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



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

We are All Recruiters of our Profession

Recruitment. It's a word embedded in our minds as leaders in the New York National Guard.

It isn't there because we are told this is a priority; the thought is there because it is an essential part of our job as leaders. We need to ensure that there will always be members in our ranks to complete the mission safely and effectively! Can we do that if we do not recruit to our fullest capacity?

Our most important asset, in any service, are the members who perform the mission.

We can modernize our weapons systems, build advanced infrastructure and procure every tool necessary to complete a successful mission. But without our members those tools sit still, unused and ineffective. It is our members, our Airmen and our Soldiers that use all this equipment to engage our enemies and defend our nation at home and abroad.

We are all recruiters for our service. We all have to speak with pride and continue to tell our stories to educate the civilian sector about what we do.

It is not the sole responsibility of our Army and Air Guard recruiters to shoulder the job of telling the public about who we are and what we do. It is up to each of us.

Whether full-timers or traditional Guardsmen, we each had, and have, unique experiences which made us decide to make the National Guard a career.

In every one of our civilian communities there are young adults who want purpose in life and want to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They are just like you were once.

Think back on why you decided to enlist to defend your nation and protect all that live here? Where were you, what made you become

interested, what was it that made you decide?

It's now your turn to tell a new generation of Soldiers and Airmen the same things that made you decide to serve. Remember what sparked your curiosity and led you to become a part of our military team.

Recruiting a new service member should not be a hard or new task, but more a part of our routine day as getting dressed.

The uniform you wear is your biggest recruiting statement. When people see you in it, you are instantly put in a category different from other citizens.

You are trusted, you are respected, you are strong and you make people feel safe. What an opening statement without even saying a word.

People will listen to you. So tell our story.

Explain why you have made this your way of life; there is an audience waiting to listen to you.

At the same time, you must always be aware that you are also held to a higher standard than civilians. People will recognize you in and out of uniform and will watch your every move.

Just as the uniform opens the door for a dialogue, words and actions which do not uphold the honor of the Army and Air Force can shut that door quickly. You must live the Army and Air Force values.

You must be cognizant of your actions and interactions at all times. You must always hold yourself to the highest of standards. You are the billboard that is present in real life. You are tangible.

Represent yourself and all who came before you with the utmost professionalism. You are the recruiter for your nation. You are the model for all that want to be just like you.

As Guard Airmen and Soldiers we don't



Chief Master Sergeant Maureen Dooley

live on a military post. We live-side-by-side with our neighbors and friends. We know how service in the Guard may be able to help those neighbors and their children, to change their lives for the better.

Remember the very first time you put on your uniform? Do you remember how proud you were to wear it and how proud you were to be part of the U.S. military?

You should feel that pride again every day, share that pride, and continue to tell that story.

Guard service makes a difference. It can provide a purpose in life, education, and a way to help provide for a family.

Tell people about what the Guard has meant for you and what it could mean for them.

Big Guns Fire at Drum

FORT DRUM, N.Y. -- Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery fire a M777 Howitzer during a live fire exercise here July 30th, 2019. The unit was conducting annual training at Fort Drum along with other elements of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Photo by Sgt. Matthew Gunther, Joint Force Headquarters.



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guardtimes

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Staff Sgt. Michael Trask, assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, yells a command to his Soldiers in response to an ambush during convoy training at Fort Drum, N.Y., July 24, 2019. The Soldiers were participating in a warfighter exercise, a training event prior to the headquarters' deployment in 2020. Photo by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, 42nd Infantry Division.



FRONT COVER: Cpl. Matthew Mena, field artillery tactical data system specialist assigned to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, launches an RQ-11B Raven small unmanned aircraft system during the unit's annual training at Fort Drum, N.Y., July 21. During the training, Soldiers across the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were able to log flight time on the Raven to keep their operator certifications current. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

BACK COVER: Joint Task Force Empire Shield Sgt. Hugo Cuadra, assigned to the 369th Sustainment Brigade, and Spc. Paige Marquis, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment conduct a patrol of Grand Central Station as part of their homeland security duties September 17, 2019. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.

FACES of the FORCE

NY Soldier is Runner Up for NGB Best Warrior

Story by Ryan Campbell, *Guard Times Staff*

LATHAM, N.Y. -- New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Martin Cozens, a Rochester resident, was a runner up during the national Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Gruber Training Center, Oklahoma, during the week of July 15-19, 2019.

Cozens competed against six other non-commissioned officers from across the country who won their regional Best Warrior competitions.

A platoon sergeant assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, Cozens won every level of competition from battalion to region, to earn the opportunity to compete at the national level.

Tasks the Soldiers were evaluated on included an obstacle course, calling for indirect fire, weapons qualification and stress shooting, land navigation, dress and appearance, physical fitness, military knowledge and repelling off a tower.

In the end, Staff Sgt. Erich Friedlein, an infantry instructor assigned to the Pennsylvania Guard's Regional Training Institute and winner of the 2016 Best Ranger competition, edged out a narrow victory over Cozens.

New York State Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski praised Cozens for holding his own against the best Soldier in the 330,000 member Army National Guard. "The level of competition was an absolute maximum," Piwowarski said.

"The competition I faced was top notch and no one slacked," Cozens said. "Everyone brought their traits whether it was Ranger, Special Forces, sniper, I knew I had my work cut out for me."

Prior to joining the National Guard in 2017, Cozens served six years with the 10th Mountain Division, including a deployment to Afghanistan in 2013. Cozens is a full-time Soldier who works for the New York National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force in Rochester.

Cozens began preparing to compete in the Best Warrior events in August of 2018, with the first round of competitions being held that October. At each level, the competitions became physically and mentally tougher on the competitors, Cozens explained.

"It was pretty grueling," he said. "We racked up about 50 miles on our feet through rucking, going between events and completing the events."

At the end of the week, Cozens said they didn't know who was going to win until they got to the awards dinner. Reflecting on the competition, he said that it was tough but that it was a lot of fun.

"It was very humbling, there was no room for holding back," Cozens said, "there are times when you want to lose focus, but if you do then you have just lost."

Fellow New York Guardsman Cpl. Joseph Ryan, an operations specialist assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, competed in the enlisted category. The two were one of just three pairs from across the 54 states and territories of the Army National Guard where both competitors reached the national level.

"Both Sgt. 1st Class Cozens and Cpl. Joseph Ryan are absolute warriors," said Piwowarski. "They grinded out this competition in the true spirit of the Soldier's Creed and they never quit."

Moving forward Cozens hopes to get into Ranger School, and pass on the knowledge and expertise he gained from the competition.

"Just because I'm 33 doesn't mean I can't keep up with the young guys,



Sgt. 1st Class Martin Cozens and fellow competitors await instruction before the day navigation portion of the 2019 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, July 16, 2019. Cozens was one of 14 Soldiers competing and earned a spot as runner up for NCO of the year. Courtesy photo.



Sgt. 1st Class Martin Cozens climbs down "The Tough One" obstacle during the Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Gruber Training Center, Oklahoma, July 17, 2019. Oklahoma Army National Guard photo by Sgt. John Stoner.

of course I can do it," said Cozens. "I'm beyond thrilled to get out and represent New York, but it's my turn to be a sponsor and a mentor for 2020. My focus will be on finding an NCO and Soldier and mentoring them like I was." **gt**

Women's Leadership Event Awards NY Officer

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- **Captain Jean Marie Kratzer, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Support Company in Troy, received the Army's Joint Women's Leadership in Excellence Meritorious Service Award during a military women's conference held in Washington D.C. on August 22 and 23.**

She was one of 17 Army Soldiers and civilian employees recognized during the Annual Joint Women's Leadership Symposium, an annual gathering of military women from all the services. More than 1,200 women attended this year's conference.

She was the only member of the Army National Guard recognized during the women's leadership symposium.

Kratzer was recognized for her excellence in increasing positions of responsibility in the Army during two deployments to Kuwait and the Middle East and her service in the Army National Guard here in New York.

In her current position she is responsible for 200 men and women who support the division headquarters.

Kratzer served as an equal opportunity advisor, human resource officer and public affairs officer during deployments of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade in 2013 and 2014 and 369th Sustainment Brigade in 2016 and 2017.

She is preparing to deploy to the Middle East again in 2020 as the public affairs officer for the 42nd Infantry Division.

According to her citation she is "a leader and one of the strongest advocates in the New York Army National Guard for diversity" and "she is an excellent role model for junior Soldiers and leaders."

Kratzer, who enlisted in the Army Reserve in 2007 as a chaplain's assistant, became an officer in 2010 after earning a commission through the Reserve Officers Training Corps. She has served as a platoon leader, public affairs officer, personnel



Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, left, receives the Joint Women's Leadership in Excellence Meritorious Service Award from Brig. Gen. Jill K. Feris during the military's annual Joint Women's Leadership Symposium on August 22, 2019 in Washington, D.C. Kratzer was honored for her service as an equal opportunity officer and headquarters company commander. Courtesy photo.

officer, sexual assault response coordinator, equal opportunity officer, and human resource operations branch chief.

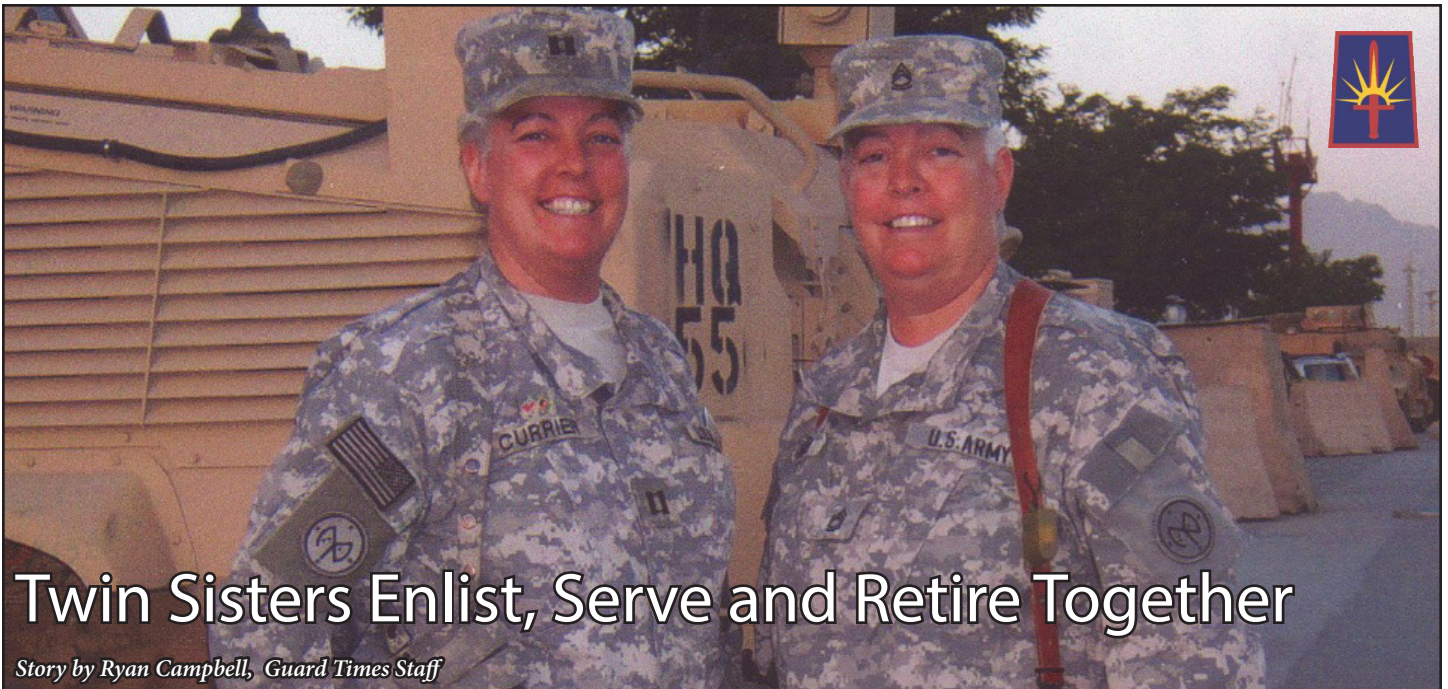
She conducts victim's advocacy

and counseling classes and equal opportunity training for New York Army National Guard units across the state.**gt**

Retirement Ceremonies Mark Nearly a Century of Service



LATHAM -- Retirement ceremonies at the Joint Force Headquarters this summer honored nearly 100 years of cumulative military service by leaders of the New York Army National Guard. At left, Brig. Gen. Michel Natali, Assistant Adjutant General, congratulates Lt. Col. Christopher Ciccone after presenting his Legion of Merit Sept. 8. Photo by Sgt. Matthew Gunther, Joint Force Headquarters. Center, Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General, presents a Meritorious Service Medal to retiring Sgt. Maj. Daniel Brunner Aug. 28. Photo by Ryan Campbell. At right, Shields presents the Legion of Merit to Col. James Freehart September 18. Photo by Jean Kratzer.



Twin Sisters Enlist, Serve and Retire Together

Story by Ryan Campbell, *Guard Times* Staff

Then Capt. Lynn Currier, left, a Military Police officer, and her sister, then Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Currier, a senior logistics officer, arrive in Afghanistan for a deployment together in 2008. Courtesy photo.

LATHAM, N.Y. -- Twin sisters who began their National Guard careers together, went to war in Afghanistan together and share a house together, are now retired together.

Master Sgt. Lisa Currier, a logistician, and her twin, retired Lt. Col. Lynn Currier, an information management branch chief, who both worked at the Joint Force Headquarters, have seen much of their careers share the same path.

Beginning in 1986, the sisters, who are both Troy, N.Y. residents, spent more than three decades sharing service experiences. Lynn retired process first, and continues to work as a civilian while Lisa waits for her retirement date.

"We got out of college back in 1986, and were in Burlington, Vermont working and we had to pay bills and student loans," Lisa said. "I was reading a newspaper and it said get your student loans repaid and work weekends."

That turned out to be an advertisement for the Vermont Army National Guard, highlighting education benefits. Lisa explained that she talked her sister into joining with her, rather than looking into the state police.

"So we enlisted within a month or two on February 3rd of 1986 together," Lisa said.

"On the buddy system," Lynn emphasized.

Under that system, Lynn explained, the two were able to go to basic and advanced individual training together.

In 1990, Lynn learned about a full time job in the New York National Guard. She interviewed in December of 1990 and got the job.

Over the next three years, Lynn advanced her career in the New York National Guard while her sister stayed in Vermont. Lisa, who was working for IBM, wouldn't stay behind for long.

"She kept saying, come over, come over," Lisa recalled. "I was working like 12 hour shifts and it was just crazy. I woke up one Sunday morning and decided, I'm tired of this."

Three years after Lynn made her way to New York, Lisa put in her resignation to IBM. Moving in with her sister, Lisa explained that within a couple weeks she was then able to find a job at the New York National Guard headquarters.

The Curriers agree that one of the most significant changes they've seen during their 34 years was an increase in women joining the National Guard. They've also been pleased to see more women selected for leadership positions.

Those opportunities, along with the full-time benefits afforded to them, the sisters explained there was no reason to leave the Guard.

"I love coming to work," Lisa said. "We actually like it!," Lynn added.

While the Curriers both started as enlisted Soldiers in 1986, Lynn decided she wanted to take her career to another level and become an officer after reaching the rank of staff sergeant.

"I always wanted to be more assertive and more in control of things," said Lynn. "I felt the only way that was going to happen was to be an officer."

The sisters found themselves deployed in 2008 with the 27th Infantry Brigade to Afghanistan, one of several related pairs on the deployment.

"We did deploy together, but they separated us after three or four months," said Lisa. "That was the big thing, they didn't want them together on the same base."

"In case there was an attack," added Lynn.

Lynn remained in Kabul, while Lisa was sent 500 miles away to Mazar-i-Sharif.

Now as they prepare to retire, looking back at their careers, Lisa said her fondest memory is all the wonderful people they have met.

"It's like a family," Lynn added.

Lynn's retirement came June 21, moving on as an education officer at the Watervliet Arsenal.

But being a Soldier meant the most to her.

"When I had to take my uniform off, let me tell you," Lynn started before Lisa emphasized that her sister was upset for weeks afterwards.

After all of the years spent in uniform together, they explained that they still travel together, recently bought a house, and remain as close as ever.

"If I had the same chance again, I'd do the 34 years again," said Lisa. "When I first enlisted I never thought I'd make three years. And now these years have flown by." **gt**

Airman Feels 'Pull of Military,' Returns to 105th

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Julio Olivencia, 105th Airlift Wing

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. – It takes all types of Airmen to keep the 105th Airlift Wing flying across the globe.

Whether it's getting C-17 Globemasters in the air, installing communications or keeping Airmen of the 105th Base Defense Squadron in the fight, there are Airmen behind the scenes working tirelessly.

One such Airmen is Master Sgt. Kelly McDermott, an administrative personnel specialist.

"The career field entails more than people realize," McDermott said. "We are stewards of human resource functions, office management, overseas postal operations, postal and official mail [stateside], as well as executive support."

Command support staff, which is one of McDermott's current roles, are directly tied to a commander. They are responsible for all office management to keep senior leaders on track.

"Every day varies depending on the need of the organization," McDermott said. "There are times that phones are ringing off the hook and members are flooding your office for assistance."

She said the pace can be challenging at times.

"People have to be good with change, whether it's policies and procedures, or just minute by minute because this fast operations tempo requires personnel to switch gears on a moment's notice," McDermott said.

With great challenges come great rewards.

McDermott said the knowledge she gained and the relationships she built with other Airmen have been the best parts of the job.

She wasn't always command support staff.

She began her career in 1996 as a C-5 Galaxy loadmaster at Stewart Air National Guard Base.

Loadmasters are responsible for the safe transportation of everything in the cargo compartment of an aircraft. They ensure cargo weight is evenly distributed and strapped down.

At her 10-year mark, McDermott made the decisions to leave the military.

"During that time, I was able to raise my children while a stay at home mom, going to school and supporting my husband, now retired Chief Master Sgt. Pete McDermott, while he continued his flying career," she said.

It wasn't long before she felt the pull back into the Air Guard family. She joined the West Virginia Air National Guard in 2011 as a knowledge operations Airman.

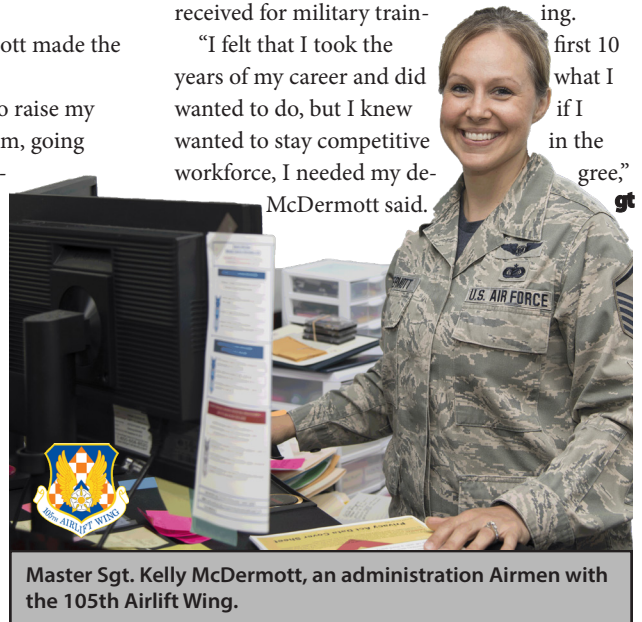
"I felt that it was time for me to come back, because I missed being a part of the military as a member," McDermott said.

The Air Guard afforded McDermott a myriad of benefits, beyond a paycheck, that she has happily made use of throughout her career.

She said education benefits, which she has been able to share with her children, and the healthcare have been a tremendous help for her and her family.

McDermott used tuition assistance to continue college for free, finishing her degree in less than four years thanks to the credits she received for military training.

"I felt that I took the first 10 years of my career and did what I wanted to do, but I knew if I wanted to stay competitive in the workforce, I needed my degree," McDermott said.



Master Sgt. Kelly McDermott, an administration Airmen with the 105th Airlift Wing.

NY Military Police Soldier Earns Distinguished Honor Grad

Story by Ryan Campbell, Guard Times Staff



Sgt. Matthew Scarlett, center, receives his Distinguished Honor Graduate plaque from Lt. Col. Tommie Stephens, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Sarten with the Tennessee National Guard's 117th Regional Training Institute. Courtesy photo.

SMYRNA, Tenn. -- New York Army National Guard Sgt. Matthew Scarlett was the Distinguished Honor Graduate at a Military Police Advanced Leaders Course conducted by the Tennessee Army National Guard in Nashville from July 5 to August 5.

Scarlett was one of 48 Soldiers from 29 different states who completed the four-week training program focused on advanced military police techniques and leadership.

The students took courses

covering areas like tactical patrolling, command post operations, traffic accident investigation, evidence collection and anti-terrorism.

"The training the students conducted greatly enhanced their tactical and garrison policing skills, but the main focus was on leadership," said Master Sgt. Danta James, the Chief Instructor for the Military Police Advanced Leaders Course. "Each student was given multiple opportunities to lead their classmates in various drills as well as participate

in classes and training that prepares them for challenging roles as squad leaders and platoon sergeants."

Tennessee, Connecticut and Missouri National Guard's offer the training.

Scarlett, who enlisted in the New York Army National Guard in 2011, originally served in the 107th Military Police Company. He transferred to the 827th Engineer Company in 2013.

Since 2016 he has served as a member of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. **gt**

Small Town Veterans Get Two-Star Treatment

Story and photo by Eric Durr, *Guard Times* Staff

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. --Sixty-six years after serving as an Airman 1st Class in the Korean War, Hoosick Falls, N.Y. resident Merton Houghton got to do something he'd never done before: shake the hand of a two-star general.

Houghton was one of 10 residents of this rural community, located a few miles from Bennington, Vermont, presented with New York state military awards by Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General of New York, during an August 28, 2019 ceremony.

Shields presented the veterans, who had served in World War II, Korea, the Gulf War, the Cold War and Afghanistan, with New York State Medal for Merit and New York State Cold War certificates depending on their service.

Prior to the ceremony Shields mingled with the local veterans and other guests, speaking to them about their military service.

"I think it is so important to recognize veterans and their service to our country and do this," Shields said. "To take a few hours and drive up here to do this and present these awards is invaluable."

"I've never shaken the hand of a general before," Houghton said after Shields pinned the New York State Medal for Merit on him.

The award recognizes New Yorkers who were awarded federal medals during their service.

It was great to be honored, said Joan Madigan, a resident of Johnsonville, N.Y. who served in the Navy from 1952 to 1956.

Madigan, who received a New York State Cold War certificate from Shields, handled classified messages during her Navy service.

"When you came home you just went back to your work and your normal life," she said. "Now they are starting to praise veterans more."

The ceremony at the former State Armory, now a town hall and a social center, was the idea of Mark Folgert, another Hoosick Falls resident.

Folgert is a veteran of four years in the Air Force and another four years in the Army who is currently serving in the New York Guard, the state's self-defense force.

He is a member of American Legion Post 40, which sponsors a weekly coffee club for area vets,



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, presents his military challenge coin to Air Force Korean War veteran Merton Houghton during an awards ceremony at the former New York State Armory in Hoosick Falls, N.Y. August 28, 2019. Shields honored 10 local veterans with New York state awards recognizing their military service during the event.

and he met the 10 veterans Shields honored during those gatherings, Folgert said.

The veterans had their federal awards, but he wanted to make sure that they also got the awards from New York, he explained.

"I think it is important that our older veterans, especially from World War II and Korea are recognized, not only from the federal government, but it is important that the state of New York cares," Folgert said.

The American Legion and the Hoosick Township Historic Society also helped with the award packages for the veterans and organize the event.

Folgert, currently on state active duty in the New York National Guard's joint operations section, approached Shields to see if he would present the awards and pleased when the general said yes.

"He said he would be happy to do it and if he couldn't, somebody from his command section would be there," Folgert said. "General Shields has always been very receptive and supportive of our veterans," he added.

Former Vermont Army National Guard Sgt.

Charles "Chuck" Krawczyk, who deployed to Kuwait in 2005 and Afghanistan in 2010 with the 1st Battalion, 172nd Cavalry, said he was looking forward to getting the awards from New York's top military officer.

"It's kind of cool," he said.

Receiving awards during the event were:

- Edward Taylor, a World War II Navy veteran.
- Merton Houghton, a Korean War Air Force veteran.
- Elwin Bentley, a Korean War Navy veteran.
- Malcolm Brownell, a Korean War Army veteran.
- Max Koch, a Navy veteran of the Korean War.
- Joan Madigan, a Navy Petty Officer.
- Hubert Loretan, a former Air Force bomber pilot in the Strategic Air Command.
- John Van Der Kar, a Coast Guardsman.
- Steve Lemon, an Army veteran of the Persian Gulf War.
- Charles Krawczyk, a veteran of the Vermont Army National Guard and the Navy, who served in Afghanistan and Kuwait. **gt**

Nomination leads to Freedom Award for Soldier's Firm

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters



Craig McKinley, left, ESGR National Chair, presents the ESGR Freedom Award to Timothy Hartzell, center, Managing Director, Global Head of Portfolio Management, and Vice Chair of Barclays U.S. Military Network during a presentation of employer awards at the Pentagon, August 23, 2019 with Army National Guard Lt. Col. Bryon Linnehan and Barclays Vice President of Compliance, Bryon Linnehan. Barclays was one of 15 companies recognized for their exceptional support and nominated by Linnehan. U.S. Army photo by Laura Buchta.

WASHINGTON – Barclays Bank, the employer of New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Bryon Linnehan, was honored at the Pentagon August 23 as one of 15 top employers for their support to the Guard and Reserve.

Barclays was one of 15 private-sector and municipal employers to receive the 2019 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for its exceptional support to employees who serve.

Linnehan, a vice president at the company who lives in New Providence, New Jersey, nominated his employer for the national award.

"Barclays has always stepped up and that's why I nominated them for the award," said Linnehan, who serves in the New York National Guard Joint Force Headquarters.

The Freedom Award is the highest recognition by the Department of Defense to employers for their support of the Guard and Reserve.

Former Air Force Reserve officer James Stewart presided over the ceremony, performing the duties of undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The nation would not be possible without the support of private-sector employers, Stewart said.

"In today's security environment, we need to leverage our advantage that we have," Stewart said. "That's our people, and their skills. ... Having these employers here to go ahead and support them is absolutely essential."

It is employers like Barclays, Stewart said, who ensure that when Guard members are needed, they are available to serve.

"If we did not have you there with your support network, our members would not be able to go ahead and serve, because they would be too worried about their

job and their families," Stewart said.

Linnehan, nominated Barclays to a national selection board earlier this spring. That national selection board, composed of senior DoD officials, business leaders and past winners, selected the 15 employers to receive the award from 2,415 nominees.

The company deserves this recognition for going above and beyond the norm for supporting military reservists, Linnehan said. One part of that is the company's military network for service members.

The Barclays Military Network, a group of over 500 employees, works in conjunction with Barclays Military & Veterans Outreach (MVO) team to spearhead Barclays' work with military personnel.

Linnehan is one of the leaders of

the Barclays Military Network.

"Over the past years we have increased the network's activity in support of veterans, and as a result we are delighted to have increased both the number of veterans employed at Barclays, and our engagement in the community," he said.

"It's pretty remarkable that people are balancing basically two careers," said Ed Olsen, the Chief Compliance Officer at Barclays where Linnehan works. "It's just awesome to be able to support that."

The Freedom Award began in 1996 under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to recognize exceptional employer support, with 265 honorees to date.

"It is a true honor to be recognized by the Department of Defense with the Freedom Award," said Richard Haworth, Chief Executive Officer for Barclays Americas. "Barclays has implemented a range of impactful programs for colleagues, within the community, and with the Department of Defense itself, all designed to make Barclays an employer of choice for service members and veterans."

The award ceremony coincided with the declaration of August 19-24 as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week with a proclamation signed by President Donald J. Trump. The week recognizes the essential contributions employers continue to make supporting the military service of their National Guard and Reserve employees.

"I'm very grateful that Barclay's has supported my continued service," Linnehan said. "It helps me be a better employee as well as a better Soldier." **gt**

State Fair Show 'n Tell for Recruiters

Story by Ryan Cambell, Guard Times Staff

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – National Guard recruiters had hoped their annual recruiting effort at the Great New York State Fair here would generate at least 450 people interested in joining the Guard during the fair's run August 21 to September 2.

They were pleasantly surprised when the final number of "leads" ready for follow up reached 747.

"This is the best year I've ever seen," said 1st Sgt. Christopher Harvey, a recruiter in New York's Recruiting and Retention Battalion's Company C.

"We almost doubled out leads from last year."

In 2018 recruiters had finished the fair with 397 leads, Harvey said.

A lead is somebody interested enough in joining the Guard that they provide some background information in order to speak to a recruiter at a later time.

Recruiters from across the state were part of the effort at the state fair, where from 70,000 to 124,000 people visited each day.

Attendance at the 2019 fair was over 1.32 million, according to fair officials, setting a record for the fourth year in a row.

This was the biggest recruiting event of the year for the New York Army National Guard, recruiters said. Additional Soldiers and equipment from the various units of the New York Army National Guard were brought out to support the effort.

There were 17 recruiting Soldiers placed on duty to support the fair along with four Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment and four from the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, assigned to assist the recruiters, Harvey said.

"They had a great attitude and worked hard without complaints to assist my recruiters," Harvey said.

"We're out here at the state fair trying to capture leads from individuals 17 to 35 years old," said Sgt. 1st Class John Poyneer, a recruiter and station commander for the Watertown area. "We are also looking for prior service members who can do a combined total of 20 years by their 60th birthday."

The opportunity to reach a wide audience and meet potential Soldiers is a big win for

recruiters.

"We're around 30 plus people working different shifts at this event for the whole two-week period," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Manarra, the section chief for the Syracuse recruiting office. "We probably have close to 1,000 people I would say, who come through here from morning to night just walking through, stopping and talking to us and checking out our equipment."

Adding a hands-on element to their fair display- an M119 howitzer, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, M1117 Armored Security Vehicle and an explosive ordinance disposal robot and bomb suit-showcased the various career fields in the New York Army National Guard.

Along with the displays, the fair requires knowledgeable Soldiers to work the event who can explain the equipment and the units they came from, he added.

"We're trying to get people interested in the New York Army National Guard and in field artillery," said Sgt. Arnan Murphy, an assistant gunner assigned to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment headquartered in Jamaica.

"I think it's very important to be here because it gives the public a chance to see what it is we do."

Murphy, who was showing off the M119 howitzer to fairgoers, said that the equipment on display attracted people of all ages. The visitors ranged from children who wanted to play with it, to young adults who were interested in the National Guard and retirees who simply wanted to come by and talk about how the equipment has changed since they served, he said.

The equipment display for 2019 was the largest ever for the recruiting exhibit and it made a difference, Harvey said.

"The addition of the M119A3 105mm howitzer and an EOD (explosive ordinance disposal) tech were instrumental in our success," Harvey



Fairgoers stop by the New York Army National Guard display to test their fitness (photo above) or to get hands on with equipment such as an M119 Howitzer, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter (below) or M1117 Armored Security Vehicle which came from units across New York during the New York State Fair in Syracuse, N.Y., August 26, 2019. Photo by Ryan Campbell, Guard Times Staff.



said.

Getting enlistments is important, but there is a lot of value in just getting out and meeting the public at places like the state fair, the recruiters said.

"I like doing events like this because it gets you in the community," Poyneer said. "A lot of the people who come to these events live here locally, so for us to be in the National Guard, a community based organization, it gives us a hand-in-hand relationship with them and we'll see them every year here." **gt**

Employers Get Firsthand Look at the Guard

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

Photos by Michael Rehbaum, *New York Guard*

CAMP SMITH, N.Y. -- Employers from Long Island and the Albany, N.Y. area got a four-day training weekend crammed into one day during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve "boss lift" to the Camp Smith Training Site Sept. 16.

The 20 civilians moved by UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Once on the ground, they toured the New York Army National Guard's newest maintenance facility, ate a lunch of MREs, and experienced training simulators at the post.

A high-point was the chance to fire M-4s and M-9 pistols. Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Goldacker, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, and Sgt. Omar Ortega, with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, put the civilians through a quick safety class and then got them shooting.

"It was unbelievable," said Matthew Zink, the training director for the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union in Albany.

"It gets your heart going," said Jerry Anthis, a service manager for Sinclair fuels after firing an M-4 on the full auto setting.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, commonly known as ESGR, is a federal program designed to help business owners and supervisors understand what the Guard members and reservists who work for them do.

The goal, said Emil Baker, the ESGR outreach director for New York, is to ease the friction that can occur when a Guard Soldier or Airman asks for military leave.

Bringing employers to Camp Smith to get a taste of military life is part of that, said Baker, the owner of the Big Moose Deli in Hoosick Falls, N.Y.

"It gives them the ability to



Civilians participating in a "boss lift" leave a UH-60 helicopter at Camp Smith, Sept. 16, 2019. Twenty employers from the Capital Region and Long Island visited to get a first hand look at Army Guard training as part of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program.

understand that this is not just play time--the weekends that they go and train--this is an important mission," Baker said.

Bosses can be nominated by the Guardsmen who work for them. In many instances ESGR invites business owners who have reached out for information, Baker explained.

Gina Berrent, a supervisor at New York University Winthrop Hospital, was nominated by a Guard Soldier who works for her.

"I was so honored that he even considered me for this," Berrent said.

Kevin Peters, a supervisor at the Longwoods Youth Association, said two Guard Soldiers who work for him recommended him.

"It was an unbelievable chance for me to come here and I wouldn't miss it for the world," Peters said.

Major Michael Sicinski, a member of the Camp Smith garrison and 16 Soldiers who volunteered to come in for a duty day orchestrated the event.

"I wanted to put on a showcase for the coolest stuff and give them the widest range of exposure, the best

bang for the buck," Sicinski said.

"The guys called it going Hollywood," he added.

To do that, Sicinski rolled out the most impressive simulators the Army Guard has at Camp Smith.

The employers experienced the Engagement Skills Trainer, in which they fired M-4s and M-9s at digital targets on standard Army qualification courses, and then conducted simulated missions.

"It was exciting and I hit the targets," said PSEG senior supervisor Lindsay McKinley.

The bosses also experienced the Virtual Convoy Operations



Staff Sgt. Arthur Harrison explains the Virtual Convoy Training Simulator to civilian employers during a "boss lift" at Camp Smith Sept. 16, 2019.

Trainer which allowed them to fire an M-2 .50 caliber machine gun from a simulated humvee.

"It was very realistic to shoot a .50 caliber gun and just to see the training the guys go through," Peters said.

The best and most impressive event, Sicinski said, was the Range-In-A-Box simulator. This system put the civilians in a close combat environment and let them shoot at real physical targets with soft pellet ammunition.

While the civilian guests had a great time in the simulators, the MRE lunch didn't go over as well as he thought, Sicinski admitted.

"The MREs were not a big hit," he said.

They're interesting, said McKinley, as she ate MRE chili mac.

One of the volunteers was Staff Sgt. Arthur Harrison, who runs the convoy operations trainer.

"It is kind of important and I am glad this program is here," he said. "This way the employers get to see exactly what people do when they come here to train." **gt**



Jerry Anthis, a service manager for Sinclair Fuel on Long Island, gets hints about the M-4 carbine from Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Goldacker during a "boss lift" at the Camp Smith Training Site, Sept. 16, 2019.

THE JOINT FORCE

Response Force Rehearses Disaster Response Skills

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

New York State Preparedness Training Center, Oriskany, N.Y.-- A disaster response force of more than 600 National Guardsmen from New York and New Jersey came together to train and rehearse their readiness to respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear incidents September 6-8.

New York's Homeland Response Force (HRF) is one of ten such elements established by the Department of Defense.

The response force is comprised of units from across the New York and New Jersey National Guard. The units include the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters, to provide command and control; a CBRN response task force headquarters from the 153rd Brigade Engineer Battalion; a Decontamination Team from the 642nd Support Battalion; Search and Extraction Soldiers from Bravo Company, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion; medical triage built around the 105th Airlift Wing; communications personnel from the 105th Airlift Wing and 107th Attack Wing; security forces from the New Jersey Army National Guard's 154th Quartermaster Company and 50th Chemical Company and a Fatality Search and Recovery Team comprised of Airmen of the 107th Attack Wing.

The task force began training earlier this year for the response mission and will undergo an external evaluation in November.

Like every other military training task, the linchpin for the new HRF Soldiers is mastering individual skills, working as a team and then accomplishing collective training said Lt. Col. Joseph Boler, the exercise deputy director from Army North, the external evaluation team.

"These guys will be just fine," Boler said. "They'll crawl, walk and run and be ready for validation."

The HRF prepares for search and extraction of disaster victims, incident site security, decontamination, medical treatment and command and control of the mission.

For the command post, the 27th Infantry Brigade is ready for the challenge, said Col. Robert Charlesworth, the brigade commander.

"For us, we know operations and command," Charlesworth said, noting the summer completion of a warfighter command post exercise



Soldiers of the Homeland Response Force to provide decontamination for simulated victims during chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident response training at the New York State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, N.Y. September 7, 2019. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.

for the staff. "We're just adapting to this new environment to make sure we're ready."

The learning curve for the units has been steep said Warrant Officer George, an ammunition officer from the 642nd Support Battalion now supervising elements of the decon team.

"This is a big difference for everyone," George said, "but we're getting there. This training (at Oriskany) has been a great boost."

The training was an opportunity to bring all the elements together for collective training, and see how the distinct elements work.

"We definitely need this hands on training," said Spc. Zachary Elliott, part of the decontamination line from the 642nd Support Battalion. "This is how we learn. PowerPoint is good to learn, but hands on like this is way better."

The HRF is aligned with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II, providing a link between state and federal response.

The most important training is the physically demanding movement of casualties on and off litters, and conducting patient decontamination while wearing the protective clothing and gear, said Pfc. Sarah Cecere, another member of the



Pvt. Chelsea Grace, left, and Pfc. Allison Perozzi, combat engineers assigned to Bravo Company, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, don hazmat suits during Homeland Response Force training exercise at the New York State Preparedness Training Center September 7. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

642nd Support Battalion.

"This gives us a good sense of what we could walk into," Cecere said.

For many of the Soldiers new to the mission of CBRN response, the training is demanding but offers new challenges and opportunities.

Staff Sgt. Gene Whitaker is a team leader in the search and extraction team, a horizontal



Soldiers of the Homeland Response Force provide medical triage of ambulatory victims prior to decontamination during chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident response training in Oriskany, N.Y. September 7. Below photo, members of the decontamination element conduct a technical decon. Photos by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.



Air National Guard members of the Homeland Response Force Medical Triage team assess a casualty during training in Oriskany, September 7. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Comerford, Joint Force Headquarters.



Spc. Kenneth Nole, left, trains for urban casualty extraction with members of Bravo Company, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion at the New York State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, N.Y. September 6. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.

engineer with Bravo Company, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion. Whitaker, who owns a construction company in his civilian career, likens the search and extraction mission to deconstructing a work site.

“Our Soldiers go in, assess the site and begin combing over the entire location to bring out casualties,” Whitaker said, acknowledging the

demands of doing so in a CBRN environment. “For a guy like me that was used to simply pushing dirt, this is really new ground.”

The timeline to train and prepare for validation is short, Boler said, but the unit has already completed a number of helpful milestones.

From individual to command post raining to the deployment of CBRN response elements to

support the Ohio Vigilant Guard exercise in August, this full-scale exercise sharpens collective skills, said Luis Merchado, a medical team observer controller trainer from US Army North.

“The big training benefit is bringing the entire team together, working out the kinks and learning from each other,” Merchado said. **9**

Aloha! Engineers Annual Training in Hawaii

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

HALEIWA, Hawaii-- While most New York Army National Guard Soldiers spent their 2019 Annual Training at Fort Drum, Fort Indiantown Gap, or Joint Base Dix-McGuire-Lakehurst; 45 Soldiers from the 204th Engineer Battalion did their training in Hawaii.

The Soldiers from the 1156th Engineer Company participated in two Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) rotations at Girl Scout Camp Paumalu in Haleiwa, Hawaii from July 28 to August 24, 2019.

“The Hawaii Girl Scout Camp IRT is an outstanding program for New York Army National Guard Engineers that will benefit the local community while fostering an environment for our Soldiers to grow, develop and prepare them for future missions,” said Lt. Col. Wing Yu, commander of the 204th Engineer Battalion.

IRT is a joint service program that provides real-world training opportunities for the Reserves and National Guard members to prepare for wartime missions while supporting the needs of America’s underserved communities.

Along with service members from the Air Force, Air National Guard, and the Marine Corps Reserves, New York’s engineers have been working at the camp to help build a

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning center for the Girl Scouts.

The two-year joint operation has been managed by the Air Guard since the beginning.

1st Lt. Chris Dryja with the 116th Civil Engineering Squadron, out of Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, was the project’s officer-in-charge during the 1156th’s first rotation.

The Georgia Air Guardsman praised the Soldiers, along with the IRT program itself, for providing an opportunity for cooperation among the different branches on site to help.

“There was immediate immersion,” said Dryja. “Army, Air and civilians working together from the moment they arrived.”

He explained that this was a unique environment since the different branches were working together and only divided by jobs – not uniforms.

This was not a volunteer mission. Soldiers were selected for this mission by their chain of command because of their standings in the unit and their specific military job training, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Oliverio Hernandez.

“We were hand-selected for this rotation because they needed our specific skillsets,” explained Hernandez, property book officer

with the 204th engineer battalion and officer-in-charge for the engineers during this rotation.

This IRT mission took Soldiers out of their normal home stations and forced them to adapt to a very new, different and challenging environment, Hernandez said.

“This IRT is actually a large-scale project that we’re building from the bottom up,” Hernandez said. “This is more than just equipment familiarization; this is practical application in a real-world environment with a real-world impact.”

Another unique benefit of IRT is that it’s specifically geared toward developing junior and future leaders, Hernandez added.

Lower enlisted service members are not only doing the hands-on training that wouldn’t normally occur in annual training, but they’re given the opportunity to teach and learn from their peers, he said.

Two of these future leaders were Pfc. Anthony Allen and Jesse Velez. Both also have a civilian trade that enhances their military jobs.

Allen is a military carpentry and masonry specialist, who was also assigned as the chain-saw trainer and team leader for the mission because of his civilian experience with that tool.

Allen wasn’t sure what to expect when he arrived on the site, but he knew it wouldn’t be anything like what he was used to back home.

“We’ve had challenges, but our biggest one so far is definitely the weather: the heat and rain,” said Allen, who’s been in the New York Army National Guard for just about two years.

Velez is a plumber and is on his very first mission with the Guard.

“This is the perfect place to test what the Army just trained me to do in basic and AIT (Advanced Individual Training),” Velez said.

Velez recently returned from his initial military training and credits his military experience with helping him secure a union job in New York City.

While grateful for the opportunities the Guard has already afforded him, he’s looking to contribute his skills to the mission.

“This is the true definition of one-fight, one-team,” Velez said. “We’re building community relationships together – showing them they can count on us!” **gt**



Sgt. Ronald Gonzalez, a wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to the 1156th Engineer Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, uses a circular saw to cut a board that will be used for framing during Innovative Readiness Training at Girl Scout Camp Paumalu in Haleiwa, Hawaii, July 31, 2019.



Pfc. Anthony Allen, a carpentry and masonry specialist assigned to the 1156th Engineer Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, operates a chainsaw to cut a downed tree into removeable sections during Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) at Girl Scout Camp Paumalu in Haleiwa, Hawaii, July 31, 2019. The Engineers joined other Air Force, Air National Guard and Marine Corps personnel since May to build a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math activity center.

69th Infantry Brings Logan Duffy Cup back to NYC

Story by Spc. Chisom Olajide, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y.-- The Logan Duffy Trophy, the shooting award the New York National Guard's 1st Battalion 69th Infantry and the Massachusetts National Guard's 1st Battalion 182nd Infantry compete for each year, is back in New York.

The New York team of six Soldiers outshot the Massachusetts contingent by a score of 1030 to 1012 to bring the trophy back to the 69th Infantry's home at the Lexington Avenue Armory.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Melendez, the co-captain of the 69th Infantry

team and a sniper section leader, said the New Yorkers entered the match wanting revenge for a loss to the Massachusetts team in 2018.

"Our loss last year to the Massachusetts team sparked a fire in us to do better and win this year," Melendez said. "We revamped our training this year by spending five to six hours at the range for two weeks competing against each other, after our annual training."

Melendez, who is also a police officer in the New York Police Department, was the high scorer in the match with 263 points.

The overall marksmanship of the New York team improved both individually and as a group because of their hard work, he said.

The 69th Infantry had three Soldiers who were returnees and three competing for the first time. Along with three infantrymen the 69th team included a maintenance supervisor, a wheeled vehicle mechanic and a combat medic.

The 69th Infantry and 182nd Infantry have historic roots and rivalry as Irish-American National Guard regiments. The interstate competition started in 1936.

The purpose was to encourage competitive marksmanship and enhance the spirit of camaraderie between the two organizations.

The competition is named after Gen. Lawrence Logan of Massachusetts and Gen. Edward Duffy of New York, who were commanders of their regiments during the Spanish-American War.

This year's match started with a competition between battalion commanders, Lt. Cols. Joseph Whaley of the 69th Infantry and Shane Maxon of the 182nd.

Whaley praised the Soldiers of both regiments and the comradery between them.

"We're both proud of our Soldiers and they are the best of the best in a friendly competition," Whaley said. "Both sides will share their experiences and they will come back stronger next year."

"This match helps with morale and sets a good tone and healthy competition among the two organizations," Maxon said. "It promotes some of the more elites marksmen in the two groups."

The trophy itself is a silver five-gallon bowl, crafted by Reed and Barton Silversmiths of Taunton, Massachusetts in 1936.

The trophy is a joint proposition governed by a deed of trust drawn up by Col. Francis V. Logan and Col. Alexander E. Anderson in 1936. The trophy is owned jointly by the two organizations but, possession is retained by the unit winning the annual rifle match.

The two battalions have been friendly rivals for almost 150 years.

The relationship began in 1861, when Col. Michael Corcoran of the 69th Infantry, New York State Militia, rode out to Arlington, Va., to visit neighbouring Fort Cass in the opening months of the Civil War. While there, he paid his respects to Col. Thomas Cass of the 9th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry. The Fighting 69th of New York had met the Fighting Irish of Boston.

The first match for the trophy was held Oct. 12, 1936 at Camp Curtis Guild in Reading, Massachusetts. The match was won by the 101st Infantry Regiment --who later merged with the 182nd Infantry to become the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry.

The 101st, having won the match in 1939, retained the trophy in Boston during World War II.

In 1958, Gen. Edward F. Logan, commander of the 101st and Gen. William D. Lynch, commander of the 165th reinstated the competition. On Oct. 11, 1958, the first post-war match was fired at Camp Curtis Guild, Massachusetts with the 101st keeping the trophy.

The match remained an annual event until 1996 when the 101st Infantry became the 182nd Infantry.

Matches were suspended in 2001 after September 11th. To continue the tradition, on Oct. 2, 2010, the competition resumed and is again held annually. **gt**



Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, top photo, compete in the annual Logan-Duffy Rifle Match held at Camp Smith Training Site, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., Sept. 7. Above, members of the battalion pose with the Logan Duffy Cup after winning the competition with the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment. Photos by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Sgt. Jake Napier, assigned to Alpha Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment scans the area with binoculars, while Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Roeser, the squadron senior enlisted Soldier provides security during the unit spur ride at the Youngstown Training Area in Youngstown, N.Y. Sep 7, 2019. Below, cavalry troopers relay information from one of their reconnaissance missions.



Spur Ride for Cav Troops

Story and photos by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade

YOUNGSTOWN, N.Y. -- Twenty Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment put their mental and physical toughness to the test in a grueling spur ride at the Youngstown Local Training Area Sep. 7.

“The spur ride is an annual tradition in the squadron with the purpose to develop teamwork across the unit, develop leadership at the small unit level and test critical cavalry skills at the individual Soldier level,” said Lt. Col. Bradley Frank, the squadron commander. “It all culminates in earning your spurs, which troopers can wear at cavalry functions and at unit armories.”

For participants, the day began early with a rigorous physical training session at the squadron’s Niagara Falls, N.Y. headquarters. Then the Soldiers were loaded into trucks, driven to the training area and divided into teams.

Each Soldier rotated through leadership roles as the day progressed. It didn’t matter if you were a sergeant major, officer or junior soldier – every spur ride candidate was held to the same standard and tasked with completing four different training lanes to test the skills of a cavalry trooper.

“Each of the lanes are about two hours long and can range anywhere from one kilometer to several kilometers in length,” Frank said. “The tasks consist of zone reconnaissance, area reconnaissance, route reconnaissance, setting up an observation post and breaking contact.”

Each of the training lanes required the Soldiers to conduct basic cavalry reconnaissance missions:

- Zone reconnaissance, in which the Soldiers obtained detailed information about routes, terrain, obstacles and enemy forces within a specified boundary;
- Area reconnaissance, in which the team focuses on a piece of terrain or a town that is smaller than a zone;
- Route reconnaissance, in which the team gathers information about a specific road or cross country route;
- And the skills involved in setting up an observation post and breaking contact with the enemy.

After each team completed the training lanes, there was one more task to be accomplished: a 12-mile ruck march back to the squadron headquarters.

At the end of the march, the spur ride was finally complete. The Soldiers were given a chance to shower and rest before a banquet where they were formally inducted into the Order of the Spur.

“The spurs meant a lot to me ever since I became part of the 2-101 Cav,” said Sgt. 1st Class Justin Chernogorec, a section commander assigned to bravo troop. “Having them bestowed a greater sense of pride and honor in myself and what it means to be in the cavalry.”

Although the Order of the Spur is a cavalry tradition and an unofficial award, Soldiers with any military occupational specialty can participate.

Frank hopes to open the event to scout platoons across the infantry battalions within the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which are spread across New York and Massachusetts.

“We have a very unique mission within the brigade. We are the brigade’s eyes and ears and we’re out front of the line companies,” Frank said. “It’s these traditions that keep us together as a team when we’re out doing those difficult missions.”

“I would encourage it for those serious, strong willed and those determined to push themselves,” Chernogorec added. **gt**

Ravens take to Fort Drum Skies

Story and photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade

FORT DRUM, N.Y. -- Fifteen Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team tested their ability to fly the Army's smallest spy plane by conducting re-certification training with the RQ-11B Raven unmanned aircraft system during the brigade's annual training on July 21.

Soldiers practiced assembling, launching, piloting and recovering the Raven. The small, hand-launched remote controlled aircraft looks and flies like a model airplane a hobbyist would use.

The Raven is operated by Soldiers in several of the 27th Brigade's units.

"This is the first time I'm doing Raven training in New York," said Sgt. Foluke Marsh, a signal support systems specialist assigned to Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery. Marsh, a New York City resident, received his initial training to fly the Raven during a

two-week course at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

"You learn the basic functionalities of the aircraft and all of its different parts," Marsh said. "You then learn how to launch the aircraft, set up the flight path and how to manually fly it. It's an awesome course and everyone should take it."

Sgt. Jordan Aguiar, a cavalry scout assigned to Alpha Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment who led the training at Fort Drum, said the purpose was to give operators like Marsh the flight time needed to keep their certifications current.

The Raven, first adopted by the U.S. Army in 2005, is now used by more than 25 countries across the globe. Weighing in at just over 4 pounds, with a wingspan of 4.5 feet and with a flying range of 10 kilometers, it is currently



Cpl. Matthew Mena, a field artillery tactical data system specialist assigned to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, prepares an RQ-11B Raven small unmanned aircraft for flight at Fort Drum, July 21. The Raven, a small hand-launched aircraft, is utilized in the field to conduct short range reconnaissance.

the smallest unmanned aircraft in wide use across the Army.

The Raven delivers real time color or infrared pictures to the operator or a ground control station and uses GPS to navigate.

Aguiar said the Raven is more agile and less detectable than larger and more costly aircraft. Sol-

diers use it to conduct battlefield reconnaissance and provide units with a greater level of security.

"If you need to have eyes on a target, or eyes on a convoy to make sure everything is safe, it's good to send out the Raven instead of risking someone getting hurt or killed," Marsh said. **gt**

Aerial Gunnery Goes Live for Helicopter Aircrews

Story and photos by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade

FORT DRUM, N.Y. -- Soldiers assigned to Alpha and Bravo Companies, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment tested their abilities to engage targets from a moving helicopter during annual training here July 24.

Aerial gunnery is an annual requirement, but is also a highlight of annual training for the crew chiefs and other enlisted aircrew.

"The aerial gunnery is our capstone training event, but it's also the best time of the year to be on one of these crews," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Cordaro, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of gunnery training.

"You get to fire these weapons, boost morale, build camaraderie, it's the most fun event of the year. We are lucky it is an annual requirement because we view it as something we get to do, not something we have to do," he added.

"It's one of the most important tasks of the year for the crews," explained Capt. Salvatore Garcia, the officer-in-charge of gunnery.

It may be fun for the Soldiers, but the exercise helps increase the cohesion of the crews, he added.

Training started with Soldiers firing the 240B machine gun that they use in the air from a bipod on the ground.

That familiarizes the Soldiers with the weapons, Cordaro said.

The next step is to get in the air and engage targets on the ground. That involves the gunners working with pilots to make sure they are in the right location to hit.

When the sun went down the aviation Soldiers were in the air again, engaging targets using night vision devices.

This year Soldiers from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation, who fly the CH-47 Chinook, joined the UH-60 Soldiers in conducting gunnery.

Soldiers from each unit got to fire the others weapons from the others helicopter. In the past

each unit has conducted gunnery separately.

Training jointly gave Soldiers from each unit more experience, Garcia said. **gt**



Sgt. Marcus Dacis, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, fires an M-240B machine gun during aerial gunnery at Fort Drum, N.Y., July 24, 2019.

Cooks are among Top Chefs in Army

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

NEW YORK -- Ten Army National Guard cooks assigned to f Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion will compete to be the best food service team in the Army Guard next March.

The Fox Company culinary specialists, who usually feed the 450 members of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, won the regional Army National Guard Food Service Phillip A. Connelly competition this summer. The contest recognizes excellence in Army cooks.

The food service section was evaluated July 26 during the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team annual training at Fort Drum.

A team of evaluators went through the section paperwork and assessed performance in preparing a meal in the field in a tactical feeding scenario.

That assessment was compared with other Army Guard food service sections in the northeast and Fox Company came out on top, explained Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nakia Dukes, food program manager for the New York Army National Guard.

"It is very difficult to make it to the Department of the Army level," Dukes said. "In some cases there can be a difference of one point between the winner and runner-up for the regional level competition," he said. "Every point matters."

Staff Sgt. Eli Solis, the company food service manager, credits the win to an emphasis on basic kitchen skills, hard work by the cooks, and support from the company.

The section currently only has 10 of its 16 assigned Soldiers and without the loan of additional personnel, his Soldiers would not have been able to compete, Solis explained.

In addition to being six cooks understrength, the food service section is also made up mostly of newly assigned Soldiers.

"Most of them are college students. We have a few working on bachelor's degrees and a few with master's degrees," Solis said.

He's a chef in civilian life and the only member of the culinary team with outside experience in food service, Solis added.

The outside experience Solis brings made a real difference to the professionalism of the section, said Spc. Erica Bishop, a culinary special-



Spcs. Wonnda Coats and Erica Bishop assigned to Fox Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, arrange pork chops during the unit cooking participation in the Connelly Competition at Fort Drum, N.Y., July 26. The competition recognizes excellence in Army Food Service and is named after Philip A. Connelly, former president of International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA). Photo by Sgt. Matthew Gunther, Joint Force Headquarters.

ists in Fox Company for the last five years.

"He taught us a lot about cooking techniques and I think that really helps on working smoothly together," she said.

The Soldiers, who drill in Jamaica, Queens, will compete against three other Army Guard culinary sections. Army Reserve cooks and active Army cooks will also compete to be the best in their components.

"It makes us feel really good to be part of something bigger and to represent all the culinary specialists in the New York Army National Guard," Bishop said.

Because so many of his cooks are strait out of training and have no outside professional food experience, Solis said he and his three NCOs focus on teaching the basics: cooking from raw ingredients, knife skills and following recipes.

The Fox Company cooks have asked to be evaluated March 7, 2020 at Camp Smith.

"We know that cooking is only half the battle, so we'll dedicate most of our preparation training time to ensure that our food service documents and equipment maintenance are properly recorded," Solis emphasized.

Another key issue will be making sure the



Private First Class Woo Lee, left, and Spc. Matthew Naipaul assigned to Fox Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, serve food during the Connelly Competition at Fort Drum, N.Y., July 26. Photo by Sgt. Matthew Gunther, Joint Force Headquarters.

containerized kitchen, which includes generators, water, refrigerators and an oven, is in top working order, Selman said.

Being part of the Connelly competition is great, Selman said, but the thing he likes best about being an Army cook is knowing that what you do helps every Soldier in the unit.

That relationships makes the culinary section want to be the best, Selman said.

"We have a saying in our section," Solis said, "Never send any food out to the troops that you, yourself, won't eat." **gt**

Artillery Medics Learn Casualty Evacuation

Story and photo by Sgt. Matthew Gunther, Joint Force Headquarters



Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery and Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, extract simulated casualties from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a mass casualty exercise at Fort Drum, N.Y., July 29th, 2019. The annual training event, shown above and below right, enabled the Soldiers to gain experience in loading casualties onto CH-47s.

FORT DRUM, N.Y. – Soldiers assigned to the Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery conducted training to respond to a mass casualty evacuation with CH-47 Chinook aircrews from b Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation during the two units' annual training here July 29th, 2019.

The artillery Soldiers are more accustomed to working with aviation assets for artillery raids, slingloading tubes to remote locations for fire missions, explained Capt. Michael Doyle, the headquarters battery commander who coordinated the training.

“This was the first time our medics had conducted this training,” Doyle said, “as well as the first time for the Chinook crew members, who were familiar with the racks for litters but had never used them.”

Doyle coordinated with the two units in the midst of their annual training to identify a day to bring the two organizations together for the training.

Two CH-47 helicopters arrived for static training first, providing the medics and support

personnel of the headquarters battery a chance to familiarize themselves with litter placement and procedures.

Litters were hand carried from a staging area onto the back of the aircraft, where they were placed in racks specifically made for litter patients.

Then it was time to go hot.

With engines running and rotor blades turning, medics and support Soldiers conducted casualty movements to the aircraft, careful to approach the rear ramp in a single file parallel to the aircraft in order to avoid the engine heat exhaust, which can approach 2,000 degrees.

Soldiers required sure footing in addition to proper approach to the aircraft. The rear rotor of the aircraft can also produce a rotor wash greater than 120 miles per hour.

After completing their litter training, the troops conducted a familiarization flight on the aircraft, returning them back to their original landing zone and a new appreciation for the capability of Army aviation in supporting the artillery battalion. **gt**



Leaders Walk Saratoga Battlefield for Lessons

Story and photos by Andrew Valenza, 42nd Infantry Division

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK, Stillwater, N.Y. — Future New York Army National Guard company commanders and first sergeants discussed leadership and tactical lessons learned from the 1777 Battle of Saratoga as they walked the battlefield here August 14, 2019.

The 35 leaders took part in the battlefield tour, known as a staff ride, as part of the Company Commander and First Sergeant Pre-Command Course.

The training started with a helicopter ride, via UH-60 Black Hawks flown by the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, based in Latham, N.Y. to a designated landing zone at the battlefield, where the Soldiers conducted their leadership training exercise.

"Saratoga is rich in history and I'm looking forward to learning some of that history today," said Capt. Erica Moreland, the incoming commander of the 138th Public Affairs Detachment before the trip.

"I'm hoping to learn how decisions affect the course of battle, or even just how leadership plays a key role to units and individual Soldiers," she said.

In September and October 1777, American troops under Generals Horatio Gates and Benedict Arnold confronted a British army invading from Canada led by General John Burgoyne.

The British army was advancing south along the Hudson River and seeking to capture Albany to split New England from the rest of the country.

In two battles -the Battle of Freeman's Farm on Sept. 19, 1777 and the Battle of Bemis Heights on October 7- the American forces defeated the British and forced their withdrawal north to Sara-

toga. When finally surrounded, Burgoyne was forced to surrender 5,900 troops on Oct. 17, 1777.

The Battle of Saratoga is considered by many historians as the turning point in the Revolutionary War, bringing recognition of the newly formed United States and the support of French military forces into the war.

The Pre-Command Course is a New York Army National Guard program to prepare officers and NCOs for the tasks and responsibilities they face in command positions as a company first sergeant or company commander.

The course is valuable in learning how to work as a command team and listen to input from Soldiers, said Capt. Michael Tracey, the commander of Bravo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

"This pre-command course is very valuable and I think it's really going to help a lot of Soldiers out and bring positive change to our organization," Tracey said. "It's not a one man thing, you're leading a team. You need to use the talents and perspectives of the people in your team because you may have a blind spot. If you have a team they'll help you see that blind spot and you'll form better decisions."

The Soldier's guide through the battlefield was a civilian, Mr. James Hughto, an official Saratoga Battlefield tour guide since 1996.

Hughto walked the Soldiers through the tactical movements on both sides of the battlefield and discussed why decisions made by the American and British leaders did and didn't work.

"I've been providing tours for over 20 years," Hughto said. "It's good to be able to share with these Soldiers their history...this is



Maj. Jason Cossey speaks with battlefield guide James Hughto at Saratoga National Battlefield, Stillwater, N.Y., Aug. 14, 2019. Cossey and other Soldiers in the Pre-Command Course toured the battlefield as a leader development exercise. Below, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters arrive at the site of the British positions. Bottom photo, members of the course review a map of the battlefield during their tour.

their lineage and it's important to remember it."

The officers and NCOs were divided into five groups and were asked to analyze battlefield actions at five key points.

Tracey was team leader for one of the groups.

"We were given different scenarios at different points in the battle and we were given a couple of options," Tracey explained.

"What would you do if you were the British or American general? The way you looked at it, you wanted to keep the overall objective in mind, but in the context of what are your tactical advantages and that would help guide you into your decision making," he said.

"When I would go over the options, I wanted to try not to give my bias upfront," Tracey said. "Once people gave their perspective I would chime in with mine and we would all relate it to what we were trying to achieve and pick the one that most met that goal."

"Overall, it was an excellent training opportunity," said Capt.



Alix Shepard, executive officer for the New York Joint Force Headquarters Detachment.

"We're here to learn some more of the area's history and maybe see how we can apply some of that history moving forward in our careers as well," she said. "It's great that the National Guard is able to coordinate this for us today and bring us out here." **gt**

Leapin' Lizards! Chinook Crews Fly for Leapfest

Story and photo by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, 42nd Infantry Division



SOUTH KINGSTON, Rhode Island -- Military paratroopers competing in the Rhode Island National Guard's annual "Leapfest" competition got to their 1,500 foot jump altitude thanks to aircrews and two CH-47s Chinook helicopters from the New York Army National Guard.

The team from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation, based in Rochester, N.Y. provided half the airlift for the Leapfest International Airborne Competition held August 3. The other two came from the Pennsylvania Guard.

Leapfest is the largest, oldest international static line parachute training competition. It's attended by military parachutists from the active Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air Force, Marines, Navy and teams from around the world.

Since 2011, New York aircrews have been providing transport to the jump-

ers, which reached 192 parachutists this summer.

It's a great event to be part of, the New York Soldiers said.

"I like the mission, and I like doing para-drop operations," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Hermanson. "It's nice to go out of your local flying area."

Hermanson has flown the Leapfest mission for the last four years.

He enjoys the mission for the experience of working with Soldiers from around the world, he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Tenace, a flight engineer, said the mission is fun and excellent training.

"This task is a great experience for crew members. It is a collective task that takes planning and proper aircraft configuration to install a static line," Tenace said. "It's a great experience to be able to work with different jump masters and safety personnel."

As a standardization

instructor, Tenace' qualifies other crew members for para-jump operations.

Leapfest promotes camaraderie and "esprit de corps" of the airborne Soldier, according to the Rhode Island National Guard.

Participants are judged by their ability to land close to a designated area within a landing zone.

This year 50 teams, 35 from the U.S. military and 20 from other countries, took part.

According to Tenace, the job is a difficult one. It requires immense cooperation and communication, he explained.

Pilots maintain a speed and track while managing when the jumpers are clear by communicating with the drop zone.

Meanwhile, crew members in the front windows watch for other aircraft.

A crew member in the back is responsible for relaying communications between the jump master


and pilots, Tenace said.

"Overall this is a well-rehearsed task between the jumpers, jump masters and flight crew," Tenace said.

For Tenace, the best part of the annual mission is to just be there.

"The best part

of Leapfest is being a part of the competition itself, because not only is

it a competition between the jumpers, but also between the aircraft crews," he said. 



Paratroopers prepare for Leapfest on board a New York Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook August 3, 2019, at the University of Rhode Island in South Kingston, Rhode Island. Photos by Sgt. Andrew Winchell, 42nd Infantry Division.

Aviator Earns Star, Takes Command

Story and photo by Spc. Michael Bezares, 138th Public Affairs Detachment



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for New York, presents the 53rd Troop Command guidon to Brig. Gen. Jack James, symbolizing his responsibility to lead Soldiers of the 53rd Troop Command during the change of command ceremony at Camp Smith September 7.

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. -- A change in leadership for the 53rd Troop Command took place on a parade field with a backdrop outlined with helicopters and tactical vehicles.

Brig. Gen. Jack A. James, the incoming commander of the Troop Command, took command of its over 4,000 Soldiers during a ceremony at Camp Smith, Sept. 7, 2019.

James, the former commander of the 42nd Aviation Brigade Combat Team, replaced Brig. Gen. Michel Natali, who held the command since 2016.

Natali now serves as Assistant Adjutant General for the New York Army National Guard.

Natali also continues in a dual assignment as the deputy commanding general for the Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

"I am so impressed by this organization and the Soldiers who are trained, fit and ready to deploy to accomplish the nation's

missions," James said. "Our success in this mission is critical to us as leaders delivering on our promise to be there when our nation and community calls on us without fail – and we will succeed in that mission."

James brings 26 years of service to the Troop Command.

"My goal during the time I have here is to build in the legacy of those that previously served and honor their service by leading the 53rd Troop Command into the future," James said.

Natali also emphasized that while the pace and challenges of ongoing overseas deployments and contingency missions continues, the Soldiers of the 53rd Troop Command remain ready to handle anything they're called upon to do.

The 53rd is composed of 32 units ranging from explosive ordinance disposal to finance and military police, and regularly supports contingency operations both locally and internationally. **gt**

Hellfighters Welcome New Commander

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

CAMP SMITH, N.Y.-- New York Army National Guard Colonel Seth L. Morgulas, a Scarsdale resident and Iraq War veteran, took command of the 369th Sustainment Brigade during a ceremony at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill on Saturday, August 3.

Morgulas replaced Col. Stephen M. Bousquet who had led the brigade in Kuwait in 2016/2017. Morgulas, a full-time National Guard officer, had been serving as the brigade's deputy commander.

A sustainment brigade can command three to five logistics support battalions to provide maintenance and supplies to a division sized force in combat.

Morgulas was commissioned as an armor officer in 1993 after graduating from John Hopkins University as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

He first served on active duty, where he served as a tank platoon leader, both in the U.S. and in Korea.

After joining the New York Army National Guard, Morgulas served full-time as battalion maintenance officer, headquarters company commander, personnel officer and operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry Regiment on Staten Island.

He deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 as commander of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery.

He has also served as battalion executive officer, brigade and division staff officers, and as the commander of the 369th Special Troops Battalion, which he led in Kuwait in 2016-2017. **gt**



Col. Seth Morgulas accepts the colors of the 369th Sustainment Brigade from Brig. Gen. Michele Natali, during his change of command ceremony August 3, 2019. Photo by Spc. Chisom Olajide, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Members of the 109th Airlift Wing's emergency management flight pose with their Colonel Frederick J. Reimer Award during recent chemical, biological, nuclear training conducted at Stratton Air National Guard Base. The award recognizes the best emergency management flight in the Air National Guard.

109th Airlift Wing Wins Emergency Managers Award

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Jaclyn Lyons, 109th Airlift Wing

STRATTON Air National Guard Base, Scotia, N.Y.— The 109th Airlift Wing's emergency management flight has been named the best in the Air National Guard.

Air Force emergency management personnel are trained to conduct response and recovery missions following a natural or manmade disaster on their base or anywhere around the world. They are also responsible for training other Airmen in dealing with disaster situations.

Emergency managers are also experts in all aspects of training people how to survive in a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear environment.

The 109th Airlift Wing's seven emergency managers were recognized for training more than 1,100 New York Air National Guard members from two different units, and for rewriting the curriculum the Air Force uses to train emergency managers throughout the Air Force during 2018.

The unit was awarded the Colonel Frederick J. Reimer Award, which recognizes the best emergency manager flight in the Air National Guard.

"Other units came to us for training because they noticed what we were doing how quickly and efficiently we were training people, explained Master Sgt. Devin Reilly, one of the emergency management specialists.

In addition to training fellow Airmen, the emergency management flight conducted training with local civilian entities.

They also conducted hazardous materials training for five Air National Guard EM flights, the New York State Police and fire departments in Federal Emergency Management Region 2, which includes New York and New Jersey.

"A part of our job as emergency managers is to build relationships with local first responders; so we invited them to train with us so we

could learn about what we each do. If you don't go out into the community and showcase your abilities, they would never know we are here. Now we can begin to build mutual aid agreements," Reilly said.

"It's great because we get to train people on how to survive and then when something does happen in a real world contingency, we are there to mitigate the situation and save lives," said Senior Master Sgt. Greg Mihalko, the wing emergency management superintendent.

The 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base near Schenectady, N.Y. operates the LC-130 "Skibird" version of the Hercules transport plane. The LC-130 is the largest ski-equipped aircraft in the world.

The wing supplies National Science Foundation research stations in the Antarctic and on the Greenland ice cap each year. **gt**

New Radar System lets MQ-9s Fly Solo in NY Skies

Story by Master Sgt. Barbara Olney, 174th Attack Wing

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SYRACUSE, N.Y.— Remotely piloted MQ-9 Aircraft flying into and out of Syracuse International Airport are no longer accompanied by piloted airplanes, thanks to the recent installation of a military Ground Based Detect and Avoid Radar system.

The system, employed by the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing, allows for safer and more effective training missions flown by the wing's MQ-9 Reaper aircraft.

"This radar system enhances the safety of the wing's MQ-9 aircraft and helps prevent collisions with commercial air traffic," said New York Air National Guard Col. Michael Smith, 174th Attack Wing commander.

Previously, the MQ-9 had required an escort from a manned Civil Air Patrol airplane while transitioning up to and from 18,000 feet.

The escort for the MQ-9 provided enhanced safety for the Federal Aviation Administration, which required the remotely piloted aircraft to first operate with a level of safety equal to a manned aircraft before approving unrestricted flight operations.

These restrictions inhibited aircrew training and degraded the wing's flexibility to respond with aircraft quickly during federal or state missions, requiring unplanned Civil Air Patrol flights when unscheduled flights were needed.

This escort requirement added complexity and cost to the missions, Smith said. The new ground based radar system not only eliminates the escort requirement, but adds additional flexibility and efficiency to all MQ-9 training missions, Smith said.

The installation of the Ground Based Sense and Avoid system in August now meets the FAA requirement of a comprehensive collision avoidance system, Smith said.

The new radar system provides the New York Air National Guard with an affordable, scalable and transportable sense and avoid system for the MQ-9, he said.

The Detect and Avoid Radar System provides current air traffic data directly to MQ-9 aircrews while flying into and out of the local airspace surrounding Syracuse International Airport, an unprecedented safety enhancement for pilots to see and avoid other airplanes over Central New York, Smith said.



A U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper flies during RED FLAG-Alaska 19-2, June 19 2019, at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. The aircraft was controlled by Airmen of the 174th Attack Wing more than 4,000 miles away at their home station at Hancock Field, New York. Courtesy photo.

The system uses existing radars to locate nearby aircraft, including those not tracked by FAA systems, according to a statement from the system developers at the Lincoln Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Data from these radars are processed and prioritized to then issue alerts to MQ-9 pilots and compute the optimal avoidance maneuver.

This arrangement provides critical sense-and-avoid services to the MQ-9 flight operations without requiring the remotely piloted aircraft to carry any additional equipment.

Previously, the chase aircraft from the Civil Air Patrol was the only additional sensor for the remotely piloted crews to avoid other air traffic.


The Syracuse's Ground Based Detect and Avoid (GBDAA) Radar System is the first of its kind for the Department of Defense operations of MQ-9 aircraft. It is a potential template for other airports or military installations using remotely piloted aircraft, Smith said.

The 174th Attack Wing provides more than 4,000 flight training hours each year to qualify pilots and sensor operators, and the Syracuse GBDAA system supports the safe and efficient

execution of those flights, he added.

The wing also trains all MQ-9 maintenance technicians for the Air Force, Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

At the same time, the wing deploys members overseas to support MQ-9 operations and other Air Force commitments.

The 174th Attack Wing was the first unit to fly a remotely piloted aircraft in class "C" airspace surrounding civilian airport when it began operations at Syracuse International Airport in December 2015. 



The MQ-9 Reapers of the 174th Attack Wing, like the one seen above, now operate from Hancock field Air National Guard Base without chase planes with the fielding of the Ground Based See and Avoid Radar System. Courtesy photo.

Rule Change Lets More Airman Become Officers

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Kevin Donaldson, 106th Rescue Wing

F.S. GABRESKI AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. – More enlisted Airmen now have a chance to become officers in the Air National Guard.

The regulation that set the maximum age for non-rated officers' commissioning opportunities at 39 years old has been replaced by a new requirement that allows Airmen to become officers if they can serve at least 10 years before hitting their mandatory retirement date.

Rated officers include pilots, navigators, air battle managers and remotely piloted aircraft pilots. Non-rated officers represent all others except health care officers and chaplains.

Their commissioning requirements are different, according to Master Sgt. Matthew Repp, recruiting and retention manager for the 106th Rescue Wing.

There are about 105,000 members of the Air National Guard, both enlisted and officers. Officers represent about 17% of those personnel, according to the 2016 Total Force Military Demographics.

The Air Guard has 7% and 6% fewer officers, respectively, than the Air Force Reserve and the active Air Force, Repp said. This means there can be opportunities for enlisted members to commission as officers in the Guard, he said.

The Air Guard generally attracts more experienced civilians, Airmen from active duty and service members from other branches, said 2nd Lt. Patrick S. White, a 106th logistics officer.

"To overcome the challenges of the future, the Air Guard needs enlisted members who are leaders to take their problem-solving abilities to the next level and serve as officers," White said.

Many enlisted who commission performed their jobs with excellence when someone identified them as a qualified candidate, White said.

While commissioning may not be right for everyone, there are several reasons why enlisted Airmen decided to seek a commission.

"I wanted to effect change, invest in the development of my team," said 1st Lt. Julie C. Kurdi, 106th aircraft maintenance officer.

White said he commissioned based on the people who observed his leadership potential.

"I wanted to inspire change for the team that I would lead," said 1st Lt. Damina E. Townes, with the 106th Sustainment Services Flight.

The selection process is rigorous, Repp said.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, obtain security clearance and meet physical fitness standards. Then there is the Air Force officer qualifying test.

"I studied four days a week, an hour each day, for five months and hired a tutor as needed to prepare for the officer qualifying test," White said. "Generally, this test can only be taken twice. Therefore, candidates need to take their time and do the work necessary to pass."

Next is an interview with the selection board. Once NGB gives final approval, candidates

attend officer training for eight weeks at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

New officers attend a technical school to learn their job and then complete on-the-job training.

The Air Guard will need new officers who can lead the organization to mission success, said Major Edward S. Boughal, 106th director of staff and a combat rescue officer.

"Effective officers will be able to lead people with humility, make good decisions quickly, and speak truth to power," Boughal said. **gt**



2nd Lt. Patrick White, a logistics officer from the 106th Rescue Wing on base Sept. 8, 2019. Lt. White spent 10 years enlisted in vehicle maintenance and finance before commissioning in May 2019.

Rescue Crews Train During Exercise Northern Strike

ALPENA, MICHIGAN -- An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter assigned to the 101st Rescue Squadron, 106th Rescue Wing prepares to take off for a combat search and rescue training mission July 29, 2019 at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. The Airmen participated in Northern Strike 19. Northern Strike 19 is a National Guard Bureau-sponsored exercise uniting service members from 20 states, multiple branches and coalition countries. The exercise took place at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. Both sites are operated by the Michigan National Guard. Courtesy photo.





After Tragedy, 106th Welcomes Local Scouts

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Daniel Farrell, 106th Rescue Wing

F.S. GABRESKI AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. – Members of Boy Scout Troop 161 were welcomed August 23 to the 106th Rescue Wing in a show of support after the loss of one of their scouts, Andrew McMorris, 12.

Andrew was killed by an alleged drunk driver in September 2018 during a scout hiking event.

"Members of our team here on base are tied closely to Troop 161, and our thoughts, prayers and well wishes have been, and continue to be, with this troop and these youngsters as they move forward from this tragedy," said Capt. Michael O'Hagan, 106th Rescue Wing public affairs officer.

"It is always great when we have a chance to interact with scouts, but this tour in particular was especially meaningful because of the connection to members of our wing and the loss of Andrew."

On the flight line, the scouts were met by Capt. Jonathan Hoyos, a 102nd Rescue Squadron combat systems officer and 1st Lt. Kate Adamczyk, 102nd Rescue Squadron pilot, who gave them a tour of the wing's new HC-130J Combat King II aircraft and answered all their questions.

The scouts' next stop was the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter where they met Maj. Damon Ricketts and 1st Lt. Jordan Polster, both 101st Rescue

Squadron helicopter pilots. The scouts, whose troop is in Shoreham, New York, climbed in and out of the helicopter while the pilots pointed out some interesting characteristics of the aircraft and talked about their experiences operating helicopters.

The tour concluded with a first aid demonstration by Lt. Col. Stephen "Doc" Rush, a 103rd Rescue Squadron pararescue flight surgeon and former Air Force pararescue medical director, who showed them skills like bleeding control, airway management and patient movement.

The scouts surrounded Rush and looked on as he went through the variety of tactics, even using one of their members to act as

a patient.

"This was a great opportunity to share our expertise in first aid from the highest levels with the Boy Scouts," said Rush. "It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm and passion."

Colin Lynch, a member of Troop 161, left the tour

telling a reporter he was happy to be on the base and that he can see himself being a helicopter pilot.

At 16, Colin has a few more years to finalize his decision.

Trial for the accused drunk driver was to begin in September. **gt**



Lt. Col. Stephen "Doc" Rush, a 103rd Rescue Squadron Pararescue flight surgeon and former Air Force Pararescue Medical Director, demonstrates how to safely move a patient during a base tour at the 106th Rescue Wing in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., August 23.

Veterans Recall 107th Attack Wing in Vietnam

Story by Ryan Campbell, *Guard Times Staff*

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. – More than 40 New York Air National Guardsmen who fought in the Vietnam War with the 107th Tactical Fighter Group gathered for a first ever reunion here September 14-15, 2019.

The group, now the 107th Attack Wing, deployed its 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron to Tuy Hoa Air Base in South Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. 50 years later, the Airmen gathered to share their experiences of the war where they flew close air support, patrols and a variety of other missions.

“What you got to do, you got to do. We just went,” said Paul Sorci, a sergeant assigned to the armaments shop. “Though I was married and had a seven month old son.”

The squadron deployed in June 1968, reinforcing the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing. It participated in some of the largest campaigns of the war, including the Tet Offensive and Seige of Khe Sanh.

“We left about midnight,” said James Goetz, a sergeant also assigned to the armaments shop.

“Flew all night to California as the sun was coming up. The sun didn’t go down again until we landed in Vietnam.”

A local Army veteran who fought in Vietnam at the same time joined the reunion to share a point of view the Airmen had not heard.

“It was kind of just a normal day for us,” said Ed Jackson, a Spc. 5 assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. “We were out on a patrol and all of a sudden we got ambushed,” Jackson said.

After being pinned down, they called for close air support.

“They came in and dropped their ordinance no more than 10 yards away from me when they dropped their cluster bombs,” Jackson said. “When they dropped we were down on the ground and leaves were shaking and everything else.”

After sweeping the area, the unit had three killed and six wounded, which could have been worse had it not been for the air support, Jackson said.

He explained later the aircraft did a victory roll and he saw the 107th tail markings on

them. The F-100 Super Sabres had not yet been repainted with new markings that would say “SG,” the identifier for Tuy Hoa Air Base.

The hardest part of the year was simply being there, the two Airmen explained. They said leaving behind families was the toughest part, despite continuous dangers such as mortar attacks on the base.

“Yeah, we didn’t have any fun that night, we thought it was something else,” Goetz said about the largest attack in July 1968.

“They called Tuy Hoa the safest base in Vietnam. Not anymore.”

“It took out a bunch of C-130 Hercules, an F-100, and a few guys hurt,” said Sorci.

The year in Vietnam would earn the Airmen numerous awards for their time in combat. Three Purple Hearts, one Distinguished Flying Cross and 43 Air Medals were awarded, along with one posthumous New York Medal of Valor, the highest award in New York.

“That was a long year,” Sorci said.

One didn’t return home. Capt. Joseph L’Hullier was killed July 25, 1968 when his F-100 took damage dive bomb-

ing near Chu Lai.

L’Hullier became the first New York National Guardsman killed in action since World War II, and the first for the 107th.

“It’s like losing one of the family, everybody’s a brother,” Goetz said.

Goetz and Sorci said there was no time for mourning. Missions didn’t stop, and there were always jets coming in to be armed.

At the end of May 1969, the squadron started back to Niagara Falls and was released from federal duty June 11.

“We landed and the town of Niagara Falls had a band there for us,” Goetz said. “We got more than probably a lot of other people got.”

“My kids didn’t know who I was,” Goetz said.

For Goetz, who served from 1964 to 1970, and Sorci, who was in from 1964 to 1969, they were ultimately glad they did their part.

“Afterwards yeah, very glad,” Sorci said.

Goetz returned in 1986 and retired in 2003.

50 years later the 107th now flies remotely piloted aircraft.

“It sure is different,” Sorci said. **gt**



Vietnam veterans and 107th Attack Wing leadership, pose for a photograph in front of a static F-100 Super Sabre concluding a base tour of the 107th Attack Wing, New York Air National Guard, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., Sept. 15, 2019. Photo by Airman Daniel Meade, 107th Attack Wing.

9/11 Tributes Across the State



SCHENECTADY, N.Y. -- Airmen of the 109th Airlift Wing Honor Guard present colors at the annual 9/11 Remembrance at the Water's Edge Lighthouse in Schenectady, N.Y. Courtesy photo.



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Airmen and Marines pay respect to those affected by the tragic actions of 9/11 in Newburgh on September 11, 2019. The 105th Airlift Wing lost two members as first responders at the Twin Towers. Courtesy photo.

Remembering Airman Ausheva



STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SCOTIA, N.Y. -- The 109th Airlift Wing dedicated a remembrance bench to Sr. Airman Alla Ausheva, a wing member serving on Joint Task Force Empire Shield who died with her two children as homicide victims June 22. Courtesy photo.



New Commander for 109th Maintenance Group

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SCOTIA, N.Y. -- New York Air National Guard Lt. Col. William Carrarher, a retired New York State Police officer, assumed command of the 109th Airlift Wing's 109th Maintenance Group during a ceremony here Sept. 7.

Carrarher took over the command from Col. Robert Donaldson, who moved into a new job as chief of staff of the New York Air National Guard. Donaldson has commanded the group for the last three years.

Col. Michele Kilgore, commander of the 109th Airlift Wing, transferred the guidon, or flag, of the 109th Maintenance Group, from Donaldson to Carrarher to signify the change of command.

Carrarher previously commanded the 109th Airlift Wing's 139th Airlift Squadron. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours of flight time.

"While this guidon is very small, that you see us pass, it is profoundly symbolic as it represents the authority and responsibility for 10 LC-130 aircraft and the future of hundreds of Airmen in the service to their country in the world's finest Air

Force," Kilgore said.

She praised Donaldson for his service in the 109th Airlift Wing and predicted he will do well in his new position at New York Air National Guard headquarters.

"I can think of no one more qualified as the principal advisor to the New York Air National Guard commander, and I am happy he will champion the aircraft modernization efforts he began as group commander as he makes the move into his new role," Kilgore said.

The 109th Airlift Wing operates the world's largest ski-equipped aircraft which can land on snow or ice, the LC-130. The maintenance group is responsible for keeping those planes flying.

Since retiring from the New York State Police in 2015, Carrarher has served as a full-time Air National Guard officer.

As a New York State Trooper, Carrarher served in the State Police aviation unit. He served as second in command of the State Police flight unit and served as executive pilot to the governor. **gt**

New York Guard

Annual Training for the New York Guard



CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- Above left, during the New York Guard's annual training Chief Warrant Officer 2 Humza Bashir instructed a CPR course to the newest members of the New York Guard during the weeklong Initial Entry Training class September 20, 2019. Photo by Sgt. Michael Bilski, New York Guard. Above right and bottom, New York Guard Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course where members served as course officials and safety officers at the Basic Officer's Course Leadership Reaction Course September 24, 2019. More than 200 New York Guard volunteers participated in the annual training event. Training this year focused on tasks related to individual skills needed during disaster response - i.e., chainsaw, generator, water pump, forklift, bobcat, communications, logistical requests, and command and control procedures. The New York Guard has area commands in every region of the state to support local authorities and assist National Guard efforts in civil support operations. Photos by Sgt. Ed Shelvin, New York Guard.



New York Naval Militia



Militia on Duty for Lake Ontario Flooding, Wrapup

LAKE ONTARIO, N.Y. -- Top photo. New York Naval Militia landing craft LC-350 on the shore near Sodus Point, N.Y. May 29, 2019. The Naval Militia deployed two patrol boats and crews, with personnel to provide assistance on the shoreline, as the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs reacted to high waters on Lake Ontario. Bottom photo, members of the Naval Militia deploy a water filled barrier on the Lake Ontario shoreline to protect property from rising lake waters May, 29, 2019. Operations shifted to recovery of water dams and sand bags throughout the month of August, with Naval Militia personnel providing manpower and support to the administrative conclusion of JTF Ontario. Photos by Cmdr. Don McKnight, New York Naval Militia.



TO VANDERBILT AVENUE
THE CAMPBELL APARTMENT

WEST BALCONY

BALCONY

DINING CONCOURSE

TRACKS 100 TO 117

JOINT TASK FORCE
EMPIRE SHIELD

JOINT TASK FORCE
EMPIRE SHIELD