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# Guard TIMES

Serving The New York Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia, New York Guard and families

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## Back to basics

Rainbow Soldiers train at Ft Pickett

Photos on page 5



# From the leadership

Spring turns to summer quickly across New York State. And while we mark the halfway point of this fiscal year's training and recruiting efforts, I'm pleased to see so much progress across our force.

This spring we've seen National Guard achievements in every action we took. While we prepare elements of the 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command or the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team for future deployments, we continue to sharpen our skills for potential Homeland Security missions right here in New York.

While the late winter Nor'Easter turned out to be a wash across much of Long Island and New York City, some coastal communities in Westchester County saw severe flooding as the storm passed by in mid-April. Fortunately for us all, our Guard was ready and responsive.

Unlike other disaster response missions of late, our Governor alerted thousands of men and women across many counties prior to the storm's landfall. When the storm struck, we were postured and ready to respond. Fortunately for us all, this time the forecasted damage was less than predicted. But the takeaway is there for each and every

one of us: our National Guard will be called out early and in force to be there when the need arises.

No better recognition of our emerging role for responding at home or carrying the fight overseas can be found than in the commitment of our individual Soldiers, Airman, Sailors and Marines. Thousands of men and women quickly transitioned from their federal drill weekend to the State Active Duty response in a matter of hours. Units across the state showed their flexibility and responsiveness to whatever gets thrown our way.

This is the finest National Guard I have seen in my long career.

Our National Guard is truly an operational reserve for our nation. And while we may not necessarily be the "first responders" for a crisis here at home, New Yorkers have come to expect to see their Guardsmen and women serving in a time of need. What's not to like about serving state and nation in our National Guard?

Our recruiting and retention across the ranks have stabilized and we are on a drive towards achieving our personnel manning goal later this year. More and more of your

new Soldiers are recruited through the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) and more of our mid-career NCOs and officers are choosing to stay in our Guard family. What's not to like about serving today in our National Guard?

My challenge to unit leaders and NCOs is to achieve even greater growth next year. Make 100 percent manning your unit objective in the coming year. Together, with the right incentives, the right leadership, the right training and the right Soldiers and Airmen, that goal is within our reach for your unit.

Across the board, our equipment readiness concerns have been heard by our state and nation's leaders. Resourcing our National Guard, particularly our Army Guard, has been recognized as a top priority for funding in the Pentagon and in our Congress. Billions of dollars have been committed to our National Guard across the entire country over the next five years. While I have no doubt that the process will take time, that process is in place and our Guard requirements are getting the visibility of our nation's leaders. What's not to like about serving today in our National Guard?

Each of us can take immense pride in the



Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto

uniform we put on. The success of every New York Citizen Soldier is your success. Whether you displayed that pride in a public parade this year for Memorial Day or simply use that energy during the demands of annual training, all of New York and our nation recognizes your hard work, sacrifice and accomplishments.

So I'll say it once more and ask, "what's not to like about serving in our National Guard?"

## GUARD NOTES

### Active Duty pay tax exempt under state tax revision

**LATHAM** – Recent changes to NYS Tax Law may provide an additional benefit to members of the New York National Guard mobilized for federal service.

Tax law changes earlier this year provide that Title 10 pay for performance of duties, other than training performance, as New York State Tax exempt.

This would include the active duty pay for mobilized members of the New York National Guard at their mobilization station, prior to and after their deployment.

Guardsmen and women will need to submit a form IT-201-X for an amended NYS Tax return for the appropriate year impacted by the change in NYS tax law.

"Most of us know our pay is tax free while in a combat zone, but this change means your T-10 pay at mob station prior to or after mob is NYS tax free," said Col. Jim Lettko, Director of Military Personnel in the Joint Force Headquarters.

"In order for you to get the tax rebate you will have to file an amended return," Lettko explained. "When doing so, be sure to calculate the months you were in the combat zone as that month will already be tax free."

For more information on the law itself, members can visit the NYS Taxation and Finance web site at [www.tax.state.ny.us](http://www.tax.state.ny.us).

### Captains' Career Courses required for Army Officers

**FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan.** (Army News Service) - The Captains' Career Common Core Course will become required for graduation from all branch Captain's Career Courses beginning June 1.

The C5 provides a series of critical skills grounded in leadership, communication, composite risk management, critical reasoning/thinking and developing a positive command climate. The skills are intended to better prepare officers for their next ten years of service, and the change is in keeping with the Army Chief of Staff's vision to continue transformation of the Army Officer Education System.

The instruction is in a Web-based interactive multimedia format that facilitates self-paced study. Although completion of the C5 is not a requirement to attend the Captains' Career Course, Soldiers may complete the training before beginning the career course.

"This gives students a good basis for the beginning of the CCC and relieves them of the requirement while they are at the resident phase," said Lt. Col. Shawn M. Maxwell, C5 coordinator at the Center for Army Leadership, Professional Military Education Division.

The curriculum supports preparation of company-grade officers for company command, as well as battalion- and brigade-level staff positions in combined, joint and multinational environments. It provides first lieutenants and captains with a common foundation of operational and leadership instruction tied to the officer's specific career field, branch, and functional area needs, Maxwell said.

First lieutenants and captains may enroll in the C5 via ATRRS. Eligible officers should contact their career manager to determine specific branch requirements. More information is available at the Center for Army Leadership's Army Knowledge Online Web site, at

### Homes for Vets Program offers mortgage benefits

**ALBANY** – Guardsmen returning to New York State in the market for a new home are now eligible for an additional benefit: the Homes for Veterans Program.

The State of New York Mortgage Authority (SONYMA) will be offering a \$10 million program to provide eligible veterans a below-market mortgage with a fixed interest rate to help purchase a home. This program – being offered exclusively through M&T Bank – will provide mortgages at interest rates substantially lower than conventional financing. Low-interest financing coupled with SONYMA's closing cost assistance, construction incentives, and remodeling financing, will greatly enhance the ability of U.S. military veterans to buy or improve their homes.

The program provides a fixed interest rate half a percentage point below the standard market interest rate with closing cost assistance up to \$5,000 or 5% of the requested loan.

"We are proud to offer the Homes for Veterans Program," said Priscilla Almodovar, the President and Chief Executive Officer for SONYMA. The program "is designed to make homeownership more attainable for veterans by relaxing eligibility requirements, eliminating fees such as borrower points and by providing closing cost assistance."

Qualifying veterans will require a copy of their DD Form 214 as proof of service during the loan application process. Applications will also require the last three years of tax returns for the veteran.

Originally intended as a financing incentive for first-time homebuyers, the SONYMA program expanded eligibility to all potential borrowers on February 1, 2007.

For more information, call SONYMA at 1-800-382-HOME (4663) or visit [www.nyhomes.org](http://www.nyhomes.org).



# Nor'Easter a washout across New York State

Guard Joint Task Forces respond to local flooding in Westchester after large callup

## Guard Times Staff

**JOINT FORCE HQ-NY, LATHAM** - A forecasted record-breaking nor'easter was the backdrop for the alert and mobilization of personnel aligned under three geographically separate N.Y. National Guard Joint Task Forces in mid-April.

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer alerted more than 3,000 New York Army and Air National Guard members on Friday April 13 as a major storm threatening heavy snow fall, rain and winds moved up the East Coast. By Sunday, hundreds of Guard troops had been pre-positioned at armories in New York City, on Long Island, in the Hudson Valley and in other upstate regions. Nearly a dozen different New York counties faced the potential of serious damage due to floods, power outages and extreme weather that ultimately struck the region on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>.

"Here in New York, the National Guard approach to state emergency response is a forward-leaning proactive one," said Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, The Adjutant General. "In order for us to bring the full spectrum of our capabilities to bear for our civilian customers, we work with them early on to evaluate and anticipate their requirements. That open communication and early engagement allows us to customize our response, prepare our force and pre-position our assets where they are likely to be most needed and do the most good."

In response to the Governor's order, the New York

National Guard implemented its statewide contingency operations plans and stood up Joint Task Force headquarters in Staten Island, Long Island and the Hudson Valley. These task forces were tied to the state headquarters Joint Operation Center in Latham for command, control and communication, and each sent liaison officers to county and municipal Emergency Operation Centers in their Area of Responsibility to quickly coordinate support.

Specific Guard units were ordered to duty before the storm was impacting and readied for rapid deployment to provide emergency transportation and evacuation support, logistical support and support to law enforcement as directed by the State Emergency Management Office in response to requirements identified at the local levels.

Hudson Valley counties including Westchester, Putnam, Orange and Dutchess declared emergency conditions due to localized floods that forced residents from their homes, road closures and fallen tree limbs and debris knocked out power lines. In the Westchester County town of Mamaroneck, members of Company B, 101<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion transported local firefighters aboard Army Guard trucks to a fire scene through flooded streets.

Fire department trucks and police department cruisers proved inadequate for the deep water that closed many streets, according to 1st Lt. Peter Villahoz, Company B, 101<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion, Yonkers.

**"When human lives are potentially at stake, vigilance is the only responsible course of action and being caught under-prepared is simply not an option"**

"We were forging through six feet of water and they were getting stuck," said Villahoz.

"We started pulling civilians out of specific locations around town. We had houses that were burning and houses that were partially collapsing. We assisted the police department, the police scuba team, search and rescue teams and the fire department using our deuce-and-a-halfes so they could get through," he explained.

According to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Duane Martin, members of Company B were eager to help the community even though they had spent the entire weekend performing drill. When a call came for volunteers, troops leapt forward, he said.

"They jumped right into it and did a great



Members of the NY National Guard's 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command respond to coastal flooding in and around the Town of Mamaroneck following the late winter Nor'easter that struck the state on April 22. Above, Soldiers work to assist local residents with evacuations and traffic control in support of local emergency responders. At left, heavy equipment for the storm cleanup from Westchester County helped residents return to their homes. Photos by Spc. Leigh (L.C.) Campbell.

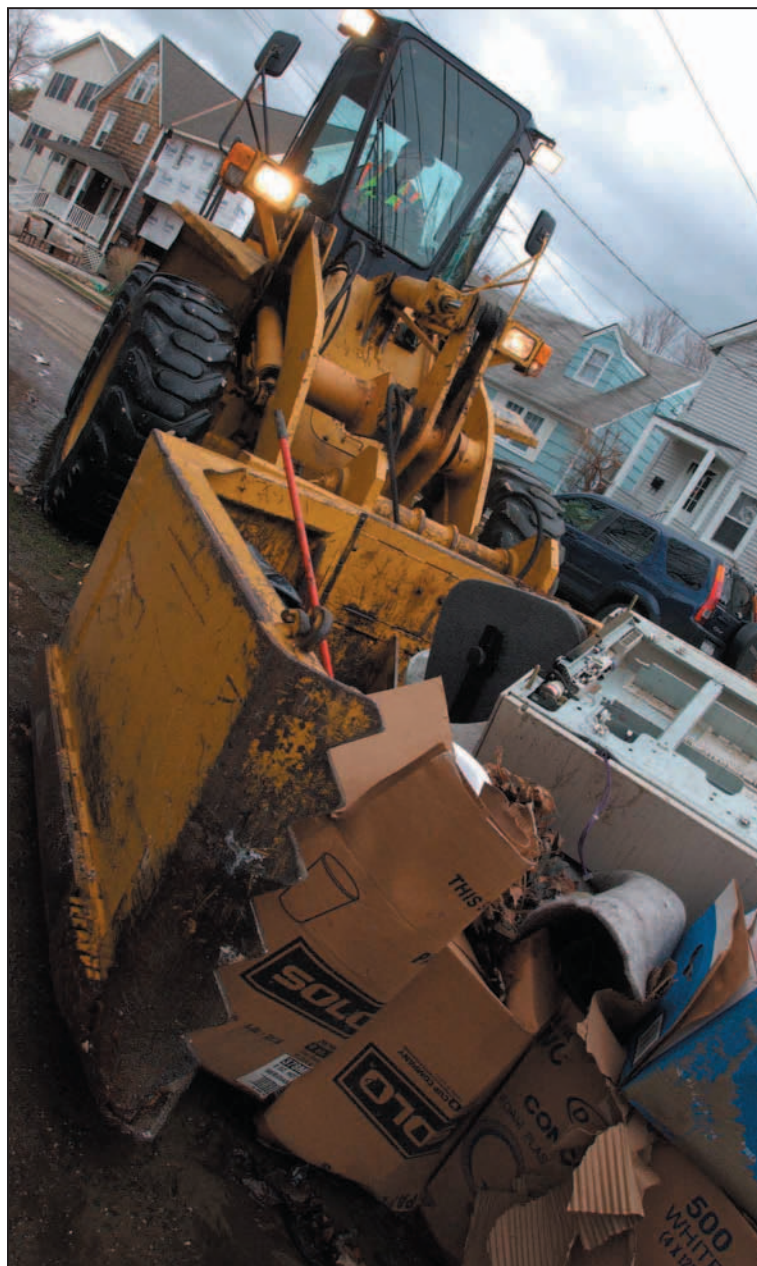
job. We're tired, the vehicles, the routes we had to travel, no incidents... It was funny too, because we just all finished taking the incident avoidance course, and it proved fundamental. It was all very good," said Martin.

As the day progressed, troops began operating traffic control points to seal off roads that had been flooded, thus preventing residents from driving into trouble.

Taluto remarked that although the meteorological predictions of extensive severe damage from coastal surge and devastating flooding didn't materialize, the Guard's robust response and early preparation were necessary and appropriate.

"Fortunately, in this instance the damage wasn't as widespread as originally feared, and our readiness posture exceeded eventual mission requirements; when you're dealing with a threat as difficult to predict as the weather, that is going to happen," he said. "But when human lives are potentially at stake, vigilance is the only responsible course of action and being caught under-prepared is simply not an option," Taluto said.

"Each time we exercise our response plan we hone our ability to respond quickly and efficiently when New Yorkers need our help and the Governor calls on us to provide it," said Taluto. □





# Ready to respond to rattlers

## Combat Lifesaver course prepares Guardsmen for operations on border

Story and photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban  
Guard Times Staff

**TUCSON, Ariz.** -- Anyone who has lived in Arizona for more than a few weeks quickly learns about and grows wary of the natural hazards presented by the desert climate. Cactus and critters that abound throughout this border state. With the influx and rotation of thousands of Army and Air National Guard personnel who call other parts of the country "home," it soon became apparent and prudent to prepare additional Soldiers and Airmen in the methods of emergency care in the field. The awareness of this need brought about the Combat Lifesaver Course (CLC) for Operation Jump Start (OJS) personnel serving in Arizona.

Combat lifesavers receive rudimentary training in some advanced first aid skills. These skills include wilderness first aid, needle decompression, and intravenous (IV) training. The combat lifesaver is a link in the military chain of survival between buddy and self first aid and the platoon medic who is a fully qualified medical professional.

According to Lt. Col. Jan Carter, the Medical Support OIC for OJS in Arizona, "with so many personnel assigned to remote field locations as well as being involved in such a variety of support activities throughout the area of operations, being able to offer the Combat Lifesaver Course seemed like the right idea to increase the level of care that could be offered our people in case of emergency medical situations."

Master Sgt. Thomas Ethridge, Medical NCOIC for OJS, is also the Air Guard EMT Senior Program Coordinator and lead Combat Lifesaver Instructor. During a recent course, Ethridge explained that since November 2006 the CLC has been offered across Arizona about twice a month. "More than 200 individuals have been trained in this class since last October", said Ethridge. This figure includes Arizona Army and Air Guard personnel and National Guard personnel from states which have supported OJS. This particular session, March 20-22 in Tucson, saw 37 Soldiers successfully complete the training. All but four were assigned to OJS duties. □

*Editor's note: Sgt. Balaban is currently forward deployed in support of Operation Jump Start supporting the JFHQ-AZ Public Affairs Office.*



Spc. Clarissa Baynes, 133 Quartermaster Company, Brooklyn, demonstrates how one could evacuate an injured person using a SKED (commercially available "skid+sled" stretcher) during her training in the Combat Lifesaver Course. Baynes deployed to Arizona last October in support of Operation Jump Start (OJS) as a member of Team NY. She and other members of the N.Y. National Guard took advantage of the training that has been made available to OJS personnel. Assigned to TF Tucson, Baynes' presence along with that of other National Guard personnel has reduced the influx of illegal immigrants, resulted in increased narcotics and drug seizures, and has allowed the US Border Patrol to put more "badges on the border" by freeing up agents who have been tasked with a variety of support duties that are now being addressed by the National Guard.

## First Army Commander addresses Rainbow leaders



*Lt. Gen. Russell Honore, commander of the First Army, addresses senior leaders of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division following the unit's yearly training briefing at West Point on March 10. Honore attended the Rainbow Division Dining-In as the evening's distinguished speaker.*

*Honore praised the division for its accomplishments and for its Soldier's contributions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and other missions across the U.S. and the globe.*

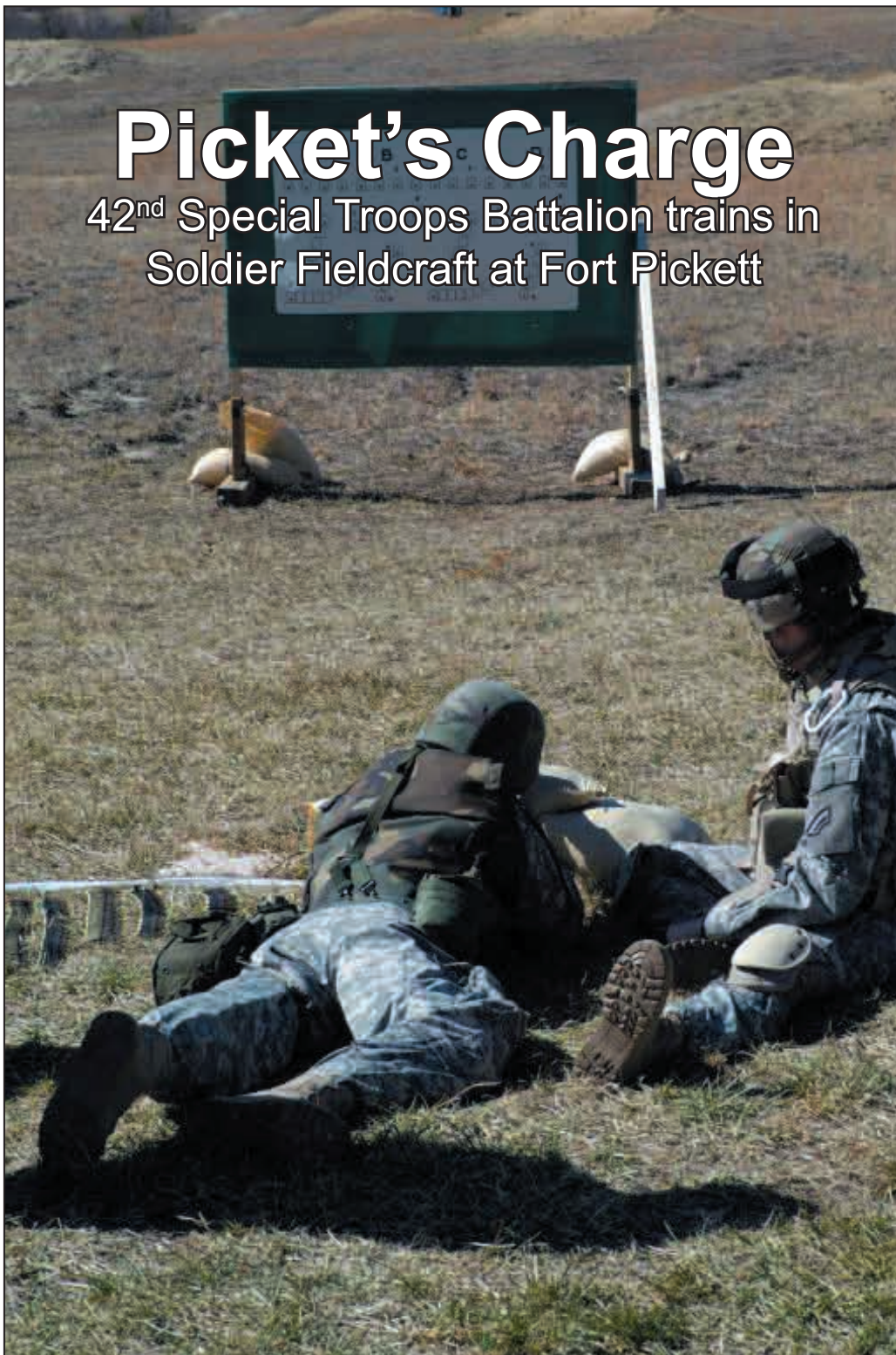
*Photo by Maj. Fred Evans. □*





Rainbow Division Soldiers from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Special Troops Battalion from Troy, N. Y. conducted individual Soldier training at Fort Pickett, Va. from Feb. 21-25, 2007. The training provided the entire battalion with an opportunity to maximize range operations and incorporate weapons training and warrior skills at a variety of NCO-led training stations. Above and below at bottom and bottom right, Soldiers from the division headquarters company prepare to execute a convoy training lane. At right and below, Soldiers conduct range qualification.

More than 300 Rainbow Soldiers deployed for the extended drill weekend. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division Special Troops Battalion provides logistics support, command and control and training oversight of the division headquarters, the division's tactical command posts and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division Band. It organized during the division's transformation in 2006. Photos by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Penson.





# Return to the Middle East

Rainbow Division headquarters partners with Egyptian Army for Bright Star 07

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg  
HQ, 42<sup>nd</sup> ID

**NEW YORK** – Members of the New York Army National Guard's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division hosted military peers from Europe and the Middle East as planners laid the foundation for the New York National Guard's deployment back to the Middle East later this year.

The planning conference, held in Manhattan from March 23-27, brought together members of the Egyptian Army Training Branch with Rainbow Division staffers to synchronize training plans for the Bright Star Exercise 2007, to be held in the western desert of Egypt from November 3-19 this year.

Bright Star is a U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) directed joint/combined exercise, including a computer-simulated command post exercise and a tactical air, airborne, amphibious and special operations forces field training exercise with Egyptian, coalition, and other U.S. forces in Egypt.

"All the forces deploying for Bright Star must come highly trained," said Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, commander of the Third Army, U.S. Army Central and the Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC), the coalition joint task force headquarters for Bright Star. "This is not for the weak of heart."

Leading the Army Bright Star team for this year's exercise will be the New York Army National Guard's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division headquarters. The Army's famous "Rainbow Division" will lead co-command ground forces for Bright Star alongside the Egyptian Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

Rounding out the bulk of the combat power in the task force for Bright Star will be the Washington Army National Guard's 81<sup>st</sup> Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

## Integration helps build the Bright Star Team

Key to the success of the training of the Guardsmen and up to fifteen different participating nations is the initial gunnery and small unit tactical training that brings Soldiers together



before the large scale maneuvers begin.

"Assimilation and integration training is as important as any other phase of Bright Star," said Brig. Gen. Elsellawy Abdel-Azziz, Chief of Operations for the Egyptian Training Branch.

The assimilation training includes everything from individual or crew gunnery, demolition demonstrations and small unit tactical training with observer-controller-trainers

supporting.

"Integration from all of our coalition partners combine for a joint training exercise that will guarantee the effectiveness of Bright Star," Azziz said.

## Planning for Co-command

Gathering all the representative nations' military planners for a land forces conference in New York was one of the first such opportunities for key leaders and staffs to review the concept of co-command between Egyptian and U.S. forces before the final plans are approved.

"We have 15 countries that have not worked or trained side by side much, so you can understand the challenges," said Whitcomb in his remarks to the various military leaders from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, the Netherlands. The planning conference was held at the historic Lexington Avenue Armory in Manhattan, home of the Army Guard's famous "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>" Infantry. The historical collection of regimental artifacts provided a backdrop of history and tradition for the Bright Star coalition partners.



Photo above, Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux (center), commander of the N.Y. Army National Guard's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division reviews operations briefings for the Bright Star Exercise with Brig. Gen. Elsellawy Abdel-Azziz (at left), the Chief of Operations for the Egyptian Training Authority and Brig. Gen. Awni Mohammed Farhan Al-Adwan, Director of Military Training for Jordan's military forces. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division is expected to co-command military forces during Bright Star alongside the leaders of the Egyptian Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. Photo by Pfc. Mark Siegelman.

Bright Star is expected to include more than 15 nations participating or observing in the multinational training exercise in the Egyptian Western Desert in November 2007.

At left, Maj. Christopher Ciccone, Deputy Intelligence Officer with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division reviews training plans with Lt. Col. Moyhful Islam of the Pakistani Army. The two staff officers were jointly supporting the planning for the Central Command Bright Star Exercise 07/08 at the Lexington Ave Armory in Manhattan March 23-27. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg.



## “We could not get a better unit to serve as the U.S. piece of Bright Star than the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division”

From counterinsurgency operations to improvised explosive device threats to civilians or media on the battlefield, not every aspect of the current operating environment can be thrust on every coalition soldier.

“We had a very dynamic four to five hours over the sand table,” noted Col. Geoffrey Slack, the division operations officer after a review of the Bright Star field training exercise (FTX), an opportunity for much more free play between opposing units than in previous training exercises.

Getting all the key training planners together helped work through the different perspectives and different training objectives of the partner armies.

“We’ve come a long way in our planning,” Azziz summarized as the leaders addressed the specific strengths of their organizations and outlined their training goals for Bright Star.

“We (U.S. forces) are not necessarily the experts in all matters,” said Whitcomb in describing how Egyptian forces or other partners might take a lead role in different training scenarios. “There is expertise in every country. I want to make sure that we take advantage of the expertise in our

participating countries.”

Ultimately, the success of Bright Star will be marked by the key military relationships established between the exercise participants during the training conference here in New York.

“The key part of our mission is the co-command and control alongside our Egyptian partners,” explained Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux, commander of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division to his staff.

“We’ve come a long way in meeting our objectives of this planning conference,” said Genereux. “I think it is important that all of our coalition nations understand our staff and the role of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.”

### Rainbow’s return no surprise to troops

Citizen Soldiers preparing to return to the Middle East this year should not feel surprised at the Army’s selection of the Rainbow Division for the exercise. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division successfully redeployed after 20 months of federal service for Operation Iraqi Freedom, leading Task Force Liberty and the Multinational Division for North Central Iraq from February to November 2005.

“Bright Star really is an honor for the 42<sup>nd</sup> ID to be selected for this mission and represent U.S. forces for the Army forces command,” Genereux said. “The reason we took on this mission is to build on what we’ve learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

“As we were planning for this Bright Star Exercise at the end of 2005, one of the things I asked for was a division headquarters with broad experience,” Whitcomb said.

“We could not get a better unit to serve as the U.S. piece of Bright Star than the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division,” said Whitcomb. □



“As I meet with so many of our coalition partners, I realize how relatively young our country’s armed forces are,” said Whitcomb. “I am pleased that this planning conference could be held here in an armory with so many visible reminders of our country’s rich military history.”

Part of the weekend planning sessions included an overview of the role of the National Guard and the Citizen Soldier over the past 369 years, especially the missions and achievements of the New York National Guard since its response to ground zero in lower Manhattan.

### Transforming Bright Star training

The bulk of the staff planning centered on the evolving training tasks for Bright Star. Bright Star began more than 25 years ago as a military to military training opportunity for U.S. and Egyptian partners. Since that time, the global threat and military operating environment has changed considerably since those very early Bright Star Exercises.

“Times have changed and the current fight is different from when the U.S. prepared to fight the former Soviet Union on the plains of Germany,” Whitcomb said.

With U.S. forces engaged in counterinsurgency operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and supporting similar efforts in the Philippines and Horn of Africa, many of the Bright Star participants look to integrate these threats into the field training in Egypt.

“As I look to Afghanistan and Iraq, I see armies operating against insurgencies,” said Brig. Gen. Awni Mohammed Farhan Al-Adwan, Jordan’s Director of Military Training.

“This exercise (Bright Star) has always been an army against another army. I think that we should include counterinsurgency operations in this and future exercises.”

“Bright Star is evolving this year,” said Whitcomb. “This is dramatically different from Bright Star exercises in the past.”

Implementing change in a training exercise that takes nearly two years to fully plan and execute is no small matter, especially with fifteen different nations providing fifteen different points of view.



At top, Brig. Gen. Elsellawy Abdel-Azziz, Director of Operations for the Egyptian Training Authority, reviews the Bright Star 07/08 Exercise concept of operations with Col. Geoffrey Slack, operations officer for the Army National Guard’s 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. Above, Lt. Col. Raymond Bossert (center), a Third U.S. Army planner reviews gunnery range training with Lt. Col. Michel Natali from the N.Y. National Guard’s 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and Egyptian Army representatives at the Bright Star Land Forces Component Conference in New York City March 23-27, 2007. The New York Army National Guard’s 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division will lead the Bright Star Army Forces Component for this year’s training. Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg.



# Team NY defines success on Arizona Border

Story and photos by Sgt. Ed Balaban  
Tucson Sector PAO

**TUCSON, Ariz.** -- Approximately 135 members of the New York Army National Guard redeployed from service along the Southwest Border on April 16. The Citizen Soldiers served as part of the National Guard Operation Jump Start support to the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Enforcement Agency.

When the 135 Soldiers of the company sized unit that became known as Team New York departed Camp Smith, N.Y. October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006, most of the Soldiers had no idea what to expect once they got to Arizona for their part in Operation Jump Start. The group was comprised from Soldiers throughout New York State and assigned to Task Force Tucson, beginning operations Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The mission for Team NY was to spot and identify illegal immigrants attempting to cross the border into and around Nogales, Ariz. During their six-month mission, four Soldier teams maintained EIT (Entry Identification Team) sites, spotting 2,403 illegals. Of these sightings, less than a third, 718, successfully evaded apprehension. During that same time more than 18,000 pounds of marijuana was also observed coming into the US and was seized by Border Patrol.

According to Executive Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael Domenic of Staten Island, "Each time we saw activity we radioed local border patrol agents. Ultimately, our presence prevented

over 1,685 illegals and at least 22,000 pounds of marijuana from entering our country."

"During our tenure, the average price of a pound of marijuana increased from about \$800 to about \$1,200. The service fee a 'mule' charged to carry marijuana across the border increased from about \$1,000 to about \$2,000, so we definitely had a positive impact on reducing the drug flow," explained Domenic.

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**"Ultimately, our presence prevented over 1,685 illegals and at least 22,000 pounds of marijuana from entering our country"**

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Team New York Commanding Officer Maj. Richard Acevedo of Peekskill, praised the cooperation and team spirit that was rapidly established with Border Patrol. "The good rapport with Border Patrol made our job in the field that much easier, and we are grateful for the opportunity to help Border Patrol as well as our country in securing the border," he stated.

While many of Team New York's personnel will return to their civilian lives, twelve other individuals applied to

be Border Patrol Agents.

Acevedo returns to Arizona in May to be a liaison officer when another New York unit, the 105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, rotates through for Annual Training. Domenic will also be coming back and will be working directly with Task Force Tucson.

Operation Jump Start remains "an interesting experience" and a "good mission." The Soldiers returning from the Arizona Border will tell you that in a New York minute. □



Spc. Ronald Devito, 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, joins other Soldiers from Team NY for their loadout for movement home to New York on April 17. Devito served alongside approx. 135 other volunteer Citizen Soldiers of the N.Y. National Guard for a six-month tour of duty in Arizona.



Spc. Walter Gregg, from the 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, boards the bus for his journey back to New York following his six-month tour of duty with Team NY, the National Guard mission supporting Operation Jump Start along the Southwest Border.



Maj. Richard Acevedo (right), commander of Team NY, addresses his Soldiers one final time before manifesting for the unit's return trip to New York on April 17. Acevedo led the unit as part of the National Guard's support to the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Enforcement Agency. The mission, known as Operation Jump Start, provided National Guard forces along the Southwest Border to free Customs and Border Patrol Agents to better focus field operations against illegal immigration and narcotics or other illegal trafficking across the U.S.-Mexican border.



# Bronze Star awarded for Iraq service

By Brooke Davis

Northeast Air Defense Sector Public Affairs

**ROME** - All it took for him was hearing the roar of a low-flying F-4's engines over where he was bivouacking in the N.M. desert as an Army ROTC cadet to decide that he wanted to fly jets.

Twenty six years later and now an F-16C+ pilot, the New York Air National Guardsman was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement during a four month deployment to Iraq on April 21.

Colonel John Bartholf, Northeast Air Defense Sector Commander, served as the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander from May to September 2006 at Balad Air Base, Iraq. During his deployment, Bartholf directed seven combat squadrons, keeping F-16s, HH-60s, RQ-1s, C-130s and the airfield operational around-the-clock while being constantly under fire by insurgents.

In his role as an F-16C+ combat pilot, Bartholf was able to use the jet's targeting pod to aid ground troops in identifying possible insurgents and improvised explosive devices, according to his Bronze Star Medal citation. In one situation while he was deployed, he was able to track suspected terrorists through the streets of Bagdad to a point where forces could capture them.

Providing troops on the ground top cover through non-traditional use of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, was the focus of many missions for Bartholf. During one mission, he recounted tracking a vehicle of suspected terrorists through Ramadi and out on the highway where it was interdicted by multinational forces. Additionally, he provided key ISR support to joint forces in different areas of Ramadi to ensure they were not vectored into any planned ambushes by insurgents.

Using a precision-guided munition, Bartholf is credited with taking out two high-level al-Qaida members.

Through his leadership, he led 700 Airmen to achieve more than 3,000 combat sorties that provided more than 12,000

hours of close air support to the Multinational Corps who were fighting terrorist forces. Bartholf was charged with ensuring that the Department of Defense's busiest single runway was operational despite potentially catastrophic concrete deterioration. Combat and cargo operations

and native of Colorado Springs, Colo., Colonel Bartholf said, "The Air National Guard is trying to make opportunities so that we bring people up in a joint environment to give them that experience and essentially prepare them to succeed in situations they encounter in today's joint military."

"We're wearing the same uniform as everyone else, and as guardsmen, a deployment is one of those times when people are being evaluated based on their performances," he added.

The NEADS joint/interagency homeland defense mission as well as being an experienced air liaison officer with the Army helped prepare him to work in a joint environment while deployed.

"Homeland defense is one of the military's top priorities - it is also a real-world, critical mission," he said.

"It is an absolute necessity to win the Global War on Terror - it is the cold war of this generation," he continued. "Information about how precarious and volatile the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan is and the ramifications to our country is not well communicated to the American public. Information getting back to our country fails to convey the fact that these terrorists want to end our way of life here."

Major Gen. Robert Knauff, commander of the NYANG, and Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Air National Guard director, were both present at the ceremony. General Knauff presented the medal to Colonel Bartholf in a room full of members from units across the NYANG.

After being awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Colonel Bartholf thanked his family and his leadership for letting him volunteer to go to Balad. To his NYANG leadership he said, "By allowing me to volunteer for this deployment, you allowed one more guardsman to fulfill the role of being a warfighter for our country."

"As long as I've been in the military, I've been a volunteer," he said. "If the nation needed me to go back to Iraq, I'd go in a heartbeat." □



Maj. Gen. Robert Knauff, commander of the New York Air National Guard, pins the Bronze Star Medal onto Col. John Bartholf, Northeast Air Defense Sector Commander, while Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, Air National Guard director, and Lynette Bartholf, Colonel Bartholf's wife, watch April 21. Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara.

continued unabated during more than 600 hours of emergency runway repairs, according to the citation.

When Bartholf first arrived at Balad, he helped get a C-130 hub at the base operational and as he reflected on this experience he noted that, "every C-130 sortie that could provide airlift support was one less truck on the roads at risk of being exposed to IEDs."

As a guardsman with 15 years of active duty experience

## F-16 crashes, NEADS scrambles to support

By Brooke Davis

NEADS Public Affairs

**ROME** -- Capt. Joe Betzen, a senior director with the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) received an urgent call from the 125th Fighter Wing on March 12 requesting support for a pilot who had ejected from an F-16, parachuting into the ocean 50 miles from land near the Florida Panhandle.

NEADS is a multi-component Air Force command and control element that monitors air traffic across the entire east coast of the United States.

The caller from the 125 Fighter Wing urgently requested NEADS to scramble two F-15s to support the downed pilot. The downed pilot's wingman was running low on fuel and needed to fly back to Homestead Air Force Base in Florida, possibly leaving the pilot in the Gulf of Mexico waters without air cover or contact with rescuers.

Minutes later, the NEADS director of

operations authorized the scramble of two alert Florida Air National Guard F-15s. Captain Betzen then immediately scrambled the F-15s, Lucky 1 and 2, in support of the search and rescue.

After the F-15s were scrambled, the weapons control team of Capt. Pete Ryan and Tech. Sgt. Mike Roberts provided control and supervision over the high-speed, southbound fighters heading toward the accident site.

While the F-15s sped toward the accident site, NEADS continued to provide airspace control and coordination support.

"Our air surveillance team ensured an accurate radar picture throughout the incident, and the decisive actions taken by all the eleven key crew members here worked to provide the smooth, professional support in executing the search and rescue operation," said Maj. Paul Quigley, NEADS

mission crew commander.

As the rescue operations unfolded, NEADS continued to control the scrambled jets while the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy rescue teams located the downed pilot. Master Sgt. Anthony Fiorilli, NEADS identification technician, provided the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] with the exact latitude and longitude position of the downed Airman, increasing the awareness of Miami Center, said Major Quigley.

Additionally, Sergeant Fiorilli is an experienced former boom operator as well as ID technician and was able to locate a KC-135 tanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., in the area in case any of the airborne assets became low on fuel, added Major Quigley. Thanks to Sergeant Fiorilli's actions, the tanker became an integral part of the search and rescue effort.



An F-16 Fighting Falcon. Air Force archive

"The pilot was in the water for little over one hour - an incredibly short amount of time considering he bailed out approximately 50 miles from land," said Major Quigley.

Throughout the event, NEADS mission crew commander technicians, Master Sgts. Clint Ayers and Don Roberts, kept the Continental U.S. NORAD Region updated on all events, including the health and well-being of the pilot.

"The exceptionally quick response on behalf of the entire crew proved vital to the entire rescue effort," added Major Quigley. □



# Bringing bombs on target

## 274<sup>th</sup> ASOS Airmen support Atlantic Strike V

by Staff Sgt. Amanda Savannah

U.S. Central Command Air Forces public affairs

**AVON PARK, Fla.**--Members of the New York Air National Guard's 274<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), participated in Atlantic Strike V, a U.S. Central Command Air Forces deployment training event April 14 at the Avon Park Air Ground Training Complex in Avon Park, Fla.

The semi-annual training through April 20 prepares joint air and ground forces for maximum battlefield effectiveness through realistic urban close-air support and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance training.

"The objective of Atlantic Strike is to integrate Remotely Operated Video Enhancement Receiver, or ROVER, information into Air Force joint terminal attack controller and Army joint fires observer team operations using ISR and full motion video," said Maj. Raymond Brennan, the Atlantic Strike V director. "These operations execute tactics, techniques and procedures for close-air support, cordon and search, counter sniper, counter ambush and counter improvised explosive device operations."

Atlantic Strike included all four services and coalition forces in its training. However, this was the first time Canadian air force joint terminal attack controllers participated.

Because the war on terrorism is a global effort, inviting Canadians to train at Atlantic Strike better prepares the coalition team for victory in combat, Major Brennan said. Several of the Canadian participants depart for the U.S.

Central Command area of responsibility within three months.

"This specifically offers our JTACs predeployment training before they deploy to the AOR," he said. "The Canadian air force doesn't have JTAC-centric training of this magnitude. At Atlantic Strike, our deploying members will encounter realistic scenarios based on real events in the AOR."

During Atlantic Strike V's four operational days, two scenarios took place on and above the military range, while two other events took place on local roadways.

On the alternately dusty and swamp-like military range, Marine and Air Force JTACs rotated into convoys three times a day with the Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood, Texas. Atlantic Strike planners worked with JTACs returning from deployments to create these scenarios, integrating battlefield lessons learned, enemy tactics and new wartime experiences.

"One scenario on base includes an Army platoon with embedded JTACs opposing hostile forces," Major Brennan said. "Various pyrotechnic devices created the 'fog of war.' The urban and convoy operations off base also give JTACs and JFOs a more fluid and dynamic environment for realistic scenarios."

Members of the 274<sup>th</sup> ASOS JTACs operated jointly alongside Soldiers from the Army's 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ground forces.

Avon Park city leaders worked closely with Atlantic Strike training leaders to allow JTACs the opportunity to operate in a real urban environment without interfering with local traffic or the civilian population. During the scenario, JTACs used the ROVER system to track simulated hostile vehicles and targets, exactly as they would in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Much of the training centered on new technologies used for precision targeting. Military aircraft equipped with video downlink targeting pods and Cessna aircraft simulating Unmanned Aerial Systems provided live full-motion video to the ROVER system on the ground. JTACs and Army JFOs used ROVER to direct urban close-air support during cordon and search, counter sniper, counter ambush and counter improvised explosive device scenarios. In addition, laser rangefinders and target designators were tested and evaluated on the range by battlefield Airmen.

Joint air assets participating in the training include F-16 Fighting Falcons, A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, B-52 Stratofortress, E-8 Joint STARS, Navy F/A-18 Hornets, E-2 Hawkeyes, and P-3C Orions. Coalition observers included military members from the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands. □



Staff Sgt. Mike Warner (at right) relays grid coordinates to an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot in the air during Atlantic Strike V on April 16 at Avon Park, Fla. Atlantic Strike is a joint forces training event involving joint terminal attack controllers from the Army, Air Force and Marines at the Avon Park Air Ground Training Complex. Warner is a joint terminal attack controller assigned to the 274<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron in Syracuse, N.Y.

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<p><b>MSMgt Mike Preputnik, (RET) Treasurer</b> 6476 Williams Rd Rome, NY 13440 (315) 337-6010</p>	<p><b>MSgt John D. Ringlehan, (RET) Sr Advisor</b> 613 Millbrook Rd Rome, NY 13440 (315) 336-0478</p>

**TSgt Nadea Edwards, Secretary**  
Rome Lab  
(315) 330-2087

**TRUSTEES**

<p><b>1) TSgt Thomas Frindle</b> Home Phone (949) 701-7473</p>	<p><b>2) SSgt Chadley E. Wheeler (RET)</b> Home Phone (313) 363-0949</p>
<p><b>3) SMSgt Paul D. Dubay</b> Cellular Phone (315) 225-0852</p>	

# NEADS opens new fitness center for troops

By Brooke Davis

NEADS Public Affairs

**ROME** – In keeping with the 'Fit to Fight' mindset of the Air Force, the Northeast Air Defense Sector officially opened its new fitness center March 2, 2007 for use by Department of Defense employees, including members at NEADS, Air Force Research Lab and Defense Finance and Accounting Services.

NEADS is a multi-component Air Force command and control element that monitors air traffic across the entire east coast of the United States.

Renovating Depot 1, East Wing, which was an existing building located in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park into the new fitness center took coordination between all three DOD agencies here. Funding for the project was obtained through NEADS' higher headquarters at First Air Force, Air Combat Command.

"NEADS' homeland defense mission has more than doubled recently, and with this mission increase, we must ensure that our troops are fit to fight and able to perform at and above Air Force standards," said Col. Clark Speicher, NEADS commander. "I wanted to thank DFAS and AFRL for jumping on board with coordination efforts to make the

new fitness center a reality for us here. This is a great start to a new year and a wonderful opportunity for our military members and civilian employees"



The project cost an estimated \$725,000 and was completed in two phases. The work included demolition, cleaning and replacement of materials and then installation of new equipment in the 80,000 square foot facility. The new facility houses an indoor running track, basketball court, two racquetball courts, two saunas, an aerobics room and weight room.

"We're very excited to get this facility up and running – it will be a great benefit to all of the DOD employees here, especially during the winter months," said Colonel Speicher.

Speicher hopes to secure future funding from Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, or MWR funds so the facility can expand its services to retirees. □

Members from the Northeast Air Defense Sector in Rome, N.Y., run for the first time during the NEADS Fitness Center opening Friday. The new fitness center was funded by First Air Force, and the new facility will house an indoor running track, basketball court, two racquetball courts, three saunas, an aerobics room and weight room.



# Firefighters pass on skills, equipment to Iraqi partners

## Guard Times staff

**ALI BASE, Iraq** -- New York Air National Guard firefighters from the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing who deployed here last year with Air Force Expeditionary Forces provided key firefighting lessons and training to their Iraqi partners.

The initiative first began back in August 2006, Iraqi firefighters from the Ali Base and An Nasiriyah Fire Departments responded to a blaze at the hospital located on Camp Mittica.

American firefighters operating on Ali Base realized that both the Coalition and Iraqi fire departments would benefit from working together, sharing knowledge of local fire-fighting techniques, and overcoming equipment incompatibility issues and deficiencies.

So late in 2006 firefighters from the 407<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight began building the foundation for a program to help create a better working relationship with their Iraqi counterparts. The expeditionary force included members of the Syracuse-based 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing.

“Although this program is in its infancy, I believe the program will have significant benefits to both the Iraqi people and the United States military,” said Master Sgt Tobias Shelley, 407 ECES Fire Protection Flight. “As we build trust through shared training with the Iraqis, I feel that we will



not only be winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqis, we will be gaining valuable

information about the happenings in and around An Nasiriyah.”

In An Nasiriyah, there are 1,200 firefighters, manning 18 trucks in 17 firehouses. The average Iraqi firefighter makes an average \$250 a month. Their fire trucks are allowed to use only 40 gallons of fuel per month to protect a city of more than 750,000 people. The hoses used by the Iraqi firefighters don't fit with American equipment, and they sleep in a firehouse with no beds.

However, before firefighters at the Ali Fire department could begin to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqis a few hurdles needed to be overcome. The first noticeable one is the language. Through the use of interpreters, the two fire departments were able to conduct several training sessions involving basic first aid skills, how to enter a building and retrieve a victim, and how to apply water on a fire.

Next the firefighters needed to learn about what each other has to offer each other. Goal is to develop the Iraqi fire department and provide equipment the firefighters can safely use and to improve their living conditions at the firehouse.

“We are in the middle of trying to figure out where they stand in the level of expertise. The big picture, is building a working relationship with trust and confidence in each other abilities,” Sergeant Shelley said. “Besides training we also wanted to help with equipment issues. They fight fires without the proper type of fighting equipment we are equipped with to protect us when fighting fires. They are doing this while manning a firehouse with nothing in it, no beds, nothing.”

To help and improve the working and living conditions of the local fire department, the Ali Fire Department gathered 150 mattresses, bed frames, wall lockers and other household furniture, portable water pumps, generators to run lights and the firehouse.

But Ali base firefighters were not the only ones who wanted to help their fellow firefighting brothers. Just prior to the end of the firefighter's rotation overseas, \$60,000 worth of firefighting equipment was donated to the Iraqi fire department by a civilian fire department back in New York State. □



Members of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing firefighting crews conduct training alongside Iraqi fireman on Ali Base in Iraq. The joint training provides an increase in skill and capabilities for firefighting crews on the air base supporting coalition forces in Iraq as well as regional Iraqi firefighting skills in the nearby City of An Nasiriyah. The Air Guard firefighters deployed with Air Expeditionary Forces from the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing this past winter. Courtesy photos.



# St. Patrick's Day parade hon

## Famed Irish Regiment marks 156 years of history with

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg  
HQ, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**MANHATTAN** – For a day, all of New York City is Irish. But for the hundreds of Citizen Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry, that honorary heritage is part of their military service that carries well beyond the celebrations of Saint Patrick's Day.

The Army Guard infantry battalion, first raised from the Irish immigrant population of lower Manhattan, again led the city celebration of Saint Patrick's Day. Hundreds of uniformed members of the battalion and its veterans corps received mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral and marched at the front of the city's 246<sup>th</sup> annual parade.

This year's parade drew an expected 150,000 marchers up Fifth Avenue past Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Leading the way were the members of the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

Members of the Army's famous "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>" have forever been known as "Irish by adoption, Irish by association or Irish by conviction" by the regimental chaplain during World War I, the famous Father Francis Duffy.

While an Irish Catholic ethnic or religious background is no longer predominant in the "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>," the representation of all of New York's cultural, ethnic and religious groups can be found in the 700-man infantry battalion.

"Today, the 69<sup>th</sup> is as diverse as New York City itself," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg during the parade festivities celebrating the unit's return home from overseas in 2006. "But Father Duffy's words still hold true."

Since the unit's founding in 1851 the Guard's "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>" has led the city's Saint Patrick's Day parade in Manhattan. The regiment's absence



was noted only during the World Wars and most recently during the battalion's deployment to Iraq in 2005.

Members of the unit's veteran's corps and rear detachment held the battalion's place of honor during the battalion's deployment to Iraq.

Returning to the unit armory at Lexington Avenue, the Citizen Soldiers held their own ceremonies to honor their Irish heritage, their history and their collective accomplishments since September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry was among the first responding military units to ground zero at the World Trade Center terror attack and the unit armory assisted the City of New York as a family information center in the initial days following the attack. Hundreds of Soldiers from the battalion went on to support the nation's homeland security mission at West Point, N.Y. before the entire organization mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in the spring of 2004, returning in the fall of 2005.

"Not only are you there for the warfight, but you are there at home for your neighbors. I am proud to be a guardsman with you," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, The Adjutant General, to the assembled troops and their families.

Toasts with the regimental cocktail honored the unit's founding and service to state and nation. The cocktail, a mixture of Irish whiskey and Champagne, was first believed mixed during the Civil War by the Irish Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas Meagher. The battalion toasts honored the unit's fallen comrades, from the Civil War to Iraq.



Lt. Col. Charles Crosby, commander of the N.Y. National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, leads his staff and Soldiers up Fifth Avenue during the St. Patrick's Day Parade March 17, 2007. The battalion has led the NYC parade for more than 150 years, absent only during the two World Wars and the unit's recent deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005.



Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry color guard celebrations of St. Patrick's Day at the battalion's Lexington. The battalion's historic Irish roots make honorary Irishmen of Eastern European and African backgrounds. At top right, Edward Kane (right), the regimental chaplain of the regiment for the unit's higher headquarters, the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Command, leads the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment's color guard in a parade up Fifth Avenue past St. Patrick's Cathedral.



# ors 69<sup>th</sup>

## n NYC parade



present the national and regimental colors during unit  
ton Avenue Armory in New York City on March 17, 2007.  
n of the modern-day Citizen Soldiers with Hispanic, Asian,  
ght, NYC Cardinal Edward Egan greets Chaplain (Col.)  
ment and Col. Gary Yaple (center), Deputy Commander  
ombat Team. The Soldiers led the NYC St. Patrick's Day



Members of the N.Y. Army National Guard's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and Army Reserves 98<sup>th</sup> Division form a combined band during the NYC St. Patrick's Day parade past St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue Saturday, March 17, 2007. The bands marched in support of the National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the Army's famous "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>," an historically Irish regiment with a history dating back before the Civil War.

"The regiment has a distinction second to none in our Army," said Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander. The battalion maintains its association with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division after 90 years of service since World War I.

"From Fredericksburg to Iraq, the 'Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>' has served our country with honor, commitment and courage," said U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney to the troops. "Historically, presently and on into the future, we will always be with you." □



Lt. Col. Charles Crosby (center), commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Vasquez (right) and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Norberto Carrasquillo prepare the regimental cocktail during unit celebrations for St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2007. Following the unit participation at the St. Patrick's Cathedral mass with NYC Cardinal Edward Egan, the battalion leads the city parade up Fifth Avenue before conducting unit ceremonies for Soldier promotions and awards at the regimental armory. The cocktail, a mix of one part Irish Whiskey with three parts Champagne, is said to date back to the regiment's earliest commander who first tried the mix during the regiment's field life in the Civil War.



## Sea trials on the Hudson



A patrol vessel with the Military Emergency Boat Service conducts training on the Hudson River in late January 2007. The Naval Militia fleet of patrol boats is expected to be operational around all of the state's waterways for the spring and summer boating season, starting off with the NYC Fleet Week activities in late May. Photo by Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Peter Towse.

## Navy Reserve Presents Awards to LI Naval Militia Sailors

By Mass Communications Specialist 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Ron Kuzlik  
Navy Operational Support Center Bronx Public Affairs

**BRONX** -- Navy Operational Support Center Bronx presented awards to two members of the New York Naval Militia for outstanding contributions and performance to the Navy and to the community. Commanding officer Cmdr. Herbert L. Pringle presented the awards in a ceremony at the Center March 3.

Builder 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SCW) Peter S. Johnson of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21 Det. 1121, was presented with the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Johnson, of Huntington Station, N.Y., received the award for his outstanding community service to Boy Scouts of American Troop 12 in Huntington, N.Y. He served as Assistant Scoutmaster and Merit Badge Counselor of Troop 12 from April 2001 to April 2006. He was instrumental as a camper assisting on

troop outings and planning bike trips.

Construction Electrician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Reanna L. Mattern, also of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21 Det. 1121, was presented with the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Mattern, of South Setauket, N.Y., received the award for her work as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) for the Setauket Fire Department for the period August 2003 through October 2006. She completed over 400 hours of community service, completing 467 alarms, 109 drills and training, 989 duty crews, 22 work details and 16 funerals and parades.

The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal may be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their Reserve

Components who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature.

"It always gives me great pleasure recognizing personal achievements by our Sailors," said NOSC Bronx commanding officer Cmdr. Herbert L. Pringle, "And I can never say enough about the selfless devotion required of those who earn the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal."

Navy Operational Support Center Bronx is the largest Navy Reserve Center in the Northeast, with nearly 990 drilling Reserve Component Sailors. It is responsible for providing mission capable units and individuals for mobilization to the Navy and Marine Corps teams throughout the full range of operations, from peace to war. □

### Honoring Naval service

Rear Admiral Casey Coane (left), the Executive Director of the Naval Reserve Association and Vice Admiral Joseph Stewart (right) congratulate Captain Chuck Haunss of the N.Y. Naval Militia with the Global War on Terrorism Certificate. The two senior officers attended the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Long Island Chapter of the Naval Reserve Association Mess Night on April 13, 2007 at the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. Coane delivered remarks to the group about "why we serve," recounting incidents of military achievement, past and present. Courtesy photo.



## Policy change boosts GI Bill eligibility for Guardsmen & women

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** - A recent Defense Department policy change widens the eligibility window for some Reserve-component troops who want to use their Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits, a senior DoD official said here today.

The DoD policy now aligns with Department of Veterans Affairs rules, which say National Guard members and reservists are eligible to receive Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits for the period covering the amount of time they served on active duty, plus four months, said Tom Bush, principal director for manpower and personnel within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

After studying the matter over the past few months, DoD agreed to align its policy with the VA's, Bush said during a joint Pentagon Channel/American Forces Press Service interview. DoD's previous policy, he said, only recognized the amount of active-duty time as applied to the G.I. Bill coverage period for reserve component members but still required the member to continue to serve in the Selected Reserve.

"The change, from the DoD perspective, is that the benefit now can be used by somebody that leaves the selected reserve for the amount of time that they've served on active duty, plus four months," Bush said. Guard and reserve members who attend regular drill training and meetings are considered part of the selected reserve.

The total amount of G.I. Bill coverage for reservists is still 36 months, Bush said. "So, if you've used part of that (G.I. Bill benefit) it may eat into that 36 months," he noted.

Bush said reservists normally have 14 years to use their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits. However, that time might also be extended, he noted, by the amount of time Guard or Reserve members serve on active duty, plus four months.

Senior Guard and Reserve officials, as well as demobilization sites, have been alerted to the policy change, Bush said.

About 370,000 Guard and Reserve members on drill or active-duty status have signed up to use Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Bush said.

The Reserve Education Assistance Program, established by the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act, is another DoD education initiative for members of the Guard and Reserve, Bush noted. To be eligible, servicemembers must have served at least 90 consecutive days of active service after Sept. 11, 2001, in response to a Presidential or Congressional call-up of military forces for wartime or other emergency service.

Guard and Reserve members who served for two continuous years on active duty in support of a contingency operation would qualify for both the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP and could select which program they want to use, Bush noted.

Servicemembers can determine if they qualify for the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP by contacting their local education office. □



# CST rappels for better response

Top NY Homeland Security official observes CST training; says second one is needed

By Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo

Guard Times Staff

**SCOTIA** – New York’s Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Michael Balboni recently visited Stratton Air National Guard Base to observe advanced training of the NY National Guard’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team and to reiterate his call for the creation of a second CST in New York City.

“This team and the unique application of this force are crucial for any type of weapons of mass destruction scene, not only in terms of a unified response but for the confidence and safety of first responders,” Secretary Balboni said. “In today’s security environment, there is no more relevant or important application of the National Guard’s unique ability to support and augment civilian authorities in times of crisis.”

Secretary Balboni was in Scotia on April 20 to observe the 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team’s (CST) training in close-quarters operations and rope-suspended evacuation techniques – skills essential to effective survey operations and removal of victims and team members from structures contaminated by chemical or biological agents.

The highly specialized CST is made up of Army and Air National Guard personnel and brings unique capabilities to local first responders across the state. The 22-member team deploys rapidly to assist emergency management personnel in determining the nature of an incident of known or suspected chemical, biological or radiological agents. The specialized unit is trained in identifying agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences and advising civilian incident commanders on response measures.

The unit also “uses its wide range of expertise to provide medical and technical advice, and facilitates the identification

and arrival of follow-on state and federal response assets,” said Staff Sgt. Paul Lunny, a Survey Team Chief with the unit.

The highly trained hazardous material handlers search out possible chemical, biological or radiological contaminants, sample and analyze them to identify potential toxic substances with a state of the art mobile analytical laboratory. Adding to this capability, the team employs a \$1.2 million communications suite, able to support emergency workers responding to incidents as part of NY State’s emergency response structure.

“This is only one of the unique missions of the National Guard and we in New York are blessed to have them,” said Balboni.

Tech Rescue, a commercial expert search and rescue team was contracted to provide the unit’s confined space evacuation. The instruction also included introductory and mastery rope rappelling training at the air base’s fire training tower. “This advanced training will enhance the multitude of certified skills this team already possesses, said Peter Rizzo, retired Rochester Fire Department Captain and Tech Rescue President.

On September 11, 2001, New York’s 2<sup>nd</sup> CST became the first such National Guard team to respond to an actual terrorist attack. Since then, the NY team has re-written CST doctrine, significantly expanding the value the team brings to the state and its communities. State authorities capitalized on the CST’s unique detection capability, deploying them preemptively to large public events and other potential targets of opportunity to provide early warning of any WMD activity.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> CST has performed dozens of missions to aid federal, state and local civil authorities. “We have deployed to support New York City emergency management agencies to ensure public safety at the New York City Marathon, the American League playoff and World Series games



at Yankee Stadium, New Years Eve celebrations, the US Open and the Republican National Convention,” said Lunny.

Due to the increased missions and the unique capabilities of the CST, Secretary Balboni is working diligently with New York’s congressional delegation to support a federal initiative to increase the Defense Authorization which will fund the establishment of another CST in New York. It is anticipated this newly formed team will be located in the metropolitan New York City area.

**“This is only one of the unique missions of the National Guard and we in New York are blessed to have them”**

“In terms of critical infrastructure, high-value targets and symbolic importance, the City of New York has security requirements that exceed that of most entire states. Rather than continuing to rely on the Scotia-based team to meet the City’s uniquely robust operational requirements and those of first responders across the State, it is high time that an additional New York City-based CST is funded and brought on-line,” said Secretary Balboni. □



Above, Members of the NY National Guard’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) members prepare a litter victim, team member, First Sgt. Lance Woodard for extraction during confined space evacuation training at the Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, NY on April 20. At right, instructors from Tech Rescue, a commercial training company, provide training for the confined area operations. At top right, CST members conduct rappel operations to enter a building.



## NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

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YAPLE GARY SCOTT 27TH INF (BCT)

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**  
GOLDENBERG RICHARD L. HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
LEEWE THOMAS J NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
ROFRANO CHRISTIAN A. NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
SLUSAR MARK FRANCIS NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
THIEM ALBERT 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 1

**MAJOR**  
HEINTZ VINCENT GERARD HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
INSETTA JOHN MICHAEL HHC 27TH INF (BCT) FWD 1  
LETIZIA FRANK J JR HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
PACOS GARY ALLAN 27TH INF (BCT)  
PINCKNEY ANDREW M. NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
SPENCE ALBERT PATRICK DET 1 HQ 42D ID

**CAPTAIN**  
KRISHNAN ANEAL HHD 104TH MP BN  
MORRISSEY WILLIAM F 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 2  
NOGLE JULIE ANNE 27TH INF (BCT)  
WILLIAMS RAYMOND JR TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)

**1st LIEUTENANT**  
KOUGEMITROS ARISTOTELIS CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
SCHEUERMAN RICHARD A. HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER**  
EDSALL DOUGLAS MEANS CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
SHUMWAY MARK EVAN CO A 3-142D AVIATION

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**  
IMBARRATO CHRISTOPH HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION

**SERGEANT MAJOR**  
KACZOR GERALD JOHN JR HHD 104TH MP BN

**MASTER SERGEANT**  
CRAFT JOHN DALE NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
MENDEZ JAIME JR 27TH INF (BCT) FWD 4  
RAMADHIN LUTCHMAN B HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
SAUER DONALD A HHC 42D COMBAT AVN BDE

**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS**  
BARBER THAD LOUIS TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
BATZA JOHN FRANCIS NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
DEROUCHE RENEE JEAN HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
DOBRANSKY MARK A. 102 MAINT CO  
GRANADOS RAMON HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
HAMPTON LAPADRE A CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
HORNER MICHAEL S. 1108TH ORDNANCE CO EOD  
NOBLE JOHN MASON 1427TH TRANS CO (-)  
POOLE KIPPY GUY HHC 42D COMBAT AVN BDE  
PUGLIESE THOMAS F. HHC 27TH INF (BCT) FWD 1  
SHERWOODJOHNSON J. NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
TURNER RALPH W. HHC 427 BSB  
VANDEMARK ANTHONY J. HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)

**STAFF SERGEANT**  
ARROYO MIGUEL JR A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
CHAPMAN BARTON J. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
CROSBY JAMES P. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
CUNNINGHAM ARLYN C. JR TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
DEARMITT WILLIAM PAUL TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
GIANCURSIO PATRICK CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
GIRVIN JEFFREY SCOTT 222D MP CO (FWD)  
HILLIKER SAM R DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
HUEBNER CHARLES D. HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
KATZMAN BENJAMAN M. DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
LOU DION ZIANG HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
MEEHAN RICHARD M. DET 1 CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY  
MILLER DAVID PATRICK 204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT  
NOSBISCH LINDA RUTH 27TH INF (BCT)  
PARTLOW BRIAN MICHAEL TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
REICHARD EDWARD JOHN CO C (MED) 427TH BSB  
ROSEN MICHAEL ANDREW 1427TH TRANS CO (-)  
SCHLOSSER DAVID E. DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
THOMPSON SANDRA M HHC 369TH SUSTBRIGADE  
WHITE JOHN ANTHONY HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
YIP ERIK WAH NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
ZIMMERMAN MATTHEW R. CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY

**SERGEANT**  
ADDISS FREDERICK R. HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
ALSTON JUMEL M. DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
ARNOLD ROGER P. II HHC 427 BSB  
BARTSCH ROBERT M. CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
BEECHAM MYLES D. JR HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
BLAIR CHRISTOPHER A. TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
BLOODGOOD JOHN E. JR BATTERY A 1-258TH FA  
BRODERICK MICHAEL F. DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
BROWN GEORGE E. JR RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
BURRIS VINCENT B CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
CAMACHO WILLIAM CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
CHAPMAN WILLIAM C HHC 42D COMBAT AVN BDE  
DANTZLER DOMINICK E HQ 53D TRP CMD  
DEMPSEY JOSEPH M CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
FLANAGAN THOMAS J HHD 104TH MP BN

FRANZE RICHARD J. JR DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
HIBBARD STEVEN G. CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HOOVLER PAUL R. JR DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
JOHNSON GAYLORD F. III TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
JULIAN JOSHUA W. DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH BCT  
KAPELA MICHAEL A. DET 1 105 MP CO  
LEINFELDER DONALD B. DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
LINDSEY JOHANN M. HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
MACK CHRISTOPHER M. CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
MANNARA RICHARD A. TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
MCUMBER RANDELLE M DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
RESTIFO ALEXANDER DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SAILER MATTHEW J. RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
SMITH DAVID ERWIN TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
STAFFORD ROBERT D. TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
WASHBURN DANIEL C. TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
WATERMAN THOMAS D. TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
WHITNEY SARAH L HHC 427 BSB  
WILLIAMS PATRICK M. 107TH MP COMPANY

**SPECIALIST**  
ALLEN JOSEPH EDWARD DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
AQUINO JIMINEZ EDGAR 37TH FINANCE DET  
BACALLA JOSEPH E. HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
BISHOP SHAWN MICHAEL HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
BLEYL KAYLUB JAYMZ 206TH MP COMPANY  
BROCKMAN SHENEKA M. 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
BUBLIKOVA CRYSTAL M. CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
CANALES ELSA E 4TH FINANCE DET  
CANNIZZARO DAVID F. DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CELESTE SIUL NALY HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
CUADRADO JOSE A 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
DELANEY CHRISTOPHER D 727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
DOST EDMOND H. III CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
DOUD WARREN S JR TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
DUNCAN REID ALAN 1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
ELWOOD THOMAS W. 107TH MP COMPANY

FELIX FRANKLIN W. 7TH FINANCE DET  
GATES JOSHUA RICHARD L. HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
GENTILE TIFFANY M HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
GERAGHTY BRIAN C CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
GONZALEZ EDWIN TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
GRACIA GEORGE M. 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
GRANUCCI ANDRIAN 1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
GROFF MELANIE V. HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD  
HARTWIG AMANDA L. 249TH MED CO AIR AMB (-)  
HASKELL CHARLES C. TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
HERNANDEZ DIONISIO 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
JENKINS VERONICA L. 1108TH ORDNANCE CO EOD  
KUTINSKY ADAM R. DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
LAWYER ROBERT J II 206TH MP COMPANY  
LEUNG DAVID HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
LOVEJOY SEAN PATRICK FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
LYMN SHAINÉ FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
MANNING JOSHUA W. TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
MCLURE NATHAN D CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
MCLAUGHLIN ADRIAN D. DET 1 1156TH EN CO VERTICAL  
OCHOA YESENIA MAYTE SIG NTWK DET 369 SUST BDE  
OTCHERE DERRICK K 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
PICKETT ANN MARIE 102 MAINT CO  
ROBINSON TONY A CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SHAVALIER BRIAN J. TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
SMITH JOSHUA CAINE CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
STUDER DEREK M. 107TH MP COMPANY  
THOMPSON KELLY V. CO C (MED) 427TH BSB  
TORRES ANGEL JR 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
ULLRICH JAMES S. DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
VILLARREAL JOSHUA D. B CO(MI)BSTB 27TH BCT  
WILLIAMS DEMETRIC L. 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)

**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS**  
ADAMS SASHA DENISE FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
ALEXANDRE DONALDY D. CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
ALLEN MICHAEL JAMES TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
ALVAREZ STACEY A. HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
ARCENALES ROY H. CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
ASTACIO WILFRED A. DET 2 CO D 3-126 AVN  
BAEZ PEDRO III CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
BARBER JOSEPH CLAIR TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
BEAGLE DEREK M. CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
BESWICK RASAKI CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
BIASE ASHLEY RENEE FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
BRITT JARROD M. CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
BROOKS SHATARA V. HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
BURCH NICHOLAS S. 206TH MP COMPANY  
BYRD RON EUGENE HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CAPLETTE JASON R DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH BCT  
CASTRO RAMOS CINDY 133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-)  
CODRINGTON DAVID M. DET 1 133RD QUARTERMASTER  
COLON MELODY CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
CONKLIN BRENDEN S. HHD 104TH MP BN  
COSME JANIRA L HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
CREE STEVEN PETER DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CRILL PETER MICHAEL CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
DEBO GREGORY S 105TH MP CO  
DELISSER MARLON G. CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
DIAZ EDGARDO HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
DORLAND MARION G 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
DORR DARIN ROBERT TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
DURA MICHAEL BRIAN 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
DUTTON MATTHEW R. CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
FERGUSON SAMANTHA M 222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)  
FERNANDEZ LUIS M. HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
FLAHERTY WILLIAM A. CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
FLETCHER JOSEPH R. CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
FLORES MARC V. CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
FOTOPOULOS THEODORE H. 727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
FRANCOIS CLIFORD HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
GALLAGHER JOHN A. CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
GARREN ETHAN A. HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
GIRGENTI PETER JAMES CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
GOLONKA RACHEL LYNN 105TH MP CO  
GOULD TIMOTHY PAUL CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
GRAHAM JAMAAL ABDUL 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET REAR  
HAMILTON JORDAN DEAN 102 MAINT CO  
HAMMERL STEVEN M. CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
HANNO CHRISTOPHER D. 102 MAINT CO  
HIGUERA EDGARD E. HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
HOINSKI MITCHELL G. CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
HOLCOMB ROBERT M. 204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT  
HOOD ANGEL TORREZ 102 MAINT CO  
HOPE JERMAINE J. 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
HOWELLS JOHNSON R. D 204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT  
JAMES YOLANDO O. CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
JARRETT RAMON P. CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
JASON RONALD J CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
JOHNSON JOSEPH W. DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
KAMPS LANDON T. 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
KERINS PATRICK M. HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY

# Orion graduates new Warrior Leaders



Graduates from the late winter Warrior Leader Course held at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn. included Soldiers attached or assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. In the photo above are Spc. Tony Shelton, Spc. Anthony Lespinasse, Sgt. Lorrie Cartier in the back row, Sgt. Anthony Turner in the center and Sgt. Michael Benjamin and Spc Joshua Gates in the front row. Photo by Cmd. Sgt. Maj. George Brett.



KEUCK JOSEPH A.  
KPONVI YAO  
LAMAY BRANDAN A.  
LAWYER KARLA KATE  
LEE JOO SUNG  
LEO FRANK ROBERTO  
LEON BRIAN  
LEWIS JESSE ROBERT  
LOCKE MATTHEW T.  
LOMBARDO DENIS  
LORING JOHN DAVID  
LYNESS MATTHEW R.  
MARTINEZ DANNY  
MASON DWAYNE A.  
MAZZARESE PHILIP C JR  
MCDONALD PASCAL A  
MCKENNEY WILLIAM G  
MELENDEZ MAURICIO A  
MERCADO CHARLIE A  
MILLAN EFRAIN J. II  
MIRANDA RAMON  
MOCTEZUMARIVERA J.  
MODEN CHAD W  
MONICA GEORGE T.  
MOORE JAMES E. JR  
MOORE JEFFREY C.  
MOORS MICHAEL P.  
MORENO DANIEL N.  
MOSTARAC PETAR K.  
NESFIELD JAMMALL A.  
NIEVES GABRIEL  
NOBLES STEVEN C.  
OSTER ADAM LEV  
PABONTORRES PEDRO  
PANIAGUA JOHN  
PENSACK CHRISTOPHER B.  
PEREZ FRANKY  
PISAPIA JOHN J  
PORTERFIELD CHARLES M  
POWERS MATTHEW E.  
PROVOST BRADLEY A.  
QUAIL DOMINICK A.  
RAMIREZ KISBEL  
RASMUSSEN JASON B.  
REDNER PAUL JAMES  
REYES JOSE JOAQUIN  
RIVERA ADAM LEE  
RIVERA SEBASTIAN A.  
ROBLES JOSEPH A.  
ROGERS CRAIG T.  
RUMPF JON PATRICK  
RUSCHAK STEPHEN W. II  
RUSSELL GERALD R.  
SANTIFUL SEAN A.  
SCOTT RODERICK O.  
SORRELL TRISTAN  
STALLWORTH VINCENT M.  
TIRINATO JOHN ROBERT  
TORRES JUAN ARNALDO  
UEBELHOER JEFFREY B.  
VEGA JOHN ANTHONY  
VELAZQUEZ FRANCISCO J.  
VELEZ JOHN  
WALIS JOHN DONALD JR  
WATSON JOSHUA D  
WEST MICHAEL JOEL  
WESTON ZACHARY IAN V.  
WILLIAMS ZACHARY R.  
WILSON ANDREW  
WILSON JASMINE NICOLE  
WOODS AARON R. SR  
YOUNG DANIEL JAMES  
ZELLNER MICHAEL J. JR

C CO(SIG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
SIG NTWK DET 369 SUST BDE  
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-)  
CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
A CO(EN)BSTB 27TH BCT  
HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
37TH FINANCE DET  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
DET 1 1156TH EN CO VERTICAL  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
CO A(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
27TH INF (BCT)  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
DET 2 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
466TH MED CO AREA SPT REAR  
HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
HHC 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
102 MAINT CO  
HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH BCT  
206TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
7TH FINANCE DET REAR  
DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY

**PRIVATE**

ALEONG SYLVESTER L. III  
BEANE MICHAEL J.  
BENOIT MARK J.  
BURKE ADAM W.  
CAMERON KIEL P.  
CANNADAY NATAISHA T.  
CAPALONGO DANIEL L.  
CARTER JOSHUA BRYON  
CHRISTMAN DONALD M.  
COOPER CARLEE LYNN  
DANLER CHAD DERRICK  
DECOOK DUSTIN M.  
DIEFFENBACHER GARRET S.  
EVERITT ADAM R.  
FALTISCO RAYMOND L.  
FERNANDEZ ERIC L.  
FIGUEROA JUAN C.

719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
HHC 42D COMBAT AVN BDE  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB

# A Family Bands Together

Story and photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Becky Rapp

42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Band



**FREEPORT** -- Members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Band witnessed a rare military event on April 22, 2007 when a New York National Guard mother promoted her son. Staff Sgt. Deborah Contini, a clarinetist, pinned the rank of Specialist on her son Robert Contini, a trumpeter. Both serve in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Band. Spc. Robert Contini will complete his Advanced Individual Training at the School of Music in Little Creek Amphibious Base in Virginia in June and return to Long Island to serve in the his newly expanded National Guard family. □

FLAZ ANN MARY  
FLYNN SEAN MICHAEL  
GARCIAHERNANDEZ JORIANN  
GIRALT JOSEPH MARTIN  
GOVERNALE JEFFREY S.  
GROVES ROY GEORGE  
HERRLE MATTHEW B.  
HOLLENBAUGH DANIEL P.  
HOPKINS CHARLES B.  
HUDSON TIFFANY A.  
HUGES DANIEL D.  
HUGGINS SHON D.  
JESSMER JARED A.  
JESSMER SPENCER G A  
JOHNSON FREDERICK F. JR  
JORDAN PAULA J.  
JOYNER MARKELLE K.  
KELLER ERIK MARK  
KISEL MATTHEW SHAWN  
KNOWLES JEREMIAH I.  
LASHER ZACHERY M.  
LEROY JAMES PATRICK  
LVOVSKY VITALY  
MAERLING WILLIAM R.  
MARCANO JOSEPH A. JR  
MARTIN WAYNE T.  
MARTINEZ ALBERTO JR  
MARTINEZ FELIX M.  
MATIN ZAKIR H.  
MAZZARESE MICHAEL A.  
MCCOY KIRK KRISTOFF

HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
HHC 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
DET 1 105 MP CO  
A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
DET 1 1427 TRANS CO  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
BATTERY A 1-258TH FA  
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO

MEEDER ADAM DAVID  
NORTHROP NEIL TRAVIS  
NUITE JOSEPH DAVID  
ODELL CODY JON  
PENZO GABRIEL GILBERT  
PFEFFER LISA RAE  
PYM GREGORY JAMES  
RAMSEY EDWARD M.  
REFFITT EVERETT J III  
REICH CURTIS D.  
REMUS JEREMIAH D.  
RICE ANTWAN B.  
ROBINSON RACHELL A.  
SANTIAGO STEVE M.  
SEGER TYLER ROBERT  
SHANER KIRK THOMAS  
SHEERAN JACQUELYN A.  
SKINNER MICHAEL D.  
SLISH JOSHUA SHANE  
STEELE TODD CURTIS  
SWARTZ DOUGLAS E.  
SYMES PAUL MATHEW  
THORNE KATRINA M.  
THURSTON ALICA M.  
TRINIDAD MARIA E.  
TWOGUNS WILLIAM W. JR  
VAETH CHRISTOPHER P.  
WESTFALL CHARLES R.  
WICKMARK JEFFREY L.  
YOST ASHLEY MARIE  
YOTT DONALD E.

TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
29TH PERSONNEL SERVICE DET  
TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
BATTERY A 1-258TH FA  
CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
206TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
14TH FINANCE DET  
CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)  
CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
102 MAINT CO  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
27TH BCT  
DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN  
HHC (-) BSTB 27TH BCT  
DET 1 105 MP CO  
DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY



## NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD REENLISTMENTS

102 MAINT CO  
SPC BARR TIMOTHY ALLEN  
SPC DEBRUYN ANTHONY JOSEPH  
SGT MATTESON WILLIAM MURRAY

105TH MP CO  
SPC MARRANO JEANNA MARTHA  
SSG WIELGASZ KENNETH MARK

107TH MP COMPANY  
SGT WHITTAKER BRADLEY GEORGE

1108TH ORDNANCE CO EOD  
SFC HORNER MICHAEL SIGMUND  
SSG LAUTENSCHLAGER ERIC JOHN

133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO (-)  
SPC APPALSAMMY VAIRD NARINE  
SGT CRUICKSHANK URIAH JAMES  
SPC HOLDER KERRY TYRONE  
SPC LATORRE PETER RAYMOND  
SSG LONDON TOM  
SSG MARTINEZ WILMA Y  
SPC RAMNARINE RYAN  
SGT ROBERTS CLARENCE W  
SGT SANTIAGO ROBERT  
SFC TUMMINGS CHARLES

145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
SSG ACOSTA RAMON  
SGT ALLEN CUTHBERT F  
SGT CRAWLEY RUSSELL EMMITT  
SGT MARTINEZCOLON JOSE A  
SPC MASON TYRONE  
SGT MEDINADOMINGUEZ JOANNA  
SGT ROBINSON WILLIAM K  
SSG VANDUSKY ROBERT

152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
SSG MANCUSO SHARI L

1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
SPC GRANUCCI ANDRIAN  
SPC MARTINO DAVID ANTHONY  
SGT SEMINARIO VICTOR MARTIN  
SPC WHITAKER ROBERT GEORGE ALEC

204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT  
SPC DAVIS ROY CHARLES  
SGT KELLOGG JOSEPH LAWRENCE

206TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY  
SSG CALORDINO SCOTT MICHAEL  
SPC GOGGIN SHAWN EVAN  
SGT HARRIS JOSEPH A  
SGT SCHMIDT ERICH KEITH

222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)  
SGT BARNARD THOMAS AGUILLA  
SPC BENNETT STEVEN CRAIG  
SGT TROCIA PAUL MICHAEL

249TH MED CO AIR AMBULANCE (-)  
SGT CONYERS VINCENT CURTIS  
SPC GINTY REGAN KENT  
SSG JONES RICHARD CASY

27TH INF (BCT)  
SPC COGAN COLIN STUART  
SFC FLINT ROBERT DOUGLAS  
SFC WHITE JOHN EDWARD  
SPC ZARIAN VAROOSH

27TH INF (BCT) FWD 3  
SFC ALDRICH TIMOTHY ALAN

2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB)  
SSG TEMPLE JESSE JR

37TH FINANCE DET  
SPC VILLACRESZOMORA ALFONSO MAR

42D INFANTRY DIV BAND (-)  
SGT ANDERSEN JARED JAMES  
SFC MCDONALD PETER JAMES  
SGT ORTEGA JUAN ALBERTO  
SSG SWANHALL BRIAN CARL

442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
SPC HUNTER KIM LESTOR  
SPC LYNCH JOSEPH JAMES  
SPC MARTINEZ ALEXANDER ARTURO  
SGT MATOS HECTOR LUIS  
SGT MURPHY DENNIS JOSEPH III  
SSG PAIGE SEAN EDWARD

466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SUPPORT  
SPC COTTRILL ROBERT PATRICK

4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET  
SPC LABORDE NAIDA  
SGT LABORDE NANCY  
SGT MACKLIN JONATHAN DAEMAR  
SGT SALVI WILLIAM MARSHALL

719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
SSG MITCHELL DARLENE

727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER

SPC ABRIL RICHARD MANUEL  
SPC DELANEY CHRISTOPHER D  
SPC HOFFMAN MICHAEL ERIC

827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
SFC LOPEZ ARMANDO JR  
SPC NICHOLS AARON MICHAEL  
SPC SHARE FREDERICK GEORGE  
SPC TIERNEY EDWARD RAYMOND III

A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)  
SFC LYNNESS MICAH SCOTT

B CO(MI)BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
SGT POTTS SHANNON RICHARD

BATTERY B 1-258TH FA  
SPC DESISTE WEGENS JEANS JOSEPH  
SSG HARRIS CLIVE JABEZ  
SSG RODRIGUEZ NOEL

C CO(SIG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)  
SPC POLOVNUK JERRY

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE  
MSG DREW MICHAEL JOSEPH  
SFC LOPEZ RAUL

CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
SGT HARVEY ALACIA ALLISON  
SPC MISSIGHER STACEY AYESHA

CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
SSG GIANCURSIO PATRICK  
SFC HAMPTON LAPADRE A  
SPC KRYSTAF BENJAMIN TIMOTHY  
SGT RINGLER DARREN DWAIN

CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
1SG O'BRIEN MICHAEL DAVID  
SPC RODRIGUEZ JESUS ARTURO  
SGT VARGAS ALEXANDER

CO A 2-108TH INF FWD  
SSG LEVY JOHN EDWARD  
SPC CRANE JOSHUA DAVID  
1SG OLIVER DAVID

CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
SGT NEVINS DANIEL JOSEPH JR

CO A(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
SGM HIGGITT PAUL JEROME JR  
SFC HOLMES JOHN FRANCIS

CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SSG GILDAY SEAN PATRICK  
SPC LLUVERA DAVID  
PFC LUCIANO FELIPE JOSE  
1SG TOOKER FRANK BRADLEY

CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SFC DEROCHER BRUCE ALLEN  
SPC REDMOND RICHARD WILLIAM

CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
SFC MANCUSO LOUIS GABRIEL

CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
SGT CASSELS STACEY MARIE  
SPC HODGE RINOL FRANCOIS

CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
SGT CHIU AARON IANGON

CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
SSG DRUMMOND FITZGERALD GEORGE

CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SGT GRIMBALL RICARDO GILBERTO

CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SGT LYNCH MICHAEL ANTHONY  
SPC WELCH MATTHEW JUSTIN

CO C (MED) 427TH BSB  
SGT DANIELS LAWRENCE SEONE

CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN  
SFC SCANK GARY ROONEY

CO C 642D SUPPORT BN  
SFC CLARKE FABIO ADOLFO  
SSG CRISPIN CHERYL E V  
SPC CRUZ JOSE ENRIQUE JR  
SPC DANIEL EUDES

CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
SPC ALBI JULIUS SYLVESTER JR

CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SPC STRITTMATTER JOSEPH MICHAEL

CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SPC FULLER CAMRON RICHARD

CO D 3-142D AVIATION  
SSG PUGLIESE ROBERT JOSEPH

CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
SSG HEIN JOEL ANDREW  
SGT MADISON SCOTT DAVID  
SPC MINER STEVEN PHILIP

CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
SPC CLEMMINGS BARRINGTON A  
SGT GARCIA JOSE RAMIRO  
SSG HAYES WILLIAM R  
SPC LAFONTAINE ALBERTO  
SSG ROSAS JULIO S

CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
SPC SILVATOMALA WILSON TEODORO  
SGT TORRES VICTOR M  
SGT WEBB MILTON CLEOPHUS JR

DET 1 105 MP CO  
SGT KAPELA MICHAEL ANTHONY

DET 1 133RD QUARTERMASTER SP  
SPC WILSON PAULA

DET 1 1427 TRANS CO  
SGT HUNTINGTON ANTHONY JOHN

DET 1 222D MILITARY POLICE CO  
SGT PECK JAMES RAYMOND

DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
SGT MCUMBER RANDELLE M

DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SPC ELNISKI SEAN J  
SGT PISA BENJAMIN MATTHEW

DET 1 CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SPC GOMEZMALDONADO HERBERT R  
SPC JASZCZERSKI GREGORY PETER

DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SPC CUSHING FRANK RANDOLF JR

DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SPC EVERY ZANE CHRISTOPHER  
SGT RESTIFO ALEXANDER

DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SGT BORST JOHN HENRY JR  
SGT WILEY TODD MICHAEL

DET 1 HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SGT JOHNSON JOHN CHARLES  
SSG SUMINGUIT ROBERT DEAN

DET 1 HHC 42D STB  
SGT DELLES VICTOR LEON

DET 1 HQ 42D ID  
SSG ANTAL TROY DOUGLAS  
SGT CERRONE AMY LYNNE  
SGT HARADJI APRIL TUNAY

DET 2 CO D 3-126 AVN  
SGT ARZU PAUL  
PFC ASTACIO WILFRED ALEXANDER  
SGT BOISROND GARY

DET 2 HHC 42D STB  
SSG WINDLEY TRACEY TERRANCE

DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
SPC CHEN ROBERT ONEIL  
SSG CLARK JAMES ALLEN

EARLY ENTRY ELMT 369 SUST BDE  
SGM KANIA FRANK JOHN JR

FSC 204TH ENGINEER BATTALION  
SGT ROBINSON THOMAS WILLIAM

H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
SSG CLOUSTON TIMOTHY JAMES  
SPC HOWARD JESSE ANDERSON III

HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
SGM BLAIS ALBERT GEORGE II  
SGM BLAKE HUGH J  
SGT CONNELLY CHRISTOPHER BRIAN  
CSM FEARNESIDE RICHARD F  
SGT FRANCIS RICARDO AUBREY  
SGM WILLSEY JOHN J

HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
CPL BRAVO LOUIS ANTONIO  
SGT CANDELARIA DAVID JOE  
SPC COSTELLO MATTHEW PAUL  
SPC JASEK HENRY JAMES JR  
SPC JIRAK WILLIAM ADAM  
SGT MURPHY KYLE RUGGLES  
SPC SICILIANO MICHAEL SCOTT  
SPC WRIGHT MICHAEL LYNN

HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SPC DONOVAN PATRICK JOSEPH  
SPC GILKES ANTHONY AUREILIO  
SGT MILES FREDERICK  
SGT RICK DENNIS LEE JR  
SGT ROLON ALEX  
SSG SOTO ANTONIO

HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
SPC VELEZ YAN R

HHC 27TH INF (BCT) FWD 1  
MSG MALLETT DEBORA FAYE  
1SG OLMSTED CHRIS EDWARD  
SGT SMITH MATTHEW JASON

HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE  
MSG FAIELLA JEFFREY J  
SPC GRAHAM KEVIN  
SFC GRANADOS RAMON  
MSG HUNTER THOMAS W  
SSG LOU DION ZIANG  
MSG WEISE MAUREEN A

HHC 427 BSB  
SGT GARCIA RAY ANDREW





## Air Guard supports medical evacuation training exercise

Members of the 139<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Squadron, part of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in Scotia, assist with the simulated patient movement during the Golden Eagle training exercise in Newburgh, N.Y. on April 28. The training supported the National Disaster Medical System, designed to support the medical evacuation and treatment of mass casualties following a civil disaster. The exercise included approximately 50 NYANG personnel, about 35 Civil Air Patrol volunteers, 30 civilian ambulance and EMT and rescue personnel from area counties and six Veterans Administration staff. The VA was the proponent of the exercise.

Simulated patients were flown into Stewart Air National Guard Base where a triage area was established close to the flight line, using a hangar in order to stabilize and transport simulated wounded patients aboard civilian ambulances to designated area hospitals. The Civil Air Patrol provided the role-play injured. Photo by Tech Sgt. Michael O'Halloran.

## AAFES Delivers Taste of Home Downrange

### AAFES News Release

**DALLAS, Texas**—It began with the opening of a Burger King at Baghdad International Airport on June 10, 2003. Little more than a take-out stand, Iraq's first Burger King was soon turning out 5,000 patties a day for a steady line of hungry troops.

With the opening of the 11th Pizza Hut in Iraq in March 2007, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) now operates 190 Name Brand Fast Food (NBFF) restaurants throughout Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). In the next month, AAFES plans to complete a new Burger King at Camp Bucca in Iraq, build a Starbucks Coffee shop and redesign the Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs with seating at Camp Buehring and replace Kuwait's oldest Subway shop with a new modern facility at Ali Al-Salem AB.



"The entire dining experience is designed to remind the Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors of home," said AAFES Contingency Planning Chief Lt. Col. Steven Dean. "From the aroma of a burger sizzling on the broiler to the smell of fresh coffee, NBFF has an amazing ability to temporarily take troops from war zones to comfort zones."

AAFES' NBFF operations in Iraq alone have gone from that single Burger King in 2003 to more than 70 establishments today, including 12 Subways, 12 Pizza Huts, 10 Burger Kings and five Taco Bells. From Afghanistan to Qatar to the United Arab Emirates, troops can also choose from a wide variety of restaurants such as Kentucky Fried Chicken, Dairy Queen, Orange Julius and Hardee's, among others.

In addition to the name brand fast food facilities operating in OEF/OIF, AAFES operates more than 2,000 restaurants worldwide with an additional 77 locations planned to open in the next year. □

## 369<sup>th</sup> Historical Society honors Susan Taluto



Maj. Gen. Nathaniel James and Mrs. Juanita Cox (left) from the 369<sup>th</sup> Historical Society present Mrs. Susan Taluto, wife of Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, The Adjutant General, with the "Knolma Lolita Duckett" award for her outstanding leadership and commitment to the National Guard family. The award is named in honor of the wife of retired Brig. Gen. Louis Duckett, one of the first black general officers in the N.Y. Army National Guard. The society held its annual Women's History Month celebration on March 18 in Woodhaven, N.Y. Courtesy photo.

SSG VIEOU FRANCIS HIRAM  
MSG WALLS FRANK JOSEPH  
**HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN**  
SPC ADAMS KEITH WILLIAM  
SPC NOLEN CHRISTOPHER LEE  
**HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN**  
SGM KACZOR GERALD JOHN JR  
SPC NOSKER JOEL THOMAS  
**HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**  
SFC VANDEMARK ANTHONY JAMES  
**HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)**  
SPC BROOKS DILLWORTH AUGUSTUS  
SGT FANCHER DAVID ETSON SR  
SSG PUGH LAMONT M  
**HSC 642D SUPPORT BN**  
SSG BURNS OSCAR ALFONSO  
SPC DESILVA LEOPOLDO ADOLFO JR  
SPC HOLLEY CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL  
SPC IMBURGIA STEPHEN LAWRENCE  
**MEDICAL COMMAND**  
SGT HENDERSON VICKI LYNN  
SGT JONES BRENDAN WILLIAM  
**NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 32**  
SFC HANSEN PETER A  
**NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 62**  
SPC MARMER ALEXANDER

**NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ**  
SFC BAKER MICHAEL DONALD  
PFC LEAVITT BROOKE ALLISON  
SGM MANGELS TRACEY B  
SSG MARTINEZ WILLIAM R  
SFC MOSE ALFRED FRANCIS  
SGM ONEIL JOYCE M  
SFC ROMINE MICHAEL LAWRENCE  
SSG SHEA BRIAN STEVEN  
**RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD**  
MSG ANDERSON SCOTT C  
SGT DUMAIS RICHARD ALBERT  
SSG ROWEWATSON MARIECHA G  
**SIG NTWK SPT DET 369 SUST BDE**  
SPC COLLADO DAVID  
**TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**  
SPC ELLINGER JOSEPH DAVID  
SPC JORDY CLAUDE WAYNE II  
**TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**  
SSG BARROWS ADOLPHUS JAMES  
SSG DEARMITT WILLIAM PAUL  
SGT INGRAM OLDEN TYRON III  
1SG MARSH REX E  
**TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**  
SPC PIETSCH JASON DONALD  
SPC SWAIDNER BRIAN PAUL



## NY hosts senior NCOs from around the globe



Story and photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo  
Guard Times Staff

**MANHATTAN** -- Forty-four international military students currently attending the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas visited New York and Washington during an 11-day tour on April 7. The tour, part of the Academy's Field Studies Program, was designed to familiarize students with United States cultural diversity, economics, political

system and military history.

Highlighted during their trip to New York was a visit to Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade Center terror attack, an information briefing on the operational capabilities of the New York National Guard and a visit to the West Point Military Academy.

The U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy trains senior enlisted military students from the U.S. and allied nations in effective management and operations of their armed forces.

Photo above, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Norberto Carrasquillo discusses 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regimental history with international military students during a tour of the Lexington Avenue Armory, early April 2007.

## Food Network's 'Emeril Live' celebrates military



Members of the New York Army National Guard's 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command joined with representatives of the Army and Navy during the taping of the Food Network show *Emeril Live* at New York City's Chelsea Market on March 6, 2007. The episode, scheduled to air on June 29 highlighted Emeril Lagasse's salute to the armed forces. Three contestants won a recipe contest. The first winner was a Citizen Soldier from the Arizona National Guard serving in Kuwait, another a Naval Sailor serving onboard a navy ship and the third an Army Warrant Officer serving in Korea. All three service members were flown to the studio for the program taping. Members of the Army National Guard participated as part of the studio audience. Providing musical support for the episode were members of the U.S. Army Band's Brass Quintet. Courtesy photo.



# Corporation Mindful of Deployed Guard Soldiers

Story and photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Petibone

42<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

**OLD GREENWICH, Conn.** – Being deployed and receiving a care package from family and friends is not unfamiliar to Col. Glenn Marchi, Chief of 53<sup>rd</sup> Army Liaison Team.

Marchi was deployed to Tikrit, Iraq as the battalion commander of the 642<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Support Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Brigade in 2004-2005 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He is also an employee of the Diageo Corporation, a world leader in the distribution of premium drinks whose North American headquarters is based in Norwalk, Conn.

Since the Diageo Corporation knew that he had served in Iraq, the company's North American Finance function asked for Marchi's assistance to coordinate a community service event to support currently deployed troops from Connecticut and New York.

In an auxiliary conference room at the Old Greenwich Hotel, numerous boxes full of donated items such as beef jerky, candy, DVD's, books and personal hygiene items were handed out to waves of Diageo employees packing small and medium-sized boxes to send to specific units.

In less than two hours, employees packed approximately 226 boxes to be sent to Connecticut and New York National Guardsmen stationed in Iraq.

On hand to help with the packing event and to get some special recognition was Spc. Justin Clark, a New York National Guard Soldier with the 727<sup>th</sup> Military Police Detachment who was home on leave from Iraq and was invited to attend the event. Col. Peter Sammarco, Deputy Commander 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command presented Spc. Clark with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command Coin of Excellence in recognition for his performance in Iraq.

Approximately, 18 spouses, Family Readiness Group (FRG) members and a deployed National Guard Soldier from Connecticut and New York attended the corporate-sponsored event and were tasked with handing out the donated items that Diageo employees were fastidiously gathering and packing into their allotted shipment boxes.

Afterwards, eight FRG members attended dinner at the Hyatt, as guests of the Diageo Corporation. □



An employee of the Diageo Corp., a premium drink distributor, gathers donated items from Caroline Mancini (on right) and Lisa Cote, two family readiness group members from the 727<sup>th</sup> Law and Order Detachment as his fellow staff members prepare care packages for deployed Soldiers at the company's Old Greenwich, Conn. conference site.

## TAG meets Reserve Chiefs at USTRANSCOM

By Lt. Col. Cliff Mirabella

U.S. Transportation Command Public Affairs

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.** -- The Adjutant General of New York, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, met with the Reserve Component Chiefs and other National Guard Adjutants General from across the country here at a combined conference hosted by U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), March 28 and 29.

Also attending was the state's Deputy Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Robert Knauff.

"I feel honored to have hosted this first combined Reserve Component Chiefs and Adjutants General Conference," said Air Force Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, commander of USTRANSCOM. "Guard and Reserve personnel are more than 56 percent of USTRANSCOM's workforce," he explained, "We simply couldn't do our jobs without them."

For several years, USTRANSCOM has hosted separate conferences for the Reserve Component Chiefs and for the National Guard Adjutants General. This year, to avoid potential scheduling conflicts and because both conferences deal with many of the same issues, Schwartz decided to combine the two events.

Taking the conference theme, "Teamwork", to heart, Air Force Reserve Maj. Gen. Harold L. Mitchell, director of USTRANSCOM's Reserve Component Directorate, spoke about the opportunities the combined event offered.

"We must take full advantage of this conference of Reserve Component Chiefs, Adjutants General, and USTRANSCOM to build on our relationships, build on our synergies," said Mitchell, "and ultimately to strengthen our team, as we go about our business of supporting the war fighter."

The conference attendees received briefings on USTRANSCOM's mission, capabilities, initiatives and components commands. They also heard an address by video teleconference from Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England. England spoke about the importance of the Guard and Reserve contribution to the nation's defense and the Global War on Terror. He also praised the National Guard "Youth Challenge" Program, a preventive rather than remedial at-risk youth program aimed at 16 to 18 year olds.

The conference participants also heard from former Chief of Air Force Reserve, and current Commissioner with the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves (CNGR), James E. Sherrard III, explain the CNGR and its mission.

"It's my hope that this year's conference attendees found the speakers and presentations on a variety of issues useful as we together face the many challenges in the execution of our mission," said Schwartz. □



Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, commander, U.S. Transportation Command, makes a point as he presents the USTRANSCOM Global Challenge Briefing March 28 to the Reserve Component Chiefs and Adjutants General Conference attendees in the Global Reach Planning Center. The two-day event brought together the National Guard Adjutants General from across the country, the Chiefs of the Reserve Components and the commanders of Air Mobility Command, Military Sealift Command and Surface Deployment and Distribution Command." Photo by Bob Fehring, USTRANSCOM Public Affairs.



# Short pole in the long tent

Aviation Brigade HQ prepares for field training



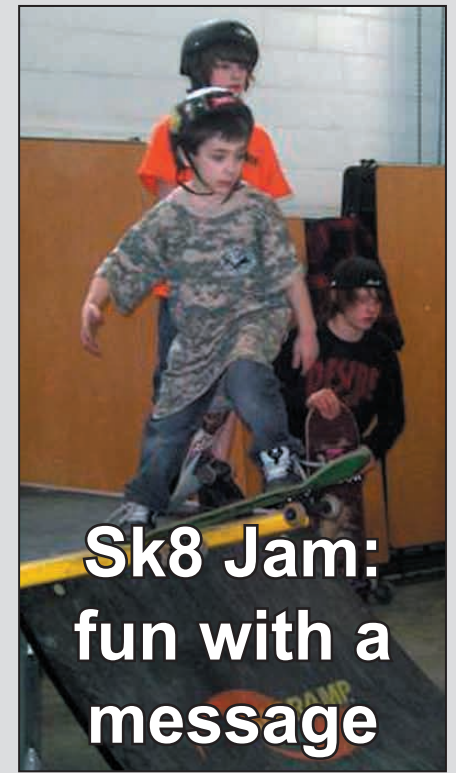
Maj. Jack James (center above), Operations Officer for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, leads an after-action review with Headquarters and Headquarters Company Soldiers after they set up an operations tent on the drill shed floor of the Latham Armory on April 21. The setup of the brigade tactical operations center was part of the unit preparations for command post training later in the year. Photo by Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Petibone. □

## Recognizing Guard Volunteers

Miss Nicole Schofellen displays her award at the N.Y. State 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony hosted by the 105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and N.Y. State Family Programs Office at the Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburg New York on April 17. The award, presented by Mrs. Shelly Aiken (left) and Brigadier General Esther Rada honored those military, civilian and community members who have demonstrated exceptional volunteer spirit for all of us. Similar volunteer recognition ceremonies were held throughout the state as a highlight of national volunteer month. Photo by Tech. Sgt Michael O'Halloran. □

## Editor's Note

Our readers should notice that this issue of the Guard Times states May-June on our cover, instead of the anticipated March-April. We intentionally jumped ahead in production name to better align the timeframe of the issue you receive with the date on its cover. You can always find current articles and photos at our N.Y. National Guard website, [www.dnna.state.ny.us](http://www.dnna.state.ny.us).



Guard Times Staff

ROME -- Members of the City of Rome, the Rome Police Department, Fire Department, Rome Weed & Seed and the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force collaborated to bring Sk8 Jam skateboarding and an anti-drug message to area youth in Central N.Y.

More than 125 children from the region took advantage of the three-day event from March 11-13, including children from as far away as Baldwinsville and Port Leyden, New York. An additional 150 spectators, friends and parents cheered them on throughout the event.

Members of the National Guard CounterDrug Task Force helped organize the Sk8 Jam to offer children an opportunity to skate in a safe environment with state of the art recreational equipment.

Opportunities for skateboarding remains a hot topic of discussion in neighborhoods across the state. Rome area children are frequently asked to utilize a local public park while others still choose to skate in the streets, posing a safety concern for the children, pedestrians, and motor vehicles.

Funding for the skateboard equipment provided by the National Guard is generated through drug seizures. The funding is a way in which something negative can be turned around into a positive outcome for area communities. The National Guard not only provided the staking equipment, but also brought in a climbing rock wall, gave away t-shirts and water bottles, and discussed with the children ways in which they should avoid the use of drugs.

"These children demonstrated a camaraderie with each other that would surprise you," said Kathy Stockbridge, the Weed & Seed Site Coordinator and Public Safety Coordinator. "The older skateboarders helped the younger ones; they each took turns and didn't monopolize the equipment; they were extremely polite to everyone; and in the end they came up to me to say "thank you for giving us this opportunity." □

Lt. Col. Vance Batemen, N.Y. Counterdrug Task Force operations, contributed to this article.



# Army Guard names 'Best of the Best'

By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Peter Towse  
Guard Times Staff

**LATHAM** – The New York Army National Guard selected its top Soldiers of the year this winter, recognizing Staff Sgt. Adam Meyer and Sgt. Scott Humphrey as the top NCO and Soldier of the year. Staff Sgt. James J. White received top honors as the AGR Soldier of the Year.

Guard units from across the state sent their best representatives to the State Headquarters this February to determine the top Soldiers.

New York State Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt welcomed each candidate to the Selection Board before administering a 90 question written test.

“Due to the different levels of competition that these Soldiers and NCOs must compete at to reach the State level, it can be said that they are truly the best that the NYARNG has to offer,” said Van Pelt. “Each year that I have participated in this event, I am amazed at two things. The first is the dedication these candidates demonstrate in their preparedness for the event. The second thing is even with the closeness of the competition, the overall winners stick out so easily to the members of the Board.”

Once the candidates completed this test, they reported to the drill hall and tested on five tasks from the Army’s Warrior Tasks.

“As far as preparation goes, I can’t say that I did it all at once,” said White, the AGR NCO of the Year. “I studied probably 1-2 hours a week for the month before the competition, then, when I could get my hands on training aids, I would practice the [Warrior] tasks.”

Subject matter experts from the State Headquarters administered this “hands

on” portion of the Board. The tasks tested the Soldier’s knowledge on first aid, NBC decontamination, land navigation / map reading, weapons maintenance and communications. Each candidate was evaluated to standard for each event.

“It takes the full support of your first-line leaders, NCO support channel, company, battalion, Troop Command and the NYARNG to be selected for Soldier of the Year,” said Humphrey, the Traditional Soldier of the year. “My first line leaders and NCO support channel were the ones who continuously provided me with as much information and guidance as they were able to. They were also the source of moral support for me throughout the selection boards”.

On Sunday, each candidate reported in their Class A Uniform for a 20-minute appearance board where each was asked a series of 30 questions and evaluated on the overall appearance, reporting procedures and poise. Once all the candidates completed this process, the scores were tallied and the winners were announced.

“I recommend that anyone who would like to compete in this event do so, and start studying in advance, said Meyer, the Traditional NCO of the Year. “And for leaders and Commanders to not just



Final members of the N.Y. Army National Guard selection board gathered at the Joint Force Headquarters for the Army Guard Soldier of the Year selection boards on Sunday, February 25 to determine the N.Y. National Guard’s best Citizen Soldiers. In the photo are back row (left to right): Staff Sgt. James White, Spc. Christopher Stout, Spc. Jason Daniels, Staff Sgt. William Macy, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Dick Fearnside, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Judd Cappon and Sgt. Scott Humphrey. Staff Sgt. White from the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team Special Troops Battalion was named the AGR NCO of the year while Sgt. Humphrey from Company C, 101<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion was selected by the board as the N.Y. Army National Guard traditional Soldier of the year. Front Row (left to right): Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Bob Van Pelt, Spc. Vincent Flow, Sgt. Adam Meyer, Sgt. Keith Myers, Staff Sgt. William Zeughardt, Sgt. Stanley Bagrowski, Spc. Matthew Cressman. Sgt. Meyer from the 442<sup>nd</sup> Military Police Company was selected as the traditional NCO of the year. Courtesy photo.

randomly select soldiers, but to truly select those who deserve it, and who embody the LDRSHIP values and warrior ethos.”

In the National Guard Bureau Competition, only one Soldier and one NCO can be selected to represent the eight states from New England, New York and New Jersey and move on to the NGB board.

Humphrey and Meyer represented the state but were not selected at the regional board which New York hosted for Guard Bureau at Camp Smith on March 31 and April 1.

The NGB selection board will be held in August at Fort Benning, Georgia where

the winners will go on to compete at the U.S. Army Soldier and NCO of the Year competition in October.

“I am extremely grateful to have been selected as the Traditional Soldier of the Year for 2006,” Humphrey said. “I realize that it is a tremendous honor and I look forward to living up to the high standards that go with the title. I’m happy that I was given the opportunity to represent my company, my battalion and the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command at the State level and I look forward to being able to represent the State of NY at the Regional Competition.” □

## Finance Detachment troops welcomed home to Whitestone

Guard Times Staff

**WHITESTONE** -- Members of the National Guard’s 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Detachment conducted their Freedom Salute welcome home ceremony at their Whitestone Armory on March 4.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Detachment mobilized in the summer of 2005, deployed to Iraq and returned back to New York in the late fall of 2006. The unit operated from three locations, serving Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Camp Victory and Camp Liberty.

The unit provided military pay support, disbursing and finance missions for the Army’s 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Members of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance provided support for a total of 16,000 American Soldiers and nearly 5,400 civilians or other coalition troops in the region. During the unit deployment, Soldiers of the detachment disbursed more than \$23 million at Camp Victory and FOB Falcon. Ten Soldiers of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Detachment received the Combat Action Badge during operations in the combat zone.

The Freedom Salute Campaign is one of the largest Army National Guard recognition endeavors. Each Soldier receives an encased American flag, lapel insignia, commemorative coin and certificate of appreciation from the Army National Guard. Soldier’s spouses also receive a lapel pin. The program recognizes Army National Guard Soldiers for their service during Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom in order to thank their spouses, families and employers for the support to the Soldier and the Guard. □

At left, Capt. Janet Erazo from the 27<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion recognizes members of the detachment Family Readiness Group during the Freedom Salute Ceremony. Photo by Sgt. Matthew Johnson





# Corned Beef Cook-Off benefits 69<sup>th</sup> families and Fisher House

Guard Times Staff

MANHATTAN—A city-wide competition of top New York City restaurants and pubs to find the best corned beef recipes raised funds for the famed New York Army National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the Fisher House fund.

The contest judges and the participating restaurants agreed that they had heard that Corned Beef and Cabbage originated in New York City and that is why New York City is known for the best corned beef and cabbage in the world.



Lt. Col. Charles T. Crosby, commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, "Fighting" 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard, judges an entry from Neary's Pub March 13 in the St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Cook-Off. The event was sponsored by Prudential Financial Inc. to benefit the Friends of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and Fisher House, a private-public partnership which builds comfort homes on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers.

The gala took place at the historic 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Armory in midtown Manhattan. The 1-69<sup>th</sup> Infantry continues to celebrate its Irish-American roots to this day; however it is now one the most ethnically diverse National Guard battalions in the country. It has led the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade for more than 150 years and recently served in Iraq's "Sunni Triangle," suffering a 10 percent casualty rate, including 19 Soldiers killed in action. U.S. Army photo by Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Eric Reinhardt.

The contest, held Tuesday, March 13 at the "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>" Lexington Avenue Armory in advance of the city's Saint Patrick's Day celebration, brought together more than a dozen New York City eateries for the competition.

George Duran, from the Food Network's "Ham on the Street" served as the event master of ceremonies. Featured entertainment for the fundraiser included the Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan, the NYC Police Department Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, Xavier "X" Squad, and the Gus Hayes Band and Morningstar.

Joining Lt. Col. Chuck Crosby from the National Guard battalion as judges were members of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, the food editor from New York Magazine and other dignitaries for the St. Patrick's celebrations throughout Manhattan.

Corned beef and cabbage is as American as the St. Patrick's Day parade. The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade was started in 1762 by Irish immigrants and pre-dates our independence as a country. Along with the parade, the "Irish" corned beef and cabbage dinner many consume on St. Patrick's Day is also an American tradition. Both have only recently found their way to Ireland to satisfy the desires of the many tourists seeking this "original fare."

New York City's Best Corned Beef and Cabbage was awarded to Neary's Pub, located at 358 East 57th Street. The Best Corned Beef Sandwich was awarded to McAnn's Bar and Restaurant, located at 3 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street. The Chef's Choice was awarded to Langan's, located at 150 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street, with their corned beef and cabbage soup.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry, New York Army National Guard has led the St. Patrick's Day Parade for more than 150 years and served in some of the most hostile areas in Iraq and suffered nineteen Soldiers killed in action, including members of the Louisiana National Guard's 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team serving with the unit, known as Task Force Wolfhound.

Friends of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> is a tax-exempt charitable organization formed in late 2004 to support the families and Soldiers of the 1-69<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

Fisher House, a private-public partnership builds "comfort homes" on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. Annually, Fisher House serves more than 10,000 families, and has made available more than 2 million days of lodging to family members since the program began in 1990. For further information, please visit their web page at [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org). □

## About Guard Times

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**Guard Times**  
**DMNA-MNPA**  
330 Old Niskayuna Road  
Latham, New York 12110-3514  
(518) 786-4581 FAX (518) 786-4649  
or  
[richard.goldenberg@ny.ngb.army.mil](mailto:richard.goldenberg@ny.ngb.army.mil)

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