





## A 53rd Troop Command Quarterly Newsletter

## essage from the Commander



To the Soldiers and families of the 53rd Troop Command,

Over the past two and a half years, it has been my sincere honor and privilege to serve as the commander of the 53rd Troop Command. All of you represent the very best our State and Nation

have to offer, and I cannot thank you enough for all you do and continue to do. Soldiers from our organization are involved in every aspect of engagements conducted by the NYARNG. The professionalism and dedication you continue to practice in the performance of your duties always impresses me and those you work to support - whether it be another formation in the Army, a partner nation, or one of our civilian agency partners.

You have continued to deploy to overseas contingency missions, respond to civil emergencies, and conduct training at far-flung locations. Doing well at those missions requires you to be responsible and trusted with Army equipment, training resources, and our most important resource-our Soldiers. And, you always excel!

The best part of my duty position has and will always be the time spent with Soldiers and leaders, listening to the reasons why they serve and getting different perspectives on how to better the organization. During those times, you were all candid with your communication and opinions, and I always tried to take your input to improve how we could improve business as a headquarters.

As BG Jack James takes command of the 53rd TC in September, I ask that you sustain your focus on retention, individual and collective readiness.

Commanding the 53rd TC truly has been one of the greatest experiences in my life and I am truly humbled and grateful for having been afforded this awesome privilege. You've all had a profound and enduring impact on me as an officer and senior leader.

On behalf of my wife Barbara and the rest of my family, thank you all for the hard work, dedication, and professionalism you put into each and everything that you do for the State and Nation. It was an honor to be the commander of such a great formation! As always, continue to be and stay ready and thanks for all you and your families do every day for the NYARNG!

-Mission First!



**BG** Natali

# Inside this Issue:

Message from the Commander	1
Message from the CSM	2
G1 Corner	3
G3 Corner	4
G4 Corner	5
SJA Corner	6
Soldier Spotlight	8
Unit Spotlight	9
Promotions	10



# **Message from the CSM**

Fellow Troop Command Soldiers,

I would like to take a moment to bid farewell to your outgoing commander, BG Natali. While he has been the commander he has seen the 53rd TC through it all; unit deployments, state activations, and even the loss of Soldiers. He has traveled the globe visiting units and will be missed everywhere he went. We all wish him the best of luck in his next assignment!

As we say goodbye to BG Natali, let's welcome our new commander, BG James, to the team. In the next few months, he will be conducting his initial Battle Field circulation. BG James comes from the aviation community, and if he stops and talks to you, speak up. Give it to him straight. The only way he'll get to understand what you do is if you tell him.

A summer full of visiting units who are conducting AT is almost over for me. I can tell you this... you all have certainly impressed me. Lots of good, solid training being conducted. Great training out in the field has been conducted from the EOD completing gunnery training on their MRAPs, the 102d on STX lanes at Ft. Dix, and the 369th prepping for a major event at Camp Edwards. Young officers and NCOs getting after it. I've spoken to many of you, and I've had the honor to coin a select few. I'd like to mention a few other Soldiers who excelled during the 2019 TAG Match at Camp Smith:

PV2 Briana Tillotson: Winner Rifle; plus Bullseye Winner x4 bullseye)

145th Maintence: Winner- Rifle Team event

107th Military Police Co: Winner- Pistol Team event

Great job to all of you!

I would also like to say thank you to our battalion career counselors. They're making a difference even though you may not know it or see it.

EPP season is fast approaching. It is the individual Soldier's reasonability to ensure that their records, NCOERs, ERB, DA

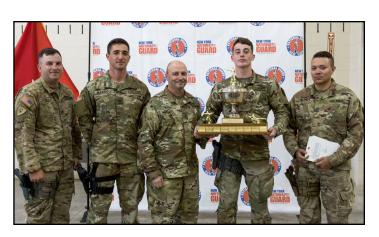


photo (if required) are up to date. If you have items that need to be added get them to your admin NCO. Your failure to review and update your records will cost you points.

Raters that have outstanding NCOERs, get them done and submitted. As leaders, we shouldn't cost our Soldiers points.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, stay safe.

CSM Ciampolillo



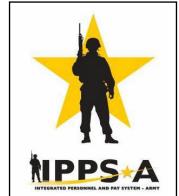


Each level of DLC will be approximately 40 hours

## **G1 Corner**

HR professionals and leaders,

In today's world of rapidly improving information technology and automation, human resource professionals rely heavily on software systems to take care of our Soldiers. These systems continue to be developed and improved to capture new data, streamline old processes, and fulfill new requirements. However, while they have been independently helpful, there have been significant challenges integrating them. This has resulted in a tangle of programs that are not always interoperable, function slowly, and in some cases, have redundant features. For instance, we have websites that do the same things at the regular Army, NGB, and State levels.



Having three components that currently have their own unique HR systems seems to go against the whole idea of "One Army." At some point, to get back to

the true intent in creating these tools, they must be consolidated and fully integrated with other systems. Over the last few years, the Army has been working on a system to reimagine the way we conduct human resources. This is where IPPS-A, the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army, comes into the picture.

IPPS-A is an online HR system that will provide integrated personnel, pay, and talent management capabilities in a system for all three Army components. In the coming months, IPPS-A will begin to integrate into the New York Army National Guard databases and will officially go online in March of 2020. While I believe in the purpose and potential that IPPS-A offers, I want to stress to everyone that as with all new systems the transition will not be an easy one.

Training will need to be conducted, old systems that we are reliant on will go away, databases will need to be scrubbed numerous times, and glitches will happen.



As the G1, I want to make sure that the HR field is aware that myself and my team will do everything possible to ensure there is transparency in the process, solid guidance is disseminated, and appropriate training is conducted at all levels. This will affect everyone in the NYARNG whether they know it or not. As HR profes-

sionals, we will be at the forefront of the implementation, providing our leadership with the right information at the right time. There's already a lot of literature on the transition, and lots more specific to New York will be coming out soon.

> Read everything. Be in the know. And, ask lots of questions!





One Soldier 🌟 One Record 🌟 One Army

# **G3** Corner

# **BIG CHANGES TO IWQ...**

With the signing and approval of TC 3-20.40 (Training and Qualification, Individual Weapons) by BG Hodne, the Infantry Commandant of the Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Georigia, on 1 April 2019, the Army will see an update in the qualification and training programs for all individual small arms weapon systems, to include the M4 carbine, M17/18 pistol and M249 squad automatic weapon, which will create more lethal Soldiers in shooting proficiency. The newly crafted standards take effect 1 October 2019 with a yearlong, Army-wide implementation plan of 1 October 2020.

At the request of leaders in the field, the Army made improvements in several aspects of its weapons training strategy. The new individual Soldier marksmanship has faster throughput on the range, more resources available to train, a comprehensive common training strategy, and a qualification standard more applicable to current and emerging operational environments. The current Army marksmanship qualification was established in 1955 and went through incremental changes throughout implementation. In 2015, the Army unveiled the Integrated Weapon Training Strategy (IWTS) in direct response to previous weapons qualification standards not effectively assessing tactical applications of the weapon for current operational environments.

The new qualification standard utilizes four firing positions; prone supported and unsupported, kneeling supported, and standing supported, both with the incorporation of a barricade. It forces Soldiers to reload and change positions without commands from the range

tower, more closely replicating operational conditions. It increases the number of 300 meter target exposures to five, which creates a requirement to hit a 300 meter target to qualify expert. Also, the alternate course of fire (ALT-C) is no longer a valid qualification method and only extends a Soldier's existing qualification for a period of six months. Overall, the time of an individual Soldier firing on the range will be cut in half, giving valuable time back for retraining or other future training opportunities.

The new qualification and training progressions refine standards in small arms training and provide a proven strategy for pre-marksmanship instruction (PMI) training through qualification to develop greater small arms proficiency in Soldiers and are ultimately intended to increase lethality. All changes were tested extensively to confirm that they produce a more lethal Soldier. Hybrid and near peer threats are increasing around the world and the Army must better prepare Soldiers. The updated qualification standard readies Soldiers for the future and ensures that they are absolutely lethal with their individual weapon systems.

-Article written by Lt. Col. Basso, Infantry School in the Maneuver Center of Excellence E-Newsletter

# **G4** Corner

Greetings from the 53d Troop Command G4,

#### **New G4 NCOIC**

In June, we had to say goodbye to MSG Bolivar Hernandez for his well-deserved retirement after an impressive, decorated 24-year career.

MSG Alexander Vargas was selected to replace MSG Hernandez as the G4 NCOIC. MSG Vargas is married with two kids, and has experience as the training NCO for Co A 1-69, a supply sergeant for the 27th FSC, S4, and



readiness NCO, and he has deployed twice. As the G4 NCOIC, he will be responsible for CSDP, Supply and Services, AT/IDT Logistical Coordinator, Suspense Tracking, Card Holder Manager, AFMIS Manager, CCDF Coordinator, Fatigue Management Projections/ Expenditures Report, Alternate GFEBS Processor, CSO Planner, Alternate PRSA Manager, among many other responsibilities.

#### **G4 Workshop Recap**

We conducted our annual 53rd Troop Command G4 workshop on 30-31 JUL. The workshop was designed to provide logisticians from all levels of the Troop Command with information and instruction tailored to understanding company level logistic requirements. Participants discussed topics such as GCSS-A, eFLIPL, and the Logistics Estimate Workbook.

According to the AAR comments, the briefs on the FLIPL Process as well as CMDP and Maintenance concerns were considered highly valuable and insightful. We will do our best to include briefings on these topics

in future workshops as well. Also, the ability to have hands-on access to the systems during the workshop proved relevant to participant's daily responsibilities and



productive in solving current problems.

# The Distinguished Order of Saint Martin

At the conclusion of the workshop, we were able to recognize both SGM Maria Viana and MSG Bolivar Hernandez for their dedicated service to the United States Army, the New York Army National Guard, and the United States Army Quartermaster Corps. Combined, they gave more than 40 years of dedicated service and earned the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin.



The Distinguished Order of Saint Martin is reserved for Senior Leader Quartermaster Branch Soldiers and Civilians. Nomination for the Distinguished Order is reserved for an elite few whose careers have embodied the spirit, dignity, and sense of sacrifice and commitment epitomized by the Patron Saint Martin.



The award reads.

"The select few who stand above their brethren in the Honorable Order and who have performed conspicuous, long-term service for, or on behalf of, the United States Army Quartermaster Corps."

Please join us in congratulating SGM Viana and MSG Hernandez!

## **SJA Corner**

Commonly known as "JAGs," judge advocates represent the command in various administrative, investigative, and punitive settings where Soldiers are named respondents. While they advise and assist commanders with preserving military morale, good order, and discipline, judge advocates also provide legal assistance to individual Soldiers.

From the 53rd TC Legal Office:

If you are going on Active Duty orders, you are AGR, ADOS, or on State Active Duty, be sure to send your creditors a copy of your orders along with the SCRA Request Letter.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) gives military members a wide range of legal protections not available to the general public.

#### **SCRA Eligibility**

The SCRA covers all Active Duty service members, Reservists and the members of the National Guard while on Active Duty. The protection begins on the date of entering Active Duty and generally terminates within 30 to 90 days after discharge.

#### What Does The SCRA Cover?

The SCRA can postpone or suspend financial or civil obligations to prevent you from being taken advantage of while on Active Duty.

#### <u>Protections offered by the SCRA include:</u>

- 1. Prevents your landlord from evicting you;
- 2. Stops foreclosures without a court order;
- 3. Your vehicle can't be repossessed without a court order if you made a deposit, or at least one payment;
- 4. Keeps the owner of a self-storage facility from selling your belongings for overdue rent without a court order;
- 5. Lets you terminate your telecom contracts (telephone, cable, internet etc.);
- 6. Lets you end a vehicle lease you signed before joining if you start Active Duty;
- 7. Lets you end a housing lease without penalty;
- 8. Limits interest on all loans taken out before joining Active Duty to 6%. This includes auto loans, mortgages, student loans, credit cards, etc.

Email me today if you do not have a copy of the SCRA Request Template Letter!

Office of Staff Judge Advocate 53rd Troop Command Camp Smith, Building 500 Major Dan Nieroda daniel.w.nieroda.mil@mail.mil





Summer 2019

# Exception to Policy -The Delayed Implementation of Limitations on Eligibility to Transfer the Post-9/11 GI Bill

In July, the Department of the Defense announced they're extending the implentation period of educational benefits for Service members with greater than 16 years of service.

"DoD Instruction 1341.13, "Post-9/11 GI Bill," May 31, 2013, as amended, contains a provision which, following a 1-year implementation period, limits transferability of educational benefits for Service members with greater than 16 years of service, effective July 12, 2019. I am extending the implementation period to 18 months. The provisions of Section 3 .a. of Enclosure 3 of the Instruction will be effective on January 12, 2020."

## After January 12, 2020:

"This new rule will restrict service members with more than 16 years of total creditable service from transferring the benefit to eligible dependents. If qualified Soldiers do not transfer this benefit before accumulating 16 years of service, or before separating from

military service (ETS, retirement, death, etc.), then their dependents will not be eligible to receive any Post 9/11 GI Bill funds.

Please Note: Transferring this benefit does not prevent a service member from using it themselves. The member must elect the number of months he/she wishes to transfer to a dependent which cannot exceed 36 months.



Questions or concerns, please contact the Education Services Office at 518-786-0460

# Soldier Spotlight CW3 Victoria Whitley

CW3 Victoria Whitley, the AGR Property Book Technician for the New York Army National Guard's 53rd Troop Command, was presented the with the 2019 Blacks in Government (BIG) Military Meritori-

"I was surprised and humbled to be nominated, so to win is icing on the cake," Whitley said.

ous Service Award at a reception held in Dallas, Texas, August, 5-8 2019.

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

"This award stands for my character and what my peers think of me as person and not just a property book officer in the NYARNG, said Whitley. "I take this award more personal because it speaks more to my character, values and who I am outside of being a Soldier."



Whitley, a Washington D.C. native, is the Equal Opportunity Advisor for the 53rd Troop Command and completed the Equal Opportunity Advisor course back in June of 2018.

"I treat everyone the same regardless of their race, religion, color," said Whitley.
"You treat people how you want to be treated even if they don't treat you the same."

Whitley is the second Guardsmen to receive this award since it was implemented in 2005. The first



being CSM Corey K. Cush, the former senior enlisted advisor to the New York Army National Guard's 53rd Troop Command who won the award back in 2017.

"It's an honor to follow in his footsteps and bring another one to our organization," said Whitley. "I have a great team and command here that supports me, and it makes a big difference when they're behind you supporting you."

Whitley's advice to aspiring Soldiers is simple.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Be honest with yourselves, honor the Army values, and treat others with respect," said Whitley.

# **Unit Spotlight**

# 204th Engineer Battalion Conducts Innovative Readiness Training

Girl Scout Camp Paumalu, Haleiwa, Hawaii

Twenty-three Soldiers from 1156th Engineer Company were selected to participate in an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) rotation at Girl Scout Camp Paumalu, Haleiwa, Hawaii from July 28 – August 11, 2019.

This was not a volunteer mission. Service members were selected for this mission by their chain of command because of their standings in the unit and their specific military job training, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Oliverio Hernandez.

**S** SThe Hawaii Girl Scout Camp IRT is an outstanding for New York Guard Army National program that Engineers will benefit the local community while fostering for Soldiers environment our develop grow, and them for future missions. prepare

~Lt. Col. Wing Yu, commander of the 204th Engineer Battalion

IRT is a joint service program that began in 1993 and provides real-world training opportunities for the U.S. Military's Reserves and National Guard service members to prepare them for wartime missions while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.

Along with service members from the Air Force, Air National Guard, and the Marine Corps Reserves, New York's engineers have been working at the camp to help build a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning center for the Girl Scouts.

"We were hand-selected for this rotation because they needed our specific skillsets," explained Hernandez, property book officer with the 204th engineer battalion and officer-in-charge for the engineers during this rotation.

This IRT mission took Soldiers out of their normal home stations and forced them to adapt to a very new, different, and challenging environment, Hernandez said.

Another unique benefit of IRT is that it's specifically geared toward developing junior and future leaders. Hernandez added.

For more information about the 204th EN BN's IRT mission, please visit:

https://www.dvidshub.net/news/335538/ny-national-guard-engineers-conduct-ing-innovative-summer-training-hawaii

https://www.flickr.com/photos/nyng/albums/72157710120442792

https://www.facebook.com/138thPAD



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## **PFC**

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RODDY	
ARIANNA	REIGH
MATTHEW	ANGEL
KURT	LUKE
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MELEICK	MAURICE
JACK	CALVIN
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SAMANTHA	ASHLEY
TONI	MARIE
LUCAS	WILLIAM
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PIETROWSKI	TREVOR	KANE
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RAZA	SARMAD	MAE
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RILEY	GIOVANNI	XAVIER
RILEY RIVERA	EMILIO	ANTHONY
RODRIGUEZ	ROBIN	JESUS
SABO	ASHLEY	MARIE
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SAXMAN	PETER	JORDAN
SHARPE	FRED	DARNELL
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SMITH	JOSEPH	DONALD
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LEVEROCK		KEENEN	CRAWLEY				NASIA ZAK
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NOE	BEN	CHRISTOPHER	MARINO		ROBEI		
OSMOND	DESHAWN	CHRISTOTTIER	MARSHALL		HUNT		ANTHONY
PAGONIS	MICHAEL	ANTHONY	MCKENZIE		NICOI		MARIE
PATINO	DAIRO	MINITIONI	MOLINA		RAFAI		JR
PEREZSANT		JORDANO	ODELL		TRAVI		WILLIAM
PESANTEZ	KLEVER	ESTALIN	PALANCA		ENZA		ELVIRA
PHILLIPS	GOMEZ	STEVEN	PHILLIPBEA'	TON	DYSH		TYRELL
PIERRE	DJEFF	OILVLIN	POLYNICE			AIDER	
PINNOCK	KHADIJAH	NAHID	PROPHETE		JEAN		RONALD
RICHARDS	DIMITRE	R	REYES		ANGE		LUIS
MOHAMDS	DIMITION	IX.	SAUNDERS		OVAN	DO	OKEL

TAYLOR	ELIZABETH	NICOLE
TRAN	MILITEAM	
TROTH	ZECHARIAH	TUCKER
TURNER	KADIAN	A
URENA	JOHN	
WHITE	RYAN	JACK
WHITTICO	DYLAN	TYLER
WILSON	DELANDO	LESHAYE
WILSON	ZURENO	KAMALI
YAP	RHYSMIKHA	IL TAN



## SSG

	•			
ABREU	RUBEN	DARIO		
	LE BAYRON	FABRICIO		
ALBRECHT		R		
ALESE	JESSICA	LUANNE		
ALVARADO	JAISON	JAMES		
ALVAREZ	CARLOS	ROBERTO		
AUGUSTINE	SHAUNTE	TIFFANY		
BARRETT	SHANE	PATRICK		
BECKLEY	KYLE	DAVID		
CARTAGENA	RUIZ GABRIE	ELLE OMA		
COCHA	RONNIE	SEBASTIAN		
	TEVEZ DANN			
CUESTA	CHRISTIAN KESNIEL	DAVID		
DANIELS	KESNIEL	MAURICE		
ENYART	JANNA	ALEXANDRA		
EUMANACA		NATHALY		
FARBER	ERICA	ROBERTA		
GLASS	CHARLES	NATHAN		
GOLSON	ANDREW	DAVID		
GOLSON	SHEANEAN LAUREN	P		
HICKS	LAUREN	GALE		
KOCIENCKI	JAMES	EDMOND		
KOZLOSKI	GREGORY	HUNTER		
LOCUS	TERRANCE	TERELL		
MARSHALL	ANDREW	GERARD		
PARAKHIN	YEVGENIY	GENNADYEV		
RIZZO	JULIANA			
ROACH	RICHARD	ALFONSO		
RYAN	MICHAEL	JAMES		
SHAFFER	ERIC	BEN		
TOO	KEVIN	WAYNE		
VASSELL	AARON	RICARDO		
VIGNONE	ANTHONY			
WHALEY	DOUGLAS	ARTHUR		
WINDOLOSE	KI SHAWN			



### SFC

AQUINO	JOSE	L
CARTIER	LORRIE	LYNN
CORDERO	ELIZABETH	
DAVIS	JAMES	RAPHAEL
ESMEL	NICODEME	CLOVIS
FATIGATE	JARAD	MICHAEL
GITTENS	JONELL	ANDRE
HOPE	JERMAINE	JOHNNY
LAUREANO	OMAR	
LIAO	ZHIFENG	
MCGEEVER	AMANDA	MARIE
ROUSE	ROBERT	JAMES
SANAY	ALEX	ROLANDO
SANTOS	JOSE	JAVIER
SCANLON	ADAM	JOSEPH
SCHUETT	PATRICIA	ANN
VOSS	BRANDAN	MICHAEL
YORK	BRETT	DOUGLAS



# MSG

FLINT MARK WILLIAM



# CW3

HAYDAK DOUGLAS MARTIN MIZELL TIA MARIE



## 2LT

DESIATO	PATRICIA	MICHELE
HOODITH	HENLEY	ROBINSON
LAWRENCE	CHEVANEIC	E DEVANNE
LEE	DANIEL	
LEWIS NIKAI	DIA T	
MOLLOY	JOHN	FRANCIS
SANTIAGO	HERIBERTO	ELIEZER
STEWARTMA	NGRA KAYA	NN MELISA
SYKES SEAN	VINCENT	
VANDENBUI	RGH NELSON	GOULD



FARQUHARSON RICARDO FERNAND **TAYLOR RAKEEM** 



CAUTELA SALVATORE JOSEPH



**BAKER** 

**DOUGLAS GLEN** 

\*For this issue of The Minuteman, 01 May - 23 Aug promotion information was used.

# 53rd TC

**Quarterly Newsletter** 

# **Commanding General**

Brig. Gen. Michel Natali

# **Command Sergeant Major** Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas

Ciampolillo

#### **Public Affairs Officer**

Capt. Phyonne Reynolds

#### **Layout and Design**

Sgt. Jonathan Pietrantoni 138th PAD

Do you know a Soldier or unit that you would like to nominate for the next issue's Soldier Spotlight or Unit Spotlight? If so, please email:

jonathan.g.pietrantoni.mil@mail.mil

Thank you!