor of Our Savior Parish in the Bronx.

The regiment earned its fame as part of the Irish Brigade during the Civil War and was dubbed the "Fighting 69th" by Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

Duffy accompanied the regiment to the Mexican border in 1916 when National Guard troops were mobilized to stop cross border raids by Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa.

Returning in the spring of 1917, Duffy and the 69th mobilized for World War I and became the 165th Infantry Regiment, destined for service with the newly formed 42nd "Rainbow" Division.

He is the most decorated chaplain in Army history and Duffy's wartime service set the standard for the military chaplains who would follow, Makay said.

"It was 100 years ago this year that Father Duffy experienced the defining moments of his life," Makay said, "not preaching from a pulpit or evangelizing in the streets, but projecting confidence, inspiration and calm for the



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Ehler, left, introduces the official party to commemorate the career of chaplain Father Francis P. Duffy at Times Square June 27, 2018. Ehler joined Cardinal Timothy Dolan, WWI National Commissioner Dr. Libby O'Connell and the National Guard's senior chaplain, Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Kenneth "Ed" Brandt. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, *Guard Times Staff*.

Soldiers of the 69th Infantry who were facing some of the most barbaric fighting in a very bloody and industrialized war in France."

"The regiment was ninety percent first and second generation Irish and the other ten percent were a mix of country boys and immigrants from all over," O'Connell said, "They were all equal in his eyes."

In his memoir, Duffy wrote he didn't care about the Soldiers' place of birth or ethnic background, but liked to think they were all "Irish by adoption, Irish by association, or Irish by conviction."

He received the Distinguished Service Cross and Distinguished

Service Medal, along with the Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre from French military leaders.

"He was a muddy boots chaplain," Makay said, "whose fame was derived not from his rank or position, but from his willingness to endure the same risks as the Soldiers."

"Father Duffy," Dolan said, "thank you for what you did, thank you for who you are, thank you for the memories you bring, thank you, for through you, you allow us to praise God for the gift of chaplains to our armed services, who follow your example in their love for God and love for country." **gt**

Vice President's Wife Meets Military Spouses

Story by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Nine New York National Guard spouses were able to voice their concerns to Karen Pence, spouse of the Vice President of the United States during a round table discussion at Syracuse University, on June 19.

“We have been traveling all around the world speaking to spouses of all branches of service, this was our first opportunity to speak to just National Guard spouses,” Pence explained.

Pence accompanied her husband on a visit to Syracuse. This was an opportunity to visit local military spouses, she said.

Two of the spouse’s husbands are in the Army National Guard and seven from the Air National Guard, their husbands either served part-time or full-time.

“This is the first opportunity I have had to get together with other spouses as a group and spend time together voicing our concerns and speak about possible changes,” said Stephanie Cooney, a Baldwinsville, N.Y. resident and spouse of Air Guard Capt. Patrick Cooney.

After speaking with the spouses, Pence spent more than 10 minutes shaking their hands and taking group photos.

Pence spoke with the wives at the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University. She asked them what the government could do to make their lives easier.

“I think sometimes the spouses are not given the accolades that they deserve,” Pence said.

“We couldn’t have the volunteer military like we have, without the support of the spouses,” Pence said.

“The culture is different on every base, some have reading groups, classes, child care and help spouse’s networks and some are slowly getting different cultures.” she added.

Because their spouse are reservist they do not have the community of an active duty base the women told Pence. They miss some of the support services at an active duty post they said.

Pence’s son Michael is an officer in the United States Marines. She cannot relate as a military spouse, but she said but knows what it’s like to be a military mom.

People want to support military families, Pence said. There are resources available for military spouses that they may not realize are available for them, she added.

Rachel Smith, a Rochester N.Y. resident spouse of Army National Guard Sgt. Matthew Smith, said she appreciated the chance to speak to the vice president’s wife.

“It was such a positive experience speaking to Mrs. Pence today, she listened to what we had to say and she has the platform to help get our voices heard,” Smith said.

“It was a great experience, she was kind, welcoming and genuinely cared for the spouses,” said Jennifer Cogan a Liverpool, N.Y. resident and spouse of Army National Guard Sgt. First Class Colin Cogan.

She wanted to hear our concerns and the different ways we support our husbands. As National Guard spouses we do not often get to see each other, this was an awesome experience to meet other wives that live in the Syracuse area,” Cogan said. 



Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence, the wife of Vice President Mike Pence, stands with New York National Guard spouses, at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., June 19, 2018. Pence went to meet with the spouses to talk about ways that the federal government can better improve the lives of National Guard families through new policies . Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



Vice President Mike Pence greets well-wishers and New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y. on June 19, 2018. Pence was in Syracuse to attend a political even and visit a local factory. Photo by Master Sgt. Lillique Ford, 174th Attack Wing)



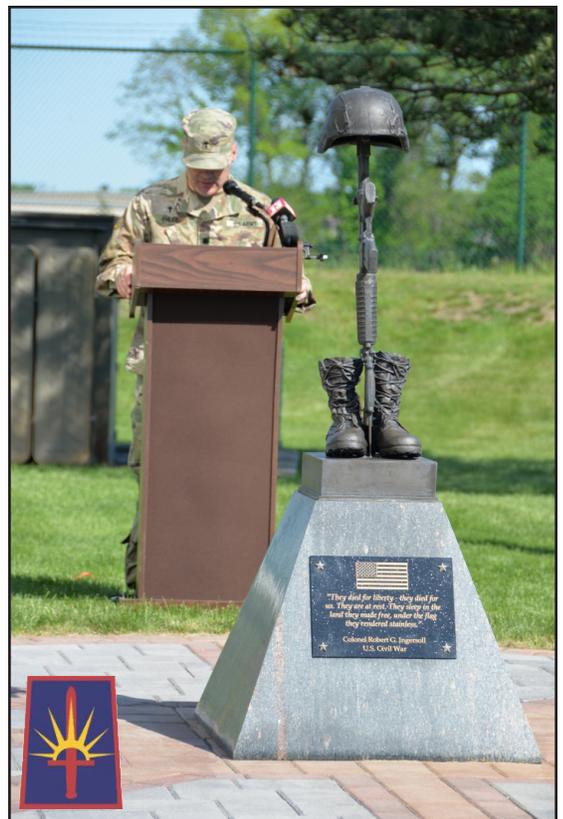
Family Day at the Wing

NEWBURGH, N.Y.- Staff Sgt. Gerard Fanizzi, a maintainer assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing, watches a C-5M Super Galaxy land with his son at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh, N.Y. April 26, 2018. Fanizzi was previously a maintainer on the C-5. Photo by Staff Sgt. Julio A. Olivencia Jr., 105th Airlift Wing.



Air Force Instructors Drill New Airmen

NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Master Sgt. Rachel Taylor, a Military Training Instructor stationed at Lackland Air Force Base, drills members of the 105th Student Flight April 7, 2018 at Stewart Air National Guard Base. Photo by Master Sgt. Lee C. Guagenti.



DMNA Memorial Event

LATHAM, N.Y. -- New York State Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Ehler, reads the invocation for a Memorial Day service at the Joint Force Headquarters on May 24, 2018. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff.



Airmen Receives Joint Award

NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Marine Corps Lt. Col. Joshua Izenour, left, and Sgt. Maj. Randall Anderson, assigned to the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452, present a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to Master Sgt. Sara Pastorello, 105th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, on April 6, 2018 at Stewart Air National Guard Base. Pastorello took the lead on public affairs efforts in support of the KC-130T mishap that claimed the lives of 16 Marines and Sailors on July 10, 2017. Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Guagentim, 105th Airlift Wing.



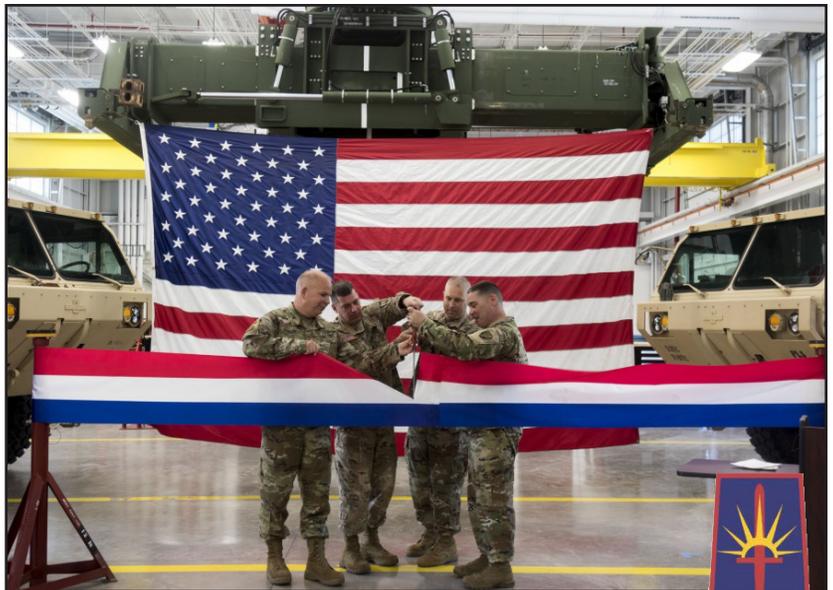
Leadership Reaction Course

OLEAN, N.Y. -- Soldiers from Alpha Company, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion test their leadership and team work skills on a Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) at St. Bonaventure University in Olean N.Y., on April 14, 2018. Photo by Spc. Kaylee Albright, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion.



FOB Walton Memorial Dedicated

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR N.Y. -- A ceremony to dedicate the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Memorial was held in building 75 June 21, 2018. The FOB Walton Memorial honors the sacrifices made by Lt. Col. James Walton and New York Army National Guard Soldiers Sgt. Andrew Seabrooks, Sgt. Nelson D. Rodriguez, and Spc. Anthony L. Mangano who were killed in 2008 during a roadside ambush outside of Kandahar, Afghanistan. The memorial was brought back to the U.S. when the FOB closed in Afghanistan. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



New Maintenance Facility Opens at Camp Smith

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR N.Y.--Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, (left) commander of the New York Army National Guard joins Col. Scott Cleaveland, construction and facilities management officer; Maj. Chad Clark, the facility engineer at Camp Smith; and Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Viana, Camp Smith maintenance supervisor as they cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the Combined Maintenance Shop here in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., June 21, 2018. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

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ALL INTERESTED CANDIDATES PLEASE CONTACT:
CSM Robinson-Haddo, B Co (646) 342-0483

NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

Medals Awarded to 369th Hellfighter Soldiers



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- Lt. Col. Shawn J. Shutts, deputy commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, right, and Maj. Navin Kalicharan, brigade operations officer, receive the Shield of Saint Christopher by Col. Stephen Bousquet, 369th Sustainment Brigade Commander, during a ceremony here June 2. The Military Order of Saint Christopher recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the U.S. Army Transportation Corps. Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Airmen Assist in Storm Response, Clean-up

NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Airmen of the 105th Airlift Wing assist local law enforcement by directing traffic at busy intersections throughout eastern Orange County, New York, May 16, 2018. Violent winds and rain tore through the Hudson Valley. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Espeut, 105th Airlift Wing.

TAG Visits Future Leaders



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- Soldiers listen to a briefing from Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General, while attending the New York Army National Guard's Future Leader's Course April 10, 2018. The training provides a foundation for future non-commissioned officers. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

THE JOINT FORCE

Homeland Response Force Validates Skills

Story by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters

MALONE, N.Y.-580 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from New York and New Jersey spent four days honing their emergency response skills during an exercise that took place in three locations in New York and Connecticut April 12-15.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II Homeland Response Force, or HRF, validated its ability to respond to a chemical, biological or radiological attack during a round-the-clock drill conducted in Troy, N.Y., Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y. and Camp Hartel in Windsor Locks, CT.

“Each day we executed the mission we improved our skill sets and worked strongly together as a team,” said Brig. Gen. Joseph Biehler, the assistant division commander for maneuver for the 42nd Infantry Division and the commander of the HRF. “The Soldiers from the Division had their nose to the grind stone, they were ready and prepared to execute this mission,” he added.

The exercise scenario was built around a terrorist attack on New York City’s traffic tunnels in which they were contaminated with chemical and biological agents. One attack was followed by another during the exercise.

The exercise tested the ability of the command posts and the Soldiers and Airmen responding on the ground around the clock.

The HRF command post established operations at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y. The hands-on training for recovery, decontamination and medical teams took part at Camp Hartel, a Connecticut National

Guard facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

HRF logistics managers provided support from 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in Troy, N.Y.

The Federal Emergency Management Region II Homeland Response Force (HRF) is one of ten established by the Department of Defense to serve as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Explosive (CBRNE) consequence management response force. There is one HRF for each FEMA region.

The FEMA Region II force is comprised mainly of forces from the New York and New Jersey National Guards with small elements from the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico available as needed.

The 10 HRFs align with each Federal Emergency Management Agency region to allow for closer and more familiar contact with civilian responders.

The HRF is the focal point for increasing response flexibility and lifesaving efforts in support of local authorities after a CBRNE incident in the states supported by FEMA Region 2, Biehler said.

The 42nd Infantry Division has been the headquarters element of the FEMA Region II HRF since 2014.

“Each year the division staff evolves and we gain experience, knowledge and confidence,” said Sgt. Major Matthew Gutzwiller, Sergeant Major of the HRF command and control cell.

“Throughout the years of us executing the HRF, we have developed more experienced service members to teach and mentor our Soldiers that are new to the



Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the FEMA Region II Homeland Response Force set up a decontamination lane prior to an exercise at Camp Hartnell, CT on April 13, 2018. The Homeland Response Force, or HRF, is a team trained to deal with chemical, radiological or biological disasters and can be expanded as the core of a response element adding local officials. The FEMA Region II HRF validated for the year during a four day exercise, April 12-15. Photo by First Sgt. Adam Meyer, 107th Military Police Company.

division. We had a good amount of experienced and inexperienced Soldiers that were involved in the exercise,” Gutzwiller added.

While the focus of the exercise is on domestic response, the training helps division Soldiers exercise the skills they would need overseas, he emphasized.

“This was the first time I have ever been involved in a HRF, said Spc. Fuad Yunis, one of the division’s human resource specialists. “It was a great learning experience. I am fortunate that I could rely on my NCOs to learn and develop as a leader.”

The major units that comprise the HRF include:

- The 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, based in Troy, N.Y. provides to overall command and control of the organization;

- The 104th Military Police Battalion Headquarters, based in Kingston, N.Y provides command on site;

- The 1156th Engineer Company, located in Kingston, N.Y. provides engineers trained for the extraction and evacuation of casualties;

- The 222nd Chemical Company, based at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., operates the decontamination element;

- The 107th Airlift Wing, based at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y. operates operate high-tech satellite communications;

- And the 105th Airlift Wing, located at Stewart Air National Guard Base, in Newburgh, N.Y., provides medical support.



A member of the 24th Civil Support Team exits a hovering HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during helocasting off Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn in Gravesends Bay on June 6, 2018. The team, which specializes in identifying chemical, biological and radiological agents, trains on deploying into water in case they need that method to get to a target location in New York City. Photo by Boatswains Mate 1st Class Kurt Schneider, New York Naval Militia.

Civil Support Team Members Get Wet to Get Ready

Story by Spc. Amouris Coss and Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

BROOKLYN, N.Y. - Once a year members of the New York National Guard's 24th Civil Support Team jump out of a perfectly good helicopter and into the waters of Gravesend Bay off the southern tip of Long Island.

It's a technique called helocasting and this year the annual exercise took place June 6.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the 24th Civil Support Team (CST)-the full title is 24th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team--are trained to detect and identify radiological, chemical, and biological weapons and hazards. The 24th is based at Fort Hamilton.

New York City is built around rivers, islands and other waterways and traffic on local highways is notoriously subject to traffic jams. So using a helicopter to get close to an incident, and then jumping into the water nearby, could be the fastest way to deploy, explained Sgt. Madalena Noyse, one of the CST's chemical operations specialists.

The 24th CST conducts helocasting training each year to prepare for that kind of delivery to a target site, said Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Bhoorasingh, the 24th CST's reconnaissance non-commissioned officer.

The 24th CST also has to be prepared to respond to incidents on board a ship entering New York harbor. Members need to be prepared to exit a helicopter into the water by a ship or Coast Guard boat, if they can't land directly on the vessel, explained Capt. Robert Freed, deputy commander of the 24th CST.

Helocasting is an aerial insertion technique used by small units to move personnel and equipment into a maritime area.

The small unit is flown by helicopter to a position just above the water's surface. The team members jump into the water and then swim to a waiting boat or the shore.

The Soldiers and Airmen started off training in basic Army water survival and then on drown-proofing training to make sure they were comfortable in the water, Freed explained.

The next step was open water training in which the CST members jumped off U.S. Coast Guard boats into the water.

The June 6 training mission began with 24th CST members linking up with a UH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter flown by members of the 106th Rescue Wing.

Hovering 10 feet above the water, Freed took charge as each team member exited the aircraft.

Once in the water the Soldiers and Airmen were picked up by New York Naval Militia Patrol Boat 440.

The exercise was the culmi-

nation of water-focused training, Noyse said.

"Today's training really ties everything together," she said.

Not only is the training useful, but it is also fun, Bhoorasingh said.

"It is pretty awesome," Freed said about the helocasting training. "One of these things about a very small, elite unit is to have these kinds of training opportunities. It is pretty special." **gt**



24th CST Trains off Eastern LI

PLUM ISLAND, N.Y. --Members of the 24th Civil Support Team (CST) prepare to identify and classify hazardous materials during a training event at the Plum Island Animal Disease Research Facility, N.Y., May 2, 2018. The CST inserted by helicopter and established communications and mission command, bringing together resources of several fire departments, the 106th Rescue Wing, and the Department of Homeland Security. Photos by Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

Soldiers Learn from Ukrainian Counterparts

Story by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade

YAVORIV, UKRAINE -Overseas deployments for Soldiers of the New York National Guard have usually meant Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

But deployment for 220 New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team meant a trip to Europe.

Since November 2017, Soldiers from the Syracuse-based 27th brigade have been serving in Ukraine to help train and mentor Ukrainian Army units. The New York Soldiers are part of the Joint Multinational Training Group – Ukraine, known as JMTG-U, serving as cadre and advisors at the Yavoriv Training Center helping Ukrainian Army units meet the goal of achieving NATO compatibility.

“I started ROTC in 2008 and I commissioned in 2012,” said 1st Lt. Chasen Smith, a plans officer in the JMTG-U. “When someone said where do you think you’re going to deploy, my first thought was Iraq or Afghanistan, maybe later on Syria. I never expected to be pulled onto a mission like this.”

Smith currently serves alongside other soldiers from Canada, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, the United States, and the United Kingdom as part of the multinational group.

Now, after eight months working alongside the Ukrainian Army, the progress made by the training group is evident, Smith said.

“When we first arrived here the training center (staff) was struggling to conduct their planning any more than two to three days out,” Smith said.

“Through our efforts with them, we have moved them to the point where they are now planning two to three weeks out. The third week is all theoretical, the second week is confirming and checking plans, and, by week one, the majority of the questions have been answered and plans are for the most part locked in,” Smith explained.

“They have also made vast improvements in the way they present the training,” Smith added. “We’re dealing with a partner nation and trying to teach them to operate the way we do.”

The U.S. Soldiers act as mentors and instructors to the Ukrainian training center personnel when needed.

Originally, the U.S. and allied nations conducted direct training for Ukrainian Army battalions that rotated through the center. Now, three years later, the bulk of the training is taught by Ukrainian instructors now stationed at the combat training center.

American Soldiers continue to act as mentors, providing guidance and clarification to both the rotational units training at Yavoriv and the Ukrainian instructors facilitating the exercises.

During the rotation we will go out to the field, supervise the action, and make on the spot corrections as needed,” said Staff Sgt. Riener Mongerson, a Charlie Company mentor.

As a mentor, Mongerson works directly alongside Ukrainian soldiers stationed at the training center.

“We have been trying to get away from Americans directly teaching classes and move toward assisting them teach their own classes,” he said.

Though the bulk of the training has been handed over to Ukrainian personnel, the Americans and multinational partners here are ready to share their expertise and experience with their Ukrainian counterparts,



Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, commander of the New York Army National Guard, meets U.S. and Ukrainian Soldiers during a visit to the Yavoriv Combat Training Center May 25. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade.

Ukrainian partners, especially first line junior leaders, are willing and eager to learn, Mongerson said.

“We want to change the culture and empower junior leaders and NCOs to take the initiative,” he said.

“When I’m giving a class, it will usually be for most of their non-commissioned officers and a few of their lieutenants,” Mongerson said. “I want to be able to instruct their non-commissioned officers so that they can then turn around and teach their soldiers.”

While working alongside a partner nation and trying to overcome both language and cultural barriers, the need for creating strong relationships is paramount, he said.

“One of the things we were told before coming over here is that Ukrainians don’t take criticism well,” Smith said.

“While that is true to an extent, the lower level leadership is very receptive to criticism, especially once you establish a rapport. Don’t underestimate the relationships you make between yourself and your counterparts. This job is all about building relationships,” he added.

“We’re mostly there to supervise and give guidance when needed,” said Staff Sgt. Jamah Figaro, a Bravo Company training NCO.

Each time a Ukrainian battalion completes a training rotation, the quality of the exercise improves as the Ukrainian staff and their U.S. mentors find ways to improve the training experience, Figaro said.

“You see a lot of professionalism out in the training area, and we strive to get things perfect,” Figaro said.

“At first they might say it’s because of our equipment, but we show them how resourceful we can be and they realize it’s more about basic leadership skills, and leading by example. Once they see that, they realize why the United States Army is the most powerful army in the world,” he added.



Top, Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team assigned to the Joint Multinational Training Group – Ukraine prepare for a battalion field training exercise at the Yavoriv Combat Training Center March 15. Bottom left, soldiers assigned to the Ukrainian 3rd Battalion, 14th Mechanized Brigade fire an RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade during training on Jan. 30, 2018. Bottom right, More than 220 New York Soldiers are deployed to Ukraine where they are working hand in hand with the Ukrainian Army as they strive toward their goal of achieving NATO interoperability.



Along with providing training to the personnel staffing the combined training center, the U.S. Soldiers here say they are also working diligently to improve both the facility's infrastructure and training aides.

Though the mission is to train the Ukrainians, the U.S. Soldiers stationed at the training center are learning from the Ukrainians as well, the New York Guardsmen said.

"One of the biggest things we have learned from the Ukrainians is how to make do with what you have," Smith said. "These days we are so dependent on optics. Thermal and night vision. The Ukrainians don't have any of that, but they still conduct night operations."

"One of the things they use to overcome that deficiency is through the

use of vehicle mounted spotlights," Smith said. "Once they get an idea of where somebody is, they hit that spotlight, engage the target, then turn the spotlight off."

As the Yavoriv training center continues to evolve and change, one thing remains constant, the enthusiasm of the U.S. and Ukrainian soldiers stationed there, New York Soldiers said.

Now nearing the completion of their rotation, the New York Soldiers are slated to be relieved by the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, who are scheduled to take over command of JMTG-U later this summer. **gt**

Aviators Give Lift to ROTC

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

CAMP JOHNSON, COLCHESTER, V.T. - New York Army National Guard aircrews from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Battalion provided tactical airlift to assist the training of cadets from the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) during their spring semester tactical training here near Burlington, Vermont, April 5, 2018.

The flight mission involved a multi-ship air insertion of cadets from the Siena College Mohawk Battalion at Camp Johnson for a three-day field training exercise (FTX). The cadets practiced squad tactics alongside ROTC cadets from the University of Vermont's Green Mountain Battalion as part of the combined training exercise.

"We do training exercises once a semester," said Cadet Camille Valenza, a platoon leader from the Siena ROTC program. "It's pretty awesome, because we never get to do stuff like (flying in Black Hawks)."

Flying in helicopters is a rare opportunity for the cadets, which only happens once a year, if ever, Valenza explained.

During the hour long flight from Albany to Burlington, the Army National Guard pilots gave the future officers some thrills. Once clear of residential areas, the four UH-60 Black Hawks formation flight increased speed, made some sharp turns and quickly dropped altitude as part of their flight maneuvers.

Upon arrival at their landing zone at Camp Johnson, the cadets rushed out to begin the tactical portion of their training while the 3-142nd aircrews moved on to refuel and pick up their next group of cadets.

Crewmembers provided static training for how to safely enter and exit the aircraft to prepare the cadets for their training while rehearsing their National Guard aircrew skills for air assault and air insertion missions.

The training support for the ROTC cadets gave the aircrews a chance to refine their multiship flight training, sustain their readiness for night vision operations and rehearse for more complex air assault missions, said Sgt. Joseph Roth, a crew chief with the 3-142nd Aviation.

The 3-142nd aircrews will deploy a flight company later this summer in support of a combat training center rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

"We get to work with other units and different skill levels," Roth said. "Everybody is at a different level of readiness right now. Some people are at the crawl phase, walk phase, or run phase. Each unit operates differently, so it gives us the opportunity to work with a wide scope of unit readiness levels."

The Green Mountain Battalion cadets from Vermont lifted off right before sunset and were given a ride to their tactical landing zone as the sun set over the horizon.

As the cadets moved off for their nightlong tactical training, the 3-142nd aircrews returned back to their flight facility in Latham, using night vision goggles to maintain currency and proficiency. **gt**

"Each unit operates differently, so it gives us the opportunity to work with a wide scope of unit readiness levels,"

--Sgt. Joseph Roth, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation



UH-60s assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, fly out of the Vermont Army National Guard flight facility in Burlington April 5, after airlifting ROTC cadets for field training.



Middle photo, Sgt. Joseph Roth with the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, gives cadets from Siena College ROTC a safety brief on UH-60 Black Hawk procedures before their flight from Latham N.Y., April 5, 2018. Above, University of Vermont ROTC Cadet Julia Weiss observes the landscape during her air movement on Black Hawk. The New York aircrews provided support to the cadets field training exercise.

New York Soldiers Train at Fort Polk for JRTC

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

FORT POLK, La. - Three hundred and sixty New York Army National Guard Soldiers based in Geneseo, Lockport, Ithaca, Ogdensburg and Gloversville headed for one of the Army's two premier training facilities at Fort Polk, Louisiana on May 2.

The Soldiers from two companies of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry and Alpha Company of the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, trained for three weeks at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center, known as JRTC.

JRTC pits Army infantry brigade combat teams against and opposing force in massive force-on-force training exercises in a simulated combat environment where everything they do can be recorded and analyzed.

The New York troops acted as the opposing enemy force, known as the OPFOR, as about 5,000 Soldiers of the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team go through a three-week rotation at JRTC.

The 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Syracuse, went through a similar mission in the summer of 2016.

Acting as the OPFOR is a great experience for the battalion's junior leaders, according to Lt. Col. Jeff Csoka, the commander of the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry.

"These missions enable young platoon leaders and platoon sergeants to gain valuable experience maneuvering their platoons," he said. "It also gives company commanders a benchmark to see how well trained their squad and platoon leaders are when acting against an aggressive, determined opponent."

The battalion has been emphasizing individual and squad level skills, for the last two years, so he thinks his Soldiers will do well, Csoka added.

"We may lack experience in certain positions due to turnover, but we are sending down Soldiers who are aggressive, motivated and learn quickly," Csoka said.

JRTC uses a laser engagement system, a very advanced version of laser-tag, to allow individual Soldiers and vehicles to engage others on the simulated battlefield. On the ground observers and high tech recording systems keep track of actions so that Soldiers and commanders can review their actions after each engage-



Sgt. Adam Lamb, a generator mechanic assigned to Echo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, works on a generator at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Ft. Polk, La., July 26, 2016. Almost 400 New York Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry and the 145th Maintenance Company will be train at the Joint Readiness training Center his spring and summer in support of National Guards unit rotations there. Photo by Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

ment.

Soldiers participating in the training conduct the same sorts of logistics operations they would conduct in wartime and even learn to deal with civilians living in towns on the battlefield.

The New York Army National Guard Soldiers will be acting as either guerilla forces or conventional infantry attacking and defending against the Georgia Soldiers depending on the training scenario.

About 80 percent of the Soldiers participating in the training this year went through the brigade JRTC rotation in 2016.

"Participating as the opposing force will give these Soldiers a different view of what happens on the battlefield as well as giving them the opportunity to hone their training on small unit tactics", explained Capt. Patrick Halpin, the assistant operations officer for the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry.

The battalion deployed its Alpha Company, headquartered in Geneseo; and Charlie

Company, headquartered in Gloversville; on the mission. Soldiers from other units located in Ogdensburg and Ithaca will round out those infantry companies.

Some of the platoons will struggle initially, but he expects to see improvement over the course of the three-week mission, Csoka said.

"As OPFOR the biggest challenge will be the short mission planning cycle that our platoons have," he said. "This will test our junior leaders' ability to quickly develop communication, rehearse and executive tactical operations."

The New York Army National Guard's 145th Maintenance Company, based on Staten Island, also sent Soldiers to the Joint Readiness Training Center this spring.

Thirty-nine Soldiers from the unit began a three-week rotation support an Alabama Army National Guard unit on April 27, while another 39 Soldiers will deploy at the end of May in support of a unit from the Louisiana Army National Guard. **gt**

NYC Soldiers Win Northeast Region's Best Warriors

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

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. — Two New York City Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry took top honors during this year's Army National Guard Region 1 Best Warrior Competition held here, May 16-19, 2018

Spc. Ilya Titov and Sgt. Quentin Davis earned the Soldier and non-commissioned officer honors for National Guard Soldiers in the northeast.

Each man bested six other competitors from New England, New York and New Jersey.

Titov, an infantryman and Rockaway Park resident, was the winner in the junior enlisted competition, which covers Soldiers in the ranks from private to specialist.

Davis, a signal support systems specialist, was the winner in the non-commissioned officer category which covers sergeants, staff sergeants and sergeants first class. Davis is an Astoria, Queens resident.

"The regional level (competition) showed me how to dig deep and challenge myself to use all of my National Guard training," Davis said.

Titov and Davis will advance to the National-level competition to compete against the winners from the other regions that comprise the 54 states and territories.

That competition will be held in late July at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

Most of the competitors echoed the same sentiment about the increased level of competition at the regional level, and the importance of leadership support while training and preparing for the event.

"The regional level required more stamina since the course was more demanding and the competition lasted for more days," said Sgt. Jeffrey Holmes, a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear specialist assigned to the 13th Civil Support Team, Rhode Island Army National Guard.

Soldiers and NCOs reached the Region 1 competition by advancing through unit, company, battalion, and brigade and state levels.

Holmes, who competed in his first Best Warrior competition this year and earned runner up for the NCO category, said that the support from his leadership was a big part of his success in reaching the regionals.

During the four-day competition, 14 competitors from eight Northeast states were evaluated on events that were specifically designed to mirror today's war-fighting environment and focus on leadership tasks.

The competition tested each Soldier in various events such as:

- A 12-mile road march with ruck sack;
- The Army Physical Fitness Test;
- Day and night land navigation;
- Stress shooting various weapon systems; And a Soldier appearance board.

The 12-mile road march was conducted at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, after the Soldiers were airlifted in on a UH-60.

Soldiers were faced with adversity every step of the way, said Sgt. Maj. Matthew Gutzwiller, who led the operational support for the Best Warrior Competition.

"They had to display knowledge across multifaceted areas, shifting focus from their specialized military jobs to foundational Soldiering and leadership skills," said Gutzwiller.

According to Gutzwiller, Soldiers get focused team training throughout the year and this



Top, U.S. Army Spc. Ilya Titov, an infantryman assigned to Company A, 1-69th Infantry Regiment, completes the 12-mile ruck march portion of the Region 1 Best Warrior Competition at West Point, N.Y., May 19, 2018. Above, Sgt. Quentin Davis, a signal support specialist assigned to Headquarters Company, 1-69th Infantry, completes the 12-mile ruck march portion of the competition at West Point, N.Y., May 19, 2018. Photos by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

“The regional level (competition) showed me how to dig deep and challenge myself to use all of my National Guard training,”

-- Sgt. Quentin Davis, NGB Region 1 Best Warrior NCO

competition gives them the opportunity to perform and test themselves individually.

Titov, who improved his scores in every event since the previous level, credited the tougher competition for helping to challenge himself.

“I knew the competition was even fiercer; I had to keep pushing myself,” Titov said. “I knew if I tried I could continue to do better.”

One of the uniquely challenging components of this competition is that each Soldier is evaluated on the comprehensive Soldier model: both physical and mental.

“These were some of the fiercest competitors I’ve seen in the Best Warrior; they never gave up no matter what position they were in,” said New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major David Piwowarski, the senior enlisted advisor who oversaw the competition.

“Everyone can compete, everyone can train – but mental strength is what makes you win at this level,” Piwowarski said.

Thanks to an arrangement with West Point and the German Liaison Office there, all of the events of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge were part of the Best Warrior Competition.

The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge is one of the few approved foreign awards American service members can wear. The first phase consists of the basic fitness test, which included an 11x10 meter sprint, chin-ups, and 1000 meter run.

Soldiers are also graded on their swimming ability when earning the German award. The swimming event was held at the West Point swimming pool.

This year, all the Best Warrior competitors each scored high enough to earn the badge: seven earned gold, and seven earned silver. 🇺🇸



Sgt. Quentin Davis competes in the 12-mile Road March portion of the state-level New York Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at West Point, N.Y., April 21, 2018. Davis and fellow 69th Infantry Soldier Spc. Ilya Titov went on to compete and win at the National Guard Regional Best Warrior Competition. Photo by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Spc. Ilya Titov provides care to a training dummy during the casualty care event of the New York Army National Guard statewide Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., April 19, 2018. Photo by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

WWII Vet Visits 258th Field Artillery to Fire New Guns

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

FORT DRUM, N.Y. -- A 93-year old who fired 258th Field Artillery guns at Nazi troops in World War II was on hand as the New York Army National Guard battalion's artillerymen fired the Army's latest towed cannon for their first time.

Charlie Brown, a veteran from Olean, New York, joined members of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Infantry in firing the first rounds from their new 155 mil-

limeter M777A2 howitzers here on May 23.

The M777A2 is the Army's newest towed howitzer and comes with the capability to fire precision munitions. The training event capped the battalion's two-weeks of annual training.

"It was exciting! It sure does bring back memories. I can recall when we were firing at the enemy," Brown said.

Brown was outfitted with a hel-

met and protective gear and pulled the cord which fired the high-tech artillery piece.

Charlie Battery was created by taking Soldiers from the battalion's Alpha and Bravo batteries and making a new unit. The change is part of the Army's Brigade redesign, explained Lt. Col. Peter Mehling, the battalion commander.

During their annual training, the 54 Soldiers from Charlie Battery were trained on the M777A2. The Soldiers worked hard to learn to use the new, more sophisticated system, Mehling said.

The M777A2 employs an on-board GPS and digital fire control system to calculate the howitzer's position on the Earth and the target's location. This enables the gun crew to fire faster and more accurately.

It also takes less time to emplace the gun than the older 155mm towed cannon (M198) it replaced. It is much lighter because many parts are now made of titanium.

The M777A2 also requires only five artillerymen to operate.

The combined effect of these

changes is increased reliability and the ability to fire more rapidly, he added.

The new cannon can also fire up to 37.5 kilometers, compared to the 19.5 kilometers range of the 105mm cannons.

"We're a much more lethal battalion than we were," Mehling said.

The battalion will now be configured with two batteries of 105 mm guns, and one of 155 millimeter cannons, instead of just two batteries of 105 millimeter guns.

The transition has been a deliberate process, Mehling said.

Contractors taught classes on the new howitzer which included maintenance training, how to fire it, and how the computers work.

Crews found the transition to be very easy, according to Sgt. Johnathan Johnson, a gun crew chief.

"The best part was everyone only had to learn one position... that's on our level to cross train, so other than that it was very easy," Johnson said.

When live fire day arrived, the Soldiers were very excited, Mehling said.



Pfc. Justice Cook, right, and Spc. Jelease Santiago, assigned to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, prepares to fire an M777 Howitzer on Fort Drum, Watertown N.Y., May 22nd, 2018. Cook and Santiago were conducting annual training, which was primarily spent learning how to operate and fire the new howitzer.



Soldiers from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, cheer for WWII Veteran, Charlie Brown, who served in the 258, on Fort Drum, Watertown N.Y., May 22nd, 2018.



"One of the Soldiers said it was like Christmas and your birthday, and the best day ever, all rolled up into one," Mehling said, "the motivation level and the attention to detail in the Soldiers has just been incredible."

The battalion's 2018 annual training was a success all around, Johnson said.

"It's one of the best annual trainings I've been to," Johnson said. The new guns are "very easy to adapt to and learn in the field... [the Soldiers] have been excellent. Everyone's eager to learn and play with the new toys."

This annual training was a first

for Pvt. Wilfred Camacho, who just graduated from advanced individual training.

He got a kick out of firing the guns, Camacho said. "It's a good concussion, especially if you like explosions," he said.

By the end of the day, Charlie Battery artillerymen had sent 82 rounds down range in its qualification of all crews and sections.

The Charlie Battery Soldiers said they really liked to opportunity to meet and talk with Brown, who had been invited to pull the lanyard on the new guns by the battalion commander.

When Brown served, the bat-

talion fired 155mm self-propelled howitzers. As a member of the battalion's headquarters battery, Brown kept detailed records on the battalion's actions and recorded 33,902 rounds fired from Normandy to the heart of Germany in 1944 and 1945.

Brown watched throughout that day as the cannons fired, and he shared stories of his war. The reception he received was very emotional for him, Brown said.

"What really amazed me was seeing all these guys cheer for me," he said. "I have tears seeing [the Soldiers] here."

Also, the 1st Battalion, 258th

Artillery today has female officers and enlisted Soldiers in the ranks. That was unheard of during World War II, Brown noted.

Being in the 258th Field Artillery is still special though, he said.

"I lived a good life, and maybe it was because I was in the 258th," he said. **gt**

101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion Deploys Overseas



NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion board a plane following the unit's farewell ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base on March 17, 2018. The battalion conducted mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas, before heading overseas in support of Operation Inherent Resolve on May 2. They are expected to return to the Hudson Valley in the spring of 2019. Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Engineers Having a Blast

FORT DRUM, N.Y. -- Sgt. Thomas Borthwick, left and Private First Class Dominic Barillaro, Soldiers from the Quarry Platoon, 204th Engineer Battalion work a rock drill for a quarry blast project at range 44 during annual training here May 8, 2018. The Quarry Platoon is one of six units in the Army inventory whose mission is to plan, conduct, prepare and perform rock crushing operations in support of horizontal engineer units conducting road and airfield projects. Photo by Pfc. Dominic Barillaro, 204th Engineer Detachment.

New Battalion Leadership



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- Above, Lt. Col. Gurpreet Singh, incoming commander of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion stands at the front of his formation during his change of command ceremony at Camp Smith, N.Y., on May 6, 2018.

Below, Lt. Col. Marshall Hunt, incoming commander of the 104th Military Police Battalion addresses the formation during the 104th Military Police Battalion change of command ceremony at Camp Smith, N.Y., on May 5th, 2018. Photos by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff.



Aircrew Door Gunnery Preps Troops for NTC

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

FORT DRUM, N.Y. --“When you hear the sound of freedom, begin firing,” Sgt. Matt Cordaro told eight New York Army National Guard Soldiers crouched or sitting behind eight M240B machineguns.

Cordaro’s “sound of freedom” was a grenade simulator going off, and that boom was the signal for Soldiers from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, to engage their targets downrange.

Engaging troop targets on the ground was their first step in UH-60 aerial gunnery that 68 Soldiers conducted at Fort Drum June 1-3.

The goal was helicopter crew chiefs to successfully engage targets on the ground with a M240B before firing from a UH-60 in flight, said Capt. Salvador Garcia, the Bravo Company Commander from Smithtown, N.Y.

Door gunnery qualification begins with ground qualification first.

The Soldiers had to demonstrate their ability to fire 100 rounds with the M240B equipped with standard pistol grip and stock, like those used by infantry Soldiers. Then they fired an additional 100 rounds from an M240B with the butterfly grip used on board the aircraft.

The purpose of qualifying with both grips is to demonstrate proficiency, in case of an emergency like a downed aircraft, where the soldiers would have to leave the aircraft and use the machine gun on the ground.

Along with the weapons training, the Soldiers used the weekend to practice basic Warrior Tasks the Soldiers will need for the company deployment to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, Garcia added.

Once the training moved into the air, two crew chiefs – one on each side of the Blackhawk— fired at decommissioned tanks and trucks at Fort Drum’s Range 48. As the helicopters flew a set route, gunners engaged targets.

Most of the targets were engaged with the UH-60 in motion and some were fired on while the aircraft hovered.

An evaluator inside the aircraft indicated which targets for the gunners to engage.

Pfc. Arthur Allen, a crew chief from Uniondale, N.Y., said he really liked aerial gunnery.

“It’s an intense feeling,” Arthur said. “A lot of control is needed but once you get on the guns



Spc. Adam Proctor, assigned to Echo Co., 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, instructs Soldiers on how to remove empty shells from the brass bag on an M240 machine gun on Fort Drum, N.Y., June 2, 2018. Proctor and his company were conducting aerial gunnery to prepare for a National Training Center rotation to Fort Irwin, California this summer.

it feels natural.”

A sensor system within the targets measure how many rounds hit the target, how many miss, and how many land in the general area. Computers in the range tower displayed the data so Cordaro, the battalion standardization instructor from East Patchogue, N.Y., could grade Soldier performance.

Door gunnery is demanding for pilots as well, said Lt. Tyler Vorpahl, one of the pilots from Troy, N.Y. There are specific routes pilots have to fly on the range and all crew members need to be aware of them, he explained.

“It’s a very dangerous portion of our training,” Vorpahl said. “There’s a lot of crew coordination involved, especially when rounds are firing. There’s a lot of planning and safety considerations.”

During the flights, pilots and crew chiefs not only have to coordinate with each other, but also with a second aircraft also on the range flight route conducting the gunnery training.

The company began preparing last October for their July 27 deployment to the NTC, after returning from a three-week deployment for disaster response missions to assist communi-

ties in Puerto Rico.

It has been challenging for his Soldiers to get everything done, Garcia said.

“As a Guard unit, we don’t get much time to train up for these rotations,” he added.

By Sunday, the Soldiers had fired 113,000 7.62mm rounds, tossed 65 smoke grenades, thrown 20 artillery simulators and expended 55 star clusters.

“I think they did outstanding,” Cordaro said. “They did a great job preparing for this, and their tireless efforts have definitely been noticed.” **gt**



Spc. Mirza Dizinic and Sgt. Ryan Couture assigned to the 3-142nd Aviation mount a M240 to a UH-60 Black Hawk at Fort Drum, N.Y., during aerial gunnery June 2nd, 2018.

27th Infantry Brigade is More Lethal with Changes

Story by Eric Dur, *Guard Times* Staff

SYRACUSE, N.Y.-- A redesigned 1st Battalion 258th Field Artillery and the transformation of the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion into the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion are making the New York National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team more lethal, according to officers responsible for the transition.

The 258th is picking up another battery of bigger guns, and reorganizing the brigade's fire support Soldiers as part of its redesign, said Lt. Col. Peter Mehling, the battalion commander.

The change from a Brigade Special Troops Battalion to an engineer battalion will provide more engineer support for the brigade – two engineer companies instead of one—while still providing a home for the brigade's signal and intelligence companies, said Lt. Col. April Bennett, the battalion's commander.

The changes to the 27th Brigade have been happening across the Army, Bennett said. The 27th is the last Guard brigade to make the transition, so there's been a chance to learn from other units, she said.

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery formerly deployed two batteries with eight guns each of the M119A2 105 millimeter howitzer.

The two existing batteries have been configured to six guns and a new battery of M777A2 155 millimeter howitzers have been added. And the M119A2 howitzers in Alpha and Bravo batteries have been replaced by the M119A3, the latest version of the 105mm howitzer.

The new M119A3 has a GPS system built in, which allows the howitzer to self locate. This is vital to accurate artillery fire, Mehling said.

The GPS system eliminates the need for surveying tools to locate the gun position, he said. The Soldiers will still train using the analog methods as a contingency, Mehling added.

"The M119A2 was, for all intents and purposes, a dumb howitzer," Mehling said. "The howitzer now has become, for lack of a better term, self-aware." This is also true of the 155mm towed howitzer the battalion fielded.

Finally, the new version of the M-119 has a more reliable recoil system that allows for more responsive fires.

All of these features allow Alpha and Bravo batteries to put fire on an enemy sooner, Mehling said.



Soldiers from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, clear a M777 Howitzer, on Fort Drum, N.Y., May 22nd, 2018. The 258 was conducting annual training for their new M777 Howitzer. Soldiers spent two weeks preparing to fire the weapons, which are more powerful than the previous canon's used. Photo by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

Finally, the M777A2 has the ability to fire GPS precision guided shells which can be used to eliminate targets with great accuracy.

"Because we are a light infantry brigade our maneuver forces are very good at finding and fixing the enemy, but they depend on fires to kill the enemy. With the M777A2, the brigade commander has the ability to reach out much further with conventional and precision munitions to do just that" Mehling said.

To organize Charlie Battery, which fires the 155mm Towed M777A2, the battalion picked the best gunners out of Alpha and Bravo batteries to man the new gun crews, Mehling said.

Another big change is the assignment of the 27th brigade fire support team Soldiers to the 1st Battalion 258th, Mehling said.

Prior to the redesign, the brigade's fire support team Soldiers had been assigned as part of the two infantry battalions. Now they are assigned to the field artillery battalion, and are attached back to the maneuver battalions.

That may sound like a small shift, but the consolidation means he and his officers and NCOs can ensure that they are getting the training they need to ensure the 27 brigade

receives professional fire support when needed, Mehling said.

This places the responsibility for training field artillery Soldiers back under the subject matter experts in the field artillery battalion, he explained.

The transition from the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion to the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, due to complete August 16, began two years ago, Bennett said.

The change results in the Alpha Company of engineers in the special troop battalion being joined by a Bravo company.

That means more engineers and more equipment to breach enemy obstacles, build friendly ones, and help the brigade move more easily, Bennett said.

Alpha Company fields two combat engineer—or Sapper— platoons and an engineer support platoon which provides general engineering support, Bennett said.

Bravo Company fields a combat engineer platoon, an engineer support platoon and a route clearance platoon; equipped with Husky vehicle-mounted mine detector vehicles, Bennett said.



Top Rifle Honors in TAG Match

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- Spc. Nick Austin, a small arms/artillery repairer assigned to the 145th Maintenance Company, receives the Sgt. Henry Johnson Individual Combat Rifle Match 1st Place Award from Brig. Gen. Michel Natali, commander of the 53rd Troop Command, following the 39th Annual Adjutant General's Marksmanship Competition June 3, 2018. Photo by Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

Brigade Redesign, Con't from Preceding Page

The battalion also has a forward support company dedicated to keeping its engineer and other elements supplied, Bennett said.

Another change, which is also very important, is that the battalion's headquarters company has been beefed up to allow better planning and command of engineer missions, Bennett said. This provides more capability to the brigade commander.

The new structure makes the 27th brigade more lethal in a fight against an enemy with modern capabilities, she said.

In the past, the New York Army National Guard's engineer units have been based in central New York. The new Bravo Company will be headquartered at the Lexington Avenue Armory. This will allow engineers to be recruited in New York City, Bennett said.

The company is being manned with new recruits and Soldiers who were engineers once and have embraced the chance to be engineers again, Bennett said. **gt**



Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Morton, range operations manager at Camp Smith and assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division navigates the terrain of a rock wall from one of the newly updated rappel lanes at Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., May 3, 2018.

Camp Smith Rappel Lane Reopens

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

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. --Six new 125-foot rappel and climbing lanes are being tested by members of the New York Army National Guard 106th Regional Training Institute to ensure they are safe and ready for training.

For the first time in nearly a decade, any Guard or state militia unit, law enforcement agency, or government and civilian organization will be able to conduct familiarization training, ground rappelling, and rock climbing and mountaineering operations and become certified at Camp Smith Training Site.

Camp Smith is the largest of three training locations owned by the state of New York and operated by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs for the New York National Guard. The 1,613 acre facility contains 126 acres housing 50 buildings, 229 acres of ranges and 1,256 acres of wooded training area. It also has a number of training assets including vehicle and convoy simulators, land navigation courses, indoor electronic ranges and traditional

outdoor ranges

The new rappelling lanes are located on the cliffs opposite the officers housing building.

"Having the ground rappel site here adds another dimension to the training that units can conduct," said New York Army National Guard Maj. Michael Gieraltowski, the Camp Smith installation manager.

The 106th provides the Guard with officers through the Officer Candidate School, Military occupational specialty qualifications for military police, infantry, truck driver and re-certification for medics.

Once the rappel lanes are complete, work will begin on a slant wall at the base of the cliff and a traditional 40-foot rappel tower, which would enable the base to once again host Air Assault School.

"Besides the tactical application of negotiating an obstacle such as a cliff, there is the personal growth Soldiers can experience by finding the courage to overcome a natural fear," Gieraltowski said. **gt**



Pvt. Anthony Balac, assigned to 2nd Platoon of the 206th Military Police Company, fires an M240B, on Fort Drum, N.Y., June 14, 2018. Balac and his team came under fire while providing support for Soldiers conducting base security.

Military Police Soldiers Provide Base Security

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

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — A 36-hour base security exercise was the highlight of annual training for Soldiers of the 206th Military Police Company during their June 3 to 21 annual training at Fort Drum.

The Soldiers from the 206th, based in Latham, N.Y., conducted an extended annual training of 19 days with the Vermont National Guard's 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. This provided the MP Soldiers with four additional training days.

The Vermont brigade was conducting an exportable Combat Training Capability exercise, known as XCTC, which tests a unit's readiness.

During the training, the MPs conducted a 36-hour base security exercise to deter opposing forces from interfering or attacking the Vermont Soldier's mission.

For the training, 108 Soldiers from three platoons surrounded the training site with humvees and Oshkosh Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV).

Soldiers began operations at 0430 on the morning of June 13. A team of 2-4 MP Soldiers moved vehicles into position to establish the security perimeter and over numerous shifts and missions, kept up their presence for the full 36 hours.

The Soldiers employed three M-ATVs,

twenty humvees and five Light Medium Tactical Vehicles to cover the entire brigade's perimeter.

At random times during the exercise, opposing 10th Mountain Division troops would attack the MPs, using blank rounds, and a



Sgt. Jason Briggs, assigned to the 206th Military Police Company, holds a M9 pistol on, Fort Drum, N.Y., June 14, 2018. Briggs and his platoon were under direct fire during a field training event with the 86th Infantry Brigade and 10th Mountain Division.

security firefight would engage.

Cadet Eric Brodbeck, an ROTC student at Syracuse University who drills with the company, said the training was excellent and enjoyable too.

"It's really fun," Brodbeck said, "I'm loving that...just doing real world stuff, you know?"

One of the largest attacks came the morn-

ing of June 14, just more than 24 hours after establishing the MP perimeter, when the enemy forced used deception to gain an advantage.

At around 0730, Soldiers from first platoon near the main perimeter entrance were approached by female role-players dressed in Middle Eastern attire asking the MPs for food.

The enemy was gauging the security reaction. As the women tried to push through the gate, the Soldiers attempted to disperse the crowd. Ultimately, some of the women were detained.

At the height of the diversion, the platoon then came under attack from the enemy force.

Evaluators determined who was shot and how they were injured as blank ammunition rounds were fired from both sides of the firefight.

The 86th Infantry Brigade leadership made the 206th MP Soldiers feel welcome, said company 1st Sgt. Nicholas Pardi.

"They've taken really good care of us...and they love having us here," he said.

The Soldiers performed great during the training, said Capt. Wade Collins, the 206th MP Company Commander. He made a point to get out and visit each platoon and each platoon did well, Collins said.

"Overall, I'm very impressed with each of my platoons and my headquarters," he said. **gt**

Incentive Questions? There's a Guard App for that

By Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

WATERVLIET, N.Y. --Looking for a quick answer to your questions about bonuses? Education benefits? Available jobs? Latest news? Your Guard service?

There's an app for that.

The New York Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion launched an updated version of its National Guard Benefits Hub this spring and encourages every Soldier to download the app and put it to use.

One of the biggest reasons to put the app in the hands of Soldiers is to promote all of the existing programs directly to Soldiers.

"As part of our retention efforts, we've learned a simple truth," said Ryan Kilgallon, Social Media Manager for the Recruiting Battalion. "Soldiers with the highest morale take advantage of their service benefits."

The best way to put those benefits at the fingertips of motivated Soldiers is to put all the information about those benefits literally at their fingertips. While the app provides a source of phone numbers and contacts for the recruiters statewide and a question referral page, Soldiers can learn many answers to their questions just by using the app.

The layout of information is designed to assist the newly recruited private right up the chain of command to first-line leaders, supervisors and commanders.

"We've created all the content for a newly enlisted Soldier," Kilgallon said. "Our guides are step-by-step and jargon-less. This allows the app to be used at any level of command."

Troops can readily look up the latest information about recruiting referral awards or retention bonuses, or an in-depth guide for using education benefits.

The education section is an example of this. All of our programs have general overviews, along with in-depth enrollment tutorials.

The app lists the top ten military occupations offering bonuses that range across the combat,



New York Army National Guard Soldiers stand at attention during the celebration of the 381st birthday of the National Guard at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, N.Y., December 13, 2017. The New York National Guard now has a smartphone app to help with recruiting, retention and incentive questions from Soldiers. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, Guard Times Staff.

combat support and combat service support units in the New York Army National Guard.

"Most importantly, we have a help desk available to answer any question not covered by the guides," Kilgallon said. "This allows us to connect our Soldiers to the knowledge experts who can resolve their issue."

As the Army National Guard updates information, it will be readily available to Soldiers using the app. Reenlistment Bonus information, for example, is now offering \$20,000 for Soldiers extending six years or \$4,000 for Soldiers staying an additional two years.

"It's updatable, accessible anywhere, and allows us to push announcements directly to Soldier's phones," Kilgallon said.

Available for download on both iOS and Android devices, the goal is to put the New York Army National Guard app across the force.

In either app store when you look up "NY National Guard" the app will be the result. 

"Soldiers with the highest morale take advantage of their service benefits. Our guides are step-by-step and jargon-less. This allows the app to be used at any level of command,"

-- Ryan Kilgallon, NY Army National Guard Social Media Manager



Former 109th Wing Commander Receives Star

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

"I've spent about 35 years in the 109th (Airlift Wing), and that's where these stars really come from, the wing, and all the leaders, officers and NCOs I've served with. They're the ones who helped me along the way,"

-- Brig. Gen. Shawn Clouthier, Assistant Adjutant General, New York Air National Guard

LATHAM, N.Y. --The New York Air National Guard promoted its newest general officer March 21 with the presentation of the one star rank of brigadier general to Col. Shawn Clouthier, a Coxsackie resident and former commander of the 109th Airlift Wing, based in Scotia, N.Y.

Major General Anthony German, the Adjutant General and the Commander of the New York Air National Guard presided over the ceremony in front of New York's Joint Forces Headquarters with family, friends and members of the 109th Airlift Wing in attendance.

"While we come together today to celebrate Shawn's promotion," German said, "we recognize that it is a great day for the entire family."

Clouthier's military service began in 1982 and aside from military education or training, his entire time has been spent with the 109th Airlift Wing.

"Today's promotion may be one of the last in a long line of an Airman serving an entire career in the same unit," German said.

Clouthier began his service as a traditional Guardsman and LC-130 Navigator in the wing and went on to become a full-time member of the wing in 1996, commanding the wing's maintenance squadron, maintenance group, operations group and eventually wing commander.

Clouthier was quick to point out

the past commanders and senior leaders in his career that helped bring him to his new role.

"I've spent about 35 years in the 109th (Airlift Wing), and that's where these stars really come from, the wing, and all the leaders, officers and NCOs I've served with," Clouthier said. "They're the ones who helped me along the way."

"I promise I will earn the honor in these stars," he said.

In his new assignment as Assistant Adjutant General for the New York Air National Guard, Clouthier is now responsible for the mission readiness and operational effectiveness across a broad spectrum of programs and activities of more than 5,800 people assigned to five flying units and four geographically separated units.

"We look forward to what you will bring to our headquarters and putting you to work," German said.

Clouthier now serves as a principal advisor on all Air Guard matters to the Adjutant General, from readiness for overseas missions to serving in New York communities for civil support assistance during times of disaster or crisis.

"I get to continue to serve you but I also get to serve at the next level," Clouthier said of his new role in serving the entire New York Air National Guard's 5,800 Airmen. "We're called upon con-



Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General of New York, re-administers the officer's oath of office to newly promoted Brig. Gen. Shawn Clouthier following his pinning of this one-star rank as the New York Air National Guard's newest general officer in Latham, March 21, 2018. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

stantly to help the citizens of our state. It's one of the things that the Guard is all about," he said.

Clouthier earned his commission through the Academy of Military Science at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tennessee, in 1982. He attended Undergraduate Navigator Training at Mather AFB, California, in 1982.

Following his graduation from navigator training he was assigned to the 139th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, New York., where he became an LC-130 navigator. He remained a traditional guardsman while working fulltime as an accounts payable supervisor for the New York State Senate.

After working 13 years in the New York State Senate, he became a fulltime member of the 109th Airlift Wing in 1996 working on the U.S. Antarctic Program.

He became a federal technician

employed at the 109th Airlift Wing in 1999.

Clouthier became the Maintenance Squadron Commander in May of 2009 and officially assumed the position of Deputy Maintenance Group Commander on July 17, 2009.

Two years later, he became the 109th Maintenance Group Commander. Only a few months later, in August 2011, he assumed the position of 109th Operations Group Commander.

From May 2012 to October 2017 he served as the Wing Commander of the 109th Airlift Wing and now serves at New York Joint Force Headquarters as an Assistant Adjutant General.

Clouthier has over 7,000 flying hours in the LC-130, the ski-equipped transport planes flown only by the 109th Airlift Wing, as well as in other versions of the C-130 transport. **gt**



Students build a shelter during barren land arctic survival training, commonly known as “Kool School” on June 9, 2018 at Raven Camp, Greenland. This year, 25 Airmen from the New York Air National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York, completed the training, learning basic arctic survival skills.

'Kool' School Holds Class in Greenland

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German and Staff Sgt. Jamie Spaulding, 109th Airlift Wing

RAVEN CAMP, Greenland --Twenty-five Airmen of the New York National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing spent three days learning to survive in the at the wing’s annual “Kool School” at Raven Camp on the Greenland ice cap.

This “barren land arctic survival training” ran June 7 to 9, providing vital life support training to Airmen who routinely operate in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Because the wing operates its LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft in the Arctic and Antarctic, wing members have to know how to survive if an aircraft is forced down, said Master Sgt. Mark Richard a SERE specialist with the 66th training squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska.

This year 25 students were taught how to procure water, build shelter from available materials,

and how to properly treat/prevent cold-weather injuries.

The school is led by a team of four Survive Evade Resist Escape or “SERE” specialists, subject matter experts in barren land arctic survival skills.

“The 109th has a unique mission set,” Richard said. “We spend about 48 to 72 hours out here [on the ice cap] teaching how to take care of themselves; find food, water, and shelter.”

The students are tasked with building their own shelters out of ice, snow, and scavenged materials, to live in for the duration of the training.

“It’s been interesting to see the different types of shelters you can build,” said 1st Lt. Phil Piombino, a Kool School student and navigator from the 109th. “You would think it’s pretty barren out here, but it’s

surprising what you can use in the surrounding environment.”

Along with conducting Kool School, the 109th Airlift Wing continued seasonal support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Greenland this month.

So far this year the 109th has transported nearly 850,000 pounds of cargo, 175,000 pounds of fuel, and 670 passengers to research camps across Greenland.

The ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft operated by the 109th provide transportation of fuel, supplies and passengers to remote camps on the Greenland icecap throughout the summer season.

The wing’s Greenland missions also serve as training for the support the unit provides for the National Science Foundation’s Antarctic Program when it is winter in New York and summer

in Antarctica.

The Greenland season for the 109th will wind down in August, with only a brief respite before the focus shifts to Antarctica for the southern hemisphere summer. **9C**



Ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft from the 109th Airlift Wing sit on the runway at Kangerlussuaq, Greenland on June 5, 2018. Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German, 109th Airlift Wing.



New Star for NY Guard Commander

LATHAM, N.Y.--New York Guard Brig. Gen. David Warager receives his new rank from his son Brian Warager during a promotion ceremony held at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, N.Y. June 18, 2018. Warager is the commander of the New York Guard, the state's volunteer defense force. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York National Guard.

Memorial Service for NY Guard Centennial

SLEEPY HOLLOW, N.Y.-- The New York Guard, New York's volunteer state-defense force, held their 100th Aqueduct Defense Memorial Service May 6th, 2018, honoring the 40 volunteers of the New York Guard First Provisional Regiment who died while serving New York during World War I. The memorial service commemorates the members who died while guarding New York City's water system in 1917 and 1918. Thirty-two of the men memorialized on the stone died from the Spanish Influenza pandemic which swept the world in 1918 as World War I raged. To honor them, a boulder from Bonticon Crag in the Shawangunk Mountains, along the line of the aqueduct that the Guard members protected, was moved to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and turned into a memorial on property dedicated by William Rockefeller. Photos by Capt. Mark Getman, New York National Guard.



New York Naval Militia

New Commander in Dockside Naval Ceremony

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

SCHODACK LANDING, N.Y.-- Rear Admiral Timothy Zakriski took command of the 2,800-member New York Naval Militia during a traditional naval ceremony at Schodack Island State Park June 22.

Zakriski took over from Rear

Admiral Ten Eyck "Trip" Powell, who has led the Naval Militia since December 2014.

The New York Naval Militia is composed of current Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve members who agree to serve on state active duty when called by

the state of New York.

Naval Militia members responded to Superstorm Sandy in 2012, the Buffalo snowstorm in 2014, Lake Ontario flooding in 2017 and snow storms in the Hudson Valley earlier this year.

The Naval Militia also operates a fleet of nine patrol boats which respond to state emergencies, augment law enforcement agencies and support the U.S. Coast Guard.

The change of command ceremony took place on the back deck of one of those boats, Naval Militia Patrol Boat 400, which was tied up at the state park dock on the Hudson River.

Zakriski, Powell, and Major General Anthony German, the Adjutant General of New York, were piped aboard the boat in traditional naval fashion to start the ceremony.

In his remarks, German thanked Powell for his service.

Under Powell's command the Naval Militia responded when needed and responded professionally, German said. "You have done all the things we have asked you to do and more," German told the more than 50 Naval Militia members and guests present.

Zakriski will continue to maintain the professionalism of the Naval Militia, German said.

The New York Naval Militia has "always 'rogered up' and gone to the sounds of the guns or the weather," Powell said.

During Hurricane Sandy Naval Militia members spent three days hand carrying fuel up several flights of stairs to keep a hospital generator going to keep two patients alive, Powell said. During the Erie County snowstorm of 2014 they helped clear roads so emergency crews could get

through, and in the past year the Naval Militia provided 4,400 man hours of service to the state, he added.

Zakriski thanked the young men and women of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserve who volunteer for Naval Militia service for making the organization effective.

"We bring a great amount of talents, knowledge and skill to the table," Zakriski said.

"We have come a long way under prior leaders and I hope to have equal success as your commander," Zakriski said.

Zakriski served as an enlisted Marine in the Marine Corps Reserve before being commissioned as an ensign in the Navy Reserve in the Civil Engineer Corps in 1982. He first joined the New York Naval Militia in 1980.

Zakriski served in a number of positions in the Navy Reserve during 30 years of service. He was the commander of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (the Seabees)-21 at Lakehurst, New Jersey and served in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

In 1994 he served as the engineering coordinator for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Bosnian and as liaison to the UN Protection Force there.

He deployed to Umm Qasr, Iraq in 2007-2008 and served as Base Development Officer there.

Zakriski has served as Deputy Commander and the Commander of the Naval Militia's Northern Command and in 2016 was appointed New York Naval Militia Deputy Commander.

He participated in the New York Naval Militia response to Hurricanes Irene and Lee and Superstorm Sandy.



Above, New York Naval Militia Rear Admiral Timothy Zakriski salutes Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjunct General during the N.Y. Naval Militia Change of Command ceremony on Schodack Island State Park, N.Y., June 22, 2018. Below, the official party of the ceremony, including New York State Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Ehler, left, Rear Admiral Zakriski and Maj. Gen. German sit together on the deck of Patrol Boat 400 at the Schodack Island State Park. Photos by Spc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



"We bring a great amount of talents, knowledge and skill to the table,"

-- Rear Admiral Timothy Zakriski., Commander, New York Naval Militia

