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FROM THE LEADERSHIP

The Price of Readiness and its Value to the Force

All of us who lead are asking a lot of you these days.

If you're in the 69th Infantry, then you know it took extra training to get ready to spend three weeks in Australia as part of Talisman Sabre.

If you're in the 27th Infantry Brigade Headquarters or 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, then you know that a few months ago you were not thinking about a nine-month long deployment to Ukraine to train that country's army. But now that is the priority mission.

If you're in the 42nd Infantry Division, then you know that soon you'll be gearing up for extra training time to get ready for Warfighter and a deployment in 2019.

If you're in the 53rd Troop Command, then you know you were definitely not planning on spending a snowy March day sitting in a Hum-vee beside Interstate 84 so that you could shut down the highway. But you did.

If you're in the 105th, 106th, 107th, 109th, 174th and EADS in addition to your federal mission you have had to step up on the state side as well.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers attached to the 1156th Engineer Company reunited with families during the unit's redeployment ceremony at Stewart Airport in New Windsor, N.Y., August 31, 2017. One hundred and fifty Soldiers from the 1156th came home from demobilization at Fort Bliss, Texas, after a successful nine month deployment in Kuwait and Iraq. See our story on page 24. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, 369th Sustainment Brigade.

For a couple of months this summer we had almost 1,000 National Guardsmen on duty working flood control along Lake Ontario, or working New York City security with Joint Task Force Empire Shield.

Being a Guard Soldier is definitely a lot more than a weekend each month and two weeks a year. I appreciate the sacrifices you all make to serve: missed time with family and friends.

Recently Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Army Guard Commander, teamed up with Maj. Gen. Steve Ferrari, the commander of the 42nd Division, and Brig. Gen. Mike Natali, commander of the 53rd Troop Command, to write a letter to your employers explaining why we are asking you to spend more time training for missions and being on mission.

It's a good letter and I urge you to share it with your boss. If you have not yet read it, check in with your first-line leader.

Make sure your employer and your family understand why you may need to take more time off and make sure you give your employer a heads up way before scheduled training and deployments.

I know there are some units out there where things seem a little bit slow right now, but trust me that is likely to change.

For those of you who feel like you need to run hard just to stand still, because you're so busy, hang in there. You're doing important work.

If you're a leader in the Guard, that means all of us, I am counting on you to spend time communicating with your troops.

Let them know about upcoming missions and likely missions and why we are asking more from them. Listen to their concerns. Make sure your troops know what is expected. Listen to their questions and concerns.

What do they need to do their job? How can you help that Soldier succeed? Does the Soldier need to change MOS?

I know it's harder for Army leadership to circulate to five or six armories that are scattered across upstate New York, than it is for the Air Guard leaders to talk to people all clustered together on one base. But please make an effort to get out and talk to your people.

We ask a lot of our Army Guard platoon sergeants and squad leaders. We should make sure that those E-7s, E-6s, and E-5s are not the only ones talking to Soldiers. Make sure those direct leaders have the information they need to help their Soldiers make decisions.



Maj. Gen.
Anthony German

I've also got a special message for all Sergeant Majors and Chiefs.

I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of you since becoming Adjutant General, and your folks are an awesome group. They are professional, dedicated, and experienced. When you interact with them remember you can be quite intimidating.

You can make me nervous, imagine how you come across to a young troop.

Keep that in mind as you're out there mixing it up with your folks. We count on you to be our eyes and ears on the ground, but if you're too scary, that young private or airman isn't going to honestly open up.

Lines of communication make our teams work, and when a team comes together, they can accomplish extraordinary things.

Let me also take this opportunity to praise a great team of Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing who recently saved the lives of two sailors on a ship in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. You can read the details of this demanding mission on page 24 of this issue of Guard Times.

These Airmen turned what was supposed to be a training mission into a real-world mission with very little planning time. They are an example of the excellence which our Citizen Airmen and Citizen Soldiers display when called upon.

We are all going to be busy. All of us are going to be asked to do more for our Nation and state. You've all got an important mission to do. What you do matters and changes the lives of all those you support.



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Spcs. Akil Bonadie, left, and Jerry Barry, assigned to the 427th Brigade Support Battalion, discuss their next location during a land navigation exercise at the Camp Smith Training Site July 16, 2017. Bonadie and Barry participated in the Guard's Future Leader's Course. See our story on page 23. Photo by Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.



FRONT COVER: New York Army National Guard Sergeant Brian Shea, of the 69th Infantry, calls for fire support as his unit prepares to face Australian soldiers and U.S. Marines as members of the opposition force during the final assault at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area during Exercise Talisman Saber on 20 July. See our story on page 18. Courtesy photo.

BACK COVER: A New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the 106th Rescue wing surveys flood waters engulfing Houston, Texas during rescue operations on August, 30, 2017. New York deployed 120 Airmen, three HH-60 Pavehawk rescue helicopters and two HC-130 search and rescue aircraft to assist the Texas National Guard. See our story on page 14. Photo by Daniel Farrell, 106th Rescue Wing.

FACES of the FORCE

Airmen at Right Time, Right Place, Save lives

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing

“A man who saves lives as a matter of course. A man cool under pressure and a man who ultimately thinks of others before himself. I am proud to serve along men such as he.”

-- Tech Sgt. Brandon Mason, 274th Air Support Operations Squadron

HANCOCK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SYRACUSE, N.Y., – Two Airmen assigned to the New York Air National Guard’s 274th Air Support Operations Squadron in Syracuse, were at the right place and right time to save lives when car accident occurred outside of the main gate here, April 4.

Tech Sgt. Brandon Mason, a support services specialist, and Tech Sgt. Seth Stucker, a first sergeant assigned to the 274th ASOS, saw the accident occur and were immediately on the scene.

“Tech Sgt. Mason and I were returning from lunch and we were stuck at a red light,” said Stucker. “As we were sitting at the light I said to Mason that there was a car that was going to run the red light.”

As the two Airmen were sitting in their truck, they saw the car accident unfold in front of them.

As the car ran the red light, it crossed two lanes of traffic and almost collided with another car, said Stucker. The car went off the road and into some thick brush and hit a tree, said Stucker.

Watching the car go by, it seemed to Mason and Stucker that the driver may have had a medical emergency.

“I put my truck in park and put on my blinkers,” said Stucker. “We were literally outside the main gate so I told Mason to go to security forces and get a triage bag and to call 911.”

For Stucker, his Air Force career

has spanned more than 13 years, nine of which were on active duty. He was trained as medic and holds an EMT license, giving him the skills to respond to the accident he just saw.

He was out of his door, racing on foot across the road even before I could open my own door, said Mason. I came around through the path the vehicle carved through the brush to help Stucker as he got access to the car to tend to the driver, said Mason.

One of the first things they noticed was that the car was still in drive and the wheels were spinning, but the vehicle held stationary by the tree it drove into.

“I gained access to his car and turned off the ignition and put the keys off to the side so the airbags wouldn’t deploy,” said Stucker. “A couple other people showed up so I had them jump in the back of the car and take C-spine precautions.”

The Airmen never once faltered under the undeniable stress of the situation. On that day, cool heads prevailed.

“Stucker never once acted frantic, yelled or evinced any sort of panicked action,” said Mason. “He managed to stabilize the victim’s spine and directed first responders, such as myself, on procedures and actions to save a young man from further harm.”

EMTs, police and the fire department were soon on the scene to deliver care and direct traffic. For Stucker however, the job was not done.



Tech Sgt. Seth Stucker, first sergeant assigned to the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, along with Tech Sgt. Brandon Mason, a 274th support services specialist responded to the scene of a car accident outside of the main gate of Hancock Airfield, April 4, 2017. Stucker, who has a medical background in the Air Force, was first on the scene to render aid to the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle that crashed, until EMS and other local emergency services arrived.

He remained at the driver’s side speaking calmly to him and cooperating with all of the agencies on the scene the entire time,” said Mason. “He was the first to arrive on the scene and the last to leave the young man’s side as he was loaded into the ambulance.”

It was a collective effort with all of the Airmen working together the best they could, with Airmen such as Mason putting into action their Air Force training.

“One thing that really impressed me with Mason was that I’m also a self-aid and buddy care instructor, and he jumped right in and

knew what to do because of that training,” said Stucker. “It’s good to see that the programs we have are actually being utilized when it comes to real-world situations.”

In the end, the Airmen were proud that they were able to help and proud of each other.

“He acted every inch the superb Airman we all strive to achieve,” said Mason. “A man who saves lives as a matter of course. A man cool under pressure and a man who ultimately thinks of others before himself. I am proud to serve along men such as he. An example for the rest to follow.”



“Awards don’t make you a role model. Role models are forged by the way you conduct and carry yourself each and every day.”

-- Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Cush, 53rd Troop Command

New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major Corey Cush, center, receives an award from the national Blacks in Government organization during their annual dinner in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on August 22, 2017. Cush, the command sergeant major of the New York Army National Guard’s 53rd Troop Command, received the Blacks in Government Military Meritorious Service Award. With Cush are (left) Darlene H. Young, the organization’s past President and Dr. Doris Sartor, the president of BIG. Photo courtesy of Blacks in Government.

Troop Command Leader Recognized in a BIG way

By Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. -- Command Sgt. Maj. Corey K. Cush, the senior enlisted advisor to the New York Army National Guard’s 53rd Troop Command, has always been an inspiration to his Soldiers, and now he’s been awarded for it in a BIG way.

Cush, who is responsible for 4,500 Soldiers in combat support and combat service support units across New York, was presented with the 2017 Blacks in Government (BIG) Military Meritorious Service Award at a reception held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, August 23, 2017.

Cush is the first New York Guardsman to receive this award since it was implemented in 2005.

“I wasn’t expecting this,” said Cush, the highly decorated 32-year Army combat veteran. “It means a lot to me - to be a beacon for change - especially in the current climate our country is in.”

The award honors military members and Department of Defense civilian employees, men and women, who significantly contributed to the mission of their organization via 10 essential criteria to include promoting the tenets of civil rights, displaying exceptional character, and eliminating the barriers that hinder equal opportunity.

“Sgt. Maj. Cush is one of the best enlisted leaders in the New York Army National Guard. He looks out for his Soldiers and is a professional in every way. He is incredibly deserving of this honor,” said Major General Anthony German, the Adjutant General of New York.

Cush, a Mt. Vernon, N.Y. resident, said he was humbled by the recognition and support from those who submitted a nomination on his behalf and that he was honored with winning the award.


But, he emphasized that getting awards doesn’t make a person a leader. “Awards don’t make you a role model,” said Cush. “Role models are forged by the way you conduct and carry yourself each and every day.”

With or without awards, Cush is always at the forefront providing leadership and mentoring to junior Soldiers and senior leaders alike, said Brig. Gen. Michel Natali, the commander of the 53rd Troop Command, Natali has served with Cush since 2011.

Natali said Cush “was the natural choice for recognition because he exemplifies the true professionalism we demand of our NYARNG senior leaders and is the absolute standard for others to follow.”

Cush said he draws from all of his military experience, both from the active Army and the National Guard, when he talks about how the Army culture is a great representation of role models and diversity in the workplace.

“No other organization is more fair and impartial than the military; you’re given a fair shake. Look at the Army’s core values, it signifies everything we are - and it doesn’t mention color,” Cush said.

“It is diversity that directly increases our combat readiness, morale and Esprit de Corps,” said Cush. 

AROUND THE STATE

Rainbow Marks 100 Years at Camp Mills Birthplace

By Eric Durr, *Guard Times* Staff

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. --Veterans and current leaders of the 42nd Infantry Division and the New York Army National Guard marked the 100th anniversary of the "Rainbow Division" with a Saturday, August 12, 2017 ceremony here, where the division first organized in 1917.

In an effort to organize and deploy combat units quickly as the United States entered World War I, the division was formed from assembling the most ready National Guard units of 26 states and the District of Columbia.

Because it would take in units from many states, then-Major Douglas MacArthur, the officer who came up with the idea, said it would stretch across the country "like a rainbow."

Before it even acquired the number 42, the division became known as the "Rainbow Division."

Units began arriving at Camp Mills, where Garden City is today, in mid-August and created a tent city in the open meadows of Long Island and all 24,000 men assembled by mid-September for training. The division completed preparations and left for service in France in November, not returning to Camp Mills until 1919.

Just under 3,000 never came home and 13,292 were wounded.

With active service in both world wars, the division has been a part of the New York Army National Guard since 1947.

National Guard units in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and New Jersey are aligned with the division today, which is headquartered in Troy, N.Y.

"It's a great day to see our comrades and honor our World War I founders," said retired Major General Joseph Taluto, who commanded the division in Iraq in 2005, and now serves as director of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation.

The foundation organized the event.

The short ceremony featured remarks from Taluto, the mayor of Garden City, the French Deputy Consul General in New York City, a member of the national World War I Centennial Commission and Major General Steven

Ferrari, the current commander of the 42nd Infantry Division.

The ceremony took place at the monument, erected by Rainbow division veterans in 1940, which marks the site of Camp Mills and commemorates the division's World War I service.

Ferrari was promoted to Major General during the ceremony and his predecessor, Major General Harry Miller, who currently serves as Deputy Director for Strategic Integration at the Defense Intelligence Agency, was presented the Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his service as division commander.

Three other former division commanders – retired Major Generals Steven Wickstrom and Thomas Kinley and retired Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux—attended the event as well.

A number of famous Soldiers served in the 42nd Infantry Division during World War I, including Col. Douglas MacArthur, who came up with the concept of the division; Lt. Col. William "Wild Bill" Donovan who won the Medal of Honor; Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, who wrote the poem "Trees"; and Father Francis Duffy, the fighting Catholic Priest, Ferrari noted during his remarks.

But most of the division's Soldiers, then and now, are just good Soldiers who do their duty to the best of their ability, Ferrari said.

One of those World War I Soldiers was Pvt. Martin Treptow, who enlisted in the Iowa National Guard and joined the division as a member of the 168th Infantry Regiment, Ferrari said.

Treptow served as a runner--a Soldier who carried messages in the days before radio--and was killed in July 1918. After his death his diary was found and a passage Treptow wrote summarizes how Rainbow Soldiers have always served, the general said.

"America must win this war," Treptow wrote. "Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."

Treptow is typical of the Soldiers of this division, "who I am so proud to be associated with," Ferrari said.

"It is a privilege and it is an honor to lead the 42nd Division," Ferrari said.

French Deputy Consul Eric Bayer reminded his listeners that the French people remember what the Soldiers of the 42nd Division and the American Army did during World War I.

As a Frenchman it is moving to see a marker with French place names – like St. Mihiel, Aisne-Marne, Baccarat and Squain-Champagne—where the division served, Bayer said.

Ryan Hegg, representative of the World War I Centennial Committee, reminded those present that the American Soldiers were known for their energy and enthusiasm. They turned the tide of the war in favor of the Allies.

"They ended the war. They saved lives. No Soldier could ask for more," Hegg said.

About 100 people attended the event, including Bill Vorlick, a New York Army National Guard veteran from Queens, N.Y.


"It felt great that their service was not forgotten," Vorlick said.

Staff Sgt. Colin Stewart, a current member of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, said he lives nearby, and going by the monument each day reminds him of the division's history.

The monument was renovated earlier this year at a cost of just over \$9,000 with the village of Garden City and the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation splitting the cost.

The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation was established in the 1970s as the division veterans of World War I and II began to age, said Taluto, who also served as Adjutant General of New York. They had established a veterans association, but decided there needed to be a way to preserve the division's legacy, he explained.

Monies held and raised by the foundation allow for the preservation of memorials to the division and creation of new ones—like markers at Fort Drum and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst which commemorate the division Soldiers who served in Iraq—scholarships for the children and descendants of division Soldiers, Taluto said.

The goal, he said, is to keep the story of the Rainbow Division alive. 



Retired Major General Joseph Taluto, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq in 2005, and chairman of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation speaks during a ceremony marking the division's centennial August 12, 2017 at Garden City, N.Y., the site of the unit mobilization at Camp Mills in 1917. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.



Major General Steven Ferrari receives his two-star rank from his wife during ceremonies on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at the Rainbow Division Memorial in Garden City, N.Y. Photo by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard.



Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division color guard mark the division's centennial August 12, 2017 at Garden City, N.Y. The Soldiers wear replica WWI uniforms to honor the division's creation from units from 26 states. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters.





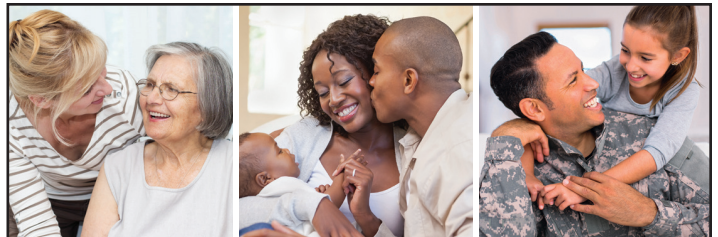
And the Band Played On

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. -- Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division Band play at the Saratoga Race Track, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., July 30, 2017. The band toured around the state at 11 different locations for their annual training. At top right, Spc. Drew Gansz, left and Staff Sgt. Richard Alexander, perform at the Egg in Albany, July 31. At right, Spc. Miranda Banks and Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lucas, vocalists and musicians in the Rock Band, perform at the Egg July 31. Photos by Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters.

Special Olympics Torch Run



NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. -- Airmen from the 107th Attack Wing participate in a torch run for the Special Olympics when it was brought on base, June 10, 2017. The torch was brought to raise awareness for the New York State Special Olympic Games held June 16-18. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing.



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Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor



Paid Family Leave

A New York City Sendoff for 27th Division in WWI

By Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

NEW YORK - Before they walked down the gangplank onto French soil in April 1918; 25,000 New York National Guard Soldiers walked down Fifth Avenue in August 1917 so New York City could say goodbye.

On Aug. 30, 1917, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers lined a five-mile route from 110th Street to the Washington Square Arch as the 27th Infantry Division paraded down the street.

There were so many marching Soldiers, the *New York Times* reported, that it took five hours for the parade to pass by.

After being federalized on July 15, 1917, New York Army National Guard members remained at their armories, being issued equipment, undergoing medical checks, shoeing mules, and beginning to train for war.

While the Regular Army officers orchestrating the mobilization wanted the Soldiers to move into field camps quickly, the New York National Guard argued that it made more sense to use its armories for the process instead.

"These measures could be taken in a much more efficient manner in the great armories of New York State than they could in open fields," Maj. Gen. John F. O'Ryan, the 27th Infantry Division commander, wrote after the war.

Initially, O'Ryan was told that his division - destined to be known as the 27th Division but still called the 6th Division by the Army - would be training at Camp Wadsworth in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and was slated to move in early August.

With this early August departure date in mind, New York City's movers and shakers began planning for a big farewell parade. Initially the parade was set for Aug. 9, 1917. But on Aug. 6, the division learned that Camp Wadsworth wasn't ready yet.

The big parade was put off.

The delay in moving south was probably a good thing, the *New York Times* also reported, since the Soldiers were still short of equipment and the units needed to be consolidated.

On Aug. 23, O'Ryan was informed that the division would move south beginning in early September and the big parade in New York City was back on again. Only now the festivities would include a dinner for 24,000 New York National Guardsmen as well.



Soldiers of the New York National Guard's 27th Division pass the reviewing stand on Fifth Avenue during the Aug. 30, 1917 parade held in their honor. Photo courtesy the Library of Congress.

On Aug. 28, Mayor Mitchell hosted a dinner at the Hotel Biltmore for O'Ryan, his division staff, and unit commanders.

"Only a town like the City of New York could seriously undertake a hospitality of such magnitude," O'Ryan wrote.

The parade kicked off at 10 a.m. on Aug. 30.

Members of Soldiers' families were given a special pass that allowed them access to the west side of Fifth Avenue from 110th Street south to 59th Street. Each Soldier got four passes for his family members.

The Police Department Band led the parade, which allowed all the regimental bands to march with their parent organization.

First in line was the 22nd Engineer Regiment. The regiment's Company A had already been ordered to Yaphank on Long Island to build a camp for newly formed 77th Infantry Division. Company D was already in South Carolina helping to finish Camp Wadsworth.

The rest of the regiment was due to get on a train after the troops marched past the reviewing stand at the Union League Club, and head south to help finish up construction of the post.

At the reviewing stand, Mayor Mitchell,

former President Teddy Roosevelt, and other dignitaries waved and greeted the troops.

The marching troops remembered cheering crowds, with people waving flags and shouting themselves hoarse, while "bombarding" the troops with "candy, chewing gum and all kinds of fruits, cigars and cigarettes."

Most of the troops in the parade finished their march and went back to camp to wait for their turn to go to Spartanburg.

A *New York Times* writer called the parade: "A thrilling, stirring sight!"

For the next couple of weeks, the big parade was replicated several times on a smaller scale as individual regiments left for Spartanburg.

The 7th Regiment's march to the train station on Sept. 11, 1917, for example, even included a second march past the Union Club.

With the parade and send offs behind them, the 27th Division adapted to its new home in South Carolina and began to learn the art of soldiering in the 20th Century. There would be much hard fighting in France ahead in 1918.

More than 400,000 New Yorkers served in the military during World War I, more than any other state. **gt**

Around the NY National Guard



The many faces of the New York National Guard this summer. Clockwise from top, Army National Guard Soldiers with the graduating Infantryman's Advanced Leadership Course at Camp Smith August 25, 2017. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment. Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Marshall Plumlee visits with kids at the Hudson Valley Community College Basketball Camp in Troy, N.Y. July 11, 2017. Plumlee earned his commission through ROTC at Duke University and played last season as a center for the New York Knicks Basketball team. Courtesy photo. Spc. Nicholas Cavanaugh, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, instructs 10th Mountain Division Soldiers how to enter a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter at Fort Drum, N.Y., July 11, 2017. Photo by Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters. At center, Officer Candidate Kevin L. Meccariello, distinguished honor graduate of Officer Candidate School Class 62, receives the Army Achievement Medal during his commissioning ceremony at Camp Smith August 19, 2017. Meccariello was one of four candidates to complete the training and will now serve as a Quartermaster officer with the 133rd Quartermaster Company. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.



Remembering a Fallen Airman

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. -- Col. Robert Kilgore, commander of the New York Air National Guard's 107th Attack Wing, addresses those in attendance during a service adding the name of Master Sgt. Ken DeVole to a memorial honoring members of the wing who have passed away while serving, July 15, 2017. Kilgore told stories of his former Airman who passed away in 2016 after battling cancer. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing.



Cooking for Troops as Training

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Members of the 174th Attack Wing Dining Facilities Administration Center participate in readiness training August 14, 2017 at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base. The Airmen utilized a borrowed Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer, provided by the wing's Services Flight to conduct set-up and food preparation training to better prepare for disaster preparedness or overseas deployment. The food service Airmen then demonstrated effective use of the equipment by serving breakfast and lunch to fellow wing members and unit leadership. Photo by Master Sgt. Lillique Ford, 174th Attack Wing.

Local Advocate Honored

By Master Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SCOTIA, N.Y. -- The new wing conference room in the headquarters building of the 109th Airlift Wing here is now the Chuck Steiner Memorial Conference Room following a dedication ceremony in Chuck Steiner's name Aug. 4.

Steiner, Capital Region Chamber president, passed away April 18.

About 50 people including Steiner's wife, Marcy, and son, Matt attended the ceremony.

The ceremony began with the presentation of the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal.

An excerpt from the citation read:


"Mr. Steiner greatly assisted in securing the future, viability and stability of the 109th Airlift Wing in Glenville, the Navy Operational Support Center in Glenville, the Niskayuna Army Reserve Center in Schenectady, the Navy Support Activity in Saratoga Springs, the Armed Forces Recruiting Center in Schenectady, and the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa."

Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General presented the medal to Steiner's family.

"Chuck was as much a member of the militia as the folks who do wear the uniform, because he fought it on a different battle," German said.

"Chuck was an American patriot - he truly bled red, white and blue in everything that our country stands for," said Mark Eagan, Capital Region Chamber CEO.

"It's an honor to be able to recognize him," German said. "I miss him, and think about him often."

"I wanted to thank Marcy and Matt and the rest of the family for allowing Chuck to share a great deal of his time for this base," said Col. Shawn Clouthier, 109th Airlift Wing commander. 



Maj. Gen. Anthony German (right), presents Marcy and Matt Steiner with the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal awarded to the late Chuck Steiner during a ceremony at Stratton Air National Guard Base on Aug. 4, 2017. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. William Gizara, 109th Airlift Wing.

THE JOINT FORCE

Guard on scene following Tornado damage

By Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

HAMBURG, New York -- 100 members of the New York National Guard deployed in the immediate aftermath of severe storm and tornado damage in the Western New York Town of Hamburg July 20, 2017.

New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo deployed the response force to the Erie County Fairgrounds in the Town of Hamburg in the hours following the severe storms.

The National Weather Service confirmed that a tornado touched down in Erie County in the early afternoon of July 20, with touchdowns made in the towns of Hamburg, Orchard Park, South Wales and Holland.

The New York National Guard element joins a multi-agency response assisting local governments with their recovery efforts. An initial estimate reported some 20,000 residents without power due to debris from fallen trees.

A State of Emergency has been declared in Orchard Park and Hamburg, and Erie County has issued a travel advisory for Aurora, Orchard Park, and Hamburg banning unnecessary travel.

“Severe weather is the new normal and it is critical that we remain vigilant and make the proper preparations to protect ourselves and our homes when Mother Nature strikes,” Governor Cuomo said. “I am deploying 100 National Guard members and directing state agencies to assist local officials in cleanup efforts and I urge those who live in the area to stay safe and to take any necessary precautions.”

The joint response force includes Army National Guard Soldiers from the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Air National Guard members of the 107th Attack Wing and members of the New York State Defense Forces’ Naval Militia and New York Guard.



Above left, Army National Guard Spc. James Anthony, right, and Pfc. Sidney Gannon from Headquarters Company of the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion remove debris along County Route 396 in Holland, N.Y. following tornado storm damage on July 20, 2017. At right, a New York Army National Guard High Mobility Engineer Excavator from Company A, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion conducts initial linkup with the Erie County Highway Department near Holland, N.Y. on July 20. The response force of engineers and Soldiers were part of the 100-member joint National Guard response element to assist local emergency responders with recovery efforts. A tornado touched down in Erie County in Western New York State, leaving an initial 20,000 residents without power and downing power lines and trees, blocking local roads with debris. Photos courtesy of New York Army National Guard Maj. Justin Couts, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.



Sgt. Raymond Faltisco conducts initial linkup with Erie County Highway Department counterparts near Holland, New York following tornado storm damage on July 20, 2017. Faltisco, from Buffalo, New York, joined other New York Army National Guard Engineers assigned to Company A, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion as part of a 100-member joint National Guard response element to assist local emergency responders with recovery efforts. A tornado touched down in Erie County in Western New York State July 20, leaving an initial 20,000 residents without power and downing power lines and trees, blocking local roads with debris. Photo courtesy of New York Army National Guard Maj. Justin Courts.

Harvey Hits Houston; 106th Rescue Wing Responds

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



Senior Airman John Kosequat, a pararescueman with the 103rd Rescue Squadron of the 106th Rescue Wing, pushes an elderly man toward a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter in the Houston area, August 30, 2017. The man was safely transported to a local area hospital.



Staff Sgt. Ryan R. Dush, a pararescueman in the 106th Rescue Wing, is helped aboard an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter as he secures a month-old infant during a rescue mission in Houston, Texas in this still from a pararescueman's helmet camera taken August 29, 2017. Dush and the other members of the Pave Hawk crew and other pararescuemen, saved a family of nine people during this mission.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hurricane Harvey marked just the start of New York National Guard operations for hurricane relief. Our coverage of New York State Military Forces for Hurricanes Irma and Maria will continue in our next issue. HOUSTON, Texas -- Using HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and four inflatable Zodiac boats, members of the 106th Rescue Wing rescued 546 people, including infants, children and the elderly, and more than two dozen pets, during a week-long deployment to Texas, August 26- Sept. 2.

A total of 124 members of the wing, including helicopter crews, HC-130 crewmen, pararescuemen, Combat Rescue Officers, and maintenance teams took part in the mission.

A video of 106th Rescue Wing personnel rescuing a family that included a month-old baby was shown on television nationally and featured on news websites around the world.

New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, praised the Airmen of the 106th for their efforts, on their return from the mission.

"We are grateful for the heroism and hard work of the New York Air National Guard, as their efforts have saved 546 people from the rising waters in Texas," Cuomo said.

The hard work and training the 106th Rescue Wing does every day paid off during this deployment, said Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General.

The mission began August 25, when wing commander Col. Michael Bank received orders to send Airmen and equipment to Fort Hood, Texas.

The 106th deployment was part of the overall National Guard response to Hurricane Harvey, which inundated the Texas coast line with flood-producing rains.

The entire Texas National Guard was called

up and Guard elements, along with active military and Coast Guard from across the country.

Within 24-hours the members of the 106th had packed two C-17s, from the 105th Airlift Wing, which flew in from Stewart Air National Guard Base, with three HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, four Zodiac boats, a truck and equipment necessary to carry out the missions.

An HC-130 search and rescue aircraft, utilized as a command-and-control platform, also has the ability to refuel helicopters in flight.

The HC-130 was extremely useful because refueling was not available on the ground because of the flooding so the helicopters needed to be topped off in the air.

Two days into the mission a second HC-130 and 15 more Airmen were dispatched.

Folding three Pave Hawk helicopters and loading them onto a C-17 is no easy feat, said Senior Airman Kenneth J. Kiefer, a helicopter crew chief with the 106th Maintenance Group. It takes two to three hours to fold, and two to three more hours to load them, he explained.

The first flights lifted off on August 26 and were on the ground at Fort Hood preparing for missions the next day.

The C-17s from Stewart also flew equipment and personnel from other states into Texas, before returning the 106th Airmen and equipment to Gabreski on Sept. 2.

The members of the 106th Maintenance Group worked long days and late nights under conditions that ranged from swift winds and rain to blue skies under a hot sun. It was tough but they proved that they were up for the task, said Lt. Col. Robert Siebelts, the 106th Maintenance Squadron Commander.

"Our maintainers unloaded, unfolded our HH-60s in minimal time and kept both the HC-130s and HH-60s flying throughout the duration of the rescue," Siebelts said. "They all stepped up and did an outstanding job."

Flight crews and pararescue teams were kept busy getting people to safety from flooded areas using boats and helicopters.

During the rescue that made national news, Senior Airman John J. Kosequat and Staff Sgt. Ryan R. Dush, both members of the 103rd Rescue Squadron, who are both fathers to young children, rescued a one month old infant from



Capt. P.K. Osahor, a pilot with the 101st Rescue Squadron of the 106th Rescue Wing, and Master Sgt. Sean Browning, an HH-60 Pavehawk crew chief with the Maintenance Squadron, watch a Pavehawk taxi into position at Fort Hood, Texas August 28, 2017.

a flooded home, along with eight other family members.

Having a baby of his own at home made him realize how much was riding on him doing this job correctly, Dush recalled.

Dush secured the infant safely to his body using a babybjorn style harness for the 60-foot hoist to a hovering helicopter.

“It was really emotional,” Dush said. “Just knowing you don’t want anything bad to happen to this small child.”

During another rescue, in which a family of five were helped, all crewmen were focused on one side of the Pave Hawk, when Master Sgt. Joseph Napolitano, spotted a towel and a pair of legs hanging out of a house window on his side of the aircraft.

“Nobody else saw it,” said Napolitano. “But I was pretty adamant about it.”

Because of Napolitano’s alertness the crew saved another two people, an elderly disabled man and his caretaker.

Zodiac Boat crews, operating in the greater Houston area, went door to door, block by block, in medium to large scale evacuations.

The boat teams spent their nights in the field, sleeping in warehouses, fire departments, police stations or elsewhere as opportunities allowed.

“We wanted to have a minimal

footprint on local resources while getting out the most for the people that needed the help,” said Maj. Sal Sferrazza, a Combat Rescue Officer.

“These are people’s lives. We wanted to be that lasting impact on the ground,” he explained.

Although the pararescuemen are the ones that drop from helicopters, it’s important to remember that it takes a crew made up of pilots, special missions aviators, as well as pararescuemen, for the mission to be successful, said Maj. Glynn Weir, one of the Combat Rescue Officers.

“Pilots and special mission aviators are vital to the mission,” Weir said. “We would never get to the spot and we could never take those patients to the hospital on a boat.”

Lt. Col. Geoffrey Petyak, the 106th Operations Group commander in charge of the Hurricane Harvey relief effort, ran the Rescue Coordination Center at Fort Hood.

The center received missions and Petyak coordinated New York’s rescue forces, explained Lt. Col. Thomas Keany, the 106th Deputy Operations Group Commander.

“We were just happy to be down here for them, doing anything we can,” Kearny said.

“I’m really proud of everyone,” said Petyak. “We are here to help Texas, and these guys worked extremely hard to save as many lives as possible.”



Senior Airman John J. Kosequat and Staff Sgt. Ryan R. Dush, both pararescuemen with the 103rd Rescue Squadron of the 106th Rescue Wing, carry a child and dog off an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter at the Montagne Center in Beaumont, Texas, August 30, 2017.



Staff Sgt. Juan Salgado, Master Sgt. Joseph Spadevechia and Senior Airman John J. Kosequat, pararescuemen from the 103rd Rescue Squadron of the 106th Rescue Wing meet at the door of an HH-60 Pavehawk helicopter at Fort Hood, Texas August 28, 2017. Salgado and Kosequat had returned from the day’s rescue missions in Houston.

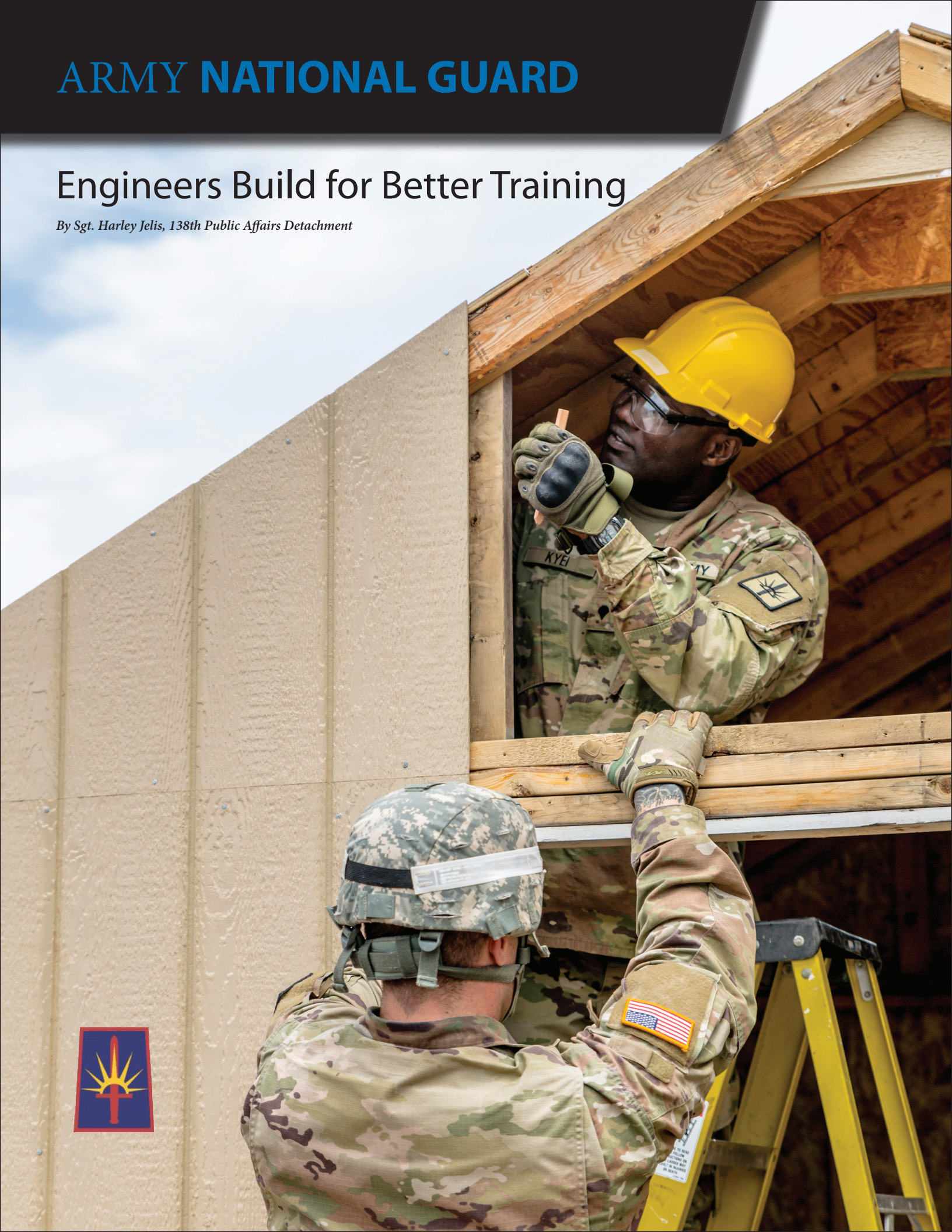


Air Force Senior Airman Ray-Christian Demafles, a crew chief with the 106th Rescue Wing, seated on top of an HH-60 Pavehawk helicopter engine cowling at Fort Hood, Texas August 28, 2017. The Pavehawk had returned from the day’s flood rescue missions to save people.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Engineers Build for Better Training

By Sgt. Harley Jelis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment





Soldiers with the 827th Engineer Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, tear apart and regrade a road at Fort Drum, N.Y., July 19th, 2017. Photo by Sgt. Harley Jelis. Opposite page: 1156th Engineers attach a piece of siding to a shed. The Soldiers were part of four construction projects during annual training that honed skills while completing projects for the post. Photo by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

FORT DRUM, N.Y.--Nearly 300 Soldiers from the Binghamton, N.Y. based 204th Engineer Battalion used their summer annual training to prepare for overseas deployments and domestic operations while building lasting projects across three ranges and four construction sites in Fort Drum, N.Y. in July, 2017.

“Not only are we training to deploy but we’re also doing real world construction tasks to assist both in improving our job proficiency, as well as getting some tasks accomplished for Fort Drum that they just don’t have the resources to do,” said Maj. Bryan Reed, the executive officer for the 204th Engineer Battalion.

The 204th Engineer Battalion is comprised of six subordinate units that all specialize in different areas of engineering. This diversity enables the battalion to tackle a wide range of missions, including tasks relevant for both domestic and deployed combat operations missions.

“Our engineers run a full gamut; we do everything from route clearance, finding IEDs and getting rid of them, to building a shed and everything in between,” Reed said.

This year’s annual training provided the opportunity for the battalion to work together with active duty units from Fort Drum, including military police and field artillery.

“This weekend we’ll be working with the military police for a combined arms exercise,” said Reed. “It’s really the first time we’ve combined at this level so that we can come together and generate some effective training for the both of us.”

Every year a unit’s annual training allows its Soldiers to refresh their technical skills while giving newer Soldiers a chance to apply what they learned in to school to real life.

These tasks, like the two storage sheds that Sgt. Javier Mercado, a carpentry and masonry specialist with the 1156th Engineer Company, built for use on Ft. Drum, gave him experience on everything from design work and project management to carpentry.

“Every year we progress in our training; our skill levels increase because every time we come to annual training there are projects for us

to do,” Mercado said. “We are getting better at what we do, it feels really good to come out and practice our jobs.”

The battalion’s construction projects can have applications for deployed environments as well, such as the unit’s work on repairing Fort Drum’s Forward Landing Strip (FLS). The strip, which is the only one in the northeast, simulates a forward airfield that would be created in a deployed combat environment that brings in supplies from cargo planes.

“We’re here to resurface the Belvedere FLS, and this is very important because the next closest FLS is in South Carolina,” said 1 Lt. Kevin Valenti, a platoon leader with the 152nd Engineer Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion. “We’re repaving and making a bypass road so vehicles don’t need to cut across it and damage the surface.”

This year the battalion has also been able to focus on realistic training and meeting the need for security in a deployed environment.

“We’ve really pushed to bring everything together tactically,” said Valenti. “Now we’re trying to come out before we even start the construction; we’re setting work-site security, all of this is going to be the same stuff we’d be doing while deployed.”

The Soldiers of the 827th Heavy Engineer Company have been able to focus on the tasks they would be expected to do in a deployed environment. They’ve been building fighting emplacements for everything from individual positions to artillery batteries to defilades meant to hide tanks.

According to 1st Lt. Stephen Hetman, a platoon leader with the 827th Heavy Engineer Company out of Walden and Horseheads, N.Y., this training has been invaluable for the Soldiers, allowing them to practice on tasks and with units they couldn’t back at their home stations.

“It’s a phenomenal work experience,” said Hetman about working with the field artillery. “There’s a lot of learning behind it, but it’s not something they were able to do before.”

The focus on training for both domestic and international operations is what is tying all of the 204th Engineer Battalion’s tasks together. Getting the job done, doing it well and giving each Soldier the opportunity to say “yeah, we built that,” makes it all worthwhile, said Maj. Bryan Reed. **gt**

Troops go “down under” with Australian Soldiers

By Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

SHOALWATER BAY, Queensland, Australia—Eight hundred New York Army National Guard Soldiers became part of an Australian Army Brigade during three weeks of training “down under” during a massive international training exercise, July 7-26.

Talisman Saber, an Australian/ U.S. com-

bined training exercise, held every other year, involved 33,000 personnel from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada in an amphibious training exercise held at Australia’s Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area.

While the majority of the National Guard Soldiers hailed from the 1st Battalion, 69th

Infantry, troops from the 427th Brigade Support Battalion, the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry and the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry of the Massachusetts Army National Guard were also part of the task force.

The chance to train with the Australians was great, said Spc. Isaac Agyei, a 69th Infantry mortarman.

“We had two guys attached to our unit as part of our security detail and they were open with everything. I never knew

them and they never knew me, but now we’re friends and I have their contact information and we plan to keep in touch,” Agyei said.

The National Guard Soldiers were attached to the active duty Australian Army’s 1st brigade playing the opposing force during the exercise.

Their mission was to block an amphibious landing force of Australian and New Zealand Soldiers supported by the elements 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division and over 300 paratroopers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, an airborne brigade, of the 25th Infantry Division. A Canadian parachute company jumped with this brigade.

A key focus for the exercise is to learn how to work together, explained Australian Army Col. Bede Galvin, an exercise controller. “We focus on the high level of interoperability between our two countries,” Galvin said.

“There have been a few communication challenges. Sometimes we’ll say things the Americans don’t necessarily understand, and vice versa,” Galvin said. “Despite that, the integration between the American and Australian air forces has been first rate, and the tactical integration between the soldiers and airmen of the different countries working together has been excellent.”

The exercise was based around a fictitious country being encroached upon by a second country, which is being supported by a third nation, Galvin said.

The New York Soldiers were tasked with establishing blockades and defensive fighting positions in order to defend themselves from the advancing Australian Army’s 3rd Brigade which was playing the role of the liberating army, better known as the blue force.

The simulated combat was intense, Agyei recalled.

“During the exercise we had the Australians coming for us and the last day they found us. We were on a mountain top and they started coming up,” he said.

We had a chance to blow up some tanks. Even though we got wiped out, if this were for real, we would have inflicted some serious damage. We blew up four tanks and a few helicopters,” he added.



Pfc. Joshua Aponte, assigned to Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, surveys the beach from an observation post during exercise Talisman Saber, July 14. During the week-long exercise, Soldiers from Charlie Troop set up screening positions along the coast to notify friendly forces of enemy ships that made a sudden appearance. Photo by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



Members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry acting as the opposing force during Exercise Talisman Saber defend their ground against Battlegroup Coral during the final assault at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area July 20, 2017. Photo by Cpl. Mark Doran, Australian Department of Defence.

“When the fight came we all knew exactly knew what to do,” Agyei said.

The land battle was only a small part of the overall exercise, Galvin said. The battle involved over 190 aircraft and 26 ships, including the supercarrier U.S.S. Ronald Regan.

The landing was the largest the Australians have conducted – in real life, or in an exercise— since World War II.

The land force battle was “free play” at the tactical level, which meant there was no scripted outcome to the fight, Galvin said.

In addition to controlling the exercise, observer/trainers also monitor the training events and reported to commanders on both their assets and shortcomings, Galvin said.

Talisman Saber was a great opportunity for the New York Soldiers to work with a foreign military, said Lt. Col. Don Makay, the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment commander.

“We conducted offensive and defensive operations and learned to integrate our communications with allied forces,” Makay said.

The 69th completed a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk,

La. last year and was able to build upon their experiences there, Makay said.

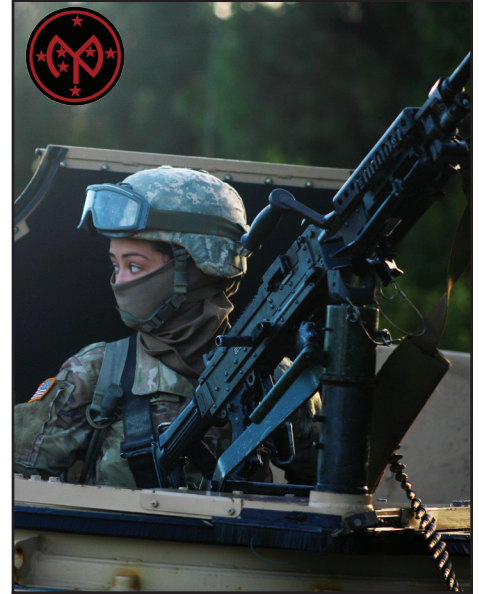
“It was beneficial to take the battalion to JRTC, then take those lessons learned and have the opportunity to deploy those lessons and reinforce them,” Makay said. “This experience was a little bit different from JRTC. There was a little bit of a slower operation tempo which gave our fire teams and squads time to focus on their field craft and tactical issues and lower level of training.”

“I think this was a beneficial and unique opportunity,” Makay said. “Working with a foreign army or any active duty force brings a level of skills and expertise that our Soldiers benefit from.”

“It’s one thing to go out as a reserve force and train yourself, but when you partner with an active duty unit you see that level of professionalism, and the relationship we established with the Australians allowed them to teach us and us to teach them,” Makay said. “That’s certainly a benefit that you wouldn’t get at a normal Annual Training.”



Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, defend their positions during the final battle of Talisman Saber at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area on July 19. During the exercise, a series of war games, New York Army National Guard Soldiers fought against, and alongside Australian and New Zealand personnel. Photo by Sgt. Michael Tietjen.



At top, Pfc. Catherine Urbano, a motor transport operator assigned to Fox Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, prepares to leave on a patrol July 15 in Shoalwater Bay, Australia. Below, Spc. Shawn Spafford, an infantryman assigned to Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, pauses on the beach during Talisman Saber, July 14 in Shoalwater Bay, Australia. New York Soldiers fought against, and alongside Australian and New Zealand personnel. Photos by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Aviation Mechanics Turn Wrenches for UH-60 Fleet

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

GROTON, Conn. – Soldiers from Bravo Company, 642 Aviation Support Battalion spent their 2017 annual training (AT) out of state, heading across Long Island Sound July 22 from their home station at Ronkonkoma to apply their maintenance skills on Army aircraft in need of repair.

The company deployed 36 Soldiers to Groton in order to provide support to the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG). The unit is one of only four facilities of its type in the Army and Army National Guard.

Its day-to-day mission is to provide intermediate aviation maintenance to 23 Army National Guard aviation support facilities and approximately 500 aircraft in the northeastern United States. The New York Soldiers took full advantage of the work load to conduct repairs on a number of Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and their components.

Since the makeup of Bravo Company contains many diverse aviation specialties, the unit formed a symbiotic relationship with the TASMG over the past 2 weeks, said Maj. Eric Fritz, the company commander.

The unit contributed more than 789 maintenance hours during annual training, Fritz explained,

greatly increasing the throughput of work-orders at the TASMG.

"I think it was beneficial," said Spc. Michael Rivera, an aircraft electrician. "The amount of work that was given (to us) in two weeks was equivalent to multiple drills at home or Fort Indiantown Gap."

The mission also gave Soldiers an unprecedented opportunity to practice perishable aviation maintenance skills, Fritz said.

Many of the maintenance skills conducted in Groton were simply not available to the Soldiers back at home station, explained Capt. Voley Martin from the company.

Groton is mostly component repair, Martin explained, the backshops which include sheet metal, engines, hydraulics, or power train and the 642nd Soldiers get to work on parts as they are pulled from the aircraft.

"The difference between working in the facility (at home station) and at the TASMG is that Soldiers only get to work on components as they break and there are some components that rarely break," Martin said. "At the TASMG they get multiple opportunities to get to work on every component, every day they are there some of which they never see at the facility?"

"Sheet metal workers got



Soldiers from Bravo Company, 642nd Support Battalion conduct intermediate aviation repairs on UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters at the Connecticut National Guard's 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group in Groton, Conn. July 31 during unit annual training. Photo courtesy of Capt. Voley Martin, 642nd Support Battalion.

a chance to inspect the entire airframe with the paint stripped off of it, which is something we never do back at the facility," Martin said as an example of the type of work done.

"This opportunity for Soldiers to work at such a facility allowed them to gain a large quantity

of hands on experience, building confidence while greatly increasing unit readiness," Fritz said.

"The training was a breath of fresh air," said Sgt. Robin Fung, an aircraft electrician. "We were able to work on different levels of maintenance that we are not use to. I hope every-

one from my shop gets to experience the same next year at AT."

The unit returned to home station in Ronkonkoma August 5.

"I feel like AT gave us the opportunity spread our wings," said Avionics Technical Inspector Spc. Rafael Torres. **gt**



From left, Spc. Tyler Studd, Staff Sgt. Raphael Ramos, Staff Sgt. Michael Kapela and 1st Lt. Christopher Tornabene, with the 152nd Engineer Company at The Adjutant General's Combat Sustainment Training Exercise (TAG Match) at Camp Smith, N.Y., June 3. The Soldiers represented New York at the Winston P. Wilson marksmanship competition at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, July 23-27. Photo by Spc. Amouris Coss, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.

Backyard Training Prepares for Shooting Match

Story by Eric Durr, *Guard Times Staff*

BUFFALO, N.Y.--As he prepared for the National Guard's annual rifle and pistol competition, Staff Sgt. Michael Kapela spent a lot of time in his Buffalo backyard.

He doesn't have a home range, but Kapela, a long-time shooter who headed the team that won the 2017 New York National Guard Adjutant General's Match, says you can get a lot done at home with some targets, a little space and an empty weapon.

He practices changing from firing position to firing position -- prone to kneeling, to standing, and back to prone, while getting a good sight picture on a target, Kapela explained.

The goal is to set a good shooting stance into muscle memory by doing it again, and again, and again, he said.

"The first time you do the kneeling position, or the last time you do the kneeling position it should not be on the range," Kapela said.

He compared it to doing push-ups during the Army physical fitness test.

"If you do a push up once a month at drill, you will never get stronger and you never really experience the benefits," he said. "Working on shooting stances is the same thing."

Kapela and three other members of the 152nd Engineer Support Company, represented New York at the Winston P. Wilson Championship marksmanship competition held at the Robinson Maneuver Training Center in North

Little Rock, Arkansas July 23-27.

The competition tests the ability of Guard shooters to employ their weapons -- M-4s, M-16s and M-9 pistols -- in a variety of situations.

Dubbing themselves "the Gravediggers" because of their engineer background; Kapela and Lt. Christopher Tornabene, Staff Sgt. Raphael Ramos, and Spec. Tyler Studd represented New York at the event.

Ramos, like Kapela, is a Buffalo resident, while Tornabene lives in nearby Williamsville, and Studd lives in Medina, N.Y. Their unit is in Buffalo at the Connecticut Street Armory.

Since being selected in June, the four Soldiers came together on their own time at local ranges to practice pistol and rifle shooting. They've purchased ammo and had some donated by a gun shop so they could practice, Kapela said.

The unit doesn't have the money or training time to send them to a range to get ready, Kapela explained, so it's up to the Soldiers to do this for themselves.

Being in the National Guard has always involved doing things without pay to prepare for training or get ready for a drill, Kapela said.

"If you're going to pass the PT test you're going to do PT every day and not just once a month at drill, he said. "If you're on a track team you're going to buy running shoes."

This will be the second Winston P. Wilson event for Kapela. He took part in the 2012

competition, which is named for a former chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The events test Soldiers' ability to hit targets with pistols and their assigned rifle. No specially modified target weapons are used. Soldiers fire the weapon their unit assigns to them.

Events replicate combat situations, and a variety of targets are used. There are both team and individual shooting events.

The events involve changing stances and changing magazines. "It challenges you in planning, it challenges you physically and it challenges you in marksmanship," Kapela recalled.

One of the really challenging events involves engaging targets with shotguns at close range, Kapela said. After engaging, the shooter runs a half mile to a new location and shoots targets with a pistol and then with his or her rifle.

"You not only have the pressure, you have PT (physical training) and the unknown distances of targets at varying sizes and locations. It challenges you," Kapela said.

The best part of the event, is that while it is a competition, the Soldiers and Airmen who show up are not super competitive, Kapela said.

The participants share knowledge and best practices and talk shooting.

For a guy like himself who loves shooting, there is no better place to be, Kapela added.

"You're like at a Star Trek convention but for gun nerds," he said. **gt**



"Many of the students that came here timid, are now up front, and they have confidence in themselves when they're in front of the platoon,"

-- Master Sgt. Scott Kyle, Future Leader Program NCOIC



Army Guard's Future Leaders Learn the Ropes

Story and photos by Pfc. Andrew Valenza, Joint Force Headquarters

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE — Thirty-six New York Army National Guard Soldiers, picked by their commanders as potential leaders, spent two weeks honing military skills and learning new ones here July 8-22.

The Future Leaders Course is a pilot program designed to build the skill sets of specialists and sergeants to make them ready to take on leadership roles, according to New York State Command Sgt. Major David Piwowarski.

The course also helps prepare them for the Army's Basic Leadership Course, the first formal course young Soldiers take in the process of becoming a non-commissioned officer, Piwowarski said.

Over the two weeks, the Soldiers reviewed in their basic Warrior Tasks and battle drills to include:

- Combat Life Saver training;
- The leadership reaction course;
- Land navigation;
- M9 and M4 marksmanship training;

And the combat order process.

A field training exercise (FTX) capped the training cycle.

During the FTX, the Soldiers honed their skills in tactical movement, reacting to improvised explosive devices and room clearing.

The leadership reaction course tested the Soldiers ability to problem solve together while negotiating obstacles.

What makes this training different, though, is that classes were taught by the students, said Master Sgt. Scott Kyle, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the program.

Instead of having the cadre

members teach all classes, the students were tasked to teach the subject matter, Kyle said. Following the classes, the students applied what they learned through practical exercises in the field.

Each platoon of 18 Soldiers was assigned three mentors who were either experienced staff sergeants or sergeants first class. The mentors corrected the students or gave them tips on how to succeed during the practical exercises.

The students were also given many opportunities that most lower enlisted Soldiers don't get, such as shooting an M-9 pistol and doing a stress shoot on the M4 range, said Spc. Katherine Solina, a member of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion.

"It was an awesome experience, because I've never fired an M9 before, and I feel like most people haven't fired one before," Solina said.

During their final field training exercise, the class was also given a familiarization ride in UH-60 helicopters over the Hudson River.

By the end of the class, the mentors and students both saw an immense change in the leadership skills of the students, Kyle said.

"Many of the students that came here timid, are now upfront, and they have confidence in themselves when they're in front of the platoon," Kyle said

The Future Leaders Course concept is a good one, said Cpl. Julio Fernandez, a member of 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery.

"There's gonna be things we have to learn together...as long as everyone is focused, honest, and does what they're supposed to do, I think we should move forward," he said. **gt**



Spc. Irianis Cruz-Torres, assigned to the 27th Finance Company, finds the direction of her first marker during a Land Navigation exercise at Camp Smith July 16, 2017.



Spc. Sarah Holton, center, assigned to Alpha Company, 642nd Support Battalion, moves a gasoline drum across a make-shift bridge during the Leader Reaction Course at Camp Smith July 15, 2017. Holton is a student in the Future Leaders Course, a new program designed to provide training in leadership skills before progressing to their next leadership course, such as Basic Leadership Course and Warrior Leadership Course. Opposite page: Soldiers complete "The wall" obstacle in the Leader Reaction Course. The course is meant to encourage Soldiers to develop teamwork and control a difficult situation as a leader. Inset photo: Spc. Garth Brathwaite, assigned to the 427th Brigade Support Battalion, waits for orders during a field training exercise, at Camp Smith July 20, 2017. The field training was the culminating event for the Future Leaders Course.

1156th Engineers Back in States from Kuwait Tour

By Capt. Jean Kratzer, Guard Times Staff



Pfc. Israel Benitez receives a welcome home August 21 following his arrival at Fort Bliss, Texas for the redeployment of the 1156th Engineer Company. Members of the 204th Engineer Battalion welcomed the company back to assist in its demobilization process. Benitez, from Newburgh, N.Y., and the other 150 Soldiers from the company returned back home to New York August 31. Photo courtesy of the Fort Bliss Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

NEWBURGH, N.Y.-- One hundred and fifty New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1156th Engineer Company are back home after serving in Kuwait and Iraq for nine months.

The Kingston based company, which specializes in building and repairing structures, supported U.S. forces across the Middle East.

A welcome ceremony for the Soldiers, families and supporters was held at Stewart Airport on August 31, 2017.

William Straite, a Utica resident, said he was looking forward to seeing his son, Sgt. Brandon Straite.

“My son left here a kid when we put him on a plane nine months ago. Every day we worried about him, but today my son will come home a man,” Straite said.

“We could not be more proud of my son and his unit. During the deployment he had strong support from his command team and we are

honored to have him home safe,” Straite added.

The company, while primarily based in Kuwait, routinely deployed forward for missions.

The unit completed an estimated 50 projects, including 168 engineer work orders to improve military facilities in Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan and Syria, according to 1st Lt. William Hayes, the executive officer.

The work spanned from construction of garrison facilities to improving housing systems at combat outposts or troop shelters.

“We worked in tactical assembly areas and patrol bases outside of Mosul,” Hayes said. In Taji, Iraq, for example, the engineers partnered with the Iraqi army to construct guard towers, he said.

“Our deployment was both a challenge and an incredibly rewarding experience,” said Sgt. Gerald Edwards. “We had the opportunity to learn a lot about each other as a unit but also work together as a team.”

Troops Turn Out for Possible Lake Flooding

WATERTOWN, N.Y. -- Spc. Alfred Allen center hands Sgt. Jared Kaminski a case of bottled water while Spc. Aliyah Krehlik prepares to assist with the offload of additional cases in the background. The Soldiers, part of Bravo Company, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion based in Syracuse N.Y., deployed August 5 near Watertown N.Y., to support local emergency responders. 50 Soldiers reported for response duties when forecasted high winds on Lake Ontario caused the potential for flooding in Jefferson and Erie Counties. With another 50 Soldiers standing by from Rochester over the drill weekend, the threat of flooding diminished August 7 and the troops were released. Photo by Capt. Kitt Doupe, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.



Cooks Serve up their Best

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Frost, JFHQ-PA

PEMNBROKE, N.H. – Five New York cooks from the 53rd Troop Command sharpened their culinary talents around cooking grills and classrooms during the New Hampshire National Guard's second annual food service training exercise Sept. 11 to 15 here at the Edward Cross Training Center.

More than 40 Soldiers and civilians from across the country participated, including National Guardsmen from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Georgia, and New Mexico. They were joined by students from Johnson and Wales University as well as local government and law enforcement officials who acted as judges.

"I was able to learn a lot more than I thought I would," said Pfc. Esmeralda Frederick, a food service technician with the 145th Maintenance Company. "From a junior NCO standpoint, it was great working as a team even

though we had never met. It was cool to see that this could be the future of our food service. It makes we want to be a better soldier, a better cook. I'm looking forward to taking these recipes back and sharing them with my unit."

The "Granite Grillers," a team comprised of Guardsmen from New Hampshire, Maine and New Jersey won the Iron Chef competition held on the first day with a chicken and vegetable entrée.

On the last day, training culminated with representatives from Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center, or Natick Labs, presenting new food service technologies. They gave attendees, joined by N.H. Gov. Chris Sununu, a chance to sample potential new additions to MREs or Meals Ready to Eat, the high-calorie, field-ready staple of combat troops for decades.

Their feedback will help steer future versions of combat meals, said Natick representatives.



New York Army National Guard cooks from the 53rd Troop Command prepare meals as they compete in the New Hampshire Guard's second annual food service training exercise Sept. 11 at the Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke, N.H.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Stanley Jung, the National Guard's senior food service advisor from Arlington, Virginia, was an observer who looked forward to starting similar workshops across the country.

"The hope being that when "culinary managers go to work during a disaster or during a deployment, it won't be a new experience for

them to be working in a joint environment," Jung said.

He'll be sure to include feedback from cooks like Frederick. "Some people don't take their jobs too seriously," she said. "It's nice to be a part of something like this and be recognized as professionals in what we do and to feel so important." **g**



Camp Smith puts History on a Pedestal

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, N.Y. -- Soldiers with the New York Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Fort Drum and Camp Smith Training Site place a restored M48 Patton tank on display outside Building 500 at Camp Smith June 16, 2017. Restoration for the tank provided unique training for the Army Guard maintenance personnel and involved about 100 hours of preparation work and 40 hours to paint. Photo courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Viana, 104th MP Battalion.

Air Guard Arctic Operations for the Summer

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing

KANGERLUSSUAQ, Greenland - Having the world's only ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft, commonly referred to as Skibirds, the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing is able to provide the airlift needed to get to remote locations in Antarctica and Greenland in support of the National Science Foundation.

It's a mission unique to the wing and one that requires specialized training. While upstate New York, where the 109th Airlift Wing is based, is known to have some brutal winter weather, it still isn't enough to get these aircrews trained to land and take off on snow and ice.

That's where Raven Camp comes in. Located 108 miles southeast of Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, on the Greenland ice cap, the camp allows aircrews to get the specialized training required to fly in and out of some of the world's most austere locations. It's also the location of Kool School's field portion – three days to learn arctic survival skills.

With 50 training missions completed by mid-summer, aircrews are well on their way to be ready to fly in Antarctica.

"We'll get them out to that snowfield, and we'll work on our takeoffs and landing," said Maj. Justin Garren, 139th Airlift Squadron's Greenland Operations chief. "We'll work on special procedures on the ground for the loadmasters to load and unload on the snow."

Maj. Dia Ham, a ski mission co-pilot student with the 139th Airlift Squadron, is no stranger to flying the traditional C-130 Hercules, but flying the Skibirds is something brand new to her. She transferred to the unit after about 10 years on active duty, and flew her first Skibird training mission on the ice cap July 27.

"There's a level of nervousness," she said about her first time flying to Raven Camp. "You plan for it and you hear the stories, but it was so exciting to finally see it myself with my own eyes and be in the seat."

Ham went on to say that while the proce-

dures and steps they are taught to follow are expected, it still can't compare to landing on the snow for the first time.

"There's no way to change the steps that we follow or the procedures or the sequence of events – but you can't prepare for landing on skis," she said.

While aircrews are training up front, loadmasters are training in the back of the aircraft.

Because of the remote locations for some of the camps the wing supports, loadmasters must be able to perform combat offloads – offloading cargo while the aircraft is running with the ramp down 18 inches above the snow.

"It's very important to learn the technique and get it right," said Master Sgt. Randy Powell, a loadmaster instructor who has been training students this season.

"There's a lot you have to learn really quickly," said Airman 1st Class Taylor Richards, a student loadmaster who is currently on his second trip here this season. "The stuff that we do, they can't teach you in loadmaster school because it's only stuff that we do. There are only about 60 loadmasters in the unit, and we're the only ones in the world who do this, so there's a little bit of a learning curve."

"(Raven Camp) is where we do a lot of our practice and learning," Ham said. "Antarctica is all missions – there's no time to do multiple landings or try things out. The training here is so valuable."

The unit is currently in its fifth rotation of the Greenland season which began in April and will end in September. About 80 Airmen and three to four LC-130 aircraft are here for each rotation throughout the summer. **gt**



Above, Senior Airman Frank Pambianchi, Staff Sgt. Chris Holt, and Senior Airman Nathan Martineau, with the 109th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, replace engine components on an LC-130 aircraft engine at Kangerlussuaq, Greenland July 27, 2017. At right, Master Sgt. Randy Powell loads a training pallet onto an LC-130 aircraft July 28. Powell is an instructor loadmaster, qualifying new crewmembers for polar operations. About 80 personnel from the 109th Airlift Wing and four LC-130 aircraft were deployed on the unit's fifth rotation for mission support in Greenland. The support season started in April and runs through September.





Scientists who had been living at the East Greenland Ice Core Project for about six weeks board a 109th Airlift Wing LC-130 Skibird headed for Kangerlussuaq, Greenland July 29, 2017. The 109th Airlift Wing provides transport for cargo and scientists throughout the summer. Below, Airman 1st Class Taylor Richards, a student loadmaster with the 139th Airlift Squadron, goes over a loadmaster training plan during a flight to Raven Camp from Kangerlussuaq, on July 28, 2017. Raven Camp is used to train aircrews on LC-130 operations on a skiway.



Passing Guidons in Newburgh Leadership Changes for 105th Airlift Wing

Guard Times Staff



Brig. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General, presents to the guidon of the 105th Airlift Wing to Col. Denise Donnell in the photo at top left during her assumption of command ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y. Aug. 6, 2017. Donnell replaces Col. Howard Wagner, who retired this summer. At top right, Col. Marlon Crook, incoming commander of the 105th Mission Support Group, receives the support group colors from Col. Howard Wagner during his change of command ceremony Aug. 5, 2017. Crook assumed command from Col. Thomas Forrester. Bottom right, Lt. Col. Richard Carter, incoming commander of the 105th Maintenance Group, receives the unit guidon from Col. Howard Wagner, during his change of command ceremony Aug. 6, 2017. Carter assumed command from Col. Bruce Theriault. Photos by Staff Sgt. Julio A. Olivencia Jr., 105th Airlift Wing.

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- New York Air National Guard Col. Denise Donnell took command of the 105th Airlift Wing from Col. Howard Wagner during a wing ceremony here on Sunday, August 6.

Donnell, a Clifton Park resident and a command pilot with more than 3,800 hours of flying time in seven different types of aircraft who has been serving as the wing vice commander, is now the first woman to command one of the New York Air National Guard's five flying wings.

Previously, Brig. Gen. Dawn Deskins served as one of New York's first female commanders for the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome, N.Y. from 2012 until 2014.

Wagner, who led the wing since 2016, retired after a 34-year military career this summer.

"Col. Donnell is a highly qualified officer with the experience and training to lead the 1,300 men and women of the 105th Airlift Wing," said Major General Anthony German, the Adjutant General of New York and commander of the New York Air National Guard. "I am proud of her past accomplishments and look forward to seeing where she will lead the 105th in the future."

As part of the ceremony, the 105th Airlift Wing also welcomed Col. Marlon Cook as commander of the 105th Mission Support Group and Lt. Col. Richard Carter became the new commander of the 105th Maintenance

Group, Crook assumed command from Col. Thomas Forrester while Carter assumed command from Col. Bruce Theriault.

Donnell served in the United States Navy from 1993 until 2002 when she joined the New York Air National Guard. During her years in the Navy she piloted the P-3 Orion anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft. She served as an evaluator pilot, a mission commander, a quality assurance officer and eventually as operational test director for Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 1 at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md.

Donnell joined the 105th Airlift Wing in 2002 and learned to fly the C-5 Galaxy transport which the wing operated until 2010. From 2005 to 2010 she served as the commander of the 105th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

In 2010 she assumed command of the 105th Maintenance Squadron. She led the unit through a conversion from the C-5 to C-17 aircraft and simultaneously qualified as a C-17 pilot.

In 2013 she was selected to command the 109th Maintenance Group at Stratton Air National Guard Base. The wing flies the LC-130 ski-equipped C-130 transport aircraft as well as conventional C-130s. Donnell learned to fly the C-130 while also commanding the maintenance unit.

In 2016 she was reassigned to the 105th Airlift Wing as Vice Commander to Wagner. 

Dental Checks for Training

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Attack Wing



Lt. Col. Raymond Miller, a dentist, and Master Sgt. Francis Krathaus, a dental technician, assigned to the 107th Medical Group, perform a dental procedure as part of the Smoky Mountain Innovative Readiness Training in Hayesville, N.C., Aug. 5, 2017. The program provides necessary training while addressing public needs.

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y., — A dentist from the 107th Attack Wing here provided dental care to North Carolina residents during an Innovative Readiness Training exercise, July 31 to August 13, 2017.

Lt. Col. Raymond Miller, the base dental surgeon, was one of more than 10 members of the 107th Medical Group (MDG) to participate in Smoky Mountain Medical 2017. They joined more than 240 other service members from across the Air Force, Army and Navy, as they offered dental, optometry, veterinary and general health services from Clay and Swain Counties.

“In dental, we offered exams, x-rays, cleanings, restoring or filling teeth, and removing teeth,” Miller said. “For the community there are people in need coming here and having work done and telling us if we didn’t do it they wouldn’t be able to have it done.”

The training also prepares members to be able to work in conditions that are not familiar to them. It also simulates what they might find in deployed environments.

“This is austere conditions, I’m in a classroom in a school,” said Miller. “The equipment we have I have to get used to that, the materials, it’s all different. Here, this could be just like a deployment, and you make due.”

Overcoming these obstacles, Miller was able to deliver a level of dental care that was noticed by those around him.

“He did a ton of restorative dentistry, he did extractions too, he was fantastic,” said Lt. Col. Michael Burbach, chief dental officer assigned to the 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard, and the dental officer in charge for the IRT. “He did a great job and did a lot of work.”

The IRT allowed members of different units to work together, giving them an experience they wouldn’t get at home station.

“We have people from all over the place,” Burbach said. “If we were going to deploy some place you’re not going to go with just your people, you have to be able to work with people from all over, and that’s what happened here. You had people who were strangers on July 31 who by the time they started seeing patients August 2 were working like they had always been together.”

The training left the Airmen proud of the health care they were able to provide to the local community.

“I know the 107th Airmen are thrilled that they were able to complete some needed and overdue training, while helping Americans in our own backyard receive some greatly needed medical services at no-cost,” said Chief Master Sgt. Sondra Ramos, chief enlisted manager of the 107th MDG and non-commissioned officer in charge. “They have certainly had a huge impact on those communities that neither one will forget.”

For Airmen such as Miller, the appreciation shown by the community left a mark on them as they returned home.

“One of my colleagues got a card from a patient and they thanked him for keeping him in the chair for four hours to get all his teeth out” said Miller.

“He needed it done, he wanted it done so he could get dentures. If he didn’t have this done here he would have to wait another year or two years so he was willing to put that time in and grateful that we were able to do it for him. So it was amazing. The people are so thankful. They thank you for being here and doing what you’re doing. It feels good.”



Security Forces Refine Combatives Skills

GABRESKI AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Westhampton Beach, N.Y. -- Senior Airman Noel Ruiz, a 106th Rescue Wing Security Forces Squadron instructor, observes two Airmen working on combative techniques, Aug. 5, 2017. During the drill, the 106th Security Force training focused on combatives, mechanics of the baton and refreshed use of force training. Photo by Airman 1st Class Daniel H. Farrell, 106th Rescue Wing.

Emergency Commo Drill Prepares NY Guard

Story and photos by Spc. Ed Shevlin, New York Guard

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. – Volunteers of the New York Guard’s 88th Area Command held a consolidated training drill June 25, 2017 here to sharpen communication skills here during a Military Emergency Radio Network Exercise (MERNEX).

The communications system employed by New York Guard members links military and civilian radio operators to create a sustainable emergency radio network during a disaster.

The 1st Marine Corps District training facility hosted the Guard members for this multi-faceted drill, which also included physical training, drill and ceremony, and a hands-on introduction to tactical combat casualty care.

The MERNEX is conducted once a month throughout New York State and includes

sections located with the New York Guard Headquarters and units with the 10th, 56th and 88th Area Commands. The MERNEX conducted on June 25 was a quarterly training event during which dedicated communications team members provided training for other New York Guard members in the command. Under this “Train the Trainer” concept, experienced operators pass on their knowledge while simultaneously sharpening their teaching skills.

“The Military Emergency Radio Network exercises are important in order to maintain proficiency in what would be considered a perishable skill,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Martino, the 88th’s Signals NCO. “In other words, if you don’t use it, you lose it.”

The 88th Area Command training led to increased proficiency during the MERNEX, passing digital message traffic such as Situation Reports to their designated 88th Area Command Tactical Operations Center (TOC)



New York Guard Spc. Michael Bilski of the 14th Detachment, 88th Area Command, operates a radio during the June 25 MERNEX, an emergency communications response exercise.



New York Guard Sgt. 1st Class Richard Martino, Chief Signal NCO of the 88th Area Command, erects a mobile antenna on the roof of the 1st Marine Corps District facility in Garden City during the 25 June 25 MERNEX.

at the Staten Island Armory, in spite of the interference from solar storm activity and High Frequency propagation.

The training built confidence in the system and the Guard volunteers to quickly respond to emergencies, Martino said.

“As fast as we can pack our equipment, we can hit the ground running,” Martino said about his team. “In short, give us 24 hours and we can be in the field, ready to go.”^{gt}

NY Guard Remembers 100 Years of Service

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. - More than 250 members of the New York Guard, the state’s volunteer State Defense Force, began their week-long annual training here August 5 with a special centennial dinner celebrating 100 Years of Service to the state.

As part of the celebration, newly commissioned officers who completed a year of officer training in the last year received their new rank. The officers also took their Oath of Service with all the new enlistees and all the members who reenlisted in 2017 to commemorate their dedication to the New York Guard. Photo by Cpt Mark Getman, New York Guard Headquarters.



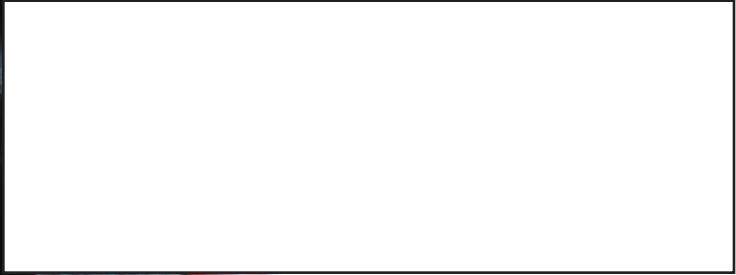
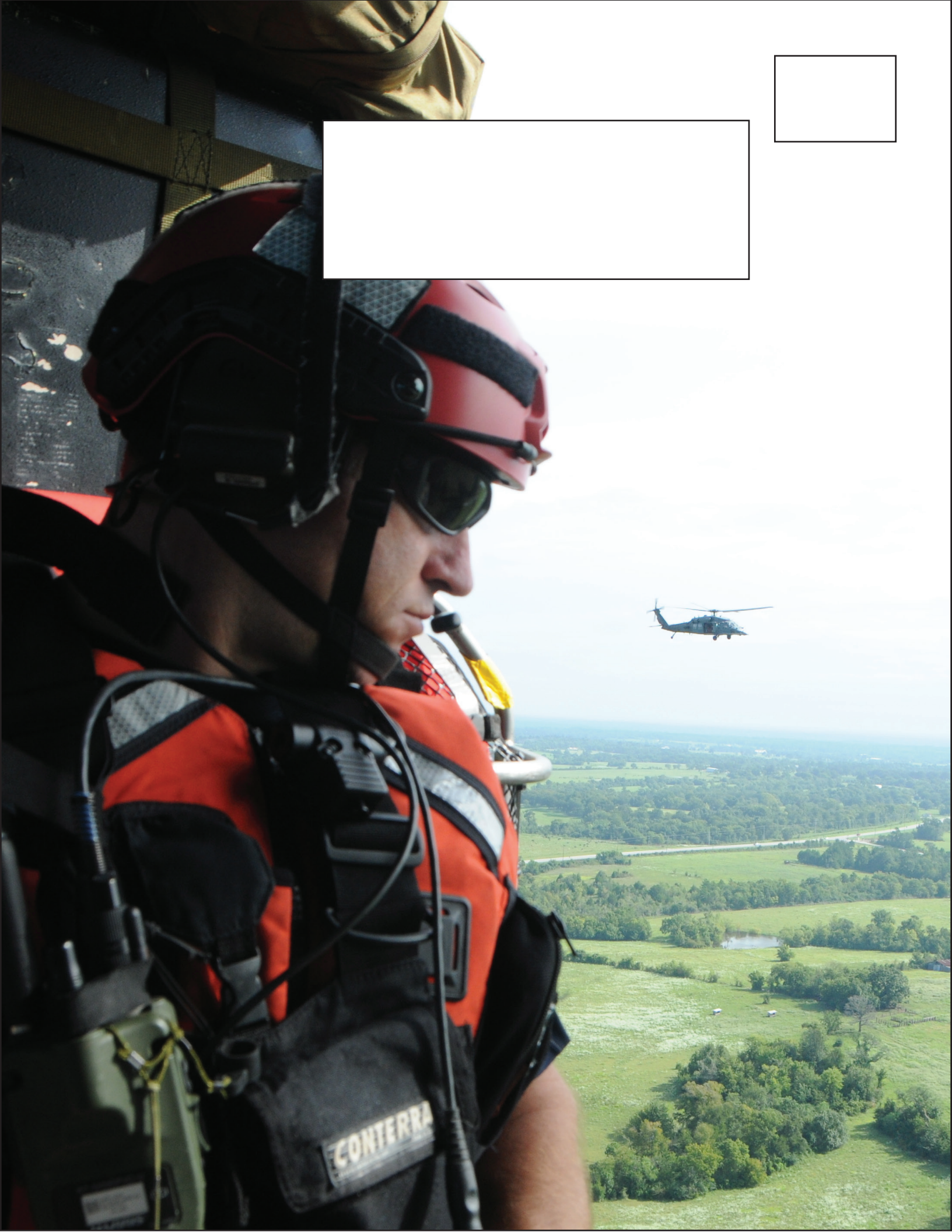
New York Naval Militia

Patrol Boats Train on Seneca Lake



SENECA LAKE, N.Y. – Four New York Naval Militia patrol boats and approximately 45 Naval Militia sailors conducted a full-scale for disaster response May 19 and 20. The training provided an opportunity to exercise multiple boat operations and the necessary communications, logistics and command and control requirements for the state's Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS). Clockwise from above left, New York Naval Militia Seaman Recruit Anthony Brott, from Hornell, N.Y., coordinates mission tasks with patrol boats using the VHF hi-band radio inside the MEBS Command Post trailer as Lt. William Washington from Queens, N.Y. observes. Photo by Commander Don McKnight. Commander Jay Dutcher from Canandaigua, N.Y., at left, and Capt. Mark Pedersen of Penfield served as the command element for the exercise. Photo by Capt. Larry Weill. Petty Officer First Class James Miller from Mountain Dale, N.Y. fires up an oxy-acetylene torch in preparation to conduct maintenance for a boat trailer on the shores of Seneca Lake. Photo by Commander Don McKnight. Seaman Recruit Brott and Lt. Washington coordinate patrol boat activities in the MEBS command post trailer. Photo by Commander Don McKnight.





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