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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Need a job? Think you can find a better job?

Then I want you to get to know former state Command Sgt. Major Bob Van Pelt.

Van Pelt is one of the point people in our new effort to get New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen jobs. His mission is to help Soldiers and Airmen who want a job find one by working individually with Guardsmen and women one-on-one and by identifying jobs and posting them on our new civilian jobs website at <http://dmna.state.ny.us/jobs/jobs.php?id=nyng>.

My charge to him is to help any Soldier or Airman who wants to work, find work.

Commanders and supervisors always knew that Soldiers and Airmen who do well in their civilian jobs are outstanding performers when they wear their uniforms. Making sure that every one of our 16,000 members has a job is good for each of you and good for our force.

I'm also concerned about Soldiers and Airmen who turned part-time Guard commitment into a full-time job by volunteering for deployments and working on Active Duty for Operational Support jobs. With U.S. troops out of Iraq, forces in Afghanistan drawing down, and the Army and Air Force facing shrinking budgets, opportunities for service will be greatly diminished.

If your military career has followed this route you may want to look at seeking civilian employment.

I also want to ensure that Soldiers mobilizing this year have job opportunities waiting for them when they get home.

The online survey on our website indicates that as many as 30 percent of our New York Army National Guard Soldiers (out of the 2,021 who have responded) are unemployed or underemployed. That's too many and our goal is to see that percentage reduced.

While Van Pelt is reaching out to units and Soldiers to make them aware of potential jobs, another retired command sergeant major, John Willsey—a long time fixture in the 42nd Infantry Division—will be reaching out to employers to explain why they should hire Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

Willsey, who also works with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program, can help translate military skills into language employers understand. He can explain to an employer how infantry skills translate into a civilian job. He'll also sell hiring Guard members to employers around the state.

Both Van Pelt and Willsey are working closely with our

friends in the New York State Department of Labor and the United States Department of Labor to promote Guard members to prospective employers. Their mission is to decrease the number of Guard Soldiers and Airmen who need jobs and grow a robust network of employers who want to provide opportunities to Guardsmen and women.

We've got plenty of allies to do this: starting with Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, our Commander-in-Chief.

In November the Governor launched the Experience Counts campaign to help veterans—and that includes our Guard men and women who have deployed—get credit for the skills they have acquired in service.

These include:

- An effort by the State University of New York and City University of New York to improve their process for awarding college credit for military training and courses;
- Changes at the Department of Motor Vehicles make it easier and less costly for Soldiers and Airmen with experience driving trucks and operating heavy equipment to obtain a commercial driver's license by waiving the road test;

And directing the Department of Health to allow military medical training to count towards certification for home health and nursing home aides.

The New York State Department of Labor is a fixture at our Yellow Ribbon Reintegration events. They are a strong and valued partner in our effort to get jobs for Guard members.

The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service, with offices in Albany, New York City, Syracuse and Watertown, is another partner in our effort to convince employers to hire Guardsmen and women, along with the New York Committee of Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

Barry Morgan, who heads the federal Department of Labor's veterans program here in New York, is a retired Navy Captain and member of the New York Naval Militia who served at State Headquarters here and understands the Guard and Reserve.

Our most important partners, though, are the businesses who have reached out to us to help hire Guard Soldiers and Airmen at their company. These include diverse larger international companies like General Electric and smaller local firms like Blasch Precision Ceramics in the Albany area.

You have a lot to offer an employer.

Soldiers and Airmen understand discipline.



Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy

Soldiers and Airmen understand the requirement to be on time. Soldiers and Airmen are drug-free. Soldiers and Airmen are flexible and know how to learn on the job. Most Soldiers and Airmen have assumed responsibilities for people, and equipment and mission accomplishment at far younger ages than their peers in the civilian workforce.

This makes you an attractive employee to businesses of all kinds.

If you're not sure what kind of job your military experience has prepared you for, visit the Hero2Hired websites provided by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at <https://h2h.jobs/>.

By inputting your Army Military Occupational Specialty Code or your Air Force Specialty Code into the on-line tool you can find out which civilian jobs your military skills translate into along with additional information on those jobs.

An 11 B Infantryman, for example, is prepared to work in construction, work in emergency management or become a police officer or security guard.

While all these people and resources are in place to help you land a job in what is, admittedly, a tough economy, we need your help for them to do their job.

Log onto our New York Army National Guard jobs survey, which you can access from the DMNA homepage at www.dmna.ny.gov and help us find out what the employment profile for our force looks like today.

Check our civilian jobs page at <http://dmna.state.ny.us/jobs/jobs.php?id=nyng> to see if there's a job you want to apply for. And reach out to Van Pelt at robert.w.vanpelt@us.army.mil if you have questions about your skills and civilian jobs or need to know where to get help applying for jobs or completing a resume.

Help us, help you find employment. **gt**

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guardtimes

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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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Complimentary or Back Issues of the *Guard Times* are available. Contact us at the address above or visit us on the web for current news, photos or to download prior issues at www.dmna.state.ny.us.



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PEEKSKILL – Staff Sgt. John Ryan, a Military Policeman with the 106th MP Battalion and an instructor at the Regional Training Institute, Camp Smith uses the Vehicle Convoy Operations Trainer to teach, coach, mentor and qualify Soldiers from around the U.S. to be military police. Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Giordano, 1st Battalion, 106th RTI Commander.

ON THE COVER: Italian Air Force Chief Warrant Officer Lorenzo Scafuto and Staff Sgt. Marco Redavide work together on a MQ-9, while receiving feedback from their instructor Master Sgt. Scott Simpson at the Field Training Detachment in Syracuse on September 20, 2011. Scafuto and Redavide are the first Italian Air Force members to receive formal maintenance training on the MQ-9, as part of the 100th graduating class from the 174th Fighter Wing FTD, which is the sole MQ-9 maintenance training facility in the U.S. Air Force. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky Best, 174th Fighter Wing.
BACK COVER: Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Russell Youngs, the 174th Fighter Wing's Command Chief and Tech. Sgt. Michael Griepsma work atop an 85 foot communications tower at Adirondack Range, Fort Drum N.Y., November 22 2011. The towers are used to hold cameras to view targets down range. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky Best, 174th Fighter Wing.

McHugh Says Guard Remedy for Divide in Society

By C. Todd Lopez, Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Secretary of the Army John McHugh told members of the National Guard November 9, 2012 that military leadership is concerned about the divide between society and the less-than-1-percent that serve in uniform.

"Not only is this one percent a small segment of the population, there are those who understandably worry it is an increasingly isolated part of the population, becoming increasingly apart from America," McHugh said during the 2011 National Guard Joint Senior Leadership Conference.

McHugh said former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates had noted that the U.S. Army's forces are concentrated in just five states. And while Alabama, with a population of less than five million, has 10 Reserve Officer Training Programs, Los Angeles, with more than 12 million, has just four such programs. Chicago, with a population of nine million, has only three.

"Gates went on to say there is a risk over time of developing a cadre of military leaders that politically, culturally, and geographically have less in common with the majority of the people they are sworn to defend," McHugh said.

The secretary said the National Guard is an answer to that concern.

Despite concerns about the military losing a connection to the larger society, the secretary said polls indicate that Americans rank the military as one of the most trusted agencies of federal government.

"There's no question in my mind that Americans are deeply grateful for what you do," McHugh told the audience -- mostly Army and Air National Guard personnel.

In the past year, McHugh said, he's seen the Guard in Panama, Sinai and the Balkans, or "challenging nature on the banks of the Mississippi River," and leading patrols in the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan.

"Looking toward the future, I will tell you it is critical we keep you engaged, we keep you in uniform, and we keep you bridging that gap between military service and American society," McHugh said. **gt**



Secretary of the Army John McHugh addressing members of the National Guard on November 9, 2011 about military leadership concerns about the divide between society and the less-than-1-percent that serve in uniform.

Captured Confederate Flag

By Guard Times Staff

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The New York State Military Museum offers a glimpse into the early stages of the Civil War and Union hero, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth with a new video highlighting conservation of the Marshall House Flag.

The Marshall House was a hotel in Alexandria, Va. owned by James W. Jackson, who allowed a large Confederate flag to be displayed noticeably to President Abraham Lincoln from the White House. Malta native and friend of Lincoln, Colonel Ellsworth offered to retrieve the flag.

On May 24, 1861, Ellsworth and a small

group of men crossed the Potomac River as part of a Union raid. Ellsworth, accompanied by four men set out to remove the symbol of the Confederacy. The group went upstairs and cut down the flag flying high over the house. As they were going down the stairs, James Jackson shot and killed Ellsworth with a chest wound, instantly making him the first Union officer Civil War casualty.

Jackson himself was immediately killed by Cpl. Francis Brownell of Troy, N.Y., who received the Medal of Honor for his bravery. President Lincoln was deeply saddened to hear the news of his friend's passing and immediately ordered an honor guard to escort Colonel Ellsworth to the White House where he would lay in state.

The New York National Guard YouTube Channel and the New York State Military Museum website, outlines the history of the incident and shows how the flag is being conserved.

"We are still discussing the Marshall House Flag and Colonel Ellsworth today because this flag cost the life of a friend to the President, created a martyr for the Union and hero to the South," said Michael Aikey, the manager of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center. Currently the remaining portion of the flag is on display at the New York State Capital. **gt**



A New York Office of State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation employee prepares the historic Marshall House Flag for display in June, 2011

Guardsmen, Your History is Important

How Modern Citizen Soldiers and Airmen Can Help Preserve their Legacy

By Paul Fanning, *Guard Times* contributor

SARATOGA SPRINGS – The Military Museum and Veterans Research Center is the greatest repository of artifacts, documents, imagery and information that spans the rich and inspiring history of the military forces of New York State up to and including the post 9-11 generation of veterans.

Now, today's Guard members have a chance to further their sense of duty and responsibility not just to their ongoing service – but to preserving their legacy and the lessons of Operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom for future generations.

There are two ways to do this. First, share your stories, personal photos and artifacts you may have from your service and deployments with the Military Museum team; secondly, join the "Friends of the NYS Military Museum," which is a non-government charity and volunteer organization that supports the museum

with fund raising and outreach.

"We are always eager to accept artifacts and documents as either donations to the permanent collection or as loans for exhibits," said museum manager Michael Aikey. "We also have our Oral History Program where we video record veterans' stories and maintain them as part of the archives," he added. "The contents of future exhibits often come from veterans and their families," explained Courtney Burns, the museum curator, who creates exhibits at the museum, the State Capitol, Guard Readiness Centers and older armories. Friends is now reaching out to the Guard membership to educate it about the Friends mission and the opportunities it offers to tell the Guard's legacy story. The goal is to attract attention to the museum, the effort to obtain more artifacts and documents for the collections and to grow the Friends membership as a way to help the museum prepare, present and maintain exhibits.



Visitors to the New York State Military Museum can take in an array of exhibits from the Civil War to the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information, go to www.friendsofthenysmilitarymuseum.com. **gt**

Quicker Airport Screening Test

By Tonya K. Townsell, *Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs*

MONTEREY, Calif. - If this pilot is successful, U.S. service members across the nation will be able to use special lanes at participating airports to pass through airport security more quickly, according to the Transportation Security Administration.

Starting mid-November, members of the U.S. Armed Forces traveling out of Monterey Peninsula Airport presented their CAC cards to the travel document checker at the checkpoint for scanning. This test was used to verify the status of IT connectivity necessary for U.S. service members. However, no change in physical screening will occur at this time.

Monterey was selected a test site due to its proximity to the technical team headquarters. The close proximity allows the team to ensure the technology can be installed and function properly in an airport setting.

All members of the United States Armed Forces may use the program to include the National Guard and Reserve Components, as well as members of the US Coast Guard. Photo by Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs. **gt**



Inspector General Corner

By Col. Eric Hesse, Inspector General

Dotting the I's and Crossing the T's

As we have crossed the LD into the second quarter and the beginning of a new calendar year, we all start with our resolutions. Whether we resolve to lose a few pounds or improve our physical training it is all about making a change. This year I would challenge us all, including the Inspector General's Office, to spend a little more time on attention to detail. I've always known it as dotting the I's and crossing the T's.

This impacts Soldier readiness in many ways. There are promotion boards pending as well as selective retention boards and we all want our records to be as accurate as possible. I know, because we get the Soldiers' calls. There are many Soldiers who feel disenfranchised by the process because as hard as they may try, their records never seem to be correctly updated before they reach the board. I believe this to be a challenge for the limited full time force, but we owe it to our Soldiers to make sure we dot those I's and cross those T's.

We've also begun an aggressive inspection program this year that will look at over 50 units for training and reporting accuracy, as well as

a compressed inspection focused on delinquency rates on government credit cards. What I can report thus far is that when it comes to credit cards we are not close to the attention to detail it takes to get these right the first time. Some responsibility falls on the traveler, but the majority of the errors are because reviewers really aren't taking the time to do a proper review of the voucher. Aside from the black eye delinquent credit card balances give the State and Military as a whole, the real impact is on the Soldier who gets paid but then goes and spends what should have gone directly to the credit card. There are checks and balances in place but we are not using them and therefore travel will become more difficult.

There is a lot of good work and training going on in the New York National Guard but as in our personal lives there is always room for improvement. So let's resolve to get back to the basics and focus on dotting the I's and crossing the T's in all aspects of our Soldiers' and units' business. **gt**

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Capt.) Terry Leininger, 427th Brigade Support Battalion

Balance Through Separation



The three loves of my life are my faith, my family, and my country. I'll never forget how proud I was to raise my right hand four years ago to join the Army National Guard as a chaplain. I was finally given an official

position in which I could honor my family through service "For God and Country"—the Army Chaplain motto.

The one thing I could not fully comprehend was the challenge that the military would bring to the priority of my family. The experience of deployment separation is the only thing that can bring that awareness.

This year, my family and I will take the plunge into a second deployment in my Army endeavor. One thing that I try to remember is that I need to bless my family for all of their sacrifices. Men and women of the military will always face family separation. That separation can be lessened by listening purposefully

to the felt needs of our children and spouses. With new technological capabilities, we can do this listening when we are at home and when we are away. Just some ideas in case you were looking for some; perhaps you might try buying a reasonably priced toy like a set of Legos and building them with your son or daughter so that when they play with the toy after your departure, they have the memory of the time you shared with them to put the toy together. Another idea might be to take your son or daughter to see their favorite team play or to a concert of their favorite music group. After the event, try framing the ticket stub with a picture of yourselves at the event. Each time they look at the framed picture and ticket stub, they will remember all the events of the trip that day with you.

We can always make great connections with our spouses by sending flowers or gifts through internet distributors on significant days. Buying tickets to go to an event or reservations to a place that your spouse has always dreamed of, will bring opportunities to make memories you will always talk about afterward. This can be done before leaving or can be scheduled for after your return giving both of you something to look forward to. The trick to balance is quality not quantity. **gt**



Spc. Lawrence Stayton, a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry visits with his daughter, two and a half-year old Selena, during a Build-A-Bike event the USO and New York National Guard Family Programs sponsored in conjunction with the units return from the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. on October 22, 2011.

Winter Driving Safety Tips



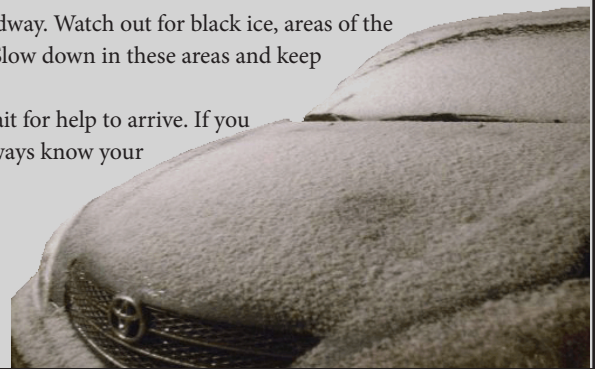
If you find yourself driving in the snow, stay alert, slow down and stay in control. These are the three key elements to safe driving in the snow. Here are a few other tips for driving in the snow:

- If you think you may be heading into snow or there is a possibility of driving in the snow, make sure you do a maintenance check on your vehicle before making the trip. Check the vehicle battery, belts and hoses, anti-freeze, oil, lights, brakes, heater and defroster and check the exhaust system for leaks which may allow carbon monoxide to enter the vehicle.
- Plan your route ahead of time and give yourself extra travel time. Make sure someone knows your travel plans.
- Wear comfortable clothing that does not restrict your movement while at the wheel. Keep warm clothing available for when you exit the vehicle.
- Always clear any snow and ice from all windows, lights, mirrors and the roof before driving. After starting the vehicle wait for the interior windows to clear of fog so you will have appropriate visibility.
- Make sure there is sufficient windshield washer fluid in the vehicle reservoir and that it is rated for freezing temperatures.
- It takes longer to stop on slippery surfaces, so add additional time to the three-second rule.
- Know the proper handling procedures for a skidding vehicle.
- Slow down in snow and icy conditions, make turns slowly, and make all starts slow and smooth.
- Remember that bridges and overpasses may freeze before the regular travel lanes of a roadway. Watch out for black ice, areas of the roadway that appear black and shiny and where your vehicle can suddenly lose traction. Slow down in these areas and keep your foot off the brakes.
- If you get stuck or stranded, don't panic. Stay with your vehicle for safety and warmth. Wait for help to arrive. If you have a cell phone and are in an area with cell phone service, try calling for help. Try to always know your exact locations while driving.
- Keep your clothing dry. Wet clothing can lead to dangerous loss of body heat.

U.S. Combat Readiness Center, <https://safety.army.mil/>.

National Safety Council, <http://www.nsc.org/search/results.aspx?k=winter%20driving>.

Provided by 1st Lt. Alicia Howard, Safety Specialist



Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

Enlisted Qualitative Retention Board for 2012

The New York Army National Guard will conduct an Enlisted Qualitative Retention Board from March 19-23, 2012 in accordance with AR 135-205, and Army National Guard Human Resource Policy Memorandum # 11-073. The objectives of the board are to ensure only the best qualified Soldiers are retained beyond 20 years of qualifying service for retirement purposes. The retention ensures opportunity for advancement to the next higher grade at the peak years of a Soldier's effectiveness and satisfies the continuing requirements for senior NCOs by the appropriate commands.

Each Soldier identified for screening has been mailed a copy of a personalized memorandum, as well as an enlisted data sheet. This sheet must be signed by the Soldier and by the Soldier's Battalion Commander, with a recommendation for retention. It also provides the Commander the opportunity to write comments pertaining to the Soldier's performance and his or her ability to perform their assigned duties.

Additionally, each Soldier screened must provide a MEDPROS Statement showing a current Physical or Periodic Health Assessment, a DA Form 705 which will include the previous 2 years of record APFTs taken with Height and Weight Data, and a copy of the Soldier's recent DA Form 5500/5501 accomplished within the past 6 months (if needed). Enlisted Records Brief (ERB) will not be required, as the brief is still in the fielding stages.

The board is not a separation board, it is a retention board for Soldiers meeting the criteria laid out in AR 135-205, and the ARNG-HRH Policy Memorandum # 11-073 for Soldiers who are BEST qualified for continued service in the NYARNG.

What can you do to prepare yourself for the board? Ensure your packet is received by February 28, 2012 to MNP-PAR. Meet with your Company/Battalion Human Resources Representative and do a careful screening of your iPERMS with a watchful eye of your performance fiche. Look to see if you have a current evaluation, and if you have recently completed Non-Commissioned Officer Education (NCOES), check to see whether a corresponding DA Form 1059 is present.

Lastly, check your data sheet! If you have been given an APFT or Height and Weight, and the data is not captured on the data sheet, be sure you have Company/Battalion HR Rep make the appropriate updates.

Web Based Enlisted Promotion Packet Program

In response to the National Guard Bureau directed changes to the Enlisted Promotion System, and the personnel services delivery redesign, the Military Personnel Directorate will field a new web-based EPP Program. The program is designed to be in complete compliance with NGR 600-200, and our own NYARNG Regulation 600-2. This program will allow promotion authorities to manage and make their own selections, and will be completely digital. What does this mean for the Soldier? It means quite simply, that the Enlisted Promotion Program will be a more tangible program, which the individual Soldier can take more ownership of. It will provide careful oversight and integration of Human Resources professionals, from the bottom up. Some great features of the program will be a user-friendly zone selection interface, digital uploading of the NYARNG Form 624-1 at the company or battalion level, auto-generated advancement rosters, and a manual input of Army course data. We will begin test fielding this in the second Quarter of FY2012, which will coincide with the E9, E8 and E7 promotion boards.

2011 Deployment Guide Provides Information and Resources for All Phases of Deployment

The 2011 Military Deployment Guide provides extensive information for service members and their families. The 370 page guide is meant to assist in navigating the challenges faced while preparing for, during, and after deployment, as well as during the reintegration phase following deployment. Within the guide, service members and their families will find information on what to expect and how to approach each phase of deployment. The guide also features links to related websites and documents that can provide additional information. Go to: <https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil/Pages/DisplayAnnouncement.aspx?AnnouncementID=110>.

ALARACT Messages Link

Recently published All Army Activity (ALARACT) messages are posted on AKO at the following link. These messages often provide the implementation instruction for new policy and or regulatory changes which will impact on Soldiers, Commanders, and their families. Go to: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/550282>.

Army Human Resources Command (HRC) Awards and Decorations Branch Home Page

This HRC site provides you with critical information on the Army's awards and decorations program and its related subject areas. The mission is to provide quality personnel service, support and administration of the Army awards program that recognizes Soldiers for excellence. The site has a comprehensive Q & A link which provides easy to understand guidance concerning many areas to include the Afghanistan/Iraq Campaign Medals, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Combat Action Badge and more. Visit <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/awards/index.htm>.

Suicide Prevention Website Update

The Army Suicide Prevention office initiated a recent modification to the Army Suicide Prevention Program Website: www.preventsuicide.army.mil, to enhance functionality and expedite information searches. A new "Sitemap" feature has been added to the top right and left sidebar of the homepage that, when accessed, conveniently provides subscribers with full access to the entire content of the website. This modification features "hot-links" to all of Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention content and is both categorized and searchable. <https://forums.army.mil/communitybrowser.aspx?id=1634713&lang=en-US>.

DOD Beneficiaries (Former Spouses) and DEERS Entitlement

Eligible Uniformed Service Former Spouses of a military service member may continue to receive benefits under his/her own record under certain conditions. The document attached at the following link provides information/clarification concerning eligibility criteria for Former Spouses who are seeking eligibility under the 20/20/20 or 20/20/15 rule, and hopes to answer questions and clear up some of the confusion surrounding this entitlement. <https://forums.army.mil/communitybrowser.aspx?id=1638132&lang=en-US>.

More Time for Gulf War Veterans

Veterans of the Persian Gulf War with undiagnosed illnesses have an additional five years to qualify for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. For VA benefit purposes, Gulf War Veterans are defined as those who served on active duty in the Southwest Asia theater during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn.

At issue is the eligibility of veterans to claim VA disability compensation based upon those undiagnosed illnesses, and the ability of survivors to qualify for VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. The new change means any undiagnosed illnesses used to establish eligibility for VA benefits must become apparent by Dec. 31, 2016. Veterans or survivors who believe they qualify for these benefits should contact VA at **1-800-827-1000**.

New VA Health Services Webpage

VA's Health Services Research & Development Service recently launched a web page designed for the veteran community. The webpage offers features describing health services research into critical topics such as women's health and PTSD. Visitors can also read about current research news and also watch videos featuring VA health services investigators talking about their work. To learn more about VA's Health Services Research & Development Service (HSR&D), visit VA's HSR&D webpage at www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/.

New VA Facebook Pages

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that all of its 152 medical centers are now actively represented on Facebook. The Department of Veterans Affairs now has 150 Facebook pages, 64 Twitter feeds, a YouTube channel, a Flickr page, and the Vantage Point blog. VA clinicians cannot discuss the specific health concerns of individual veterans on Facebook, but that does not prevent staff from monitoring VA's sites closely each day to provide helpful information to veterans when they can. For more information, visit www.va.gov/opa/SocialMedia.asp.

On Veteran's Day 2011, Google launched "Google for Veterans and Families"

This site pulls together several Google services to help service members and their families. Through tools such as Google Voice and Google Finance, the site helps users find jobs, manage finances, and stay in contact with service members and families. Google Docs allows Service members to upload and virtually store their records, including their DD 214, duty history, awards, orders, promotions, and medical documents. Google for Veterans and Families caters to Vets, their Family members, and Service members that are currently deployed with special capabilities for each group. Veterans can document their deployments and record the history of their service through maps, photos, and videos. Additional tools allow Families to access peer support and stay connected with their Veterans. The site also offers service members that are currently deployed the ability to call home for free through Gmail.

State Line of Duty Investigations

In the last edition of the MILPO Corner, we addressed Line of Duty investigations, to include those while in a State Active Duty status, linking them to Workman's Compensation. Those investigations related to State Active Duty (SAD) DO NOT entitle Soldier's to Workman's Compensation. Please contact Ms. Tina Lehning at (518) 786-4715 for specific guidance.

Please Visit the MNP Web Page on AKO

We are constantly updating the page with the latest information pertinent to professional development and readiness. Soldiers can also get a quick snapshot of personal metrics such as APFT, last NCOER, etc. Go to <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/8808> to check your status and get the latest information.

First Responders Take Over Downtown Kingston

Story by Spc. Trisha Pinczes, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

KINGSTON - Sirens on emergency vehicles wailed as more than 600 New York Army and Air National Guard members and civilian first responders conducted a terrorism response drill in downtown Kingston November 5, 2011.

The exercise gave the New York National Guard a chance to test the skills of its

CERFP (CBRN [Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear] Enhanced Response Force Package). The 330 CERFP Soldiers and Airmen are specially trained to detect the presence of hazardous materials and relieve civilian first responders and sustain emergency rescue operations after an attack.

With the exercise taking place in downtown Kingston, local residents observed as military

and civilian forces reacted, in stages, to a simulated dirty bomb detonation.

When sent in, the search and extraction team, composed of Soldiers from the 1156th Engineer Co. suited up and began examining the site and the casualties.

"The search and extraction team breaches the area and assesses the number and injuries of the casualties," said Capt. Jennifer Sheringham a WMD (weapons of mass destruction) plans and operations officer. "They are the first ones notified of a chemical presence from the civilian first responders."

As the search and extraction team brought simulated casualties to the decontamination site, the next stage kicked-off.

The extraction teams sent casualties through

a series of tents where they were rinsed and retested for signs of chemical or radioactive activity.

Working together in an urban environment for the first time, the CERFP and the civil support team practiced a real world situation to better prepare for an unexpected disaster.

"Our goal today is to look at our response time, see how we are working as a group and pinpoint our deficiencies," Sheringham said. "We try to make it as realistic as possible so that if something does happen we know we'll be ready."

Operating in a high stress environment does not come without difficulty.

"Personnel are a struggle because we have some people that really know what they are



KINGSTON - Soldiers of the 1156th Engineer Company in full hazardous material gear assist a civilian participant during the extraction phase of a joint force first responders exercise in reaction to a radioactive attack. New York Army and Air National Guardsmen collaborated with local authorities to help train for the response to a radioactive terrorist attack on November 6, 2011. Photo by 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

doing, and then some that are doing this type of training for the first time and that makes it hard,” said Sgt. Ruffy Galsim, the non-commissioned officer in charge of non-ambulatory decontamination said. “Our unit does this training at least every two months in order to keep up with new Soldiers coming into the unit.”

Working in an urban environment, space is not negotiable, Galsim said.

“Every scenario is different,” Galsim said. “In a small area like this we have to be able to coordinate ourselves with the space that we are given.”

Cooperation between civil and military forces is essential for training but does not come without certain challenges, said Major Fred McCoy, the executive officer of the 104th Military Police Battalion. The battalion serves as the command and control element for the CERFP.

“There are always obstacles but the hardest part is getting together and getting it right,” McCoy said. “The Soldier’s, Airmen, and civilian forces really came together and integrated well.”

Closing down a major part of downtown Kingston for a training exercise and the amount of coordination in working with so many different support teams in no way outweighs the importance of the exercise itself, he said.

“In a natural disaster this is what would happen,” McCoy said. “We would in such a case integrate with civilian forces so this integration is reality” he added. **gt**



*Simulated Dirty Bomb
Detonation in Downtown
Kingston video QR code*

Guard Security Doesn't Take a Holiday



NEW YORK - Spc. Brittany Holly (left), a member of Joint Task Force Empire Shield assists law enforcement during Operation Safe Rail at Grand Central Station on November 23, 2011 as New Yorkers and other Americans head to their Thanksgiving holiday destinations on the busiest travel day of the year. More than 250 members of the task force will join the New York Police Department, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police and other law enforcement agencies in security arrangements aimed at protecting holiday travelers. Photo by Warrant Officer Ubon Mendie, New York Guard.

Spc. James Torres (below) assigned to Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the New York National Guard's full time security force in New York City, patrols Pennsylvania Station with police officers on Christmas Eve. The members of Joint Task Force Empire Shield supported civilian police agencies in providing a security presence in New York City over the Christmas holiday weekend. Photo by Master Sgt. William Gandino, New York Guard.



Empire Shield Hosts South African General

South African Military Attache' Tours Task Force

By Capt. Alvin Phillips, 138th Public Affairs Detachment



Lt. Col. Peter Riley (left) speaks with Brig. Gen. Mogoruti Ledwaba as Senior Master Sgt. Edwin Mondezie observes. The discussion centered around the Task Force duties and responsibilities for security operations in New York City. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sandra Moody, Joint Force Headquarters.

NEW YORK - South African Defence and Air Attaché got a first-hand look at Joint Task Force Empire Shield's operations at Grand Central Station, Fort Hamilton, and on the East River in November, 2011.

Brig. Gen. Mogoruti Ledwaba, said he wanted to see how the New York National Guard's security operation in New York City compares to what the South African National Defense Force does back home. Ledwaba said he wanted to learn about command and control, emergency preparedness and emergency management.

Ledwaba's day-long visit on Nov. 29, started with a briefing from Lt. Col. Peter Riley, Empire Shield's commander. Riley explained the task force's mission and its history in the days after the September 11, 2001.

Coast Guard Station Staten Island was the first stop of the tour. Ledwaba boarded the New York Naval Militia's Patrol Boat 440 for a

tour on a security assessment tour of the East River, pausing for stops along the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Manhattan Bridge, Roosevelt Island and concluding at the North Cove Marina. The crew of the boat explained how they supplement United States Coast Guard security arrangements in New York City by providing another set of eyes in the harbor.

The World Trade Center Memorial was the next stop on the itinerary and marked a more somber and reflecting feel to the visit.

The General listened intently as Riley shared accounts of his experiences following the days after 9/11. Air Guard Senior Master Sgt. Edwin Mondezie, the task force's senior NCO, offered a different account; talking to the general about his role as a member of the New York Police Department and his brothers and sisters-in-arms.

Ledwaba chatted with other on-lookers and noted how appropriate the memorial was to the living and the dead. In essence, the memorial provided and captured the very reason for the general's visit, which entails that South Africa like any other nation must do everything possible and preventable to never allow a repeat of that tragic day, Ledwaba said.

Finally, the general toured Grand Central Station Terminal where he and Riley inspected Soldiers and Airmen.

New York National Guard and South Africa Defence Forces have been training together since 2003 as a part of the State Partnership Program. The program is a National Guard initiative that grows relationships, enhances international security and builds capacity across all levels of society. **gt**

Guardsmen Performed Record Number of Funerals in 2011

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director



Spc. Jeremy Woodell, a member of the 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion in Latham, plays taps at The Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Colonie. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

LATHAM - The New York Military Forces Honor Guard performed more military funeral honors in 2011--10,753--than in any other year since it was created in 1999.

In 2010, the Honor Guard provided honors at the funerals of 10,415 Soldiers, service members, and veterans, said Don E. Roy, the director of the program since 2003. The bulk of these funerals, more than 90 percent, were for veterans of the Second World War, Roy said.

There are 60 New York Army National Guard Soldiers who work full-time with the Honor Guard and 70 who participate in funerals on a part-time basis, working out of nine offices located across the state from Long Island to Buffalo.

On average, the New York Honor Guard, which took first-place in the nationwide National Guard Honor Guard competition, conducts 900 funerals each month.

While the bulk of funerals have been for World War II veterans, the Honor Guard is now participating in the funerals of more and more Korean War veterans and Vietnam War veterans, Roy said.

The Honor Guard has participated in the funerals of the 32 New York Army National Guard Soldiers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, although there were no funerals for New York National Guard Soldiers in 2011.

However, the Honor Guard did participate in ten repatriated remains ceremonies in 2011, Roy said. These were cases in which remains from past wars were finally identified and laid to rest.

The reason for the increase in funerals, aside from deaths in an aging population, is that more people are becoming aware that their loved one may be entitled to military honors at their funeral, Roy said.

Any veteran, with an honorable discharge, whether they served during peacetime or wartime, whether they retired or not, is entitled to military honors at their funeral, Roy said.

The Honor Guard has been conducting more than 10,000 funerals annually since 2007. Only California's Honor Guard performs more funerals than New York's, Roy said.

Since the program started in 1999, the New York Military Forces Honor Guard has participated in more than 88,000 funerals for serving service members and veterans.

"People are starting to hear about us, and we are proud to honor those who served." Roy said. **gt**



Adjutant General Meets MPs at Guantanamo Bay



Army Guard
Director
Visits Troops at
GITMO Video
QR Code

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba - New York Army National Guard Capt. Christopher Marion, Commander of the 107th Military Police Company, speaks with Lieutenant General William E. Ingram, Jr. the Director of the Army National Guard during a visit to the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility on Jan. 19. The Utica-based 107th Military Police Company is providing security at the facility. Also visiting the company was Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York. Brig Gen. James Lettko, a New York Army National Guardsman currently serving as Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo joined the group. Photo courtesy of Guantanamo Bay Public Affairs Office.

Counter Drug Task Force Offered Programs in 100 Schools in 2011

Twenty-five Soldiers and Airmen Worked with 8,000 Students During the Year

By Guard Times Staff



New York Air National Guard Tech Sgt. Jessica Mattingley works with a student during a Stay on Track Program event.

SCOTIA - More than 100 communities across New York State welcomed Soldiers and Airmen of the New York National Guard in 2011, not to hear about their overseas war-time experiences, but to share life skills with students and keep them drug-free.

Part of the nation's War on Drugs is fought in classrooms by Soldiers and Airmen of the New York National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force. The Guardsmen and women support drug prevention coalitions, other state organizations and local agencies to reduce the abuse and illegal use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

The force has 25 certified Drug Demand Reduction Soldiers and Airmen who supervise the Guard's Stay on Track curriculum, a key part of the prevention program. In 2011, the task force reached more than 8,000 middle school

students (grades 6, 7 and 8) in 100 different schools.

"We do basically anything that would get the kids off the street," said Lt. Col. Richard Sloma, commander of the Counterdrug Task Force, based in Scotia,

"Our Soldiers and Airmen are providing activities that help community organizations engage kids," he said. "We provide a number of alternate activities (to drug use). We have several of those programs." Students in the program participate in interactive activities with the National Guard mentors and learn about the negative consequences of substance abuse.

The Stay on Track program offers an innovative, fun, and comprehensive approach to substance abuse prevention. The research-based curriculum is designed for classroom implementation by teachers. Special emphasis is given to tobacco, club drugs, hallucinogens, alcohol, prescription drugs, marijuana, and inhalants.

Each level of training also provides four modules to reinforce the benefits of living a drug-free life, from health education, decision making and setting goals, peer communications and interpersonal skills, and influences of the media.

"This unique program provides a mechanism under which National Guard military experience can be employed to assist civilian law enforcement agencies to fight the corrosive effect of illegal drugs in American society," said Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, during his May 2010 senate testimony for the 2011 National Guard Budget.

The National Guard Counterdrug Task Force partners with other state and federal entities, including the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, New York State Police, the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and a variety of community-based organizations across the state.

"We are trying to work in coalitions," Sloma said.

By working in partnership towards a common goal, the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force sponsored drug-free activities and programs to expand their reach to more than 23,000 children this past year.

"We try to go to events where there are multiple exposures to us," Sloma said. "The kids show up once a week for a summer program, or we work with the Police Athletic League, Boys and Girls Clubs, Four-H, you name it."

Overall, the program covers 12 education sessions, normally spread over 12 weeks, Sloma said, depending on the schedule of the school partnering with the Guard.

"We send in one Guardsman, one Soldier or Airmen and they'll go to the school, show up in uniform and help run the program," Sloma said.

The Stay on Track program, which cost approximately 1.1 million dollars in the 2011 fiscal year, is expected to visit more than 60 schools again in 2012.

"I believe in it," said Command Sgt. Maj. Roland Wells, the senior noncommissioned officer with the program for 13 years. "I have seen firsthand students that have matured and I have seen them succeed outside of the school environment."

The National Guard utilizes their unique resources as a community-based military force to assist local and state law enforcement to reduce the supply of drugs in America and help youth make a commitment to be drug-free.

Guardsmen support both the reduction in supply through their assistance to interdiction efforts as well as implementing a Drug Demand Reduction program through awareness and prevention tactics in communities throughout the state.

More information about the Counterdrug program can be found at www.dnna.ny.gov and the Counterdrug Task Force at www.counterdrug.com. The Stay on Track program public website is at www.ncprs.org/sotNGP. **gt**

Responders to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee Honored During State-of-the-State Speech

By Eric Durr, Public Affairs Director

ALBANY - New York Governor Andrew Cuomo recognized 40 New York Army National Guard Soldiers for their roles as first responders in rescue and response in 2011 during his State-of-the-State address on Jan. 4 here at the state convention center.

The Soldiers and Airmen were among the 50 members of the New York Army and Air National Guard responders to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, joining firefighters, police. The New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were among 277 first responders invited by Cuomo to sit in the audience during his speech.

In his opening remarks the governor invited his guests to stand as he praised them for their efforts in responding to Hurricane Irene and then Tropical Storm Lee in August and September 2011.

"Last summer, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee devastated communities all over the state -- communities that could least afford it. We are still reeling from the damage today," the governor said.

"But in our darkest hours, New York shined the brightest, and the storm clouds had a silver lining: the way New Yorkers responded. People all across the state came together in a beautiful display of community. And our first responders were selfless. They were professional. And they

were courageous. They are what public service is all about," Cuomo said.

At that point he asked the Guard Soldiers and Airmen, along with members of the New York State Police, the New York Park Police, The Department of Environmental Conservation Police, local police and sheriff's departments, volunteer firefighters, and state agency representatives to stand and be recognized.

More than 4,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard were placed on duty at some point during the three week period in August and September in which New York responded to the back-to-back disasters. Rains from Hurricane Irene caused massive flooding in the Catskill Mountains and the Adirondacks, and then Tropical Storm Lee hit, causing high water levels that flooded the Binghamton area.

"It was an honor to represent the National Guard at the governor's event," said Spc. Kara Sharkey, a member of Joint Forces Headquarters. "It's great that the governor recognized the work we did during the storm."

"We're honored that Governor Cuomo took the time in his speech to recognize the New York National Guard among the other first responders," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York. "This was a big moment for the Guardsmen and women who represented the thousands who responded to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee."

"It was a great honor having Governor Cuomo give recognition to all the first responders that came to the aid of Irene flooding victims during the State of the State Address," said Lt. Col. Albert Thiem, a member of the 42nd Infantry Division who helped rescue local citizens in the Catskills.

"We felt his sincerity and very much appreciated the standing ovation," Thiem said.

The Guard's contribution to the hurricane response was also noted in an exhibit of equipment



Gov. Andrew Cuomo addressing state and local politicians and other agencies during his 2012 State of the State address. Courtesy photo.

used by state agencies in the Concourse of the Empire State Plaza. An Army National Guard humvee, like those used during the storm response and one of two New York National Guard Mobile Emergency Response Communications (MERC) systems were on display alongside emergency gear used. The MERC is a satellite system that provides internet connections and voice over the internet phone service. During the response one was used to provide emergency communications in Schoharie County. To mark the completion of an 11-year State Capitol restoration project, the governor unveiled a number of historical exhibits in the building. Among these was an exhibit on the history of the New York National Guard and Militia in the Flag Room of the Capitol. **gt**



New York National Guardsmen stand during the singing of the National anthem song by Maj. Denise Sherman (not shown), also a New York National Guardsman. Photo by Judy Sanders, Office of the Governor.



A New York National Guard Mobile Emergency Response Communications System on display on the Empire State Plaza Concourse during the Governor's State-of-the-State Address on Jan. 4.

Departure of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Story by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team take part in the unit's Yellow Ribbon ceremony, Jan. 28 at the 174th Fighter Wing's hanger in Syracuse. Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Towse, 42nd Infantry Division.

LATHAM – Some 1,800 New York Army National Guard Soldiers mobilized in late January with send off ceremonies across the state as members of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team prepared to depart for training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The mobilization of the brigade followed a two-year preparation and change of mission that saw the brigade mission change from Afghanistan to Kuwait last fall.



Col. Geoffrey Slack, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, gives words of encouragement to his Soldiers during the Yellow Ribbon ceremony in Syracuse Jan. 29.

Family members and communities from Buffalo to New York City came out to send off their National Guard Soldiers Jan. 28 and 29.

"I know that many of you are disappointed that your mission will not be taking you to Afghanistan," said Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division to Soldiers at the Syracuse send off ceremony. "Your mothers and I do not share that sentiment."

Due to changing needs for forces within Central Command, the Army remissioned the mobilization of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team first to a security mission in Kuwait and more recently, to a reduced security force in Kuwait.

Once at Camp Shelby, the Army expects to deploy some Soldiers to Kuwait as planned and will review force needs for potential missions for other Soldiers.

"You just go with the flow," said Sgt. Chris Rigo at the Syracuse send off ceremony. Rigo, of Endicott, served in Afghanistan with the brigade in 2008. "You learn how to deal with things like that in the military."

"Soldiers are only half of the equation. The other half is family support," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the New York State Adjutant General to the hundreds of families attending in Utica. "We could not do this without you. Thank you for everything you represent and everything you do."

Even with the uncertainty, commanders

stressed the important role of keeping in touch with their families back home.

"Our mission is not a real kinetic mission," said Capt. Maurice Amaya to his Soldiers of Company B, 427th Brigade Support Battalion at their Fort Drum departure ceremony. "There will be time, and I believe that relationship between a deployed Soldier and the family member is key."

The uncertainty of future missions was down played by Soldiers of the brigade's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, based in Utica. Soldiers returned from rigorous preparation at Fort Irwin's National Training Center last October fully prepared for a tour in Afghanistan.

"The Army is getting one of the best trained infantry battalions in the entire Army National Guard or in the entire Army," Wickstrom said at the 2-108th send off ceremony in Utica.

"I want to offer you six tips for this deployment," Wickstrom said. Soldiers should live the Army Values, take care of their buddies, stay in contact with family and loved ones, cast aside any fears about their mission, keep their faith and most importantly, stay alive and return home, he told the troops.

"We are ready, we are trained and we are moving forward," Murphy said. The Soldiers going to Kuwait are expected to deploy in April.

"The United States will always have an enduring presence in what is called the CENTCOM AOR (area of responsibility)," said Col. Geoffrey Slack, the 27th Infantry Brigade Commander. "It



Spc. Steven Miner from Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry poses for a photo with his family during the unit departure ceremony here Jan. 29. More than 200 Soldiers from the Utica armory will mobilize at Camp Shelby, Miss. to prepare for a security mission in Kuwait in April. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg.

always has, it always will and this brigade is going over to support that mission as directed by the general officers over there.”

“But what country they end up in, and what mission is set, we’re going to figure that out in the weeks ahead,” Slack said.

The Soldiers departed New York from Hancock Air National Guard Base on Jan. 31. **gt**



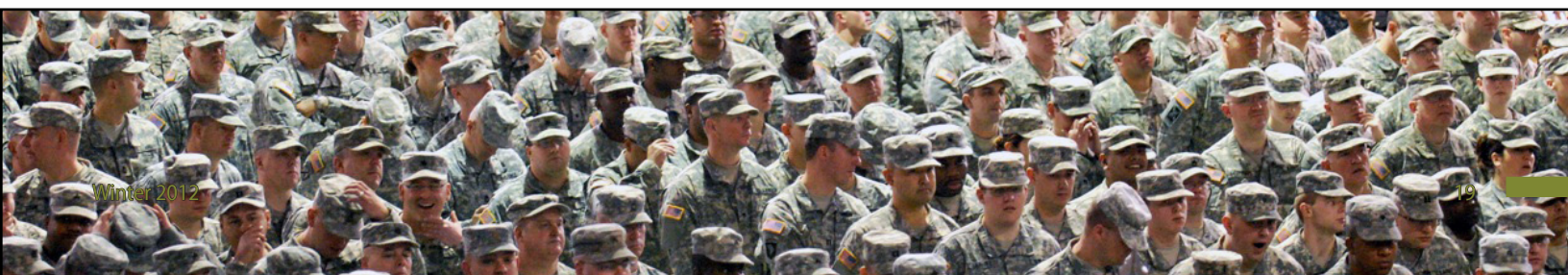
Scan this QR code to see the Youtube video of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's departure ceremony.



Spc. Christian J.M. Jackson, a multi-channel transmissions system operator with the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Charlie Signal Co., his five-year old daughter, Mariyah Oquendo and girlfriend Krystal Oquendo share a moment together following the Yellow Ribbon ceremony at the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo on Saturday morning. Spc. Jackson also has two sons, Michael, age three and Isaiah who is four-years old. Photo by Spc. Jimmy Bedgood, 42nd Infantry Division.



Spc. Steve Gomez, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry awaits orders to perform honor guard duties during their departure ceremony held at the Ithaca Armory on Jan. 29. Gomez and his unit will be deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Maj. Ben Tupper, 42nd Infantry Division.



MP Soldiers Say Farewell to Families

Photo and story by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters



Sgt. Joseph Calleja, 727th Military Police (Law and Order) Detachment presents his two-year old son, Joseph Jr. and his wife Yahaira, with a "Soldier" Build-A-Bear during a departure ceremony on Nov. 27. The bears were donated to the unit and each Soldier was able to record a personalized message to their loved ones. The 727th Soldiers departed for their deployment training and police certification at Fort Bliss, Texas and will provide safety and security for operations bases in northern Afghanistan later this year.

PEEKSKILL - Just because Sgt. Joseph Calleja, a member of the 727th Military Police (Law and Order) Detachment, left home Nov. 27, it doesn't mean his two year-old son, Joseph Jr. won't hear from him on a nightly basis.

Thanks to hundreds of community members, dozens of "Soldier" Build-A-Bears were donated to the unit and each of the 45 Soldiers who departed for pre-mobilization training on Nov. 27 was able to record a personalized message to their loved ones.

"This was a wonderful gift. My son will know that if he misses daddy, all he has to do is hug his bear and he will hear me say I love you," Calleja said.

Calleja and the other 727th Soldiers left for Fort Bliss, Texas

where they will spend a month conducting overseas deployment training and receive their final police certification before leaving for Afghanistan. Once in northern Afghanistan, the unit will provide safety and security for operations bases there.

"From our chain of command to our family readiness group to our community volunteers, we have a terrific support group," said Capt. Richard Powell, Commander of the 727th. "They have been with us throughout our training and will remain with us throughout the deployment, so we know they will take care of things here while we take care of business over there." **gt**

Greene County Honors Soldiers for Flood Response

KINGSTON - New York Army National Guard Capt. Dan Colomb, commander of the 1156th Engineer Company, displays the Greene County Proclamation presented by Legislative Chairman Wayne Speenburgh and members of the Greene County Legislature, at left, following a honors ceremony here at the Kingston Armory Jan. 7. About 120 Soldiers from the 1156th Engineers staged with other New York National Guard troops prior to the landfall of Hurricane Irene August 26, 2011 at Camp Smith and Kingston, N.Y.

When flooding occurred in Windham and other communities, Soldiers were sent to aid civil authorities to help rescue trapped civilians in Windham, the Soldiers had to get out of their vehicles, lock arms, enter the sometimes waist-deep water, and use baby steps to find safe fording sites free of drop-offs or other hazards, Colomb said. Photo by Spc. Brian Godette, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



End of a Leadership Era

Story and photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom (right), commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, presents a historic print of the division's Iraq deployment signed by many of the veterans of the unit as a retirement gift to Brig Gen. Paul Genereux during Genereux's retirement ceremony here on Jan. 14. Genereux served as Deputy Commander of the Division during the unit's deployment to Iraq in 2005.

WEST POINT - New York Army National Guard Brig Gen. Paul Genereux ended nearly four decades of uniformed service on Saturday, Jan. 14 with a retirement ceremony at West Point surrounded by friends, family and fellow Soldiers. He has led New York Army National Guard

Soldiers through the Army's transition from the Cold War, through the Gulf War and into the new millennium's overseas contingency operations after 9/11.

Genereux has led Army National Guard Soldiers at the company, battalion, brigade and division com-

mand positions with the New York Army National Guard during his nearly 40 years of military service, including 34 years as a commissioned officer.

He was joined by the four past commanders of the 42nd Infantry Division which he led from 2006 to 2009 for the ceremony, including Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom and retired Maj. Gens. Joseph Taluto and Thomas Garrett. Their leadership of the "Rainbow Division," as it is known, stretches back more than a decade.

"When I think of words that best define Paul Genereux's service, loyalty comes first," Maj. Gen. Taluto, Genereux's commander while deployed in Iraq with the 42nd Infantry Division and former Adjutant General of New York said.

"There is no one more loyal to his seniors, subordinates, Soldiers and unit than Brig. Gen. Genereux. I know that first hand."

His career has led to his most recent assignment from May 2009 until the present as the Assistant Adjutant General - Army for the

New York National Guard. He was responsible for ensuring that New York Army National Guard units were prepared to mobilize in support of federal or state missions.

"I may have to finally stop wearing the uniform," Genereux said in his remarks at the retirement ceremony, "but I don't have to stop being a Soldier. I still live the Army values, think like a Soldier, still keep the memories of being a Soldier and still keep my friends who are Soldiers."

"I have seen the best and the worst of the Army and the Army Guard," Genereux said.

"Leadership matters," Genereux said, "and those who've served with me have heard it more than once."

"Paul, you did good," Taluto said. "Roe, you can have him back now full time. It is time for you two to enjoy the fruits of your labor." **gt**

High School Students Learn Guard Story

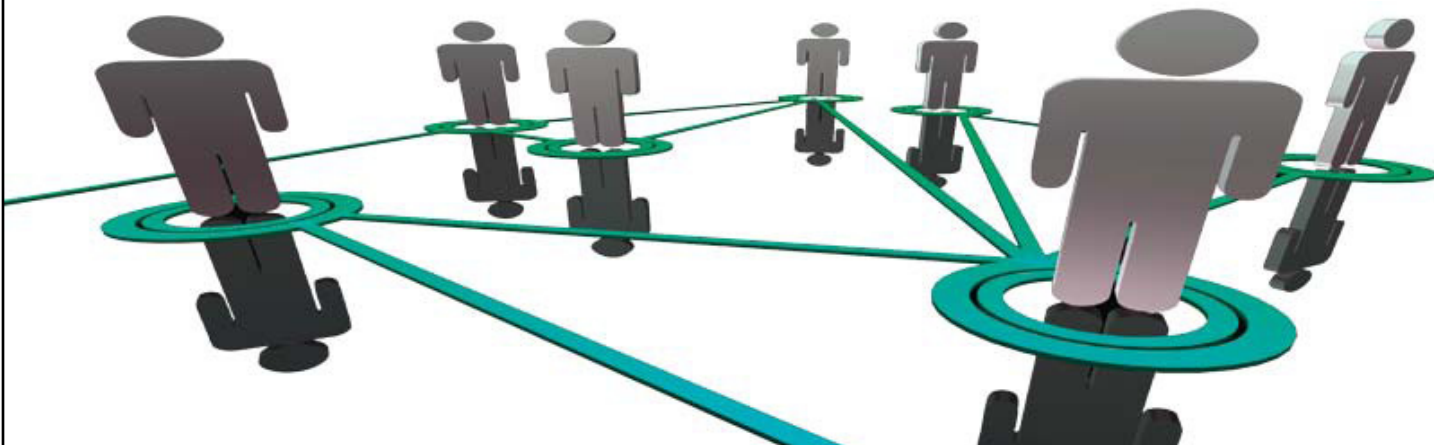
NEW YORK - Sophomore students from Williamsburg High School in Brooklyn participated in an educational seminar November 7-8, 2011 at the Park Avenue Armory.

They moved in groups of 15-25 through various stations in the armory. The 53rd Army Liaison Team's station was in the Colonels room.

Col. Trevor Jackson (pictured) discussed why he joined the National Guard and the role of the Guard. They were shown a short version of the video the 375th Anniversary of the National Guard stopping at World War I and then talked about events to date. The students were asked trivia questions and received memorabilia when they answered correctly. They were most intrigued by the Individual Body Armor and Meals-Ready-to-Eat. The teachers and members of the seminar were pleased with their efforts and there was a great deal of lingering and follow up questions. Photo by Master Sgt. Jaime Mendez, 53rd Army Liaison Team.



SOCIAL NETWORKING



Social Networking Sites

Social networking sites (SNSs), like Facebook® and Twitter®, are great ways to connect with people, share information, and market products and services. However, these sites can also provide adversaries, such as terrorists, spies and criminals, with the critical information they need to disrupt your mission and harm you, your co-workers, or even your family members.

The more information adversaries can obtain, the more opportunities they have to cause damage at your expense. Practicing good operations security (OPSEC) will minimize the risks that come from participating in SNSs, and help you to recognize and protect your critical information.

Critical Information

Your critical information is any information that you or your mission manager considers sensitive. Here are some examples:

- Names and photos of you, your family and co-workers;
- Usernames, passwords, computer and networking information;
- Job title, location, salary, grade, clearances;
- Operational, security, and logistical data;
- Mission capabilities or limitations;
- Schedules and travel itineraries;
- Social Security numbers, credit card, and banking information;
- Work or personal addresses and phone numbers; and,
- Interests, hobbies, likes, and dislikes.



Countermeasures

Follow computer security guidelines: Adversaries prefer to go after easy targets. Keep your computer security up-to-date and make yourself a hard target.

Never login from risky locations: Public SNSs generally do NOT have secure login available (HTTPS with the lock icon). If you login from a hotel, cyber-café, or airport hotspot, particularly ones in foreign countries, your name and password can be captured at any time.

Keep your password secure: Use different, strong passwords for each online account.

Never give your password away.

Modify your search profile: Do a search for yourself and if too much data comes up, go to your settings and restrict your search profile.

Don't depend on the SNS for confidentiality: Even SNSs that aren't open and public by design can become so due to hacking, security errors, poor data management practices, and data brokering. In some cases, the site terms of service explicitly claim ownership of all your posted content.

Treat links and files carefully: Social engineers and hackers post links in comments and try to trick you into downloading an "update," "security patch," or "game."

Don't trust add-ons: Plugins, games, and applications are often written by other users, not the SNSs themselves. The authors can easily gain access to your data once you install them.

Don't post critical information: If you don't want it public, don't post it. Search engines and functions make it easy for adversaries to find what they're interested in. Once information is on the Internet, it is there forever.

Review your friends' profiles: The photos or information they post about you may be a problem.

Control "friend" access: Verify a "friend" request by phone or other means before allowing access. Group "friends" (e.g., real life, coworkers, strangers, etc.) and control access permissions based on the groups.



Think. Protect. OPSEC.
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Guardsmen Put on their Game Face



ORCHARD PARK, Buffalo - More than a hundred New York Army National Guardsmen reaffirmed their oath of service and participated in a flag unfurling at the start of a Buffalo Bills National Football League game here November 6, 2011 at Ralph Wilson Stadium, where the Bills hosted the New York Jets. Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 53rd Troop Command and 42nd Infantry Division put on their game face for the event.

"This is our way of showing how much we appreciate and support our troops," said Ashley L. Meganeck, manager of Corporate Partnerships for the Bills.

Photos by Spc. Jimmy Allen Bedgood, 42nd Infantry Division

Change of Command for Aviation Support



ROCHESTER - Col. Mark Stryker (right) presents the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion colors to in-coming commander Lt. Col. Jack James during a change of command ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility 2 on November 5, 2011 as out-going 642nd commander Lt. Col. Scott Norcutt relinquishes command.

Norcutt, who took command in 2008, is an Iraq War veteran and former Deputy Director of Aviation and Safety for Joint Force Headquarters-NY.

James is a West Point graduate who has held leadership roles in the 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion and 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade. He started his aviation career as a pilot with the 25th Infantry Division. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

Virtually Engaging the Enemy



FORT DRUM - Spc. David Acevedo, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade is instructed on how to set up his head gear for use in the Virtual Route Clearing Trainer while other 42nd CAB Soldiers look on. The virtual trainer uses animated battle scenarios to train Soldiers to make life-saving decisions and take action while convoying on roads in Iraq and Afghanistan. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.



Rocky Mountain High:

Colorado Training Prepares 'Kong' for Afghanistan

By Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

Photos by Sgt. Brian Tenace, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion

GYPSUM, Colo. - Flying helicopters in the Rocky Mountains is like flying helicopters in Afghanistan's high country, so the Rochester-based CH-47 aviators of Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Battalion are honing their skills at the Army's high altitude training site here.

Over the next few months the unit, nicknamed "The Kongs" will be rotating air crews through the Rocky's to prepare for an Afghanistan deployment.

"As the commander, this is the most important training my pilots will receive. Having attended this training five years ago prior to the 126th's first deployment to Afghanistan I can say it saved my life on multiple occasions."

said Capt. Eric Fritz, commander of Det. 1. "It provided me with the tools to understand the limitations placed on your aircraft at high altitudes, mountain weather patterns, how to understand mountain wind patterns which produce significant turbulence and most of all how to apply power management to all aspects of helicopter operations."

On Dec. 5, two CH-47s left Army Aviation Support Facility in Rochester for Gypsum, Colo. While in route to the training site, they landed at Lake County Airport, Leadville, the highest airport in the United States with an elevation of 9,927 feet, to promote a crew member, Spc. Andy Macgregor to the rank of Sergeant.

"His promotion orders came the day we left for Colorado, Sgt. 1st Class John Bobeck, the detachment's senior noncommissioned officer, and I thought it would be a unforgettable experience to have Macgregor enter the NCO core at the highest airport in the U.S. He did not know he was getting promoted. It was a surprise. We chose Leadville because it is the highest airport in the United States." Fritz said.

'Having attended this training five years ago prior to the 126th's first deployment to Afghanistan I can say it saved my life on multiple occasions.'

Capt. Eric Fritz



Capt. Eric Fritz (right), commander of Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion promotes Spc. Andy Macgregor to Sgt. in Leadville, Colo. on Dec. 5 while en route to some high altitude training that the 126th is conducting in order to maintain a state of readiness for a possible deployment to Afghanistan.

"It was a great experience, I was not expecting it and its good to know you are one of only a few Soldiers to get promoted at the highest airport in the United States. It's a moment I won't forget. Macgregor said.

The High-Altitude Army Aviation Training Site, is located in this small mountain town near Vail. The school offers a unique training methodology based on aircraft power that is designed to dramatically increase individual and crew situational awareness.

According to Fritz, the most beneficial part of their training is the fear of the unknown, as pilots from New York fly at sea level, having to transition to mountains of Afghanistan can be fearful for the first time. Once you have had an opportunity to train in the mountains of Colorado, where your aircraft has significantly less power, unpredictable weather patterns and extreme turbulence you develop a comfort level and knowledge of mountain operations. **gt**

Learning the Art of Hand-to-Hand Combat



LATHAM - Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade practice combative maneuvers monitored by 2nd Lt. Dawn Hersey on Jan. 8 at the Latham headquarters. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

Holiday Spirit in Harlem



NEW YORK - The atmosphere at the 369th Sustainment Brigade was full of cheer, as Santa's humvee made a stop at the Harlem Armory December 11, 2011.

The sound of tools and Soldier's boots were replaced by the laughs and cheers of children as they played and waited for the arrival of Santa.

"It's great that the unit has this party," said Spc. Raymond Guzman, a brigade human resource specialist. "It boosts morale because not only are you spending time with your family, but you're introducing them to your fellow Soldiers that you work with."

(Photo, left) Staff Sgt. Mark Agard puts his hand over a 369th Sustainment Brigade family member, as he looks to see which contestant will garner the loudest applause from the audience. Photo by Sgt. Michael Davis, 369th Sustainment Brigade.

Training Unit Receives New Commander

By Spc. J.p. Lawrence, 42nd Infantry Division



Lt. Col. Robert Giordano, left, receives the colors of the 1st Battalion, 106th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) during his assumption of command ceremony here Nov. 20. Giordano, an Iraq war veteran from Rexford, took command from Lt. Col. Michael McGurty, also an Iraqi veteran. Photo by Spc. James Roa, 42nd Infantry Division.

CAMP SMITH – A commander returned to his roots Nov. 20 in the rocky, rolling hills and valleys of the Camp Smith Training Facility. Lt. Col. Robert Giordano, who started his military career 30 years ago as a military police Soldier, assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 106th Regional Training Institute, which specializes in military police proficiency training, from outgoing commander Lt. Col. Michael McGurty.

The 106th Regional Training Institute provides Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer training courses for the Army National Guard across New York State and the northeast.

Giordano said the 1st Battalion is already seasoned and proficient and that he hopes to focus on providing support to his trainers. In fact, he said he plans to continue all current policies.

“This battalion already has outstanding NCO trainers,” Giordano said. “It always has. My plan is to help them, make sure that they have resources, so they can complete their mission to the best of their ability.”

Outgoing commander Lt. Col. Michael McGurty, in a speech to the troops he commanded for two and a half years, agreed with this sentiment. “They’re some of the finest NCO’s I’ve ever worked with,” McGurty said.

**‘My plan is to help them, (NCO’s)
make sure that they have resources,
so they can complete their mission
to the best of their ability.’**

Lt. Col. Robert Giordano

Prior to his command of the 1st Battalion, 106th RTI, McGurty served as an operations officer and mentor to the Afghan National Army in 2008 and as an embedded team chief with the 3rd Kandak of the Afghan Army in 2005-2006.

He also has held numerous command, staff and leadership positions, including operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, plans officer for the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, and company command of Company A, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry.

He will continue training Soldiers when he moves onto a role with the Security Partnership Team, which is slated to deploy to Afghanistan to train troops there.

Giordano has served in the military police, field artillery and public affairs career field. He deployed to Iraq with the 42nd Inf. Div. in 2004-2005 and served as a public affairs officer for the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty in North Central Iraq.

“I feel very fortunate to have been selected for command,” Giordano said. “It’s the culmination of almost thirty years, of a career where I started as a [private], as an MP. So to have an opportunity to come full circle, to where I started my career, is amazing.” **gt**

Bronze Star Medals Long Overdue

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



Col. Geoffrey Slack, commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, presents the Bronze Star Medal to Capt. Shawn Tabankin from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry here Jan. 6.



Congresswoman Nan Hayworth congratulates Sgt. Maj. Arnold Stone of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry following the presentation of the Bronze Star Medal to Stone and Capt. Shawn Tabankin on Jan. 6.

CAMP SMITH - Two New York Army National Guard Soldiers preparing to deploy to Kuwait this winter received their combat awards for service in Iraq in 2004 here in a ceremony seven years overdue.

The Soldiers, Capt. Shawn Tabankin and Sgt. Maj. Arnold Stone, Jr. served as platoon leader and platoon sergeant together with 1st Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry during their combat deployment to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Seven years ago we were doing our job. We didn't do it to get awards or recognition," Stone said. "We did it because it was what we were asked to do."

Their award submissions, first submitted in December of 2004, were misplaced during the unit's rotation out of Iraq.

Returning home to New York, the two led the effort to resubmit awards and decorations for the 43 Soldiers assigned to their platoon.

Tabankin from Bedford Hills and Stone from Saranac, were committed to seeing their Soldiers' awards corrected before they would seek redress for their own submissions.

"We didn't want to pursue these last two awards until all our guys were taken care of," Tabankin said.

"They don't give out the Bronze Star, you earn it," said Lt. Col. Joseph Biehler, commander of the 108th Infantry and a former operations officer during the unit deployment. "It's been a long time coming, but it's here."

"They led that platoon in combat operations ... and it did good things for the people of Iraq," Biehler said in describing the platoon's role in combat near Samarra, Iraq in what was called Operation Baton Rouge. "Things got better from there. They did not lose a single Soldier -- a great credit."

The long administrative process and four re submissions to approve the two awards received help from the offices of Congresswoman Nan Hayworth. Hayworth and New York Assemblyman Robert Castelli were on hand to present the awards.

Castelli, himself a Vietnam War veteran, presented the Soldiers with citations from the New York State Assembly for their service.

"It is my honor to honor you," Castelli told the two. "For me, as a Vietnam veteran, it is a very touching thing to be here and honor fellow veterans. As an 18-year-old NCO leading Soldiers in combat, I can appreciate what you do." **gt**

'Rainbow' Division Memorial Honors Soldiers of WWI

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

FÈRE-EN-TARDENOIS, France – With the battle streamers and colors of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division flying, officials from the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation joined U.S., French military and political leaders to dedicate a memorial Nov. 12 to the Soldiers who fought at the Croix Rouge Farm in the summer of 1918.

The memorial, located on the site of the battle near Fère-en-Tardenois, honors the service and sacrifice of WWI servicemen of the 42nd Infantry Division, in particular the men of the 167th Infantry Regiment, an Alabama Army National Guard unit called to federal service in the "war to end all wars."

The ten-foot bronze sculpture statue depicts an American Soldier carrying a dead comrade from the battlefield. The memorial is the gift of an Alabaman in the name of his father, Sgt. William Johnson Frazer, who was wounded in the battle, which involved a bayonet charge by the 167th Infantry Regiment.

The Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation remembers the service of the 167th Infantry Regiment, part of the 42nd "Rainbow" Division of World War I. Through a memorial in France, educational programs and literature on World War I, it promotes the memory of American involvement in World War I and, more specifically, the Alabama contribution.

"This statue on French soil will remind future generations of American deeds in World War I," said Monique Seefried, Chairman of the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation. "The aim of this foundation is to remember the men of the Rainbow in World War I but also to make their history better known. It would be important to ensure that the men serving today in the Rainbow are aware of this memorial and learn that nearly 100 years later, their deeds are not forgotten."

The memorial was erected on grounds that have remained unchanged since the days of the battle. The foundation purchased what remains of the fortified farmhouse of the Croix Rouge and some of the land where the battle took place.

"It is fitting that this monument will remember the tremendous service and sacrifice of the



A ten-foot bronze statue looks down over the Croix Rouge Farm Fère-En-Tardenois, France. The statue was a gift of an Alabaman in the name of his father, Sgt. William Johnson Frazer, who was wounded in the battle, which involved a bayonet charge by the 167th Infantry Regiment. Courtesy photo.

Rainbow Division's 167th Alabama and 168th Iowa Regiments," said Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division in remarks sent for the ceremony. "These Rainbow Soldiers contributed greatly to the liberation of the Chateau-Thierry salient and proved the worth of the American Expeditionary Force in France."

"Let me also add our division's praise to the memorial sculptor James Butler," Wickstrom said. "His insight, vision and work captures the devotion to duty and tremendous sacrifice of our Alabama Regiment and of all servicemen in the Great War."

Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation members joined with Opelika, Ala. Mayor Gary Fuller and City Council President Eddie Smith to represent the Soldiers and descendants of the 42nd Infantry Division at the site of the battle.

"I would like this memorial to the Rainbow in World War I to be also a gesture of appreciation to these new generations and a way to tell them that we won't forget them," Seefried said.

"Today's men and women of the Rainbow Division continue to live up to the legacy of Chateau-Thierry, Champagne, St. Mihiel, the Marne, the Ourcq and the Argonne," Wickstrom said. "They have done so at ground zero where the towers fell in New York City, in the mountains of Afghanistan and across the cities and sands of Iraq."

Still photos of the monument on display this past summer prior to its dedication are found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/charliedave/6059806991/in/photostream>. A video presentation of the ceremony is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPuSlvHvXqg>. **gt**



'Rainbow'
Division
Statue
Honors
Soldiers of
WWI Video
QR code

National Guard Officer Has a Comic Book Alter Ego

By Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*



Comic book script writer and publisher Jon Santana stands by the poster promoting his comic book at ComicCon in New York City on Oct. 15. Photo courtesy of Jon Santana.

NEW YORK - Every good super hero has a secret identity he/she slips back into when it's time to take the cape off after a hard day of besting super villains.

For comic book writer/publisher Jon Santana that alter ego is New York Army National Guard Lt. Jon Santana, Office-In-Charge of the New York Military Forces Honor Guard.

Or maybe it's the other way around?

Santana, OIC of the 147 men and women of the Honor Guard since 2009, has embarked on a part-time job as a comic book script writer and publisher.

It's cheaper than setting-up an animation studio, an idea he played with in 2007, Santana explained, but it still lets him exercise his creative talent on the weekends.

Santana, a Guardsman since 1999, studied screen-writing in college at The State University of New York at Purchase. He enjoyed it and did pretty well at it, Santana said.

"I had always wanted to be a writer, but I had already started a family--he and his wife Kelly have two kids now aged four and eight-- and I wanted to put food on the table so I couldn't go out to L.A. and lead the poor artist's life," Santana recalled.

He did a couple of screenplay treatments, but that wasn't enough to raise a family on, so he became a full-time National Guard Soldier, earning his commission as an officer in 2008.

As OIC of the New York Military Forces Honor Guard Santana oversees the full-time and part-time Honor Guard members who perform more than 10,000 funerals for

veterans annually across New York.

"He's very good at what he does," said Mr. Don Roy, the director of the state's Honor Guard program.

Santana drills with the 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion, and is slated to take command of Company A and deploy with the battalion to Afghanistan in 2012.

He loves the Guard, Santana said, but he also likes the creative outlet that running his own, small, comic book company--Iron Age Comics--gives him.

Screen writing and comic book writing are similar, Santana said. Both screenwriters and comic book writers think in terms of visual scenes. While a screenwriter visualizes a scene that actors and a director can bring to life, the comic book writer is doing something that an artist, an inker, and a colorist can turn into a visual image.

Comic books normally take four people to

produce, Santana said. The writer comes up with the story. The primary artist does the 'pencils,' the quick sketch of the scene. The 'inker' then darkens those pencil sketches with a pen. The "colorist" then colors in the pictures.

Today comic books are either totally or partially digital. The drawing's for Santana's comics are scanned into a digital image by the inker and the colorist does his work using software.

Santana's latest effort, a comic series called "Jaded" is about the challenges that face his super heroes.

"I am using super heroes like Superman and Batman as a metaphor," he said. "Whether you're wearing a cape or wearing an Army uniform, it comes with a certain responsibility and it is sometimes difficult to adhere to those standards."

"The characters in the book have a real tough time because of all the tragedy they see being superheroes," he explained.

In many ways, he said, it's similar to what a Soldier goes through.

"I see what friends who have deployed go through. It is a mix of the stuff that I have seen in friends of mine when they come back from deployment," said Santana, whose first deployment will be with the 101st Signal.

The Jaded Comics, which run about 22 pages each, are different from other books because they contain two stories: one set in the present and one set in the past. Each story is drawn differently by a different artist to set them apart, Santana said.

Santana's comic book dream got a boost recently when his company secured an exhibit space at New York's Comic Con convention on October 15-16.

"The book did very well and we got exceptional feedback from other comic creators and fans," Santana said.

Putting together a comic book is not that different from executing a mission in the military, Santana said.

"I have to communicate with a team. I am working with a bunch of people I need to see my vision. It is like coming up with a mission, getting together the Soldiers, and having them share your vision of the mission," he explained. **gt**

Re-Enlistment Bonus Quick Reference Aid

(As of October 1, 2011)

All BCC's and UCC's must complete Information Assurance Awareness Training and e-mail the completion certificate to: education@ny.ngb.army.mil. MUST complete before IMARC access is granted.

REENLISTMENT AMOUNTS AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES

RE-ENLISTMENT BONUS (REB) PAYMENT DECREMENTING RATES

REB Contract Type	Extend 365-271 days before ETS	Extend 270-181 days before ETS	Extend 180-91 days before ETS
6 Year Re-enlistment Extension	\$10,000	\$7,000	\$5,000

Note: 90-0 days before ETS - no re-enlistment bonus authorized

RE-ENLISTMENT BONUS PAYMENT SCHEDULE

6 Year Extension	50% payment processed upon contract start date and qualification verification	25% payment process upon 3rd year anniversary of contract start date	25% payment process upon 5th year anniversary of contract start date
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RE-ENLISTMENT BONUS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must not exceed ten years time in service at the time of ETS.
- Must be in a pay grade of E-7 and below.
- Soldier must extend/re-enlist DMOSQ in an MOS within an MTOE or Medical TDA unit (MEDCOM) only regardless of State or National assigned strength levels. No other type of TDA units are authorized a REB
- Soldier must be the primary position holder in authorized grade and MOSQ for the position for which re-enlisting/extending. Not in a excess/overstrength status including deployed Soldiers coded '9993' in SIDPERS or 999K in IMARC in a MOS that matches the authorized military grade and skill qualification. Failure to remain the primary slot holder will result in REB termination.
- Soldier who is not DMOSQ due to unit transition/reorganization, deployment, inactivation or relocation and coded '9994' or '9995' and otherwise fully eligible for the incentive is eligible to extend for the REB. Soldier will not receive payment until they are DMOSQ.
- Non-DMOSQ Soldiers at the time of extension must become qualified within 24 months of new contract start date for 6 year extension..
- Soldiers deploying (OCONUS) must be under mobilization Title 10 orders.
- Soldier must have a passing APFT within the past 12 months. Soldiers who have not passed their last APFT are not eligible to enter a new contract.
- Soldiers in Military Technician status (includes technicians on assignment more than 180 days in any continuous 12 month period) are not eligible for a REB even if deployed. Soldiers in AGR status are not eligible including AGR Soldiers in a TPU unit status while deployed.

Note: Re-enlisting Soldier can receive a re-enlistment bonus if he/she is currently receiving benefits from the MGIB Kicker or who have an active SLRP contract on the new contract start date.

RE-ENLISTMENT BONUS (REB) ADDENDUM/EXTENSION CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

- The only authorized REB addendum is NGB 600-7-3-R-E DSIPP printed off of IMARC. The addendum will populate with all required Soldier information entries. All other versions are not authorized.
- Re-enlistment incentive addendums will contain a IMARC generated bonus control number. Date of DA 4836 (Re-enlistment extension) must be the same as the REB bonus addendum. Soldier must sign on the same day.
- The DA 4836 or DD4 must be executed (dated and signed) on the same day of when the REB bonus addendum is dated and signed. Any mismatching dates and signature authority on the DA 4836/DD4 and REB addendum is not valid.
- Re-enlistment bonuses can be offered if the State has the allocated funding in IMARC Budget Management Center for this bonus type in the FY in which the incentive is scheduled for payment to include anniversary payments.

Maintenance Personnel 'Writing' the Book on U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Maintenance Procedures

By Capt. Anthony L. Bucci, 174th Fighter Wing

SYRACUSE - Since Hancock Field Air National Guard Base converted from the F-16 Fighting Falcon to the MQ-9 Reaper, the flight line has become more silent and there has been a noticeable reduction in the level of aircraft maintenance activity on the base.

However, that all began to change recently as the unit commenced MQ-9 flying operations at Wheeler-Sack Army Air Field (WSAAF) at Fort Drum and the 174th Fighter Wing's Maintenance Group resumed a more normal maintenance posture on base.

"Our maintenance personnel have contributed to the creating and/or validation of approximately 80 percent of all maintenance technical data for the U. S. Air Force in regards to maintenance for the MQ-9", said Maj. Tim Martin, 174th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander.

Currently, the 174th flies at its training range located at WSAAF with maintenance personnel positioned there to assist with necessary maintenance requirements. However, when more in-depth maintenance needs to be done those aircraft are boxed up and transported back to Hancock Field where 174th maintenance troops begin the more arduous maintenance work. As a result of this maintenance activity, the unit has been generating a significant amount of technical data concerning the proper maintenance of the MQ-9.

"We are importing what the U.S. Air Force is using as it relates to the MQ-9 for technical data, maintenance procedures, etc. as well as providing improvements for the overall care and maintenance of the MQ-9", Martin said.

As the unit continues to fly at WSAAF, the maintenance tempo has picked up dramatically to include pre and post-flight maintenance in addition to maintenance issues that have never been seen before. In fact, the unit has submitted more than 100 engineering requests during the past two years for technical data on how to fix certain issues with the MQ-9. In comparison to the F-16, which the unit only submitted three engineering requests during the unit's some 20 years of flying the aircraft.

"The maintenance personnel here at Hancock

Field are becoming the subject matter experts for the MQ-9, while working very closely with the U.S. Air Force and General Atomics," Martin said. "These maintainers have a vested interest in the technical data that is being written for this aircraft and they take that responsibility very seriously knowing they have the potential in helping to decide the proper and safest procedures for maintaining the MQ-9.

The turboprop-powered, multi-mission Predator B Unmanned Aircraft System was developed with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., funding and provides significantly greater capabilities than Predator A.

With an operational ceiling of 50,000 feet,

and higher cruising speed, the MQ-9 can cover a larger area, under all weather conditions carrying payloads of more than 1.5 tons. The aircraft is powered by a single Honeywell engine, which provides a maximum airspeed of 260 knots and a cruise speed for maximum endurance of 150-170 knots.

This aircraft has been acquired by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, NASA, the Royal Air Force and the Italian Air Force. **gt**



Members of the 174th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group prepare a MQ-9 Reaper for its initial taxi at Wheeler-Sack Army Air Field at Fort Drum on June 30, 2011. The pre-taxi activity took place in temporary hanger space provided by the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. This milestone represented the unit's first step toward flying the MQ-9 from its detachment at Fort Drum. The wing is based at Hancock Field in Syracuse. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Call, 174th Fighter Wing.

South Pole Evacuation

By Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters



Maj. Josh Neilson (left) and Tech Sgt. Randy Powell played a role in the evacuation of fishermen badly injured off the Antarctic coast on Jan. 11. Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo.

SCOTIA - An LC-130 Hercules "Ski Bird" belonging to the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing based at Stratton Air National Guard Base evacuated seven badly burned crew members of a South Korean ship from the United States McMurdo Station in Antarctica to Christchurch, New Zealand on Jan. 13.

The seven crew members--four Vietnamese and three Indonesians--were injured when the crew compartment of the 167-foot long fishing vessel Jeong Woo 2 caught fire in the Ross Sea, 372 miles from McMurdo Station and 2,301 miles from New Zealand on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

"Most days we transport cargo and passengers to a variety of outposts. On this day, we were the ambulance driver," said Major Josh Neilson, the plane's pilot.

Neilson and Tech Sgt. Randy Powell, the loadmaster on the flight, spoke to Albany, NY-area reporters about the incident during a press conference on Friday, Jan. 20. They outlined the wing's role in the rescue.

The wing provides logistic support to National Science Foundation research efforts in Antarctica and Greenland.

Nearby vessels rescued 37 of the 40 crew

members from South Korea, Vietnam, Russia and Indonesia. Three crew members died.

Responding to a request by the New Zealand Rescue Coordination Center, the National Science Foundation research vessel, the Nathaniel B. Palmer, transported the injured crewmen from the Jeong Woo 2, to McMurdo Station, the United States Antarctic Program's main research and logistical hub. Medical personnel at McMurdo then prepared the individuals for transport to Christchurch.

"When we loaded the patients, you could see the apprehension on their faces, knowing they had been rescued from a burning ship, flown by helicopter to the ice cap and loaded onto a C-130 with skis was way out of their routine,"

Tech Sgt. Randy Powell, the crew's loadmaster said.

"They didn't speak English so our only way to communicate was with hand signals. The thumbs up and smiles we received after the 2,300 mile, 8 ½ hour flight was a clear sign they were grateful and relieved to be rescued," Powell said.

The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, based here, flies the only ski-equipped aircraft in the United States Military.

This is not the first time the 109th Airlift Wing has been involved in rescue missions.

In November 2008 a crew from the 109th Airlift Wing transported an Australian Antarctic Division employee from Antarctica to Hobart, Australia after the Australian researcher suffered multiple fractures to his leg.

And in 1999 a crew from the 109th landed an LC-130 at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station to pick up Dr. Jerri Nielsen who was treating herself for breast cancer. The crew landed earlier in the Arctic spring than had ever been done in the past. **gt**



Archive photo of a 109th 'Ski Bird' taking off with a, then; jet-assisted takeoff rockets alongside. Since then, the aircraft uses an eight-blade propeller system for its Arctic takeoffs.

Air Guard Commander Retires



LATHAM - New York Air National Guard Commander, Maj. Gen. James W. Kwiatkowski, known as 'General Kiwi' receives a retirement award from Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, during a retirement ceremony on Dec. 3 at the Joint Force Headquarters here. Kwiatkowski retired in January, 2012. He served as Assistant Adjutant General - Air, New York National Guard, Latham. He was the senior Air National Guard advisor to the Adjutant General being responsible for the coordination of all Air National Guard staff activities in the State. Kwiatkowski also worked with senior leadership of the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard across the nation as well as the National Guard Bureau. He also served as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, United States Transportation Command.

Kwiatkowski was commissioned in 1972 through Officer Training School. Prior to becoming Assistant Adjutant General - Air, New York National Guard he served as Commander, 107th Air Refueling Wing in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Kwiatkowski earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Masters in Business Administration through the State University of New York at Buffalo, graduating in 1972 and 1980, respectively. His military education includes Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and Executive Education at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C.

Kwiatkowski was a command pilot and qualified in the F-101, F-4, F-16 and the KC-135 with more than 4000 flying hours. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.



Honoring 13th President

BUFFALO - New York Air National Guard Colonel John Higgins, vice commander of the 107th Airlift Wing, salutes the grave site of President Millard Fillmore, after presenting a wreath on behalf of President Barak Obama on Jan. 6.

Military officers lay a wreath from the current President on the grave of past presidents on the anniversary of their birth.

Fillmore, who died in 1874 and served as president from 1850 to 1853 was born on January 7, 1800.

The wreath laying was held in conjunction with the University of Buffalo which honors Fillmore, one of its founders, every year. He also helped found the Buffalo Historical Society (now the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society) in 1862 and served as its first president.

Throughout the Civil War, Fillmore commanded the Union Continentals, a corps of home guards of males over the age of 45 from the Upstate New York area.

Photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Lloyd, 107th Airlift Wing.

105th Airlift Wing Salutes Hometown Heroes



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Master Sgt. Theodore Speiss, 213th EIS, shaking hands with Command Chief Master Sgt. Joseph F. Rizzo, during a 105th Airlift Wing Hometown Heroes Salute on Oct. 2, 2011. Hometown Heroes Salute recognizes members who have served for at least 30 days on Active Duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and or Operation Enduring Freedom since Sept.ember 11, 2001. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lee Guagenti, 105th Airlift Wing.

Tracking Santa Once Again

ROME--New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. Chad Gerrard points out Santa's radar track to Staff Sgt. Kristen Smith, who prepares to relay the information during Santa tracking operations at the Eastern Air Defense Sector here. EADS is a part of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and supports NORAD's Santa tracking mission every Christmas Eve. Photo by Tim Jones, Eastern Air Defense Sector



Basic Survival Training a Walk in the Park



HARRIMAN STATE PARK - Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing participate in basic survival training at Harriman State Park on November 1, 2011. Senior Airman Alfano instructed the group on land navigation, wilderness survival, and shelter construction to a group that included Pararescue Jumpers, Security Forces members and Suffolk County Police officers. Photo by Senior Airman Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing.

One Last Air Force Song Sung Before Leaving



At the request of the recently retired Col. Harvey Van Wie (far right), Colonels Greg Semmel and Charles Dorsey lead those attending the retirement ceremony in the singing of the Air Force Song. Van Wie retired with more than 40 years of military service. Photo by Staff Sgt. James N. Faso II, 174th Fighter Wing



Referral Program Helps Boost Enlistments

By Markeshia Ricks, Air Force Times Staff writer

After a slow start to recruiting this fiscal year, Air National Guard officials say accessions are trending up and it's partly because of a revamped referral program.

The Air National Guard revamped their recruiting referral program and it appears to be working. The program offers both active and retired Guardsmen incentives for getting potential recruits to enlist, something a previous program didn't. Guardsmen can now earn rewards ranging from a custom backpack with CamelBak water bottle and iPod nano to a home theater sound system when a potential recruit says yes to the Guard. They can also earn greater incentives for recruiting people for critical career fields such as health professionals, battlefield airmen, weather, civil engineering and chaplain.

So far, 3,000 Guardsmen have signed up to participate in the program through its website, said Col. Mark Sheehan, director for Air National Guard manpower, personnel and services.

"The concept behind this program is that it involves every guardsman — retired and still serving — giving them the opportunity to be rewarded for helping with our national recruiting efforts," Sheehan said.

A previous program, known as the Guard Recruiter Assistance Program, or GRAP, provided a cash incentive for those who recruited new members, Sheehan said, but it wasn't open to retirees. That program was open only to traditional Guardsmen.

"We think a retiree is a great advocate for the Air National Guard because they stayed in for a full career, all the way to retirement," he said. "They're going to have a good story to tell for the reason they stayed in. So when they talk to younger folks at air shows or at events, even with their grandkids and neighbors, they're advocating very strongly for the Air National Guard."

The program maximizes the more than 500 recruiters and retainers who the Air National Guard employs and helps spread the word about opportunities in the Guard, Sheehan said.

The word appears to be spreading since the beginning of fiscal 2012, when Air National Guard recruiting numbers were noticeably down.

The Air National Guard fell 24 percent short of its recruiting goals in October, making it one of only two components in all branches of the service to miss the mark at that time, according to the Pentagon. Officials attributed the missed mark to changes in the Guard's recruiting process.

But things are looking up. The Air National Guard met and exceeded its goals in November and December, gaining 684 and 712 people, respectively.

'Back on track'

"We're back on track at the national level," Sheehan said. "For the first quarter of fiscal 2012 ... we had a goal of 1,959, with a recruited total of 1,832 for 94 percent, so you can see that we are definitely trending from that initial report back in October."

Some of that success can be attributed to the referral program, Sheehan said. In a couple of months, it has produced 119 people, 24 of whom enlisted in critical career fields.

"I just think they're starting to realize that they need to get on the path — some type of direction — instead of just the part-time job at a restaurant," he said. "A lot of folks are going to school and, of course, one of the big benefits with the Air National Guard is college tuition."

The New York National Guard also picked up two people, and Master Sgt. Brad Addison, recruiting office

supervisor for the 174th Fighter Wing, said he also credits the program with bringing people in the door.

The program and the two new people were highlighted in the wing commander's call, and Addison said more airmen have asked about how to participate. Because of its intelligence, weather and communications missions, the New York Air National Guard's recruiters are always on the hunt for technologically savvy recruits and endurance athletes such as lacrosse and rugby players, he said.

Sheehan said in general the Air National Guard casts a wide net when recruiting, with an eye toward people between 17 and 40 years old.

"This referral rewards program has so far been a success," he said. "But we know that it's persistent advocacy, and we are trying to get the right people, in the right place, with the right skills and that is every day." **gt**



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AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Keeping View Downrange Intact



Air 'Guardian' Angels Save Life

Story and photo by Tech Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing

SPRING VALLEY – Air National Guard Physician Assistants, Lt. Col's Steven Sweitzer and Armon Imbriglio, 105th Airlift Wing, save the life of motorcyclist during a 9-11 memorial bike rally near exit 14 on I-287 on September 11, 2011.

Sweitzer and Imbriglio were at the tail end of the ride when they noticed a change in the traffic pattern; "Looking down the road, all of a sudden bikes scattered. We broke ranks and sped down the middle lane to the accident scene" said Sweitzer. There they found a motorcyclist down on the pavement screaming "My leg, my leg!" A hit and run accident resulted in the victim, John Motta, College Point, Queens, losing his right leg below the knee. They immediately began life saving treatment. A fellow rider had put a wide belt on the victim's leg, but was unsuccessful in controlling the bleeding. So, while Sweitzer tried tightening the belt, Imbriglio found a narrow nylon tie-down and a stick to use as a tourniquet. "Someone supplied us with bandages" said Imbriglio and we applied a compression dressing to the stump. At that time paramedics arrived and he was transported to Westchester Medical Center for care. Imbriglio contacted WMC several days later and was told the patient was in stable condition and that their actions saved the motorcyclist's life.

Members of the Air National Guard are required to attend an approved motorcycle rider education course. The Motorcycle Foundation Basic Motorcycle Safety Course taught at the 105th Airlift Wing. **gt**



FORT DRUM - New York Air National Guardsmen Chief Master Sgt. Russell Youngs, the 174th Fighter wing's Command Chief and Tech. Sgt. Michael Griepsma prepare to climb an 85-foot communications tower at the Adirondack Range, Fort Drum, on Nov. 22. The towers are used to hold cameras to view targets down range. Photo by Tech Sgt. Ricky Best, 174th Fighter Wing.

107th Airlift Wing Hosts 'Pilot for a Day'

Story and photos by Capt. Elaine Nowak, 107th Airlift Wing



Five year-old cancer survivor, Donovan Benzin sits at the controls of a C-130 Hercules during a visit to the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing, on Saturday, Nov. 20. Donovan visited the wing while Special Spaces Buffalo, a non-profit that creates bedrooms for children struggling with serious illnesses, turned his room into a military-themed living space.

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, Niagara Falls --A five-year-old boy who recently battled cancer got the chance to be a Guardsman for the day here on Saturday, November 20, 2011.

His day was part of a military-themed experience for the boy that included a bedroom makeover.

Donovan Benzin was selected by Special Spaces Buffalo, NY, a non-profit charity to receive some special attention. The charity's mission is to "create dream bedrooms for children with life-threatening illnesses." The organization redecorates the child's bedroom in one day and makes arrangements for the family to have a fun time outside of the house while they work. Donovan's wish was for a military-themed room. Special Spaces contacted the 107th to request a base tour.

"He's totally in love with anything military," Leah Benzin, Donovan's mother, said.

Donovan, along with his mother, sister, and great uncle, started their day with a limousine ride to the air base. The service was donated by TLC Limo and Concierge Service of Western New York.

Lt. Col. Gregory Miller, 107th Airlift Wing pilot, escorted the family around the base. To start, he presented Donovan with a flight jacket, complete with name and unit patches. A flight simulator was available so Donovan could "fly" a C-130 himself. The Boeing flight simulator is here temporarily to demonstrate the new cockpit that will eventually be

installed in Niagara's C-130s.

Donovan then was able to tour a C-130 aircraft and take a seat in the cockpit. He visited with the flight crew and took it all in.

"He's happy and not thinking about hospitals. He's being a little boy," said Donovan's mother.

Some other highlights of the family's visit were trying out night vision goggles, watching a C-130 practice an airdrop, and a stop in Security Forces. Donovan said he wants to be a military police officer when he grows up, so he was very excited to visit with the Security Forces members. Tech. Sgt. Adam Piedmont showed Donovan the weapon's storage area and allowed him to safely hold a few of the weapons. The boy's face glowed as he touched the M-16 and M-240 firearms.

Donovan was diagnosed earlier this year with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer rarely seen in children. He had surgery and aggressive chemotherapy that required a lengthy hospital stay to beat the disease, which is now in remission. His mother says that he is now cancer free and it is likely that he will live a long life.

"This has been so fulfilling. To see everyone who has been involved in this is just great. Buffalo, for being a small city, has a big heart," said Donald "Gus" Buczek, Donovan's great uncle and godfather.

What was Donovan's favorite part of his day as a Guardsman?

"Getting to hold the guns," he said. **gt**

New York Guard of WW I Put Race Car to Work

By Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

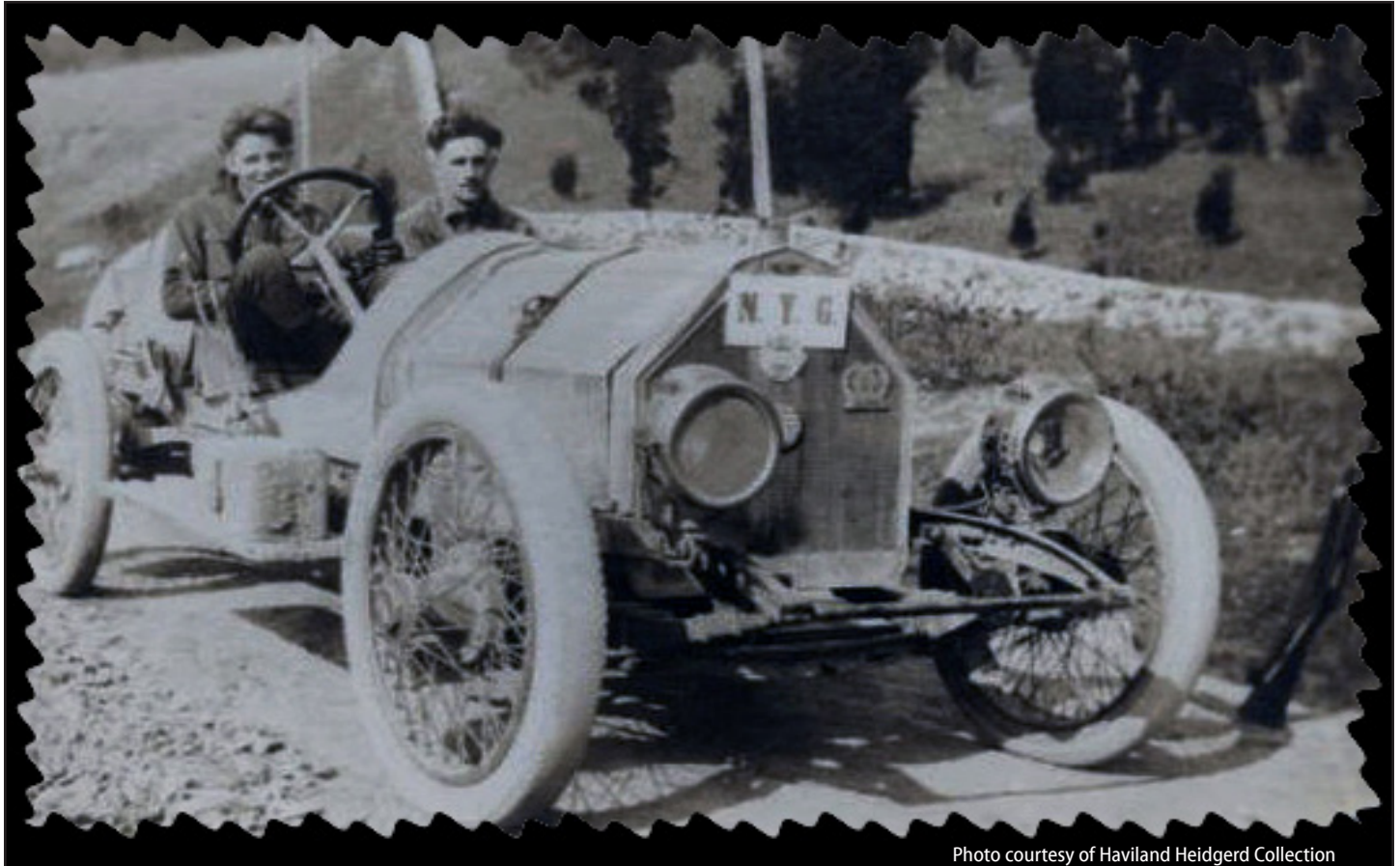


Photo courtesy of Haviland Heidgerd Collection

New York Guard Private Lewis Van Alstyne is in the passenger seat of his GJG race car pressed into New York Guard service during 1917 as a friend drives. The rare and expensive car was hand built in the White Plains Garage owned by George J. Grossman between 1909 and 1914. Photo courtesy Heidgerd-Haviland Collection.

LATHAM - When Lewis Van Alstyne joined the New York Guard in 1917 his car, an expensive custom-made racing car, joined up along with him.

With a placard reading “N.Y.G.” attached to the hood, Private Van Alstyne’s car—worth more than \$51,000 in today’s dollars—was pressed into service as an official vehicle, running errands along the 97 miles of New York City aqueduct the New York Guard’s 1st Provisional Regiment guarded while World War I raged.

The New York Guard, organized to replace the New York National Guard when its Soldiers were mobilized in July 1917, was formed from men too young, too old, or too infirm to join the Army and serve overseas. Its mission was to replace the New York National Guard, which

had been on duty since February 1917, in protecting vital infrastructure against German sabotage.

Van Alstyne was one of 1,200 New York Guard members patrolling the aqueduct which provided New York City’s drinking water under the command of Col. John B. Rose, a former state senator and brick manufacturer.

The New York Guard was short of vehicles so a number of private cars, including Van Alstyne’s were pressed into service, according to New York Guard historian Specialist Marianne DeAngelis. And that car—or at least the frame and engine—is still around today, DeAngelis discovered.

DeAngelis’ quest to learn more about the history of the New York Guard in World War I took her to the Elting Library in New Paltz

where the Heidgerd-Haviland collection on Hudson Valley history (Available on-line here: <http://www.hrvh.org/collections/inst-intro.htm?inst=20>) contains a number of photographs of New York Guard members. Among those were three photographs of Lewis Van Alstyne and other guardsmen in his car.

Curious about what kind of car the New York Guard had pressed into service DeAngelis sent a photograph to Hemming’s Motor News, a Bennington, Vermont based magazine and website that is a primary source for the collector car hobby.

The expert readers of Hemming’s soon identified Van Alstyne’s car as a GJG, a car built in the Mammoth Garage in White Plains by George John Grossman, who gave the company and the car his initials.

Restoration, con't

The GJGs were built from parts provided from a number of different makers and based on race car designs. Grossman built and sold his GJGs, which ranged in price from \$1,250 to \$2,750 (in contrast a Model T Ford cost \$440) from 1909 to 1914 when he went out of business.

While they may have been expensive the GJGs were fast – according to DeAngelis a joke at the time said the GJG stood for “Go, Jesus, Go!”

DeAngelis also learned that the car still exists.

Van Alostne's car was purchased in 1995 by Fred Hoch, owner of Shaeffer & Long, Inc., a car restoration company in Magnolia, New Jersey. The car is currently awaiting full restoration work according to DeAngelis. **gt**



New York Guard photos at the Hudson River Valley Heritage web-site QR code.

Guard Aid for Marine Reservists



NEWBURGH - New York Guard 1st Lt. Paul Clewell, a member of the 5th Legal Services Detachment, N.Y. Guard helps Marine Corps Reserve members of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 49 with free legal assistance at Stewart Air National Guard Base during a Yellow Ribbon session held in the base dining facility Jan. 20. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

New York Guardsman Gets FDNY Recognition

By Guard Times Staff



Dr. (Maj.) Michael Lonski (right), a psychologist from Old Greenwich, Conn. receives a plaque from Battalion Chief Joe Downey of the Fire Department of New York-Special Operations Command for a decade of “selfless dedication to supporting first responders, military, families, and youth.”

NEW YORK - Psychologist Dr. (Maj.) Mike Lonski of Old Greenwich, Conn., a former director of education, training, and clinical services of Life Matters Inc., received a commemorative recognition plaque on Oct. 2 from the Fire Department of New York-Special Operations Command's (FDNY-SOC) battalion chief Joe Downey for a decade of support to first responders, military personnel, families and youth affected by the terror attacks of September 11, 2001.

As a Major in the New York Guard, he is the chief of mental health services and lead on the Joint Crisis Emergency Response Team.

“Our proactive, prevention programs uniquely teach stress-resistance, resilience, and recovery capabilities that strengthen one's ability to remain healthy and safe, maintain unit morale and achieve mission performance,” he said. “In short, we help build a ready force of community support that helps one another to recover after stressful encounters, meet life's challenges, and turn stressful experiences into

opportunities for personal growth.”

The plaque contains official FDNY patches from the five rescue units, seven squads, hazardous material, marine division, SOC Headquarters, and the Technical Rescue School.

Downey is assigned to FDNY Special Operations Command and at the time of 9/11 was Captain of Squad 18, Manhattan. His father, Deputy Chief Raymond Downey, was chief of Special Operations Command FDNY who died in the line of duty at the World Trade Center. After the terror attacks Downey worked at the World Trade Center with Lonski, who served in the support and recovery efforts until May 2002. In the ensuing decade, Lonski has conducted ongoing education, formal training, field support, and crisis intervention for fire personnel, family members and youth especially those assigned to the Special Operations Command. **gt**

Irene Responders Receive Humanitarian Award



SCOTIA - Members of the New York Naval Militia who turned out on State Active Duty during the New York Military Forces response to Tropical Storm Irene gathered at the Armed Forces Reserve Center here on Dec. 3 to receive their New York Humanitarian Service medals from New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey, the commander of Joint Task Force Irene. Photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo, Joint Force Headquarters.



Josephthal Awardees

BUFFALO - India Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines are this year's recipients of the Josephthal Award, which was presented to them at their Marine Corps Birthday Ball on November 5, 2011.

Maj. Kevin Klostermann accepted the plaque from Master Chief Petty Officer Bob Clark in front of the entire company at Navy Operational Support Center in Buffalo.

Rear Admiral Louis M. Josephthal was Commanding Officer of the New York Naval Militia from 1925 to 1929. After his death in 1929 he devoted money for a trophy for the Naval Militia of the State of New York to be known as the Josephthal Trophy that was to be awarded by the Commanding Officer of the Naval Militia, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve units located in New York State. Photo by Cmdr. Donald McKnight, New York Naval Militia.

Maneuver Training Over Open Water



ALBANY - Petty Officer First Class Steve Gauci from Whitehall at helm of Patrol Boat 221 receives coxswain qualification and instructor certification instruction from Petty Officer Garrett Aldershoff of Scotia on Nov. 9 as he passes the U.S.S. Slater that is docked on the Hudson River in Albany. Photo by Cmdr Donald McKnight, New York Naval Militia

Soldier Learns Naval Chores

VERPLANCK - New York Naval Militia Aviation Boatswains Mate Christian Diamante, demonstrates mooring procedures for Patrol Boat 400 to New York Army National Guard Spc. Matthew Mercurio. Both are assigned to the Joint Task Force-Empire Shield mission at the Indian Point Nuclear Power plant. On a vessel the size of PB 400, it is best to have two persons man the lines, while the coxswain drives the boat. Photo courtesy of New York Naval Militia.



GUARD NEWS BRIEFS AND PHOTOS

Trees For Troops Season



CHARLETON - New York Army National Guard Sgt. Jason Wells assists Fed Ex driver, Don Pelletier with loading Christmas trees at Ellms Tree Farms Nov. 28. Wells and another six Soldiers volunteered to assist in the annual "Trees for Troops" loading of about 115 donated trees bound for military installations and families around the country and around the globe. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division. Meanwhile, in Cornwall, New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. Tom Rampley, (right), a member of the 105th Airlift Wing, gets an armful of Christmas tree while loading donated trees onto a Fed Ex truck at Farmside Acres, Nov. 28. The program is sponsored by Fed Ex Corp. and the Christmas Spirit Foundation. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael OHalloran, 105th Airlift Wing.

Guard Chaplain Honors Veterans At Special Service



NEW YORK - New York Army National Guard Chaplain (1st Lt.) Raziel Amar recites the Veterans Prayer during the Veterans Day Service and Reception held at the Times Square Church on November 11, 2011. New York Army National Guard chaplains, chaplains candidates and chaplains assistants from the 369th Special Troops Battalion, the 369th Sustainment Brigade, the 101st Enhanced Signal Battalion, the 3rd Battalion 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, and Joint Force Headquarters participated in the event. Photo by 1st Lt. Mark Getman, 3rd Battalion 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion.

Honors for an American President

Story and photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



Brig. Gen. Renwick Payne (right), Director of the Joint Staff and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks, present a memorial wreath at the grave site of President Martin Van Buren here Dec. 5 during the New York National Guard Military Forces Honor Guard annual commemoration of the president's birth.

KINDERHOOK - Leaders and Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard marked the 229th birthday of U.S. President Martin Van Buren here at the eighth president's grave site.

Brig. Gen. Renwick Payne, Director of the Joint Staff and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks, the senior enlisted Soldier of the New York Army National Guard joined members of the military forces honor guard and more than a dozen Soldiers from the Joint Force Headquarters facility in Latham to present honors and lay a wreath at the grave site of Van Buren to honor his birth date, Dec. 5, 1782.

The annual recognitions from the New York National Guard are part of a White House effort each year to present wreaths at the grave sites of all former presidents.

"On behalf of our Governor, our Adjutant General and our President, I am so glad to be able to join this group today," Payne said to a gathering of more than 40 local residents, elected officials, middle school children and representatives of the National Park Service from the nearby Martin Van Buren Historic Site.

Payne touched on Van Buren's political legacy of bringing together diverse political

groups into the emerging Democratic Party. As Americans, Payne said, we are many individuals who make up this diverse country. But from many diverse people, we are one nation.

Van Buren became involved in New York state politics as a young lawyer and first served in the New York State Senate from 1812 to 1820 and as New York's Attorney General from 1815 to 1819.

He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1821, serving until his election as Governor of New York in 1828. Van Buren began his term on January 1, 1829, returned to Washington just a few months later as U.S. Secretary of State for President Andrew Jackson in March of 1829.

In 1832 he was elected Vice President on Jackson's ticket before winning the presidency for himself in 1836.

He served in the White House from 1837 to 1841 when the nation experienced a severe economic downturn, known as the "panic of 1837." Van Buren served one term and was defeated in 1840 by William Henry Harrison, failing to carry even his home state of New York. He was twice defeated for the office in 1844 and again in 1848 before retiring from public service. **gt**



Serving the Community

Story and photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd
107th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FALLS - On December 21, 2011, members of the 107th Airlift Wing continued its tradition of serving and supporting the Niagara Community Mission by sponsoring an annual food drive and providing a truckload containing boxes of food, canned goods and frozen turkeys purchased from their Feed the Family Campaign.

This campaign was held over the past few unit training weekends where members had the opportunity to contribute monetary donations as well as canned goods. These donations were used to feed a family with a complete turkey dinner to include dressing, vegetables and desert for their holiday meal. "This is my third year as committee chairman, and although the donations were not as abundant as in past years, we managed to provide help for the mission," said Master Sgt. Steve Buja, Structural Repair Supervisor.

Unit members along with mission staff unloaded boxes of food, canned goods and frozen turkeys stocking up the food pantry. It may not feel like Christmas with the wet rainy weather in Niagara Falls, but you can feel the spirit of the holiday season at the mission. Recognizing the needs of the community, the 107th has been contributing to the Niagara Falls City Mission for more than 18 years. **gt**

Christmas Eve March Supports the Troops



GLEN FALLS - New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 466th Area Support Medical Company and 1427th Transportation Company step off for the 2011 Christmas Eve road march in Glens Falls, N.Y. Carrying the banner from left are Privates Spencer Thibault from Lake George, Brittany Derocher of Glens Falls and Private 1st Class James Zito of South Glens Falls. More than 500 Soldiers, family members, area veterans and community members participated in the 8th annual event. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.

An Hispanic American Legacy of Monumental Proportions

Story and photo by Spc. Jimmy Bedgood, 42nd Infantry Division



Maj. Carlos Benitez, with the 42nd Inf. Div. HHC, commences shoveling alongside City of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, local politicians and veterans from other branches of the Armed Forces during the Hispanic-American Veterans Memorial Ground-breaking Ceremony on Nov. 11, 2011, at Buffalo waterfront's Naval and Military Park museum.

BUFFALO - Members from all branches of the Armed Forces gathered here on Veterans Day, November 11, 2011 to lay the groundwork for the only Hispanic veterans monument in Western New York. The monument, located at Buffalo's waterfront Naval and Military Park, will recognize the actions and sacrifices of Hispanic Soldiers who put their lives on the line in military service.

The Western New York Hispanic Americans Memorial Committee will honor Hispanic Americans veterans past, present and future with a life-size lone infantry Soldier, kneeling in front of the traditional Fallen Hero Memorial, which consists of an inverted M-16 rifle, combat boots, helmet and dog tags. The memorial will be the first of its kind dedicated to Hispanic American veterans, said Maj. Carlos Benitez, a New York Army National Guard officer with the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters.

The purpose of the memorial, according to the committee "is to provide cultural diversity and educational awareness of all Hispanic American military contributions throughout American history." They also said, they wanted to leave a legacy and express gratitude for the service of Hispanic Americans in our nation.

Looking Back with Pride and Forward with Hope

Commentary by Capt. Alvin Phillips, *Guard Times Staff*

This winter, moviegoers were afforded the opportunity to take a glimpse into history and learn about the storied Tuskegee Airmen.

He talked of his days at Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he faced daily racism off campus but didn't let that stop his dream of education.

Wheeler recalled hating his country due to his living environment, the economic injustice and police brutality.

Throughout Wheeler's message, several themes resonated: work, dedication, perseverance and hope.

Yes, Wheeler hated this country and wondered why he would want to fight for it. Yet he hoped that his love for American ideas would outweigh the

William Wheeler. They were hungry for information, details, and answers.

"I never knew about the Tuskegee Airmen but listening to Mr. Wheeler speak and reading the program detailing their accomplishments is so uplifting", said Senior Airman Nicole Torres.

Many may think the Tuskegee Airmen are just famous Black fighter pilots but they are so much more and men like William Wheeler demonstrate just that. They are the symbol of hope.

"Ideas are powerful things. You can't judge a man by the color of his skin or shape of his nose but by the way he flies," said President, Ronald Reagan.

William Wheeler proved that hope and ideas still matter and still live. So for 106th Airmen, when Red Tails is discussed, they can say they hope the movie conveys a glimpse of what they heard, which was hope manifested. **gt**



Col. Thomas Owens, commander of the 106th Rescue Wing, presents a commanders coin to William M. Wheeler, who served as 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army's Air Corps, Tuskegee Airmen during WWII. Wheeler was an invited guest during diversification committee lecture series. Photo by Tech Sgt. Marcus Calliste, 106th Rescue Wing.

Star Wars director George Lucas released Red Tails, the story of the Tuskegee Airmen Red Tails, the African American squadron that fought in World War II. For members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing in West Hampton, the movie may remind them of a man they once heard from.

Last winter, William M. Wheeler, a one-time Tuskegee Airmen spoke to the wing. Wheeler emphasized that we cannot move forward without knowing our past. Sadly, Mr. Wheeler died in July 2011, before the completion of Red Tails.

Perhaps he would be satisfied knowing he delivered the prologue to what Roger Ebert, critic for the Chicago Sun-Times, called a film that: "makes the point that the airmen were skilled and courageous, and played a historic role in the eventual integration of our armed services."

Fueled by a desire to live the American dream, Wheeler recounted his journey growing up in a Detroit housing project.

He vividly recalled Blacks in the South moving North to provide a better life for their families. He shared memories of being on welfare, but said his community in Detroit then was not too different from some communities today on Long Island.

wrongs, and make things right.

As a child his favorite toy had been an airplane that reminded him of Charles Lindbergh's one-man flight to Paris and inspired him to soar above the life he had.

His dream channeled the raw emotions of a community plagued by welfare and destitution; into actions of discipline, sacrifice and patience to overcome the struggles of a segregated military compounded by a Jim Crow South.

Wheeler's hope led to signing up for the Air Corps. Wheeler was one of 929 pilots proud to be known as Tuskegee Airmen, who went on to fly with the real life Red Tails. Those men flew over 15,000 combat sorties, shooting down 111 German airplanes and escorting hundreds of bombers to and from their targets safely.

I watched while today's airmen listened intently to



African-American pilots, who served with the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Popularly referred to as the Tuskegee Airmen, they were and are the story of the black flyers who broke the color barrier in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. Courtesy photo.

