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Times Union, October 12, 2018

105th Airlift Wing

Limo owner in deadly upstate crash has “Bronx connection”

Bronx Times , October 13, 2018 :

The man who owns the limo company that was involved in a massive fatal crash in upstate New York worked in an FBI sting operation that targeted Bronx synagogues.

The owner of the derelict limo helped foil a plot to fire bomb two borough synagogues on May 20, 2009 when he led would-be bombers into the hands of waiting FBI agents.

According to published reports, Shahed Hussian, 62, the owner of the ill-fated Prestige Limousines, was the FBI informant known as ‘Malik’ who helped deter the bombings of Riverdale Temple and the Riverdale Jewish Center, both on Independence Avenue.

Four men were arrested and later found guilty of plotting to blow up the synagogue and the nearby Jewish community center – James Cromitie, Laguerre Payen, David Williams and Onta Williams. The foursome was also charged with planning to shoot down airplanes at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburg, NY.

The crash on Saturday, October 6 that involved a 2001 stretch Ford Excursion operated by the limousine company which was registered at a motel complex, under the business name Hasy Limos, killed 17 passengers, the driver and two pedestrians in a parking lot after the vehicle ran a stop sign in Schoharie, NY, according to published reports.

Hussian, who turned an FBI informant after authorities busted him in scam involving the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles in 2002, drove the suspects who were later convicted in a 2010 federal domestic terrorism trial to a borough synagogue in a vehicle that contained explosives. The conversation that took place in the car was tape-recorded, according to published reports.

Reports also stated that the FBI began using Hussian as an informant within the DMV, and that after several years doing that, he was paid a salary of \$96,000 to investigate Newburg, NY area mosques and infiltrate individuals and groups of individuals who may have had radical notions – such as the need for jihad, or holy war.

The UK Daily Mail reported that FBI agent Robert Fueller stated he was sent to the mosque for a number of reasons that involved other FBI investigations, but that he also asked him to keep his ears open for any individual who was speaking radically, and that while everyone is entitled to free speech, he and the bureau wanted that information.

The UK Daily also reported that although his undercover work was valuable, he later came under scrutiny as a reliable informant and witness when at trial it was suggested that he might have switched off the tape recorder he was using at critical moments of the conversations with the would-be defendants.

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle and USA Today Network reported that Hussian is currently in his native Pakistan.

Newspaper accounts stated that a New York State police spokesman said that anyone found to have acted in a criminal manner in relation to the crash would be held accountable.

As of press time, a media outlet reported that Hussian's son, Nauman Hussain, had been arrested in Albany, NY and faces charges in the horrific tragedy.

<https://www.bxtimes.com/stories/2018/41/41-limo-2018-10-12-bx.html>

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106th Rescue Wing

Coast Guard: All 3 Bodies Recovered Following Small Plane Crash Off Long Island

CBS New York, October 13, 2018:

WESTHAMPTON, N.Y. (CBSNewYork) — The Coast Guard ended its search for two missing airplane passengers after two bodies were discovered Sunday afternoon.

Divers located the bodies after finding the wreckage of the Piper PA-34 aircraft in about 20 feet of water south of Quogue.

The bodies were discovered hours after the pilot's body was found. The New York State Police confirmed the identity of the pilot as 41-year-old Munidat "Raj" Persaud of Waterbury, Connecticut. He was also the owner of the plane. The identities of the two passengers were not immediately released.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and families of the people who were aboard the plane," said Capt. Kevin Reed, commander Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound. "We are grateful to the emergency responders who assisted in the search efforts."

The FAA said the South Carolina-bound plane took off Saturday morning from Danbury Municipal Airport in Connecticut and went down three miles south-southeast of Francis S. Gabreski Airport shortly before noon.

Tim Carbone was working at the nearby Oceanfront Surf Club at the time, and said he thought it was a stunt plane.

“I was looking to see if I could find the plane and I couldn’t see it, and then ‘phoom,’ it was done,” he said. “It was like the engine was stopped immediately.”

A debris field and oil sheen was eventually located near the reported crash site. The New York Air National Guard and multiple local police and fire departments assisted in the search for the other two passengers.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are working to determine the probable cause of the accident.

<https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2018/10/13/small-plane-in-water-body-recovered/>

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One dead after small plane crashes off Hamptons

New York Post, October 13, 2018:

A small private plane carrying three people crashed into the Atlantic off the Hamptons Saturday morning — and the body of the male pilot had been recovered by nightfall, officials said.

The seven-seat, twin-engine Piper PA-34 went down about a mile off Quogue at about 11 a.m., according to a Coast Guard spokesman.

The plane lost radio contact with air-traffic controllers some time prior to the crash, law-enforcement sources told The Post.

The bodies of the two passengers, a man and a woman, remained inside the wreckage Saturday night, submerged in about 60 feet of water, the sources said.

The plane had been flying from Danbury, Conn., to Charleston, SC, officials said.

Surfers alerted authorities after seeing the aircraft — flying in light rain and winds — break apart and plummet, Coast Guard officials said.

The crash occurred about a mile east of Rogers Beach and about three miles southeast of Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach, according to the FAA and police officials.

Tim Carbone, manager of the Surf Club in Quogue, recalled hearing a high-pitched revving sound moments before the plane went down.

“I was loading up my truck and I heard this high, high revolution,” Carbone told The Post.

“The engine was going way too fast. I thought to myself ‘Geez, that’s not good.’ ”

“I immediately thought it was a stunt [pilot],” he said. “But I’m thinking what are they doing out there today. It was cloudy and misting.”

Stunt pilots often practice over the ocean.

“Next thing I know, [the engine] just stopped. It was a muffled stop — it stopped in a second or two. I ran over to look and I saw three pieces of the plane floating down. They were falling down like leaves.

“I’m thinking ‘Holy Jesus, look at that!’ ”

Carbone saw his surfing buddy down the beach and ran over to him. The friend was already on the phone with cops.

Once the pieces dropped into the water, they quickly sank.

“We saw parts of the plane floating, but then they disappeared. It’s sad, it’s tragic,” Carbone added. “I feel bad for the families.”

Emergency personnel responded to a debris field and oil sheen on the water, the Coast Guard said.

Multiple agencies joined in the rescue effort, including local police departments, the Air National Guard, the state Department of Environmental Conservation’s Marine Resources Division and the Coast Guard, which in its search employed a 45-foot boat along with 87- and 110-foot cutters.

By Saturday evening, authorities had not yet released the names of the victims.

The plane is registered to the Oxford Flight Training school at Waterbury-Oxford Airport in Connecticut, according to data provided by the sources.

It was manufactured in 1975, Federal Aviation Administration records say.

In June, a small plane with four people aboard plummeted into the Atlantic about a mile off of Indian Wells Beach in Amagansett.

“Builder to the Stars” Ben Krupinski and his wife Bonnie Bistran Krupinski, both 70; their 22-year-old grandson, Will Maerov; along with pilot Jon Dollard, 47, were killed in the crash.

<https://nypost.com/2018/10/13/small-plane-crashes-in-waters-off-hamptons/>

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Authorities: Search continues for survivors after small-plane crash off Hamptons

Newsday, October 14, 2018 :

Coast Guard vessels continued to search for survivors Sunday morning after a small private plane crashed into Atlantic Ocean off the Hamptons Saturday after taking off from Connecticut.

“It’s still an active search and rescue operation,” Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Steve Strohmaier said shortly before 7:30 a.m.

He said search parties would meet this morning in Quogue to reassess the situation.

Authorities did not release the identities of the three people the Federal Aviation Administration said were aboard the twin-engine Piper PA-34 bound for Charleston, South Carolina, that crashed about a mile off Quogue.

Only small pieces of the plane, which seats seven, were found, officials said.

A Coast Guard official on Saturday said Southampton police divers were assisting in the effort. He said the Coast Guard was using sonar to scan the seabed for the fuselage.

An 87-foot Coast Guard patrol boat had been expected to continue the search overnight Saturday, officials said.

The FAA said it will investigate and the National Transportation Safety Board "will determine the probable cause for the accident."

Calls to 911 from surfers who reported seeing the plane sputter and crash just before 11 a.m. brought scores of first responders to Dune Road, gathering near the Quogue Beach Club for search-and-rescue efforts.

The plane's flight began Saturday morning from Connecticut’s Waterbury-Oxford Airport, and it landed at Danbury Municipal Airport before taking off again, said Alisa D. Sisic, a spokeswoman for the Connecticut Airport Authority. The plane was bound for Charleston Executive Airport, the FAA said.

Calls to 911 started coming in at 10:59 a.m., and a Coast Guard spokesman said one reported seeing the plane break apart in the air. There was light rain and winds of about 10 mph in the area at the time, according to the National Weather Service.

The plane crashed 3 miles south southeast of Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach, the FAA said.

John Morgan of Quogue said his son Tyler Morgan, 24, was playing golf with friends at nearby Quogue Field Club when he saw the plane go down.

“They saw it in the air and they just saw it come down,” said John Morgan, who went to the beach after the crash and saw several search boats on the water.

Authorities from Quogue police and fire departments, State Police, Suffolk County police, Southampton Town police and bay constables, Westhampton Beach Village police and firefighters, Suffolk County sheriffs, the Coast Guard, a commercial salvage crew with a dive team and the Air National Guard, among others, responded.

“There’s like every agency in the world down here,” said Quogue Mayor Peter Sartorius, noting that Dune Road was closed at the Quogue Bridge.

Earlier this year, small plane crashes left five dead on Long Island.

On May 30, two days after Memorial Day, a pilot died when his World War II-era plane went down in a wooded area in Melville.

On June 2, a small plane crashed off the coast of Amagansett during a storm, killing all four people on board. Pilot Jon Dollard of Hampton Bays lost control of the twin-engine Piper Navajo, according to an initial NTSB report in July. Dollard, 47, was carrying passengers Ben and Bonnie Krupinski, both 70, and their grandson William Maerov, 22, all of East Hampton, from Newport State Airport in Rhode Island to East Hampton Airport.

That wreckage was discovered about a mile south of Indian Wells Beach submerged in 50 feet of water, according to the report.

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/suffolk/plane-crash-westhampton-beach-1.21896147>

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Authorities: Small, private plane crashes off the Hamptons

WCVB 5, October 14, 2018 :

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. —A small private plane carrying three people crashed into the ocean off the coast of Long Island on Saturday, officials said.

One body was recovered following the 11 a.m. crash of a twin-engine Piper PA-34 about a mile off of Quogue, in the Hamptons.

Agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, the New York Air National Guard and the Suffolk County sheriff's office responded to the crash.

"It's still a search and recovery at this point," Quogue Village Police Chief Christopher Isola said at a news conference late Saturday afternoon, according to Newsday. "The Coast Guard along with other marine assets will continue in that effort." The cause of the crash was not known, Isola said. The identity of the victim who was found was not immediately determined.

Officials said people on the beach reported the plane sputtering before it crashed.

John Morgan, of Quogue, told Newsday that his son Tyler Morgan, 24, was playing golf with friends when he saw the plane go down.

"They saw it in the air, and they just saw it come down," said John Morgan, who went to the beach after the crash and saw several search boats on the water. Alisa Sisis, a spokeswoman for the Connecticut Airport Authority, said the plane left Connecticut's Waterbury-Oxford Airport Saturday morning, landed at Danbury Municipal Airport and then took off again.

The plane was headed to Charleston Executive Airport in South Carolina, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters said. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate, he said.

The crash was the third fatal crash involving a small plane on Long Island this year. A pilot died May 30 when his vintage plane went down in a wooded area.

Four people were killed on June 2 when a twin-engine Piper Navajo crashed off Amagansett during a storm.

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/authorities-small-private-plane-crashes-off-the-hamptons/23762525>

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Many Questions Yet To Be Answered In Plane Crash Off Quogue That Killed Three People

27 East.com , October 15, 2018 :

The National Transportation Safety Board is in the preliminary stages of investigating what caused a small civilian aircraft to crash into the Atlantic Ocean about a mile off Quogue on Saturday, killing three people.

However, the investigation will likely be done without the plane's fuselage, the main body of the aircraft. The Piper PA-34 appears to have been uninsured, according to Joe Frohnhoefer,

CEO of Sea Tow-a Hampton Bays-based maritime assistance company charged with recovering the wreckage. Without insurance, which would normally be billed to lift the wreckage, the fuselage will sit at the bottom of the ocean, he said.

"Unless someone steps forward and says, 'We have to have that airplane for an investigation,' then yes, it would sit there," Mr. Frohnhoefer said.

The wreckage was located at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, as were the bodies of the plane's two passengers, whose identities have not yet been released, according to Petty Officer Steve Strohmaier of the U.S. Coast Guard. The body of the pilot, identified on Sunday as Munidat "Raj" Persaud,

41, of Waterbury, Connecticut, was recovered on Saturday and was brought to the office of the Suffolk County Medical Examiner.

When asked on Monday morning if the NTSB would pick up the tab to raise the plane, Keith Holloway, a spokesman for the NTSB, said that "there may be other ways to conduct an investigation. We aren't assuming the charge of picking up the recovery," he said.

"That doesn't mean that we aren't investigating," he continued. "It won't prevent us from conducting the investigation. We just won't have the actual physical evidence."

He added that a preliminary report including the flight plan, air traffic communications, radar data, and the plane's maintenance records would likely be completed within the next 10 days.

According to Flight Aware, a live flight-tracking website, the pilot of the Piper aircraft did not file a flight plan.

The airplane crashed into the ocean about a mile off Quogue Canal at approximately 11 a.m. on Saturday, police said. The following morning, Alisa D. Sisic, a public information officer with the Connecticut Airport Authority, confirmed that the civilian aircraft originated from Waterbury Oxford Airport and landed for a brief time at Danbury Municipal Airport, also in Connecticut. The intended destination, she said, was Charleston Executive Airport in South Carolina.

Ms. Sisic could not immediately confirm on Monday if the plane had fueled up at the airport, or what caused the plane to stop briefly in Danbury.

Jim Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, also declined to say over the weekend why the plane landed at the Danbury airport. He did not immediately return phone calls or emails on Monday.

Mike Safranek, the Danbury airport's assistant airport administrator, would not confirm or deny that the plane landed for a brief time at the airport, and referred all questions regarding the investigation to the Federal Aviation Administration and the NTSB.

"Due to the seriousness of the incident, that's why we're playing it very closely to the vest," he said.

In an emailed statement on Sunday, Mr. Peters said: "The FAA will investigate and the National Transportation Safety Board will determine the cause of the accident."

Over the weekend, Mr. Holloway added that the NTSB would likely take Saturday morning's weather into account. According to the National Weather Service, the area was experiencing light rain and winds of 10 miles per hour.

"Part of the investigation will be to look at the history of this flight, origin and destination and any issues that may have been a factor in the accident," he wrote in a text message on Sunday.

Tim Carbone, the manager of the Surf Club of Quogue, was one of several witnesses who observed the plane flying near Quogue Village Beach just minutes before it crashed.

Standing in the surf club's parking lot, he said, "I heard the plane engine accelerate in a very high, very loud way over the normal sound of an engine. And then the engine stopped."

He immediately ran to the beach and saw three pieces of the plane hit the water; however, he said that he did not see the plane itself go down.

The Piper PA-34 was one of several civilian aircraft owned by Mr. Persaud, who, according to Mr. Safranek, was the owner and president of Oxford Flight Training in Oxford, Connecticut. Mr. Persaud's Facebook page said that he had studied aeronautical engineering at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and

Technology in Flushing, New York.

According to an article by the New York Times, Shakuntala Persaud, Mr. Persaud's ex-wife, said that her ex-husband opened the flight school in 2004 after working as a mechanic for a succession of major airlines. She also confirmed in the article that Mr. Persaud was a father of two.

"He likes to be in the air. It's the only place he feels free, that's his passion. It's his identity," Ms. Persaud had said. "He's a good person."

Ms. Persaud could not be reached on Monday.

In a press release on Sunday, Captain Kevin Reed, commander for Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound, offered his department's condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the crash.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and families of the people who were aboard the plane," he said. "We are grateful to the emergency responders who assisted in the search efforts."

Emergency responders included the U.S. Coast Guard, New York Air National Guard, Suffolk County Marine Unit, Suffolk County Sheriff, Suffolk County Aviation Unit, Southampton Bay Constables, Southampton Town Police, New York State Police and Quogue Village Police, among others.

<http://www.27east.com/news/article.cfm/Quogue/573152/Many-Questions-Yet-To-Be-Answered-In-Plane-Crash-Off-Quogue-That-Killed-Three-People>

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FDNY academy graduate was inspired by fallen military hero

New York Post, October 18, 2018 :

There have been many memorials for FDNY Lt. Chris Raguso, who died while serving in Iraq as a National Guard airman in March - but this one is personal.

"Ever since I started at the academy, I have Chris' prayer card in my hat," says newly-minted "probie" firefighter Anthony Dichiara, who was the airman's friend and brother-in-law.

"And I will keep it there for the rest of my career," he told The Post before Friday's FDNY probationary firefighters graduation.

Dichiara was 19 when he met Raguso a decade ago. Raguso was dating, and would marry, Dichiara's sister, Carmela.

Dichiara was already an EMT in early 2016, when Raguso inspired and encouraged him to take the FDNY's firefighter exam.

"He would always say, 'If you're going to go in, go in with everything you have,'" Dichiara remembers of his brother-in-law.

"'Stay motivated. Stay focused, and just look in the future.' Just give it all I got. I've always taken that and driven with that."

Also among Friday's graduating class is Marine Sgt. Donald Arterbury, who is slated to be deployed in January.

"It's all coming at once," Arterbury joked of the timing.

"I am nervous," he said about both his Marines and FDNY careers.

"But nerves are good."

Staying behind when he deploys will be Arterbury's twin brother, Travis, who is also in the FDNY.

<https://nypost.com/2018/10/18/fdny-academy-graduate-was-inspired-by-fallen-military-hero/>

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At least one person killed in plane crash off the coast of New York, officials say

Fox News, October 14, 2018:

At least one person is dead after a small plane crashed in the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, just a mile off the coast New York, officials said.

Police responded to multiple 911 calls around 10:59 a.m., telling them that a small plane carrying at least three people had crashed in the water just a mile off a beach near the Village of Quogue, Long Island, state officials said in a press release.

One body was recovered but authorities have not identified the individual.

Assistant Chief Kevin Raynor of the Westhampton Beach Fire Department said that a witness reported seeing the plane sputtering before going down. It was not immediately clear what caused the aircraft to go down.

Sources told the New York Post that the twin-engine, seven-seat Piper PA-34 was flying from Connecticut to Charleston, South Carolina, when it lost contact with air traffic controller.

Search and rescue operations for other passengers are underway.

Agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, the New York Air National Guard and the Suffolk County sheriff's office responded to the crash.

The crash was the third fatal crash involving a small plane on Long Island this year.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/at-least-one-person-killed-in-plane-crash-off-the-coast-of-new-york-officials-say>

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Two more bodies recovered in deadly plane crash, investigation continues

Eyewitness News 3, October 13, 2018 :

WEST HAMPTON BEACH, NY (WFSB) - Two more bodies were recovered on Sunday afternoon after a plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday morning, officials said.

The U.S. Coast said all three people involved in the crash have been recovered.

The Coast guard said divers located the two remaining bodies after finding the aircraft in about 20-feet of water south of Quogue, New York.

New York State Police identified one of the victims as 41-year-old Waterbury resident Munidat "Raj" Persaud.

The family of Persaud spoke with Channel 3 on Sunday afternoon who said their father had years of experience as a pilot and flight instructor who was doing what he loved.

"The only thing he loved as much as his family was flying. If he could be in the air he would be in the air all the time," said Mary Persaud, Persaud's daughter.

Family said Persaud ran a flight school in Oxford, called Oxford Flight Academy.

"He got on an airplane for the first time and he was so captivated by it that he was inspired to start flying," said Grace Persaud, Persaud's daughter.

On Saturday morning, a surfer notified Southampton Police after he saw a plane crash into the water roughly one mile south of Quogue around 11:10 a.m.

Before the crash, Persaud and the two other people boarded a twin-engine Piper PA-34 at Danbury Municipal Airport.

Several pieces of debris were discovered, but the fuselage has not yet been found.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and families of the people who were aboard the plane," said Capt. Kevin Reed, commander Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound. "We are grateful to the emergency responders who assisted in the search efforts."

CBS New York reported an oil sheen and debris were located near the crash site.

The U.S. Coast Guard said numerous crews are assisting in the search including Suffolk County Marine, Suffolk County Sheriff, Suffolk County Police Aviation Unit, Southampton Bay Constables, a commercial salvage crew, as well as multiple aircrews from the New York Air National Guard.

https://www.wfsb.com/news/one-dead-in-plane-crash-in-long-island-sound/article_3a0ce980-cf31-11e8-89e7-ebc5ca1870db.html

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1 dead, 2 missing after plane crashes in waters off Long Island

CBS News, October 14, 2018:

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. -- A small private plane carrying three people crashed into the ocean off the coast of Long Island on Saturday, officials said. One body was recovered following the 11 a.m. crash of a twin-engine Piper PA-34 about a mile off of Quogue, in the Hamptons.

Agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, the New York Air National Guard and the Suffolk County sheriff's office responded to the crash.

"It's still a search and recovery at this point," Quogue Village Police Chief Christopher Isola said at a news conference late Saturday afternoon, according to Newsday. "The Coast Guard along with other marine assets will continue in that effort."

The cause of the crash was not known, Isola said. The identity of the victim who was found was not immediately determined.

Officials said people on the beach reported the plane sputtering before it crashed. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) tweeted that it will be investigating.

Tim Carbone was working at the nearby Oceanfront Surf Club at the time, and he told CBS New York he thought it was a stunt plane.

"I was looking to see if I could find the plane and I couldn't see it, and then 'phoom,' it was done," he said. "It was like the engine was stopped immediately."

Alisa Sisic, a spokeswoman for the Connecticut Airport Authority, said the plane left Connecticut's Waterbury-Oxford Airport Saturday morning, landed at Danbury Municipal Airport and then took off again.

The plane was headed to Charleston Executive Airport in South Carolina, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters said. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate, he said.

The crash was the third fatal crash involving a small plane on Long Island this year.

A pilot died May 30 when his vintage plane went down in a wooded area.

Four people were killed on June 2 when a twin-engine Piper Navajo crashed off Amagansett during a storm.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/quogue-plane-crash-today-piper-pa-34-2018-10-13/>

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3 dead after plane crashes in water off Long Island coast near Quogue

ABC 7, October 14, 2018 :

QUOQUE, Long Island (WABC) -- Three bodies have been found after a plane crashed in the water approximately one mile off of a beach in Quogue.

The first body, identified as Raj Munitat, was found Saturday after a twin-engine Piper PA-34 crashed into the water around 11:10 a.m. The remaining two bodies were found in the water on Sunday evening near the plane's fuselage, the Coast Guard reports.

All passengers on board the plane have now been accounted for. The identities of the other two bodies have not yet been released, but one was an adult male.

The crash site is approximately three miles south of Francis S. Grabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach.

The FAA says the plane took off at Danbury Municipal Airport in Connecticut. Their intended destination is unclear.

Quogue Village Police Department Chief Christopher Isola says the cause of the crash is still unknown.

Witnesses reported hearing the engine stuttering sounding like almost like a stunt plane.

"And then the engine went up even to a higher, screaming and screaming, and then all of a sudden quiet. It happened instantly. I saw three pieces of plane, separate trajectories heading towards the ocean, and they were just kind of going down like a leaf, you know?" says Quogue resident Tim Carbone.

The Air National Guard dispatched a rescue helicopter, and multiple agencies assisted the search on-scene.

The NTSB will investigate the cause of the crash.

<https://abc7ny.com/3-dead-after-plane-crashes-in-water-off-li-coast/4476005/>

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109th Airlift Wing

N.Y. air wing begins annual support for Antarctic mission

National Guard.mil, | Oct. 18, 2018 :

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. - Five hundred Airmen and six LC-130 Hercules assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing began their annual mission at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, this week in support of the 31st season of Operation Deep Freeze.

Operation Deep Freeze is the logistical support mission that the U.S. military provides to the National Science Foundation-managed U.S. Antarctic Program.

Led by Pacific Air Forces, the Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica provides military support to the United States Antarctic Program comprised of active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel from the U.S. Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy and Army.

The task force works closely with other Antarctic programs to best support National Science Foundation research teams and partnered entities in accomplishing their joint goals in the safest and most efficient way possible.

The 109th Airlift Wing has supported the National Science Foundation's South Pole research since 1988. The annual season is Sept. 1 through July 31.

The unique capabilities of the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft make it the only one of its kind in the U.S. military, able to land on snow and ice. A foundational mission of the 109th Airlift Wing is to provide airlift within Antarctica, flying to various remote locations from McMurdo Station.

Crews will transport scientists, support, fuel, supplies, medical supplies and more throughout the season. Maintenance personnel will endure working outside with limited facilities to keep the aircraft mission-ready.

During the deployment, the wing expects to fly more than 1,800 flying hours conducting approximately 240 missions with about 120 Airmen deployed on the ice at any one given time.

"Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, most inhospitable continent on the globe, and each Antarctic season features changes in planned LC-130 landing sites, and therefore each season and individual mission demands careful planning and coordination," said Lt. Col. William Carraher, 139th Airlift Squadron commander.

"Our aircrews, maintainers and support personnel are well-trained and ready to support this vital mission despite the austere environment," Carraher said.

During the 2017-18 season, crews from the 109th completed 179 missions within Antarctica. They flew 2,300 researchers and support staff plus 2.7 million pounds of cargo and 135,000 gallons of fuel to research stations across the continent.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1666106/ny-air-wing-begins-annual-support-for-antarctic-mission/>

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53rd Troop Command

Auburn-based National Guard gains new commander in ceremony

Auburn Pub, Oct 14, 2018:

OWASCO — Lt. Col. Matthew Schaffer, commander of the 102nd Military Police Battalion, told 1st Lt. Derrick Rocker he will succeed admirably as the new commander of the New York Army National Guard company in Auburn.

Rocker took over at a change of command ceremony Saturday. Schaffer, who chose Rocker for the role, lauded Rocker in front of his fellow soldiers at Lakeview Golf & Country Club in Owasco. Schaffer praised the abilities and intelligence of both Rocker and outgoing commander Capt. Katie Chen, who had been selected to lead in Auburn in October 2016

"Derrick, you're here because you're the best man for the job," Schaffer said.

After the ceremony, Schaffer said Rocker embodies the values the army seeks in leaders. Schaffer called Chen "a shining star" who he expects to have a long list of promotions awaiting her in the future.

Rocker is from Scipio Center and has lived in Auburn since 2014. His background includes past stints as military police platoon leader with the 222nd Military Police Company in Rochester and as an executive officer for the 105th Military Police Company in Buffalo in 2015, according to a press release. He was deployed to Kuwait with the 369th Sustainment Brigade in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2016 to 2017.

Chen said she is tentatively set to go to New York Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Watervliet, New York. Before taking the Auburn command she had done work such as being a military police platoon leader with the 206th Military Police Company in the hamlet of Latham while simultaneously holding an active duty for operational support position as the state Casualty Affairs Officer with Military Personnel in Watervliet, according

to a press release. She had also been deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2014. While Chen served as commander in Auburn, the unit took part in a joint training exercise with active duty units at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Rocker said at the ceremony he was honored to command, and praised Chen's leadership and rapport with her soldiers. He thanked the soldiers for their sacrifices, such as missing holidays and births of children during training.

"As we move forward I look forward to facing any and all challenges together," he said.

Chen wished Rocker luck at the ceremony but felt he won't need it, as "you are leading the best group of soldiers there are." She told the soldiers they are the reason she felt she succeeded as commander.

"It is standing side by side next to each one of you in formation today that made it the best job I've ever had," Chen said.

https://auburnpub.com/news/local/auburn-based-national-guard-gains-new-commander-in-ceremony/article_b260a4ac-e0d0-5fc8-b85c-e25014505a95.html

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Airmen and Soldiers

Allegany and Olean Residents Earn New York Army National Guard Promotions

TAPINTO Greater Olean, October 13, 2018:

Two residents of the Greater Olean area have earned promotions in the New York Army National Guard.

Brittany Russo of Allegany was promoted to staff sergeant, and Dustin Frederick of Olean was promoted to private. Both are assigned to the Company A, 642nd Support Battalion.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership and development potential.

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the State of New York, announced the promotions.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/greater-olean/articles/allegany-and-olean-residents-earn-new-york-army-national-guard-promotions>

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Hits & Misses: Auburn National Guard leadership, Syracuse recruit, Mentz train crash

Auburn Pub, October 16, 2018 :

HIT: To Derrick Rocker, who is taking over command of the Auburn-based Army National Guard unit.

Rocker, a first lieutenant, was officially installed as the commander of the headquarters and headquarters company of the 102nd Military Police Battalion. He succeeds Capt. Katie Chen, who had been in command since October 2016.

"Derrick, you're here because you're the best man for the job," Lt. Col. Matthew Schaffer said during Saturday's ceremony at Lakeview Golf & Country Club in Owasco.

Rocker, a first lieutenant, was officially installed as the commander of the headquarters and headquarters company of the 102nd Military Police Battalion. He succeeds Capt. Katie Chen, who had been in command since October 2016.

"Derrick, you're here because you're the best man for the job," Lt. Col. Matthew Schaffer said during Saturday's ceremony at Lakeview Golf & Country Club in Owasco.

Rocker is from Scipio Center and has lived in Auburn since 2014. His background includes past stints as military police platoon leader with the 222nd Military Police Company in Rochester and as an executive officer for the 105th Military Police Company in Buffalo in 2015.

HIT: To the Syracuse University men's basketball program, for keeping a highly coveted upstate New York recruit in his home state.

Glens Falls standout Joseph Girard III on Sunday announced that he would be signing with Syracuse to play his college ball next year. Girard's accomplishments on the court are legendary, and he still has a year of high school basketball to play. The all-time career scoring leader in New York state will be a welcome addition to the Carrier Dome.

MISS: To a train vs. truck collision in Mentz last week.

A CSX freight train smashed into a tractor-trailer that had gotten stuck crossing railroad tracks on Friday afternoon. The crash shut down the road just north of Port Byron, as well as rail service, for several hours.

Fortunately, no one was injured.

https://auburnpub.com/opinion/editorial/hits-misses-auburn-national-guard-leadership-syracuse-recruit-mentz-train/article_e46c10f5-72f6-51ae-bc17-504502097972.html#4

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Lyons soldier re-enlists with New York Army National Guard

Wayne Post, October 18, 2018 :

Spc. Jonathan McGovern, of Lyons, recently re-enlisted to continue service in the New York Army National Guard.

McGovern serves with the Company A (Distribution), 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

"I congratulate our members for choosing to stay in service, and striking that balance between military duties, education or employment commitments and family obligations," said Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the adjutant general.

<http://www.waynepost.com/news/20181018/notable-names>

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Jensen promoted in National Guard

The Leader-Herald, October 12, 2018 :

LATHAM — Christopher Jensen of Northville, who is assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters of the New York Army National Guard, has been promoted to the rank of colonel in recognition of his capability for additional responsibility and leadership, Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, adjutant general for the state National Guard, has announced.

<http://www.leaderherald.com/news/in-brief/2018/10/jensen-promoted-in-national-guard/>

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NYC Democrat joins wave of veterans aiming to flip the House

The Washington Post, October 14, 2018 :

He's an Army veteran who was wounded in Afghanistan, criticizes New York's liberal mayor and doesn't support House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

Those are winning attributes for a politician in Trump Country, but the candidate in question, Max Rose, is a Democrat trying to unseat the only Republican member of Congress from New York City.

For all the national talk of a liberal “blue wave” in next month’s midterm election, Rose is part of a large corps of moderate Democrats who are playing up military experience and independence from their own party in districts that voted for President Donald Trump in 2016.

“I am a Democrat, sure,” said Rose. “That does not preclude me from pointing out the fact that this country and this district have been failed by Democrats and Republicans alike.”

His campaign against U.S. Rep. Dan Donovan in a district that includes all of Staten Island, the city’s most conservative borough, plus a slice of Brooklyn, has been built around centrist priorities like rebuilding infrastructure, modest gun control reforms and doing more to combat the opioid addiction epidemic.

It has included a brochure accusing Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio of “ignoring Staten Island and South Brooklyn,” but doesn’t mention Trump or his polarizing policies.

“That is not a strategic decision, but it is rooted in the reality that our problems did not begin with this president,” Rose said in an interview in his Brooklyn campaign office. “The fact that the R train right outside of this office is late more than it’s on time, the fact that we lost 72,000 people last year and thousands, tens of thousands, the year before that to overdoses, the fact that we lose tens of thousands of people every year to gun violence, mass shootings and otherwise ... those problems did not begin with the president.”

Donovan, a lifelong Staten Islander, has also played up party independence in the race — a nod to the fact that Democrats slightly outnumber Republicans in the district.

But he has also suggested that Rose is more liberal than he lets on and charged that the 31-year-old moved to the borough only to run for Congress.

“He’s not one of us,” a narrator intones in one Donovan campaign ad.

In an interview with the AP, Donovan, who was Staten Island’s district attorney before getting elected to Congress in 2015, said of Rose that he’s “grateful for his service to our nation,” but “that doesn’t qualify you to be a member of Congress.”

“I just ask people to look at what Dan Donovan has done for 22 years in this community,” he said.

Rose, the son of a medical laboratory executive father and a social work professor mother, grew up across the harbor from Staten Island in Brooklyn, where he attended the private Poly Prep Country Day School and was a captain of the wrestling team.

“He was a great example. Very coachable,” said his former coach, Konstantin Avdeev. “We used to call him an old man in a young man’s body.”

Rose went to Wesleyan University, a liberal arts college in Middletown, Connecticut, and the London School of Economics, where he earned a master’s degree in philosophy and public policy.

Those schools send relatively few graduates to the U.S. Army, but that’s where Rose headed after college.

Despite his highbrow education, Rose said he was in fact “the worst soldier in basic training,” a raw recruit who had never carried a weapon and couldn’t use a compass.

“It took me a while to become a proficient soldier but I still feel to this day that the Army gives me far more than I could ever give it each and every day,” he said.

He earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star after he suffered injuries when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan in 2013. He remains a captain in the National Guard and took two weeks off from campaigning in August for training exercises. He moved to Staten Island after leaving active service in 2015.

Knocking on doors in Brooklyn’s Bay Ridge neighborhood, Rose introduced himself as a veteran. Some voters were receptive — though one man with a Wounded Warriors sticker on his mailbox wouldn’t open the door.

“I’m very patriotic and I’m just very proud of him, what he has done for our country,” said one neighborhood resident, Annemarie Rossi.

Rose is one of 19 veterans supported by a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee program targeting swing districts. Others include Mikie Sherrill, a Navy veteran running for an open seat in New Jersey, and Amy McGrath, a retired Marine seating to unseat Republican incumbent Andy Barr in Kentucky.

Jeremy Teigen, a professor of political science at Ramapo College of New Jersey and the author of “Why Veterans Run: Military Service in American Presidential Elections 1789-2016,” called Donovan’s district “exactly the kind of place where people can use military service as a cue to prime them to think of a Democrat as somebody who could be credible on national defense issues.”

But Richard Flanagan, a professor of political science at the College of Staten Island and co-author of “Staten Island: Conservative Bastion in a Liberal City,” said Donovan could be tough to beat. He won the district by 25 points in 2016.

“It’s very Trumpy out here,” Flanagan said.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/nyc-democrat-joins-wave-of-veterans-aiming-to-flip-the-house/2018/10/14/8e1a0e9e-cf8e-11e8-a4db-184311d27129_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.7c659a8338a5

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CIA Democrat Max Rose faces off against Trump Republican in Staten Island

World Socialist Website, 18 October 2018:

Three weeks ahead of the midterm elections, the Democratic and Republican candidates in New York's 11th congressional district, Max Rose and Dan Donovan, squared off in a debate Tuesday evening. The event underscored the right-wing character of the Democratic Party's "resistance" to the Trump administration.

Rose is one of 30 Democratic Party politicians with ties to the military and intelligence apparatus running in competitive races, identified by the World Socialist Web Site as "CIA Democrats." The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee eyed his district early on as part of its "red to blue" initiative, an attempt to regain a Democratic majority in the House of Representatives.

The 11th district encompasses the borough of Staten Island and a portion of southern Brooklyn. It is the only House seat in New York City currently held by a Republican. In 2016 a majority voted for Trump. Four years earlier, Obama carried the district.

The axis of Tuesday's debate revolved around the candidates' attitude towards the policies of the Trump administration. Donovan, who was endorsed by Trump in the Republican primaries, spent much of his time seeking to demonstrate he was a loyal lackey of Trump.

Donovan had opposed the administration's efforts to roll back portions of Obamacare and voted against the tax bill, but upheld Trump's positions in Congressional votes 87 percent of the time, according to FiveThirtyEight.com.

Donovan aligned himself with the president's brutal attack on undocumented immigrants. While nominally opposing the separation of families during the debate—a reversal of his position in the primaries—Donovan maintained that Trump was merely upholding the law.

The Republican congressman hailed Trump's economic policy and the speculative boom that has lifted the stock market. "Look at your 401(k) plan and that will tell you the whole story," he told the audience.

Rose, who has spent the campaign mostly avoiding mention of Trump, stressed during the debate he was willing to work with the president and opposed his impeachment. He also advocated the continuation of the Mueller probe, giving support to allegations of Russian

meddling in the election and allying himself with the anti-Russia hysteria of the Democratic Party leadership in Congress.

On immigration, Rose promoted the fig leaf of "comprehensive immigration reform," while also reiterating his support for militarization of the border. "We should be a nation of security and one that enforces our laws, but also one that affirms our values," he said. This is essentially the position put forward by the Obama administration, which deported more immigrants than any administration in history and provided the legal framework for Trump's fascistic attacks.

Tuesday evening Rose reiterated on Twitter a number of his own comments during the debate that make clear the right-wing standpoint of his criticisms of Donovan and Trump:

"On one side is Max Rose and the NYPD, and on the other side is Dan Donovan. Anyone who has served on the front lines as I have knows that 21st century policing has to be intelligence driven policing."

Rose's promotion of the New York Police Department is particularly noxious given that his district was the site of the murder of Eric Garner by narcotics squad officers in 2014. Garner was accosted by the police after he had broken up a fight. He was accused of selling loose cigarettes and choked to death after refusing to submit quickly enough to police. Donovan was the district attorney in Staten Island at the time and played a key role in ensuring the officers were acquitted.

He also tweeted:

"Because of the GOP tax bill, we won't have the money for the next depression, the next recession, the next war."

As he has throughout the campaign, Rose made repeated reference to his military background as his primary qualification for office. After graduating with a Masters degree from London School of Economics, Rose enlisted in the Army. He was deployed to assist in the US occupation of Afghanistan, where he was wounded when his armored vehicle struck a roadside bomb. Rose remains active in the New York National Guard. He took two weeks off of the campaign in August for training.

Among the frequent invocations of his military experience, not a hint of anti-war sentiment has emerged. On the contrary, Rose has put forward a militaristic platform, demanding recognition of Russia as a hostile foreign power and pledging to "ensure we stay the superpower our parents and grandparents worked so hard to build." The motto of his campaign is "Duty. Patriotism. Service." His campaign website is fashioned with an Army-style motif and features photographs of his deployment to Afghanistan.

Rose's national security credentials are an integral part of the Democratic Party national strategy, what the WSWS has characterized as a "friendly takeover" by the intelligence and military agencies.

Democratic Party fundraisers have flooded Rose's campaign coffers. Rose outraised Donovan by nearly five-to-one from July through September, taking in nearly \$1.5 million in contrast to the incumbent's \$342,000. Only a tiny fraction of this has come from residents of Staten Island and southern Brooklyn.

Rose has the full backing of the Democratic Party establishment. Barack Obama and Joe Biden are two of the most prominent figures to issue endorsements. He also has the tacit endorsement of "democratic socialists" such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who repeatedly called for a vote for all Democratic candidates for Congress. When questioned by a WSWS reporter about Rose's campaign, she refused to criticize it. "I don't know a ton about his background," she said. "What I try to do is focus on the issues."

The real interests of the majority of residents finds no reflection in the Max Rose campaign. While both Republican and Democratic candidates cite supposed differences between Staten Island and the rest of New York City, workers in all boroughs of the city face the same fundamental issues of rising inequality and social austerity in their daily experiences.

While household income is slightly above the city average, poverty and near poverty remain widespread. More than 56 percent of residents are forced to pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent. Among homeowners, more than 40 percent exceed that "affordability" threshold.

The district is sharply affected by the crumbling transportation infrastructure. Residents already have some of the longest commutes in the city, averaging 46 minutes each way. "Express" buses originating in Staten Island routinely take more than two hours to reach their destination in the central business district in Manhattan.

With 31 percent of the district's population foreign-born, large numbers of residents live in fear that they or someone they love will be swept up in the attack on immigrants. Staten Island's North Shore has a diverse population of immigrants from Latin America and Europe, along with a more recent influx from the Caribbean, Africa and South Asia. Southern Brooklyn is a center for immigrants from the Middle East.

The opioid crisis has also reached crisis proportions in the area. Staten Island has the highest rate of opioid deaths of any borough. While Rose has sought to exploit Donovan's indifference to the crisis, the Democrat has nothing to say about underlying causes of opioid abuse. Rather, Rose criticized Donovan for disbanding the District Attorney's narcotics unit, effectively relegating the issue to one of law and order.

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2018/10/19/maxr-o19.html>

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New York Air National Guard

Trooper Assistant scout master, Air National Guard member possessed child pornography

The Daily Gazette:October 18, 2018:

DELANSON -- A volunteer firefighter, Air National Guardsman and assistant scout master has been charged with possessing child pornography, state police said.

Nick Hochmuth, 34, of Delanson, was arrested Tuesday at his home after state police served a search warrant there, troopers said.

He faces one count each of possession and promotion of a sexual performance by a child, both felonies.

The investigation began after reports were made to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's cyber tip line, troopers said.

Investigators from the state police, Homeland Security Investigations and the Internet Crimes Against Children task force obtained a search warrant for Hochmuth's Main Street home, state police said.

Hochmuth admitted his role in downloading and sharing images of child sexual exploitation, troopers said, adding that they also found digital evidence that is being processed.

Troopers identified Hochmuth as a member of the Air National Guard at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville, as well as a volunteer firefighter with the Delanson Fire Department and an assistant scout master in Esperance.

Anyone who may have additional information about the case is asked to contact the state police in Princetown at 518-630-1712.

<https://dailygazette.com/article/2018/10/18/troopers-assistant-scout-master-air-national-guard-member-possessed-child-pornography>

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State Police: Firefighter, assistant scout master facing child porn charges

CBS 6 News, October 18, 2018:

DELANSON, N.Y. (WRGB) - State Police say they have arrested a man on child porn charges after investigating a tip to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

State Police say 34-year-old Nick Hochmuth was arrested, charged with one count of possession of a sexual performance by a child and one count of promotion of a sexual performance by a child.

Investigators say he admitted to downloading and sharing child pornography.

He was arraigned in the Town of Duaneburg Court, then remanded to Schenectady County Jail in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

Police say Hochmuth is a member of the Air National Guard at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville. Police say he is also a volunteer firefighter at the Delanson Fire Department, and he serves as an Assistant Scout Master in Esperance.

A spokesperson for the Air National Guard says he serves as a food service technician. An Airman convicted of a civilian offense can face administrative disciplinary action or military justice action, according to the spokes person.

Ray Eschenbach, Scout Executive/CEO, Leatherstocking Council, Boy Scouts of America sent CBS 6 this statement:

"This individual's behavior is abhorrent and runs counter to everything for which the Boy Scouts of America stands. While these allegations appear unrelated to Scouting, upon learning of these reports we took immediate action to remove this individual and prohibit him from any future participation in our programs.

"Nothing is more important than the safety of our youth members. We seek to prevent child abuse through comprehensive policies and procedures to serve as barriers to abuse. These include a thorough screening process for adult leaders and staff, criminal background checks, requiring two or more adult leaders be present with youth at all times during Scouting activities, and the prompt mandatory reporting of any allegation or suspicion of abuse."

<https://cbs6albany.com/news/local/state-police-firefighter-scout-master-facing-child-porn-charges>

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Assistant scoutmaster, volunteer firefighter facing child pornography charges

WNYT, October 18, 2018 :

A man who works with kids as an assistant scoutmaster in Esperance is facing child pornography charges.

State police say they received a tip about 34-year-old Nick Hochmuth. They say he admitted to his role in downloading and sharing images of child pornography.

Hochmuth also serves at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville as a member of the Air National Guard and is a volunteer firefighter in Delanson. He was sent to the Schenectady County Jail and is due back in court on November 19.

Anyone with information about him is asked to call State Police Princetown at (518) 630-1712.

<https://wnyt.com/news/nick-hochmuth-assistant-scoutmaster-volunteer-firefighter-facing-child-pornography-charges/5113535/>

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Delanson volunteer firefighter faces child porn charges

Times Union, Thursday, October 18, 2018:

DELANSON - A 34-year-old volunteer firefighter, assistant scout master and member of the Air National Guard is facing child pornography charges, State Police said in a press release Thursday.

Nick Hochmuth of Delanson was charged with one count of possession of a sexual performance by a child and one count or promotion of a sexual performance by a child, police said.

The State Police Troop G Computer Crimes Unit, Homeland Security Investigations, and Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force executed a search warrant at a residence on Main Street in Delanson on Oct. 6, following a tip made to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Investigators interviewed Hochmuth, who according to police admitted his role in downloading and sharing images of child exploitation.

Hochmuth is currently a member of the Air National Guard at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville, police said. He is also a volunteer firefighter at the Delanson Fire Department and an assistant scoutmaster in Esperance.

He was arraigned in the Town of Duanesburg Court and remains in the Schenectady County Jail. His next scheduled court date is Nov. 19 in Duanesburg Court.

Officials urge anyone with additional information about this case to contact the State Police in Princetown at 518-630-1712.

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Delanson-volunteer-firefighter-and-scout-master-13318267.php>

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Air National Guard Member Facing Child Pornography Charges

Spectrum News, October 18, 2018:

An Air National Guard member based out of Stratton Air National Guard Base is facing several child pornography charges.

State Police say 34-year-old Nick Hochmuth, of Delanson, downloaded and shared images of child pornography.

Troopers arrested Hochmuth on Tuesday after tips came in to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Hochmuth is a volunteer firefighter at the Delanson Fire Department, and served as an assistant scout master in Esperance, New York.

He's been arraigned and charged with possession of a sexual performance by a child and promotion of a sexual performance by a child.

Hochmuth was sent to the Schenectady County Jail and is due in court on November 19.

State Police in Princetown are asking anyone with information on this case to call them.

<http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/capital-region/crime-safety/2018/10/18/air-national-guard-member-pornography-charges>

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NY Air National Guard member accused of having child porn

News 10, Oct 18, 2018:

DELANSON, N.Y. (NEWS10) - New York State Police arrested a man they say had child pornography.

Police say following an investigation, troopers arrested Nick Hochmuth, 34, of Delanson, N.Y., after he admitted to downloading and sharing images of child sexual exploitation.

A search warrant was executed at his Main Street address following an investigation that began with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Hochmuth was charged with one-count of possession of a sexual performance by a child and one count of promotion of a sexual performance by a child.

Hochmuth is a member of the Air National Guard at Stratton Air National Guard base in Glenville. He is also a volunteer firefighter at the Delanson Fire Department, and also serves as an Assistant Scout Master in Esperance.

He was arraigned and remanded to Schenectady County Jail in lieu of \$20,000 cash or \$40,000 bond. His next court appearance is scheduled for November.

Anyone with information is asked to contact New York State Police at (518)-630-1712.

<https://www.news10.com/news/local-news/ny-air-national-guard-member-accused-of-having-child-porn/1533663685>

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State Partnership Program

New York Guard, South African MPs conduct exchange training

**Army.mil, By Maj. Al Phillips, New York National Guard October 15, 2018:
Oct 19, 2018**

PRETORIA, South Africa - Forty Military Police Soldiers and Airmen from both the New York National Guard and the South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF) exchanged policing, force protection and security experiences here during a two-week joint training exchange Oct. 2-13 at the SANDF Military Police Academy.

The exchange also included a Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent from the Naples, Italy, Field Office who provided training on crime scene and forensic techniques.

The joint military police training is a first for the New York and Republic of South Africa Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

The training included courses in offensive and defensive hand-to-hand combat skills, counter-terrorism and physical security, weapons retention, operations security, survival and escape techniques, and vehicle stops.

"It has been a great experience on both ends. Being immersed in the culture by interacting directly with the South Africans on a peer to peer basis is definitely a best practice," said New York Army National Guard Master Sgt. Ashvin Thimmaiah, a member of the 106th Regional Training Institute.

"We have all learned so much from each other relating to both doctrine and culture; it's been a truly unique and wonderful exchange," he added.

The training was the first in a series of three planned engagements aimed at strengthening military to military techniques, data sharing and strategies involving policing for natural or man-made disasters to share information and exchange ideas on the composition of military policing and legal jurisprudence.

"Learning about the South African culture and experiencing the way South African MPs incorporate military techniques from tradition and environment into their standard operating procedures was very unique but effective," said Master Sgt. Brandon Arroyo, a member of the New York Air National

Guard's 105th Base Defense Squadron.

Along with hands-on training, the Americans and South Africans discussed military policing and military law. Subjects included pre-apartheid policing in South Africa and the National Guard's activation following riots in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

Both American and South African presenters discussed the role of military police officers in these kinds of situations, their legal responsibilities and rules of engagement and use of force. Well-trained, well-equipped military police who are aware of the social dimensions of what is happening around them can make a difference, the instructors emphasized.

U.S. Navy Capt. Steven Morgenfeld and South African National Defense Force Provost Marshal General, Rear Adm. Mokgadi Maphoto both emphasized the importance of learning from each other during the exchange program.

"We look forward to what should prove to be a valuable exchange of shared experiences and best practices, as well as tactics used to maintain order, discipline and safety. We have as much to learn from you as we have to share with you," Morgenfeld said.

"The exposure of the military policeman and the American counterpart is an eye opener and this exchange will only enhance the experience of all," Maphoto added.

Learning to work together is incredibly valuable, said Sgt. Anthony Vignone, a military police investigator in the New York National Guard's 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment.

"To have multiple problems and one fighter in itself is a problem, but to have multiple fighters against one or more problems in itself is laying the foundation to overcome anything that comes your way, " LaVignone said.

Special Agent David Reid, an NCIS forensic consultant, spent two days conducting classes on forensic analysis. His training consisted of trace evidence collection techniques to process crime scenes, physical evidence handling and how to procure and maintain forensic equipment.

"I found the training to be more advanced with a focus on the outside world with emphasis on daily combat readiness, whereas previous training has been deployment centric," said South African Sgt. Cecely Louw, who is assigned to the Southern Military Police Regional Headquarters Cape Town.

"To master your craft, expect the criminal to stay one step ahead," said New York National Guard Maj. Frank Quintana. "This, in turn, requires more learning and constant evaluation from a military policeman," he added.

Quintana was the lead exchange instructor for the training and serves as the New York National Guard State Partnership Program director.

"You can never be too careful when it applies to police work," he said.

"The capabilities the U.S made available in terms of training, experience and exposure is mutually beneficial and will continue to expand over the coming years," said South African Lt. Col. Jamie Bisschoff, training wing commander for the SANDF Military Police School.

https://www.army.mil/article/212437/new_york_guard_south_african_mps_conduct_exchange_training

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New York National Guard, South African MPs conduct exchange

naitonalguard.mil, By Maj. Al Phillips | New York National Guard | Oct. 15, 2018 :

PRETORIA, South Africa - Forty Military Police Soldiers and Airmen from both the New York National Guard and the South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF) exchanged policing, force protection and security experiences here during a two-week joint training exchange Oct. 2-13 at the SANDF Military Police Academy.

The exchange also included a Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent from the Naples, Italy, Field Office who provided training on crime scene and forensic techniques.

The joint military police training is a first for the New York and Republic of South Africa Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

The training included courses in offensive and defensive hand-to-hand combat skills, counter-terrorism and physical security, weapons retention, operations security, survival and escape techniques, and vehicle stops.

"It has been a great experience on both ends. Being immersed in the culture by interacting directly with the South Africans on a peer to peer basis is definitely a best practice," said New York Army National Guard Master Sgt. Ashvin Thimmaiah, a member of the 106th Regional Training Institute.

"We have all learned so much from each other relating to both doctrine and culture; it's been a truly unique and wonderful exchange," he added.

The training was the first in a series of three planned engagements aimed at strengthening military to military techniques, data sharing and strategies involving policing for natural or man-made disasters to share information and exchange ideas on the composition of military policing and legal jurisprudence.

"Learning about the South African culture and experiencing the way South African MPs incorporate military techniques from tradition and environment into their standard operating procedures was very unique but effective," said Master Sgt. Brandon Arroyo, a member of the New York Air National Guard's 105th Base Defense Squadron.

Along with hands-on training, the Americans and South Africans discussed military policing and military law. Subjects included pre-apartheid policing in South Africa and the National Guard's activation following riots in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

Both American and South African presenters discussed the role of military police officers in these kinds of situations, their legal responsibilities and rules of engagement and use of force. Well-trained, well-equipped military police who are aware of the social dimensions of what is happening around them can make a difference, the instructors emphasized.

U.S. Navy Capt. Steven Morgenfeld and South African National Defense Force Provost Marshal General, Rear Adm. Mokgadi Maphoto both emphasized the importance of learning from each other during the exchange program.

"We look forward to what should prove to be a valuable exchange of shared experiences and best practices, as well as tactics used to maintain order, discipline and safety. We have as much to learn from you as we have to share with you," Morgenfeld said.

"The exposure of the military policeman and the American counterpart is an eye opener and this exchange will only enhance the experience of all," Maphoto added.

Learning to work together is incredibly valuable, said Sgt. Anthony Vignone, a military police investigator in the New York National Guard's 727th Military Police Law and Order Detachment.

"To have multiple problems and one fighter in itself is a problem, but to have multiple fighters against one or more problems in itself is laying the foundation to overcome anything that comes your way, " LaVignone said.

Special Agent David Reid, an NCIS forensic consultant, spent two days conducting classes on forensic analysis. His training consisted of trace evidence collection techniques to process crime scenes, physical evidence handling and how to procure and maintain forensic equipment.

"I found the training to be more advanced with a focus on the outside world with emphasis on daily combat readiness, whereas previous training has been deployment centric," said South African Sgt. Cecely Louw, who is assigned to the Southern Military Police Regional Headquarters Cape Town.

"To master your craft, expect the criminal to stay one step ahead," said New York National Guard Maj. Frank Quintana. "This, in turn, requires more learning and constant evaluation from a military policeman," he added.

Quintana was the lead exchange instructor for the training and serves as the New York National Guard State Partnership Program director.

"You can never be too careful when it applies to police work," he said.

"The capabilities the U.S made available in terms of training, experience and exposure is mutually beneficial and will continue to expand over the coming years," said South African Lt. Col. Jamie Bisschoff, training wing commander for the SANDF Military Police School.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1662088/new-york-national-guard-south-african-mps-conduct-exchange/>

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World War I

Chester's citizens in the Great War: The Roughneck

The Warwick Advertiser, Oct 18, 2018:

CHESTER, N.Y., AND ST.-QUENTIN, FRANCE - On Sept. 29, 1918, the American 27th and 30th Divisions, attached to the British Fourth Army, attacked the seemingly impregnable Hindenburg Line. This highly engineered defensive system, developed by the Germans, was considered to be the most heavily fortified position in the world.

The New York 27th was a distinct unit, as one of only three divisions formed entirely from a single state National Guard. It was known as O'Ryan's Roughnecks after their commander, Major General John F. O'Ryan.

On that day, 40 Orange County members of the 107th Infantry Regiment of the 27th would fall in battle, making it the bloodiest single day for a U.S. regiment in the entire war. Every year, Orange County recognizes Sept. 29 as its own special Veterans Day in their memory.

But Daniel S. Burrows was not one of those men. He was in the 105th Infantry, Company L, and would survive the relentless fighting to break the mighty Hindenburg Line. On Oct. 19, 1918, Burrows fell in combat with his regiment, capturing a position described by military documents as "in the face of slight opposition." Like all his fallen comrades, Burrows was immediately buried and his relatives informed.

At the war's end, more than 100,000 Americans had died and were buried in Europe. Countless families demanded that their fallen sons be returned to America, a major logistical nightmare. Many high-ranking Americans, such as General John J. Pershing and especially former President Theodore Roosevelt, whose own son was buried in France, insisted these Americans would be best taken care of in France under the newly formed American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). Pershing chaired the ABMC for the rest of his life, 25 years. He personally supervised the monuments' construction and maintenance because these men were his, and he had a responsibility to watch over them.

Still, many sons were taken home and buried, including many in Orange County. Ultimately, the decision by his relatives to leave Burrows under the care of the ABMC was the best option. The graves are maintained daily, cared for by government employees and local volunteers eternally grateful for the Americans' heroism.

Hometown soldier is remembered In commemoration of the centennial of the Battle of the Hindenburg Line, the Orange County historian, Johanna Yaun, organized a trip to St.-Quentin and the Somme American Cemetery and Memorial, where her group, including myself, placed flags on the graves of the Orange County soldiers to honor their sacrifice. In these serene, rolling farm fields of Picardy, Americans are warmly welcomed as true friends of the French people. The 1,844 interred include three Medal of Honor winners and those who died in the earliest American battles.

I asked for the honor of placing a flag at Burrows' grave, Plot D Row 9 Grave 9, where almost all of his neighbors are fellow New Yorkers. The graves are lined up absolutely perfectly, creating pristine rows of beautiful white crosses and stars. Upon placing the flag, I felt it fitting talk about Daniel Burrows' hometown, which he had last seen more than a century ago. I told about how the town had flourished, how the 1915 train station, which was still new in

1918, was now a local museum, and how Chester always remembers those who went off to fight for our freedom.

I am proud that a man like Burrows came from my town, and that he is still properly honored by those he helped to liberate and still remembered in his hometown. I am also very glad that the men interred at ABMC cemeteries are so well cared for, even a century after their deaths, and that their feats are not forgotten.

In order for us Americans to live in freedom and justice, sacrifices of countless individuals are necessary. The pin I wore to the cemetery was of the poppy flower that symbolizes all those who perished in the war, captioned with the phrase, "Lest We Forget."

Other sons of Chester also lie in well-kept graves in France, where they are equally honored for all they have done.

It is much easier to remember those who survive, who return to the United States and tell the story to the next generation. But it is just as important to remember those who never made it home. While their bodies may have perished, their ideals live on in every one of us so that we may know the cost of all we hold sacred.

<http://www.warwickadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20181018/NEWS01/181019943>

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'Rainbow' pivotal in WWI offensive :New York National Guard division had big casualties

Times Union, October 12, 2018:

The state Division of Military and Naval Affairs has provided press releases on the centennial of World War I based on information provided by the state Military Museum in Saratoga Springs.

The New York Army National Guard's 42nd "Rainbow" Division played a pivotal role in the final battles of World War I a century ago.

But soldiers fighting in the Meuse-Argonne paid a terrible price for the victory.

"Nobody wants to talk very much about the recent battle," New York National Guard Chaplain Father Francis Duffy wrote in his diary entry in October 1918.

"It was a nightmare that one does not care to recall. Individual acts do not stand out in actions of this kind. It is a case of everybody going ahead and taking the punishment," Duffy recalled.

The punishment that Duffy's unit, the 165th Infantry Regiment — formerly the 69th Infantry of the New York National Guard — took that month was heavy indeed.

The 165th started the month with 3,564 men and officers. On Oct. 31 the unit reported 1,908 men and officers present for duty, according to the American Battle Monuments history of the division.

The 165th, part of the 42nd Rainbow Division made up of National Guard units from 26 states, was smack in the middle of the Meuse-Argonne offensive. With 1.2 million doughboys committed, Meuse-Argonne is still the largest American battle in history.

During the battle, which kicked off Sept. 25 and continued until the end of the fighting on Nov. 11, some 26,277 Americans were killed and 95,786 wounded; a casualty rate of 10 percent.

The 42nd Division began the battle after their refit from the September St. Mihiel offensive with a nearly full complement of 26,794 soldiers and officers. One month later the division reported a strength of 20,119 on Oct. 31.

The doughboys were fighting not only against formidable German defenses but also dealing with difficult terrain. In the Argonne Forest visibility could be limited to 20 feet.

But for other soldiers, like those in the 42nd Division, the fight would carry them through open fields of fire near the Meuse River where the enemy could easily spot them.

An objective was the German stronghold at Cote de Chatillon. The Rainbow would attack with all four regiments of the 83rd and 84th brigades abreast.

Maj. Gen. Charles Summerall, commander of the Army's V Corps, visited the 84th Brigade, under the command of Brig. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Oct. 13 before the attack.

In two days of bloody fighting, MacArthur and his Alabama and Iowa soldiers almost reached Summerall's casualty count, with MacArthur constantly at the front lines.

From the start, problems arose. A gap formed between the advances of the two brigades. The New York and Ohio soldiers of the 83rd Brigade advanced farther, as MacArthur's regiments tackled defensive farms that drew in their manpower.

This exposed the New York regimental flank to devastating German fire.

The New York soldiers of the 165th Infantry found themselves facing machine gun and mortar fire from two sides, trapping them short of their objective.

Infantry regiments lost two-thirds of their fighting strength in the initial 24 hours.

The 165th Infantry, for example, crossing open ground and facing flanking fire, had only 186 soldiers remaining in its 1st Battalion, 480 in the 2nd Battalion, and 496 in the 3rd Battalion. Two out of every three doughboys had become casualties.

Consolidating after the first day, MacArthur devised a plan for a night attack using only the bayonet to seize Cote de Chatillon. The belief was that enemy machine guns would not be able to locate doughboys without the flash of their rifle fire.

By Oct. 16, with German forces spent almost as much as the doughboys, the Rainbow Division's 84th Brigade reached the crest of Chatillon and held it against counterattack, allowing the division's line to reach its objective.

Refit with replacements and equipment, the Rainbow Division was back in the line by Nov. 5, pursuing retreating German forces.

In the final hours of the war, the American objective was Sedan. With the 1st, 42nd and 77th divisions attacking toward the French city, Maj. Gen. Summerall allowed his 1st Division to cross the corps boundary to encourage speed in taking Sedan.

The race was set aside the next day when French forces liberated their city. With American forces across the Meuse River, Germany began to seek peace terms Nov. 8.

<https://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Rainbow-pivotal-in-WWI-offensive-13303877.php>

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