

Tm NY on Arizona border, page 8



Trees for the troops, page 22



PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #3071  
Syracuse, NY

# Guard TIMES

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

<http://www.dmna.state.ny.us>

Volume 15, Number 6

November-December 2006

## Salute to Citizen Soldiers



Changing of the Colors at Grand Central Terminal, Story on Page 3



# From the leadership

As we mark the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007, our New York National Guard can reflect on many achievements over the past twelve months and resolve ourselves to achieve even more in the New Year.

From disaster response or security support here at home to the warfight overseas, our Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and NY Guard volunteers can be proud of the impact we make in our hometown neighborhoods and our nation. We answer a call to service in our communities, across our state and with our fellow warfighters, across the globe. We are essential to the security of our homeland and a key element in taking our nation's fight to enemy shores.

In the year ahead, we will prepare ourselves to accomplish even more. Our support continues into 2007 with more troops for Operation Jump Start on the country's Southwest Border with two scheduled annual training rotations to Arizona where hundreds of our Citizen Soldiers achieved great success in 2006. Our support for force requirements overseas, both in Iraq and Afghanistan will meet the ongoing needs of our nation as members of the Air Guard support expeditionary force

requirements and Army Guard units prepare for mobilizations.

With the New Year I also want to address two issues for us all: how our ethical actions reflect on our entire military force and how we can better voice our needs and concerns to make change.

**"we are in the eye of the public every day and in a very positive way"**

This is no mandated annual briefing for all of you. We have a responsibility as leaders to communicate about these issues and remind our servicemen and women about what is important to their leaders, their peers and our entire force.

If I could take an azimuth check, I'd say that the New York National Guard is on a great path when it comes to our professional conduct and actions as military professionals. We don't have a problem and we don't want a problem in our professional force.

Unethical behavior won't play here. There's no room for personal misconduct or unethical activity on our team.

The good news is that we are in the eye of the public every day and in a very positive way. Make it your personal effort to sustain that

professionalism on behalf of the thousands of men and women who stand alongside you in our New York National Guard family.

Ethical errors are simply too hard to overcome in this environment. The stakes are just too high.

With the exceptional conduct of our force, it also goes that we should stand up and support those professional organizations that work on our behalf.

As military professionals, we already have organizations that support us. We know how things get done and we get things done because these organizations that represent us do the hard work to lobby on our behalf.

Whether your concern is pay or entitlements, education or retirement, you just won't get a lot of these things unless groups go get them for you.

If you were a doctor, you'd join the American Medical Association. If you were a lawyer you'd be part of the BAR Association. Pilots belong to the Airline Owners and Pilots Association and so on and so forth.

Here in New York, we can all take pride in the work of our Enlisted Association, Military Association and with the efforts of the National Guard Association (NGAUS), the Association of the United States Army



**Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto**

(AUSA), the Air Force Association (AFA) or others such as the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS). These organizations, and others like them, work at the national, state and grass roots level to ensure that our elected leaders recognize and support our men and women who serve.

And for our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, your membership is the foundation for their work. They give us all a voice for our concerns and needs. We are a better force for their effort. □

## GUARD NOTES

### Guardsmen get to go fish

**MAHOPAC, N.Y.** – An enthusiastic supporter of our nation's military servicemen and women is leading an effort to establish a national "Take a vet fishing" initiative.

Starting with his own 32 foot boat, Anticipation docked at City Island in the Bronx, Andrew Powers expects to personally host three fishing trips for the weekend of May 19 with up to four veterans on each outing later this spring off of western Long Island waters. The program coincides with National Safe Boating Week from May 19 through May 26.

Each veteran is asked only to bring a fishing pole and lunch for their daylong excursion.

The program is devised by Powers as a way to thank veterans for their service overseas. His idea intends to help recognize our nation's veterans, from Iraq, Afghanistan, the 1991 Gulf War and back to the Vietnam War.

"Regardless of how anyone feels about the conflict, these people have given their time and put themselves in harm's way," Powers told the Journal News of Putnam County.

Powers intends to expand his offering to other private or commercial fishing ventures across New York and the nation. His initiative is organized around LeisureTyme.net LLC as a way for all anglers and commercial fishing boats across the region to thank veterans for their service. The expeditions are expected to cover the waters of Long Island Sound, the Hudson River, Southern Long Island and the New Jersey coastal waters covering Sandy Hook to Manasquan Inlet.

"We still have a lot of work to do to get the message to all our men and women in the armed forces as well as to corporate America and the people of the U.S.," Powers said in an email to the N.Y. National Guard. "Although many have spoken their offer to help in this regard, we still need more help."

According to Powers, any active or retired combat veteran who would like to join him for a day fishing this area can leave a message on the Take a Vet Fishing Forum on the LeisureTyme website ([www.leisuretyme.net](http://www.leisuretyme.net)) and he will do his best to accommodate them.

Interested veterans or contributing fishermen can contact Powers at [a.j.powers@leisuretyme.net](mailto:a.j.powers@leisuretyme.net) or by telephone at 845-621-9538. □

### Retirement credit offered for 9-11-2001 State Active Duty

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Assistant Secretary of Defense policy guidance for the National Guard provides retirement credit for Soldiers and Airmen who performed full time State Active Duty (SAD) service on or after September 11, 2001 and ending on September 30, 2002 following the terrorist attacks in New York City.

Members of the New York National Guard must have served in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Queens or the counties of Kings, Richmond, Delaware, Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster or Westchester to qualify for the retirement credit.

The Director of Military Personnel utilized SAD payrolls from the qualifying time period to identify Soldiers and Airmen who are eligible for this retirement credit. Each member will receive a packet from the National Guard with an instructional memorandum and a National Guard Form 514 for calculating retirement credit. Each member or former member should complete the NGB Form 514 and enter the qualifying counties in which they served along with the dates provided from the SAD payroll.

Packets for members of the National Guard still serving may be forwarded to the Military Personnel Directorate, Attn: MNP-ARB. All input from service members must be received by April 15, 2007 in order to meet the Office of the Secretary of Defense reporting deadline.

It is necessary that Soldiers and Airmen enter the qualifying county and period served. It should be emphasized that the penalty for willfully making a false claim is a maximum of \$10,000 fine or imprisonment of five years. For this reason, each members must complete the form as accurately as possible.

Each request will be reconciled with SAD orders and rosters on file at the Joint Force Headquarters prior to input for retirement credit.

Once a service member's DNGB Form 514 is verified, additional federal retirement points will be added to a members' Reserve Retirement Points Accounting Statement (RPAS). A consolidated request to adjust additional retirement points will be sent on behalf of separated Soldiers or Airmen currently collecting retirement.

Point of contact for this program is Chief Warrant Officer Scott Turner at 518-272-4024 or 272-6417. □



# New national Purple Heart Hall of Honor unlocks stories of combat veterans

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Smith  
National Guard Bureau

**NEW WINDSOR, N.Y.** – Thousands of people, including members of the National Guard, gathered under a bright autumn sun here Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day, to dedicate a lasting tribute to the nation's recipient of the Purple Heart Medal.

Active duty, Guard and Reserve members, past and present combat veterans and their families, and political dignitaries gathered to dedicate the \$6.5 million National Purple Heart Hall of Honor with patriotic speeches, historical music, tours, a ribbon cutting, and a flyover by Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopters.

Dignitaries included New York Gov. George Pataki, U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, the New York National Guard's Adjutant General.

"It is fitting that we gather today at this historic site to honor our veterans, show gratitude for their service and educate others about their sacrifice in keeping our nation free," said Taluto.

"Thanks to Gov. Pataki's support, this hall of honor is appropriately located at the winter encampment of the Continental Army, the site where Gen. George Washington created America's first military award," Taluto added.

Air National Guard members from the 105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at nearby Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh helped direct the throng of visitors while military displays from the New York Army National Guard's recruiting command and members of the 258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery met with Purple Heart recipients and the community.



New York State Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton joined Governor George E. Pataki, members of the New York National Guard and recipients of the Purple Heart during the dedication of the national Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, N.Y. "On the eve of Veterans' Day, this is an important and historic occasion for veterans and New Yorkers alike. The Hall of Honor gives us the ability to celebrate and honor our brave men and women in uniform who have sacrificed so much, while creating an open and welcoming place for everyone to learn about their incredible service to our country and to freedom. Every Soldier who has received this award deserves to have a place where they can be honored. I am proud to be a supporter of the Purple Heart Stamp, of National Purple Heart Recognition Day and of this wonderful Hall of Honor. I hope that this place will stand as a center for celebration, remembrance and learning for generations to come," Senator Clinton said.

The speeches and music drifted through the crowd amid the crisp fall air and a rich smell of damp earth. The sounds of the old Continental Army came alive as Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment Fife and Drum Corps played "Yankee Doodle."

Supporting the daylong event were members of the 258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and staff support from across the New York National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, all supporting the ceremonies hosted by the N.Y. State Parks and Recreation office. Aircrews from the Army Guard's 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation provided an overflight of the ceremony to honor the wounded warriors from our nation's wars.

Purple Heart recipients from the New York Army National Guard smartly carried the colors into the military ceremony, and the U.S. Military Academy band from West Point played the anthems of all the military services. The Army Guard Purple Heart recipients joined other service representatives as part of the New York State Joint Military Forces Honor Guard.

The Purple Heart is rooted here in New York's Hudson Valley at Vail's Gate. Washington created its predecessor, the Military Badge of Merit, five miles away in 1782. Today, more than 1.7 million service members are entitled to wear the Purple Heart. Approximately 600,000 of them are still alive.

To preserve their stories, state officials began a nationwide search for Purple Heart recipients in early 2006. To date, more than 12,000 have submitted their stories. They include combat stories from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Hall continues to receive hundreds of stories each week, officials said.

The Hall cost \$6.5 million to build. It was funded by the state of New York and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). The MOPH is the only congressionally-chartered organization for combat veterans.

"This is for the real heroes: those who paid the ultimate price," said Tom Parker, MOPH commander.

Hundreds of MOPH members came to support the Hall, and their purple service caps were everywhere.

It is proper and fitting that their stories be told, Parker said.

"I'm here for my buddies that did not come back," said Sgt. Thompson O'Neal, Troop E, 108<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, Georgia Army National Guard.

O'Neal is a Purple Heart recipient who is considering submitting his story to the Hall. He wore his distinctive black U.S. Army cavalry hat with wide brim and gold band. He said he was proud to bring with him the memory of 26 Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers from the 48<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team who were killed in action in Iraq as well as to represent the cavalry and three men in his regiment who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"I returned from Iraq in May. I was wounded in the Triangle of Death," O'Neal explained. In fact, the blast from an improvised explosive device ripped into O'Neal's face and left hand, breaking his front teeth, damaging his hearing and severely wounding his hand. He is undergoing physical therapy.

O'Neal and his wife, Deana, said they drove from Georgia to also represent National Guard members who could not



Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, The New York State Adjutant General served as master of ceremonies during the dedication of the national Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, N.Y. on Nov. 10, 2006. The site pays tribute to the servicemen and women who received the Purple Heart, an award first created by General George Washington in the nearby Revolutionary War cantonment. Photo by Lester Millman.

be there. "I also want to pay my respects to the 'Greatest Generation,'" O'Neal said.

"This is our day," said New York State Senator Bill Larkin, a 23-year Army veteran who served during World War II and Korea. "This is to let the people know that these are the sacrifices that were made. America is free because of our fellow Americans who made that sacrifice."

The Hall rests on a hillside overlooking the Catskill Mountains. It has several rooms including a hallway dedicated solely to the medal. One room displays artifacts, artwork and descriptions of the Continental Army that camped here. An artillery exhibit is on the lower level.

Fanned out along the hall are 42 floor-to-ceiling panels that depict the nation's major military engagements. Each panel, dating from 1775 to the present, gives the date of the engagement as well as the numbers of wounded and killed in action.

At the rear of the Hall, an interactive room provides three video-diary booths where viewers can watch and listen to videotaped interviews of Purple Heart recipients who lived to tell their stories. The videos are recorded on site.

"Thanks to them, we can understand the real meaning of their sacrifice," states a sign at the entranceway sign. Additionally, four computer stations provide access to a database of Purple Heart documents, including family letters, and photographs.

"As you read their stories," Larkin said, "you will read about those who left their homes and families to serve their country." □



# Latham-based Guard Journalists Return from Iraq

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning

Guard Times Staff

**LATHAM, N.Y.** – Members of the Latham-based 138<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, NYARNG returned in late October after nearly a year in Iraq.

The unit landed at Fort Dix, New Jersey and out-processed from active duty before leaving the post by bus or in some cases, by family car. As with nearly all other Guard deployments, many unit members came from across the state, and in the case of the 138<sup>th</sup>, at least two members came from other states.

The 138<sup>th</sup> mobilized in August 2005 and following training at Fort Dix, deployed to Iraq the following November. The 17-member team was comprised of military journalists and broadcast journalists from the Capital District, Central New York and the New York City area and led by three officers including Maj. David Albano, Capt. Anne Marie Farrell, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Reynaldo Graves and Lt. Penny Bartelme.

It was assigned to work with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Mosul, Iraq where its personnel covered and documented coalition combat operations and generated articles for military command information publications and for release to civilian news organizations on request. The 101<sup>st</sup> praised the quality and quantity of the unit's production and several unit members were awarded combat action badges for their close work with the infantry.

The unit deployed to theater three short of its authorized full strength due to the shortage of available qualified military journalists. Two non-New York Soldiers volunteered to go with the 138<sup>th</sup> -- Sergeant First Class Eric Shadowens, a broadcast journalist from the Ohio Army National Guard and Specialist Christopher Towne, a broadcast journalist from the Washington Army National Guard.

The 138<sup>th</sup> was re-equipped with all-new digital still and video equipment from the Army before deploying. It underwent specialized training at various locations, but the required combat preparation was accomplished at Fort Dix. In addition, a team of instructors from the Defense Information School came to Fort Dix to for an intense five-day period of updated media operations training.

Broadcast journalists completed a one week course in digital video editing at the New York Film Academy in Manhattan and training at a Department of Defense contractor in Atlanta, Georgia known as "DVIDS" for Digital Video and Imagery Distribution System. DVIDS uses satellite transmissions to ship imagery from the theater of operations back to the United States for release and sharing to civilian news organizations.

Before leaving for theater, the 138<sup>th</sup> used its new equipment to produce a training DVD and CD for incoming units at the request of the Fort Dix training command. The 138<sup>th</sup> deployed to Iraq on November 6, 2005 and replaced the 366<sup>th</sup> MPAD, an Army Reserve unit from Iowa.

## Accomplishments

The 138<sup>th</sup> accomplished much during its tour. The broadcast section produced three 22-minute command information video segments entitled "The Stallion Report" that were aired on the Pentagon Channel. After the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) took command in the Area of Responsibility, the program was assumed by the 101<sup>st</sup> Division Public Affairs Officer and re-titled "Band of Brothers."

Three members of the unit who were allowed to deploy even though they were not as yet public affairs qualified got effective on the job training in the combat zone and contributed valuable articles and video footage in support of the mission.

Sergeant Thomas Wheeler set up and ran a live video satellite feed during a visit by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to Forward Operating Base Courage on Thanksgiving Day, 2005. The live feed was aired by CNN and Fox News.

On average, the unit's print journalism section sent more than 300 photos and 12 stories each week to DVIDS. Sergeant Dennis Gravelle and Specialist Leigh Campbell contributed photos and stories to the European edition of Stars and Stripes newspaper. Every one of the unit's broadcaster journalists had video stories aired on Armed Forces News - Europe.

Print and broadcast journalists went on missions and rode with infantry Soldiers to get their stories. At times, the



Staff Sgt. Ralph Turner poses in a Stryker combat vehicle in Mosul, Iraq. Turner and the 138<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment supported the 172<sup>nd</sup> Stryker Brigade in Multinational Division North, part of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Task Force Band of Brothers. The unit redeployed to Latham, New York this fall. *ourtesy photo.*

journalists filmed the action while having their weapons "at the ready" and frequently pulled rear security for the infantry they were "covering."

Staff Sergeant Ralph Turner quickly regained his video skills as a broadcast journalist, transitioning from his AGR position as a unit clerk with the 427<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion and resurrecting techniques that he had learned while serving as a member of the 138<sup>th</sup> in the early 1990's.

Sergeant First Class Eric Shadowens worked as a full time news cameraman for a TV station in Dayton, Ohio before deploying. His professional editing and shooting skills were called upon regularly and the unit used his expertise to the fullest extent possible.

Specialist Christopher Towne a recent graduate from DINFOS proved to be a great asset to the team and Specialist Richard Vogt was selected to be the personal photographer for Major General David Rodriguez while the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment was in Mosul and accompanied the general on troop visits and during ceremonies.

Specialist Campbell's pre-mobilization studies in photo and graphic design became extremely valuable in completing a presentation entitled Mosul: One Year Later, which was part of a presentation given by General George Casey, Jr., Commander of Multi-National Forces, Iraq, to the Governor of Mosul.

## Post Deployment

The 138<sup>th</sup> was mobilized in 1999-2000 for the NATO peace keeping mission to Bosnia and like nearly all other units of the New York Army National Guard pulled duty in New York City following the 9-11, 2001 terrorist attacks. In 2007 the 138<sup>th</sup> will undergo transformation and will be down sized to a seven member public affairs detachment.

In 2004, several assigned members of the 138<sup>th</sup> were transferred to the public affairs section of the Headquarters 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division for deployment and they continue to serve there. Following the 138<sup>th</sup>'s return, those members who came from other units for the deployment are scheduled to return to their original assignments while other unit members are finding opportunities in newly created public affairs sections at brigade headquarters. □



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt greets Staff Sgt. Ralph Turner and other members of the 138<sup>th</sup> MPAD during the unit's redeployment to Fort Dix, New Jersey for demobilization. The unit deployed to Iraq to conduct command information and media facilitation operations in Mosul from late 2005 to 2006. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning..



# Manhattan Travelers treated to Patriotic Moment

Guard Times Staff

**GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL, MANHATTAN** – Hundreds of travelers passing through one of the nation's busiest transportation hubs were treated to a special and solemn ceremony in the middle of a busy New York City day in late November.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority and members of the New York Army National Guard teamed up for a passing of the Colors on the Grand Concourse of Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan. In the wake of the terrorist attacks on 9-11, 2001 a 20 by 30 foot American Flag had hung from the terminal ceiling as a symbol of America's unity and defiance of the terrorist threat.

More than five years after it was first hung and in a symbolic gesture of respect, the MTA handed off the Flag to members of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry in a brief ceremony on November 30, just before they launched a

new holiday laser light show designed to entertain travelers every 30 minutes.

Members of the 69<sup>th</sup> were joined by MTA police officers and folded the Flag before a formation of other police officers, MTA officials and members of the Guard's Task Force Empire Shield -- which continues to provide security support to the authorities at Grand Central and Penn Station. Hundreds of surprised and delighted travelers paused to watch. Participating Soldiers were all Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans. The Soldiers and police officers were lined up in alternating formation and opened the ceremony by marching onto the concourse with the outstretched Flag. In anticipation of the event, the MTA had taken the Flag down weeks before and had it professionally cleaned. The ceremony was designed to visually symbolize the ongoing teamwork

between National Guard and civil authorities to protect the public and maintain security. At the conclusion of the Flag folding and presentation to the 69<sup>th</sup> commander, Lt. Col. Charles Crosby the crowd erupted in a spontaneous ovation that echoed through the concourse.

"We are happy to do this for the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>," said MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow, who conceived ceremony concept and had directed his staff to reach out to the Guard with the invitation to participate. The MTA took advantage of the need to bring the Flag down to make room for a holiday display and combined



Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Chairman Peter Kalikow presents a 20'X30' flag to Lt. Col. Chuck Crosby, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in Grand Central Terminal (GCT), New York City. Holding the flag is First Sergeant Orell Golding. The large flag was hanging in GCT since a few days after 9/11/01. It was presented to the New York National Guardsmen after a flag folding ceremony on November 20, 2006. The MTA presented the flag to the 69<sup>th</sup> as a gesture for all their sacrifice and service to the country at home and overseas. Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin.



Sgt. Fabian Maldonado, Sgt. Casey Reefer, Sgt. First Class Norberto Carrasquillo and Pfc. Robert Tolas from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry fold a 20' X 30' flag in Grand Central Terminal (GCT), New York City. The MTA presented the flag to the 69<sup>th</sup> as a gesture for all their sacrifice and service to the country at home and overseas. Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin.

it with their spoken desire to pay tribute to Soldiers who done much in the service of the city, state and nation. "The MTA is also proud to present this Flag that has flown here for more than five years to the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>, whose members have been patrolling and protecting our transit facilities since September 11<sup>th</sup>," he said.

The Flag was brought back to the 69<sup>th</sup>'s home armory on Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, where the unit plans to hang it during a future ceremony and keep it on display to remind Soldiers and visitors alike of the special and ongoing relationship and mission the 69<sup>th</sup> and the New York National Guard has with the people of New York. □

## Army National Guard Personnel Update

Courtesy of the Joint Force HQ-NY Military Personnel Office

**WATERVLIIET, N.Y. -- We've moved!!** The NYARNG Military Personnel Office has moved to the Watervliet Arsenal, Building 25, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. New phone numbers were provided to all NYARNG units. Got a question? Contact us at 518-272-3547.

**Wondering where you stand on the Promotion List?** All Soldiers have the ability to review their current standing on the Promotion List (PL). This can be done by accessing the MNP-EPM folder located in the STARC/Military Personnel folder on AKO. Your unit administrator can assist you in locating this folder.

**You may be entitled to Federal Retirement Points based on State Active Duty:** Public Law now provides authorization for federal retirement credit for selected SAD. If you served on State Active Duty during the period 11 Sep 01 through 1 Oct 02 in the New York City area, you may be entitled to federal retirement credit for SAD days. If you have not received a memorandum and packet, contact your FTS representative for information.

**No Retention Boards for CY/FY 2007:** The NYARNG will not be conducting Selective Retention Boards (SRB), (Officers) or Qualitative Retention Boards (QRB) (Enlisted) for the calendar or fiscal year 2007. All Soldiers are reminded

to ensure they maintain the appropriate level of performance, education, fitness and weight.

**Awards Update:** If you have a personnel Military Occupational Skill (MOS) or are involved in awards and decorations preparation, you should become familiar with the new AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, dated 11 Dec 06. It incorporates all the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) related individual, unit, and campaign awards. It also provides step by step guidance for the new "pure edge" DA Form 638, Recommendation for Award, Apr 06.

**Have you reviewed your record recently?** All NYARNG personnel records are now scanned into the Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (IPERMS). Review your record by signing on to the AKO website and under the Army links section, click on iPERMS to review your record. Report any problems with your records to your Unit Administrator.

**What do I do if I believe I have been sexually assaulted while in a drill or annual training status?** The Army and Air Guard have a Sexual Assault Prevention Program and with this program there are Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Victim Advocates (VAs). Your unit should have a designated SARC and/or VA. Your

full-time personnel should have the contact information available in your unit. Ensure you contact your SARC or VA and advise them of what has happened. If you are unable to reach a representative at unit level you can contact the State SARCs Mrs Beverly Keating 518-573-1741 or Lt. Col. Theresa VanCort (518) 272-3528/518 852-0958. Recommend you also visit [www.sexualassault.army.mil](http://www.sexualassault.army.mil). It is an excellent website to assist with any questions you may have. We are in the process of developing a program SOP for publication in the very near future.

**Have a question in the personnel or administrative area? Go to the on-line MILPO Intranet Guide.** The guide is accessible to any administrator or Soldier who has access to the NYARNG local area network (LAN) and user name and password. New or changed procedural changes or policy are incorporated into the guide immediately following their announcement. This provides you with a single source reference to assist in completing any and all requirements in the personnel area.

**Instructions for access are:** Go to NYARNG Intranet at <https://ngny7-36203-dw> and use your username and password to log in. Once on the homepage click on Army and on the NYARNG Page, click on Military Personnel.

Once on the Military Personnel Home page (right side of screen) click on the appropriate subject or branch procedure to access the information you need. □





# Take Control of Your Army Guard Promotion

By Staff Sgt. Toni Couture

Joint Force HQ-NY Office of the Inspector General

**LATHAM, N.Y.** -- Do you find yourself getting frustrated every year when it is time to turn in your Enlisted Promotion Program (EPP) packet, formerly known as the Select, Train, Assign and Promote (STAP) packet? Did you receive fewer points than you thought you deserved? Have you ever not been placed on the list?

Army National Guard Soldiers bring these issues to the Inspector General (IG) office on almost a daily basis. Though we recognize most situations are unique and some responsibility is on leadership, we also find that most Soldiers don't take control of their own promotion. In the majority of our cases we find that for every oversight a leader makes, a Soldier makes one as well. In this article we'll discuss the essentials to prepare you for success on your road to promotion.

First and foremost: **Know the rules!** Just because you are a Corporal or Specialist doesn't mean you have to get your answers from a Sergeant. If you are looking to be promoted to the next higher grade then you should know how to take care of your future Soldiers. Besides, an hour or two of research can help you plan for a lifetime of success with your National Guard career.

Of course you don't have to read and memorize the entire Chapter Seven of Army Regulation 600-8-19 or all of N.Y. Army National Guard Regulation 600-2 (which governs promotions) but become at least familiar with them. If you do have a question, you will know where to find the answers. Additionally, every fiscal year the N.Y. Army

National Guard publishes a Letter of Instruction governing enlisted promotions; commonly referred to as the "current LOI." It provides dates for submission of EPP packets by grade, as well as the expected publishing date of the next promotion list. It outlines the criteria for promotion by grade, and most importantly it gives step-by-step instructions for INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS; THAT'S YOU!! If you become well versed with each year's LOI you shouldn't



have to worry about incorrect information being in your EPP packet again.

Secondly: **Get organized!** Every Soldier should start some kind of personal file of all awards, NCOERs, PT tests, range cards, counseling statements, etc. received. It's a good idea to make yourself binder with this information. This binder should encompass your entire career and should be easily carried with you. Even if it contains some negative paperwork, it is still important to keep. If you do this, then every year when it is time to fill out your EPP packet you have record of all your awards, schools and other pertinent documentation on hand. This way the unit cannot "lose your paperwork" because you can always just provide them another copy. You might be surprised at how handy this binder can be in many other personnel actions throughout your National Guard career. And remember, unless you are mobilized, you sign the NGB Form 4100-1-R-E to verify your points. So calculate those points yourself before you sign that form and verify that all necessary supporting documents are attached. And make a copy of that entire EPP packet for you to keep!

Thirdly: **Update your i-PERMS!** Since you have compiled all of your personnel records and have them on hand this should be easy! If you compare these records at least annually on i-PERMS, the Internet-based Personnel Electronic Records Management System, then you will know what is missing from your file. It is almost guaranteed that if it is in your i-PERMS then it will be automatically updated on your NGB 4100-1-R-E contained in your promotion packet. So don't wait for EPP season to update your records, do it at a less hectic time of the year so that it is already there when it is EPP season. It is an even better idea to check it every time you submit a document through your chain of command.

Lastly: **Follow up with you leadership!** Are you being counseled as required? Traditional NCOs should be counseled bi-annually and traditional enlisted Soldiers should be counseled quarterly. How else can you be sure if you will be ready for promotion and know that your leadership intends to promote you? Take the time during these counseling sessions to ask questions about your promotion opportunities. Use the leadership appraisal forms (NYARNG Form 121 for Sgt. through Master Sgt. or NYARNG form 122 for Spec.) as a guide so that you know what standard you are being measured against. Keep a record of your accomplishments and improvements made during the quarter and remind your supervisor of them if need be.

Why do all this? So that when your name appears number one on the promotion list and there is a position available, you should feel confident that you can and probably will fill that position. Also, it is very important to ensure that your name is on the correct promotion list, with the correct number of points, AS SOON AS IT IS PUBLISHED. This way you can identify a discrepancy in time to request a Standby Advisory Board (STAB) through your CoC if it is warranted. If your research shows that a standby board is warranted then continue to follow up with your chain of command until a STAB is approved or denied by the Military Personnel Branch at the state headquarters. Your chain of command should also be able to provide you with all of the documents and regulations that I have mentioned in this article.

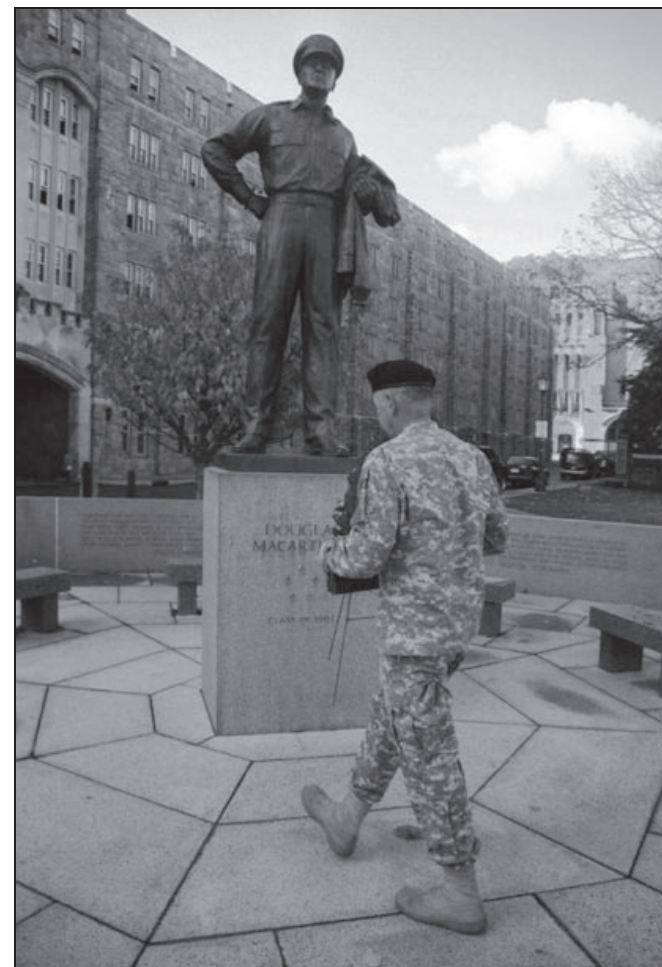
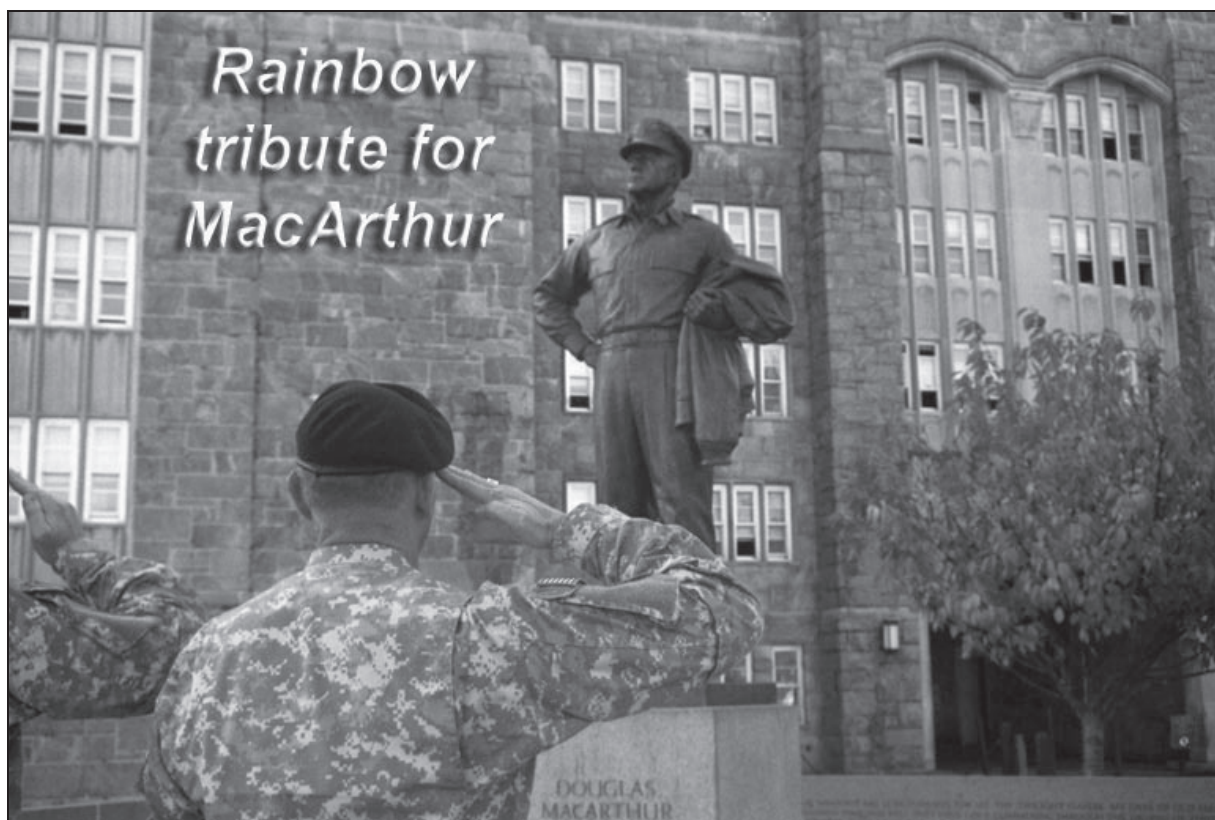
As an IG and an NCO I am confident that if you take these actions your opportunities for promotion will increase. At the very least filling out your EPP packet annually will be easier and you will feel more confident that you took control of your promotion. □

## Meadowlands welcomes Rainbow band



Members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Band perform during the pregame salute to military forces at the New York Jets National Football League game played at the Meadowlands in New Jersey on Sunday, November 19, 2006. The band also provided Sgt. Jennifer Castle to sing the National Anthem at the start of the game. The Citizen Soldiers from the Rainbow Band were joined by a military aircraft flyover from the Long Island based 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. as part of the Jets tribute to our nation's armed forces personnel. The Jets lost 10-0 to the Chicago Bears. Photo by Sgt. First Class Eric Reinhardt.





## Rainbow Division honors founder for Veteran's Day

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg

42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**US MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT** – Brig. Gen. Paul C. Genereux, commander of the Army National Guard's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division presented honors to the unit's founder and one of the division's earliest commanders, General Douglas MacArthur, in a Veteran's Day salute on November 10, 2006.

The Rainbow Division wreath-laying is a time honored tradition to one of America's most historic military leaders.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, National Guard combat divisions were organized primarily along state lines. New York's 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, for example, was a combat element comprised of New York regiments. MacArthur, then a colonel working on the Army staff in 1917, proposed the

creation of a multi-state National Guard combat division to deploy to France as quickly as possible following America's entry into World War One. His concept was to rapidly integrate some of the best regiments and support units in the National Guard.

MacArthur would help create the unit, organized at Camp Mills in Hempstead, Long Island as the division's first chief of staff. His comment, that the 26 states and District of Columbia were providing National Guard forces that would have the division "stretch from one end of America to another like a rainbow" became wildly popular in the media of the time and Soldiers quickly adopted the nickname Rainbow Division even before the unit had shipped overseas.

Brig. Gen. Paul C. Genereux places a memorial wreath at the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Memorial at West Point on Nov. 10, 2006. Genereux, Division Chief of Staff Col. Carl Pfeiffer and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Fearnside, placed the wreath as a Veteran's Day tribute.

"It is extremely fitting that today, nearly 90 years after the birth of the Rainbow Division, we continue to honor General MacArthur for his insight, leadership and vision," said Brig. Gen. Genereux. "If MacArthur could have witnessed the success of today's Citizen Soldiers deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan, he would be proud of our accomplishments."

MacArthur, in a written address to Rainbow veterans nearly 45 years after the birth of the division commented, "The years slip by but each merely adds to my loyalty and devotion to the Rainbow. I have served with many troops, in many wars and many lands, but none who surpassed them in courage, efficiency or stamina." □



## Senator Schumer meets with Task Force Empire Shield

**FORT HAMILTON, N.Y.** -- Task Force Empire Shield Commander Lt. Col. George Desimone provides an operations update briefing to New York State Senator Charles Schumer during a visit on the installation in December, 2006. Schumer received an overview of National Guard security operations throughout New York City during the holiday period.

Schumer announced that when Congress reconvenes to begin the 110th Congress in January he will introduce new comprehensive benefits legislation. His legislation would level the playing field for members of the Guard and reserves in New York and across the country. Specifically, Schumer's bill would:

- **Double the education benefit:** Schumer's legislation will increase the education benefit for members of the reserve component to \$600/month.
- **Ensure members of the Guard and Reserve can receive medical treatment close to home:** Schumer's legislation will create a new system where a member of the reserve component could receive treatment at a facility near their home without losing health benefits.
- **Reimburse members of the reserve component for travel costs:** Right now, the military does not reimburse members of the reserve component for traveling to train or for weekend drill. To ease the burden on Long Island soldiers who may have to travel long distances throughout the state or even outside of New York, Schumer's proposed legislation requires the military to reimburse members of the reserve for travel beyond 50 miles.



# Guard Chief meets with Team NY



Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum (center), Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Hudson (left) are brought up to date on monitoring activities by a member of Team NY while visiting one of the EIT (Entry Identification Team) sites near Nogales, AZ in late November 2006. Team NY is composed of more than 130 volunteers from the Empire State who are supporting the Southwest Border Mission and Operation JUMP START in Arizona for a 6 month assignment. (Photo courtesy USBP Tucson Sector Public Affairs)

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

**DEMING, N.M.**— The top National Guard officer praised Guardsmen serving here along the Southwest U.S. border for protecting the United States against threats ranging from illegal immigrants to criminal activity to drugs to terrorism.

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum stopped here Nov. 30, during a week-long visit to meet with some of the 6,000 National Guard members serving in New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and California in support of the U.S. border patrol.

“I want to thank you for what you’re doing ... (and) for coming down here and performing this mission,” Blum told a group of Guardsmen from throughout the country who volunteered for duty. “It is making a very, very big, positive difference for the U.S. Border Patrol to be able to make our border safer.”

Blum emphasized that the initiative, which President Bush announced in May, is progressing exactly as planned and giving the Border Patrol the extra manpower it needs as it recruits and trains more members.

The Guardsmen provide surveillance, operate detection systems, work in entry identification teams, analyze information, assist with communications and give administrative support to the Border Patrol. They’re covering gaps, and denying them to those who would take advantage of them,” Blum said.

None of the Guard missions involve law enforcement, but their presence frees up Border Patrol members to move into those and other front-line positions, he said. “So what you are doing is letting the Border Patrol get control of the border,” he told the Guardsmen.

“This is not a military operation. This is military support of a civilian law enforcement operation. We just bring our skills and our capabilities to support the U.S. Border Patrol so that we can help them do their job better.”

Blum told the group the American people are proud of what they are doing and recognize that “this really matters.”

People coming across the border illegally along the Southwestern U.S. pose problems not here, but throughout

the country, he said. “Eventually they end up in places like Tennessee and Oregon and other places,” the general said, referring to states that the Guard volunteers call home.

He emphasized that the mission isn’t designed to close the border between the United States and Mexico, but simply to ensure that it’s secure.

The goal, Blum explained, is to keep the full range of threats from entering the United States: illegal immigrants, criminals, drugs, and even weapons of mass destruction and terrorists. “If they can get illegal immigrants in here, they can also get in terrorists,” he said.



Army National Guard Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John Gipe (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and accompanying US Border Patrol agents listen intently to Staff Sgt. Frederick Goldacker (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) while recently visiting EIT sites around Nogales, AZ. Goldacker, one of Team NY’s more than 130 Soldiers supporting Operation Jump Start in Arizona, is one of the supervising NCOs. Photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban.

“I believe it’s been a huge, huge, huge success,” said Supervisor James Acosta from the Deming Border Patrol Station. The Guard’s presence in this area that has historically been “overrun” with illegal border crossings has proven to be “a real deterrent,” he said.

“It’s had a huge impact because they know (the Guard members) are here,” Acosta said of would-be illegal

immigrants. “And by being here, they have helped loosen us up to do more patrols in areas we couldn’t get to before.”

“They bring an immediate impact on the border in terms of boots on the ground,” agreed Robert Gilbert, chief Border Patrol agent for the El Paso, Texas, sector.

Gilbert said he’s impressed by the training and experience the Guardsmen, most of them combat veterans, bring to the mission. “They bring an already well-trained, well-equipped and well-disciplined force,” he said.

But what particularly inspires him, Gilbert said, is the Guard members’ willingness to serve. “We recognize that many of these men and women were fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq and came home, and are still willing to help us with this mission,” he said. “We recognize that’s they’re contributing a lot, and that to do so, they’re spending a lot of time away from their loved ones.”

Deming, a community of less than 10,000 people, notices the changes the Guard’s presence has brought, said Army Col. Richard Rael, commander of the New Mexico Guard mission.

During the Thanksgiving holiday, the Deming VFW threw open its doors for the Guard members, and many community members invited Guard troops into their homes to share Thanksgiving dinner. “The community has opened its arms, and families have opened their homes,” Rael said. “They see the big impact the Guard has brought here.”

“It’s a magnificent mission that really does contribute to the security of the border and the United States,” Blum said.

Meanwhile, the troops serving here say they’re proud to be part of Operation Jump Start. “Morale is extra high,” said Blum. “I haven’t met a Soldier or airmen here yet who doesn’t think they’re doing something that’s making a positive difference.”

Blum said it’s important for military leaders not simply to send their troops off on a mission, but to ensure they have what they need to do their jobs, are well cared for and know they’re appreciated.

“I’m here to express appreciation to the Soldiers for what they’re doing, and make sure they recognize that the leadership knows and values their service,” he said. □



# An ORI first for NY Air National Guard

By Col. Gordie Howard  
Deputy Commander, 152<sup>nd</sup> AOG

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY** -- The first combined-component graded Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) successfully evaluated a New York Air National Guard unit from Hancock Field Air National Guard Base and an Active Duty Air Force unit. Both elements completed the inspection in September, 2006, earning high marks for both units.

From the 21<sup>st</sup> of September to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2006, the United States Air Forces in Europe Inspector General (IG) conducted the first ORI of the USAFE Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) at Ramstein Air Base Germany. The operations center is manned by combining operators from the 152<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group from Syracuse N.Y. and the U.S. Air Force active duty 603<sup>rd</sup> AOC.

The "Excellent" rating endorsed the readiness of the USAFE AOC and validated a new and promising model for Air National Guard support to active duty forces. This inspection was the first time an Air Guard unit and an active duty unit had been evaluated together and one assessment assigned to both units.

The AOC is the senior element of the U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control System and provides the Joint Force Air Component Commander with the capability to develop a theater plan for the use of air power, task assigned or



Members of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group recently completed a combined operational readiness inspection with the active Air Force's 603<sup>rd</sup> Air Operations Center. The two units work side by side at the operations center in Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Courtesy photo.

attached air forces, and to monitor execution of the plan. Since 2000, the AOC has been designated a U.S. Air Force weapon system and is operated and maintained with the same rigor as any other weapons system. The AOC weapon system is called the Falconer.

Today, the Air Force mans, equips, and trains five Falconers, one for each of four regional combatant commanders and for U.S. forces in South Korea. The Ramstein-based Falconer supports the Commander of U.S. European Command. The manning model for the USAFE AOC is new and developed

out of the designation of the Falconer as a weapon system in 2000.

The USAFE AOC manning model is simple but effective. The active duty force is in place at Ramstein Air Base, Germany (designated the 603<sup>rd</sup> AOC) while the NYANG unit (152<sup>nd</sup> AOG) contributes when needed, using a model of support which ultimately led to an "Excellent" rating in the recent USAFE IG conducted readiness inspection. In this model, the 152<sup>nd</sup> AOG prepared a training suite of equipment at home station and members are trained to immediately, upon arrival at the USAFE AOC, integrate into the force and assume an operator's position as an integral part of the USAFE Falconer crew structure. They are trained to the same standards, familiar with the local area, and frequently have gone through the same spin-up

at home station as the personnel stationed at Ramstein.

The 152<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group regularly augments the USAFE AOC with volunteer Citizen Airmen that help with spikes in activity, round out exercises or contingency manning. They contribute to Air Expeditionary Force taskings, and provide backfill during 603<sup>rd</sup> AOC deployments elsewhere in the world. Members of the 152<sup>nd</sup> AOG also help with some operations center workload from home station at Hancock Field when needed. In total, 152<sup>nd</sup> AOG supports the USAFE AOC with several thousand man-days per year, depending on the need of the Air Force. □

## Airmen to see combat medal in April

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** -- Since the Air Force started manning convoy operations in support of the war on terror, more Airmen have had an opportunity to put their rifle training to use in real-world scenarios.

Today, explosive ordnance disposal and security forces Airmen, along with those performing in-lieu-of taskings, have joined battlefield Airmen working "outside the wire" in Iraq and Afghanistan and are regularly involved in combat situations as part of their duty...all alongside their fellow Airmen that continue to engage in daily combat, delivering decisive effects from the air!

"We are a warfighting Air Force," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley. "Our Airmen are doing amazing things in combat operations every single day, both within their core competencies as Airmen, delivering those effects from the air and now on the surface as part of the joint fight."

It is for those Airmen involved in combat operations, on the ground and in the air, that the Air Force has created the Air Force Combat Action Medal, said Gen. Roger A. Brady, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

"There are people coming under enemy fire, but we do not have an Air Force way to recognize the reality of their experience," General Brady said. "So General Moseley has asked us to develop an appropriate recognition, a combat medal, and we have done that."

"We gathered feedback from Airmen; active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve members who've been in combat (in the air and on the surface)-- some who've received combat recognition from other services, and some who haven't," said Maj. Randall Smith, chief of the Air

Force uniforms and recognition branch. "Their feedback was critical in ensuring the recognition we developed met General Moseley's requirements. We also heard from Air Force senior leadership, both officer and enlisted."

"Combat is a part of our culture and our heritage," General Moseley said. "Our Airmen know this intrinsically and reinforce it through their actions. This award is a way to visibly highlight that part of being an Airman."

General Brady said the AFCAM will be unveiled sometime in April. As part of the unveiling ceremony, some Airmen will be awarded the new medal. At that time, the Air Force will begin to process additional applications for the award.

In order for an Airman to wear the AFCAM, a narrative explanation of the Airman's involvement in combat activities must be submitted by a person with first-hand knowledge of the incident. The application will be processed through the chain of command and eventually be approved or disapproved by the Commander of Air Force Forces (COMAFFOR).

The AFCAM is for Airmen that have directly participated in active combat, either in the air or on the ground, as part of their official duty. Airmen serving as a crew member on a C130 providing key support to Coalition forces or Airmen servicing as a convoy escort operation that takes fire, for instance, would be eligible to apply for the award.

"This is for people who are in combat as a part of their duty," General Brady said. "If you are walking across the base at Balad and you are injured by a mortar, you will likely get the Purple Heart. You may even get a Bronze Star, depending on your performance in your duties. But that scenario would not lead to the award of the AFCAM."



The Air Force Combat Action Medal will recognize Airmen that have directly participated in active combat, either in the air or on the ground, as part of their official duty. The first medals will be presented in the spring of 2007. Air Force illustration.

The AFCAM will be the highest-level Air Force individual award to not earn points under the Weighted Airmen Promotion System, said Major Smith.

"There was a strong consensus that this recognition should not be tied to promotion points, but should be tied to a meaning greater than that," the major said.

Airman will wear the AFCAM on the mess dress uniform. The ribbon for the AFCAM can be worn on the blue or service dress uniform. These uniforms are usually worn for ceremonies or other duties where it is appropriate to highlight individual achievements. There will be no patch or badge equivalent for wear on the utility uniforms worn for daily duties and deployments; the emphasis in these cases is better placed on the mission and the team, above self.

Airmen can apply for the award through their respective commands to recognize participation in combat activities dating back as far as Sept. 11, 2001. □



# A year of achievements, challenges in NY Air Guard

By Major General Robert A. Knauff

Commander, New York Air National Guard

**LATHAM, N.Y.** -- Throughout 2006, the New York Air National Guard has continued to live up to its reputation as the finest state Air Force in the nation, one that is vital to the success of the United States Air Force.

As we look forward to the opportunities of 2007, I want to review some of our accomplishments of 2006.

The **105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing** continued its record of being one of the most active C-5 wings in the Air Force, while maintaining the highest airframe reliability rates in the entire fleet. During the past year, crews from the Hudson Valley could be found in areas of natural devastation in the Far East or Gulf of Mexico, in a combat theater of operations in the Middle East or anywhere else in the world in support of the Air Force's routine strategic airlift needs or as part of the Global War on Terrorism.

The **106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing** just finished back-to-back deployments in Southwest Asia. Ironically, that is how the year began for the heralded Long Island based unit. In addition to their deployed operations, the unit posted exceptional inspection results, scoring an "Excellent" on their recent Operational Readiness Inspection. This performance was all the more remarkable for being their first inspection under a new MAJCOM, Air Combat Command.

In Niagara Falls, the **107<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing** supported deployed overseas air refueling operations while simultaneously supporting the Northeast Tanker Task Force, all the while maintaining 100% strength.

On the Antarctic continent, the **109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing** has shattered virtually every performance standard established in the history of the U.S. Antarctic Program and they have done it in some of the most austere and extreme conditions found anywhere.

---

**If the Air National Guard is to continue to prosper as it has since its inception approximately 60 years ago, it is critical that we focus on doing our jobs as efficiently as possible. Here in the New York Air National Guard, this is our hallmark.**

---

In Germany, the **152<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group** successfully completed their first combined Operational Readiness Inspection with the 32nd Air Operations Group, achieving an "Excellent" rating and earning high praise from leadership to the highest levels. Through their work, they continue to support front-line operations around the globe.

At the end of the year, the **174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing** deployed to Southwest Asia in their largest deployment since DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. Reports of their performance affirm the extraordinary level of professionalism of this unit from all levels of the officer and enlisted corps.

Having proven their unprecedented capability on September 11, 2001, the **Northeast Air Defense Sector** brought on an entirely new operating system, excelled in all inspections

and, historically, assumed control of air defense for the entire east coast. They now share air defense responsibilities for the entire continental United States with the Western Air Defense Sector.

Finally, our smaller units show that size is not the only defining factor in determining effectiveness. The **274<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron** performed with distinction in air expeditionary force operations in conjunction with Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, and the **213<sup>th</sup> Electronic Installation Squadron** deployed in state and out, maintaining their earned reputation as the "you call-we pull" force. The Forward Operating Location at Fort Drum provided critical live munitions training for units preparing to deploy to OIF and OEF, while the Adirondack Range added realistic targets for fighters preparing to support Army operations in urban environments. NYANG members of the Counter Drug and Civil Support Teams had the highest operations tempo in their histories, including C-26 support of State Police efforts to locate a fugitive who shot three officers, one of whom, one of whom, a NYANG Guardsman, was fatally wounded.



The extraordinary thing about these achievements is that we do this capitalizing on the ability, experience and the dedication of our people, not our technological superiority. Presently, all of our bases are operating legacy airframes. Consider this... the C-5 is 40 years old, the KC-135 is more than that and the F-16s are part of a fleet that the Air Force is drawing down. Many of the C-130s being operated by NYANG have been around since the 1970s. The key to our success as a state lies in our people; a mature, professional force that knows how to do the job and do it right the first time.

But it's not just those on our team in uniform who are responsible for our success, it's also our families. When we ask more of our people, we ask more of those we love. They, more than anyone else, understand the cost of what we do. On behalf of NYANG, I would like to thank them for their commitment.

Another group critical to our performance are our employers. We have outstanding support from most of our bosses. In my mind, that is true because they know what they are getting in exchange for their commitment of their human resources. Our people (and, in their civilian lives,



**Maj. Gen. Robert A. Knauff**  
Commander, N.Y. Air National Guard

their people) know how to deliver. Through their military service, these shared individuals are better leaders, better citizens and more adaptable to virtually any situation.

On the more challenging side of the balance sheet, next year the realities of budget constraints, BRAC, and the continuing transforming of the total Air Force will begin to be felt. And the long term changes are going to be harder to adapt to than any quick fix. BRAC forced us to realize that 2011 is around the corner. The Quadrennial Defense Review showed us that 2020 is around the corner.

If the Air National Guard is to continue to prosper as it has since its inception approximately 60 years ago, it is critical that we focus on doing our jobs as efficiently as possible. Here in New York Air National Guard, this is our hallmark.

At every level, to live up to our potential we must listen both up and down the chain of command. We must ask questions. And, above all else, we must be flexible because, as we know, flexibility is the key to airpower.

On behalf of all of us at Joint Forces Headquarters-New York Air National Guard, I want to thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication to duty. I look forward to serving with you in 2007. □



Members of the **174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing** conducted their largest deployment of forces to Southwest Asia since Desert Storm at the end of 2006. File photo.



# Northeast Air Defense Sector doubles in responsibility

By Brooke Davis

Northeast Air Defense Sector Public Affairs

**ROME, N.Y.**—Just over five years after the organizational response to the terror attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the Northeast Air Defense Sector expands responsibilities as it assumes air defense responsibility for the entire eastern half of the United States, doubling the amount of air space the sector controls.

The NEADS name and its supporting N.Y. Air National Guard organization will likely undergo a name change and new unit designation in the near future, said Col. Clark Speicher, NEADS commander.

The unit anticipates gaining more full-time military personnel and contractors to support controlling the increased area of responsibility totaling more than 1 million square miles of air space with 13 centers of gravity, or major U.S. cities.

Currently, there are Air Force, Army, Navy, Air National Guard and Canadian Forces as well as federal civil service civilians and contractors working at the sector which operates out of the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome, N.Y.

The former Southeast Air Defense Sector, located at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., gradually turned over air defense responsibility to NEADS during the transition in November. SEADS personnel will remain at Tyndall, assuming mission responsibility for the new continental U.S. Region Air Operations Center. The air defense sectors operationally report to the AOC at Tyndall AFB.

While NEADS assumed an increased responsibility for air defense east of the Mississippi River, the Western Air Defense Sector, headquartered at McChord AFB, Wash., continued its current mission of monitoring west of the



Mississippi.

In order to accomplish the air defense mission, NEADS reports to CONUS North American Aerospace Defense Command Region located at Tyndall. The sector has a year-round 24-hour NORAD air defense and homeland defense mission, and it supports both NORAD and U.S. Northern Command mission areas.

Additionally, NEADS interfaces with other services and agencies including Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Transportation Security Administration. □

## Air Force ABU in the pipeline for Airmen in 2007

Air Force News Service

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** -- Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne and Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley want to move decisively over the course of the next year to empower Airmen at all levels to explain what the Air Force brings to the fight and how Airmen are serving heroically alongside their Army, Navy and Marine partners.

The Airman Battle Uniform is on track for distribution this spring to Airmen deploying as part of Air Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8, and it will be “wash and wear”. The new ABU is in production Dec. 7 and uniforms are being warehoused.

The new uniform design is a pixelated tiger stripe with four soft earth tones consisting of tan, grey, green and blue. The ABU will have a permanent crease and will be offered in 50-50 nylon-cotton blend permanent press fabric eliminating the need for winter and summer weight uniforms.

The ABU will replace the familiar camouflage-pattern Battle Dress Uniform (BDU), which replaced the olive drab “fatigues,” and has been in use since 1981. The BDU was the field utility uniform of all branches of the United States Armed Forces, except the Navy and the Marine Corps used a distinctive cap. The Navy, Marines, and Army have also developed distinctive uniforms to replace the BDU.

By October 2007, the Air Force will begin issuing the ABU to Air men in basic military training, and in June 2008, the uniform will be available for purchase by the rest of the Air Force in Army Air Force Exchange Service outlets.

The ABU boasts 236 different size options in both male and female sizes. Additionally, its permanent press finish means the uniform cannot be starched, pressed or dry-cleaned. Airmen will be able to pull the ABU from the clothes dryer and wear it without further treatment. Any ironing could degrade the effectiveness of the uniform. □



The new Airman Battle Uniform. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration)

Commentary:

## I am an Airman

By Senior Master Sgt. Clayton French

Armed Forces Press Network

We, the Air Force, have an identity crisis. I vividly remember my first day as a Professional Military Education instructor. On that day, everyone stood up and introduced themselves to their classmates with the typical, “Hi, my name is Bob and I’m a crew chief.” Each student stated his or her first name and Air Force occupation. Then came the final student, an Army Staff Sergeant. He quickly arose and stated, “I’m Staff Sergeant Coleman. I am an American Soldier. I am a warrior and a member of a team ... I will never accept defeat. I will never quit ... I am disciplined ... I stand ready to destroy the enemies of the United States ... I am a guardian of freedom ... I am an American Soldier.” After proudly stating the Army Creed, he sat down. Then a long 15 seconds of stillness passed before Technical Sergeant Jones broke the silence. He stood back up and proudly responded, “I’m Sergeant Jones and I’m an Airman.” He hesitated for a few awkward seconds and then concluded, “And I guess I really don’t know what that means.” Then he sat down.

If you are on an Army Post and shout, “Hey Soldier” you’re likely to have everyone turn around in response. The same thing will happen if you shout “Hey Marine” or “Hey Sailor” on a Marine Camp or Naval Station. However, on an Air Force Base, if you try the similar “Hey Airman” your only responders will likely be our youngest troops.

Why is that? Are we not all Airmen? Or is it because we “really don’t know what that means?” If you are asking yourself those questions, let me offer you a few suggestions.

**I am an Airman.** I act with truthfulness and honesty. As Airmen, we are entrusted with the greatest calling, protecting our country and our way of life.

Because of our unique profession, we can’t pencil-whip training reports, or cover up tech data violations, or falsify documents. We simply can’t afford to live dishonestly. Dishonesty breeds mistrust, and mistrust erodes our ability to perform the mission. In everything we do, we must intentionally do it in truthfulness and honesty.

**I am an Airman.** I willingly sacrifice myself for the benefit of the team. Being part of a team requires self-sacrifice and self-sacrifice must happen at all levels. Performing as a team requires a “less of me and more of us” mindset. We have to give more than what is expected. It’s amazing how much you can accomplish when it doesn’t matter who gets the credit. Being part of a successful team requires sacrifice.

**I am an Airman.** I care passionately about my fellow Airmen. No other profession calls for compassion than that of a military warrior. As warriors, we underestimate the power of a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. We must promote a culture of reliance on each other in order to accomplish the mission. Without compassion, we lose trust in our teammates, and the mission will fail. We must care passionately for each other.

**I am an Airman.** I am accountable for my actions. Individually, we are responsible for upholding the standards. We must live by the concept, “I am responsible.” Although we may not be able to prevent the worst from happening, we are responsible for our attitudes and actions. We must reject the idea that every time a standard is broken, someone else is to blame. We must live by the precept that each individual is accountable for their actions.

So I challenge you. Define who you are by your Airmanship. The next time someone calls out, “Hey Airman,” stop, turn around and respond. We are all Airmen. Together, let’s solve this identity crisis. □



# Deployment through the eyes

## 174<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Force miss



Blabber Bear visits with Weapons Shop Supervisor, Sr. Master Sgt. Dave Deyo.



**SYRACUSE, N.Y.**—When more than 400 members of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing based in Syracuse deployed in late November for a tour with Air Force Expeditionary Forces in Southwest Asia, a new member of the team reported for duty.

Airman Blabber bear volunteered to help out the Fighter Wing's family members, especially children during his tour of duty overseas.

With more than 200 young children affected by the deployment during the holiday season, Blabber bear provided updates and images for families at home.

Created by the unit Family Program Coordinator, Terri Scanlin, Blabber Bear deployed in order to give families, and especially children a way to better cope and relate to a parent's deployment.

Melissa Soucy, of Buffalo, said her four children are grateful to have this connection to their father while he's gone. Airman Blabber Bear takes care of their daddy, Eric Soucy, while he's deployed.

"He watches my dad while he's gone and makes sure he's OK and stuff," said Erik, 9, in an interview with the Syracuse Post Standard newspaper. "It makes me feel good."

The bear deployed alongside members of the Mattydale-based unit, said Scanlin, who works with about 330 families. Photos and letters describing life with the 174<sup>th</sup>, signed "Airman Blabber Bear," were posted on the unit's Web site.

"Mom and Dad are safe because Blabber Bear is safe," Scanlin said. "A lot of these guys, who would have nothing to do with a teddy bear, had their pictures taken with Blabber Bear."

Senior Airman Abby Priolo took the responsibility of escorting Blabber Bear overseas. People know they can get him from her, Scanlin said.

"He's gotten around," she said.

Blabber Bear has experienced many facets of the unit's mission, from going on a C-130 cargo plane to handing out M-16 rifles. Blabber Bear even wears dog tags that tell his name and where he's from.

"They're just as concerned about Blabber Bear as they are about Daddy," Soucy said. "It's a positive connection for them. He's a cute fuzzy bear that's taking care of Daddy."

Blabber Bear returned home with the unit in early 2007, Scanlin said.

At top, Airman Blabber Bear goes through readiness checks prior to deployment and above poses for a photo with deployment members of the Air Expeditionary Force. Images courtesy the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.



Above, an F-16 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing after aerial operations in Southwest Asia. At left, Airman Blabber Bear celebrates the Christmas season with Sr. Airman Abby Priolo. Master Sgt. R. Soucy inspects an aircraft on the forward fuselage at photo on right.



# aves of Airman Blabber Bear

## ision includes morale boosting bear



Airman Blabber Bear spent time with flight crews.



Members of the 174th Fighter Wing share experiences from the unit's recent deployment to Southwest Asia with Airman Blabber Bear, the Family Program mascot who travelled with the Fighter Wing during the deployment. Above, Lt. Col. James Belton meets Airman Blabber Bear during unit preparations for deployment. Below, Blabber keepsings aircraft crew chief, Tech. Sgt. Ed Ashcraft, company on the C-130 flight.



6 fighter from the  
Wing pulls away  
refueling during  
Southwest Asia.  
n Blabber Bear  
e holidays with  
eather Merritt &  
ita Scheirer and  
andoned aircraft  
d deployed base  
ght.







# FIELD PROBLEMS

Providing Real Answers to Issues of Today's Army Families



Your Questions Answered by Military Spouses  
Tara Crooks & Starlett Henderson

## Army spouses bring FPLive! with Blog Talk Radio

Guard Times Staff

**STATESBORO, GA** – The Army community's fun and feel good source for solutions to Army Life challenges, Field Problems, goes live November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (1pm EST). Crooks and Henderson, co-authors of Field Problems, signed on with BlogTalkRadio to make this dream a reality. Field Problems—as seen on Military.com, Army.com, and FieldProblems.com—is a Q&A column that empowers Army Soldiers and families with researched, real-life tested answers.

“We have a direct connection to Army families' needs and interests through our website <http://www.FieldProblems.com> and the bulk of our everyday lives,” says Crooks. Crooks is an Army active duty spouse of ten years and Henderson is a National Guard spouse of eleven years. Between them, they have a career's worth of business and counseling expertise, military training and education, and real-world experience that their readers have come to depend on. Field Problems

range from initial worries about moving to a new military installation to forming family bonds that withstand the rigorous work schedule and deployments that American soldiers undergo.

BlogTalkRadio empowers independent bloggers or podcasters, like Crooks and Henderson, with the capability to interact with their readers (now listeners) in real time. Previously, readers have emailed or phoned in their questions and answers were published bi-weekly. This will continue, but with the clever addition of FPLive!

Shows will be broadcast via FPLive's host page at [www.blogtalkradio.com/fplive](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/fplive). They will be monthly, one hour conversations where listeners are invited to call in to comment or ask their question. Listeners need only streaming audio, a phone, and a question.

“Just like your grandpa always used to say, ‘The only stupid question is the one not asked.’ I agree,” says Crooks. She's

no newbie to this line of work. Tara Crooks' original podcast, ArmyWifeTalkRadio, has been around for over a year and a half and continues to grow getting better guests and a bigger audience. Henderson says, “She knows what works and that's why I work with her.” Bringing her expertise gained from active Army service, a Master's in Professional Counseling, and three long duties on the “homefront” as a National Guard spouse, Henderson knows what works too.

Crooks and Henderson's will use the platform to bring all their resources to bear on everyday military concerns like changing duty stations, choosing a healthcare option, or dealing with deployment. Become a participant and track their schedule at [www.blogtalkradio.com/fplive](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/fplive). Prepare to call in your question at (646) 912-8787 during future broadcasts. Or, you can still have your questions considered by writing to Field Problems, PO Box 2491, Statesboro, GA 30459 or [FromTheField@FieldProblems.com](mailto:FromTheField@FieldProblems.com). □

## NY Guard's 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade backs up Reserves

By Chief Warrant Officer Patrick T. Guthoff  
HQ, 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade, NY Guard

**DANBURY, Conn.** -- More than a dozen members of the New York Guard's 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade provided support to approximately 80 Army Reservists preparing for future deployment November 18.

Maj. John Mangialardi, Capt. Michael Levinson, and Capt. John Molloy of the

joined other officers/ lawyers of the brigade's 5<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Regiment from Yonkers to conduct legal services at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Danbury, Conn. during unit premobilization checks.

The mission supported Soldiers from the Army Reserve's 411<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, providing the troops with legal experts to review key issues important to the unit's members.

The legal staff of the New York Guard, under the leadership of Maj. Rick Sharma, offered legal counseling and assisted with the preparation and execution of wills, living wills, health care proxies and durable power of attorney forms.

More than half of the Army Reserve Soldiers processing through the legal support stations received some form of support for their premobilization checks. □



## Marathon men

Members of the New York Guard's 1102 Forward Medical Support Team of the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade assisted the Army Reserve's 8<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade in support of the Wounded Warriors 2 at the NYC Marathon on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 Soldiers, wounded during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan competed in the race. Courtesy photo.



# Guard Chief: Relief on Way for Guard's Equipment Shortages

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

DEMING, N.M. — The National Guard Bureau chief assured members of the Army and Air National Guard during a visit here early in December that relief is on the way for the Guard's chronic equipment shortages.

The Army National Guard alone will receive almost \$29 billion during the next five years to reequip its units, and the Air National Guard will receive a similar sum, Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum told National Guard troops serving here along the southwestern U.S. border in Operation Jump Start during his Nov. 29 visit.

That's "almost 29 billion with a 'b,'" Blum said for emphasis.

It also could be "b" for "bravo" for Blum, who's been on something of a crusade -- drawing top-level focus on National Guard equipment shortfalls. He's called the issue one of his biggest challenges, particularly in light of the Guard's vital role in both combat and domestic response missions.

During the National Guard Association's general conference in September, Blum reported that Guard troops "want for nothing in combat," but return home to a "dangerously low resourcing level" for their stateside missions.

This week, Blum told troops serving here of the challenges the Guard faced when Bush announced in mid-May that 6,000 National Guard troops would support the U.S. Border Patrol as it recruits and trains more agents. The operation, expected to last two years, uses National Guard members for support missions, freeing up more Border Patrol agents for front-line law-enforcement missions.

"Look, half the problem with this mission was getting equipment, because most of it was overseas, ... and we didn't have that much back here to move around to you," Blum told the group, made up of volunteers from throughout the country.

**"It is unbelievable what the Guard is doing today," Blum told the group. "And you are part of the best Guard that this country has ever put on the ground in its 368 year history."**

The good news, he reported, is that there's now "a very real recognition" among Pentagon and congressional leaders of the need to reequip the Guard's worn-out equipment -- and it's being backed up with desperately needed funding.

Congress is "absolutely adamant that the Guard has to get reequipped" and is watching the issue "like a hawk," Blum said.

"They know how important you are, day to day," he told the troops, pointing to the wide range of missions the National Guard is carrying out throughout the United States and overseas.

"The Guard is busy," he said. "We have 55,000 of us in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, (the) Sinai (and) the Horn of Africa, a couple of hundred of us down at Guantanamo (Bay, Cuba), 6,000 of us on the southwest border this

morning."

In addition, some 8,000 to 10,000 Guard members are serving throughout the United States, providing critical infrastructure protection and responding to disasters ranging from floods to forest fires, he said. In addition, just as hurricane season has come to an end, the National Guard already is geared up to respond to winter-weather emergencies, he said.

"It is unbelievable what the Guard is doing today," Blum

lack the equipment they need for training or to respond to a domestic crisis.

States across the country have entered into an agreement to share their National Guard resources to fill in gaps as needed. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact proved its value during the multistate response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when several states mobilized their National Guard assets and sent them to help the Gulf states.



Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum meets with Maj. Richard Acevedo, commander of Team NY, the contingent of New York National Guard forces operating in support of Operation Jump Start in Arizona on Nov. 28, 2006. Blum visited the New York Soldiers at the Nogales Border Patrol Station and one of the unit observation sites. While visiting with Team NY at the Border Patrol Station, Blum promoted Private Alexis Lozada to Private First Class and recognized the efforts of numerous Soldiers with Chief, National Guard Bureau coins. Photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban.

told the group. "And you are part of the best Guard that this country has ever put on the ground in its 368 year history."

But all that activity has taken its toll on the National Guard's equipment, he quickly acknowledged. Gear, vehicles and other equipment is wearing out far faster than normal -- as much as five times faster, by some Pentagon estimates.

In addition, many Guard units return from Iraq and Afghanistan without their equipment, leaving it behind for replacement troops. Blum supports that measure, noting that it saves time, money and strain on the logistics system. But the flip side of the coin, he said, is that returning units often

But Blum has long emphasized that this kind of cooperation is not a long-term solution to the Guard's chronic equipment shortages. His big concern, he said, is that when the president or one of the 53 U.S. governors calls on their Guard troops, they won't have the equipment they need to provide the "Minuteman" response that's expected of them.

"It is a problem, and we are working it very hard," Blum told the Operation Jump Start troops.

While assuring them that relief is on the way, Blum counseled patience. "We didn't get here overnight," he said. "It took us three to five years to get here, and it will probably take us that long to get out of the hole we are in." □



## NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

**COLONEL**  
SADDLEMIRE ALDEN NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ

**MAJOR**  
ARMBRUSTER DIANE HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
BOZIER KENNETH EARLY ENTRY ELMT 369 SUST BDE  
BROWN TIMOTHY NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
FERREIRA KEVIN HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D ID  
GRAY ROY ARTHUR HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
TRYON KEITH JAY AFGHAN ARMY (ANA) BN JFHQ  
WIEST RICHARD AUSTIN NYARNG ELEMENT JFHQ FWD 32

**CAPTAIN**  
CHRISTOS NICHOLAS 2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB)  
FALER JASON 53D HQ DET LIAISON (ARFOR)  
JOHNSTON BAYNE HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
MERRILL JOSEPH CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
RAMOS SAMUEL JR DET 2 NYARNG ELEMENT JF HQ  
SHERMAN DENISE NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
STEALEY ROBERT HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY

**1<sup>st</sup> LIEUTENANT**  
CRUZ JOSE ANGEL CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
NEILD TIMOTHY DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR**  
TIFFANY DAVID NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE**  
WILCZYNSKI ERIC DET 1 CO B 3-126TH AVN FWD

**SERGEANT MAJOR**  
GILKEY DAVID P 27TH INF (BCT)

**MASTER SERGEANT**  
CARDENAS FABIO HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
CUNNINGHAM GILES 27TH INF (BCT)  
MARTINEZ LUIS M HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)  
MITCHELL JOSEPH JOHN RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
MONTMINY DAVID HHC 427 BSB  
PEARSON DAVID HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
STRUYS BERNARD M HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID

**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS**  
JULES YAO YAO 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 2  
MOHABIR ALVIN HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
SANDERS MICHAEL HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
TOWSE PETER HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID

WYMYCZAK SCOTT A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
APPELL KYLE THOMAS TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)

**STAFF SERGEANT**  
AUSTIN CHARLES CO D 3-142D AVIATION  
BRUNNER DANIEL 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET  
CADY MORGAN 107TH MP COMPANY  
CAICEDO ROSEMARY HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)  
GRAVELLE DENNIS 138TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET  
HERNANDEZ STACEY HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
MACY WILLIAM A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
MELENDEZ WALTER CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN  
MEYER ADAM 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
MOREL CARLOS J BATTERY A 1-258TH FA  
MOWER DENIS 107TH MP COMPANY  
ORTIZ AMICAR 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
PAPENHEIM BRIAN TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
RHODES KENNETH JR BATTERY A 1-258TH FA  
ROCHELEAU HEATHER L 107TH MP COMPANY  
ROJAS ERNESTO 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
SOLER MARCO NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
YORK ARTHUR CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB

**SERGEANT**  
AULT IAN HILL CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
BENJAMIN MICHAEL CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
BLOCKSTON FRANK III DET 1 105 MP CO  
BOOKER GEORGE DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN  
BOYLE PATRICK 1427TH TRANS CO (-)  
BRISSE JOHN DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
BURDICK MICHAEL NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
BYRNES JOSEPH 466TH MED CO AREA SUPPORT  
CHAPMAN DOUGLAS CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
CONNELLY CHRISTOPHER HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
CREGG JONATHAN 222D MP CO (FWD)  
DICKENS DAVID CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
DOWER PAUL AENEAS CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
FORDLEY MICHAEL 1427TH TRANS CO (-)  
GABOT RAFAEL HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
GILLOW KARL JR CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
GUIDO COREY JAMES 107TH MP COMPANY  
HUMPHREY SCOTT CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN  
HUSBANDCLARKE SHEERVON 466TH MED CO AREA SUPPORT  
JONES KATIE JEAN HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
LAFORREST CHRISTOPHER CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY

LEE DAVID CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
LEHNER CRAIG EVAN 105TH MP CO  
LEWIS JAMES LEE 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
LYDON JOSEPH 206TH MP COMPANY  
MATEO EDWIN JUAN JR BATTERY B 1-258TH FA  
MATT GARY JAMES CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
MAUL CHRISTOPHER CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
MCANN DAVID JR HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
MCGARRIGLE KENNETH 222D MP CO (FWD)  
MELENDEZ JOSE A. 37TH FINANCE DET  
MELTON SHAKION 133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO  
MILLER JOHN CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
MUNN BENJAMIN DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
MURRAY SHAWN NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
OKOLO UCHENNA BATTERY B 1-258TH FA  
PELLETTIER MATTHEW CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
PHAN ZACK NGUYEN 107TH MP COMPANY  
RICCI RANDOLPH II DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
RIVERA NOVALES LUIS CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
SANCHEZ IVETTE 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
SHAKERLEY NATHAN HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
SIMMONS DUANE JR HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
SNYDER TRAVIS CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
SOTO JEFREY CO D (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
STONE ROGER LEE 827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
THOMS CHRISTOPHER TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
UNGER MARK DAVID DET 1 HHC 42D STB  
VALVERDE EDDY BATTERY B 1-258TH FA  
VANNESS ARTHUR NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
WHEELER AMANDA 105TH MP CO  
WICKLOW ASHELEY HQ 53D TRP CMD

**SPECIALIST**  
ALIANO CURTIS JAMES CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
BARRANT STEPHEN P CO D 3-142D AVIATION  
BATTISTI MATTHEW C 206TH MP COMPANY  
CARSON OLIVIA SAISY DET 1 133RD QUARTERMASTER  
CEPEDA JUNIOR HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
COLLADO DAVID SIG NTWK SPT DET 369 SUST  
BDE  
COLVIN RICHARD III 222D MP CO (FWD)  
CRESSMAN MATTHEW 105TH MP CO  
DARLING DAVID TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
DAVID CHRISTOPHER 442D MILITARY POLICE CO

# 370<sup>th</sup> birthday painting captures Guard's history since 9/11

By Alyson L. Stowe

Missouri National Guard

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – “It’s a gift to Soldiers in the Guard and their families,” said Springfield native John Fulton, creator and artist of a watercolor painting presented to the Missouri National Guard during a ceremony Dec. 13 at the Missouri Military Museum commemorating the National Guard’s 370th birthday.

The painting is titled “Our Legacy is Freedom.” It is currently on display at the museum.

“The painting is a series of small vignettes of Guard stories since 9/11,” Fulton added. “The collage technique tells the big picture – the heart and soul of the Guard and its history.”

Represented in the 26-inch by 41-inch watercolor are events from Iraq and Afghanistan, including an image of women voting indicated by the purple ink on their fingers, to Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, shown by Soldiers providing fresh water and supplies to victims. Other significant events and support operations around the world are also portrayed. There are also 54 patches in the painting, representing the National Guard’s joint headquarters in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and Washington, D.C.

“The scenes are interwoven which, to me, is really how the Guard functions. Everyone is trained specifically, but they work together to accomplish the mission. It just flows,” added Fulton.

The scenes include images of the New York National Guard response at ground zero with the insignia of the Joint Forces Headquarters and another depicting the 278th Regimental Combat Team from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division and Task Force Liberty deployment to Iraq in 2005.

Fulton said he and his wife Billie came up with the idea during a casual conversation with a Guardsman while flying



Springfield, Mo., artist John Fulton and his wife Billie created “Our Legacy is Freedom”, a watercolor painting to honor the men and women of the Army National Guard and their families. The painting was presented to the Missouri Military Museum commemorating the National Guard’s 370th birthday. (Photo by Alyson L. Stowe)

to New Mexico. Fulton decided he could use his artistic abilities to help honor Guard members and their families.

“They deserve the recognition and to be thanked for their

help in natural disasters and overseas. The sacrifices made by the families deserve to be recognized as well,” Fulton said. □



DENTE STEPHEN  
FERGUSON JOHN  
GILL MARK ANTHONY  
GONZALEZ GREGORY  
GUSTAS JAMES  
GUSTAVSSON PHILLIP  
HALEY ROBERT JR  
JAMIESON GARY S  
KENNEDY TIFFANY R  
KINNAIRD KRISTAN  
LAFORREST BRIAN  
LAWLOR BRENDAN JR  
LEAVY SEAN MICHAEL  
LEGGETT DARREN  
LONECKE JUSTIN  
MACHELL DAVID  
MARTIN MICHAEL  
MCDONALD DAVINA  
MILLER KYLE TIMOTHY  
MOORE TIMOTHY JOHN  
NEAR ERIC MICHAEL  
NOLAN SEAN PATRICK  
PESCE FRANK JOSEPH  
PETERSON WILLIAM  
PILIERO MICHAEL  
POYNEER JASON  
RODRIGUEZ JOHNNY  
RODRIGUEZ NICHOLAS  
SINDONE LISA MARIE  
SMITH EBONY  
SMITH MATTHEW  
SMITH RANDY JR  
STANN THOMAS  
SWIFT STEPHEN JR  
SYED SUHAIL AHMAD  
TRACY DANIEL JR  
VERDEJO ANIBAL III  
VINCENT JAMES SCOTT  
WAKE ANTHONY  
ZEHNER SANDY M

**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS**

ALVAREZ MELVIN  
ANDERSON MICHAEL JR  
AQUINO JIMINEZ EDGAR  
BALL JEREMY MICHAEL  
BARNES STEVEN ERIC  
BELFON KEVON  
BRIGGS STEFAN  
CAMACHO FELIX  
CANNIZZARO DAVID  
CONGDON DANIEL  
CORREA EDWIN JR  
CRUZ JOSE JR  
CUMMINGS BRENDEN  
DALLAIRE MICHAEL C  
DAYE THORIN ANTOINE  
DINITTO NICKLAS ZIEBEKE  
DOST EDMOND III  
EDWARDS ISSIAC D  
ENCARNACION RENE  
ESMEL NICODEME  
FIGUEROA MAINOR  
FLORES ERICA IVANIA  
GATES JUSTIN POWELL  
GEIGER CANDY  
GOLDSMITH ALOEY D  
GONZALEZ ALBERTO JR  
GONZALEZ GERONIMO A  
GRIMALDI ROBERT II  
HAMMOND ROY  
HARRIS LAWRENCE III  
HENSON BRANDON  
HONSAKER CARL R  
HUFF BENJAMIN  
JOHNSON JAMAAL  
JOVEL ANTHONY  
KILBURY JAMIE LEE  
KUS GORDON RONALD  
LANHAM ANTHONY P  
LEO RACHEL IRENE  
LITTLES HOWARD D  
LOZADA ALEXIS  
LUCIANO FELIPE JOSE  
MADRID KAREN  
MESICK DOUGLAS  
MICHAELS AMELIA  
MYERS COREY  
NEWCOMB ANDREW  
OCHOA YESENIA  
PLYMPTON DAVID  
POYNEER JOHN

CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HHC 369TH SUST BRIGADE  
HQ 53D TRP CMD  
CO C (MED) 427TH BSB  
DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD  
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D ID  
466TH MED CO AREA SUPPORT  
DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
CO D 3-142D AVIATION  
CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
105TH MP CO  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
222D MP CO (FWD)  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO  
719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
DET 1 1156TH ENGR CO VERT  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)  
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D ID  
TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
206TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
107TH MP COMPANY  
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D ID

CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
37TH FINANCE DET  
222D MP CO (FWD)  
TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
BATTERY A 1-258TH FA  
145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
107TH MP COMPANY  
727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN  
107TH MP COMPANY  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT  
CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
BATTERY B 1-258TH FA  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
107TH MP COMPANY  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
107TH MP COMPANY  
TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D ID  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
SIG NTWK SPT 369 SUST BDE  
CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB

POZDNIAKOV IGOR  
RIVERA JONATHAN  
ROBINSON TONY  
ROCKWELL SHERRY  
RODRIGUEZ JONATHAN  
RYAN SEAN DANIEL  
SMITH MICHAEL  
STOCKWELL CHAD  
TAVARES JASON  
TORRES ANGEL JR  
VALDEZ MICHELLE  
WALLACE BUCHANAN J  
WARMLEY CHALRA J  
WILLIAMS DEMETRIC C  
ZACCAGNINO LOUIS

ABDALLAH ADAM  
ADAMO CHRISTINA  
AMJAD MOHAMMAD  
ARCHER JENELYN  
BAKER KEVIN  
BARBER JOSEPH  
BARNES RIAN SINATRA  
BENEDICT KYLE DAVID  
BESIER DAVID  
BRASSARD BENJAMIN  
BURCH NICHOLAS  
CANALES ELSA E  
CAPLETTE JASON R  
CASTRO RAMOS D  
COVEL DANIEL  
DELISSER MARLON  
DEVERE KEELAN  
DIPIETRO KELLYLYNN  
DORLAND MARION G  
DUTTON MATTHEW  
EXNER JOSEPH PAUL  
FELIX JOSE ANIBAL JR  
FLETCHER JOSEPH  
GALLAGHER JOHN  
GARCIA WILLIAM  
GARREN ETHAN  
GILBO KEVIN JOSEPH  
GRAJALES JONATHAN  
HEDGES ROBERT  
HOFFMAN JOSHUA  
HOINSKI MITCHELL  
HOPE JERMAINE  
HOUSMAN ROBENIA  
HUANG YI JIN  
HUNG CHUN  
ISGRO ANTHONY  
ISGRO NICHOLAS  
JAMES YOLANDO  
JARRETT RAMON  
JASON RONALD J  
JOHNSON FOREST  
JOHNSON JOSEPH  
KPONVI YAO  
LONDON LESLIE  
LEON BRIAN  
MASON DWAYNE  
MCKENNEY WILLIAM  
MEDINA JASON  
MELENDEZ MAURICIO  
MILLS JEFFREY  
MOCTEZUMARIVERA  
MOSTARAC PETAR  
MOTLEY CHRISTOPHER  
PANIAGUA JOHN  
PITTMAN RICHARD  
PORTERFIELD CHARLES  
POWERS MATTHEW  
PROVOST BRADLEY  
RASMUSSEN JASON  
RELF ANDREW  
REXACH EMMANUEL  
RODRIGUEZ CHRISTOPHER  
RUMPF JON PATRICK  
SCHULTZ AROM C  
SCOTT RODERICK  
SCOTT YAANIQUE  
SINCLAIR THOMAS  
STALLWORTH VINCENT  
STEWART VANESSA  
TIRINATO JOHN ROBERT  
TORRES JUAN  
UEBELHOER JEFFREY  
VANDEUSEN JUSTIN  
VARTIGIAN BRANDON  
VAUGHAN THOMAS

NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO  
CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D ID  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
DET 1 CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY  
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO  
TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
105TH MP CO  
HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB

**PRIVATE**

HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
4TH FINANCE DET  
4TH FINANCE DET  
1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
B CO(MI)BSTB 27TH BCT  
HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
206TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
4TH FINANCE DET  
DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH BCT  
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO  
HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
HHD 104TH MP BN  
1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
TROOPA 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET REAR  
4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET REAR  
CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
206TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
SIG NTWK SPT 369 SUST BDE  
HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
DET 1 133RD QUARTERMASTER  
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
37TH FINANCE DET  
102 MAINT CO  
CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
DET 2 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
107TH MP COMPANY  
CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
DET 1 105 MP CO  
HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D ID  
1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH BCT  
206TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO  
27TH INF (BCT)  
HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY

VELEZ JOHN  
VOLCHECK CHARLES  
WALIS JOHN DONALD JR  
WALSH WILLIAM JR  
WESTFALL EMIL LEE  
WESTON ZACHARY IAN  
WILLIAMS RESINE  
WINNE CODY ALLEN  
WRAY ALRICA  
YOUNG DANIEL JAMES  
ZECHES DANIEL LEE  
ZELLNER MICHAEL JR

442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
CO E 3-142D AVIATION  
7TH FINANCE DET REAR  
105TH MP CO  
DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY

## Army Guard Recruiter of Year



**SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.** -- Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, the New York State Adjutant General, presents the Recruiting and Retention Command Master Seven Award to Master Sgt. James Abbatoy during the command's awards banquet here on December 13, 2006. Abbatoy received the award for his superior leadership, strength maintenance skills, knowledge, abilities and soldiering. The top candidates appeared before a board that measures the total Soldier concept. Criteria include job performance, personal appearance, community service, leadership, physical fitness and board performance. Abbatoy was selected from the 13 Area NCOIC's assigned to the Recruiting and Retention Command. Abbatoy's career includes more than 20 years of service with in the Recruiting and Retention Command. He has performed duties of Recruiting and Retention NCO, Acting NCOIC, MEPS Guidance Counselor and most recently his current assignment as the Area NCOIC for Team Buffalo in Area One. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Colling.



## NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD REENLISTMENTS

### 102 MAINT CO

SGT ALBRO EDWARD F

### 105TH MP CO

SGT BELMONTE PATRICK JOSEPH  
SGT BILSKI MARTIN JOSEPH  
SPC KREIGER CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL  
SGT LEAVELL JEFFREY WARREN II  
SFC SNYDER SHEARA LEA J  
SSG WIELGASZ KENNETH MARK  
SSG WRIGHT THANE CLARENCE

### 107TH MP COMPANY

SPC ANDRES LOUIS PAUL JR  
SGT CADY MORGAN PRITCHARD  
SPC DOAN JOSHUA DAVID  
SGT GATES LAWRENCE RICHARD  
SPC GUIDO COREY JAMES  
SFC JAWORSKI PAUL HENRY  
SSG JOHNSTON TERRI LEE  
SGT NESSIA JAMES VINCENT  
SPC PATTERSON CHARLES EUGENE  
SSG ROCHELEAU HEATHER L  
SPC ROMAN GILBERT H  
SGT SCHMID EDWARD EUGENE  
SGT SCHWARZ CASTILLO JOSE RAUL  
PFC VINCENT JAMES SCOTT

### 1108TH ORDNANCE CO EOD

SPC ZALOGA ERIC ROBERT  
1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
SFC FORBES MARK EDWARD  
SGT SOHAN RICHARD

### 133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO (-)

SPC CAMPBELL TYQUINN JADDEUS  
SPC JIMENEZ RICHARD  
SPC KALVAITIS AIDAS  
1SG MACK HENRY BENJAMIN JR

### 145TH MAINTENANCE CO

SGT CHAPMAN KEITH LAMONT  
SPC LEWIS ALVIN MCPHERSON  
SPC ROSARIO TINA LOUISE

### 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO

SPC ADAMS BENNIE DARNELL  
SSG MANCUSO SHARI L  
SPC STEWART RICHARD MILBORNE II  
CPL VASQUEZ JOSE L

### 1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO

SSG BARROWS ADOLPHUS JAMES  
SGT BROWN DEVON LEE  
SSG MCBURNIE MERVYN R  
SSG PETERKIN ANDRE  
SPC ROSE GORDON LEE  
SGT WILLIAMS DAMIAN SHERIFFE

### 204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT

SGT BEECHER JARED ARTHUR

### SGT WEIDNER FREDERICK HAROLD 206TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

SGT HARRIS JOSEPH A  
222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)

SGT BREWSTER DANIEL LEE  
SSG BRIGGMAN JOHN J  
SPC CLARK GARY MICHAEL  
SGT COLLALTO ANITA  
SGT FLYNN DENNIS JOSEPH JR  
SFC HEBELER HOWARD LEROY  
PFC HENNING KEITH

1SG JONES HAROLD IV  
SPC MURRAY CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY  
SSG QUINTANA GUILLERMO  
SPC ROY STEVEN ANTHONY  
PFC SHAY NICHOLAS JOHN GLEASON  
SSG SMITH ALAN R  
SPC WHIFFEN JOSEPH W IV

### 249TH MED CO AIR AMBULANCE (-)

SSG BANNING PETER WAYNE  
SPC GINTY REGAN KENT  
SSG PIKE GARY CHRISTOPHER  
SGT PRATT SHANNON MARIE

### 272D MP DET BDE LIAISON REAR

SFC BURLEY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
SPC CASTLE FREDERICK JAMES

### 27TH INF (BCT)

SGT BOATWRIGHT MARTIN JOHN

### 29TH PERSONNEL SERVICE DET

SGT RADDER MARK JAMES  
2ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM (WMD)  
SSG LUNNY PAUL THOMAS  
SGT ODOM DAREN EUGENE

### 37TH FINANCE DET

SPC BOST CLAUDIA MARIE  
SPC OMEALLY HANIF KWESI

### 42D ID UEX

SFC CALLENDER ANTHONY ROY  
SPC JAMES LENROY ANTHONY  
SFC ROBERSON AUGUSTUS III  
MSG SCOTT HARRY RICHARD  
SSG SECOR LISA M  
SFC STAUB TERRY MELVIN  
SSG WOOD TIMOTHY CHARLES

### 42D INFANTRY DIV BAND (-)

SSG FITZGERALD GERALD JAMES JR  
SGT ORTEGA JUAN ALBERTO

### 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 1

SGM PARKER CHRISTOPHER DEWEY  
SGT PROL KENNETH JAMES  
SGT SALAZAR PAUL EDWARD

### 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 2

MSG HOWLEY MICHAEL OLIVER  
SFC JULES YAO YAO

MSG RAYMOND DONALD VINCENT

### 442D MILITARY POLICE CO

SPC BARBER CHRISTOPHER  
SGT JIMENEZ HUGH HENRY  
SGT MARCANO PEDRO EFRAIN  
CPL MARTINEZ WILMER  
SGT MATOS HECTOR LUIS  
SSG MEYER ADAM SCOTT  
SGT MILLAN MARIBEL  
SPC MONTANEZ PABLO JR  
SGT ORTIZ AMICAR OMAR  
SGT PESCE NINO HENRY  
SSG RIELLO ROBERT  
SGT ROBINSON SHEILA PEGGY  
SSG TEJADA FRANK  
SGT WATKINS MARCUS LEROY  
SPC YANUSH JULIYA

### 466TH MED CO AREA SUPPORT REAR DET

SSG CHURCHILL THOMAS B  
SGT DERMOTT SCOTT DAVID  
SGT HOLMES WANDA  
PFC INGRAHAM CHARLES ELMER JR  
SGT MATCHEN ALYCIA JILL  
SPC PANTALEONE PAULINE MARIE  
SPC CAMACHO GEORGE

### 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SUPPORT

SGT CHAPIN DAVID GEORGE  
SSG MEARNS RICHARD MATTHEW JR

### 4TH FINANCE DET

SGT COMER STEPHEN EDWARD JR  
SPC LAN MARK YANG

### 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET REAR

SPC EVERS JUSTIN CHARLES  
SGT TURNER TODD HENRY

### 56TH PERSONNEL SER BN

MSG JEFFERS BURGOS REBECCA  
642 CS BN HSC REAR

SSG LORD THEODORE KENNETH JR  
SPC MORLOCK RONALD LAWRENCE

### 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)

SSG CARTY IVAN EMANUEL  
SGT ROSARIOALVARADO SANTOS  
SSG SHELTON DIANE C  
SFC SPENCE ERROL A  
SSG THOMAS HOWARD JR

### 727TH MP DET LAND O REAR

MSG CORBETT GARY EUGENE  
SSG DAVIS SHAWN KEVIN  
PFC FOX TODD BERNARD  
SSG HAMILTON GOEFFREY RICHARD  
SGT WALCZAK THOMAS WILLIAM  
SPC WRIGHT TRAVIS DAVID

### 727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER

SSG DUTCHER DOUGLAS ALLEN  
SFC GARAND GARY MATTHEW

### 7TH FINANCE DET REAR

SGT LOWE MILLICENT MARIE  
SPC PHILIP SERIN  
SGT RICHARDSON DEMETRIUS CHRIST  
SPC SAGASTIZADO ASCENCIO ISAIAS  
SPC TEOLITTLA JORGE DAVID  
SFC TORRES LUISA ROSA

A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)  
SSG DOLPH JAMES

### B CO(MI)BSTB 27TH BCT

# Airmen bell-ringing for the community



Members from the Northeast Air Defense Sector watch as Master Sgt. Joseph Rutherford, NEADS Security Forces, helps a young toddler donate to the Salvation Army Dec. 14. Volunteers worked throughout the day singing carols and ringing bells at Wal-Mart in Rome, N.Y. In 2005, donations exceeded \$900 and volunteers for 2006 set a new record by raising more than \$1,400. Photo courtesy NEADS Public Affairs Office.



SPC BIELING HERMAN  
SGT BREWER MICHAEL JAMES  
SPC SCHUSS CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL  
**BATTERY A 1-258TH FA**  
SPC GARCIA OSCAR ARMANDO  
SSG AMADORBELTRAN JUAN AUGUSTO  
SFC BLUMCAMACHO ROMULO DANIEL  
**BATTERY B 1-258TH FA**  
CPL BOND FRANK NATHANIEL JR  
SPC GUILTY FREDY JOSUE  
SPC HILL JOHN WAYNE JR  
SGT MATEO EDWIN JUAN JR  
SGT MIDDLETON MARVIN K  
CPL RODRIGUEZ ISABELO  
SPC SANCHEZ ALAN KEVIN  
SGT TORRES RAYMOND  
**C CO(SIG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)**  
SPC KING WILLIAM FRANCIS  
SGT PHILLIPS JERRY ALLEN  
**CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB**  
SGT HOOKER ROBERT DANIEL  
**CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY**  
SPC MARRERO VICTOR N  
SGT SOSTRE FRANCISCO  
**CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SPC MCPHEE JAMES LYNDON IV  
**CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY**  
SSG SPANTON MICHAEL LEE  
**CO A(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN**  
SSG ALBERT CHRISTOPHER EDWARD  
SSG BARNES J DANIEL  
**CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY**  
SGT CARTER CEDRIC JEROME  
SGT DIEUMEGARD ERIC KEESOO  
SSG GILDAY SEAN PATRICK  
**CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB**  
SPC DIPPEL GREGORY JUSTIN  
**CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
MSG MOODY JOE E  
SGT SILVA GEORGE MANUEL  
**CO B 3-142D AVIATION**  
SGT TIRADO BRIAN MATTHEW  
**CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN**  
SGT ARZU PAUL  
SPC CARTER STANLEY WEAXSIE  
SGT CATENA RICHARD FREDERICK  
SGT CLARKE STANTON OLEN  
SSG COREANO JORGE  
SSG GLOVER REGGIE  
SPC RIVERA JOSEPH  
SPC VANDELLI MARK ADLAI  
**CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY**  
SFC FISHER JOSEPH VICTOR  
**CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY**  
SPC MUNN BENJAMIN TAHAWUS  
**CO C (MED) 427TH BSB**  
SGT REICHARD EDWARD JOHN  
**CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SGT BURKETT JOHN PATRICK  
SGT HANNIFORD MARCELLA ALBERTHA  
SPC LOPEZ OSVALDO  
SPC MOYSE YVES JR  
SGT SANTANGELO RICHARD  
SGT VALENCIA ANDRES FREDERICK  
**CO C 642D SUPPORT BN**  
SPC MCALLISTER JEFFREY JOHN  
SGT YATES NORMAN CECIL  
**CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB**  
SPC BOBB MARY ALICE  
SPC EDWARDS MICHAEL  
SFC MASTYKARZ RICHARD GEORGE  
SFC SWANSON GLENN STEVEN  
**CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY**  
SPC PAGE DELBERT  
**CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY**  
SFC ADAMS MANUEL JOSEPH  
SPC RIPLEY CAMDEN VAUGHN  
SPC WERNER ALONZO VINCENT  
**CO D 3-142D AVIATION**  
SSG BENNETT ROBERT HUGHES  
SGT HAHN BILLY JOE  
SGT PHILLIPS RAYMOND LIONEL III  
SSG PUGLIESE ROBERT JOSEPH  
SGT ROCQUE ERIC RAYMOND  
SGT ROSE EDWARD KEVIN  
SGT SWINT KEVIN JAMES  
**CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB**  
SPC BADILLO ROQUE EMANUEL  
SGT DAIN TOBBY JAY  
SSG DUNBAR IAN J  
SPC WILLIAMS PATRICK MICHAEL

**CO E 3-142D AVIATION**  
SPC SKELTON DONALD KEVIN  
**CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB**  
SGT GARCIA JOSE ANTONIO  
SGT MAHADEO ISRAEL  
SSG TAYLOR CELESTE I  
SFC VAUGHAN ALFREDO CODELIN  
**CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB**  
SGT JONES PAUL M  
SFC LOPEZ VICTOR MANUEL  
SPC RIVERA ALBERTO  
PFC VILLAFANE JOSE ANTONIO  
**DET 1 105 MP CO**  
MSG CANELLA JOSEPH PAUL  
SGT CARDINO MEAGAN PATRICIA  
SGT MATTINGLY DOUGLAS LEROY  
SPC QUINONES PEDRO DAMIAN JR  
**DET 1 1156TH ENGR CO VERTICAL**  
SSG ORTEGA PATRICIO  
SPC TYSON TERRENCE RICHARD  
**DET 1 222D MILITARY POLICE CO**  
SPC FLEMING CHRISTOPHER JAMES  
**DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ**  
SPC SEARFOSS JAMES HOWARD  
SPC THOMPSON PETER JACOB  
**DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY**  
SSG MARKLE DANIEL CHRISTIAN  
SSG MCCANN JASON AARON  
SGT MOHR AARON BRADT  
**DET 1 CO A 42D STB**  
SGT ANZALONE TODD ANTHONY  
SFC LOUGHRAN DENIS M  
**DET 1 CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY**  
CPL CANTLEY MICHAEL DEAN  
SPC GARVEY JASON EDWARD  
SGT HOTALING ALLEN  
**DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY**  
SGT BORST JOHN HENRY JR  
SGT HUDSPATH BRIAN JUDE  
SGT RICCI RANDOLPH CALVIN II  
**DET 1 HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY**  
SGT TAYLOR ROBERT MICHAEL  
**DET 1 HHC 42D STB**  
SGT DELLES VICTOR LEON  
SFC GALAZKA JERZY  
SPC WEARNE MICHAEL JOHN  
**DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE BCT**  
SGT WHITTINGTON ALFONSO D  
**DET 2 HHC 42D STB**  
SSG FUNES ROBERTO JOBANY  
**DET 3 CO E 3-142D AVIATION**  
SGT WALDINGER GLENN CHARLES  
**EARLY ENTRY ELMT 369 SUST BDE**  
MSG COLON JOSE A  
SGT MASTEN JASON NATHANIEL  
SGT WRIGHT JOHN WILLIAM  
**FSC 204TH ENGINEER BATTALION**  
SGT CAINE PATRICK  
SPC HART KEVIN ROBERT  
**H & S CO 204 ENGR BN**  
SPC HOWARD JESSE ANDERSON III  
SPC LOEFFLER JEFFREY SCOTT  
**HHC 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY**  
SPC PHIPPS RUSSELL COLLIN  
SSG PINNOCK ORLANDO  
PV2 WILKINSON VICTOR ARHNEIM  
**HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY**  
SGT BURLEIGH CRAIG STEPHEN  
SGT DESO NICHOLAS JAMES  
SGT GIAMMELLA LOUIS EDWARD  
SPC MILLS MICHAEL ALLEN  
SPC PERUSSE JOSHUA MICHAEL  
SPC PRATT THOMAS FRANK  
**HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)**  
SSG DEROUCE RENEE JEAN  
SPC GURBACKI GREGORY JOHN  
SGT NOSBISCH LINDA RUTH  
CSM PINKOWSKI RANDY A  
**HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY**  
SPC CENTENO ALEJANDRO  
SPC COLOMBANI ALAN  
SPC MONSANTO CHARLIE LOUIS  
1SG ORTIZ ELOY  
SGT PIERRE CLARENCE KEN  
SGT SCHMITT GREGORY THEODORE  
SGT THOMAS JEFFREY ALLEN  
SGT WILSON GREGORY  
**HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SGT GRISWOLD ROBERT WALTER  
**HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SPC LINDSEY JOHANN MALCOLM

**HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE**  
MSG COLON RAUL  
SGT LEWIS OLABISI TAMEKA  
SSG MCCLAM PAMELA DENISE  
SPC POTTER EUGENE JR  
SFC RAMADHIN LUTCHMAN B  
**HHC 427 BSB**  
SPC GEERER JASON EDWARD  
SPC WHITNEY SARAH L  
**HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV**  
SGT CABRERA KRYSTAL LEE  
SGT FINNIE BARBARA M  
CSM RIVERA RENE  
**HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN**  
SPC BAPTISTE RICHARD DARWIN  
SGT BROWN ERIC DAVID  
SPC COBB ANDRE ZIGMOND GARTH  
SGT COLLIER JOI KRISTINA  
SGT PATTERSON MICHAEL WALTER  
**HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN**  
SPC BEVINS JOSEPH WILLIAM  
PFC BOYLE JAMES GERARD JR  
SPC KRUGER MATTHEW RICHARD  
CSM LENZ JUSTIN CLARK  
SPC MELENDEZ DAVID FRANK  
PFC MERCHANT MICHAEL GERVAIS  
SSG MORRISSEY CHRISTOPHER JOHN  
SPC NIMPHIUS PHILIP MICHAEL  
SPC NOSKER JOEL THOMAS  
SPC PULCASTRO WILLIAM MICHAEL  
PV1 RODRIGUEZ STEVEN  
SPC SAINSBURY MARCUS JOEL L  
PV2 TAYLOR MICHAEL PYBURN  
SPC TOMASINO TONI  
SPC WENIG JOHN GILES  
**HHD 27TH FINANCE BN**  
SGT CARTER ANN  
SPC FERNANDEZ ROBERTO III  
SPC PACHECO JOSE ALBERTO  
SSG UTSEY JOHN RAYTHOMAS  
**HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD**  
SPC EDMONDS ROBERT J  
**HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**  
SPC EDDY JOSEPH ANTHONY  
SPC GORCZYCA MATTHEW C  
SGT MAIER GLENN RAYMOND  
SPC MASON SCOTT MATTHEW  
SGT PROULX MATTHEW AUSTIN  
SGT ROWH WILLIAM SCOTT  
SPC SOLLEY CARL ALEXANDER  
**HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)**  
MSG MARTINEZ LUIS M  
**HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)**

SPC OSIKA SANDRA LYNN  
SFC TOMPKINS BARBARA JEAN  
**HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)**  
SSG PUGH LAMONT M  
**HSC 642D SUPPORT BN**  
MSG HARTER RONALD M  
SSG HUDSON ADA V  
SFC MAYBERRY MELVIN  
SGT ROSAS VERONICA  
SPC SELLARS JASON PAUL  
**MEDICAL COMMAND**  
SPC DICKERSON DANIEL BROOKS  
**NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ**  
SGT AHLERS MICHELLE LYNN  
SGT BENOIT DAWN LYNN  
MSG CALANDRA GINO REMO  
SSG FORGET ARTHUR PAUL III  
SGM LAMOURET DAVID GEORGE  
SFC MAHONEY THOMAS JAMES  
MSG NUDING JEFFREY CARLETON  
SSG ROBLES DAVID CRISTINO  
SSG SHERWOODJOHNSON JOSHUA A  
SGT SOLER MARCO ANTONIO  
SGT VETTER DAVID ARTHUR  
SPC WESTFALL JUSTIN ALAN  
**RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD**  
SFC BUCHANAN ROBERT TIMOTHY  
SGT CAREY BRENDAN JOSEPH  
SGT DIXON LYNN SUZANNE  
SSG ELDRED DARYL JOHN  
SSG FERNANDEZ NESTOR JOSE  
SSG HARRISON DARRYL FLOYD  
SGT MENDEZ OSCAR ELEUT JR  
SGT PARK CHRISTOPHER FRANCIS  
SGT ROBINSON EVMEMARIE  
SSG ROBINSON RONALD CLIFFORD JR  
SGT SABATER ERIC BERNARD  
SGT SWARTZ LEWIS DONALD  
SGT VALDES ANTHONY II  
SFC VASQUEZ RUBEN  
**SIG NTWK SPT DET 369 SUST BDE**  
SGT SHORT WILLIE DAVID IV  
**TROOPA 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**  
SGT CUNNINGHAM ARLYN CLEM JR  
SFC FORD DAVID DOUGLAS  
SPC HOLCOMB JACK EUGENE  
SPC OSORIO ROBERTO JOSE  
SPC SMITH DAVID ERWIN  
SPC VANHORN SHAWN DAVID  
**TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**  
SSG BARKER MATTHEW WILLIAM  
1SG GARDNER JACK D JR  
SPC WEIGEL GREGORY MICHAEL

## OneSource Offers Free Online Tax Filing

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Defense Department's Military OneSource family support program is again offering free, online tax preparation and filing for servicemembers and their families, officials said.

The service began Jan. 15. It's available to active duty, National Guardsmen and reservists and their families.

This is the second year of the program. Last year, more than 327,000 tax claims were filed using a similar program, said Jane Burke, principal director in the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

Burke added that servicemembers can put their tax refunds to good use as a deposit in a savings or retirement account or to pay off debts.

"How to use the refund may be the first financial decision of the year" for servicemembers in improving their financial readiness, Burke noted. DoD is launching a campaign called "Military Saves" to encourage servicemembers to save money or reduce their personal debt.

Filers who use Military OneSource's online system can expect to receive their refund within 10 days, Burke said. And Military OneSource tax consultants, she said, are trained to answer questions on preparing and filing taxes and provide other financial management information. Additionally, through the Military OneSource Web site at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com), servicemembers can get guidance and answers to questions, Burke said.

The Military OneSource service augments the voluntary tax assistance program offered at most military installations, Burke said.

The service available through Military OneSource's Web site "is a new option where people can do their taxes online for free," said Army Maj. John Johnson, executive director, Armed Forces Tax Council. Tax-filing assistance also is available through the Internal Revenue Service's electronic filing program.

"It is just one more way we can help improve the quality of life for our troops and their families," Burke said.



## NEW YORK AIR GUARD PROMOTIONS

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL

BECK, PAUL R 136 AIR REFUELING SQ  
BRANCHE, STEVEN P 105 AIRLIFT WG  
DICAPRIOYANDIK, CHRISTINE 109 OPERATIONS GP  
GENTILE, GLEN E 137 AIRLIFT SQ

## MAJOR

LAPENNA, CHRISTOPHER 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
ROOS, JOSEPH F NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ  
THERIAULT, BRUCE J 105 OPERATIONS SUPPORT FT

1<sup>st</sup> LIEUTENANT

DAVIN, RICHARD W JR 106 STUDENT FT  
GARREN, NICHOLAS J 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
ROGERS, JOSHUA W 109 STUDENT FT  
SALTON, RICHARD H 107 AIR REFUELING WG  
SLOAN, PAUL D 105 STUDENT FT  
WEIR, GLYN B 103 RESCUE SQ  
WILLIAMS, KELLY J 109 STUDENT FT

2<sup>nd</sup> LIEUTENANT

CRUMB, CHRISTOPHER S NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ  
DINEEN, ZACHARY J 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
NICHOLSON, JAMES A JR 109 STUDENT FT  
TAYLOR, JUSTIN W 109 STUDENT FT  
VARELA, LINDA R 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
VIRE, TYNIKKA C 174 MEDICAL GP  
WALSH, BRYAN J 103 RESCUE SQ  
WOCEL, JUSTIN P 106 STUDENT FT

## CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

MCDONALD, EARL L JR 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ

## SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

COX, PAUL E NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ  
KRAJEWSKI, STEVEN A 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
MILK, KYLE R 174 OPERATIONS SUPPORT FT  
OFLAHERTY, JOHN M 105 MAINTENANCE SQ

## MASTER SERGEANT

BLOM, ERIK S 103 RESCUE SQ  
FORSYTH, MELISSA E 174 FIGHTER WG  
GREEN, CHARLES H JR 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
HART, PATRICK 109 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
JOHNDRO, CHARLES W 101 RESCUE SQ  
KERSSEMAKERS, THERESA 109 MEDICAL GP  
KUSOLNAK, VITHYA 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
LATONA, ANTONIO JR 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
MENOTTI, MICHAEL J 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
METCALF, STEPHEN J 174 FIGHTER WG  
MONELL, DAVID W 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
OCONNOR, MICHAEL V 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
POWER, DIANE L 109 MISSION SUPPORT GP  
REIMANN, PATRICK J 105 COMMUNICATIONS FT  
SHENEFIEL, RANDALL A 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
SIMPSON, SCOTT A 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
STORAN, JAMES M 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
TERRY, PETER J 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
TOWNE, KENNETH D 109 MAINTENANCE SQ  
VITALE, JENNIFER M 105 MAINTENANCE OPS FT  
WEEKS, SHAWNA J 105 MISSION SUPPORT FT  
WHALEN, MATTHEW P 152 AIR OPERATIONS GP  
WILLSEY, GREGORY A 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
YOUNG, THOMAS G 105 SECURITY FORCES SQ

## TECHNICAL SERGEANT

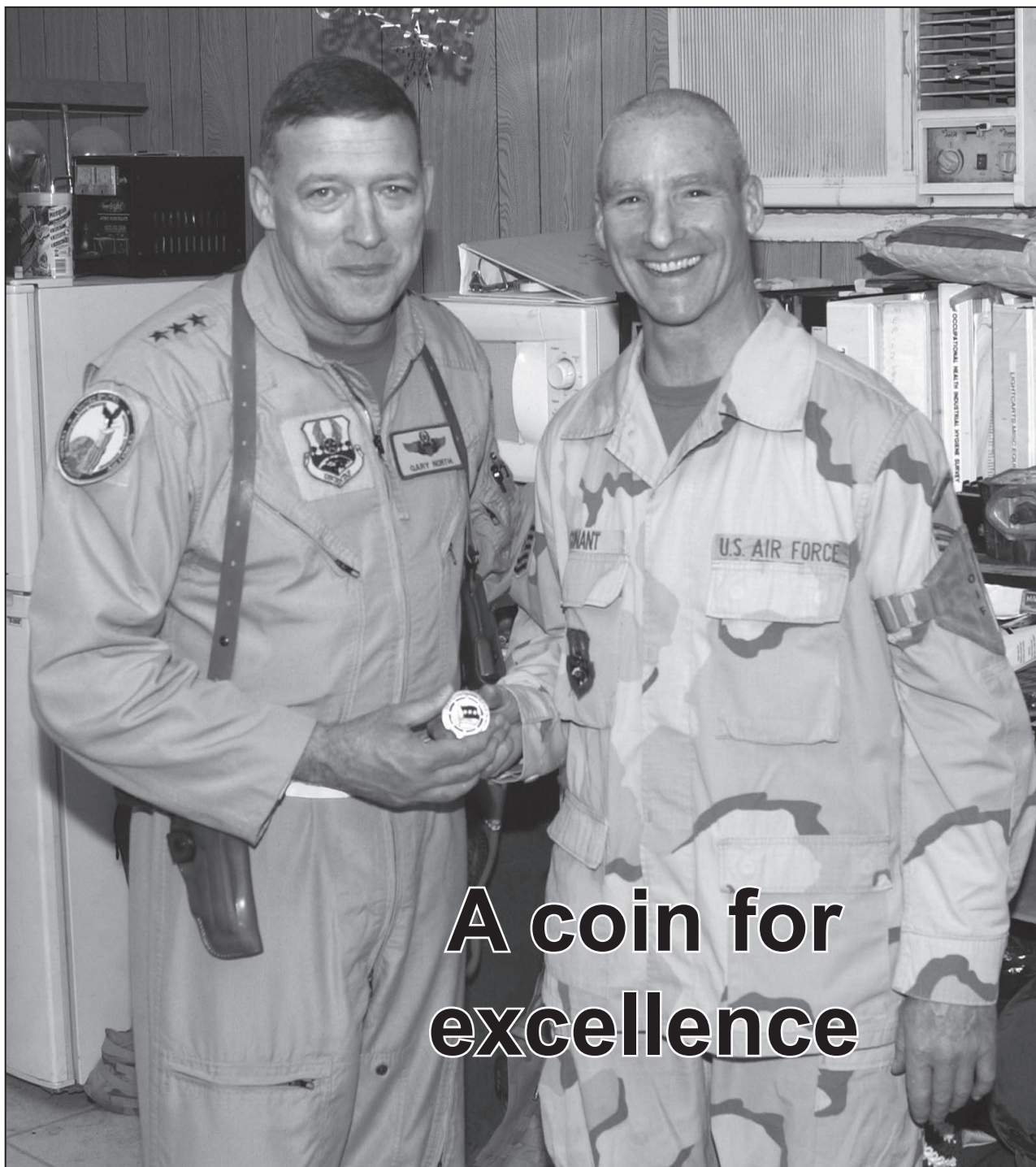
ALI, SHIREEN L 109 AIRLIFT WG  
BARANOWSKI, STEVEN F 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
BOLSTER, SLOAN J 174 MAINTENANCE GP  
BRADSHAW, AMY R 106 MEDICAL GP  
CHOPPING, ROY E III 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
COURTNEY, GARTH K 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
DELTORO, LUIS A 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
GUERTIN, DAVID G 152 AIR OPERATIONS GP  
GUTIERREZ, PEDRO J 105 AERIAL PORT SQ  
IADICICCO, FRANK A 109 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
KEMPISTY, JOHN J 174 FIGHTER WG  
LAGOE, KIMBERLY R 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ FFTQ30  
LLEWELLYN, JOHN T 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
LYNCH, GLENDON A 213 ENG INSTL SQ  
MOADE, THOMAS W SR 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
MOORE, JASON C 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
OCONNOR, JOSEPH R JR 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
PAGE, FRANK J 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
PEREZ, MICHAEL NMN 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
PORTER, MARC D 109 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
REIMER, PETER J 106 MAINTENANCE SQ  
ROBERT, STACIE L 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
ROMAN, JASMIN 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
SMITH, JEDEDIAH G 103 RESCUE SQ  
SPIDLE, RONALD S 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
STRINGFELLOW, NICOLE 213 ENG INSTL SQ  
TOOMA, CHRISTOPHER M 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
VANDYKE, ELIZABETH M 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ

## STAFF SERGEANT

ARSIC, NICOLE J 174 MEDICAL GP

BOOKAL, JOEL C 105 SERVICES FT  
BRADKE, BRIAN S 174 STUDENT FT  
BRANCH, MICHAEL J 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
CALDWELL, ANTOINE L 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
CANFIELD, JOHN A 139 AEROMED EVAC SQ  
CARLO, GUY J 107 STUDENT FT  
CARR, DAVID J 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
COLBERT, KEVIN J 174 MAINTENANCE SQ  
CRUZ, CLEIBYS Y 105 AERIAL PORT SQ  
DIETER, MICHAEL R 107 OPERATIONS SUPPORT FT  
DOWLING, EDWIN J 101 RESCUE SQ  
EGAN FISHER, SHANNON I 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
FLORIO, ROBERT M 109 AERIAL PORT FT  
GATELEIN, PHILLIP J 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
GLEZER, VLADIMIR V 105 AERIAL PORT SQ  
HARTSELL, PAMELA J 174 MEDICAL GP  
HERMAN, MICHAEL C NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ  
JANSON, RYAN B 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
KASSAY, LEE S 107 STUDENT FT  
KHALAF, MARY F 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
KINSEY, KEITH A 174 MAINTENANCE SQ  
KNOWLES, BIENVENIDO E 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ

KNUDTSON, JOSHUA M 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
LARGE, WILLIAM S 109 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
LOWE, MICHAEL J 174 MEDICAL GP  
MARTIN, JENNIFER L 107 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
MELIUS, ABBEY L 109 MAINTENANCE SQ  
MILES, JORDAN A 106 MAINTENANCE SQ  
MILLER, ROBERT R 174 COMMUNICATIONS FT  
PERRONE, JOSEPH 103 RESCUE SQ  
PRICE, DANIEL S 109 AERIAL PORT FT  
RIGGINS, MICHAEL JAMES 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
RINALDI, MATTHEW C 109 MAINTENANCE SQ  
ROSARIO, ISAAC 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
SMITH, MALENE A 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
SMITH, STEVEN H JR 106 MAINTENANCE SQ  
SPACE, JONATHAN M 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
STRICKLAND, JEFFREY JR 105 MISSION SUPPORT FT  
STRONG, CHERYL J 174 MAINTENANCE SQ  
STYER, ERIK M 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
TERRY, LISHA C 106 MEDICAL GP  
TOBIASSON, PATRICK R 174 MAINTENANCE SQ  
VITANZA, LAURA J 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
ZIMMERMAN, MICHAEL E 174 MAINTENANCE SQ



Master Sgt. Jeff Conant receives a Commander's Coin from Lt. Gen. Gary North on December 24<sup>th</sup> 2006, after being in country for approximately three months with Air Expeditionary Forces in Southwest Asia. Lt. Gen. North was in country visiting the troops when he met up with Conant and the rest of his team from the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. Conant served as the night shift supervisor for Power Production in the Civil Engineering Squadron, which was performing extraordinarily well in dealing with the various issues arising on the base. One incident in particular was shortly after their arrival in country when the base lost power due to contractor negligence. Conant and his team restored power in such a timely manner that it had little to no effect on current operations, ensuring that the mission could continue successfully. Courtesy photo.



# Guard Car gets new NASCAR driver

Guard Times Staff

CONCORD, N.C. -- Beginning in 2007, the Army National Guard will join forces with longtime Hendrick Motorsports partner GMAC to sponsor the No. 25 Chevrolets driven by Casey Mears in the Nextel Cup Series.

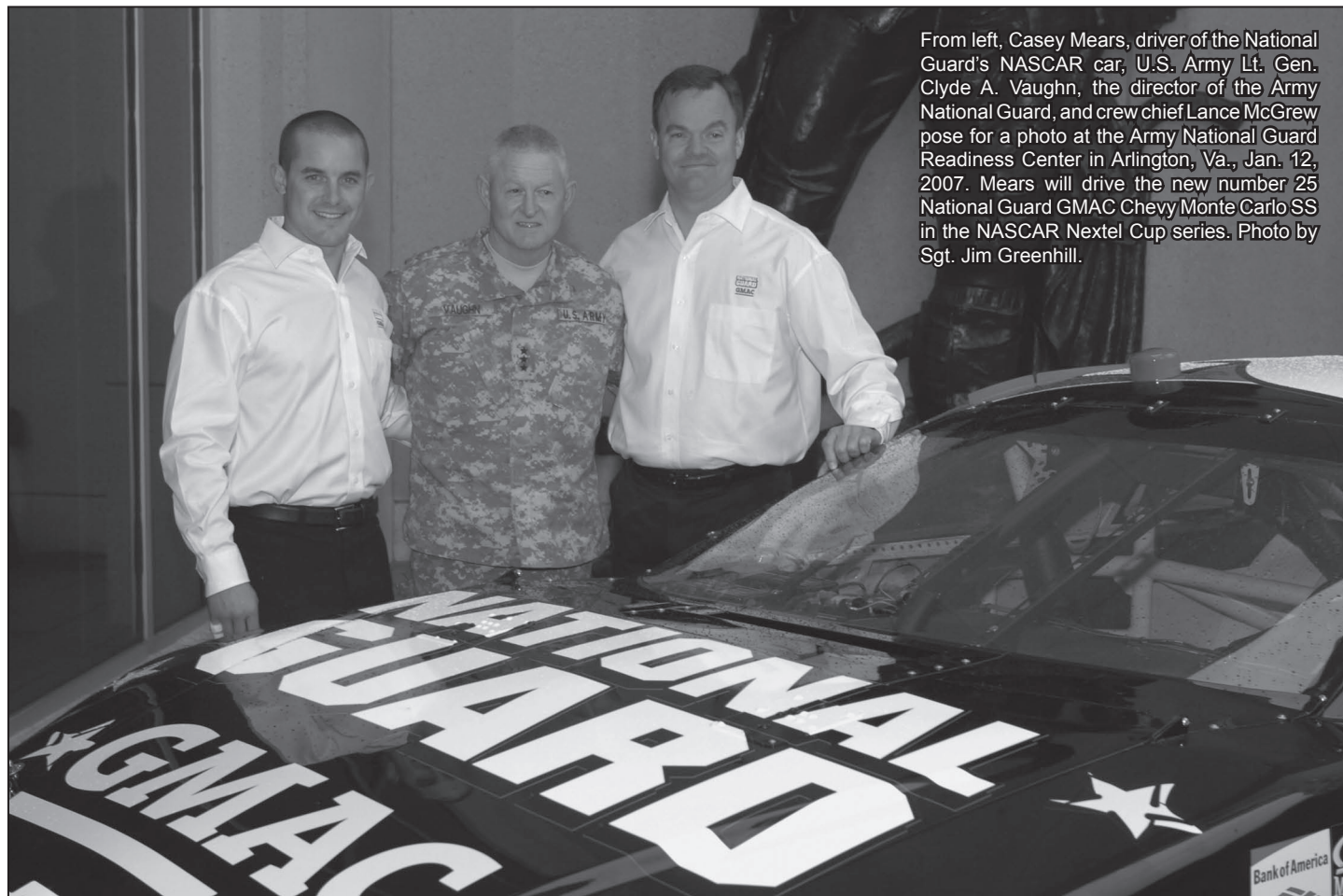
"This is a fantastic day for our organization," said Rick Hendrick, owner of Hendrick Motorsports. "We take an enormous amount of pride in welcoming the men and women of the National Guard and continuing our time-honored relationship with GMAC. These are two incredible groups that share our vision for the No. 25 team and its bright future."

Mears, 28, will drive the new-look No. 25 National Guard/GMAC Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS in the car's on-track debut this February at Daytona. In 2006, Mears became the first full-time NASCAR driver to be part of a winning Grand American Rolex 24 team and was runner-up in the prestigious Daytona 500.

"It's just so different than any other normal sponsor," Mears said. "You're not just representing a brand; you're representing a portion of the country, what the country stands for, and all the men and women who fight for us. We get to do what we do because we're protected by the National Guard, so it's just a big honor to be representing them and hopefully hold them up proud and do well."

Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, said the Guard's NASCAR sponsorship is one key to successful recruiting. "We have a lot of fun with this," Vaughn said. "We recruit 70,000 Soldiers a year. It's about recruiting, and it's about maintaining the strength of this great organization. Part and parcel with that is this fun we have with NASCAR, because it puts that National Guard name right up there in front in the nation's largest market on any one weekend outside the Super Bowl."

"The National Guard is looking forward to joining the No. 25 Hendrick Motorsports



From left, Casey Mears, driver of the National Guard's NASCAR car, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn, the director of the Army National Guard, and crew chief Lance McGrew pose for a photo at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., Jan. 12, 2007. Mears will drive the new number 25 National Guard GMAC Chevy Monte Carlo SS in the NASCAR Nextel Cup series. Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill.

team," said Col. Mike Jones, chief of the Army National Guard's Strength Maintenance Division. "NASCAR continues to be a vital component of our recruiting and retention programs, and we believe this new relationship will further enhance our involvement in the sport."

GMAC's association with Hendrick Motorsports is one of the longest and most successful sponsor-team relationships in NASCAR. Headquartered in Detroit, the company joined Hendrick in 1993 and has since been featured in some form on 10 championship-winning racecars, including two as a primary sponsor.

The red, white and blue No. 25 Chevy design will make its first public appearances during activities surrounding the Jan. 7 GMAC Bowl at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala. New enlistees of the Alabama National Guard will be sworn in on the field prior to the game featuring Ohio University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

During his visit to the Army National Guard Readiness Center, Mears swore an oath of allegiance to the National Guard administered by Vaughn.

Lance McGrew, Mears's crew chief, also took the oath.

"For us at Hendrick, it's a great opportunity to have a relationship with one of the American institutions," said Doug Duchardt, vice president of development. "It's always an honor to represent people that are protecting our country and representing our country. There's a special aura to be able to do that."

"We feel a great deal of pride to go out and fly those colors and perform well and hopefully bring some excitement for the National Guard," Duchardt added. "It's a very special opportunity, and we really appreciate how the National Guard has welcomed us into the family." □

## NEW YORK AIR GUARD PROMOTIONS

### SENIOR AIRMAN

COLLALTO, CHRISTOPHER	174 MAINTENANCE SQ
DIAZ, JASON M	106 MAINTENANCE SQ
ESPEUT, PATRICK J	105 COMMUNICATIONS FT
FROST, JAMIE L	107 SECURITY FORCES SQ
GOLDEN, THEODORE F	105 COMMUNICATIONS FT
KELSEY, JOSHUA M D	107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
KING, MATTHEW H	109 AERIAL PORT FT
LEWIS, LATOIRI MINGTOI	105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ
OAKLEY, ERIN M	107 SECURITY FORCES SQ
PEARSTON, ALEX R.	105 SECURITY FORCES SQ
PICCOLO, ROCCO III	106 MEDICAL GP
PRUCKNO, JAMES A	174 SERVICES FT
SCHMIDT, ETHEL N	152 AIR OPERATIONS GP
TRICHEL, KATIE N A	107 COMMUNICATIONS FT
WESSER, RICHARD C	107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ

### AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

BASS, TARIQ S	105 STUDENT FT
BROWN, BRANDYN E	174 STUDENT FT
CAINES, CHARLES L	174 STUDENT FT
CALDWELL, BRANDON C	109 STUDENT FT

COLON, ROSE M	105 STUDENT FT
COOPER, JOVAN D	174 STUDENT FT
CORRA, JOSEPH W	109 STUDENT FT
CUTTER, MICHAEL D	107 STUDENT FT
FARRELL, SEAN M	174 STUDENT FT
GOERSS, JUSTIN D	107 STUDENT FT
ISAACS, TRENTON F	105 STUDENT FT
JACKSON, LEEANN M	107 STUDENT FT
JOHNSON, MATTHEW C	109 STUDENT FT
KOEHNE, RAYMOND C	107 STUDENT FT
LANDERWAY, DARREN L	109 STUDENT FT
LIGHTFOOT, DENNIS V JR	174 STUDENT FT
MALAMAS, KARYN L	105 STUDENT FT
MANTZOURIS, ANASTASIOS	109 STUDENT FT
MCDONALD, PHILIP C	107 STUDENT FT
MCLENNAN, WILLIAM P	174 STUDENT FT
MURRAY, JEREMY S	109 STUDENT FT
NEWBERRY, DUNCAN R II	109 STUDENT FT
NOEL, ANDRE J	109 STUDENT FT
PERERA, RASANGA B	105 STUDENT FT
PETERS, JUSTIN B	105 STUDENT FT

QUIROGA PABON, JUAN F	106 STUDENT FT
RICCIONE, LISA M	107 STUDENT FT
ROCZEN, NATHAN P	174 STUDENT FT
RODRIGUEZ, SIERRA S	105 STUDENT FT
RYAN, DANA L	109 STUDENT FT
SCHLIEMAN, JOHN A	109 STUDENT FT
SEDA, JULIO A IV	105 STUDENT FT
SMITH, KRISTEN A	106 STUDENT FT
SOLER, FRANCISCO A	109 STUDENT FT
UPDEGRAPH, JAMES R	107 STUDENT FT
WALKER, ROBERT J	107 STUDENT FT
WOODYARD, DAVID W	109 STUDENT FT

### AIRMAN BASIC

BAK, JAMES P	174 STUDENT FT
CONTE, EMMALEE M	107 STUDENT FT
ELDREDGE, JOSHUA R	109 STUDENT FT
GRANT, ROBERT C	106 MISSION SUPPORT FT
LAFAVE, ANDREW T	174 STUDENT FT
SCHMITT, MICHELLE E	107 STUDENT FT
SOMMERS, BRADLY W	109 STUDENT FT
TROSTERUD, KAREN A	107 STUDENT FT



## Benefit Reminder to Troops

Dear Guard Times –

I am writing in my effort to leave no stone unturned ensuring every Soldier is aware of and understands the Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) benefit.

TSGLI is a new insurance benefit enacted by Congress to help traumatically wounded Soldiers and their families with a one-time, tax-free payment of up to \$100,000. The money a Soldier receives through TSGLI could go far toward helping a Soldier's family to be with them during recovery, assisting with unforeseen expenses, or giving the Soldier and his or her family a head start on life after recovery.

Additional information, including claims forms are available on the TSGLI website – [www.tsqli.army.mil](http://www.tsqli.army.mil) or through our Soldier Service Center than can be reached via telephone, 1-800-237-1336 or via email at [tsqli@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:tsqli@hoffman.army.mil).

This program is all about taking care of Soldiers. As part of our outreach efforts, we are trying to disseminate the following key messages:

TSGLI helps Soldiers from all services and all components – Active, Reserve and National Guard. If a Soldier is covered by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) that Soldier also is covered by TSGLI for qualifying injuries. TSGLI is bundled with SGLI and an additional \$1 has been added to the Soldier's premium to cover TSGLI, regardless of the amount of SGLI coverage that the member has elected.

A traumatic injury is an injury or loss caused by application of external force or violence. TSGLI is not just for combat-related injuries, it covers Soldiers anytime, anywhere. Qualifying traumatic injuries incurred after December 1, 2005 are covered under TSGLI – regardless of where they occurred.

Thank you for your assistance in this effort.

Respectfully,

Col. John F. Sackett  
Chief, Traumatic Servicemembers'  
Group Life Insurance Division  
U.S. Army Physical Disability  
Agency  
Alexandria, Virginia



## Guardsmen lend a hand in 'Trees for Troops'

### Iraq veterans offer help in shipping donated trees for military troops

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

**BALLSTON SPA, N.Y.** – Citizen Soldiers of the Army National Guard's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division provided additional manpower and support to local Christmas Tree farmers donating hundreds of trees to a national campaign to support troops and their families deployed overseas.

On a crisp early winter morning on December 4, Citizen Soldiers donated their time to provide support to their fellow troops preparing to serve overseas for another Christmas season. The Soldiers loaded nearly 100 Christmas trees in support of the "Trees for Troops" campaign.

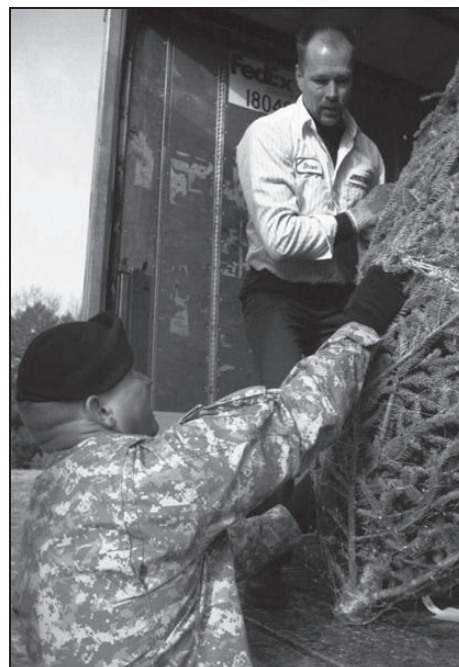
The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and FedEx Corp. - in cooperation with the National Christmas Tree Association - organized this nationwide effort to boost the Christmas spirit for U.S. military men and women.

For the second consecutive year, the Trees for Troops program delivered real Christmas Trees to the families of troops serving in the military. Christmas Tree growers and retailers nationwide donated the trees for the program.

"New York is only allowed to donate a few hundred trees, but there is so much support for this," said Chip Ellms, owner of Ellms Trees in Charlton where the donated trees were gathered for pick up by FedEx. "Local

growers are just dropping them off here unexpectedly."

"We'll do anything we can to raise the spirits and boost the morale of the Soldiers over there, said Steve Hansen, the FedEx driver on hand for the donation.



Top photo, First Sgt. Tony Coluccio helps load Christmas Trees donated for military troops and families. Above, Maj. Kaarlo Hietala passes a tree onto the FedEx delivery truck for shipment.

This marks the second year of the donated trees program. Last year, 4,000 trees were shipped to military units across the United States and overseas, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar and 13 other countries around the world. This year the program will exceed 11,000 trees donated for the troops.

Maj. Kaarlo Hietala with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division's Special Troops Battalion spent Christmas in 2004 with the Rainbow Division's Task Force Liberty, preparing units in Kuwait for their tactical movement north into Iraq.

"It makes you appreciate the little things in life," said Hietala, reflecting on his Christmas spent in Kuwait. Then he remarked about the reality of soldiering overseas. "If I remember right, we just worked."

First Sgt. Tony Coluccio, also with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division's Special Troops Battalion said a program like this is important for morale. Coluccio was deployed to Iraq for Christmas in 2004 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

"It made us glad to have a little bit of Christmas in our lives," he said. "It lifts your spirits."

"It really means a lot to our troops," owner Chip Ellms said of the program. "A lot of people here pulled together." □



# Soldiers Return to the Army as West Point Cadets

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Amy Fires  
Guard Times Staff

**U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT, N.Y.**  
-- Imagine you served your country well in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) II, then imagine you get accepted into the United States Military Academy, Class of 2010 and have to go through more training, more discipline, and more work for four more years. That is exactly what Army Guard Spec. Alois Renggli did, now known as Cadet Renggli.

Renggli, a member of the New York Army National Guard since April 2001, deployed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry, as an infantry Soldier in Company A during OIF II, serving in North Central Iraq. Cadet Renggli is now a member of the freshman elite- at West Point. Once Renggli returned from his tour of duty in Iraq in January 2005, he immediately applied for West Point.

"We were very fortunate to have three of our New York Army National Guard Soldiers enroll at West Point with the Class of 2010. For those Soldiers, this is the opportunity of a lifetime," said Brig. Gen. Mike Swezey, Commander of the New York Army National Guard, himself a West Point graduate.

"Although many Soldiers from the National Guard that attend the Academy spend a limited amount of time in the military, some even before attending Basic Training, there are others like Cadet Alois Renggli who choose to apply and attend the USMA," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt. "Renggli spent a number of years as an enlisted Soldier and is an OIF combat veteran. The different perspective he brings and can articulate to his classmates will better prepare them for their future military career," he said.

"I like the challenges, the academic load is heavier, and it's great," said Renggli. While attending West Point, a typical day isn't what it once was in the Guard. Now, Renggli, along with his fellow Cadets, such as fellow New York Army National Guard Soldier turned cadet Justin Gill, have myriad tasks and duties that include long hours and a lot of studying each day at the Point. Gill was a Guard member of for nine months as a Private before his acceptance into the Academy. While Gill may not have experienced basic training, "Guard style," he is certainly getting his fill of military training, schooling, and discipline at West Point.

"At West Point, I'm surrounded by officers all the time each and every day, whereas in the Guard, I saw my Commander



New West Point cadets collect their issued equipment and uniforms under the supervision of an upperclassman during Registration Day activities at the U.S. Military Academy. R-Day at West Point is designed to quickly introduce new cadets to the rigors of life here and prepare them for their next test: cadet basic training or "Beast." The class of 2010 includes a number of N.Y. Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers seeking an officer's commission as a Second Lieutenant. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Military Academy.

once all weekend at drill," Gill said, "there's just something about West Point that sets it apart from everything else."

Both Cadets have experiences from the National Guard that have helped them through some difficult times at the United States Military Academy. For example, Renggli felt that his experiences in Iraq helped him prepare for the long, grueling days and nights at the "Beast" training for incoming Cadets the summer before they enter West Point, which ran from June 26<sup>th</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Now that they are Plebes, members of the freshman class, both Renggli and Gill agree, the day-to-day challenges are the toughest at West Point.

Each year West Point offers admission to about 200 Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers.

"It is our goal in New York that we get our fair share of these appointments," General Swezey said. "There are a couple of basic requirements that must be met, under the age of 23 when you enter West Point, a high school graduate, a US citizen. West Point also has a one year prep school for those candidates who may need academic assistance to get them ready for the Academy," described Swezey.

A typical day at West Point includes waking up

at 5:30 a.m. for morning duties, then they go to formation, eat breakfast, followed by classes all day, then they go to lunch, attend more classes until 4:00 p.m., take part in athletics or drills, eat dinner, and study until 11:30 p.m. when they finally end their day.

As Cadet Gill mused, "the days take forever, but the weeks fly by."

**"I like the challenges, the academic load is heavier, and it's great"**

Both cadets agreed, the days are busy and you're tired, but the end results will make it all worth it.

"West Point is very different from anything I've ever done before," Gill said.

While they may have three and a half more years to go, Renggli said, "I want to be in the active Army for as long as possible and return to the Guard." Renggli still keeps in touch with his fellow comrades of the 2-108<sup>th</sup>.

While this experience is very different than anything they have done before, both Cadets agree that it's all worth it. Everyone at the Academy has something to offer to one another. "Everyone is important and sooner or later you're going to need a skill that [your fellow classmates have]," Gill affirmed.

"There is nothing I would rather see than for us as a State to send five or six deserving Soldiers to West Point each year," added Swezey. "One, it is the epitome of taking care of Soldiers. Two, these cadets will someday be our future leaders - whether in the Active Duty, or back with us in the National Guard after their initial commitment is fulfilled," he said.

For more information about the military academy, visit [www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu). □



New cadets at the U.S. Military Academy take their oath during registration day events. R-day, as it is known to the cadets, marks the beginning of their military education and new path towards an officer's commission. Photo courtesy the U.S. Military Academy.



# America Supports You: WWE taking milestone letter to troops in Iraq

By Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

**NEW YORK** — As World Wrestling Entertainment superstars and divas prepare for a fourth trip to visit servicemembers in Iraq, they'll be carrying some special cargo: a very important letter.

The WWE sports entertainers gathered at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> to announce their return to Iraq in order to meet and greet troops serving overseas. On hand for the event were members of the New York Army National Guard and The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto.

That letter marks a milestone for Shauna Flemming, 17, founder of "A Million Thanks," a California-based nonprofit troop-support group with an original goal of collecting 1 million letters of gratitude for troops. Shauna surpassed that goal two years ago, and in January 2006, her goal expanded.

"(Shauna) wants to make sure our military members get thank you notes from the American people, and she's collected 2.6 million thank you notes, one for every man and woman in the military," Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communication and public liaison, said during a news conference yesterday at Madison Square Garden here. "WWE will take the 2.6 millionth letter over to Iraq ... and present that to our military members."

WWE and A Million Thanks are both members of America Supports You, a Defense Department program highlighting ways Americans and the corporate sector support the nation's servicemembers.

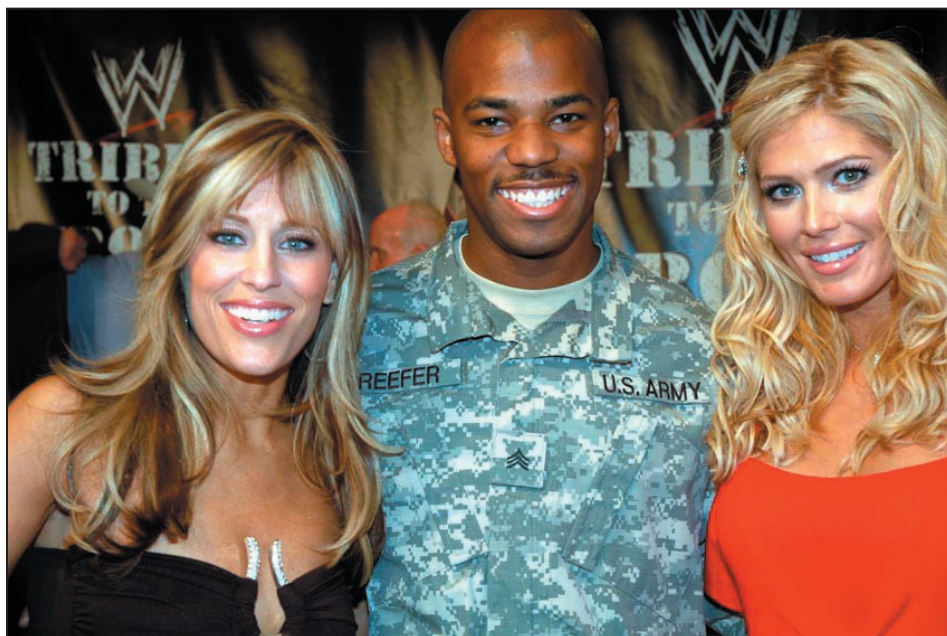
The superstars and divas also will be delivering 20 Xbox 360 video games and accessories, Davis said. The accessories include the Xbox Live Vision camera, which will allow troops in Iraq to play video games with fellow servicemembers and loved ones at home.



WWE Chairman Vince McMahon meets with Soldiers from the N.Y. National Guard in Manhattan during the official announcement of the Wrestling Entertainment's return to Iraq for the holidays. Photo by Pfc. Eric Siegelman.

Servicemembers attending the news conference, some of them longtime wrestling fans, confirmed the benefit of receiving letters from home.

"When you're overseas, you don't really hear a lot of thanks from people ... for what you're doing," Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup>



WWE Diva Lillian Garcia, WWE Superstar Carlito and Diva Torrie Wilson meet with Sgt. Casey Reefer from the N.Y. National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Manhattan. The superstars and divas announced in a news conference Nov. 22, 2006 at Madison Square Garden, that they will be traveling to Iraq to entertain the troops during the holiday season in 2006. Photo by Pfc. Eric Siegelman.

Class Jason Brunsman, with the New York Military Entrance Processing Station, said. "So every time you get a letter like that from anybody ... it's a huge morale booster."

Celebrity visits like the one WWE stars will be making lift spirits as well, Army Sgt. Erich Schmidt, 206<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company out of Schenectady, N.Y., said.

"It seems like when these (WWE) guys come over, they actually do ... care what we do," he said. "They just made me feel appreciated."

Taluto echoed that sentiment. "I've seen firsthand the smile on our soldiers' faces days before events, days before celebrities showed up ... and days after, (I've heard) the discussion," he said.

"It makes them feel recognized, ... and it's a small thing to ask when they're making such great sacrifices," he added.

Making servicemembers feel appreciated and recognized is more than an honor, WWE superstar Bobby Lashley said. Lashley grew up in a military family and served for three years as in the Army. He was a member of the Army's World Class Athlete Program's wrestling team.

"I think there's a closer emotional attachment between the troops and myself," the former Army specialist said. "I feel that it is my duty to go over there and put on the best damn wrestling show that I possibly can for the heroes that are serving in Iraq today."

That's the goal WWE chairman Vince McMahon said he hopes to accomplish when he and his organization get to Iraq. "We entertain, but more than anything else in the world, what we do is put smiles on the faces of a global audience, and the smiles on the faces of those men and women over in Iraq is something that is very dear to our heart," he said. "They are the most appreciative audience we'll play to all year long." □

## About Guard Times

The Guard Times is published bimonthly using federal funds authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York Army and Air National Guard Public Affairs Office. Views which appear in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

The Guard Times has a circulation of 22,000 and is distributed free to members of the New York State Militia Force and employees of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Governor Elliot Spitzer    Commander in Chief  
Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto    The Adjutant General  
Scott Sandman    Director of Public Affairs  
Lt. Col. Paul A. Fanning, NYARNG    Editor  
Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, NYANG    Asst Editor

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions on a computer disk with a hard print out and a name and telephone number for a point of contact. We prefer stories saved in Microsoft Word or ASCII text. Submission deadlines are February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15 and December 15. Send submissions to:

**Guard Times**

**DMNA-MNPA**

**330 Old Niskayuna Road**

**Latham, New York 12110-2224**

**(518) 786-4581 FAX (518) 786-4649**

or

**richard.goldenberg@ny.ngb.army.mil**

## Guard Times Address Changes

*Changed your address recently?*

*Is the Guard Times still coming to an old address?*

*If so, it may be time to check with your unit administrator. Chances are, the old address is still listed at the unit.*

*Computerized shipping labels are produced for Guard Times at state headquarters from the electronic data base. This information is updated through periodic submissions from the field. The unit, SIDPERS, the Personnel Services Branch and military pay all need to have a document supplied by the soldier to change the home address.*

*Before writing us at the Guard Times about your address change, start with your unit. It takes about two months before the change hits the system, but, guess what! The Guard Times comes out every two months. So if you have verified the unit has the correct information and the Guard Times still came to the old address, be patient. The next issue should come to the new address.*

*Reminder. It is the Soldier's responsibility to submit address changes in a prompt manner.*

## Complimentary or Back Issues

*Complimentary or back issues of the Guard Times are available. Contact us at the address above.*