Major General Anthony P. German is the 53rd Adjutant General of New York. He is responsible to the governor for the training and readiness of the New York Army and Air National Guard and ensuring those forces are ready to respond to state needs. German also serves as the commander of the New York Air National Guard.

He is additionally responsible for the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

The Adjutant General is simultaneously the commissioner of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs and a federally recognized military officer in the Army or Air Force.

Prior to assuming his duties as Adjutant General, German served as Assistant Adjutant General and the Chief of Staff of the New York Air National Guard and then commander of the Air National Guard.

German was commissioned in 1983 through Officer Training School and received his navigator wings the same year. Prior to becoming the Chief of Staff, he served as the commander of the 109th Airlift Wing, located in Scotia, New York.

He is a Master Navigator with over 4,900 hours flying time. He spent six years on active duty before joining the New York Air National Guard in 1989.

He has had numerous assignments at the squadron, group and wing level. In addition, he worked at the Joint Force Headquarters as the Executive Support Staff Officer, and for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs as the Department of Defense Liaison Officer to the National Science Foundation.

The 19,000 men and women of New York’s Military Forces -- consisting of the Army and Air National Guard, New York Naval Militia, and the New York Guard -- are Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, Sailors, and uniformed volunteers who serve the people of the United States and the state of New York at the call of president or governor.

The Army and Air National Guard are a federal reserve of the U.S. Army and Air Force, and when not called to federal duty are available to the governor in times of emergency. The men and women of the Army and Air National Guard serve around the world as part of the military’s combatant commands and also serve here at home.

New York National Guard Airmen were the first representatives of the U.S. military to respond to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and New York Army National Guard Soldiers were on the ground at the World Trade Center site by the end of that fateful day.

Since then, 35 Soldiers and Airmen have given their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The New York Naval Militia is a federally-recognized state force which provides members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserves an opportunity to serve their state as well as serving their nation.

The New York Guard, our state defense force, is made up of volunteers who augment the New York National Guard during state emergencies.

During 2017 New York Army National Guard Soldiers took part in several major training events, ranging from a three-week overseas exercise alongside U.S. Marines and Australian Army forces in Australia to a large-scale command post exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, more than 225 Soldiers deployed to Ukraine as instructors in partnership with Ukrainian Defense Forces at the Yavoriv Combat Training Center.

Throughout 2017 members of the New York Air National Guard conducted combat aviation missions using remotely piloted aircraft in support of U.S. troops overseas, flew supplies to units around the world, guarded airbases in Afghanistan, monitored the skies over the United States, rescued several gravely injured foreign nationals from a damaged vessel in the middle of the Atlantic and conducted over 2,000 real world saves during search and rescue operations. Additionally, the Air Guard provided training support to NASA, deploying 45 personnel to Hawaii to develop techniques for airdropping gear to recover astronauts from an Orion test spacecraft.

While conducting all these federal missions, the New York National Guard mounted major deployments in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma in Texas, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. New York military members also responded to winter storms and flooding along Lake Ontario.

This annual report presents a summary of the missions our state’s men and women in uniform have conducted during the past year.

Major General Anthony P. German
The Adjutant General
The New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) is the state executive agency responsible to the governor for the managing New York’s Military Forces which consists of over 19,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, New York Air National Guard, New York Naval Militia and New York Guard.

DMNA and the military forces are led by the Adjutant General of New York who is appointed to the position by the governor.

The Adjutant General has a dual status: he is a commissioner of a New York State Agency and is also a federally recognized general officer in the New York National Guard. The agency reports to the governor through the Deputy Secretary for Public Safety. The Adjutant General is responsible for both agency administration and training, manning, and equipping of military forces and facility readiness.

The Adjutant General is responsible for ensuring that the New York Army and Air National Guard are ready to undertake federal missions when directed. This can include deployments into combat zones, federal emergency response missions, or overseas training deployments.

Elements of the New York Air National Guard execute federal missions on a daily basis—flying remotely piloted aircraft, transporting supplies around the world, supporting science in the Arctic and Antarctic and monitoring the skies above North America. Army National Guard elements are ready to deploy when called upon.

The Adjutant General is responsible to the Governor of New York for supplying troops for state emergency response missions and standing state security missions, such as Joint Task Force Empire Shield in New York City. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen serving in a non-federal status, i.e. training for the traditional two weeks a year and one weekend a month, are under the authority of the governor. When called to federal duty they fall under the authority of the President of the United States.

The agency’s state appropriated budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is $139.3 million. This includes in $81.4 million operational spending, $57 million capital projects, and $900,000 in Aid to Localities funds for Insurance premium benefits for National Guard Soldiers Service Members Group Life Insurance expenses.

DMNA employed 398 state and 3,732 federal employees in 2017. The federal employee number includes both Active Guard and Reserve Airmen and Soldiers and dual-status technicians (civilian employees who must belong to the National Guard) who provide support services to New York Military Forces as well as federal civilians who do not have a military obligation.

Missions of full-time employees include management of federal and state budgets, human resources, training, logistics and facilities management, as well as training with federal, state and local public safety partners for domestic operations.

DMNA has direct responsibility to maintain and secure 70 installations and facilities across the Empire State. These installations are state owned or federally licensed properties which include four airbases, 41 Armories and Readiness Centers, the Camp Smith Training Site, the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site at Fort Drum, 14 maintenance facilities, three Army flight facilities, three training areas, and three major logistical sites.

DMNA’s executive offices are located at 330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham where state and federal staff work side-by-side to manage military readiness at the governor’s direction.

At the direction of the governor, DMNA has operated Joint Task Force Empire Shield since 2001, which is a unique force of Army and Air National Guard and Naval Militia members on State Active Duty who conduct Homeland Security Operations in the New York City Metropolitan Area to deter and prevent terrorist acts. The task force is currently authorized 750 Soldiers and Airmen.

DMNA oversees the New York Counter Drug Task Force with 126 Soldiers and Airmen that support law enforcement agencies and local community anti-drug groups. DMNA also provides trainers working with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to implement Governor Cuomo’s Citizen Preparedness Corps through which residents across the state are provided instruction in how to prepare for emergencies, survive them, and recover.

DMNA is also responsible for maintaining New York’s collection of more than 10,000 historically significant military items ranging from Civil War Battle Flags to historic uniforms and items displayed in armories. The New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs is administered by DMNA and houses historical exhibits, and provides for curatorial management and collection storage.

The New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters in Latham.
Support to New York State in 2017

During 2017 the men and women of the New York National Guard conducted several major domestic operations missions. Missions ranged from assisting in security at the 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. to conducting sandbagging operations along Lake Ontario and deployments to Texas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in response to hurricanes in August and September 2017. New York National Guard members also conducted ongoing security missions in New York City, stood up a Cyber Security Team, and manned two Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams during 2017.

**Joint Task Force Empire Shield**
Throughout the year, 700 members of Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTFES), a force of New York Army and Air National Guardsmen in State Active Duty Status acting under the orders of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo were on duty in New York City, augmenting security at airports, train stations, and other key transportation infrastructure hubs. Members of JTFES are also tasked with being available to assist in closing New York City bridges and tunnels if required.

JTFES is based at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn and maintains locations at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Randall’s Island, and Camp Smith Training Site. JTFES also provides security at New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters in Latham and at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill.

JTFES is also responsible for two Military Emergency Boat Service missions conducted by members of the New York Naval Militia. The New York Naval Militia’s Patrol Boat 440 conducts maritime operations in New York Harbor in conjunction with the Coast Guard. Another boat conducts a random Anti-Terrorism program by placing a patrol boat in the waters off the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan.

During 2017 JTFES conducted 13,145 mission. A mission is defined as a unit of New York National Guard Soldiers or Airmen engaged in a task for four hours. Twenty of these involved supporting the transit of VIPs within New York City, which included five missions involving Pres. Donald Trump.

JTFES took part in 22 Multi-Agency Super Surge exercises—known as a MASS—which involve multiple law enforcement agencies conducting visible increases in presence at key locations. These include the New York City Police Department, Port Authority Police Department, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police, New Jersey Transit Police, Amtrak Police, and Department of Homeland Security. The goal of the MASS is to detect, deter, disrupt and defeat potential terrorist threats.

JTFES also participated in nine surges as part of the Random Anti-terrorism Measures Program operations. Finally, JTFES took part in seven Operation RAILSAFE missions that involved coordinated patrols of railroad and subway stations and rights of way, as well as providing an increased security presence on trains. During 2017 JTFES increased security levels 22 times in response to a specific terrorism related event or due intelligence indicators that some kind of event was likely.

**Significant Events for JTFES**
On Dec. 11, Akayed Ullah, a 27-year-old Bangladeshi immigrant and former cab driver, set off a small explosive, which the media defined as a “pipe bomb” in the subway station adjoin-

A letter from a local child thanking the New York Army National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation for their assistance as Puerto Rico recovers from Hurricane Maria. The unit had been flying food and water to isolated locations.

Sgt. Ashaun Howard, a motor transport operator attached to the 719th Transportation Company, performs last minute checks on Humvees at Camp Smith Training Site, N.Y., January 4.
ing the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan. Ullah had apparently intended to kill himself and others but injured four civilians and himself. Five members of JTFES were among the first on the scene and covered Ullah with their weapons as police made the arrest.

On Oct. 31 an individual, alleged to have been Sayfullo Habibullaevic Saipov, drove a rental truck into cyclists and runners on the Hudson River Park bike path alongside West Street from Houston Street south to Chambers Street in Lower Manhattan. The attack killed eight people and injured eleven people.

JTFES members responded to assist in cordoning off the area while law enforcement conducted an investigation.

On Nov. 5, JTFES shifted 250 Soldiers and Airmen from their normal duty locations to stations along the route of the New York City Marathon. There was no specific threat to the event but the posture change was directed through an abundance of caution. Twenty Soldiers were placed on State Active Duty orders to assist in providing logistic for the event.

**Operation Strong Guardian**

In January, 317 New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were among 7,500 National Guard members from 44 states who were part of the Department of Defense support for the inauguration for President Donald Trump.

On Jan. 20, the New York contingent manned 26 traffic control points in the “Foggy Bottom” area of Washington D.C. The New York National Guardsmen were among 3,500 Guard members sworn in as special deputies of the District of Columbia Police Department for the Day.

The New York National Guard also sent an Army mobile kitchen trailer to support the mission.

**Operation Stella**

In March 1, 450 members of the New York Army and Air National Guard, along with members of the New York Naval Militia and New York Guard turned out when a storm dubbed Stella by the Weather Channel hit New York.

New York Military Force members were on duty from March 13 to March 18. The troops put 15,000 miles on 180 military vehicles responding to the heavy snow.

On Long Island troops stood by to shut down the Long Island Expressway if requested, while members of the 53rd Troop Command prepared to fulfill the same mission in Westchester County. The storm dumped two feet of snow in the Hudson Valley. When it became clear that the heaviest snowfall had hit areas in central New York and southern Tier, New York Army National Guard infantrymen and engineers were called into action.

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry conducted patrols for abandoned cars along snow-covered roads in the Utica area and rescued 35 stranded motorists.

The 827th Engineers helped clear snow from the Village of Depew and the SUNY campus at Binghamton.

**Operation Niko**

Thirteen members of the 106th Rescue Wing were placed on state active duty February 9-10 in order to provide mobility support to Suffolk County law enforcement personnel during a major snow storm. Winter Storm Niko dumped the bulk of its snow on New England so the Airmen were released on February 10.

**Monroe County Power Outages**

On March 8 a major windstorm in Western New York resulted in power outages in the Rochester area due to downed trees. On March 10 the governor directed the New York National Guard to provide assistance to local authorities. 20 Airmen and 20 Soldiers with 20 vehicles were deployed to the Rochester area to assist in traffic control. An Air National Guard Debris Removal Team from the 107th Attack Wing, consisting of nine airmen, three trucks, a skid steer and six chainsaws, were mobilized to assist in debris removal.

**Lake Ontario Flooding Response**

Water levels in Lake Ontario that were almost three feet higher than normal, resulted in flooding along the lake’s shoreline in both Ontario and New York State during the spring and summer of 2017. Increased water levels were the result of heavy spring rains and high water levels in the upper lakes in 2014 which finally made their way to Lake Ontario, according to scientists.

New York Military Forces were directed to assist local agencies in responding to flooding along the coast beginning on May 1, 2017. A total of 892 members of the New York Military Forces, including 175 members of the New York Guard and the New York Naval Militia were involved in the response, which lasted until August 1. The bulk of the mission consisted of filling and distributing sandbags to local residents and providing them to local governments for use. Between May 3 and June 30, New York military force members filled and distributed 978,111 sandbags. That’s enough to run from New York City to Buffalo if they were laid end-to-end.

In some instances New York National
Guardsmen and Naval Militia members were called to build sandbag barriers in critical locations. At Sodus Point, Naval Militia members built sandbag barriers around endangered buildings.

New York National Guard Soldiers also emplaced two water filled barrier systems, known as a Tiger Dam and an AquaDam in a test of these two containment systems designed to replace sandbags. Both barriers are pumped full of water to form a dam.

California Wildfires
In early December a series of wildfires broke out in California’s Ventura and Santa Barbara counties which became known as the Thomas Fire. The fires burned 281,893 acres and destroyed over 1,000 homes.

The California Air National Guard’s 163rd Attack Wing launched MQ-9 aircraft to provide an “eye in the sky” for firefighters. Unlike conventional aircraft the MQ-9 can remain orbiting above one spot for many hours using cameras for surveillance. On December 17, the 174th Attack Wing deployed nine personnel, pilots, sensor operators and analysts, to support the 163rd effort to maintain MQ-9 oversight of the fire. The Airmen returned to Syracuse on December 22. This was the first time New York Air National Guard Airmen have operated the MQ-9 in a Civil Support role.

Operation Turkey Drop
Fifty members of the New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force Empire Shield and the New York Guard assisted in preparing Thanksgiving food boxes as part of Gov. Andrew M Cuomo’s “New York Holiday Giving” Campaign on Nov. 20 and 21.

The New York Military Forces members packed boxes containing a turkey, stuffing, cranberries, corn, pie and a drink for distribution to needy families at the Jacob Javitts Convention Center in New York City. The New York State Department of Transportation distributed the food boxes.

Hurricane Harvey Response
Between Aug. 26 and Sept. 2 the 106th Rescue Wing deployed 124 Airmen, three HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and two HC-130 search and rescue aircraft and four inflatable Zodiac boats to Texas as part of the military response to Hurricane Harvey, which struck the coast on August 25.

The Airmen are credited with rescuing 546 people using both boats and helicopters during that period. Several of the helicopter “saves” recorded on Airmen’s helmet cameras were shown on CNN and other national news networks. In one case, imagery of Staff Sgt. Ryan Dush rescuing a baby from a hovering helicopter made the national news and he and Senior Airman John Kosequat were interviewed.

On August 26 the 106th Rescue Wing dispatched three HH-60s loaded onto C17s flown by the 105th Airlift Wing to Fort Hood, Texas. Two days later a second HC-130—which was being used to coordinate rescues and refuel helicopters—was dispatched with another 15 Airmen to Fort Hood. The 106th Rescue Wing Airmen conducted missions in the suburbs of Houston, which were badly flooded during the storm. The four boat teams spent their evenings in the field, sleeping in warehouses, firehouses and police stations.

Hurricane Irma Response
On Sept. 7 the 106th Rescue Wing deployed 126 Airmen, three HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and two HC-130 search and rescue aircraft to Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Irma, which had made landfall on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands before heading towards Florida. More than half of the Airmen on the mission, which lasted until Sept. 20, had returned from the two-week deployment to Texas in response to Hur-
Hurricane Harvey just two weeks before. The HH-60s were deployed on C-17s assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing. While Hurricane Harvey had caused extensive flooding in the Houston area, there was little flooding on Puerto Rico or in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Working with aircrews from the Puerto Rico and Kentucky Air National Guards, the two 106th Rescue Wing HC-130s were used to ferry more than 1,500 Americans from the Island of St. Maartens which had been devastated by the storm over a three-day period. The 106th aircraft carried more than 500 of these people. On Sept. 11 the New York Army National Guard dispatched 55 aircrew and 10 UH-60s Black Hawk helicopters to Florida after a request for assistance from the Florida National Guard. The aircraft flew to the Richmond, Va. area but returned the next day when Florida determined it would not need the additional assets. A satellite communications system which had deployed to assist Florida also returned to the 105th Airlift Wing. The Hurricane Irma response mission was wrapped up by the 106th Rescue Wing on Sept. 12. The New York Army National Guard also placed the 105th Military Police Company and the New York Air National Guard placed 40 members of the 105th Base Defense Squadron on duty to deploy to the Virgin Islands and assist in the security situation on the island of St. Croix. The JSSC satellite communication system maintained by the 105th Airlift Wing was also prepared to deploy. Deployment of these elements was delayed by Hurricane Maria which struck the region on Sept. 20.  

Hurricane Maria Response  
In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, which hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 20 and also hit the U.S. Virgin Islands, which had already suffered from Hurricane Irma, the New York Army National Guard deployed four UH-60 helicopters and 60 Soldiers to Puerto Rico on Sept. 28. During a 40-day mission on the island, members of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation-led force conducted 216 missions, flying 369 hours. They delivered 223 pallets of food, 324 pallets of water and 382 passengers to areas of the island cut off from normal road traffic. The 105th Military Police Company deployed 98 Soldiers to St. Croix on Sept. 28 and conducted security missions in coordination with the island police force and other National Guard MP elements from other states. They returned at the end of October. The 442nd Military Police Company deployed 128 Soldiers to Puerto Rico where they conducted security missions there, including the island of Vieques, off the coast of Puerto Rico. The bulk of the unit returned home at the end of November but 40 members remained on duty until mid-December. The 152nd deployed 113 Soldiers to Puerto Rico from Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on Oct. 18-19. The company's heavy equipment – a total of 36 vehicles—were shipped by sea from New Jersey. The unit returned home on Nov. 23. Seven New York Army National Guard officers who were fluent Spanish speakers were deployed to Puerto Rico to assist the National Guard's Joint Enabling Team. More than 400 Soldiers were deployed to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with 350 coming from the 53rd Troop Command. The New York Air National Guard deployed members of the 105th Base Defense Squadron to St. Croix and also send 19 Airmen to Puerto Rico who conducted maintenance and aerial port support missions. The 109th Airlift Wing and the 105th Airlift Wing continually flew missions in support of the military response in the Caribbean. The 105th Airlift Wing moved 326 personnel, 54 vehicles and 231 tons of cargo. The 109th Airlift Wing moved 208 personnel and 122 tons of cargo. The 105th Airlift Wing also deployed a P23 fire truck to Puerto Rico from Stewart Air National Guard Base. Other New York, New York Military Forces set up five stations to collect goods donated for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands at the direction of Gov. Andrew M Cuomo. A warehouse for goods collected at stations across the state was established at Camp Smith and members of the New York Guard and Naval Militia, as well as Army National Guard Soldiers worked to repack shipping pallets. By the end of December more than 5,200 pallets of goods had been collected and sent to airports to be shipped on donated space. More than 130 New York Military Force members were involved in the effort. In all more than 1,200 members of
the New York Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia, and New York Guard played a role in the response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

**Domestic Operations Elements 2nd and 24th Civil Support Teams (Weapons of Mass Destruction)**

The New York National Guard maintains two Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, more commonly known just a Civil Support Teams or CSTs.

The Civil Support Team (CST) is a high priority response unit supporting civil authorities responding to a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incident. Each unit is made up of 22 full-time National Guard members. It consists of six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical, and survey, each specially trained and equipped to provide a technical reach-back capability to other experts. The teams are formed specifically to provide advice to an Incident Commander – normally a civilian first responder – to help make assessments of the requirements for follow-on forces.

The unit is led by a lieutenant colonel, jointly staffed with Army and Air National Guard personnel, and encompasses 14 military occupational skills. The unit is federally resourced, trained and equipped, with the New York National Guard providing personnel, stationing and common support. The Adjutant General employs the CSTs to support a state response under the direction of the governor or to support another state’s response under a supported governor.

The CST mission is to support civil authorities at a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) incident by identifying CBRN agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state support to facilitate additional resources.

The CSTs participate in both military and civilian emergency response training. Instruction is provided from several DoD schools, along with other agencies such as FEMA, DOJ, EPA and DOE. The CST is equipped with high-end detection, analytical, and protective equipment. The unit possesses satellite, secure and cellular communications to provide connectivity with both civil and military forces. CSTs are required to maintain personal protective equipment sets that exceed those provided to military forces. CSTs are equipped to civil standards in order to operate in an area containing unknown contamination. Additionally, high-end detection equipment is required to detect a greater range of substances, including toxic industrial chemicals, organic substances, and chemical and biological warfare.

New York’s 2nd Civil Support Team is based in Scotia, New York. Based upon weather and road conditions, ground transit time equates to 3 to 5 hours after departing home station. Any response beyond the 250-mile maximum ground movement radius may warrant the use of rotary or fixed wing aircraft. The CST equipment set is man-portable for rotary wing movement (but at a degraded capability) as well as air transportable by fixed wing aircraft at full capability.

The 24th Civil Support Team is at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y. The team has the same equipment, training and capabilities as the Guard’s 2nd CST, but provides more responsive training and operational support to the downstate region.

During 2017 the two CSTs were not called for any response missions. They conducted 85 stand-by mission, where they deployed assets near the scene of a major event, and 39 assistance missions. The two teams spent a total of 188 days in stand-by or assist status in support of New York State or local governments.

**FEMA Region II Homeland Response Force**

The Homeland Response Force is a 1,200 member Soldier/Airman force made up of members of the New York and New Jersey National Guards. In 2017 the HRF was commanded and organized by the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in Troy.

The DoD established ten National Guard-sources Homeland Response Force packages for each FEMA region across the country. The FEMA Region II HRF is aligned for support to New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The HRF increases the focus of military CBRN response forces for saving lives. The HRF increases operational flexibility for additional CBRN resources in support of governors responding to CBRN incidents in their state. Responding from home armories, the elements primarily deploy via ground transportation to incident sites, but can be moved by air if necessary.

Core capabilities include search and extraction, decontamination, medical, and command and control. The HRF provides a headquarters for the arrival of follow-on response forces, whether
from other National Guard states or the active component

Members of the HRF conduct specialized training to familiarize members with response needs of a CBRN environment, utilizing comparable civilian hazardous materials response equipment and the incident command structure to better integrate the HRF element with civilian first responders.

The HRF does not supplant state or local authority; it supplements it by providing response, rescue, relief and recovery capabilities that states, localities and other federal agencies may lack in a CBRN event. HRF units conduct unit training for CBRN response in addition to the unit’s wartime mission requirements.

The FEMA Region II HRF participated the Ardent Sentry 2017 exercise at Fort Dix, New Jersey from April 29-30.

**New York Cyber Security Element**

The New York Cyber Security Element is a pilot program that was conducted jointly by the Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. The team mission is the enhance DHSES cybersecurity capability and assessments by developing a Cybersecurity Assessment Program that includes system vulnerability assessments which can be made available to state agencies, local governments and other public and private entities.

The team has been conducting County Emergency Preparedness Assessments by meeting with county information technology officials, as well as managers at energy and industrial facilities. The teams participated in 30 CEPA events, 23 energy sector visits and 6 chemical facility visits in 2017. Full vulnerability assessments were conducted for Tioga County, the Buffalo Bills football team, and the New York State Thruway Authority.

**Citizens Preparedness Corps**

During 2017 the New York National Guard continued to support Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s Citizens Preparedness Corps by training New Yorkers on how to prepare for an emergency, deal with the emergency, and recover afterwards. Two hour courses were offered across the state, based on a training program devised by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. During 2017, New York National Guard training teams conducted 807 classes, training 34,664 New Yorkers. At some of these seminars emergency preparedness “go bags” were distributed. A total of 7,943 of these bags, filled with basic emergency preparedness supplies were passed out during the year.

**Homeland Security Training**

During 2017 the New York National Guard and New York Military Forces participated in several exercises designed to hone emergency response and homeland security skills.

**Exercise Ardent Sentry 2017**

Exercise Ardent Sentry 2017 took place between April 24 and April 28 and was a national-level command post exercise focused on a major incident occurring in the northeast United States. 80 New York Army and Air National Guard members worked alongside service members from the U.S. Northern Command and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The scenario involved a nuclear detonation occurring on the New Jersey side of the Holland Tunnel.

The FEMA Region II HRF, manned by New York and New Jersey Guard forces, conducted a field exercise at Fort Dix as part of the operation.

**Exercise Ambassador Strike**

Seven New York National Guard personnel participated an exercise designed as the capstone event for 20 U.S. Military Academy Cadets enrolled in West Point’s Homeland Security and Defense course. The exercise was designed by the Fire Department of New York’s Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness. Twenty Active Duty officers from the Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence took part in the exercise. The National Guard members acted as liaisons to the FDNY and cadet player cells and portrayed the role of Dual States Commander for military forces.

**Exercise Blue Trident**

The New York Naval Militia participated in Exercise Blue Trident, a New York State waterborne security exercise, from August 17 to 19. Three members of the Naval Militia and one patrol boat took part in the exercise. The mission of the Naval Militia was to monitor for radiation while in support of civilian law enforcement during a maritime chokepoint exercise.

**Exercise Niagara Ice**

Conducted between Nov. 1 and 3 by the 153rd Troop Command and the 107th Attack Wing, Exercise Niagara Ice was a command post exercise simulating a major ice storm in western New York. Over 150 New York Army and Air National Guard, as well as New York Guard members, took part in the drill which was held at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

Members of the 103rd Rescue Squadron, part of the 106th Rescue Wing assigned to the New York Air National Guard, secure additional supplies on to the HC-130 Hercules August 29 during the unit deployment in support of the Hurricane Harvey rescue and relief efforts in Texas.
Honoring New Yorkers in 2017

The New York Army and Air National Guard provide military funeral honors for all eligible members of the Army and Air Force in accordance with federal law. Federal law mandates that any former member of the military who did not receive a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces is eligible for military honors during his or her funeral.

The law mandates that at least two service members, one of which should be from the branch of service the former military member served in, conduct the ceremony. This include the playing of “Taps” usually using an electronic bugle and the presentation of an American flag to the family.

During 2017 the New York National Guard provided funeral honors 11,129 times. The New York Army National Guard’s Honor Guard detachments conducted 8987 military funeral services while the Honor Guards at each of the New York Air National Guard’s five wings and the Eastern Air Defense Sector conducted 2,142 military funeral services.

The New York Army National Guard conducts a centralized funeral honors program, headquartered in Latham, with offices located in the Bronx, Buffalo, Farmingdale, Jamaica, Horseheads, Kingston, Rochester and Syracuse. The Army Guard program has 32 Soldiers working full-time in the Honor Guard program and 107 part-time Soldiers who fill in when required.


The New York Air National Guard has 21 Airmen who conduct funeral honors full time and another 80 who can be called on when needed.

The 106th Rescue Wing expects to conduct 752 funeral services during 2017, several hundred more than any of the other wings.

The 106th Honor Guard covers Long Island, New York City, part of New Jersey and the Hudson Valley. Their area includes two national cemeteries on Long Island. It is one of the busiest Air Force Honor Guard teams in the nation.

The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force provides support to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and also works to assist local community-based anti-drug groups deal with the threats to their communities that drug use and associated criminal activity poses. The task force currently has 161 Soldiers and Airmen assigned. During federal fiscal year 2017 the task force conducted 231 missions across New York. Task force members use their military acquired skills in management, organization and intelligence analysis to assist law enforcement and community anti-drug groups. The task force provided investigative, analytical, mapping, and reconnaissance support to law enforcement confronting both domestic and international drug trafficking organizations. The task force also provided specialized analytical support in the field of financial crimes, and provided detection equipment support to aid law enforcement in illicit narcotics discovery and interdiction. Their efforts directly supported 94 state, local and federal law enforcement entities. The Counterdrug Task Force assisted in arrests resulting in more than $64 million in total seizures. Confiscations associated with these arrests included:

- 74 weapons;
- 44 vehicles;
- 141 pounds of heroin;
- 950 pounds of cocaine;
- 37 pounds of Methamphetamines;
- 800 Opiate pills;
- 1,740 MDMA (Ecstasy) Pills;
- And 1,401 pounds of Cannabis. Additionally, almost $9 million in US currency and $766,000 in property were also seized.

The Task Force Civil Operations program continues to perform community outreach services, in order to confront substance abuse related issues in New York’s communities. In 2017, the task force was involved with the governor’s Opioid Steering Committee, as a force multiplier in assisting with the current Opioid and Prescription Drug abuse epidemic. Working in conjunction with the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), 23 civil operators applied their unique military skills, such as organizational decision making and self-assessment processes, to develop and sustain 94 community based coalitions located in 30 of the state’s 62 counties.

During 2017, civil operators conducted over 17 community analyses, and aided in placing 3 more prescription medication drop-boxes in New York State communities. During the 2017 fiscal year UH-72 light utility helicopters assigned to the task force flew 56 hours in support of local law enforcement drug eradication efforts. The flights contributed to the eradication of 1,398 marijuana plants and assisted in seizures of $3 million in assets used in support of drug-growing operations. The task force also employed a dedicated Counterdrug Detection Unit that operated with numerous law enforcement agencies and probation departments, deploying several unique pieces of equipment to assist with detections and other assistance. The team supported 28 law enforcement operations and public venue security missions. Task force personnel used ion-scan technology to detect traces of explosives and illegal substances on vehicles, individuals, and other items. They also utilized the Mini-Z Backscatter X-Ray device to assist law enforcement in searches, and employed the Cellebrite data extraction scanner to assist law enforcement agencies with attaining crucial information from cellular phones aiding in ongoing investigations. Task force linguists continue to support both civil operations and criminal investigations unique to New York State. During federal fiscal year 2017, National Guard linguists provided translation support in a variety of languages, to include Arabic, Russian, French, and Chinese-Mandarin. Additionally, linguists continue to be an asset in substance abuse opposition on a national level.
During 2017 the Division of Military and Naval Affairs continued four major military construction projects for Army National Guard facilities.

5th Avenue Armory
The division’s Directorate of Facilities Management and Engineering continued to oversee construction on the $50 million alteration of the historic 5th Avenue Armory in New York City. The building is home to the headquarters and elements of the historic 369th Sustainment Brigade, the Harlem Hell Fighters.

Due to Army driven force structure requirements, design changes were required to add another unit to the 5th Avenue Armory. Due to this change, completion date for the work was moved from the fall of 2017 until the summer of 2018.

At the end of 2017, the process of altering the 1930’s-era building for the 21st Century was nearing 80% completion. General construction work continued as rough plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems infrastructure progressed. A total of 113,000 square feet of space is being altered as part of this contract. The alteration of the building will replace inadequate and very antiquated space with code complaint, modern, training classrooms, new male and female locker rooms and restrooms, supply & storage spaces, maintenance training work bays and a modern kitchen and dining facility. Of the utmost importance, historic areas and unique elements of the building are being carefully restored to their original prominence.

The project began in late September 2014, and is scheduled to be completed late summer 2018. One piece of the project, the front façade masonry restoration, was honored with New York City’s premier award for historic preservation in construction projects.

Combined Support Maintenance Shop
DMNA continued work, begun in September 2015, for the current $19 million Combined Support Maintenance Shop at Camp Smith Training Site which will provide support to units on Long Island and in New York City and the Hudson Valley. The new facility, due to be completed in late winter 2018, will replace a building that has been in use since 1949. The new maintenance shop will incorporate state-of-the-art energy saving technology, and is designed to support the larger military vehicles in use today.

Access Control Point
Substantial completion of the New Access Control Point for Camp Smith was achieved in 2017, with final project closeout to occur in early 2018. The Access Control Point includes multiple entrance lanes, a security processing facility, guard stations, and pop-up barriers to provide enhanced security. The total cost for this project is $6 million. Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies for both the Access Control Point and Combined Support Maintenance Shop are anticipated to occur in the summer 2018.

Training Facility - Building 75
In 2017, DMNA also moved forward with a $2.7 million project for alterations at building 75 at Camp Smith Train-
### Camp Smith Training Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel Trained on Ranges</th>
<th>Personnel Using Training Areas</th>
<th>Billeting Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army National Guard</td>
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### Simulator Use
- Army National Guard: 2,029
- U.S. Army Reserve: 0

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### Youngstown Training Area

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### Billeting Use
- Barracks: 42,557
- Lodging: 8,804
- Total: 51,361

**Photo above: New York Army National Guard Spc. Benjamin Bronson, an infantryman fires the M4 carbine during the TAG match at Camp Smith Training Site on June 2.**
Camp Smith Training Site

Camp Smith, located in the town of Cortlandt Manor is the Division of Military and Naval Affairs' premier training facility. Camp Smith is used by the New York Army and Air National Guard, the New York Guard, the New York Naval Militia as well as by Army, Air Force and Marine Corps Reserve members, National Guard members from other states, and local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Camp Smith is managed by the Division of Military and Naval Affairs Facilities and Engineering Directorate and the Camp Smith Garrison, a New York Army National Guard unit.

The Camp Smith Training Site, used by the New York National Guard since 1882, consists of 1,582 acres, which includes a 95-acre cantonment area, training ranges, training simulators, a New York National Guard Readiness Center, dining facilities, barracks and visitors quarters.

Camp Smith's two barracks buildings can house 585 people during normal usage and 1,140 personnel during surge operations. Another 112 can be housed in the visitors' quarters known as O'Brien Hall. All three buildings include dining facilities.

The dining facilities are used for troop meal service. Units with organic food services may also utilize the kitchen area for food preparation and cooking.

Camp Smith serves as a key location for New York National Guard responses to state emergencies occurring in the Hudson Valley and downstate New York. The facilities can house and feed troops assigned to duties in the region and the 53rd Troop Command, the unit responsible for mission command of New York National Guard missions in the lower Hudson Valley is headquartered at Camp Smith.

During the state response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs established a warehouse operation at Camp Smith to sort, pack and ship goods collected throughout the state. Using personnel from the New York Army National Guard, New York Guard, and New York Naval Militia, warehouse personnel packed and shipped 5,820 pallets of items destined for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Camp Smith also served as a base of operations in March, when 53rd Troop Command personnel were dispatched to establish traffic control points during a major snow storm.

Camp Smith maintains eight ranges for Soldiers and Airmen to qualify and train with rifles, pistols, head grenades and the M203 grenade launcher.

Simulators are available at Camp Smith to enhance training. Among these are:

- The Humvee Egress Assistance Training or HEAT, which allows Soldiers to practice the skills needed to survive a humvee rollover;
- The Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a computerized electronic range system that allows Soldiers to conduct marksmanship training without using ammunition;
- And the Virtual Convoy Trainer or VCOT, which utilizes computer stations to allow teams to practice convoy procedures in a 360-degree virtual environment.

Along with plenty of maneuver space for basic tactical training, Camp Smith boasts leadership reaction, urban assault and land navigation courses, a military operations in urban terrain facility, an NBC training facility, a hand-to-hand combatives pit, a running track and a parade field.

A 15-station distance learning center is also available for training courses and on-line education.

Camp Smith hosts tactical training conducted for both Officer Candidate School and NCO courses, as well as military occupational specialty (MOS) courses when necessary.

Each year Camp Smith hosts the annual New York National Guard Adjutant General’s Match, a shooting competition, as well as the annual New York Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition. Camp Smith has also hosted the regional Best Warrior competition.

Along with being the home of the 53rd Troop Command, one of two New York Army National Guard general officer commands, Camp Smith also houses the 106th Regional Training Institute, as well as a company of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, the 42nd Infantry Division Band and the 138th Public Affairs Detachment. In 2017, the headquarters of the 369th Sustainment Brigade temporarily occupied space on Camp Smith during renovations to their armory in Harlem.

The New York Guard, the state’s self-defense force, is headquartered at Camp Smith and the New York Naval Militia keeps several of its boats there.
The New York Army National Guard had an assigned strength of 10,025 Soldiers at the end of federal fiscal year 2017. Authorized strength was 10,125 for 2017.

The commander of the New York Army National Guard is Major General Raymond Shields, the Assistant Adjutant General for Army. The Chief of Staff of the New York National Guard is Col. John Andonie.

The New York National Guard is divided into two General Officer Commands: The 42nd Infantry Division, headquartered in Troy and the 53rd Troop Command headquartered at Camp Smith near Peekskill.

The 42nd Infantry Division provides combat and combat support units while the 53rd Troop Command includes combat support and combat service support elements.

A Joint Force Headquarters element accounts for command and staff positions at state headquarters, along with several specialty units.

**42nd Infantry Division**

Headquartered at the Glenmore Road Armory in Troy, the 42nd Infantry Division is commanded by Major General Steven Ferrari.

The division celebrated its centennial in 1917 when National Guard units from across the country were combined into one division for deployment to France during World War I. The multiple state division was the inspiration of Col. Douglas McArthur, who later commanded American forces in the Pacific in World War II and multinational forces in Korea. McArthur said the division, with units from 26 states, would reach across the country "like a Rainbow." The division takes its nickname of "The Rainbow Division" from that comment.

The 42nd Infantry Division can command up to four combat brigades and associated support, fires and aviation brigades. In 2005 the division headquarters commanded two Active Army and two National Guard Brigades in four Iraqi provinces north of Baghdad. The 42nd Infantry Division is responsible for two brigade commands in New York: the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquartered at the Thompson Road Armory in Syracuse, and the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, headquartered in Latham. There are about 4,500 Soldiers in the division’s units in New York.

In spring 2017 the division changed command from Maj. Gen. Harry Miller to then Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari.

Division leaders also took part in an event sponsored by the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, which marked the 100th anniversary of the creation of the division in 1917 at Camp Mills, Long Island, where the 42nd Division prepared for service in France.

In the fall, the division headquarters conducted a comprehensive battle simulation exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Known as a division Warfighter exercise, the training sharpens the skills of the leadership and staff in full spectrum operations. Through simulation, the headquarters staff managed the information flow, prepared battle orders and managed logistics and administrative data for the combat employment of the unit.

**27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team**

The 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) is a light infantry brigade comprised of three infantry battalions, a cavalry squadron, an artillery battalion, a brigade special troop’s battalion and a support battalion. Elements of the brigade are located across New York from Long Island to Jamestown.

One battalion—the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry—is part of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

The brigade is commanded by Col.
Christopher R. Cronin who took command from Col. Joseph Biehler in May. Biehler was promoted to Brig. Gen. and moved into a position with the 42nd Infantry Division.

The brigade traces its history back to the 27th Division of the New York National Guard which fought in France in World War I and in the Pacific in World War II. Nicknamed the “Orion Brigade” the nickname was inspired by the name of the 27th Division commander in World War I Major General O’Ryan.

In November of 2017 the brigade deployed headquarters personnel and members of the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry to Ukraine as part of a NATO training mission.

Elements of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are:

• The 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, known as the “Fighting 69th”, which is headquartered at the Lexington Avenue Armory in New York City and has elements on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley. The 69th traces its history back to the Civil War and earned its nickname from Confederate General Robert E. Lee;

• The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, headquartered in Utica, with elements in Morrisonville, Gloversville, Ogdensburg, Leeds and Ithaca;

• The 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, whose battle credits include King Phillips War in 1675, was assigned to the 27th IBCT in late 2016;

• The 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, headquartered in Niagara Falls with elements in Jamestown, Buffalo, and Geneva;

• The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, nicknamed the “Washington Grays”, headquartered in Jamaica, Queens with elements in the Bronx and New Windsor. According to tradition a company of the unit’s New York militia ancestor escorted George Washington when he was inaugurated as president in New York City in 1789;

• The 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, headquartered in Buffalo with elements in Syracuse, Lockport and Rochester;

And the 427th Support Battalion, headquarters in Buffalo with elements in Rochester, Rochester, and Glenville.

42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

The 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade in Latham is configured to command three to four aviation battalions. The brigade exercises command and control over an assault helicopter battalion, an aviation support battalion, an air ambulance company, a heavy lift helicopter detachment and associated elements, and a security and support aviation detachment.

The commander of the brigade is Col. Jack James.

Elements of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade are:

• The 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, an assault helicopter battalion flying the UH-60 Blackhawk with elements in Latham and Ronkonkoma;

• The 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, a maintenance battalion with elements in Rochester, Farmingdale, Olean and Dunkirk.

The brigade also exercises peace-time, administrative authority over two elements whose higher headquarters are in other states. These are:

• Company C, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion, an air ambulance company flying the UH-60 Blackhawk in Rochester;

• Detachment 1, B Co. 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation, an element of a CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopter company headquartered in Maryland. The New York element is based in Rochester with detachments of the battalion’s E and D companies also based in Rochester; And Detachment 2, 1st Battalion, 224th Security and Support Battalion flying the UH-72 Lakota in Latham.

53rd Troop Command

The 53rd Troop Command is headquartered at Camp Smith in Cortlandt Manor near Peekskill. The 53rd Troop Command is led by Brig. Gen. Michel Natali. The 53rd Troop command is responsible for two brigade level commands, the 369th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered at the historic 5th Avenue Armory in Harlem, New York City; and the 153rd Troop Command in Buffalo.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade

The 369th Sustainment Brigade is a logistics headquarters capable of controlling three to five logistics subunits and sustaining combat forces. During 2017 the brigade’s headquarters was deployed to Kuwait and returned mid-year.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade traces its history back to the historic 369th Infantry Regiment of World War I. This African-American segregated unit distinguished itself during World War I fighting under French command, earning many awards for brav-
The regiment is normally based at the historic 5th Avenue Armory but has been operating from Camp Smith while the armory is being renovated. The commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade is Col. Stephen Bousquet.

Elements of the 369th Sustainment Brigade are:

- The 369th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, with elements in New York City, Peekskill, and Farmingdale;
- The 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, headquartered in Yonkers with elements in Peekskill and Orangeburg;
- The 104th Military Police Battalion, headquartered in Kingston, with elements in Queens, Camp Smith, Buffalo, Latham, and Utica;
- The 204th Engineer Battalion which is headquartered in Binghamton with elements in Kingston, Camp Smith, Buffalo, Horseheads, and Walton;
- And the 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) which is headquartered in Glenville with elements in Queensbury and Fort Drum.

**Joint Force Headquarters**

New York Army National Guard units falling under Joint Force Headquarters include a number of specialty units that include:

- The 106th Regional Training Institute, based at Camp Smith Training Site, which manages Military Occupational Specialty and leadership training programs;
- The Recruiting and Retention Battalion which operates across the state to provide Soldiers to New York Army National Guard units;
- New York Army National Guard Medical Command;
- Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment which is responsible for Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters;
- Cyber Protection Team 173, a joint New York and New Jersey National Guard unit dedicated to defending U.S. computer networks against unauthorized intrusions.
- The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force;
- 2nd Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team;
- 24th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team;
- The 138th Chaplain Detachment;
- The State Aviation Office which overseas New York Army National Guard aviation;

New York Army National Guard Sgt. Alexander Sheldon, assigned to the 466th Area Medical Company, demonstrates how to preform emergency first aid on another Soldier, in Glenville, N.Y., Oct. 22nd.

The Camp Smith Garrison, which operates Camp Smith Training Site facilities;
• The 10th Main Command Post Operation Detachment, a 91-member unit is designed to augment the 10th Mountain Division’s command post during combat deployments.
• Cyber Protection Team 173, a joint New York and New Jersey National Guard unit dedicated to defending U.S. computer networks against unauthorized intrusions.
• The 138th Chaplain Detachment; And two detachments of legal Soldiers who work for the Judge Advocate General.

Overseas Deployments

Since Sept, 11, 2001 the New York Army National Guard has deployed 4,187 Soldiers to Iraq and 7,843 to Afghanistan. Another 2,527 New York Army National Guard Soldiers have served in Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay, and other overseas locations, while 1,463 have served on federal active duty in the United States. During 2017 there were, 717 New York Army National Guard Soldiers deployed on federal duty.

•369th Sustainment Brigade

During 2017 the 369th Sustainment Brigade concluded a ten month deployment to Kuwait which began in 2016. The brigade deployed 260 Soldiers to conduct logistics operations from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The Soldiers were responsible for logistics support of American forces throughout the Middle East from November, 2016 until last month. Brigade Soldiers worked in Iraq, as well as in Kuwait.

The Soldiers returned to locations across New York from Fort Hood, Texas, where they were out processing on July 8-9. The unit was mobilized on Sept. 7, 2016.

The bulk of the Soldiers were from the New York City area, but Soldiers were assigned to the unit from across the state. An Army sustainment brigade can assume command and control of support and logistics battalions and associated elements and support from one to ten combat brigades.

•27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

In November 2017, the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed 229 Soldiers to the Yavoriv Combat Training Center in Ukraine to replace the Oklahoma Army National Guard’s 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as part of NATO’s Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine.

Many of the Soldiers who are part of the team are assigned to the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry which is headquartered at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The squadron also

The mission is expected to last nine months.

•Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion

Twenty-two members of the Rochester-based Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion deployed to Afghanistan for nine months during 2017. The Soldiers departed from New York in January and returned in November.

The unit, which flies the CH-47 medium lift helicopter was deployed to Bagram Airfield. The 98-foot long CH-47, twin rotor helicopters are used to move troops and equipment in and out of the mountains of Afghanistan. It can lift more than 30 soldiers and carry 28,000 pounds of cargo.

The aircraft have proven immensely valuable in the mountains of Afghanistan because the twin rotors provide lift at high altitudes and in cold weather. The unit conducted combat support by resupplying equipment and moving personnel, in and out of Kandahar airfield and Forward Operating Base Fenty.  

•1156th Engineer Company

The 1156th Engineer Company, a component of the 204th Engineer Battalion, deployed 156 Soldiers to Iraq and Kuwait in the fall of 2016 after mobilizing in October 2016. The Soldiers returned from deployment at the end of August, 2017. The 1156th, is based at Camp Smith Training Site and Kingston. During their deployment in Iraq the Soldiers supported the Iraqi Army and the United States forces. They also tested combat bridging techniques and built and updated buildings and other facilities at combat operation outposts and air bases.

The Soldiers completed 50 projects and worked in tactical assembly areas.
and patrol bases outside of Mosul and Taji, Iraq and also conducted missions in Kuwait, Jordan and Syria.

- 727th Law and Order Detachment
  Twenty-two Soldiers of the 727th Law and Order Detachment deployed to Afghanistan during March of 2017. The Military Police Detachment provides specially trained staff and soldiers to conduct law enforcement operations in a deployed environment. The Soldiers were expected to return from service in February 2018.

- 107th Military Police Company

- 7th Finance Detachment

**Major Training Exercises**

- WARFIGHTER
  The 42nd Infantry Division sent 475 Soldiers to participate in a Warfighter command post exercise held at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania in October 2017. The computer wargame tested the headquarters ability to control combat operations for a 20,000-troop force. The division worked with headquarters elements from:
  - 27th Infantry Brigade Combat team;
  - 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard;
  - 2nd Brigade, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard;
  - 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Massachusetts Army National Guard;
  - 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, Arkansas Army National Guard;
  - 28th Combat Aviation Brigade, Pennsylvania Army National Guard.
  The 7th Finance Detachment also participated in the exercise.

- ARDENT SENTRY
  The 42nd Infantry Division supplied the core command post team for the New York National Guard's participation in Ardent Sentry 17, a national-level domestic response exercise centered on New York and New Jersey.
  The scenario involved a nuclear device detonating on the New Jersey side of the Lincoln Tunnel. The exercise focused on marshaling both federal troops and National Guard elements to deal with the resulting disaster. National Guard, state and federal emergency response elements gathered at the Guard's Joint Force Headquarters in Latham to establish a command post for the training.

**Overseas Training Exercises**

- Talisman Sabre
  Eight hundred and eighty New York Army National Guard Soldiers deployed to Australia for a three-week training exercise with the Australian Army.
  The bulk of the Soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry which has units in Manhattan, Farmingdale, and Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill.
  Troop C from the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, an engineer platoon from the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion in Lockport and an intelligence section from the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion in Syracuse will also be part of the deployment.
  The New York National Guard Soldiers deployed as part of a regularly scheduled Australian/U.S. military exercise known as Talisman Sabre. The exercise is held every other year and involved 30,000 Australian and American military personnel at six different locations conducting field exercises and command and control exercises.
  The bulk of the training in the field, which has focused on amphibious and air assault operations during past exercises, takes place at the Australian’s Shoalwater Bay Training Area. The training site is located near Rockhampton in the Australian

New York Army National Guard Soldiers setup a tarp, on top of which a barrier is made of stone and sandbags in an attempt to hold off erosion along the Lake Ontario shoreline after rising water levels have resulted in flooding and a state of emergency being declared on May 2 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Kendall, N.Y., May 18.
state of Queensland, along Australia’s northeast coastline, north of Brisbane. The American Soldiers were integrated into the Australian 1st Brigade and played the role of defenders against an attack from a joint U.S. Marine Corps, Australian, 82nd Airborne and New Zealand amphibious attack.

The extended annual training this year provided the battalion with an opportunity to conduct much more complex and integrated training for the combat Soldiers. The New York Army National Guard Soldiers prepared for the mission for a year. The Soldiers conducted road marches with full field gear and tactical training exercises at the platoon and company level to get ready.

Unit Soldiers prepared and shipped equipment and 139 vehicles required for the mission to Australia and an advance party from the battalion is already in Australia. A team of Soldiers in Fort Lewis, Washington prepared the vehicles and equipment for shipment across the Pacific.

The Americans also met with their Australian counterparts to prepare orders and plans that integrated the National Guard into the Australian Army unit.

The exercise ran from June 26 to August 3.

Key Resolve
Forty members of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took part in the joint South Korean/U.S. Key Resolve command post exercise in Dungsdu-
cheon, South Korea in March. The New York Army National Guard officers and noncommissioned officers playing the role of a brigade staff reporting to the 2nd Infantry Division during the computer-generated command post exercise. The team worked with both active Army and South Korean Army counterparts during the three-week mission that ran from March 4 to 26.

**United Kingdom Military Exchange**

Four New York Army National Guard Soldiers participated in an exchange program with British Army Reserve units during the summer. 1st Lt. Michael Ramer and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Coon of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, along with Staff Sgt. Christopher Brazee and Sgt. Patrick Kelley of the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion took part in the program in August and September. Their units hosted British Army Reserve Soldiers in exchange. Capt. Melanie Padilla, a member of the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, attended the Canadian Reserve Army Operations Course conducted at the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston, Ontario, Canada from July 4-22, 2017.

**New Equipment**

During 2017 the New York Army National Guard fielded several new equipment systems.

**Tactical Network Operations Management System**

The Tactical Network Operation (NetOps) Management System was acquired by several battalion level units. This system allows signals and information management personnel to better control information system and networks and prevent intrusions into the network.

The system is designed for use by Army units not equipped with the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) integrated tactical network communications system.

**M50/S1 Joint Service Mask**

All units were fielded the M50 and M51 Joint Service General Purpose Mask. The protective mask, or gas mask, replaces the older M40 series protective mask which was introduced in the mid-1990s.

The M50 is used by most troops while the M51 version is configured for use by armored vehicle crewman. The mask offers improved protection, better visibility and is easier to breathe in than the M40 series protective mask.

**Digital Common Ground System-Army**

The Digital Common Ground System-Army (DSGS-A) is computer system that allows Army units to share intelligence and the command to visualize the battlespace terrain and plan future operations by integration information from multiple sources. Several New York Army National Guard battalions and headquarters were fielded the system.

**Improved Target Acquisition System**

The Improved Target Acquisition System, or ITAS, is a new sight for the TOW 2 (Tube-launched, Optically-tracker, Wire-guided) anti-tank mission system which has been in the Army inventory since the 1970s. The ITAS is a second generation infrared sight which allowed TOW gunners to acquire targets at longer ranges.

The system was fielded to elements of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team which deploy the TOW missile system.

**Global Command and Control System-Army**

The Global Command and Control System-Army (GCCS-A) is the Army’s strategic, theater, and tactical command and control communications system. It provides operational information to commanders.

The latest systems were fielded to the 42nd Division and the 53rd Digital Liaison Detachment in 2017.

**Sentinel Radar, Enhanced**

The Sentinel Radar system, AN/MPQ-64A3, is used to alert and target Short Range Air Defense systems on incoming enemy aircraft. The upgraded system was fielded to the 42nd Infantry Division.

**M985A4 truck**

The M985A4 is the latest variant of the Army’s Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck. The new truck was supplied to the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

**M105 Deployable Universal Combat Earth Mover**

The M105 Deployable Universal Combat Earth Mover (DEUCE) was supplied to the 204th Engineer Battalion during 2017. Developed by Caterpillar, the M105 is a high-speed, high-mobility earth moving system designed for use in forward areas. It replaces the D-5 bulldozer.

**621G Heavy Scraper**

The military version of a Caterpillar product, the scraper is designed for road building and was acquired by the 204th Engineer Battalion.
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**Division of Military and Naval Affairs**
New York Army National Guard Sgt. Brian Shea, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, calls for fire support as part of the opposition force during the final assault at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area during Exercise Talisman Saber on 20 July. New York Soldiers fought against, and alongside Australian and New Zealand personnel during exercise Talisman Saber.
The New York Army National Guard operates a fleet of 29 helicopters, one C-12 six passenger airplane, and four RQ-7 Shadow unmanned aircraft.

The helicopters operated by the New York Army National Guard are:
- 22 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, six of which can be configured for hoist operations and used as an air ambulance
- Five CH-47 Chinook medium lift helicopters
- Two UH-72 light utility helicopters.


The unit operated in seven Afghan provinces—Nangarhar, Kabul, Logar, Paktiya, Khost, Sarobi, Laghman and Parwan—in eastern Afghanistan. These missions directly supported both conventional forces and Special Forces of the United States military and Afghanistan in action against the Taliban and the Islamic State.

This was the third Afghan deployment for the Rochester based detachment of B Company. During their deployment the Soldiers moved 6,000 personnel and one million pounds of cargo.

Two of the deployed Soldiers were awarded the Bronze Star, while 18 received the Air Medal with “C” for combat.

The 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion – which operates two companies of UH-60s within the New York Army National Guard and a third from the Maine National Guard—conducted major domestic support operations during 2017 and also supported the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum while the 10th Aviation Brigade was deployed.

Aircraft assigned to the 3-142nd Aviation conducted air assault training with 10th Mountain Division units and took part in a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise which was witnessed by Acting Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy. The battalion flew a total of 200 hours in support of the 10th Mountain Division.

On Sept. 11 the 3-142nd dispatched 10 helicopters, which included hoist aircraft from Company C (Medical Evacuation) 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion, to Florida in response to a request for assistance from the Florida National Guard in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The ten aircraft flew half-way to Florida before they were turned around and sent home because the Florida National Guard determined they would not be needed.

On Sept. 28 the battalion deployed four UH-60s and 60 Soldiers to Puerto Rico on board C-17s flown by the New York Air National Guard’s 105th Airlift Wing in response to the damage Hurricane Maria caused on the island.

During 40 days of operations the 3-142nd Soldiers flew 369 hours while conducting 216 missions, and delivered 223 pallets of food, 324 pallets of water and 382 passengers to help the island’s residents recover from Hurricane Maria.

The New York Army National Guard’s Detachment 2, Alpha Company, 1-224 Aviation operates the two UH-72 helicopters. During 2017 the light utility helicopters flew 60 hours in support of law enforcement counterdrug missions.

New York Army National Guard UH-60 crews also qualified on the use of firefighting water buckets so they could deploy aircraft in support of Department of Environmental Conservation wild fire fighting efforts if required.

During federal fiscal year 2017 the New York Army National Guard flew over 4,100 hours and maintained an operational readiness rate of 80 percent across the aircraft fleet. Fuel costs during federal fiscal year 2017 were $1,652,340.
The New York Air National Guard consists of five flying wings, the Eastern Air Defense Sector, and headquarters New York Air National Guard. The New York Air National Guard is part of the Air National Guard of the United States which is one of two reserve components of the United States Air Force.

With an assigned strength of 5,695 and an authorized strength of 5,798 at the end of fiscal year 2017, the New York Air National Guard is the largest Air Guard in the United States.

In 2017 the New York Air National Guard operated six HH-60 Pave Hawk search and rescue helicopters, five HC-130 Hercules search and rescue planes, nine C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlift aircraft, ten LC-130 Hercules ski-equipped transports, two C-130 Hercules cargo planes and ten MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft.

The Commander of the New York Air National Guard is Major General Anthony German, who is also the Adjutant General of New York. Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge serves as Chief of Staff of the New York Air National Guard. Command Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giacquito is the senior enlisted Airman for the New York Air National Guard and also serves as Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Adjutant General.

105th Airlift Wing

Based at Stewart Air National Guard Base outside Newburgh, the 105th Airlift Wing operates nine C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlift cargo planes. The wing continually deploys aircraft and aircrews to supply U.S. forces around the world under the control of the Air Force Air Mobility Command. The 105th Airlift Wing is commanded by Col. Denise M. Donnell. In 2017 she became the first woman to command one of the New York Air National Guard’s five flying wings. The wing is assigned 1,432 Airmen and during fiscal year 2017 the wing completed 4,763 flying hours supporting 412 missions over 1,338 sorties. The wing deployed 108 Airmen to combat zones in 2017. The wing is the host unit at the base, which is also used by Marine Corps Reserve Aerial Refueling Transport Squadron 452.

The 105th Airlift Wing’s 105th Base Defense Squadron is configured to partner with the 820th Base Defense Squadron assigned to Moody Air Force Base in Georgia and is prepared to deploy worldwide to secure Air Force facilities. The basedefense security forces are trained and equipped to fight much like Army infantry Soldiers.

During 2017 the 105th Airlift Wing played a key role in the New York National Guard response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, which hit Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

C-17s from the 105th Airlift Wing carried personnel and HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters from the 106th Rescue Wing to Texas following Hurricane Harvey in August. Then the wing airlifted the Airmen and HH-60s to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Irma. After Hurricane Irma devastated Puerto Rico in September, the 105th
Airlift Wing then moved 60 Soldiers and four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation to Puerto Rico.

The wing deployed a satellite communications systems known as a Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC), in support of Florida following Hurricane Irma and then to the U.S. Virgin Islands after Maria. Seven Airmen went with the system to help establish communications for the Virgin Islands National Guard.

When the New York Army National Guard’s 152nd Engineer Company needed to deploy from Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, the 105th dispatched experts in loading aircraft to help the Army Guardsmen prepare equipment properly at Niagara Falls. The wing also sent experts in aerial port operations to Puerto Rico’s Aguadilla Airport to assist in managing the large flow of relief supplies arriving and also sent a fire truck there to replace damaged equipment there.

The wing’s C-17s flew over 100 missions in support of hurricane relief missions flying from locations across the United States to Texas, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Operating from Stewart Air National Guard Base, the 105th flew 326 personnel, 54 vehicles and 14 pallets of cargo in their support of hurricane response missions.

The wing’s 105th Base Defense Squadron deployed 30 Airmen to the Virgin Islands to conduct airfield security missions.

The 105th also took part in the New York National Guard response to a March snowstorm which hit the lower Hudson Valley, activating 79 personnel to assist the New York State Department of Transportation in closing down roads and establishing traffic control points after the storm hit.

37 members of the wing also responded when Joint Task Force Empire Shield asked for additional personnel to provide security during the New York City Marathon in November.

In August of 2017, following the crash of a KC-130 refueling aircraft flown by Marine Corps Reserve Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452, which killed nine unit members and eight passengers, members of the 105th provided assistance to the Marines and mourned the loss with them.

In February, the 105th hosted the Special Olympics New York State Winter Games floor hockey competition in one of the base hangers.

106th Rescue Wing
Based at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, the 106th Rescue Wing’s 1,093 men and women prepare to deploy worldwide in support of combatant commanders and to conduct search and rescue missions if required here at home.

The wing is commanded by Col. Michael Bank.

During state emergencies Bank is also the officer in charge of New York National Guard response mission in Suffolk and Nassau counties.

The wing’s officers and staffs command Joint Task Forces made up of Soldiers and Airmen from the region.

The wing includes the 103rd Search and Rescue squadron, which is comprised of Combat Rescue Officers, pararescuemen, and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialists who are trained to rescue pilots and other personnel. It takes almost two years of training to qualify in one of these Air Force specialties.

The wing’s 102nd Rescue Squadron flies five HC-130 search and rescue aircraft. This version of the C-130 transport, is equipped to refuel helicopters in flight and has the ability to deploy pararescue jumpers and required equipment onto land or water.

The 102nd Rescue Squadron is the oldest unit in the Air National Guard. It was originally organized as the 102nd Aero Squadron of the New York National Guard in 1917. After World War I it was reorganized as the 102nd Observation Squadron in 1920 and assigned to the New York National Guard’s 27th Division.

The wing’s 101st Rescue Squadron operates six HH-60 Pave Hawk rescue helicopters. This is similar to the Army Black Hawk helicopter and is equipped for air-to-air refueling, has long range fuel tanks, and has the ability to hoist rescued personnel on board.

During 2017 the wing deployed 37 personnel overseas in support of combat operations. The wing’s largest operation during 2017 was the deployment of 246 personnel to Texas and Puerto Rico in support of the U.S.
The wing deployed 126 Airmen to Fort Hood Texas on August 26, 2017 to assist in search and rescue missions in the Houston Texas area. The Airmen deployed with three HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and two HC-130 search and rescue aircraft and four Zodiac boats.

During two weeks of operations – August 26 to Sept. 2—the 106th Rescue Wing Airmen were credited with saving 546 people. Pararescue Airmen operated from the three helicopters while a separate team deployed the Zodiac boats in the flooded areas of the region.

Several of the dramatic rescues made by Airmen using helicopter slings were filmed by aircrew helmet cams and aired on network television news programs.

On Sept. 7, the wing deployed in response to Hurricane Irma, which struck the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on Sept. 6 with 120 Airmen and the same package of two HC-130s and three UH-60s that had been deployed to Texas.

More than half of the Airmen who deployed to Puerto Rico had also deployed in support of Hurricane Harvey.

Working in conjunction with aircrews from the Kentucky and Puerto Rico Air National Guards the 106th Airmen evacuated more than 1,500 Americans from the island of St. Maarten, which is controlled by the Netherlands and France.

The 106th Airmen evacuated more than 500 people on two HC-130s which had been deployed to Puerto Rico.

During Fiscal Year 2017 the wing's Airmen flew 891 hours in HH-60s and 834 hours in HC-130s.

107th Attack Wing

Based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, the 107th Attack Wing operates the MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft.

The wing formally changed its name from the 107th Airlift Wing—reflecting its former mission of flying C-130s in partnership with the Air Force Reserve’s 914th Airlift wing—to the 107th Attack Wing in March. The change officially marked the end of a three-year transition for the wing.

The wing now has the ability to operate MQ-9 aircraft from a control facility at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The 136th Attack Squadron and the 107th Operations Support Squadron work together to provide reconnaissance and attack capabilities to commanders in combat theaters.

The 27th Air Support Operations Squadron provides Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) specialists that embed with Army units to call in air strikes from both remotely piloted and conventional aircraft. These highly trained experts go through intense physical, mental and technical training.

The 222nd Command and Control Squadron Airmen work with both Air Force Space Command and the National Reconnaissance Office. The National Reconnaissance Office is responsible for United States satellite surveillance operations.

The unit’s Airmen provide personnel to assist in the operation of the National Reconnaissance Operations Center. Their missions include; space situational awareness, operational level command and control, and defensive space control Department of Defense and National Reconnaissance Office space assets.

The deployable manpower the New York Air National Guard provides through the 222nd CACS ensures that the National Reconnaissance Operations Center has properly trained, skilled personnel, and a remote operational capability to meet the national security mission needs in peacetime and in crisis.

All elements of the 107th Attack Wing played a role in the conversion from an airlift wing to an attack wing.

• The 107th Civil Engineering Squadron supported the conversion from airlift to attack wing by overseeing the construction of the new operations center.

• The wing Communications Flight (CF) coordinated and executed all communications infrastructure and circuit actions required for MQ-9 operations, including the installation of 45,000 feet of fiber optics cable and $1.1 million in new infrastructure.

• The 107th Logistics Readiness Squadron successfully established 24/7 supply operations in support of the new mission.

• The wing contracting office oversaw the new MQ-9 program.
administration of the ongoing Operations building construction project for mission conversion.

The 107th Attack Wing also took part in responding to New York State domestic operations missions, providing personnel to assist in controlling Lake Ontario flooding during the summer. 121 Airmen were deployed in response to New York state missions in 2017.

The 107th Medical Group sent eighteen wing personnel to participate in the Smoky Mountain Medical Innovative Readiness Training mission in August in which a number of active and reserve units from the Army, Navy and Air Force provided medical treatment to 5,800 residents of North Carolina’s Clay and Swain counties. The 107th contingent conducted 819 procedures performed and delivered care at a value of over 1 million dollars. A total of 13,000 training hours were completed.

During 2017 the wing deployed 218 personnel on operational missions, sent 202 to various training events around the country and dispatched 20 personnel into combat zones.

Finally, the 14-member Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station Honor Guard performed a total of 215 events, which included military funerals and ceremonies during 2017.

109th Airlift Wing

Based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, N.Y. the 109th Airlift Wing flies ten of the largest ski-equipped aircraft in the world, the LC-130, a variant of the C-130 cargo plane. These unique aircraft are the backbone of U.S. transportation within Antarctica and the Arctic.

The wing also operates two C-130H cargo aircraft and is commanded by Col. Michelle Kilgore.

The wing provides airlift support to the National Science Foundation’s research program and to military missions.

When called upon, the 109th Airlift Wing’s 1,144 Airmen also support airlift relief efforts and humanitarian missions around the globe and across the nation.

During the 2016/2017 Antarctica support seasons, the wing deployed six LC-130s and over 400 Airmen to McMurdo Station in Antarctica to support Operation Deep Freeze. The wing transported over 2,550 passengers, 3.1 million pounds of cargo, and 291,500 gallons of fuel, totaling 243 missions flown and 1,843 flight hours. In addition to directly supporting Operation Deep Freeze, 106 members deployed in support of combatant commander requirements for contingency operations in the Central Command, Africa Command and European Command theaters of operation.

Between April and August, the wing’s Airmen deployed to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland where they flew LC-130 missions to the Greenland ice cap in support of the National Science Foundation’s research initiatives. The wing transported fuel, supplies, and passengers in and out of various National Science Foundation camps. 109th Airmen conducted 106 missions in Greenland in preparation for the wing’s annual missions to Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze.

In 2017, ten wing members flew to southeastern Missouri to support Operation Healthy Delta. During the 14-day mission, members provided healthcare to 4,545 patients, totaling 15,892 procedures at no cost to communities in southeastern Missouri. For the first time ever, the wing stood up Joint Task Force 3 in March, sending a 70-member Joint team to Central New York in support of Winter Storm Stella. From May to July, ten Airmen participated in joint operations in response to Lake Ontario flooding. Most recently, the wing provided maintenance and air transportation support in Puerto Rico, and flew crucial humanitarian relief operations to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in support of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria recovery efforts. Wing aircraft flew cargo and personnel from the United States to the islands. The wing deployed nine members to provide maintenance support and eight Airmen to assist in aerial port operations.

Finally, the 109th Honor Guard provided funeral honor services to almost 400 service members and their families throughout and beyond the greater Capital Region during 2017.

174th Attack Wing

Based at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, the 174th Attack Wing operates the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft. The wing operates the MQ-9 on combat air patrol missions overseas and trains MQ-9 pilots, sensor operators and maintainers for the United States Air Force and Air National Guard. The wing is commanded by Col. Michael Smith.

The wing traces its history back to 1947 when the 138th Fighter Squadron of the New York Air National Guard was created. In 1953, the 138th became the first Air Guard unit to stand strip alert as part of the Air Defense of the United States.

The 174th maintains eight MQ-9 aircraft at Hancock Field and two in the military’s European Command area. The wing’s Field Training Detachment uses two MQ-9s for maintenance training. The other aircraft are used by the 108th Attack Squadron to train Air National Guard, Reserve, and Air Force MQ-9 aircrews.

The 174th is the first Air Force unit to fly the MQ-9 directly from a commercial airfield, in this case Hancock Field International Airport.

In November 2017 the wing flew an MQ-9 1,200 miles to Syracuse from Duke Field, Florida following the end of the Air National Guard’s annual Combat Hammer weapons exercise. This was the first time a remotely piloted aircraft was flown to its home field from an exercise instead of being shipped back.

The wing’s 1,092 personnel include the 152nd Air Operations Group which specializes in planning Air Force combat missions and campaigns. 152nd personnel augment the staff of the Air Force’s Europe Air Operations Center at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. This center provides planning, direction, and control of assigned air forces including those forces made available by U.S. allies.

The wing is also responsible for the Adirondack Range, an air-to-ground range located at Fort Drum. It is a 4,000 acre complex that supports fixed-wing, rotary-wing and ground force integration providing live-fire...
opportunities to a host of Department of Defense assets.

This year, the Adirondack Range crew hosted a Jaded Thunder exercise. Jaded Thunder is an exercise that involves Special Operations Forces and Conventional Forces working together while executing Joint Terminal Attack Controller and Fire Support operations.

The exercise included A-10, F-16, F-15E, C-130U, and MQ-9 aircraft along with helicopter support.

Members of the wing’s 138th Attack Squadron supported MQ-9 contingency operations and provided over 6,734 flight hours of combat air patrols delivering intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and strike capability to combatant commanders in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel (OFS) and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR).

During fiscal 2017, 108th Attack Squadron aircrews temporarily surged to provide a second combat air patrol, taking over missions normally run by the Michigan and Ohio Air National Guard’s so their pilots and aircrews could focus on transitioning form the MQ-1 to the MQ-9 aircraft.

The 108th also logged over 3,252 flight hours in local flying while conducting training mission. At the same time Airmen also stood up the first Air National Guard MQ-9 Launch and Recovery Element in Europe and dropped the first GBU-38 bomb in training. These achievements culminated in invitations to participate in the Northern Strike, Jaded Thunder, and other weapon system evaluation program exercises.

The 174th Maintenance Group kept the aircraft operated by the 138th and 108th Attack Squadrons in a high state of readiness and participated in a major weapons system exercise. The group provided more than 5,700 hours of instruction to students from the Air Force, Air National Guard and allied nations. Additionally, the 174th Maintenance Group detachment stationed at Wheeler Sack Army Airfield at Fort Drum, turned over 800 sorties for multiple Department of Defense flying organizations and supported the Jaded Thunder joint service exercise.

During Fiscal Year 2017, the 174th Mission Support Group supported combat and local operations while executing $3.5M in facility restoration, sustainment and modernization to support combat and training mission upgrades. Additionally, the mission support group executed over $6.5 million in federal contracts and provided command and control for domestic operations in New York State.

In 2017, 96 members from the 152nd Air Operations Group participated in seven major exercises. These took place around the world (Germany and Hungary) and in the U.S. (Florida, Hawaii, California, and Nevada). The exercises include: Austere Challenge 17; Blue Flag 17; Balikatan 17; Pacific Sentry 17-2; Load Diffuser; Baltops; and Red Flag 17.

Domestically, the 174th was busy assisting local operations.

Sixty-four Airmen from across the Wing helped to fill and place 49,520 sandbags supporting operations during the Lake Ontario flooding. Additionally, 57 Airmen answered the call to provide aid during Snowstorm Stella in March. Another 17 Airmen rendered aid after the Hamburg, N.Y. Tornado.

Globally, 21 members of the 174th deployed in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel, Operation Deep Freeze, and Operation Inherent Resolve.

These efforts found 174th Airmen serving in Italy, Antarctica, Jordan, Kuwait, and Qatar for durations of 65 to 180 days. Airmen from the 174th Force Support Squadron, 174th Civil Engineer Squadron, 174th Security Forces Squadron, and 174th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron provided the required technical and tactical expertise.

During Fiscal Year 2017, the 174th Honor Guard provided honors to almost 300 events. With 4 fulltime members, 7 volunteers, and 10 active volunteers, 208 veterans were honored. Furthermore, 53 retirees were honored and 25 community events were supported.

224th Air Defense Group/Eastern Air Defense Sector

The 224th Air Defense Group (ADG) is located in Rome, New York at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park and supports the Eastern Air Defense Sector’s mission of controlling the air defense of the United States east of the Mississippi River.

Composed of the 224th Air Defense Squadron and the 224th Support Squadron, the 224th Air Defense Group provides full-time New York Air National Guard personnel to conduct the Eastern Air Defense Sector’s (EADS) federal mission. EADS is a headquarters unit of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).
In 2017 the unit was commanded by Col. Emil Filkorn. The 224th ADG had 65 Active, Guard and Reserve (AGR) officers and 200 AGR enlisted members as of Oct. 1, 2017. This full-time force was augmented by a traditional Guardsmen component of nine officers and 39 enlisted members. The Air Defense Group also had 43 Title 5 civilian employees. In addition, the EADS mission is supported by a 15-member Canadian Forces detachment, U.S. Army and Navy liaison officers, and approximately 20 civilian contractors. These personnel are fully integrated into group operations.

To support its air defense operations in the National Capital Region, the 224th Air Defense Group has two detachments in the Washington, D.C. area. Detachment 1 serves as the Air Force component at the Joint Air Defense Operations Center, located at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C. Detachment 2 provides liaison officers at the Transportation Security Administration’s National Capital Region Coordination Center (NCRCC) in Herndon, Virginia. The mission is conducted at the Battle Control Center in Rome, where data is gathered constantly from sensors and radars strategically located throughout the eastern U.S. This data is used to create a continuous air picture that ADG personnel monitor and assess 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week. During 2016, 224th Airmen detected, tracked, identified, evaluated, and responded to 75,000 potential threats; an average of 205 a day.

While conducting the around-the-clock mission, the 224th supported air defense operations for critical national events, including the State of the Union address, the Nuclear Security Summit and the United Nations General Assembly. ADG personnel also spent more than 1,000 hours last year enforcing FAA-mandated Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) for 40 Presidential movements. In 2017 the group maintained an exhaustive training schedule alongside its high operational tempo. Airmen controlled more than 500 practice scrambles last year and participated in 260 training missions and 370 higher headquarters exercises that involved fighter aircraft, helicopters and Ground-Based Air Defense assets in the National Capital Region (NCR). Several 224th ADG Airmen won prestigious awards in 2017. Senior Master Sgt. James Burke was the Continental U.S. NORAD Region (CONR) Warrior of the Year and the NORAD Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Tech. Sgt. John McCormick received the CONR-1st Air Force Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award and Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Stanbro was named the Air Force Information Dominance/ANG Outstanding Cyber Systems NCO of the Year. Master Sgt. Natasha VanDeusen was the NYANG Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

The ADG also deployed one member in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. involvement in the fight against ISIS in Syria and Iraq. The 224th Air Defense Group Honor Guard had 27 members who voluntarily dedicated 250 man-hours to support veterans and community causes. The ADG Honor Guard provided funeral honors for 16 local veterans and conducted 13 colors presentations, four parades and four retirement ceremonies.
The New York Naval Militia is the naval component of the New York Military Forces. The New York Naval Militia is commanded by Rear Admiral Ten Eyck “Trip” Powell, a retired United States Navy Captain. The New York Naval Militia was originally organized in 1891 before there was a United States Navy Reserve and was the sea-going equivalent of the New York National Guard. During the Spanish-American War in 1898 the New York Naval Militia manned two ships. Since the founding of the United States Navy Reserve in 1915, the force has focused more on state missions, but the New York Naval Militia is still recognized by the federal government as part of the state defense force. Members of the Naval Militia simultaneously serve as members of the Navy Reserve, the United States Coast Guard Reserve or the United States Marine Corps Reserve. They volunteer to put the skills they have learned as members of the federal military reserve forces to work for the people of New York. New York Naval Militia members serve on State Active Duty only when called by the governor. Members of the New York Naval Militia are eligible to participate in the New York State Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program which provides tuition assistance to New York organized militia members -- National Guard and Naval Militia -- at New York State Colleges and Universities. At the end of 2017 the New York Naval Militia had 2,807 members. Of these:
• 1,451 were members of the United States Navy Reserve;
• 1,117 were members of the United States Marine Corps Reserve;
• 120 were members of the United States Coast Guard Reserve;
• 94 members were “retired reserve members;
and 25 were not reservists.
Under New York State law, five percent of the Naval Militia’s force is allowed to consist of members who are no longer “retired reserve” or who never served in a federal military force, but provide necessary skills or capabilities to the force. Along with providing trained manpower, the New York Naval Militia’s Military Emergency Boat Service (MEPS) operates a fleet of nine patrol boats. These Naval Militia crews work regularly with the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Border Patrol and local law enforcement agencies across New York.

Patrol Boat 440, a 44 foot-long diesel powered water-jet catamaran based on at the U.S. Coast Guard Station on Staten Island, carries U.S. Coast Guard inspection parties out to ships waiting to enter New York Harbor and also conducts regular harbor security patrols as part of the New York National Guard’s Joint Task Force Empire Shield.
The Naval Militia also operates patrol boats in the waters off Indian Point Energy Center in random security patrols. Other vessels include:
• Patrol Boats 300 and 301 - two 30-foot Nigel Gee boats based in Verplanck and Albany;
• Patrol Boats 280 and 281 - two 28-foot ALMAR Sounder boats based in Buffalo and Rochester;
• Patrol Boat 230 - a 23-foot Aluminum Chambered Dive boat based in Massapequa;
And Patrol Boats 220 and 221 - two 22-foot Metal Craft Marine Kingfisher Hardtop boats based in Syracuse and Leeds.
The Naval Militia is currently in the process of purchasing a 35-foot long landing craft-style vessel which will allow supplies, a vehicle and personnel to be put on shore during an emergency or disaster response. The vessel will be able to carry a team of
Soldiers and Airmen from one of the New York National Guard’s Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams and deploy them. The boat was contracted with Munson Boats in the State of Washington and expected delivery is in the spring of 2018.

**Domestic Emergency Response**

During 2017 the New York Naval Militia responded with trained manpower to supplement the New York Army and Air National Guard in two instances. The New York Naval Militia provided 125 members to assist in sandbag operations and making sandbags from May 19 to July 27 as the New York Military Forces responded to high water levels in Lake Ontario. These members filled and palletized sandbags, loaded sandbags, built sand bag barriers, and knocked on citizen homes providing “health and safety” checks. The New York Naval Militia also provided patrol boats on the Lake in the Rochester area in order to enforce speed regulations designed to reduce boat wake damage to lakeside properties.

In October Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo ordered the New York Military Forces to assist in collecting and packaging goods being donated for distribution in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the wake of Hurricane Maria. New York Naval Militia members were assigned to donation sites at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City, the New York State Armory in Binghamton and the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo. The New York Naval Militia personnel collected those items and assembled them into pallet loads for transport to a central warehouse at Camp Smith training Site.

In November the New York Naval Militia was tasked with establishing a mess operation to feed personnel working at the Camp Smith Warehouse. The New York Naval Militia provided culinary personnel who were able to reduce the per meal cost for 136 personnel from $12 per meal when purchased from a vendor to $3 per meal; saving state taxpayers money.

**Training**

The New York Naval Militia conducted training exercises alone and in conjunction with the New York National Guard. The Naval Militia conducted an exercise on Seneca Lake, May 19-20. Using Willard Correctional Facility as a base the Naval Militia mobilized 56 members and operated four patrol boats on the lake. Members were lodged at the correctional facility’s overnight training building. Meals and Lodging were contracted from the Willard Correctional facility. Patrol Boats were launched from the Sampson State Park on Seneca Lake and simulated Exclusion Zone operations were successfully conducted.

During 2017 the New York Naval Militia signed a memorandum of understanding with the US Navy Reserve forces in July establishing joint training and cooperation with Navy Operational Support Centers within New York. Overall the Naval Militia provided over 4,500 man days of support to the citizens of NY in operational exercises and training support during 2017.
Top photo: More than 30 volunteers from the New York Guard State Defense Force performed state active duty at Camp Smith Training Site, October 2 to assist with the unloading, loading, sorting, packing and consolidating of donated relief supplies scheduled for delivery to Puerto Rico. Bottom left, Army National Guard Spc. James Anthony, right, and Pfc. Sidney Gannon remove debris along County Route 396 in Holland, New York following tornado storm damage on July 20, 2017. Bottom right, During drill at Camp Smith April 22, New York Guard members of the 244th Medical Group conduct CPR and First Aid certification course for New York Guard volunteers.
The New York Guard is the state’s volunteer defense force whose members augment the National Guard during training and state emergencies.

New York is one of 26 states which maintain this federally authorized adjunct to the National Guard.

Members wear a military style uniform and carry state military ranks, but do not carry arms and serve only within the state of New York.

The authorized strength of the New York Guard in 2016 was 810 with 463 members currently serving.

Many New York Guard members have prior-service in the New York National Guard or other military services and have extensive military experience. There is no requirement that members have a military background and any New Yorker who meets the physical fitness standards may join. Many of the New York Guard members hold New York State professional licenses that add to the services that can be provided during state activations and emergencies.

New York Guard members train without pay. They do receive pay when placed on State Active Duty in support of the New York National Guard.

New York Guard members normally participate in one-day weekend training sessions monthly and a week-long annual training program held at Camp Smith Training Site. They train in logistics, communications, engineer operations, public affairs, as well as chaplain, medical and legal services and administrative skills which can be used to support National Guard units during state emergencies.

The New York Guard is responsible for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs Military Emergency Radio Network, or MERN system, which relies on shortwave radio to tie New York National Guard elements together during an emergency.

New York Guard engineers regularly undertake building projects at the Camp Smith Training Site which benefit military elements that train there.

New York Guard public affairs personnel also assist New York National Guard public affairs units in covering New York National Guard and Division of Military and Naval Affairs activities.

The New York Guard Chaplain Corps supports New York National Guard forces by holding religious services at the Camp Smith Chapel. This assures there is Chaplain support available when New York Military Forces are training.

New York Guard lawyers and legal assistants provide required professional assistance free of charge to New York Military Forces as well as U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Forces throughout New York State as needed.

During 2016 the New York Guard conducted initial training, basic officers training and non-commissioned officers training classes at Camp Smith during the week-long annual training. During this year’s annual training period 286 New York Guard members completed required training.

The New York Guard traces its history back to 1917 when the New York National Guard was mobilized for service in France during World War I. In the absence of the National Guard the state stood up a replacement force.

Members were organized into provisional brigades and placed on active duty guarding the New York City water supply and critical facilities against German sabotage.

This was not an empty threat, German saboteurs had blown up a munitions factory in New Jersey that was producing supplies for Great Britain and France.

The New York Guard was made a permanent force in the 1950s. Since then New York Guard members have responded to the attacks of September 2001, Tropical Storms Irene and Lee in 2011, Superstorm Sandy in 2012 as well as the Buffalo snowstorm of 2015.
Civilian Workforce

Civilian employees of the New York National Guard and the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs play important roles in supporting the part-time and full-time members of the New York Army and Air National Guard, as well as the New York Guard and Naval Militia. Most of the civilian workforce fall into the category of “Title 32 dual-status technicians.” These are federal civilian employees who, as a condition of their employment, are required to be members of the New York National Guard as well. In some instances these job require that individuals hold specific Army Military Occupational Specialties or Air Force Specialty Codes in order to hold jobs. Often—in the case of maintenance or technical personnel—these Guard members hold military jobs that are tied directly to their day-to-day employment.

These personnel are known as Title 32 dual-status technicians because their employment is covered by Title 32 of the United States Code, the section of law that sets out federal requirements for the National Guard. In 2017 that workforce totaled 1,363 individuals. 673 people were assigned in support of the Army National Guard while 980 were assigned in support of Air National Guard elements. During 2017 the National Guard, acting on the direction of Congress, began transitioning select dual-status technicians into civil service employees covered by Title 5 of the United States Code. This eliminates the requirement that employees of the National Guard also serve in the National Guard.

Congress mandated this change out of concern that in some instances, the mobilization of dual-status technicians for deployment resulted in holes in the full-time workforce of National Guard headquarters and units which required the temporary hiring of replacements.

The National Guard Bureau has expressed concern that if too many positions are changed to Title 5 the National Guard’s ability to respond quickly to domestic emergencies would be endangered and that career enhancement positions for part-time members could be curtailed. During 2017 the New York National Guard converted 53 dual-status technicians into Title 5 positions. During 2018 the New York National Guard anticipates converting 232 dual status technician jobs into Title 5 positions: 112 in the Air National Guard and 120 in the Army National Guard.

During 2017 there were 393 New York state employees who worked for the division to support the mission of the New York Army and Air National Guard.

These employees coordinated the use of state funds to purchase supplies used by the New York Military Forces during state missions and also coordinated State Active Duty Payrolls. They handled building contracts and plans and maintenance at New York National Guard facilities. The breakdown for New York state DMNA employees in 2017 was:
- 128 were maintenance personnel working in support of the New York Army National Guard at state armories and Camp Smith Training Site;
- 91 personnel worked in Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters in Latham;
- 68 firefighters in support of the New York Air National Guard;
- 57 were facility maintenance personnel supporting the New York Air National Guard;
- 29 were security guards supporting the New York Air National Guard;
- 11 personnel in administrative support positions in support of the New York Air National Guard;
- six state employees supported the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.;
- And three personnel working on environmental issues for the New York Air National Guard.
Family Programs

The New York National Guard’s Family Programs Office provides support to Guard members and their families in meeting the stresses of military life, and particularly part-time military life.

While active duty Soldiers and Airmen normally live on major military installations, Guard Soldiers and Airmen are scattered throughout the state. The staff of 64 – which includes Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers, contractors, and federal technicians—work to provide information on programs available to Guard members and support when necessary.

A team of volunteers in each unit working through unit Family Readiness Groups, helps the professional team reach the 16,000 members of the New York Army and Air National Guard and their families.

Family Support is available at the following armories:
- Buffalo – Connecticut Street Armory
- Rochester – Patriot Way Armory
- Syracuse – Thompson Rd. Armory
- Latham – DMNA Headquarters
- Troy – Glenmore Road Armory
- Camp Smith – Peekskill
- Fort Hamilton – Brooklyn
- New York – Lexington Ave Armory
- Farmingdale – AFRC Long Island

Family Support offices also operate at the five air bases:
- Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station;
- Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse;
- Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia;
- Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh;
- F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach.

The New York National Guard Family Program operates four key areas to support Soldiers and Airmen and their families. These are:
- Military Family Assistant Specialist
- Family Readiness Support Assistant
- New York National Guard Job Zone
- Psychological Health Coordinator

Family Assistance Specialists (FAS) are located in nine armories across New York State. Their main function is to support families and Service members geographically dispersed across the state. The goal of the FAS is to provide information, referral and outreach to Service Members and their Families from any branch of the military. FAS are easy-to-reach, one-stop shops for assistance.

- Family Readiness Support Assistant
- Family Readiness Support Assistants (FRSA), located in seven armories at units throughout the state. The core function is to work with military contacts, commanders and volunteers to provide training and hands-on assistance for establishing and maintaining an effective Family Readiness system within units and commands.
- New York National Guard Job Zone
- Psychological Health Coordinator

The role of the Psychological Health Coordinator (PHC) is to respond to the emotional needs of the force. The PHC provides crisis intervention, counseling, assessment, and referral; education regarding Suicide Prevention/Intervention, Post-Traumatic Stress, Substance Abuse and Traumatic Brain Injury.
State Partnership Program

The New York National Guard conducts a robust National Guard State Partnership Program with the Republic of South Africa.

The New York National Guard and the South African National Defense Forces have been partnered since 2003. The State Partnership Program links a state National Guard with the armed forces of a partner nation in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

There are currently 73 State Partnership Programs throughout the world and 13 programs in Africa. The program is administered by the National Guard Bureau, guided by State Department foreign policy goals, and executed by the State Adjutants General in support of the combatant commander, security cooperation objectives and Department of Defense policy goals.

It builds capacity and capability within partner nation’s security forces. It also cultivates personal, professional, and institutional relationships while training National Guardsmen for federal and state missions.

Today the program has expanded to include creating strong and enduring military to civilian relationships with various government agencies within the partner nation. A New York National Guard officer works in the United States Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa to put together joint training opportunities.

The New York National Guard Joint Operations section is responsible for administering the program and coordinates with United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM) when planning training activities.

In 2017, the State Partnership Program underwent some fiscal challenges, but continued to perform an all important role in support of the National Guard Bureau’s Security Cooperation initiatives in AFRICOM.

The main focuses this year were building partner nation capacity, sharing doctrine and information, building upon long lasting relationships with South Africa, AFRICOM, US Army and Air Force Africa.

Other joint activities conducted during 2017 were:
• The South African National Defense Force sent 16 delegates to the DEFCOM. The United States sent 28 delegates. The delegates from the U.S. included representatives from Pretoria, AFRICOM, U.S. Joint Staff (Pentagon) and the New York National Guard.
• Disaster Management Exercise, February 27 to March 10. The Disaster Management event was a Defense Committee (DEFCOM) item with a mandate that South Africa Joint Operations participate in a Disaster Exercise.
• A Meet and Greet with new South African Defense Attache on August 8.
• A reception December 12 at the Vice Chief of National Guard Bureau’s home. The event honored the South Africa – New York partnership.
• The New York National Guard also applied for approval to expand the partnership program, allowing for an additional partnership with Brazil. The application packet will be provided to Guard Bureau in February 2018, with a decision regarding what National Guard State or territory gets the partnership later in the year.

• New York is also involved in a partnership with National Guard Bureau and Israel’s Home Front Command supporting a line of effort focused on shared training lessons, collaboration and building resiliency in communities.


Four New York Army National Guard Soldiers who rescued a pilot from a burning plane received New York's highest medal for heroism during a June 4 ceremony at the National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility at MacArthur Airport.

The members of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment were presented the New York State Medal of Valor by Maj. Gen. Anthony German, the Adjutant General of New York.

On Feb. 26, the four helicopter crewmembers--Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronald Ramirez, and Warrant Officers Christopher Hansen and Aaron Pacholk and Sgt. Yannique Scott—exited their UH-60 helicopter and raced to a single-engine plane that had crashed in the woods by Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach, N.Y.

They managed to pull pilot Richard Rosenthal, 61 out of the aircraft as it burned. Unfortunately a passenger and a flight instructor lost their lives in the crash.

"If it wasn't for their quick response, and that really heroic action in a burning airplane, we would have three fatalities instead of two," said Dan Boggs, lead investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board.

Three other Soldiers on the flight at that day received the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal for their quick actions in landing the helicopter and aiding in the rescue.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joseph McCarthy, the aircraft commander; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Meghan Polis, the co-pilot; and Spc. Sarah Noschese received that award.

Four New York Army National Guard Soldiers who died in a terrible apartment house fire in the Bronx on Dec. 28, was honored posthumously with the Soldiers Medal and the New York State Medal for Valor for saving at least four lives.

Mensah, who was still assigned to the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, is being credited with rescuing people three times before he returned to the building and did not come out.

New York City Mayor William De Blasio praised Mensah in a Twitter message sent on Dec. 30:
"Private Emmanuel Mensah was a first generation immigrant, a soldier, and a New Yorker. He gave his life rescuing his neighbors in the Bronx fire. His heroism exemplifies the best of our city. Rest in peace," the message says.

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper approved the posthumous award of The Soldier's Medal for Pfc. Mensah on Jan. 1, 2018.

"Private 1st Class Mensah's heroic actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of military heroism and selfless service and reflect great credit upon himself, the New York Army National Guard and the United States Army," the award citation says.

Gov. Andrew Mr. Cuomo approved the award of the New York State Medal for Valor posthumously on Jan. 2, 2018. The award is New York State's highest military award and is presented for acts of heroism on and off the battlefield.

"His courageous and selfless act in the face of unimaginable conditions are consistent with the highest traditions of uniformed service and deserving of the highest possible recognition," his citation says.

Mensah had recently completed his advanced individual training as a motor vehicle mechanic and was preparing to begin his military career with the 107th Military Police Company in 2018.