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# guardtimes

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

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# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

## Communications: A Leader's Imperative at All Levels

**A**s a young infantry lieutenant I learned early on the meaning of move, shoot, and communicate.

Do this right, I learned, and your tactical problem will be solved. At the tactical level this was a good formula for success.

As I progressed through my career I found this idea of communicating gradually became more important than move or shoot.

A small unit leader can usually communicate pretty easily with all of their people. But as the number of people you lead and manage grows, the requirement to communicate, do it effectively, and convey your vision, becomes more and more challenging.

In the National Guard, leaders at all levels face two communications challenges.

We must communicate with our force: explain what we are doing, why we are doing it and the payoff for doing it right. At a higher level, that's called Command Information and it means getting the word out to thousands of Soldiers and Airmen.

And because we are a community based force-- with 55 armories, five air bases and Soldiers and Airmen in every corner of New York — we have an obligation to talk to our communities, our neighbors as well.

Each non-commissioned officer and officer is a spokesperson for the New York National Guard. You are THE military expert to your friends and family. Our communities are interested in who we are and what we do, and since we depend on those communities for support, we need to tell our story.

As The Adjutant General, I spend a great deal of time talking to our elected officials at state and local levels. I've also encouraged reaching out to the public through the press and through new mediums like Facebook part of our daily engagements.

On April 23 our Army and Air National Guard leadership gathered in Saratoga Springs

for a day of professional learning and development. That day was all about communicating at all levels and to all audiences. We heard from members of the media, those in our own force looking for ways to employ social media such as Facebook and Twitter to tell our National Guard story, and public affairs officials who deal with strategic communications at the local level.

Our theme for that day -- Communicating at all levels, a leader's imperative -- addressing a leader's obligation to convey information.

At each Air Wing and in each Army Guard major command we have public affairs Soldiers and Airmen, officers and NCOs, trained and eager to help commanders and other leaders tell the story of our force to our service members and the members of the communities we live and train in.

Tell these professionals about the accomplishments of your Soldiers and Airmen so they can tell the public. In our smaller communities across the state, this is news people find interesting.

Invite members of the media to watch your unit train. Talk to them about your mission and let them meet your Soldiers and Airmen; they



**Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy**

tell our story better than anybody else.

Get out there and speak to the Rotary Club, Scout Troops, and Chamber of Commerce about your unit and the National Guard. This builds community understanding and community support.

As military professionals we have to know how to move and how to shoot. As leaders at all levels, it is imperative that we communicate.



Chief Warrant Officer Mark Bowden speaks with local news media March 12 at the Latham Army Aviation Support Facility after arriving home after a tour in Afghanistan. Bowden deployed with the Operational Support Airlift Detachment 20. Engaging news media and the community is an imperative for leaders in the Guard, Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, The Adjutant General, said. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

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*Soldiers with the Army National Guard's Detachment 1, 827th Engineer Company, based in Walton, "clear weapons," following route clearance live-fire training at Fort McCoy, Wis. April 1. The company is deploying to Afghanistan later this spring. Photo by Master Sgt. Jerome M. DeBarge, 181st Infantry Brigade.*

**ON THE COVER:** Battery A, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment's Gun Three team fires a high-explosive round from their M119A2 howitzer during the unit's gun crew qualification March 12 at Camp Blanding, Fla. Photo by Spc. Ian Boudreau, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs.

**BACK COVER:** Approximately 350 New York Army National Guard Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, headquartered in Buffalo, board a C-130 operated by the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing on Thursday, Feb. 18. The Army Guard members were heading for a long-weekend drill at Fort Pickett, Va. Upon the completion of their training, the 107th transported the Soldiers back to Niagara. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing.

## National Guard, NORTHCOM Discuss Hurricane Plans

### Workshop prepares forces for the 2010 Hurricane Season

By Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North

TAMPA, Fla. -- The National Guard Bureau and U.S. Northern Command conducted their annual hurricane workshop Jan. 19-22 in downtown Tampa. The senior military leaders for defense support of civil authorities gathered with federal and state officials to discuss hurricane response plans. The gathering also provided them an avenue to make recommendations for any necessary improvements.

"This forum is a place for us to exchange ideas, plans and procedures well in advance of an emergency," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, the commanding general for U.S. Army North.

During the conference, attendees discussed and further developed plans for aero-medical evacuation, communications, transportation and funding of forces so they would all be working on the same page in the event of a disaster.

"What we have realized is that one component cannot do it by itself," said Col. Lavern Young, defense coordinating officer from Army North. "As a result of this conference, you are now seeing a blending of National Guard, Reserve and active components responding as a team and operating as a team."

The workshop has been held annually since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the gulf coast in 2005. The devastation wrought by the storm demonstrated how, at that time, the nation was ill-prepared in its response to such a natural

disaster.

"There will always be chaos, and there will always be confusion, but we want to reduce that as much as possible ahead of time so that it is more manageable - and the conference goes a long way in reducing that," Swan said.

Perhaps one of the most prominent reasons for conducting an annual workshop such as this is it provides commanders, federal officials and state officials a chance to meet each other.

"One of the things we want to avoid is meeting each other for the first time during an emergency event," said Swan. "This helps us build relationships and provides us an opportunity to look at where we can mutually support one another."

Meteorologists from AccuWeather.com predict the 2010 hurricane season will be more active than last year, with higher-than-normal threats to the U.S. coastline.

"This year has the chance to be an extreme season," said chief forecaster Joe Bastardi.

Ultimately, the goal of the workshop is for the participants to garner their lessons learned and put this knowledge to work in the form of operational plans for the military, states, and federal organizations.

"We want to keep building on (disaster response plans) so that we don't find ourselves in a position where the only solution is just to put as many people as you possibly can to resolve a problem," Renuart said. **gt**



Air Force General Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, (left), said that more agencies are communicating and collaborating better to prepare for domestic hurricane response. McKinley attended the States and Territories Hurricane Response Workshop in Tampa, Fla., Jan. 22. Also pictured are Air Force General Victor E. Renuart, Jr., commander, Northern Command; Juliette Kayyem, assistant secretary, the Department of Homeland Security, and Rear Adm. Mary Landry, commander, 8th Coast Guard District. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau.

## Additional Phases for Iraq Campaign Medal

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Defense announced March 11 that additional campaign stars are now authorized for wear on the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM).

The campaign stars recognize a service member's participation in DoD designated campaigns in Iraq.

Service members who have qualified for the ICM may display a bronze campaign star on their medal for each designated campaign phase in which they participated. The stars will be worn on the suspension and campaign ribbon of the campaign medal.

The additional campaign phases and associated dates established for the ICM are:

- Iraqi Surge - Jan. 10, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.
  - Iraqi Sovereignty - Jan. 1, 2009 through a date to be determined.
- Four other phases, previously identified, include:
- Liberation of Iraq - March 19, 2003 to May 1, 2003.
  - Transition of Iraq - May 2, 2003 to June 28, 2004.
  - Iraqi Governance - June 29, 2004 to Dec. 15, 2005.
  - The "National Resolution" phase, which began Dec. 16, 2005, has been determined to end Jan. 9, 2007.

Service members should contact their respective military departments for specific implementation guidance.



# National Guard to Remain an 'Operational Force'

## Defense Review foresees no going back for Guard missions, employment

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. -- A National Guard that has been vital to national defense for the past eight years will remain an operational force, according to the Department of Defense's 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

"Preventing and deterring conflict will likely necessitate the continued use of some elements of the Reserve Component ... in an operational capacity well into the future," the QDR states.

The QDR is a legislatively mandated review of DoD strategy and priorities every four years. It is the fourth QDR since the 1997 act that made it mandatory and the second conducted in wartime. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates delivered the 2010 report to Congress Feb. 1.

"Over the past eight years, the National Guard and Reserves have consistently demonstrated their readiness and ability to make sustained contributions to ongoing operations," the QDR states.

"We don't want to put our National Guard back on the shelf like we've done after every major war our nation's been in," said Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau. "We're going to have a demand on our National Guard for the foreseeable future."

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, which established the QDR, also required that it be conducted in consultation with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

"We could not have accomplished what we have these past eight years were it not for our Reserve and National Guard forces," Navy Adm. Michael Mullen wrote in his formal assessment of the QDR.

The QDR commits to a comprehensive assessment of reserve component policies.

"In that review, it is important that we consider the proper balance of maintaining the operational capabilities and strategic depth of the Reserve component as an integrated force to meet requirements across the full spectrum of conflict," Mullen wrote. "Access to the Reserve Component remains a critical lever for meeting global operational demands without substantially increasing the size of the active force."

The QDR also contemplates a reorganization of the nation's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives response



Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, brief the press on the Quadrennial Defense Review and the 2011 budget request at the Pentagon, Feb. 1, 2010. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley.

packages, or CBRNE.

It outlines a plan to draw on existing National Guard forces to build a homeland response force in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions. HRFs would provide a regional response capability, focus on planning, training and exercises and forge links between federal state and local authorities.

"The challenges facing the United States today and in the future will require us to employ National Guard and Reserve forces as an operational reserve to fulfill requirements for which they are well-suited in the United States and overseas," the QDR states. "The National Guard often serves at the forefront of [DoD] operations."

Until the attacks of 9/11, the National Guard was viewed as a strategic reserve. Following the attacks, the Guard underwent a no-notice

transformation to an operational force.

The QDR portrays a future where the Guard will be a little of both. "The department will seek ways to rebalance its reliance on the Reserve component to ensure the long-term viability of a force that has both strategic and operational capabilities," the QDR states.

"Using the National Guard ... will lower overall personnel and operating costs, better ensure the right mix and availability of equipment, provide more efficient and effective use of defense assets and contribute to the sustainability of both the Active and Reserve components," the QDR states.

The QDR's defense objectives for the United States are to prevail in today's wars, prevent or deter conflict, prepare to defeat adversaries and succeed in a wide range of contingencies and preserve and enhance the all-volunteer force. **gt**

**"We don't want to put our National Guard back on the shelf like we've done after every major war our nation's been in. We're going to have a demand on our National Guard for the foreseeable future."**

-- General Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau

## Inspector General Corner

# Enforcing the Standards Can Save Your Life

By Col. Eric J. Hesse, Command Inspector General

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Latham- In this edition of the IG Corner I would like to address Motorcycle Safety. Since it is spring and the sound of motorcycles is in the air, I was reviewing some YouTube videos of motorcycle accidents and thought what a great topic for this month's Guard Times Inspectors General Corner. I find it hard to believe there are people that stupid riding but, as my mentor has said "stupid is what stupid does."

The riding season has barely begun and already I've read of at least four civilian motorcycle accidents in the New York area, one fatal. Motorcycle riders always need to be reminded that the roads are only as safe as you are aware, and you, the rider, need to be ready for what comes at you. There isn't much reaction time in a car and even less if you are on a motorcycle.

For military members, regardless of status, you also have additional requirements, such as attending a motorcycle safety course and wearing the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with Army Regulation 385-10. The motorcycle safety courses sponsored through the military are great opportunities for both the new rider and the experienced rider. I found, having recently retaken the course myself, that I developed many bad habits. It's only human nature.

For riders, not only is the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course free, it is mandatory. If you've recently taken a MSF course, ensure you let your insurance carrier know as it is also good for typically a ten percent discount on your insurance. If stopped going onto any military installation, you may be asked for your license and MSF card.

There are courses available at no cost throughout the area. You can visit the IG website on AKO for the dates. Please keep in mind these rules also apply to those who ride ATVs and off road motorcycles.

As for PPE, probably the most significant violation among our members is the helmet. If you happen to ride in Pennsylvania, a no helmet state and you are in the military, you are still required to wear a helmet. Don't be the person whose family won't collect your benefits because your lack of a helmet led to a "not in the line of duty" investigation finding. And novelty helmets with a DOT sticker won't work.

The remaining mandatory equipment includes eye protection, full fingered gloves, long sleeves, long pants, boots over the ankles, and reflective gear (PT belt or vest are acceptable).

Commanders need to know who your motorcycle riders are and who in that group are the risk takers. Make sure you are talking to

them and providing reminders that motorcycles are serious business. If they haven't had the required training then just like a military license, they shouldn't be driving. Ensure they know when the courses are and get them trained.

Let's all have a good accident-free riding season and for all, please keep your eyes open for those on two wheels. We don't want anyone to become a statistic.

Visit the Inspector General on the web at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/534621> or [www.dmna.state.ny.us/ig/ig.php](http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/ig/ig.php).

We hope this corner will peek your curiosity, facilitate knowledge of the IG and serve as a resource for Soldiers and families in regards to trends, issues and problem resolution.

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## Time to Take a Look at Your T-CLOCS

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Latham With the motorcycle season just around the corner, it is important to make sure your motorcycle is ready for its first road trip. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) has developed a detailed motorcycle safety inspection checklist called T-CLOCS that will help you prepare your bike for a safe ride. T-CLOCS is an easy term to remember because each letter stands for a specific area of the bike that you will check.

As with all preventive maintenance checks, consult your motorcycle operator's manual for recommended services specific to your bike.

For a downloadable copy of the T-CLOCS safety inspection checklist go to: <http://dmna.state.ny.us/arg/safety/safety.php?id=cycle>

Interested in a basic or experienced rider course?

Contact 2nd Lt. Alicia Howard, Safety Specialist at 518-786-6097 or e-mail [Alicia.howard@us.army.mil](mailto:Alicia.howard@us.army.mil)

**T**ires  
**C**ontrols  
**L**ights  
**O**il  
**C**hassis  
**S**tand



New York Army National Guardsman Spc. Austen Levesque, Company D, 3-142 Assault Helicopter Battalion performs preventive maintenance on his motorcycle before hitting the open road in the Spring weather. Motorcycle riders of all ability levels should consider taking a motorcycle safety course. Courtesy photo.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dean Wentzien leads a prayer for Airmen of the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing at the Atlantic City International Airport March 15. Thirty-five Airmen from the unit are deploying to Southwest Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen.

## Chaplain's Corner

# Strength Through Faith

*Commentary by Chaplain (Col.) Eric Olsen, Joint Force Headquarters*

Imagine a young Soldier who goes off to battle. In this case the young man, though frightened, does all he can do to complete the mission and vanquish his foe.

This is the story of many of our Soldiers today, but it is also an old one. In the Torah (the Old Testament of the Bible), we hear of David, a young man who went up against Goliath (the colossal foe), the enemy of his people. He was frightened, yet confident in his skills and more importantly, his cause. The confidence he had in knowing that his cause was just made all the difference. There was and is a divine understanding when the cause is "Just."

In our modern culture we get bombarded with thousands of messages and opinions each day.

It can be difficult to figure out which way to turn and what to believe. It can be confusing. The United States of America was built on solid principles designed to do what is right and "Just" precisely because it is the right thing to do. The hard learned virtues and lessons brought our nation to a new enlightenment. We must remember that in our uniform, we represent a formidable force designed to fight evil, establish justice and offer the hand of mercy when called upon. This is righteousness in action. Good and evil exist and are diametrically opposed.

As Soldiers and Airmen, we have great power to do "good," either in killing of the enemy when necessary, or stopping evil when it appears. We must keep in mind

however that when we forget our principles, cut ethical corners or become self-serving we not only diminish our effectiveness but cease to be good. All it takes for evil to flourish is for good people to do nothing.

It is said that "Soldiering is not for the faint of heart." This statement speaks to the difficulties that a Soldier will encounter on the battlefield. What sustains Soldiers in the midst of the evil of battle is that they must navigate without losing themselves. This is what is frequently called "Instestinal Fortitude." This force of the gut and heart, what we believe and know to be true, is the source of courage; it is the backbone of honor.

A conflicted or compromised Soldier or Airman will always have

difficulty serving. As we are well aware, combat tests the metal of all who enter it. The demands of deployments placed upon our force do not allow us to be anything less than fully present, attentive and strong. Each of these things is a point of character.

General Marshall once said "The Soldier's heart, the Soldier's spirit, the Soldier's soul are everything." He was pointing to the fact that as knowledge strengthens the mind, principle and virtue strengthen the soul. Only with disciplined hearts and exercised souls of virtue can we maintain our force, our nation and ourselves. "Unless the Soldier's soul sustains him, he cannot be relied upon and will fail himself, and his commander, and his country in the end."

# Military Personnel News: the MILPO Corner

## Army Board for Corrections of Military Records.

If you have exhausted your application to the Army Awards Board for a military award and you still feel that you are entitled to a military award, you may apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) for consideration.

You may submit an online application or you may submit a DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Records. Both of these application resources can be found at the ABCMR website at <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/abcmr.htm>.

Please include with your application copies of any correspondence with the Army Awards Board and any related military documents or records in your possession to support your request.

## Veteran or Retiree Inquiries Concerning Military Awards.

Army Retirees and Veterans who have terminated their service after October 1, 2002 must submit requests to the Human Resources Command - St. Louis, Missouri. The command website at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Reserve/soldierservices/veteran/default.asp> will verify the awards to which a retiree or veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals.

Requests submitted to St. Louis may be submitted via a letter or the SF 180. Requests must include a copy of the veteran's/retiree's separation or discharge paperwork and any other supporting documentation to substantiate request.

Send your requests to the Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-CC-BB, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

## Replacement Army Medals.

If you are an Army Veteran or next-of kin (widow, eldest child, parent, eldest sibling, eldest grandchild) of an Army veteran, you may request a set of authorized medals and decorations by sending a written request along with a copy of the service member's DD Form 214 or other discharge papers (if available) to :

National Personnel Records Center, 9700

Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO. 63132-5100

Or you can visit the National Personnel Records Center website at [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov).

If you have never received a set of your medals before, your request will be processed free-of-charge. If this is a replacement set, there will be a nominal fee. If you are the primary next-of-kin, only one request for medals will be honored. After the National Personnel Records Center processes your request, they will send you a list of the medals you are authorized.

You can check the status of your request, as well as view some general information about medals and decorations, at [www.veteranmedals.army.mil](http://www.veteranmedals.army.mil). Additional information can be found below.

## No Cost Life Insurance.

The Military Association of New York (MANY), in coordination with the Enlisted Association of the New York National Guard instituted a no cost group life insurance benefit of the Militia Insurance Trust to cover every military member of the New York National Guard for \$1,000 in May of 2008 in case of death.

The New York Army National Guard and the Directorate of Military Personnel (MNP) have no authority or oversight on this benefit and are not responsible for the processing of claims associated with the benefit.

All claims must be forwarded by the primary next of kin of the deceased New York National Guard member to the Militia Administrative Services, Inc., Militia Insurance Trust, 48 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 via fax 508-347-5358. Exact claims process must be obtained thru the institution offering the benefit and can be obtained by calling 1-800-633-8333.

## Military Personnel Records Review.

As a Soldier, from the time of your entry into military service, you generate a collection of documents which represent and authenticate your service. This collection of documents is your military personnel record which is located on iPERMS.

The on-going process of adding emergency data cards, life insurance forms, promotion orders, MOS award orders, military awards, course completion certificates and other

documents, continues throughout your career, documenting your career as a Soldier.

It is critical that you as a Soldier review your electronic iPERMS record, a minimum of annually, to verify that all critical documents pertaining to personnel actions effecting your career, have been placed on file.

If you as a Soldier are to be considered for promotion or a new career assignment, the only way to determine qualification is to review your Soldier personnel record. The identification, and later addition of a missing educational, MOS order, military award, or DD Form 214, could mean the difference in you securing selection for a desired position or promotion to the next higher grade.

You must personally take ownership for your military personnel record, and become an active part of the personnel reporting system to give yourself the best opportunity for career advancement and promotion. The following information concerning the method of access to your record can be found below.

To access your record, visit the AKO records site at <https://omph.hoffman.army.mil>.

Click on the ARNG LOGO. LOGIN to iPERMS using CAC or username/password.

Each Soldier's record contains eight sections. Some types of documents located in these sections include:

Performance: Evaluations, School Course Completions, Academic Reports

Service: Oaths of Office, DD Fm 214, DA Form 220, Appointment Orders, Assignment Orders, Federal Recognition Orders

Restricted: Selected disciplinary actions, Letters of Reprimand

MPRJ: Enlistment contract, appointment package, extension of enlistment, DA Form 2-1, DD Form 214, DA Form 220, NGB Form 22, 20 year letter.

Medical: Officer/Warrant Officer initial appointment physical

Records Update: If you identify any document that is missing, contact your full time support representative at your unit. Provide your representative with a copy of the missing document(s). They will forward the document, either electronically or in hard copy, to MNP-PAR, for data base update and addition to your iPERMS military personnel record.



## Survivor Outreach Services.

The Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Coordinator was implemented to provide long-term services to the surviving families of the National Guard. Three coordinators have been added within New York State. Mr. Robert Boram, who is located at Fort Drum, and Ms. Carson Schefstad, who is located at Ft Hamilton, New York City. The Army Reserve also has an SOS representative, Ms. Jennifer Caffrey, located in the Rochester area. These additional resources have increased coverage in the state substantially, better serving our surviving military families.

New York National Guard personnel received casualty notification and assistance officer training in three locations. Forty four Soldiers attended training in Syracuse on February 4-5, with an assist from the New York Air National Guard, who provided their facility, and 30 more Soldiers became qualified in Valhalla, on Feb. 18-19, with the 53rd Troop Command hosting the training. The training in Latham was conducted April 20-21.

New York is heavily populated with Soldiers, active and retired. The most common issue so far has been with survivors of deceased retirees receiving retired pay at the time of death. In these cases, the most important step is to have the survivor contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 so that retired pay will be stopped to prevent a future debt. DFAS will continue to pay a retiree until notified of the death and it will be next of kin that are liable to return any overpayment. Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) participants can then coordinate for payment under that plan. Go to [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) for more information.

We thank all of the newly qualified Casualty Notification Officers and Casualty Assistance Officers for participating in the training and making themselves available for this duty. Also, a special thanks to those that are currently serving or have served in assisting our military families during their most difficult times.

In case of questions, please contact Mr. Mike Batza, Survivor Outreach Ser-

vices Contractor, 518-270-1541 or cell, 917-554-4706 or email: [Michael.batza@us.army.mil](mailto:Michael.batza@us.army.mil).

## Leader's Medical Input.

Commanders may now sign profiles, complete and monitor MOS Medical Retention Boards (MMRB), Medical Evaluation Board's (MEB) and Physical Evaluation Board's (PEB) for Soldiers through the Medical Operational Data System.

All Army National Guard Commanders and Full Time Personnel are required to register at their respective level. This can be accomplished at <https://medpros.mods.army.mil/eprofile/>.

In addition, all users of the e-Profile module are required to complete and maintain annual HIPAA certificates. Training module and certificates can be accessed through <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/602680>. Point of contacts in Health Services is Sgt. Bruce E. Maikels at 518-272-6452. Point of contacts for clinical information on 999M cases and profiles are Rosyln Adair at 518-270-1533 or Sandy Prosser at 518-270-1548.

## Summer Tuition Assistance.

Soldiers planning to attend Summer 2010 courses can use ARNG Federal Tuition Assistance. Applications must be submitted at <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits> no later than class start date. The application requires CAC login. Contact the Education Office at [Education@ny.ngb.army.mil](mailto:Education@ny.ngb.army.mil).

## Training Data Now Online.

Access to information critical to promotion eligibility is now provided through the MNP Web Portal on the Enlisted Personnel page. Soldiers can view their most current APFT/WEAPONS Qualification data. This will display what the SIDPERS (10G) database has as the most current information. Soldiers should review this data for accuracy. Failure to verify this data could adversely affect selection for promotion. Access the MNP Web Portal at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/553732>.

## Medical Command Corner

# What is your Medical Readiness?

**Did you know that individual Soldiers can access their medical readiness through AKO?**

You can print an IMR – Individual Medical Readiness and Electronic Immunization Record and Hearing Record. Soldiers can also hyper link to their Periodic Health Assessment and Post Deployment Health Assessment.

## Not 100% Medically Ready?

Notify your unit Readiness point of contact.

Bring a copy of your recent women's readiness exam or colon cancer screening exam to your PHA.

If you have a profile or need a profile – Bring the information (limitations and expected length of time) from your physician to your unit as soon as possible.

## Immunizations.

The seasonal and H1N1 Flu shots are both ANNUAL requirements. They are mandatory vaccinations.

Many Soldiers already had the opportunity to receive immunizations through a private doctor's office or through their employer, if you work in law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency services or health care.

If you receive these shots from other than military sources, please get written verification of the shot which will need to include: Date of vaccination; Name of the provider administering the vaccine; Dosage given and if it was given via an Injection or Nasal; Manufacturer and Lot Number of the vaccine.

This information must be provided to your unit Medical Readiness POC or to Medical Command in order to update MEDPROS record. If you receive these immunizations outside of the military and are not able to show proof, you will be re-vaccinated unnecessarily.

## Global Assessment Tool.

As part of its support in all areas of life -- physical, emotional, and spiritual -- all Soldiers shall complete the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) as part of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program.

Everyone who completes the short, self-paced survey will have access to practical information that specifically fits their needs, including local resources and online self-improvement modules.

All New York Army National Guard Soldiers are required to complete this online survey prior to May 31. Visit the site at <https://www.sft.army.mil/>.

## Troops Mark Bataan Death March with Marathon

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, *Guard Times* Staff

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. -- Members of the New York National Guard marked the anniversary of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines under the hot sun of New Mexico, completing the Bataan Memorial Death March at the White Sands Missile Range March 21.

Part of the All-National Guard Marathon Team, Sgt. 1st Class Barry Brill, from Fishkill, N.Y. and assigned to the 106th Regional Training Institute at Camp Smith takes his running seriously.

Brill, who completed eight marathons in 2009 with the All Guard Team, including this race, returned to White Sands in 2010 to better his time on the grueling course.

The National Guard All-Guard Marathon Team is a team of competitive marathon runners funded by National Guard Bureau to

compete at various races throughout the United States.

"The course is extremely tough and challenging and reaches a maximum elevation of 5,399 feet," Brill said, who completed the course last year too. "The majority of the course consists of steady rolling hills and loose sand which makes running extremely difficult."

"There's no real way to replicate the Bataan course except for adding hilly runs to your weekly training regimen," he said.

The Bataan Memorial Death March honors the servicemen who defended the island of Luzon in the Philippines in 1942. On April 9, 1942, some 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers surrendered to Japanese forces. Among those were members of the New Mexico National Guard.

The 60-mile march through the Philippine

jungles to prisoner of war camps caused the deaths of thousands of American and Filipino servicemen. Survivors faced the enduring hardships of the camps until liberation near the end of the war.

The Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University began sponsoring the memorial march in 1989 and in 1992, the White Sands Missile Range and New Mexico National Guard joined in the sponsorship and the event was moved to the missile range.

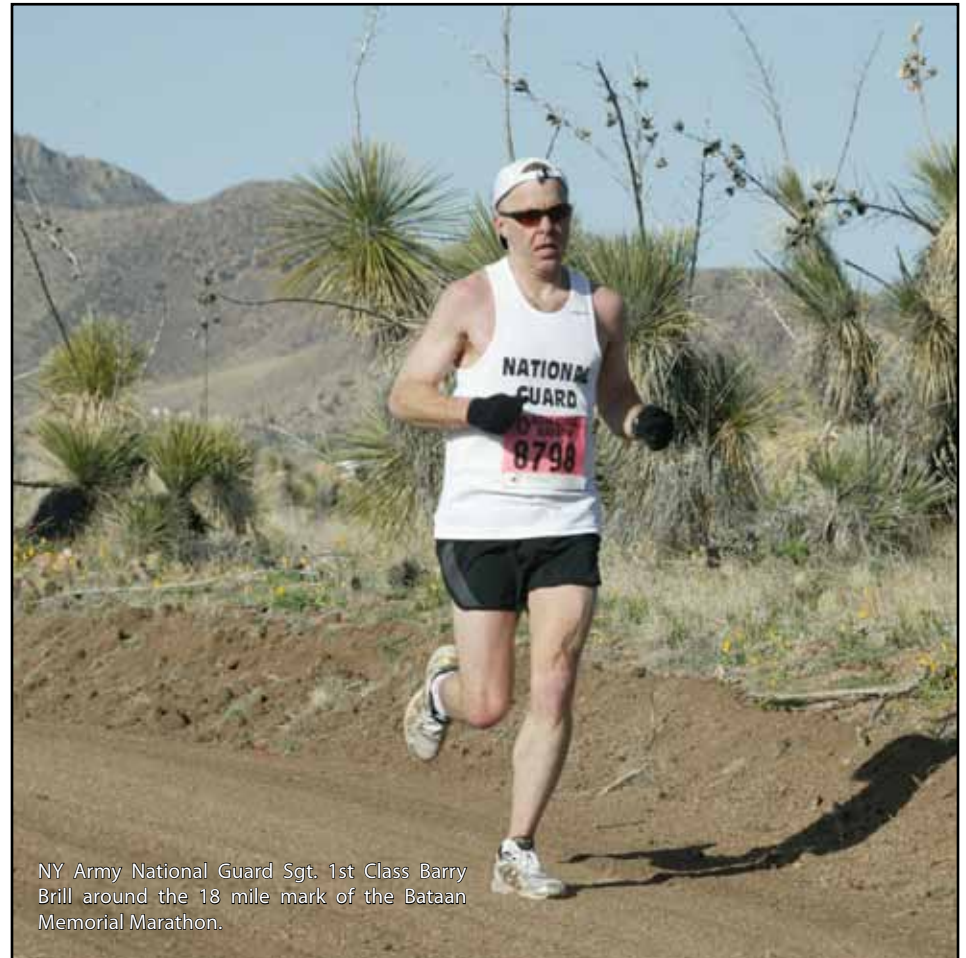
Today, the Bataan Memorial March is a full marathon course covering 26.2 miles in the high desert of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Participants in the Bataan Memorial March marathon could compete in two categories; a light and heavy division separated participants based on their load carried for the course.

"Participants in the light division run the



Members of the 106th Rescue Wing complete the Bataan Death March Memorial Marathon in six hours and 14 minutes, placing first for the National Guard. Courtesy photo.



NY Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Barry Brill around the 18 mile mark of the Bataan Memorial Marathon.

course in either civilian or military attire of their choice,” Brill said, “whereas in the heavy division participants carry 35 pound rucksacks over the same distance. I was the first military member to cross the finish line from either category (light or heavy).”

Brill’s time with the All Guard Team for the marathon was three hours, three minutes and 31 seconds. He placed third out of the 2,614 finishers of the Bataan Memorial March marathon.

Joining Brill were five Airmen from the New York Air National Guard’s 103rd Rescue Squadron, 106th Rescue Wing. The “Guardian Angels” pararescue jumpers finished first for the heavy National Guard team category with an average time of 6 hours and 14 minutes, one minute ahead of their second place finishing team from the Missouri National Guard.

Combat rescue officer 1st Lt. Bryan Walsh marched at the event for the first time with the 103rd Rescue Squadron. Walsh said the memorial march was very rewarding.

“The program memorializes those guys that came before us, and that’s the main reason we wanted to do it,” Walsh said. “But we also used it as a training tool. Our unit’s getting deployed in a couple of months and we trained for the march for four months. You never know when something like this might come in handy. It’s helping us be prepared for anything.” **gt**

“The program memorializes those guys that came before us, and that’s the main reason we wanted to do it,”

--1st Lt. Bryan Walsh, 103rd Rescue Squadron, 106th Rescue Wing



Members of the NY Air National Guard’s 106th Rescue Wing conduct the heavy march. Courtesy photo.

# Troops Take On Targets in TAG Match Shootout

Story by Staff Sgt. Dennis Gravelle, 369th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, Cortland Manor -- Approximately 150 members of the New York State Military Forces, as well as some 20 representatives from other state National Guard units attended the 31st Annual TAG (The Adjutant General) Combat Matches held here April 16-18.

The TAG Match allows units and individual Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to improve their level of marksmanship, engage in healthy competition, and pick top contenders to represent the state in national competitions.

The TAG Matches allow participants to employ the weapons used for overseas contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I am here learning something that I can take back to my unit and to build camaraderie with other New York military forces and get everyone together as one team, one fight," Master Sgt. Edward J. Stefik, 107th Security Forces from Niagara Falls and first-time participant said. "I am having a good time. It's a good experience and maybe I will win."

Marksmanship training and competition has long been a key component of military training. The winners of this TAG Match claim bragging rights until next year's competition and receive

a trophy to bring home to their unit. Winners also have the opportunity to represent the state at regional and national competitions.

Participants competed in the .22 Caliber Bullseye Pistol event, the 29th Annual The Adjutant General's Combat Rifle, Pistol, and Light Machine Gun Championships and learn how to improve their shooting skills and take those lessons learned back to their units.

"One of the biggest lessons I've learned from deploying units is their lack of proficiency with individual weapons," said Maj. Brian P. O'Keefe, Joint Forces Headquarters, and state marksmanship coordinator. "There is no substitute for actual practice, real trigger time with live ammunition".

"This is a great opportunity to compete against other Soldiers," Pvt. 1st Class Tiffini J. Giraldo, 102nd Maintenance Company from Ft. Drum said. "I love to hunt and fish, and I came here to do as well as I can, but most of all I'm having fun and enjoying the competition." **gt**



102nd Maintenance Company Pfc. Tiffini J. Giraldo prepares to conduct weapons zero at the TAG Match held at Camp Smith, April 16-18. Giraldo is a medic who loves hunting and shooting and decided to try her skills in the TAG Match competition. The first day of the competition allowed Soldiers and Airmen to zero their weapons in preparation for the main event. Photo by Spc. Leigh Campbell, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Members of the 107th Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron from Niagara Falls display their winning trophy for the TAG Match Combined Arms team competition. From left, Staff Sgt. Ryan Mang, Staff Sgt. Warren Jones, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Owczarczak and Master Sgt. Edward Stefik. Stefik also received the top score for combined arms individual shooting. For more results of the twelve competitive categories, visit [www.dmna.state.ny.us/news/news.php?id=1271772602](http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/news/news.php?id=1271772602). Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing.



## Guard Troops Train with Transit Authority

NEW YORK -- New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Joint Task Force Empire Shield conduct Subway Evacuation Training at the MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) Training facility in Brooklyn, March 4. The training facility on Coney Island provides first responders and now National Guard personnel familiarity with emergency procedures and response for assisting the MTA. Soldiers don protective masks as smoke fills the subway car, replicating fire. Photo by 1st Lt. Mark H. Getman, 1-258th Field Artillery.



An image taken by Newsday photographer Charles Eckert features New York Army National Guard 1st Lt. Louis Delli-Pizzi as a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter lands during a patrol with Afghan National Army troops in 2008. Eckert was embedded with Delli-Pizzi's unit. Eckert discussed the story behind this photograph and others during his presentation at the annual Adjutant General's Professional Day in Saratoga Springs April 24. Photo copyright Charles Eckert and courtesy Charles Eckert.

## TAG to Leaders: Communicate with Communities

By Eric Durr, Joint Forces Headquarters

SARATOGA SPRINGS -- Communicating —through the press, to the press, and with new media— was the subject as more than 300 Military Forces officers gathered here April 23-24 for the annual Adjutant's General Professional Development Day.

The annual event provides leaders from the New York Army and Air National Guard, the Naval Militia and the New York Guard, with an opportunity to hear from experts in particular fields.

For 2010, Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, The Adjutant General, chose "Communicating at all levels: A leader's imperative" as the conference theme.

His goal, Murphy explained, was to get key leaders thinking about the need to engage with the media to convey a positive message about the National Guard to the public. He also wanted to get leaders thinking about using new media, like Facebook and Twitter, to reach today's young, computer and tech-savvy Soldiers and Airmen.

Andrea Seeger, the New York Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Social Media Specialist outlined how the command is using Facebook and Twitter as retention tools. The command has two Soldiers working full time answering questions raised by Soldiers, family members and citizens on the page, and providing the two-way communication that web-savvy users demand.

New York's Army National Guard Facebook page now has 6,000 friends; the largest number of all National Guard Facebook pages. Seeger said.

Col. Kevin Bradley, the commander of the Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing discussed the community relations and media plan the wing followed as it rolled out the MQ-9 Reaper unmanned attack aircraft

to replace the F-16s its pilots had formerly flown. Public and media events, as well as internal communications events, were worked into the transition at each step, Bradley emphasized.

1st Lt. Louis Delli-Pizzi, a leader in the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, related his experiences hosting Newsday photographer Charles Eckert in Afghanistan in 2008 as an Embedded Training Team Leader. Delli-Pizzi talked about how he went from not wanting the press around at all the trusting Eckert and even finding that Eckert and his camera could be assets to the unit mission.

Later on, the audience heard Eckert's side of the story, as the award-winning photographer talked about his experiences covering the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at home and in Afghanistan and the lessons he learned in two trips to the combat zone. Eckert's talk was illustrated with riveting photos he took in combat and at home.

Daily News reporter Stephanie Gaskill also related her experiences as an embedded reporter in Iraq and Afghanistan and what stories she tried to get when working alongside American troops.

Jack Harrison, Director of Public Affairs for National Guard Bureau, and Northern Command and North American Air Defense Command Public Affairs Director James Graybeal talked about the public affairs mission at their level and how they assist units getting their message out.

The day's program finished up with a presentation by William Pelgrin, the head of the New York Office of Cyber Security. While the Internet is a great communications tool, users need to exercise caution to keep their systems from being compromised, he said. **gt**

## Making a Blast in Florida

### Washington Grays Have a Go at Gunnery

Story and photos by Spc. Ian Boudrea, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

CAMP BLANDING, Fla— Rain pelting down on them didn't dampen the spirits of the New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 258th Field Artillery, as they qualified on the M119A2 howitzer here during Annual Training.

The Soldiers, based in the New York City neighborhood of Jamaica, Queens, and New Windsor, NY, traveled to Camp Blanding on March 5 to conduct two weeks of annual training exercises.

The key element was qualifying all their artillery gun crews on the M119A2, a newer weapon that replaces the battalion's old M102 howitzers. The battalion is slated for fielding the new howitzer later this year.

While the battalion also includes medics, mechanics, communications specialists, and a host of other military occupational specialties, gun crew qualification constitutes the primary mission for the unit's annual training.

"It's the main purpose of being out here in the field," said Sgt. Joe Dedrick, a Poughkeepsie native who serves as an A Battery gunner. "Everything we do all year is building up to us being able to fire rounds."

Dedrick said the weather conditions in Florida -- chilly mornings leading into hot, sunny afternoons -- made for an ideal training environment for the 258th's Soldiers.

"The temperature change is a lot closer to overseas than at Fort Drum (N.Y.) or Fort Dix (N.J.)," he said.

Many of the battalion's Soldiers were firing the M119A2 for the first time, and a team of artillery trainers from Fort Sill, Okla., were on site to guide the troops through each phase of gunnery preparation. Dedrick said they demanded precision from each gun team member.

"Each guy has a precise job to do," he said. "And they (the trainers) are asking us for the exact commands. You have to be precise." Each crew fired six rounds, one for each fire mission they were assigned.

A direct hit on a target -- usually an enemy vehicle -- is noted by the forward observer team and relayed over the radio as "steel on steel."

"When you hear that 'steel on steel' come over the radio, and you know

that you've done your job, there's just no better feeling in the world," said Dedrick.

"Overall, I'm pleased and impressed with the level of skill that the Soldiers acquired and maintained," said Capt. Joseph Linhart, Battery A commander. "We hope that this will give us a good baseline for us to develop our training plans for the future."

While the battalion's Batteries A and B qualified on the new guns, the battalion's medics conducted a mass casualty exercise while battalion staff officers trained on the military decision making process.

The cooks, mechanics and other members of G Company, 427th Forward Support Battalion who support the 1st 258th, also played their role in keeping things working during the two week annual training.

"We consider Golf Company to be our fourth battery, rather than just a support company," said 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment executive officer Maj. Peter Mehling.

"They are as essential to our operation as any firing battery; they're definitely a part of our regiment. Without robust sustainment, guns don't fire." **gt**



“Everything we do all year is building up to us being able to fire rounds.”

-- Sgt. Joe Dedrick, Battery A gunner



Captain Thomas Woods, fire direction officer for the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, plots a point on a map prior to briefing with the battalion commander, Mar. 9 at Camp Blanding, Fla.



Soldiers from Company G, 427th Forward Support Battalion work in a containerized kitchen during the pre-dawn hours of March 15 to prepare breakfast for more than 350 Soldiers of the 1-258th Field Artillery at Camp Blanding, Florida.



Staff Sgt. Onix Lugo, Target Acquisition Platoon Sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, holds an IV bag for a simulated casualty during his unit's mass casualty exercise, March 13.

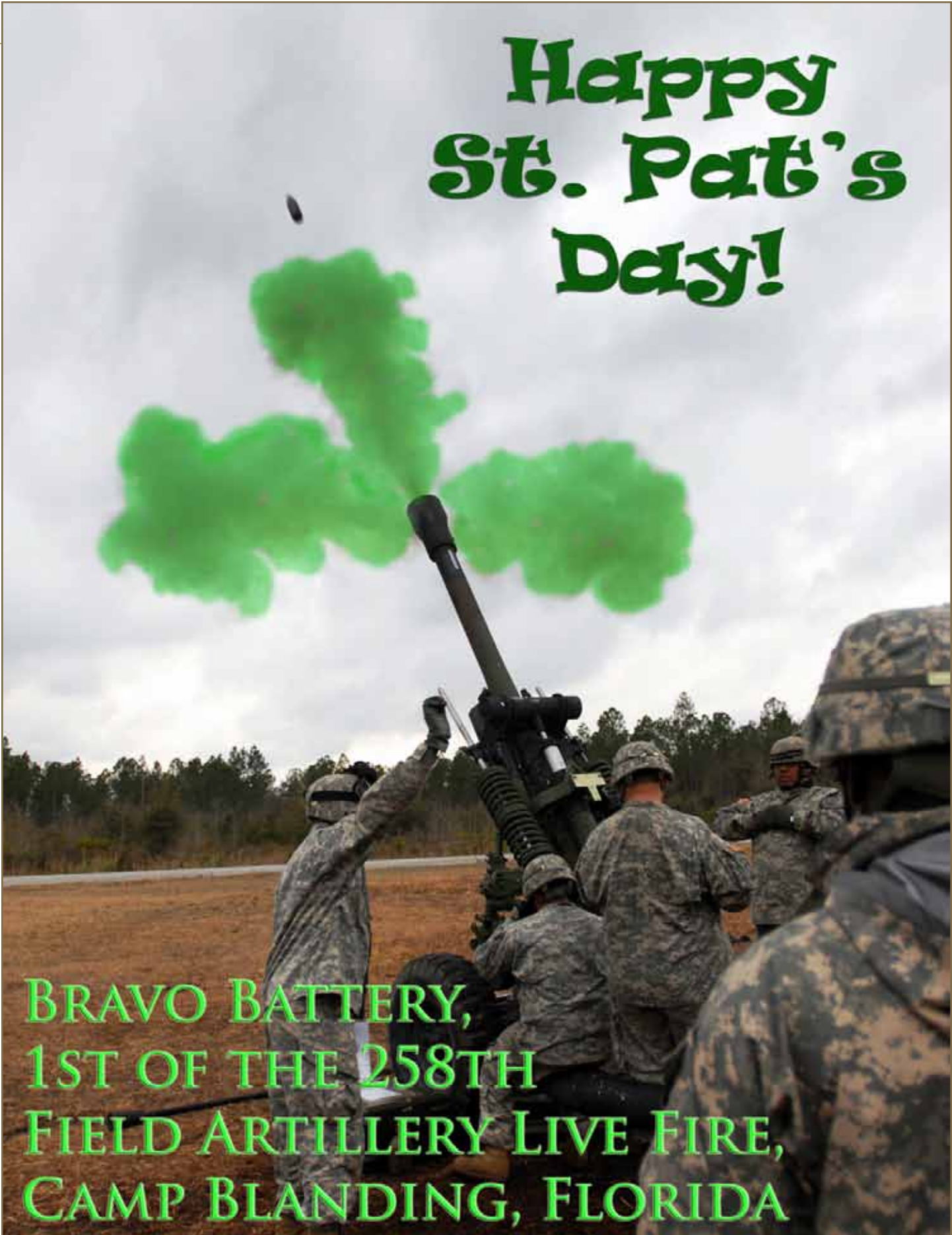


Specialist Latrell Sellers, of Beacon (left), demonstrates a step in replacing the breech of an M119A2 howitzer as (from left) Pfc. Matthew Olivari of Newport, Sgt. James Reynoso of Brooklyn and Pvt. Ali Hedhili of Amenia watch on March 8. The Soldiers are all from Battery A, 1-258th Field Artillery.



(Photo, opposite page) Soldiers of Battery B's Gun Section One turn the barrel of their M119A2 howitzer from the travelling position to the firing position during their battery's gun crew qualifications March 17. (Photo above) Specialist Gregory Gati (left), a gunner with Battery B begins to dial in coordinates on his crew's M119A2 howitzer, Mar. 10 as (from left to right) assistant gunner Spc. Marvin Middleton, section chief Sgt. William Torres, and number two man Spc. Morris Richardson look on. The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery conducted annual training at Camp Blanding, Fla.

# Happy St. Pat's Day!



BRAVO BATTERY,  
1ST OF THE 258TH  
FIELD ARTILLERY LIVE FIRE,  
CAMP BLANDING, FLORIDA



# Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Welcomes Irish Army Battalion for St. Patrick's Celebration

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, HQ, 42nd Infantry Division

**NEW YORK –Irish Defense Force Soldiers from the 58th Reserve Infantry Battalion joined the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion 69th Infantry in the annual march up Fifth Avenue in the world's largest St. Patrick's Day Parade.**

"We have never marched a U.S. and Irish unit together here for the Saint Patrick's Day parade," Lt. Col. John Andonie, the battalion commander said at the unit armory. "This is the first time ever."

The Irish Reservists marched separately from the 69th, which traditionally leads the New York City marchers, estimated to reach almost a quarter of a million this year, but they did join the Guardsman for the traditional post-parade festivities at their Manhattan Armory.

More than 800 Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 69th Infantry Regiment and support elements welcomed reserve members of the Irish 58th Reserve Infantry Battalion for mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral and the parade up Fifth Avenue.

Thirty-eight soldiers from the 58th Reserve Infantry in County Sligo in Ireland joined their U.S. counterparts in the day-long celebration of Irish American culture.

"This is truly a great honor and privilege for the 58th Reserve Infantry Battalion," Commandant Gerry Jordan, unit spokesman, told the Irish Examiner newspaper before the trip

to New York. "This has been reflected in the number of members taking part, totally at their own expense."

Commandant Fintan Dunne, the Commander of the 58th Battalion, added that this is the first official military unit of the Irish Defence Forces to march in America since the funeral of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

The two military organizations share a common bond in Col. Michael Corcoran, a native of Ballymote, Ireland and commander of the Irish regiment for the Battle of Bull Run in the American Civil War.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg unveiled a monument in Ballymote in 2006 on behalf of the 69th Infantry Regiment and its Irish ties.

The 69th Infantry here in New York City has served as the St. Patrick's Day parade Honor Guard since 1851. Anti-immigrant emotions in that era often lead to violence, and the troops of Irish heraldry have led the city parade in every year since.

The regiment received its nickname as the "Fighting 69th" from Confederate General Robert E. Lee during the Battle of Malvern Hill in 1862 in Virginia.

Returning to New York again this year was Gen. Martin Dempsey, Commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and made an honorary member of the regiment.

While Andonie introduced him, Dempsey stepped up to the microphone to interrupt.

"You don't have to introduce me," Dempsey declared, "I'm family."

Dempsey spoke about the importance of military organizations to sustain connections to their past and their community. The 69th Infantry, Dempsey said, is the gold standard for celebrating those relationships.

"You are the unit that I compare others too for a sense of history, a connection to veterans and community," Dempsey said. "Continue to grow that reputation of this regiment."

Dempsey again impressed the gathering of nearly 1,000 Soldiers, veterans, family members and supporters from the New York community with song by leading the troops in the Civil War era song "The Fighting 69th".

*"And when the war is said and done, may heaven spare our lives*

*For its only then we can return, to our loved ones and our wives*

*We'll take them in our arms, me boys, for a long night and a day*

*And we'll hope that war will come no more, to sweet America.*

*So we gave them a hearty cheer, me boys, it was greeted with a smile*

*Singing here's to the boys who feared no noise, We're the Fighting Sixty Ninth." gt*

Editors note: To see Gen. Dempsey sing, go to <http://www.youtube.com/nynationalguard>



Led by Lt. Col. John Andonie, battalion commander, the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry head up Fifth Avenue during the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City on Wednesday March 17. The 69th Infantry has led the NYC parade for the past 159 years in honor of its Irish origins and heritage. Photo by Sgt. Errol Cadet, Joint Forces Headquarters.

# New Cammo Pattern for Afghan Deployments

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- Starting this summer, Soldiers sent to fight in Afghanistan will wear an Army Combat Uniform with the "MultiCam" pattern complete with new Mountain Combat Boots and MultiCam-patterned Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment, or MOLLE. The new uniform will replace the standard-issue universal camouflage pattern for troops deploying to Afghanistan.

At mobilization sites throughout the U.S., the uniform will be issued to deploying troops as part of the Rapid Fielding Initiative process, and Soldiers already in Afghanistan are scheduled to receive the MultiCam this fall.

"Anything we can do to give our Soldiers an edge, we want to do," said Col. William E. Cole, project manager for Soldier protection and individual equipment at the Program Executive Office, or PEO Soldier at Fort Belvoir.

The decision to field and develop an alternative camouflage for uniforms in Afghanistan came out of the realization that the Army's current Universal Camouflage Pattern, or UCP, did not meet all of the concealment needs for Afghanistan's multiple regions.

"Afghanistan is a unique camouflage challenge because it's such a terrain-diverse country," Cole explained. He also confirmed that the uniforms and gear in MultiCam will for now only be used in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, Soldiers on a single patrol can potentially go from desert conditions, to wooded areas, villages, and rocky mountain environments. When coming up with a new camouflage color palette, PEO Soldier wanted to be sure the uniforms gave Soldiers a combat edge in each possible terrain situation.

Similar to the Battle Dress Uniform woodland print, the new MultiCam is a combination of seven different shades which "takes in surrounding colors." A jumble of greens, browns and beige, the MultiCam camouflage presents a solution to Afghanistan's multiple-region problem.

"Troops like the fact that it helps them blend in to different terrain types," Cole said of the new pattern.

The MultiCam, while cut in the same style as the ACU, will have several upgrades including a reinforced seat, buttons on the trouser cargo pockets, be constructed of flame-resistant fabric (like the newer ACUs), and treated with permethrin. New Mountain Combat Boots will also be issued to deploying Soldiers, which feature a tougher, more durable sole for gripping the mountainous Afghan terrain.

So far, three of the four phases of exploring camouflage alternatives have been completed, while the process of making a long-term decision about the ACU, and how big a role the MultiCam camouflage will play is still up for debate.



Spc. Jesus B. Fernandez crosses a stream during a unit visit to Angla Kala village in Afghanistan's Kunar province, Feb. 6, 2010. Beginning this summer, all Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan will receive the new Universal Camouflage Pattern uniform. Fernandez is an assistant team leader assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment. Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte.

*"Anything we can do to give our Soldiers an edge, we want to do,"*

*--Col. William E. Cole, project manager for Soldier protection and individual equipment*

At right, the new Mountain Combat Boots, issued to troops deploying to Afghanistan as part of the Rapid Fielding Initiative process. They feature a tougher, more durable sole for gripping the mountainous Afghan terrain. Photo by Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown.



# Army Provides Free iPhone app

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- Soldiers and others can now read the latest Army news on their iPhones, thanks to a new application created by the team that developed the Army's Web site, [www.Army.mil](http://www.Army.mil). The new iPhone application was launched in December, 2009 and is available for free from the iTunes application store or by visiting the Army.Mil Mobile site.

"The Army developed the iPhone application to put U.S. Army stories, images and videos in the hand of users," said Patricia Downs, deputy director of the Army's Online and Social Media Division. "It allows Soldiers and their family members to save their favorite content and to share it over Facebook, Twitter and e-mail. The application also offers several entertainment and informational sections."

The application provides the latest Army news headlines from around the globe, and allows readers to choose which news they want to receive, including those from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific, as well as news concerning health issues, Army science and technology, the Army National Guard and Army Reserve and

headlines from the Army News Service.

Also available on the iPhone is the daily "Stand-To!" compendium of news, information and context for Army leaders. In addition, a complete archive of Soldiers magazine, as far back as 2002, is available through the iPhone application.

The iPhone's wide screen and multi-media capabilities don't go to waste just reading text either. The new application provides access to both Army video and still imagery, including content hosted on the Army's Flickr and YouTube pages. And for those who want to relive the greatest moments of Soldiers Radio News, podcasts of the show are also available through the application.

Social media is at the heart of the new Army.mil, which was revealed in early December. The emphasis on social media carries over to the Army's portable application as well. Users of the iPhone app have access to the Army Live Blog, Twitter feed and Facebook page.

The application also serves as a digital pocket almanac and includes information about



Photo by C. Todd Lopez, Army News Service.

Army uniforms, military rank, Army weapons systems and even the words and music for the Army song.

And for those interested enough in the Army, the new application can even help users find a local recruiter.

Since the application's launch, it remains in the top 25 of free news apps, Downs said.

Soldiers and others can now read the latest Army news on their iPhones, thanks to a new application created by the team that developed the Army's Web site, [www.Army.mil](http://www.Army.mil).

## Guard Soldiers Support Cadet Training



*POUGHKEEPSIE – Members of the Marist College Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), known as the Ram Battalion, held a military skills competition for regional Junior ROTC members March 4.*

*Ram Battalion cadre and cadets, including members of the New York Army National Guard, provided oversight and administration of the event.*

*Participating in the event were Maj. John McBride and Staff Sgt. Karl Francisco from the Hudson Valley's Recruiting and Retention Command along with cadets Scott Sitterly from the 101st Signal Battalion, Adam Connolly from the 258th Field Artillery and Stephen Bennis from the 69th Infantry.*

*Cadets competed in a series of military events, consisting of a Leader's Reaction Course, Rucksack Pack, Physical Fitness Test, Land Navigation Course and Medical Evacuation training.*

*Francisco, in photo, administers the Army Physical Fitness Test to cadets during the training. Courtesy photo.*

# Local Treatment Training Keeps Troops Current



QUEENSBURY—During March's drill weekend the 466th Medical Company conducted medical training at the Queensbury Soldier Readiness Center. The scenario-based medical training started with a Humvee accident near the center, with Combat Lifesaver trained Soldiers initially treating casualties and progressing to ambulance evacuation into the center and culminating with the treatment platoon Soldiers caring for the simulated casualties on the drill shed floor. At left: Spc. Robert Garcia, Sgt. Barry Waterston and Sgt. Bruce Williamson hastily transfer the simulated casualty Spc. Nathan Redden to a stretcher to get started on immediate first-aid. Staff Sgt. Stephen Palmer (right) takes note of the action as an evaluator. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, Recruiting and Retention Command.

## Changes Coming to Basic Training

By Steve Reeves, courtesy of the Fort Jackson Leader

FORT JACKSON, S.C. -- Basic Combat Training is getting ready for some major changes to reflect the modern battlefield, said Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training here Feb. 4.

Hertling, who is responsible for managing the training of Soldiers from the day they enter the Army until they report to their first duty assignments, made his remarks during a visit to Fort Jackson, the largest of the Army's five basic training centers. Hertling is assigned to the Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

"We really took a look at the relevancy of what we're doing," Hertling said. "We're teaching Soldiers too much stuff."

One of the changes Hertling wants to implement is the elimination of bayonet drills, a longtime staple of BCT.

Hertling also wants Soldiers to focus less on traditional combatives moves such as grappling and focus instead on fighting with their hands and knives or other objects.

He said Soldiers need to learn how to fight with their hands to make their combat skills



Bayonet training may soon be eliminated from Basic Combat Training, said Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training, during a visit to Fort Jackson in early February. File photo.

more suited to existing battlefield conditions.

"The great majority of our Soldiers come into training having never had a fistfight," Hertling said.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have made it necessary to revamp how many Soldier tasks, such as first aid and marksmanship, are taught, Hertling said.

Hertling said there will be a renewed interest

in Army values and wrapping Soldier training around those values. Also, BCT will focus on producing Soldiers at a consistent quality level with the same standards throughout the Army.

Changes to physical training and fitness are already in progress, he said.

"I'm a believer that we need something relevant to the conditions on the battlefield," Hertling said. **gt**

# Empire State MPs Partner in Safe Iraqi Election

By Sgt. Neil W. McCabe, 1st Infantry Division Headquarters

**CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS BASE  
BASRA, Iraq** – As tens of thousands of Basra residents voted in the March 7, national elections, Soldiers from the 206th Military Police Company joined their Iraqi Security Force partners in monitoring the country's second largest city in its Provincial Joint Communications Center (PJCC).

The PJCC is a compound of many facilities, including a modern crime lab, a criminal intelligence center, a jail, barracks and administrative offices, said 1st Lt. Nicholas Monuteaux, a platoon leader with the 206th MP Company, a New York National Guard unit based in Latham. The MP's are deployed to Contingency Operating Base Basra, where they fall under the 203rd MP Battalion, attached to the 17th Fires Brigade.

Rather than a staging area for executing missions, the PJCC is where representatives from Government of Iraq law enforcement, public safety and military forces work together in a single command room to keep each other informed, hearing the same reports and looking at the same map said Monuteaux, from Rensselaer.

For roughly eight hours on Election Day, Lt. Col. Charles Buxton, the commander of the 203rd – itself a unit of the Alabama National Guard – stayed at the PJCC to be on-hand in case something happened to break the peace.

Buxton helped the Iraqis better follow the movements of military units and teams of election observers that the MP's were also tracking. For the MP's, an advantage of the PJCC is being available to answer questions the Iraqis have about the missions and posture of U.S. forces, Buxton said.

A case in point was when the battalion operations center called the MP's at 5:30 p.m. to make sure the Iraqi Police knew that the local government had lifted the election night curfew. One MP turned to another and said, "Yeah they know--they told us."

In fact, the Iraqi Police had passed the information to the U.S. Soldiers just before noon.

Throughout the day, Lt. Col. Awooda Abdal Hafeel Manaa, the PJCC shift commander that day, conducted video conference calls with the



New York Army National Guard Soldiers of the 206th MP Company, posted at Contingency Base Basra in Basra, examine a map during a training exercise on quick reaction force missions in February. Members of the MP Company supported the recent Iraqi national elections through their training and mentoring of Iraqi police forces. Photo by Capt. Kevin Manion, 206th MP Company.

national operations center in Baghdad with updates on the public safety and security situation.

Several times, Baghdad asked if there were any reports of violence, always receiving a negative response. "Then, you are still the 'White Province,'" Baghdad would respond.

"White Province," referred to the fact that the entire province of Basra was not marred by trouble or violence, Monuteaux said.

"Basra is the model for all the other provinces today," he said.

After the polls closed, Manaa asked Buxton for an honest assessment of the how the day's operation had gone.

"I am glad it went well today and there were no accidents," Buxton said. "I think you had a very good plan."

Keeping the Iraqi police as the inner ring, with primacy in the city, while the Iraqi army provided security around the outer ring, also worked out very well, he said.

"Now we just have to work together to secure



First Lieutenant Owen Calhoun, with the 206th Military Police company, 17th Fires Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, stays busy while waiting on stand-by on duty as the platoon leader of a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) on the Basra Operations Center, March 4. The QRF teams provide security and other assistance to U.S. and Iraqi forces during an emergency. Photo by Staff Sgt. Adelita Mead, 55th Signal Company.

the ballots," the commander said.

For the voters, the day was over, but, for the Iraqi Security Forces and their partners from New York, it was on to the next phase. **gt**

# Virtual Training On Screen and On the Road

ITHACA -- Soldiers of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry train for convoy operations Feb. 21 using the Army's virtual convoy trainer (VCOT). A computer simulator, the VCOT allows gunners, vehicle commanders, drivers and convoy commanders to react to different tactical situations, like Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and small-arms fire, which are displayed on computer monitors (see inset, lower right). The Soldiers are Spc. Bryan Coe (left), Sgt. Christopher Roberts (middle) and Spc. Chris Allen (right). Photo by Staff Sgt. Ray Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters.



## Army Testing New Airdrop System for Afghanistan Resupply

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- The supply requirement in Afghanistan will dramatically increase this year according to the Army's top logistician, and he said the Army is testing a new airdrop system to help meet the demand.

Speaking at an Association of the U.S. Army Land Warfare Institute breakfast series Feb. 19, Lt. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, the Army's senior logistician (Army G-4), told attendees that he hopes the new delivery system will be ready for deployment to Afghani-

stan by the end of summer.

The Army is developing and testing a new airdrop system called the Freedrop Delivery System for Afghanistan. The new system will allow bundles of supplies such as ammunition, small generators and other Class IX repair parts,

Meals Ready to Eat, and bottled water of up to 150 pounds to be free dropped (no parachutes) at about 70 knots airspeed from under 75 feet above ground level at the 19 current Afghanistan outposts which can only receive supplies by air.

"The idea here was to develop a package that you just kick out the side of a helicopter or airplane when you're flying very low... 50 feet above ground," Stevenson said. "You eliminate

the problem of packing, rigging the chute and of course doing any kind of recovery operation."

The Army already uses four airdrop systems in Afghanistan. Getting supplies to Soldiers there is tough because the country has no seaport and relies on two main land routes so "airdrop has become big business" said the Army's chief logistician.

Back in 2008, the service dropped about 600 short tons of supplies into Afghanistan, Stevenson said. Last year that was upped to 15,000 short tons, he said.

"Now with the force increase, I expect that will go higher this year, so we're getting really, really good at airdrop," he said, noting that the logistics challenge covers an area the size of Texas.

"Up until about two years ago, we had about 30,000 or 35,000 forces there, the better part of a division-plus, which you could supply mostly by air," he said. The 30,000 additional troops in Afghanistan amounts to nearly a doubling of forces, he said. **gt**



A Soldier pushes a parachute-less free drop package from a helicopter during tests. Called the Freedrop Delivery System, the bundles of up to 150 pounds can be released at 70 knots airspeed from under 75 feet altitude. The Army's chief logistician said he hopes to have the new delivery system in Afghanistan by the end of summer. Photo courtesy of the Aberdeen Test Center.

*ITHACA - Specialist Michael Moors of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, uses a .50 caliber machine gun equipped with a laser and blank ammunition to engage pop-up targets on and around D Company's armory on Feb. 21. The targets drop when hit by the laser, which is activated by the blank ammunition. The Company D Soldiers also used computer simulators to do convoy and call-for-fire training (opposite page) during their February drill weekend. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ray Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters.*



# TAG Visits with Deployed Troops

## Trip to Iraq and Kuwait Assesses Mission, Morale of New York's Army Guard Soldiers

By Eric Durr, Joint Forces Headquarters

**BASRA, IRAQ --** The commander of the New York National Guard spent spring break in Iraq and Kuwait April 5-9 to visit New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the Capital Region deployed there.

Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General, and Command Sgt. Major Robert Van Pelt, the state's top enlisted Soldier, met with members of the 206th Military Police (MP) Company, deployed here at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq and the 1108th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal, EOD), which is based in Kuwait.

"We wanted to go over and visit with New York service members, as well as those that they support and understand better what they are doing," Murphy said.

"If we better understand the environment they are working in and the requirements placed on them, I do believe we can come back and provide appropriate resourcing and guidance to better prepare service members for their upcoming deployments," he explained.

The 206th MP Company, with about 180 Soldiers, is headquartered at the Latham Armory and includes Soldiers from the Utica area and New York City as well as the Capitol Region. The unit deployed to Iraq in September of 2009 (See our story about the unit family readiness group meeting this winter on page 30).

The 206th has been training Iraqi Police, providing security forces in Basra and assisting in the Provincial Joint Communications Center, the Iraqi version of a 911 call center. The company played a key role in providing security

Command Sgt. Major Robert VanPelt talks to Sgt. Robert Gurley and members of the 206th MP Company at the Basra Operations Command LSA April 7. Photo by Capt. Kevin Manion, 206th MP Company.



during the elections Iraq conducted in March (see story of the MP Mission on page 21).

The 1108th EOD Company is based in Kuwait and is responsible for clearing improvised explosive devices, IEDs, from routes into and out of Iraq. The company of 15 Soldiers, which is based at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Scotia, deployed to Iraq in January of this year.

Murphy and Van Pelt also visited members of the 37th Finance Detachment deployed in Kuwait to provide financial services to Soldiers based there and Soldiers moving into and out of Iraq. The unit is based in New York City at the Lexington Avenue Armory.

The trip was organized through the Joint Monthly Access for Reserve Components program which allows both Army Reserve and National Guard leaders to go see their troops deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

When he was assigned to Third United States Army in Kuwait from 2004 to 2007, one of Murphy's duties was implementing this very program in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

"The purpose of the JMARC is to provide



Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General, assists Sgt. Michael Frati in presenting a graduation certificate to one of the Iraqi Police students who completed a medical skills course conducted by the 206th Military Police Company. Photo by Capt. Kevin Manion, 206th Military Police Company



Brig. Gen. Pat Murphy, shakes the hand of 206th Military Police Company Spc. Tracy Bryant during a visit to the Basra Logistics Support Area April 7. Photo by Capt. Kevin Manion, 206th Military Police Company.

Soldiers and Airmen with the opportunity to visit with their leadership from back in the states so that, number one, the leadership understands what the service member is doing and number two, to give the leaders exposure to their service members," Murphy said. **gt**



Sgt. John Conley, a technician for the 1108th Explosives Ordnance Disposal Team, from Pleasantville, N.Y. walks out to a suspicious package in a bomb disposal suit to plant a disposal charge during a controlled detonation exercise at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait April 5. Photo by Spc. Karen L. Kozub, US Army Central.





Above, Chief Warrant Officer Mark Bowden greets his children after returning from deployment to Afghanistan on Friday, March 12 (left). Bowden and nine other New York Army National Guard aviators flew missions designed to spot insurgents laying improvised explosive devices during their deployment as part of Task Force Odin. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

## Aviation Troops Home From Afghanistan Deployment

By Eric Durr, Joint Force Headquarters

LATHAM, NY-- After a year in which they went from establishing an aerial counter-IED force for Afghanistan, to flying overwatch missions during the Marines' assault on the Taliban stronghold of Marjah; ten New York Army National Guard aviators are home.

The Soldiers, who served with Task Force ODIN-- shorthand for Observe, Detect, Identify, and Neutralize--returned to their families in the Albany area March 11 and 12.

Four Soldiers arrived by commercial airliner on Thursday March 11, while five flew into the Army Aviation Support Facility here in a military C-26 on Friday, March 12. One Soldier remained at Fort Benning, Ga. to clear up medical issues.

"It's just great to be home," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dave Bowden. His goal now, Bowden said, was to spend as much time as he could with his wife and children.

The Soldiers, all assigned to Operational Support Airlift Detachment 20 normally fly military personal and VIPS in Army National Guard C-12 aircraft. On this mission their

job was to operate similar aircraft loaded with cameras and sensor systems designed to spot insurgents planting mines.

The original Task Force ODIN in Iraq was extremely successful in preventing IED attacks on Coalition and Iraqi forces. The ODIN aircraft would identify insurgents laying improvised explosive devices and then either guide in troops on the ground or provide information for an attack by air or mortar fire.

The Army wanted to replicate that success in Afghanistan and called on the New Yorkers, and other National Guard contingents to do the same thing.

The job facing the Guardsmen, when they were mobilized in March 2009, was to outfit the aircraft, test the systems, and then take them to Afghanistan, said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kent Wagner, the detachment commander.

For the first half of their deployment the New Yorkers, the second largest contingent in the task force, trained at Hagerstown, Md. They spent six months operating in Afghanistan, based in Bagram and Kandahar, logging more

than 3,800 hours in the air, Wagner said.

"There are numerous intelligence reports on IED infrastructures that were disrupted because of our operation," Wagner said.

The New York aviators played a key role in getting the task force stood up and operating, Wagner said. Two of the instructor pilots from the New York Army National Guard became command pilots, while two of the enlisted Soldiers wound up instructing others on the use of the sophisticated sensor gear.

Eventually the task force was operating six aircraft that watched out for the Soldiers and Marines on the ground.

The highlight of the deployment was providing overhead support for Marines and Afghan forces that took the town of Marjah back from the Taliban during a major assault in February, Wagner said. The New York aviators were flying three to four missions daily providing an eye-in-the-sky for Marines rooting out the insurgent forces, Wagner said.

"The moral was good. The troops understood what they were doing and why," he said. **gt**

# 827<sup>th</sup> Engineers Training for Afghanistan Mission



FORT McCOY, Wis. -- Soldiers with the New York Army National Guard's 827th Engineer Company "react to contact" during a live fire route clearance training exercise here during pre-deployment training, April 1, 2010. At top, the engineer Soldiers react to enemy threats along their route and below, clear a culvert. The unit training mission conducted platoon-sized mounted combat patrols. Using 4-8 vehicles, the engineer troops conducted one training rotation with blank ammunition and another with live ammunition to counter enemy attacks along their convoy route. Photos by Master Sgt. Jerome M. DeBarge, 181st Infantry Brigade.



BUFFALO - Capt. Jeffery Miles, commander of the 827th Engineer Company shares a moment with his daughter Olivia and wife Heather, during a mobilization ceremony before leaving for Afghanistan Feb. 18 at the Connecticut Street Armory. Eighty Soldiers from the Buffalo-based 152nd Engineer Support Company mobilized with the 827th, based in Horseheads. This is the second deployment for about 25 percent of the unit. Their primary mission will build roads in the rugged and undeveloped regions of Eastern Afghanistan. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Force Headquarters.





## 442<sup>nd</sup> Military Police 'Out the Door' for Iraq Mission

Story and photo by Spc. Michael E. Davis Jr., 369th Sustainment Brigade

**NEW YORK** – Guardsmen from the 442nd Military Police Company here in Jamaica, Queens celebrated the completion of their pre-mobilization training and prepare for the company's deployment to Iraq later this spring in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, soon to be renamed as Operation New Dawn later this summer.

The 170 Military Police troops will train and mentor Iraqi police, Sgt. Anthony A. Adams, an MP in the unit, said. Maintaining Police Transition Teams as U.S. forces draw down in Iraq will be the unit's primary mission, Capt. Tara Dawe, 442nd Company Commander, said.

Dawe first deployed with the 442nd MP Company as a gunner, alongside Adams in 2003; her rank then was specialist (See our full story on Capt. Dawe's transition from gunner to commander in the winter 2010 issue).

"It's definitely an experience. I can say (through) all of the training, and one thing I appreciate more, when I see the Soldiers working, carrying the SAW (squad automatic weapon) or carrying the 240 Bravo (machine gun) – I was there – so I know exactly what they're going through," Dawe said.

Approximately a third of the unit's members are civilian law

enforcement professionals from across the region and almost a fourth of the unit has already completed at least one overseas deployment.

Adams said he is optimistic about this deployment and feels that Dawe was a good Soldier then and a great leader now.

Dawe is more understanding of Soldier care, said Sgt. David Rodriguez, another Soldier in the company. Rodriguez also deployed with Dawe in 2003.

"She's definitely got good qualities, said Rodriguez, "It's unbelievable how much this unit has become more professional in that aspect."

"I would expect that we would complete the mission, go there and do our job, come back, and everybody goes back to their families," Rodriguez said.

"Don't look at this as a sad time, as your sons and daughters, your mothers and fathers and wives and husbands are leaving you," Dawe said to unit families during the company farewell ceremony at the Harlem Armory April 10. "Look at them as doing something great."

The unit departed for pre-deployment training on April 19. **gt**

## Cavalry Troopers Welcome New Squadron Commander

Story and photo by Maj. Kathy Oliver, 27th Infantry Brigade  
**BUFFALO** -- Soldiers of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) welcomed their new commander, Major Henry Pettit, in a ceremony at the Masten Avenue Armory in Buffalo on March 27.

Pettit took command from Lt. Col. David Dunkle who led the Squadron for over four years that culminated in deployment to Afghanistan in 2008 for Operation Enduring Freedom. During the deployment, the squadron performed as a security forces for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix with the mission to train and mentor Afghan National Army and Police forces.

Brigadier General Steven Wickstrom, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, presided over the ceremony. During his address, Wickstrom thanked Dunkle for "carrying the rucksack" for such a long time.

"Enjoy this time in battalion command as it will probably be the last that you truly have to Soldier with Soldiers," Wickstrom told Pettit. "The assignments forward from this point take you further away from the troops."

Colonel Geoffrey Slack, Commander of the 27th Brigade Combat Team also thanked Dunkle and his wife Susan for their commitment to the National Guard, and he welcomed Pettit to the Brigade and to the Squadron.

In his parting remarks, Dunkle commended the Soldiers of the Squadron for always "performing to the standard."

"Never expect anything less from them. Give them something to do, and expect them to complete the mission to the standard," Dunkle told Pettit.

Pettit has held a number of challenging leadership and staff assignments that include Rifle Company Commander, Battalion Personnel Officer, Area Officer in Charge and Executive Officer of the New York Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command. **gt**



Major Henry Pettit accepts the colors of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry from Col. Geoff Slack during his unit change of command ceremony at the Masten Avenue Armory in Buffalo on March 27. Pettit replaces Lt. Col. Dave Dunkle, who took the unit to Afghanistan in 2008.

# New Patch, Award and Parade for 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade

Story by Spc. Michael E. Davis Jr., 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade

FORT DIX, N.J.-- It was a busy day at Doughboy Field here April 11 for the Soldiers of the 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade. The 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. Stephanie Dawson, informed all Soldiers in the brigade that they are now authorized to wear their new brigade patch. The shoulder sleeve insignia was previously only authorized for the troops assigned to the headquarters element.

"Some Soldiers expressed concern about them not having the new patch, and I thought it was more appropriate that everyone wear the patch," Dawson said at the brigade's pass and review ceremony. "I determined that I had the authority to have everyone wear the patch and to symbolize their inclusion as part of the brigade."

Dawson added that the shoulder insignia celebrates the prior campaigns that the 369<sup>th</sup> participated in, recognizes the fact although the brigade is now a logistics unit, it traces back to the original lineage to the former 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the famous "Harlem Hellfighters" of WWI fame and the various reorganizations that have taken place over the years.

After the Soldiers received their new shoulder patch, the command awarded Lt. Col. David Gagnon, Battalion

Commander, 104<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, and his father, retired Lt. Col. Daniel D. Gagnon, the 369<sup>th</sup> Heritage Award. The award recognizes the important role of families supporting and participating in the military.

"I thought it was a great idea to recognize multiple generations for serving," David Gagnon said. "Both of my parents are very proud of my service and my achievements. Growing up I was proud of my father's association with the military and probably one of the main reasons I enlisted in 1986."

"We were both surprised when Col. Dawson handed us the Heritage Award recognizing both his and my service, the younger Gagnon said. "He brought the plaque into his office the following day and showed everyone and has put it on display. I think he is honored by the recognition of the family service and very proud."

Dawson believes that the Gagnon's are the only family in the brigade that she is aware of who share this particular occurrence. If there are other similar stories Dawson hopes that those family members will come forward to be recognized.

The last order of business for the day was a



Brig. Gen. Steven N. Wickstrom, commander, 42nd Infantry Division, and Col. Stephanie Dawson, commander, 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, render honors to the colors as the brigade's color guard passes the grandstands on Doughboy Field, Fort Dix, N.J., April 11 during the unit pass and review. Picture by Sgt. Deyanira Rios, 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade).

pass and review of the 369<sup>th</sup> Soldiers where the Soldiers were inspected by the brigade commander and Brig. Gen. Stephen Wickstrom, the Commanding General of the 42nd Infantry Division, the headquarters with training and resource oversight of the 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade for deployments.

"The pass in review is a mechanism for a commander to inspect their troops," Dawson said. "While this is often done by a new commander, in our case this was the first time the entire brigade was training on the same installation, so at my request I used it as an opportunity to inspect them." **gt**



The 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade Color Guard renders honors to Brig. Gen. Steven N. Wickstrom, commander, 42nd Infantry Division and Col. Stephanie Dawson, commander, 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, during the unit "pass and review" April 11 at Fort Dix, N.J. Photo by Sgt. Deyanira Rios, 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade.

# Turning In His Military Wings

Story by Eric Durr, Joint Force Headquarters

**RONKONOMA** - When Chief Warrant Officer Herb Dargue joined the U.S. Army as a pilot, the Beatle's "Penny Lane" topped the charts, the UH-1C "Huey" was the hottest helicopter flying, and William Shatner was Captain Kirk on prime time TV.

Forty-three years and 21,000 flying hours later, Dargue made his last flight as a military aviator on Mar. 26. He's completing a career which included a year in Vietnam, another year in Iraq, and service in the Active Army, the Reserves and New York Army National Guard.

"It's the end of an era for this flight facility and this unit, said Lt. Col. Mark Slusar, commander of the 3rd Battalion 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, headquartered here. "The lessons and the experience this guy can pass on will be greatly missed."

The unit marked Dargue's last flight --after more than 5,300 hours of military flight time-- with a fire truck salute and the traditional champagne soaking when Dargue stepped out of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for the last time.

Dargue's grandfather, also named Herbert Dargue, became an Army pilot in 1913, received the first Distinguished Flying Cross, and two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor he was flying there to assume command of U.S. Army forces in Hawaii when he died in a plane crash. His father Donald was a bomber pilot in Europe, a prisoner of war in Germany, and then went on to fly B-52s in the Air Force U.S.

He ended up flying Army helicopters because the Air Force wanted him to have a college degree, and back in 1967 the Army didn't care, Dargue said.

"I was a young punk, 19 years old; I didn't want to finish college. I went next door to the Army and they signed me up," he said.

In 1968 Dargue went to Vietnam where he flew Huey's for six months with the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry and then six months with a VIP transport unit. He left Active Duty in 1970 and joined an Army Reserve aviation unit, flying everything from tiny OH-23 observation helicopters to the CH-47 Chinook. At the same time he pur-

sued a career as a civilian pilot, flying traffic report helicopters and charters of all kinds, before winding up in Iran in 1977 training Iranian Army helicopter pilots.

That job lasted for two years until the Islamic revolution. Back in the States, Dargue moved back to New York in 1980, went to work for Island Helicopter Corporation, and joined the New York Army National Guard helicopter unit a McArthur Airport.

Since then, he's also flown for Thompson Industries and most recently Lehmann Brothers, while continuing to fly helicopters with the New York Army National Guard.

In 2005, he deployed to Iraq as part of the 42nd Aviation Brigade. As an aviation liaison officer he worked in the 42nd Infantry Division Tactical Operations Center in Tikrit, tracking Army flights across an area of Iraq the size of West Virginia.

When the 3rd Battalion, 142nd deployed to Iraq in 2008 and 2009, Dargue got an extension on his retirement date because the New York Army National Guard needed experienced helicopter pilots here at home too.

His years of flying in New York City's congested airspace have made him an invaluable asset to every pilot at the Long Island Army Aviation Support Facility, Slusar said.

In his years as an Army pilot he's seen plenty of change, Dargue said. The UH-60 has two engines while the UH-1 had just one. Huey navigation was all dead-reckoning and looking out the window and back at the map. Now pilots have scrolling electronic maps that tell them where they are. And in combat now, helicopters always fly in pairs.

"You're never out there by yourself, you always have a wingman. In a lot of operations in Vietnam you'd be out there by yourself all alone," he said.

Leaving the Army after so many years is "bittersweet" Dargue said. He's loved the flying and the camaraderie but he said he knows it's time to leave.

"All my peers have gotten out. It has a different atmosphere to it," he said. "The Vietnam vets, they were just a little crazier than the generation nowadays, a little more fun." **gt**



Chief Warrant Officer Herbert Dargue, an Army pilot since 1967, flew his last flight with the New York Army National Guard March 26. Dargue, with more than 21,000 flying hours, is an expert in New York City's congested airspace. Photo by Sgt. Errol Cadet, Joint Force Headquarters.

# Readiness Groups Keep Families Informed

## Families Get Ready for Soldier Redeployments

*Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Dennis Gravelle, 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade*

LATHAM - The New York Army National Guard's 206<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company and 108<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal, or EOD) held a mid-deployment Family Readiness Group (FRG) meeting Feb. 20 at the unit armory in Latham. The focus of the event began preparations for Soldiers coming home from deployment.

The meeting, called "Project Yellow Ribbon" provided families a robust support network of information and services available from county, state, federal and private outreach organizations upon their return home.

"I am here for the Family readiness mid-deployment briefing designed to support and educate families on anything that is currently happening, and to be sure that we are supported with an awareness of the different programs that are available to us if we need any support,"

Theresa Martel said. Martel is the wife of 1st Sgt. Joseph A. Martel, 206th Military Police Company, currently deployed to Basra, Iraq.

The Yellow Ribbon reintegration program was established in the 2008 National Defense Act. The program prepares service members and their families for deployment and helps them reintegrate back into their civilian communities when they return.

"A lot of things come into play, and we want families to be aware that once their Soldier comes back, there will be changes in the amount of benefits they receive," said Gordon Lattey, FRG lead volunteer for the 206th. "We want them to be ready for a different person coming home, the person that left last August has changed, and it's important for families to hear that and recognize that, so they will adjust their thinking as well."

The commander of the 206th MP Company, Capt. Kevin B. Manion, added that the Yellow Ribbon program encompasses the en-

tire deployment, from pre-mobilization where the State Family Readiness group brought in groups to assist families with mobilization.

"If my Soldiers know that their families are provided for when they are deployed, and they are in positive spirits and their problems are solved, they can focus more on their mission, which puts them at ease, more focused therefore much safer," Manion said. "Today is a mid tour meeting, kind of face-to-face, and starts the preparations for the reunion in a few months with their Soldier."

The 206th is scheduled to return home to their families later this spring and the next step in the Yellow Ribbon program requires Soldiers to be present for assemblies 30 and 60 days after their return. Sessions are held to provide troops and families a chance to share experiences.

The New York Army National Guard's goal is to integrate Soldiers, their families back into life in New York following service in a war zone.

"The Yellow Ribbon program takes care of the needs of the families here at home, and the needs of the guys and gals in Iraq," Lattey stated. "It's that simple." **gt**



Antonette Bevins shows off her artistic skills while her family attends the Family Readiness Group meeting for the 206th Military Police Company and 1108th Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company in Latham Feb. 20. The meeting, part of the New York Army National Guard Yellow Ribbon Program, provides National Guard families a support network of information and services available from county, state, federal and private outreach organizations for the Soldiers and their families when they return home from a war zone.



Lacey Lautenschlager holds her daughter Emily during the family information briefings at the Family Readiness Group Yellow Ribbon Progeam Feb. 20 in Latham. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Eric Lautenschlager, is currently deployed with the 206th Military Police Company in Basra, Iraq.

## A Performance for the Troops

Lt. Dan Band Salutes 69th Infantry



NEW YORK -- Gary Sinise, at right, and Jeff Vezain perform with the Lt. Dan Band at the New York Army National Guard's armory on Lexington Avenue, Mar. 18, in tribute to the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry.

Sinise, an acclaimed actor who stars in the CBS hit television series *CSI:NY* has won both Emmy and Golden Globe awards and was nominated for an Academy Award for his role as Lt. Dan Taylor in the mega hit movie *Forest Gump*. He teamed up with Vietnam veteran Kimo Williams to form the Lt. Dan Band in 2004 and has entertained tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel all over the world.

The Lt. Dan Band also performed on Saint Patrick's Day in 2009 at the 1-69th Infantry homecoming celebration following the redeployment of hundreds of battalion Soldiers from Afghanistan in 2008.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Staff Sgt. Christian P. Engeldrum Memorial Scholarship Fund. Chris Engeldrum was a New York City Firefighter assigned to Ladder Company 61 in the Bronx. Engeldrum responded to the terror attacks on September 11, 2001 and went on to serve with the "Fighting 69th" in Iraq. He was killed in action in Baghdad on November 29, 2004. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Photo by Sgt. Errol Cadet, Joint Force Headquarters.



## Soldier Entertains Children as Guest Reader

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Infantry Division HQ

NEW YORK - New York Army National Guard Spc. Bryan Rosales, 22, volunteered his time to read to more than 140 children at the Brooklyn branch of the New York Public Library March 5. Rosales serves as an Intelligence Analyst with the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Headquarters Company in Manhattan.

"The schoolchildren really enjoyed our Soldier reader," Sarah Tilevitz, the Children's Librarian said. "He read well, engaged them and was very patient with the preschoolers."

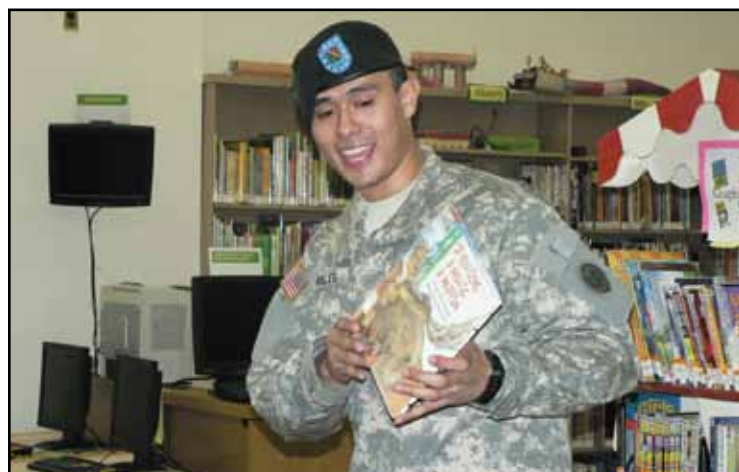
Rosales, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, read stories to the children as part of the library's guest reader program that allows children to interact with the Soldiers on a more personal level and learn about military life in the Army National Guard.

The Army Guard Soldier answered questions from the children and then mingled with the children, teachers, parents and caregivers, describing his military service and life as a Citizen Soldier.

Rosales left the event missing part of his uniform when he offered up his 69th Regimental crest from his beret to a crying young girl. She was consoled and thrilled to receive the insignia from the Soldier's headgear.

This year marks the third such annual visit by National Guard Soldiers to the City Public Library to engage children as a guest reader.

"We were happy that our public had the chance to see the humanitarian face of the US Army," Tilevitz said. "He (Rosales) told us that he just wanted to do his best for "the Regiment," and he certainly did." **gt**



Army National Guard Spc. Bryan Rosales reads to children at the New York Public Library in Brooklyn March 5. At top, Rosales appears with some of his audience. Photos courtesy of Sarah Tilevitz, New York Public Library.

# Soldiers Versus Wild For Western NY Aircrews

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, Joint Force Headquarters*

**MOUNT MORRIS** – From starting fires to hunting bugs and snakes, Soldiers of the 249th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) did it all here April 22, taking to the woods to brush up on their survival skills.

About a dozen Soldiers from the aero-medical evacuation unit took part in the training near the Mt. Morris Dam. Most of the Soldiers belong to flight crews of the unit, which rescues Soldiers wounded in battle or victims of natural or man-made disasters.

In addition to starting fires, foraging and sharpening their land navigation skills, the Soldiers purified water and learned how to best utilize the equipment arrayed in their survival vests and kits.

“In a survival situation, it’s just dead weight if you don’t know how to use it,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Rogers, a pilot, and native of Honeoye Falls.

Deploying to the dam area in a Blackhawk helicopter, the Soldiers quickly collected wood and water and dug a Dakota Stove, essentially a small, shallow hole that draws air through a shaft sunk diagonally into it. This design minimizes light given off by the stove’s fire, providing for stealthy cooking and warmth. A fire also builds morale, another key element in a survival situation, Rogers said.

“When you can build a fire in an environment like this, you’ve done something big,” he said. “You’ve been proactive in your own survival.”

The Soldiers treated the water with iodine tablets from their survival equipment, boiled it on the Dakota stove and filtered it, purifying it further. It was good that a bug had fallen in the water, one of them joked, since that added protein, and another said it looked like ice tea.

“God made dirt, and dirt don’t hurt,” Rogers joked.

But the atmosphere was serious as the Soldiers learned exactly which plants and animals -- large and small -- are edible. Ants are sweet, grubs and earthworms can be washed and eaten raw, while snakes and mammals should be gutted and boiled to capture all the protein in a broth to be eaten with the meat.

Then the Soldiers broke into pairs to search the woods for these survival delicacies. Spc. Larry Sloan, a crew chief, came up with a garden snake that the Soldiers skinned, gutted and boiled in a canteen cup with wild leeks they had found. They shared the meat and sampled the broth, then took turns gutting down grubs and earthworms.

“Any pre-conceived notion of what’s gross you have to get rid of, and just eat to survive,” said Spc. Jared Carpenter, of Avon, a mechanic, paraphrasing the Army survival manual. “I could eat those all day,” he said of the earthworms.

Earthworms don’t compare to spaghetti, “which doesn’t move when you eat it,” joked Rogers.

Finding and eating these things, though disgusting, is necessary, said Spc. Barbara Morgan, of Clifton Park, a flight medic.

“Once it was over it wasn’t so bad,” she said. “I could do it again, if I had to.” She’ll be doing survival training after she finishes flight medic training, she added.

While survival training is an annual requirement for the unit, it’s also preparation for unit Soldiers who will have to complete a Survive, Evade Resist, Escape (SERE) course after they graduate from their flight crew



Chief Warrant Officer David Rogers, a pilot with the 249th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), is lifted into a Blackhawk helicopter following survival training at Mount Morris Dam Thursday. The device being used to lift him is called a jungle penetrator.

schools, said Staff Sgt. Jose Nobrega, of Brockport, a crew chief.

Staff Sgt. Edward Kieda, a crew chief from Phelps, took part in the training as well. An Iraq war veteran with about 37 years in Army, mostly with various Rochester-based National Guard aviation units, Kieda saw the exercise as refresher training – and a confidence builder.

“It let’s people know that if they have to survive, all is not lost,” he said. **gt**



Above, Spc. Larry Sloan (left), and Spc. Amber Davis (right), examine a snake Sloan foraged during survival training near the Mount Morris Dam. Sloan and Davis are crew chiefs with the 249th Medical Company (Air Ambulance). Unit soldiers taking part in the exercise later boiled and ate the snake. Opposite page, Staff Sgt. Stephen Tschiderer, a flight medic with the 249th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), adds fuel to a Dakota stove during survival training near the Mount Morris Dam. Since it gives off less light than an ordinary fire, the stove is used for cooking and warmth in situations where Soldiers are trying to evade the enemy.





## 174th Fighter Wing Farewells Final F-16s

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

SYRACUSE - Two thousand Airmen, family members and friends bid farewell to the last two F-16s operated by the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base Saturday, March 6, marking the wing's complete transition to MQ-9 Reaper operations.

The 174th's Wing Commander, Col. Kevin Bradley, and his wing man Lt. Col. Dan Tester took off on the final flight at 3:15 p.m., marking the climax of the emotional send-off ceremony that ended 63 years of fighter operations at the base. Tester was the first to takeoff, followed moments later by Bradley. They made three passes over the facility, including a pass over the assembled group which had spilled onto the ramp area outside the hangar.

Brigadier General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York, reminded the Airmen and their families that the event was a celebration of the 174th's future.

"Today should not be a moment of sadness as I have spoken to Air Force and Air National Guard Leaders about the dwindling piloted aircraft. Thanks to your leadership this unit is one of the most if not the most current unit in the Air National Guard with these Unmanned Aerial Vehicles," Murphy said.

"The F-16 has been an outstanding aircraft for the unit, but it is just a machine. It has been the airmen of the 174th Fighter Wing that has made up this mission since 1988 and will continue to do so into the future," Bradley told the group.

While Bradley and Tester prepared to take off the crowd witnessed the cutting of the F-16 farewell cake. This was immediately followed by a rousing F-16 send-off video that was produced by the 174th Visual Information Office.

After Bradley and Tester completed their final pass overhead they headed north to the 174th Forward Operating Location on Wheeler-Sack Army Air Field located at Fort Drum.

The airspace over Fort Drum has served as the training space for the 174th for many years as well as other aircraft from all over the Northeast. It will continue to be utilized by other units for their training requirements as well as the unit's new MQ-9 mission in the future.

When Bradley and Tester landed they were greeted by family, friends and unit members who congratulated them on their final flight, as well as their part in the end of an era.

The 174th Fighter Wing has been flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon since 1988, amassing more than 70,000 flying hours, and has flown jet aircraft for more than 60 years.

The wing began flying MQ-9 Reaper combat patrols over Afghanistan in 2009 and also operates an MQ-9 maintenance training school for the Air Force. **gt**



Left: 174th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Kevin Bradley taxi's past saluting Chief Master Sgt. Darryl Nielsen for the last time. Hancock Field is being converted to the MQ-9 Reaper. Photo by Staff Sgt. James N. Faso II, 174th fighter Wing.

Right: Colonel Kevin W. Bradley, commander of the 174th Fighter Wing departs with the units last F-16 at Hancock field in Syracuse, on March 6. The 174th Fighter Wing has transitioned from the F-16 Falcon to the MQ-9 Reaper. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky, 174th Fighter Wing.

174th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Kevin Bradley is assisted by crew chief Staff Sgt. Preston Cox as Bradley prepares for the final flight of the F-16 from Hancock Field, Syracuse. The 17th Fighter Wing is being converted to the MQ-9 Reaper. Photo by Staff Sgt. James N. Faso II, 17th Fighter Wing.



"It has been the Airmen of the 174th Fighter Wing that has made up this mission since 1988 and will continue to do so into the future"

-- Col. Kevin Bradley, Commander, 174th Fighter Wing



## Airmen Get All the Gear Good to Go



STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE Newburgh - Technical Sergeant Alan Angevine (photo above), 137th Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, inspects Staff Sgt. Earl Reagan's respiratory protection system Feb. 5. Technical Sergeant Eric Stone (photo left), 105th Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, checks and repairs gas masks during a routine inspection at Stewart Air National Guard Base. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lee C. Guagenti, 105th Airlift Wing.



## Can't Wait for That Spring Thaw



WESTHAMPTON BEACH – Snow blanketed much of Long Island on February 26 and the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing was affected by the snow as well. Even in bad weather, work continued on base as Airman from the 106th Civil Engineering Section cleared runways, roads and parking areas. This was the fourth major snowstorm of the season, and the third storm in February. Up to two feet of snow was recorded on eastern Long Island for the storm. Other members of the 106th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were out in the cold securing an HC-130 to the runway at F.S. Gabreski Airport, Staff Sgt. Thomas Beall and a co-worker secured an HC-130 to the runway to prevent it from being moved by the storm's high winds. Photo by Staff Sgt. David J. Murphy, 106th Rescue Wing.

# Fighter Wing NCOs 'Aces' for Recruiting

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

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Syracuse -- Two recruiters from the New York Air National Guard were lauded this spring for their outstanding weekly accession rate and named "Top Performers".

Technical Sergeants Julien R. Paquin and Frederick Stoquert from the 174th Fighter Wing were recognized March 23, for their exceptional accession rate for the week of Feb. 28 to March 6.

Stoquert has been a recruiter for just under four years having spent the majority of his career working, active duty and Air National Guard, in the fuels career field.

"There is a certain satisfaction for me to see this young person returning to my office after having completed their training. When they return they have a different demeanor to them than when I first met them, more mature and focused," Stoquert said.

Paquin has spent his entire career working in civil engineering, both active and in the Guard, except for the last four years or so as a recruiter.

"It is sometimes difficult finding qualified applicants who can meet the educational and physical requirements. But, when you find one and you are successful in placing him or her in the unit you are very satisfied with yourself", said Paquin.

Paquin went on to say that the job is very demanding both personally and professionally, however the personal satisfaction he receives from it makes it all worthwhile.

"Often times you are working late or from

**"There is a certain satisfaction for me to see this young person returning to my office after having completed their training. When they return they have a different demeanor to them than when I first met them, more mature and focused,"**

-- Tech. Sgt. Frederick Stoquert, 174th Fighter Wing



Technical Sergeants Julien Paquin and Frederick Stoquert look over documents relating to a potential recruit for the 174th Fighter Wing. The recruiters received the "Top Performers" award for weekly accessions. Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee O. Tucker, 174th Fighter Wing.

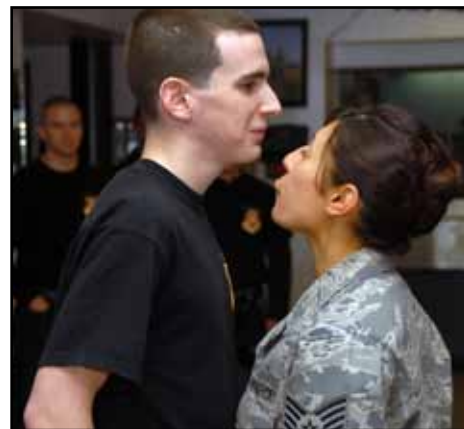
home and it can be difficult to juggle family and the job. But the reward to me is seeing that individual returning to the unit and being a productive member of the team", said Paquin.

They both went on to add that they are very pleased when they have a potential recruit come to their office armed with information, clearly demonstrating they have done their homework.

"These kids get a lot of information from the Internet; however most times this is just the bones of the issue or question. It is then up to us to add more meat on those bones by giving them further details to better answer their question" said Stoquert.

With the country involved in two wars one would think that this would hurt recruiting for the 174th Fighter Wing; however just the opposite is true as there is approximately a six-month waiting list to join the unit.

"Often times when the potential recruit comes to speak with us they are accompanied by their parent or guardian and we encourage that. The parent has concerns about the deployment schedule, but once we explain how as compared to the other branches we have an extremely low deployment rate they usually feel calmer and assured." said Stoquert. **gt**



## Keeping New Recruits Sharp

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE Student flight trainee Joshua Blauvelt stands at attention as Staff Sgt. Jenny Sanchez gets up in his face during a drill and exercise game in Dec. 2009, designed to keep trainees composed and focused while under stress. Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Young, 105th Airlift Wing.



Tech Sgt. Andrew Preston and Tech Sgt. Christopher Kent, Eastern Air Defense Sector Alpha Flight Weapons Directors, discuss aircraft weapons information just after finishing a simulated mission at the Sector Operations Control Center in Rome, N.Y. Both were named best Scope operators in the Sector following the Top Scope competition that wrapped up April 7. Photo by Brooke Davis, Eastern Air Defense Sector.

## Best Scope Operators Keep Skies Safe

*By Brooke Davis, Eastern Air Defense Sector*

ROME-- New York Air National Guard Technical Sergeants Andrew Preston and Christopher Kent were named Best Scope Operators in the Eastern Air Defense Sector following a competition that wrapped up here April 7.

The two Weapons Directors bested 37 other participants in the competition, created to improve the skills of the New York Air National Guard Air Defenders.

Similar competitions had been held in the past, but not in recent years.

The Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS) Weapons and Tactics shop breathed life into the long forgotten competition as a result of a particularly brutal mission de-briefing from a pilot, in which he complained that the air defense controllers were unclear in their directions.

That sparked the idea of using competition to motivate and improve weapons control here.

What emerged from the Weapons and Tactics shop was 'Operation Elevator' that eventually developed into the Top Scope competition.

"Our program is a semiannual EADS-only event that currently involves weapons control-

lers and weapons technicians," explained Maj. Steve Rathmell, Chief of Weapons and Tactics. "The competition is designed to help us achieve one of our over-arching goals of the Sector, which is to improve mission effectiveness."

The competition included a 25 question exam. Those with the highest scores advanced to the execution phase. That consisted of a four versus 12 Counter Air mission -- in which four aircraft must track down and destroy 12 -- Distributed Mission Operations, or DMO, mission.

"DMO is a system we have in operations that simulates virtual combat," Rathmell said. "Real pilots sit at the Distributed Mission Operations Center and run the simulation for us. They can show us whatever we want or need for training and then give us an instant debrief."

The DMO mission was scored by the Weapons and Tactics team. During the scenario, controllers were challenged with complex picture calls, which means that there were many aircraft in many different types of formations.

This is challenging because controllers need to be able to maintain situational awareness

of the air picture while reacting to complex picture changes.

Col. Wade Dewey, Deputy Commander, Operations, presented the winning team with plaques and custom Top Scope lanyards at the Alpha crew morning briefing April 7.

As for future competitions, the Weapons and Tactics team is busy developing scenarios.

"We are in the process of developing a competition for ID [Identification], Surveillance and the Joint Interface Control Center," said Rathmell. "Their competition will begin in the May/June timeframe."

Although currently only an EADS initiative, it could grow larger. The last competition held at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. in 1998 had EADS members outperformed everyone by winning all of the competitions.

"We gave our Top Scope program to the Western Air Defense Sector, Hawaii Region Operations Control Center, Alaskan and Canadian NORAD Regions in an effort to reenergize the old sector-verses-sector competition," Rathmell said. **gt**



## NY Guard Band Salutes Deploying Soldiers

**HORSEHEADS--** With New York Guard Capt. Douglas Hedwig conducting, Sgt. Joseph Baldanza, Spec. Marianne Zic and the 89th NY Guard Band perform the national anthem for New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 827th Engineer Company, from left, Staff Sgt. Theodore Albright, Master Sgt. Jeffrey Mancuso and Staff Sgt. Norma Billings on Feb. 21.

The band performed at the 827th's deployment ceremony held at

the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Big Flats, NY.

The 827th Engineer Company will deploy to Afghanistan later this spring. (See related coverage on page 26).

The 89th New York Guard Band performs at military ceremonies throughout the state, and has been called upon to augment the Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Band.

Photo by Spc. David Grate, NY Guard.



Chief Warrant Officer Charles Valenti

## Guard Chaplain No Stranger to Service Newest NY Guard Chaplain to Support State in New Calling

*By Chaplain (Col.) Eric Olsen, Joint Force Headquarters*

**LATHAM --** New York Guard Chaplain (Chief Warrant Officer) Charles Valenti joined the Joint Force Chaplains office this Spring to assist New York State Chaplains Office as the Deputy to New York Guard Chaplains. Valenti will minister to the men and women of the Joint Forces Headquarters and their families.

Valenti, a deacon of the Roman Catholic Church, was ordained in May of 2008 and serves at the St. Michael the Archangel Church in Cohoes. He was granted faculties, the authority to minister, by the Archdiocese for the Military Services in Sept. of 2009 to serve in the Joint Forces Headquarters.

As a deacon, Valenti is authorized to perform such liturgies as marriage and baptism. He can conduct prayer services and Bible studies, as well as wake services and committals.

Valenti is no stranger to military service. He enlisted in the New York Army National Guard in 1970 and transferred to the Air Guard in 1977. He served in positions such as heavy equipment mechanic, chaplain's assistant, chapel manager, unit first sergeant and State Command Chief Master Sergeant to the Commander of the New York Air National Guard. Chaplain Valenti retired in 2000.

Valenti is available on Tuesdays at the State Chaplains office in Latham. **gt**



# Check out the new NYARNG Strength Resource Center

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/187734>

This AKO Suite is your one stop shop for all information pertaining to NYARNG and individual strength readiness, recruiting and retention

Information includes:

Monthly Commander's reports

Unit strength data

Information about benefits

Bonus information

Freedom Salute

Extend to Defend

Mobilization guidance,

Retirement information

Templates and sample forms

Events and Initiatives

Family Resources



NYARNG Strength Resource Center

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/187734>

NEW YORK  
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# New York Naval Militia



## Readying Naval Militia Crews for NY's Waterways

*FORT WADSWORTH, Staten Island -- New York Naval Militia Petty Officer Kurt Schneider tracks the distance between the pier and Patrol Boat 440 during crew qualification and certification training exercise at Stapleton Navy Pier here March 23. Petty Officer Ken Stefandel maneuvers the high-tech watercraft during coxswain qualification training to qualify crews for the New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS).*

*Both Stefandel and Schneider qualified as full coxswains for PB 440. "It takes one to two hours for a combined knowledge board and practical demonstration," said Cdr. Don McKnight of the Naval Militia. "This is all done after the members complete a qualification check sheet under the observation of a qualified coxswain."*

*PB 440 is driven by water jets allowing the boat enter waters as shallow as two feet. The Catamaran design hull is made of marine*

*grade aluminum. The boat is 43 feet, 6 inches long and 16 feet wide. The shallow draft of Patrol Boat 440 (21 inches), its water-jet propulsion and "fly-by-wire" computer controlled steering system enable the boat to go into very shallow waters in harbors and rivers. PB 440 is based at the U.S. Coast Guard Sector New York base at Fort Wadsworth.*

*MEBS was created after 9/11 and maintains a fleet of 13 patrol boats used to support U.S. Coast Guard and law enforcement missions. PB 440 patrols in conjunction with U.S. Coast Guard security and law enforcement efforts in New York Harbor. A MEBS boat is also constantly on patrol with Joint Task Force Empire Shield in the Hudson River off the Indian Point nuclear power plant, enforcing a security zone there.*

*Photo by Cdr. Don McKnight, New York Naval Militia.*

# Sailors, Soldiers Work Jointly For Empire Shield



**FORT HAMILTON** -- New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Russ Clark, left, provides an operational update of the New York State Homeland Security Joint Task Force Empire Shield to senior leaders of the New York Naval Militia on March 18. Clark, the deputy commander of the joint

task force, provided an overview of security and maritime operations to Naval Militia Captains Bob Pouch (next to easel) and Trip Powell. The Naval Militia regularly supports maritime security missions in New York City. Photo by Capt. David Tucker, New York Naval Militia.

## Keep'em Turning

**VERPLANCK** -- Steel Worker Senior Chief Petty Officer Frank Rogers replaces the starboard side propeller on the New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service's patrol boat PB 400 at the Viking Boat Yard here on April 15.

PB 400 struck a submerged object in the Hudson River near Peekskill, during routine operations in support of the Indian Point security zone. The crew was returning from a critical infrastructure inspection in the area. Due to seasonal, spring-time run-off the Hudson River has plenty of floating logs that can cause damage to vessels. PB 400 has been the principal vessel in support of the Indian Point mission since last year. Courtesy photo.



## NY Sailor Commended for Airshow Security Support

*Guard Times Staff*



Naval Militia Petty Boatswains Mate 2nd Class Dawn Burgess (right) receives the New York State Military Commendation medal from Chief Warrant Officer Philip Slominski. Photo by Capt. David Tucker, New York Naval Militia.

**BUFFALO**-- The New York Naval Militia awarded the New York State Military Commendation Medal to Petty Boatswains Mate 2nd Class Dawn Burgess during a ceremony April 11, at the Navy Operational Support Center.

Burgess was honored for her performance as Coxswain onboard Patrol Boat 281 from May 28-31, 2009 as the Naval Militia was supporting the 2009 ESL Federal Credit Union Air and Water Show in Rochester.

Her boat, along with craft from other agencies were tasked with establishing a restricted zone off Ontario Beach so the air show could be conducted safely.

On May 31, high seas forced other boats to quit the restricted zone, threatening to halt the air show, but Burgess was able to maintain station, allowing the event to continue.

Her actions in this case were recognized and lauded by the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Rochester.

## Army Guard Honors 'Unsung' Hero

By Spc. Melissa Anderson, 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters

Leaders of New York Army National Guard's Troy-based 42nd Infantry Division honored an unsung hero of the Joint Forces Headquarters, Schenectady resident Andrea Hanny.

Hanny, the traffic manager for the New York Army National Guard, received a certificate of appreciation Mar. 15, for her hard work to support division units in the field last year.

Hanny has 22 years of experience in transporting people and equipment for drills, annual training, and overseas training.

"I move everything and everybody where they need to be for every weekend, every mission," Hanny said.

Col. Gary Yapple, Chief of Staff for 42nd Infantry Division, said Soldiers don't see all the hard work it takes to get things done, but Hanny put in a lot of hard work

and long hours to put transportation for overseas training together.

"We rely on her for transportation, and we couldn't do our job without her support," Yapple said.

Hanny says a lot goes into her job and most people may not understand how much has to be done for everything to run seamlessly.

An average Soldier probably doesn't think about how it happens, she said. The equipment just shows up and their tickets are at the airport – it's kind of like magic.

"Most of the time people don't realize everything involved," said Hanny. "It's nice somebody took time to recognize it."

Col. Philip Pugliese, Director of Logistics for the NYARNG, works closely with Hanny and said she is involved in nearly every aspect of the New York Army National Guard training program.

"In a directorate of hardwork-



42nd Infantry Division Chief of Staff Col. Gary Yapple presents a division certificate of appreciation to Ms. Andrea Hanny at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, March 15. Courtesy photo.

ing Soldiers that support statewide logistic functions, Ms. Hanny, as a civilian technician, is as an important member of this staff as we have," said Pugliese. "She is highly regarded and extremely capable."

Hanny supports Soldiers and

makes sure they get to where they need to go and have the proper equipment to do their mission.

"I take pride in what I do. My job is to support Soldiers and success is if everything goes smoothly," Hanny said. **gt**

## A Major Promoted to Lieutenant

By Spc. Michael E. Davis Jr., 369th Sustainment Brigade

NEW YORK – New York Army National Guard Maj. Sergio Hidalgo, a native of the Dominican Republic, received a promotion to the rank of lieutenant in the New York City Police Department (NYPD) March 26, at One Police Plaza.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly acknowledged Hidalgo for his outstanding work with the New York City Police Department. Hidalgo has not only shown his best as an NYPD Officer, but as an officer in the New York Army National Guard.

Hidalgo joined the 369th Sustainment Brigade as a young lieutenant in the Quartermaster Branch, starting a career in logistics and working his way up the military chain of command. As a captain, Hidalgo led the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and served overseas for Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004 to 2005. The Army promoted Hidalgo

to the field grade rank of Major during that combat deployment.

Hidalgo's family is very proud of the work he has done in the Police Department and in the Army National Guard, Quilcie Hidalgo, Sergio's wife, said at the NYPD promotion ceremony.

"I feel that my dad deserves everything that he has," said Armany Hidalgo, 18, Sergio's son. "He works hard and strives to be the best and people should really look up to him in that respect." Armany explained that his father sets a good example for kids like himself and that is why he wants to follow in his (father's) footsteps by joining the military as an officer.

Hidalgo now serves as the Officer in Charge of the Security and Intelligence sections with the Harlem Hellfighters, under the command of Col. Stephanie Dawson, 369th Sustainment Brigade Commander. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and has



New York Army Guard Maj. Sergio Hidalgo displays his promotion certificate to police lieutenant with his son, Armany, 18. Hidalgo serves with the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters in Harlem. Courtesy photo.

served in the New York Army National Guard for 23 years and in the New York City Police Department for 16 years. **gt**



## Outback Restaurants Give Back

CLIFTON PARK -- Outback Steakhouse proprietor Alison Lechowicz helps serve more than 180 members of the New York Army and Air National Guard, Red Cross and Veterans Administration volunteers a free "Thanks for Giving" lunch at the Clifton Park restaurant March 4th. Outback held a nationwide charity effort to raise \$1 Million this spring to benefit troops, families and wounded warriors. Independent Outback restaurants held free lunch events in Clifton Park, Hamburg and Newburgh, N.Y. for military members and volunteers. Outback has supported U.S. forces for more than 20 years and employee volunteers have traveled to Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Kuwait and aboard naval vessels, serving 150,000 service members to date. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning, Joint Forces Headquarters.



## New York Welcomes South African Health Attaché

ALBANY - Doctor Nomonde Xundu, Health Attaché from the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa (center), meets with Lt. Col. Joseph Sullivan (left) Joint Force Headquarters-NY Director of Plans and Policies and Maj. Renee M. Ford (right) State Partnership Program Coordinator at the

State University of New York Conference on Public Health and Child Welfare; Implications for the Security of a Society held March 8-10. Xundu was the keynote speaker presenting a brief on HIV/AIDS and its impact on security missions for the South African Defense Forces. Courtesy photo.

## Air Guard Families Enjoy Rite of Spring

By Staff Sgt. Peter Dean, 107th Airlift Wing  
 NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

-- The Saturday before Easter, more than 150 children of 107th and 914th Airlift Wing members gathered at the Falcon Club here on base for a few hours of Easter festivities April 3.

Children had the opportunity to fine tune their search and recovery skills during an Easter egg hunt, where eggs were scattered throughout the surrounding grounds. Each of the eggs were filled with candy treats.

"This was a real nice day," said Staff Sgt. Kelly Sayer, 107th member. "My kids had a blast," she added.

The children also had the opportunity with the help of the Niagara County Chapter of the Red Cross to decorate and consume Easter themed cookies.

"This was Johnathon's very first Easter egg hunt," said Lt. Col. Deanna Miller, 107th member. "He really enjoyed it, especially meeting the Easter Bunny," she added. Not wanting the youngsters to fill up on Easter goodies alone, a pizza party capped the day's events. **gt**



Johnathon Miller, son of Maj. Greg Miller and Lt. Col. Deanna Miller meets the Easter bunny during an Easter party held here on base April 3. "This was Johnathon's very first Easter egg hunt," said Lt. Col. Deanna Miller, 107th member. "He really enjoyed it, especially meeting the Easter Bunny," she added. More than 150 children took advantage of the unseasonably warm weather for the annual Easter egg hunt. Photo by Lt. Col. Deanna Miller.

# Unveiling a New York National Guard Fallen Hero



NEW YORK - The family of the late Spc. Wilfredo Urbina, Company A, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, views a portrait of their late Soldier during a special presentation at the Lexington Avenue Army in Manhattan on March 15. Artist Phil Taylor from the American Fallen Soldier Project devoted more than 80 hours to the painting of Urbina who was killed in action in Iraq in Nov. 2004.

From left is niece Sydney Urbina, sister Jeanin, mother Jeanette and father Agusta. The honor guard Soldier is Pfc. George Dominguez from the Bronx, assigned to Company A, 1-69th Inf. Photo by Sgt. Errol Cadet, Joint Force Headquarters.



## Guard's Newest Chaplains

FORT JACKSON, S.C. - New York Army National Guard Chaplain Candidate 1st Lt. Mark Getman, right, and Chaplain (1st Lt.) Rabbi Razil Amar, (left), receive congratulations from 42nd Infantry Division Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Glenn McQuown at the Chaplain Basic Officers Course on April 9. Getman is training to serve as the chaplain for 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery and Amar is assigned to the 3rd Bn, 142nd Aviation. The program included instruction for potential military chaplains to perform ramp services for fallen troops, field religious services and Soldier Counseling. Photo by Lizaveta Litvak.

## Talking With the Secretary



NEWBURGH - Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood speaks with Brig. Gen. Verle Johnston, commander of the 105th Airlift Wing, at Stewart Air National Guard Base on April 9. La Hood toured Stewart International Airport and visited the new airbase fire station which protects both the Air National Guard Base and airport, operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Photo by Airman Jonathan Young, 105th Airlift Wing.



Local people involved in the Patriot Hills at Saranac Lake project pose in front of the veterans memorial in the village's Riverside Park: (from left) Barry Brogan of the North Country Behavioral Health Network, Chandler Ralph of Adirondack Med. Ctr., Susan Waters, Joe Keegan of North Country Community College, Bob Ross of St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers, Iraq war veteran Greg Moore, Frank Karl of Saranac Lake Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mike Conway of the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation, Amy Tuthill of Paul Smith's College, Jeremy Evans of the village of Saranac Lake, Mark Kurtz of the local arts community and Terry Gach of Trudeau Institute. Photo by Peter Crowley, Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

## North Country Warrior Care Facility on the Horizon

*By Guard Times Staff*

SARANAC LAKE - Patriot Hills of Saranac Lake, a first-of-its-kind retreat and reintegration facility for veterans, active military personnel and their families, is proposing to construct a \$30 million hotel and conference center to support a wide range of support programs, counseling and other services for Soldiers across the Northeast.

Patriot Hills president, Jeannine Mannarino, who traces the need for the project as far back

as Vietnam War veterans worked on the project for three years, stated that the project recently received its authorization to secure and solicit for public and private funding to hire a hotel developer, finding a site to build on and establishing community support.

New York National Guard Chaplain Col. Eric Olsen also sees a need to provide more help to the troops after they return from yearlong deployments. According to Olsen there are

no programs or support services available for dozens of North Country Soldiers who serve in the New York Army National Guard.

Patriot Hills is currently working with private corporations, VA Groups and legislators to establish services throughout 2010 within the Saranac Lake community and hope to have an operational facility by 2013. **gt**

## Getting the National Boxing Spotlight - Army Style

*Guard Times Staff*

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. - Specialist Tacara Hughes from the 369th Sustainment Brigade's 719th Transportation Company received a gold medal from the All-Army Boxing Camp held at Barnes Field House, Fort Huachuca, Ariz. April 9.

"I was always a fighter, growing up," said Hughes, who has only been boxing for a year. "In school, I was kind of quiet, so I would get picked on, so then I would have to fight."

Hughes and 13 other Active Duty and Reserve Soldiers advanced to the Armed Forces championships to be held at Naval Base Ventura County, Calif., beginning April 18. The boxing camp is preparation for the Army World Class Athlete Program.

Hughes is one of only two female National Guard Soldiers to compete at this year's competition, open to men and women of all military components. She competed in the 152 pound light-middleweight (Welterweight) class.

Hughes injured her shoulder during her training and had to sit out the Armed Forces Championships, but she says that she will be back.

"I have to take time off for rehabilitation and all that stuff. I'll be at next year's, definitely," she said. **gt**



New York Army National Guard Spc. Tacara Hughes, at right, competes in the All-Army Boxing Camp April 9. Courtesy photo.

