

Cavalry arrives in Arizona, page 4



South African Snipers, page 8



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

# *Guard* TIMES

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

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

Volume 16, Number 1

January-February 2007



# *Digging Out in Central NY*

*Members of the NY National Guard assist residents of Oswego, story begins on page twelve*

# From the leadership

As we step off into 2007, our men and women in New York's military forces can be immensely proud of their relevance and critical role we play in protecting our nation here at home while supporting the warfight overseas.

The New Year brings a renewed emphasis on meeting these two challenges head on. So far I'd say the New York National Guard continues to meet every mission, overcome every obstacle and all the while continue to grow our family with new men and women who commit to serve their state and nation in a time of tremendous need.

In all my years of military service, this opportunity to serve our New York National Guard is the most fulfilling and most demanding time I've known. As a military force, we have moved away from the traditional strategic reserve and the weekend warrior to a real operational reserve, with Citizen Soldiers and Airmen regularly training and fighting alongside our active component partners at home and overseas.

No one will say that these times were easy on our Citizen Soldiers. What they will say is that our Guardsmen and women delivered. When our state and our nation called, we answered and we answered in strength.

The state of our Guard is strong.

We see this in our rapid response here at home, whether the call is for engineer support to snow-stricken regions of central New York or providing reconnaissance troops to support the U.S. Customs and Border Enforcement Agency along the Arizona border with Mexico. Our Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines continue to respond in a crisis and continue to keep the New York National Guard in the lead for domestic emergency response. When the Guard arrives, our neighbors know that help is on hand.

This strength is also visible in our continuing support to the warfight. The long war, as our leaders have often stated, require global efforts to take initiative away from those who would attack us again. From Expeditionary Air Force deployments to current mobilizations of Army Guardsmen now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, the New York National Guard has made a strong impression on our fellow servicemen and women and our nation's military leaders. We get the job done.

Across the state, we've also turned a corner in restructuring our force and bringing in new members. Our National Guard entering 2007 is better organized and better manned to meet the challenges ahead. Equipment fielding, one of the National Guard Bureau's top priorities, continues to arrive here in New York, helping to refit our redeployed units and improve the training and capabilities of all. I continue to challenge our leaders, officers and NCOs alike, to develop innovative training plans to adapt to equipment shortages and meet training objectives. Over time, equipment will continue to arrive. But our Soldiers and Airmen must constantly be ready for the next challenge, at home or abroad.

Service in our state's military forces has never been more necessary, more demanding and more rewarding for our members. As we complete our refit and reorganization of units, we also see the upward trend in new members and current members choosing to stay with the National Guard. I believe a large part of that is the belief throughout our Guard family that our service is important and rewarding. Whether responding to disaster here in New York or supporting the fight overseas, we make a difference.

Thanks to the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program

(G-RAP), our Soldiers received more than half a million dollars in incentive payments while helping to recruit more than 300 new members of our force. The concept is sound and worthwhile.

There was a favorite saying nearly 100 years ago encouraging New Yorkers to join the Guard and serve with your friends and family. I believe that concept is as true today as it was then.

Our units and Citizen Soldiers and Airmen can benefit from G-RAP simply by sharing their enthusiasm for our work with their friends, classmates and neighbors who share our beliefs in serving others, in keeping our nation strong and making a difference in our community, in our state and in our world.

You can find more information and enroll in the G-RAP program at [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com) or ask your chain of command about the incentive program.



**Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto**  
The Adjutant General

## GUARD NOTES

### Military Channel Wants Your Stories

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - The Military Channel is asking servicemembers across the armed forces to submit videotaped stories about their service in the global war on terrorism for broadcast on television, company officials said.

"We want to give a voice to the troops to allow them to tell their stories," Jill Bondurant, Military Channel publicist, said during an interview with American Forces Press Service Friday.

The Military Channel plans to use servicemember-submitted video for broadcast during nightly one-hour blocks of programming starting in early February, Bondurant said. The dates and times haven't been specified yet, she said.

Video can be in digital or taped format, Bondurant said, and can be submitted via the following methods:

- Online: [www.mywardiary.com](http://www.mywardiary.com);
- E-mail: [mywardiary@discovery.com](mailto:mywardiary@discovery.com); or
- Mail: Military Videos, care of Discovery Productions, 8045 Kennett Street, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

All submitted video will be screened for appropriate content, Bondurant noted.

The initiative seeks to illustrate personal stories of military service during wartime, Military Channel spokesman and former Soldier Pat Lafferty told the Pentagon Channel in a recent interview. Most evening news programming on the military these days shies away from the personal and focuses on "big picture" events, he said.

"There's only so much that the 'normal media' can get out as far as the stories (and) what's going on," Lafferty said. "And, oftentimes, that really isn't the story about individual servicemembers and what they're doing on a day-to-day basis."

A component of Discovery Communications, the Silver Spring, Md.-based Military Channel was the first television media outlet to partner with America Supports You, a Department of Defense program connecting public and corporate support for the troops to servicemembers and their families.

### Army Personnel Eligible for Home Copy of Microsoft Office

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - All Army Soldiers and civilian personnel are now eligible for a licensed copy of Microsoft Office desktop applications to use on a home computer.

The only cost is for packaging, shipping and program administration. An Army Knowledge Online account is required.

"In an information-based Army, this tremendous benefit helps our personnel be better trained in applications they use daily in units and offices," said Vernon M. Bettencourt Jr., deputy chief information officer for G-6.

Applications include Office for Windows and Mac, Visio, Project and OneNote.

Soldier and civilians will pay approximately \$20 for what is typically several hundred dollars, Bettencourt said. The benefit stems from the Army Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement.

For more information, visit the Army Small Computer Program Web site at <https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil.scp/software/hup.jsp>.

### Education Notes for Deploying Troops

LATHAM (Joint Force HQ) - If you are planning on attending the Fall 07 Semester and you know that you are being deployed keep in mind that you will be missing a lot of the semester (classroom time) due to pre-mobilization requirements. It will be your responsibility to coordinate with your school about making up missed course work.

Soldiers that are currently attending school and mobilize/deployed within a semester, and know that they will not be able to complete the semester must remember to bring a copy of their Mobilization/deployment orders to the School/University so that they can withdraw from the semester without liability.

Once deployed, Soldiers that are planning on taking on-line courses must apply for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) at [www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com). GoArmyEd is your one-stop location for managing your college education and using TA benefits. GoArmyEd gives you access to many regionally accredited colleges and universities and over 1,000 available degree plans.

# Guard welcomes new governor

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg  
Guard Times Staff

**STATE CAPITAL, ALBANY**—Members of the New York National Guard welcomed their new state commander-in-chief with ruffles and flourishes during the inaugural ceremonies for Governor Eliot Spitzer here on New Year's Day.

The ceremony was delayed one hour to 1 p.m. due to wintry weather that gave way to overcast but chilly winter skies.

Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs Joint Military Forces Honor Guard provided the colors for the inauguration as Field Artillerymen of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery provided salute battery honors to the state's new governor.

Members of the 105<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wings along with Soldiers from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division and 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command provided nearly thirty military escorts for the Governor and senior officials from across the state.

Leading the assembled officials, dignitaries and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the ceremony was Army National Guard Spc. Daniel Swift from Yonkers. Swift, an emergency medical technician with the New York City Fire Department, deployed to Iraq with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry, New York's own "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>."

Swift was wounded in Iraq and received a Bronze Star Medal for Valor and Purple Heart for his efforts to treat wounded comrades under fire.

With Swift remaining alongside the governor's party of dignitaries, Governor Spitzer, Lt. Governor David Paterson and N.Y.S. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo were sworn in to their official duties.



"As we step outside on this first January morning of 2007, the light of a new day shines down on the Empire State once again," Spitzer remarked in his inaugural speech.

The new administration referred to the ceremony as the "people's inauguration." The



Army National Guard Spc. Dan Swift stands at the podium during the inauguration ceremony for New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer. Swift, a veteran from Operation Iraqi Freedom with Task Force Wolfhound and the "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>" and Purple Heart recipient, led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance. At left, members of the New York State Joint Forces Military Honor Guard present the colors at the beginning of the ceremony.

swearing in for Spitzer marked the first outdoor ceremony for a new Governor in state history. Albany police estimated the attendance at the event at some 8,000.

"As New York's former Governor Theodore Roosevelt once remarked, there can be no great progress without first entering the arena," Spitzer said.

"My fellow New Yorkers, join me in that arena." □

## DoD Changes Guard Mobilization Policy

Guard Times Staff

**WASHINGTON** -- The Secretary of Defense announced January 11<sup>th</sup> a policy change in the way the department will manage reserve component forces.

The new mobilization limits are designed to reduce stress on the force and keep Guard and Reserve servicemembers from leaving the military, Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said.

Hall said Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates' policy recognizes that the 18- to 24-month mobilizations many Guard members faced were creating too heavy a burden.

The first aspect of the policy change will involve the way Guardsmen mobilize. Currently, reserve deployments are managed on an individual Soldier basis. In the future deployments will be managed on a unit basis, allowing for greater unit cohesion and predictability for training and deployments. The plan calls for eliminating "cross-leveling," a practice used to fill manpower slots in deploying units.

"So, when your unit is called, if you are serving in that unit, you will go, even if you might have mobilized before," Hall said.

The second aspect of the policy change addresses the maximum mobilization time for members of the reserve forces. Currently, the policy is for a maximum mobilization time of 18 months. The department will reduce the maximum

mobilization timeframe to one year.

Third, the policy objective for involuntary mobilization of Guard/ Reserve units will remain a one-year mobilized to five-year demobilized ratio. However, today's global demands will require a number of selected Guard/ Reserve units to be remobilized sooner than the current policy goal. That deployment to demobilization ratio remains the goal of the department, as does the active component's ratio goal of one year of deployment to two years at home station.

"The goal of the recent changes is to distribute more fairly, and more effectively, the burdens of war among our active and reserve components, while providing a more predictable schedule of mobilizations and deployments for troops and their Families," said David Chu, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

"Up until now, the deployment of a Guardsman or Reservist for one year in Iraq or Afghanistan – the standard tour length for the Army – would usually entail up to 18 months on active duty, including time for pre-deployment training and post-deployment recovery. Starting immediately, all Reserve Component units, including the Army, will be mobilized, or called to active duty, for a maximum of 12 months at a time, with the goal of five years at home before the next mobilization."

The fourth aspect of the policy change will establish a new program to compensate individuals that are required to mobilize or deploy earlier than established policy goals of deployment to home station ratio times. It will also involve those service members who are required to extend beyond established rotation policy goals.

"This is a historic and long-anticipated policy change that has been directed by our secretary of defense," said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the Chief of National Guard Bureau.

"It is clear evidence that he has listened, heard and considered our input, and has made courageous and tough adjustments that have been long-requested by governors, adjutants general, members of Congress and the reserve components' senior leaders."

"The intent of these changes is to establish a predictable cycle for Reserve and Guard units of one year on active duty followed by five years at home," said Under Secretary Chu. "But we are not there yet. Because of the demands on our military today, some Reservists and Guardsmen will have to deploy sooner than they had expected or wanted. Others will serve longer than they anticipated or would like."

These policy changes will better allow the department to posture itself for success in the uncertain environment in which it currently operates, and well into the future. □

# AT in AZ

## Orion scouts support Operation Jump Start

By Sgt. First Class Peter Towse  
HQ, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**NOGALES, ARIZ.** -- As the border mission continues, the New York National Guard maintains an ever vigilant watch on our security in Arizona with the deployment of 300 Soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 101<sup>st</sup> Cavalry to form Task Force Sabre in support of Operation Jump Start.

The Soldiers in Task Force Sabre deployed on their annual training from January 6-26<sup>th</sup> to answer the nation's call for additional support to the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection Agency. When the President directed that the Border Patrol would increase in size, he called upon the National Guard to augment their agents to leverage Border Patrol agents to better control illegal immigration and narcotics trafficking along the Southwest Border of the United States.

Troops from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry Scout sections joined the 2-101 Cavalry deployment and conducted Entry Identification Team training under the command and control of the Arizona Army National Guard.

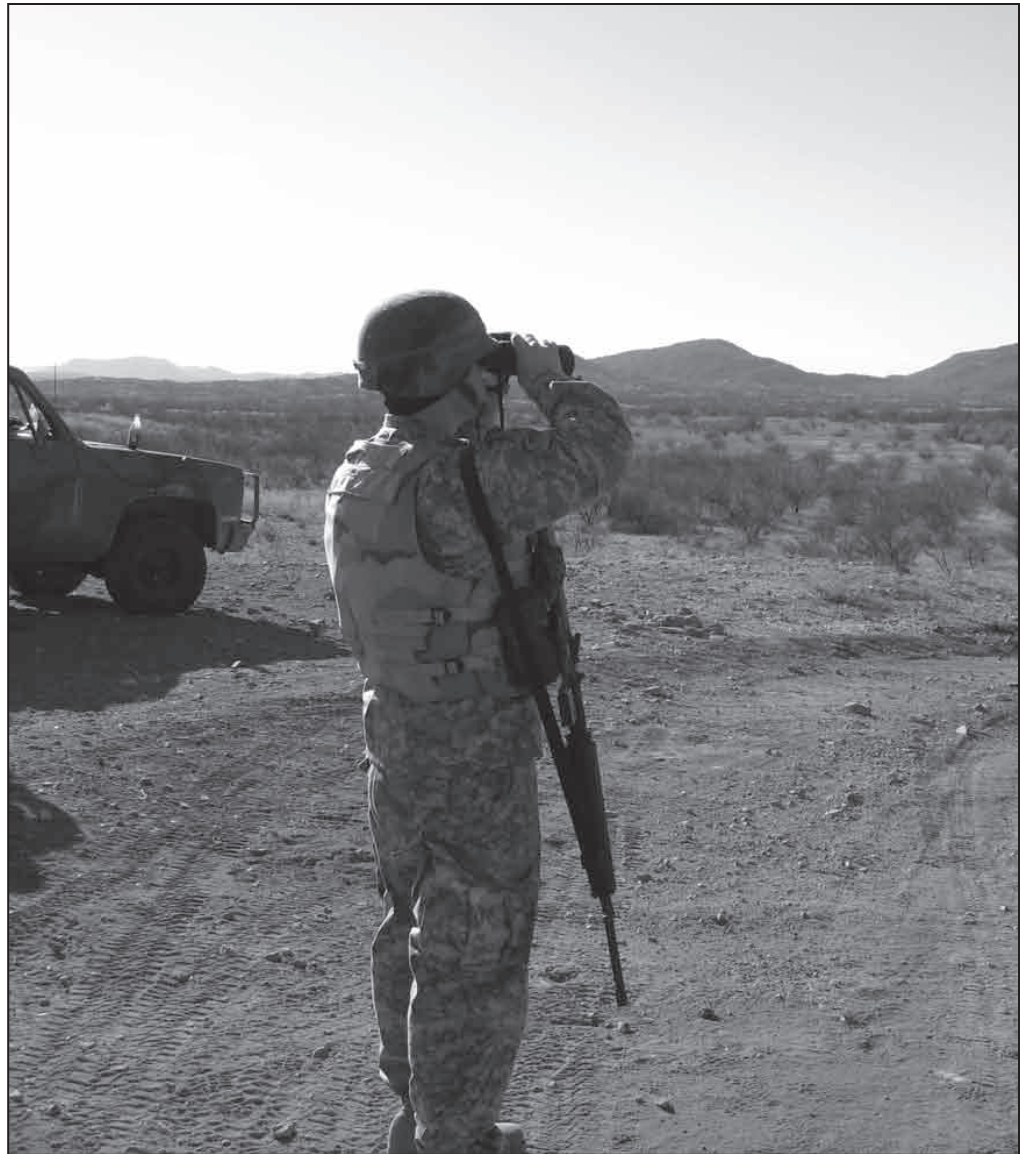
"Much of the training provided by Joint Task Force-Arizona was useful and well

executed," said Maj. David Powell, the squadron operations officer. "The paint ball exercise as part of the EIT lanes training was both fun for Soldiers and a useful training aid," he said in an after-action review.

Deployed across more than two dozen sites in the Sasabe, Nogales and Ajo Border Patrol sectors, Soldiers manned Entry Identification Teams (EITs) to observe activity along the border and report possible items of interest to the Border Patrol.

Much like the traditional cavalry scouts, the members of Task Force Sabre passed their observations and reports for action to the Border Patrol.

Combined, the task force reported more than 750 unidentified aliens along the border, resulting in Border Patrol actions to detain 181 aliens and turn back an additional 46 across the border. Additionally, activity reports by the National Guard troops provided tips towards the seizure of more than 6,000 pounds of marijuana, automatic weapons and ammunition and freed up numerous Border Patrol agents to focus their own operations at other sites. □



Images from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 101<sup>st</sup> Cavalry annual training in Arizona as part of the National Guard's Operation Jump Start. More than 300 Soldiers from across the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team operated more than two dozen Entry Identification Teams to report illegal activities along the U.S. Southwestern Border with Mexico. The task force included infantry scouts from both the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry for the training. Known as Task Force Sabre, the deployment to Arizona provided support to members of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency as the Border Patrol expands through 2008. Photos by Sgt. Ed Balaban.

# 'Hollywood on the Hudson'

## Guard Soldiers featured in new movie

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning  
Guard Times Staff



**BROOKLYN BRIDGE, MANHATTAN-**  
- The lights were set, the cameras rolled and the director gave the signal. On cue, hundreds of costumed civilians rushed forward against a chain link fence guarded by armed Soldiers who strained to hold the surging crowd back.

Hollywood movie-makers had come east to the Big Apple to produce a new science fiction drama starring actor Will Smith. Actually, it's a re-make of a 1971 Charlton Heston film entitled "Omega Man."

"I am Legend" is expected to be released around Thanksgiving and is based on the 1954 Richard Matheson novel of the same name. The story line follows the lone survivor of a world wide epidemic that wipes out mankind. It will be the most expensive film ever produced in New York City and members of the New York Army National Guard are featured in a dramatic night-time evacuation scene in Manhattan from a wharf on the Hudson River close to the Brooklyn Bridge.

Nearly 150 members of the "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry," 258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and other New York City-based units served as extras and a

UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and flight crew from the Ronkonkoma-based 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation got to perform as extras and prominent players in a big action scene. Six 69<sup>th</sup> humvees were also included.

Army Stryker vehicles and technical staff were brought in from the Pennsylvania Guard and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter, cutter and patrol craft rounded out the military participation.

The Department of Defense and Department of the Army approved defense participation and support to the film and New York's National Guard was specifically sought out for the role. The movie company has to reimburse the government according to set lease rates for the use of the Guard's UH-60 Blackhawk and six humvees.

Soldiers participating as extras during their seven days of filming were paid a set union rate of \$150 a day and one Soldier, Sergeant First Class Pedro Mojica from Headquarters Company, 1-69<sup>th</sup> Infantry got a speaking role and earned quite a bit more. The overwhelming majority of participating troops were Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans.

"The casting crew from "I am Legend" expressed to my Battalion Commander that they were also looking for a Soldier for a speaking role in the movie," Mojica explained. "The character they were looking for was somebody physically big, a Drill Instructor type who had a loud commanding voice. My commander selected the five best candidates' he thought fit the profile," he described.

"I was notified to report for the casting call, said my lines and took two pictures. Sam Glen, the military coordinator, got in touch with my battalion commander to let him know they chose me for the part," said Mojica.

"What a great job they did," said Lt. Col. Paul Sinor, Department of the Army Public Affairs office, Hollywood Branch Office. "They were super professional, extremely cooperative, always on time and ready to go. The production team was very happy with the Guard team," he said.

"All the members of the 69<sup>th</sup> had a great time," said Mojica. "They made some good money, rubbed elbows with some stars and displayed the professionalism that we are known for. I had a great time and wait for the role that will nominate me for a Oscar," he joked. □



Images from the Hollywood production "I am Legend" filming in New York this winter. Above, actor Will Smith poses with members of the NY Army National Guard, some of whom wore police uniforms for the scene. At top right, Smith greets Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Jorge Vasquez presents a battalion coin to the movie's star. At right, another 69<sup>th</sup> Soldier awaits his turn during the movie shoot. He wears the brassard of a fictitious military medical command, responding to a crisis in NYC. Photos by Sgt. Matthew Johnson.

# NY readies Embedded Training Team for Afghan deployment

## Soldiers to deploy with Guard's 218<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team

By Sgt. First Class Peter Towse

HQ, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Public Affairs

**SYRACUSE** – Soldiers from across the New York Army National Guard mobilized this winter as part of the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team's next Afghanistan National Army Embedded Training Team (ANA-ETT) support for Operation Enduring Freedom. Approximately 16 Citizen Soldiers mobilized on February 11 for up to 12 months of active duty overseas.

"The ETT is an embedded training team that goes and lives with an Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Kandak, or Battalion, to assist in their training and act as subject matter experts for their training," said Major Christopher Guziec, the senior mentor of the ETT. "We are their advisors. If they have a question, they come to us."

Mobilizing with the 218<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team out of South Carolina, the team mobilized for federal active duty on February 11, 2007 and departed the following day for Fort Riley, Kansas for further processing and pre-deployment training.

Upon arriving at Fort Riley, the team will advance through the preparation and training cycles together and, as training progresses, will become a more cohesive combat team. They will receive weapons training, advanced combat lifesaving techniques,

physical fitness training, language and culture awareness, team building activities and leadership training and many other critical skills needed to deploy to a combat zone.

"This team is mainly comprised of volunteers," said Sgt. Major Edward Lake, the team NCOIC. "The primary skill is infantry, but we have a wide variety of logistical and administrative personnel... a good mix of skill."

It is not uncommon that ETTs have never previously worked with each other. The weekend of February 10 was when this team was first together at the Syracuse armory to train on weapons and take courses in the distant learning center to augment the limited time spent at Ft. Riley.

Upon completion of the 60 day required training, each Soldier is validated and returns home for a time with their families before leaving for Afghanistan.

"It's going to be tough, but I think it is an important mission," said Sgt. First Class Jeff Bailey, a member of the mentor team within the ETT. "I think there is a glimmer of hope in Afghanistan for us. It is really about stepping up to the plate and doing our duty. Other Soldiers have done it...now it is our mission." □



Sgt. First Class Eric McEnroe, a heavy weapons NCO preparing to deploy as part of the Afghan National Army Embedded Training Team demonstrates the assembly of the .50 caliber machine gun to Maj. Christopher Guziec (l.) and Sgt. Maj. Edward Lake at the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT Headquarters in Syracuse, N.Y. on February 9. The team mobilized for Afghanistan with the South Carolina Guard's 218<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team.

# New intel organization, same Citizen Soldiers

By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Peter Towse

HQ, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**TROY** – As reorganization of the New York Army National Guard moves forward, Soldiers of the 642<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion find a new home in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division's G2 section with a casing of colors ceremony January 5, 2007.

"The work of the intelligence analysts and staff of the 642<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion has been to see first, understand first and act first," said Brig. Gen. Paul C. Genereux, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Commander in Troy. "The accomplishments of these Soldiers during the unit's deployment to Iraq in 2005 proved their value in targeting insurgents and terrorists and supervising the detention of those captured on the battlefields of North Central Iraq."

With the deactivation of the 642<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, the only real change for the Soldiers in the New York National Guard is the loss of their battalion colors and its history. The mission, function and value of the intelligence mission continue as part of the larger and more capable 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters Company.

"This is not a sad day, just a transformation into a new organization," said Maj. Andrew Young, the former battalion headquarters company commander. "Now the Soldiers will serve in a unit that is more modern and lethal and better suited to fight in the new Contemporary Operating Environment."

In May, 1995 the 642<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion was formed as the first military intelligence battalion in direct support of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. The intelligence battalion provided signal, communications, imagery, counterintelligence and human intelligence support to

the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division commander.

"The unit has transferred into a larger, more robust division Intel section and serves as the primary intelligence organization for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division commander," Young said.

Between 1995 and 2004, the 642<sup>nd</sup> conducted numerous warfighter exercises, established a robust and viable contributory intelligence program in support of federal intelligence agencies and supported operations at ground zero during 9/11.

In May, 2004, the 642<sup>nd</sup> was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom III with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division; the first Army National Guard division and intelligence battalion since World War II.

The 642<sup>nd</sup>, under the command of Lt. Col. David Martinez, assembled and completed home station mobilization tasks in Troy, New York and continued the mobilization process at Fort Drum, New York.

From May to December 2004, the unit filled its ranks with new Soldiers from both the Army Reserve and active component and successfully completed all theater specific individual readiness training.

The 642<sup>nd</sup> was validated and deployed to Camp Buehring,



Kuwait in January, 2005.

In February 2005, the 642<sup>nd</sup> conducted a transfer of authority with the 101<sup>st</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion and began to provide continuous military intelligence support to Task Force Liberty in Tikrit, Iraq.

The 642<sup>nd</sup> distinguished itself by providing collection, analysis, production, dissemination and targeting support to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division commander during the deployment in Iraq.

On June 1, 2006, the 642<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion transformed into the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance section and the Special Troops Battalion for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.

The reorganization will provide a far more robust and streamlined source of intelligence materials for the commander.

"The intelligence mission has not changed with the unit's transformation," Genereux said, "What the Rainbow Division gains is increased efficiency and effectiveness of turning these Soldiers' analysis into action."

"The 642<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion is proud of its legacy and accomplishments," Young said. "We anxiously await our new challenges in the future." □

# Flying south for the winter

## Orion Infantry troops train in Florida

By Sgt. First Class Peter Towse  
HQ, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**CAMPBLANDING, FLA.** -- Soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry traveled to Camp Blanding, Florida over two long weekends in late January and early February to conduct routine infantry task training away from the harsh winter weather.

Approximately 175 Soldiers deployed over two weekends from Fort Drum to Camp Blanding where they could don combat gear and head to the field for small unit training. The troops conducted a simulated deployment to conduct field operations and missions in a tactical environment.

“[This is] an opportunity for the unit to have a weekend drill with a clear focus just on Infantry tasks,” said Capt. Christopher Jensen, the personnel officer on the battalion staff. “Infantry Soldiers are best prepared by spending time in the field. You can only rock drill and talk through tasks so many times before you just need to be in the wood line and doing it.”

“Blanding was key because of the relative short flight, the weather, accommodations, and well-kept training areas, said Sgt. Benjamin Munn of Charlie Company. “This...helped the morale of (our) lower enlisted and made the senior enlisted feel better about the training their Soldiers were receiving.”

By flying on military aircraft to the training site in Florida, Soldiers in the battalion also could rehearse their unit movement plans to better prepare the companies and battalion for future tactical missions. The unit loadout at Fort Drum was met with wintry snow and freezing temperatures, a sharp contrast to the temperate climate in Florida.

“Could we have done this training at Ft. Drum? Yes, but the weather would have been such a training distracter at this crawl/walk phase that it would have at least halved the training value we received,” noted Jensen in his after-action comments. “When we are back up to doing these tasks at combat speed, then you can add the distracter / challenge of two feet of snow,” he noted.



Soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry conduct small unit training at Camp Blanding, Florida over consecutive weekend drills in January and early February. Above, Soldiers conduct casualty evacuation procedures to assist a wounded comrade during simulated training. Soldiers operated in urban terrain during the training to refine small unit tactics and squad and platoon standard operating procedures. Courtesy photos.

“The use of military air added to the simulation,” said Munn, commander of Company C. “For many, this was their first time on a military flight and I believe it was key to the overall mind set,” he noted. “The only thing I would change is the amount of time on the ground (at Camp Blanding).”

“The Soldiers joined this unit to do Infantry tasks, and these drills provided the training they were seeking,” said Jensen. “While other missions the unit is tasked with are vitally important, these drills and others like it will allow me to retain Soldiers that I might have lost due to ETS.”

Examples of the training task included hand and arm signals, crossing a linear danger area, squad attack, react to contact, occupy a patrol base and other small unit tasks. The time in the field was spent teaching new Soldiers these tasks and refreshing the old Soldiers and NCOs.

Additionally, members of the unit’s forward support company conducted logistical missions to supply and support the infantrymen in the field.

“We only have one weekend a month to prepare for annual training and hone those combat skills,” said Staff Sgt. Miguel Orabona, a squad leader in the battalion’s Company C. “Giving us the opportunity to train as we did, platoon level operations and squad level training, helped iron out my platoon’s basic SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures).”

“Things can always be better, but this, hands down, was the most worthwhile month of training I participated in,” Orabona summarized in his after-action review.

“The training was excellent,” said Lt. Col. Dennis Deeley, the battalion commander. “For all the coordination challenges for leaders and the staff, this was worth all the effort.”

“The camaraderie and esprit de corps of the unit working together in a field environment cannot be over looked,” remarked Jensen. “Both are important to re-enlistment. The Soldiers joined this unit to do Infantry tasks, and these drills provided the training they were seeking.” □

# Sniping in South Africa

Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Soldier partners with South African forces

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg  
Guard Times Staff



**PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA** – Imitation is said to be the highest form of flattery. If that is true, the deployment of a single New York Army National Guard infantryman here to train alongside members of the South African Defense Forces in February provided the South African military with a role model complete with U.S. Army standards, tactics, techniques and procedures for marksmanship and sniper tactics.

Sgt. Pedro H. Mojica, a sniper team leader with the Army Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry in New York City took on the challenge of observing and partnering with South African military members to develop a Sniper Qualification Program for their military service. Spending a week overseas from February 17<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, Mojica met with representatives from the South African Special Forces to work on their sniper program.

"Unlike our Army or Marine Sniper schools, Special Forces status is a prerequisite for sniper training in the South African forces," Mojica said. "We (in the U.S.) recruit from the line. They select through their Special Forces community, so they felt that they were already up to the standard. But shooting and field skills are two very different things."

A key difference is the techniques that the South African Special Forces employ in sniper operations. Where many Soldier and Marine snipers now operating in Iraq or Afghanistan confront targets in urban or other restricted terrain, the South African military trains for much longer target ranges.



"Due to their terrain, they regularly look at 1,000 meter shots. That was very different from what we did in Iraq with buildings," Mojica said of the different perspectives in training. "We looked at 500 meter shots. I think the longest

shot in Iraq was no more than 800 meters for a sniper. The South Africans, they shoot far."

"We were able to provide references, guidance and procedures to the South African Special Forces for use in developing doctrines and policies for their (own) programs," Mojica commented. "Their Special Forces are going to streamline and redefine their sniper course to emphasize teamwork, confidence and efficiency."

The South African sniper team members were keenly interested in Mojica's real-world sniper operations, especially as a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mojica deployed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry and performed sniper duties for the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team.

"I had recent experience, so they were interested in not just the shooting and marksmanship but how I prepared to go out on a mission," said Mojica. "The battlefield that we train for is changing and they really liked having me around to share my experiences."

Mojica hopes the program will continue and even expand in the future. One of the concepts he proposed for future training is providing a sniper team to demonstrate techniques and observe the South African forces in training. "The South African Special Forces could observe our teamwork in action much better if we were to send a small team instead of a single representative," he noted.

The South African Defense Forces invest considerable time and effort in developing their snipers. Snipers will visit manufacturers to see how munitions and scopes are made and provide a better understanding of how their equipment comes together. "I was like, that's great," said Mojica, "I'd really like to get my guys to do that."

Mojica was impressed that the State Partnership Program could provide so much influence on a partner nation's training and sees the long term benefit in the training relationship.

"You lay down good pavement, you build a good road for years to come," he said of the trip.

Mojica and his Soldiers from the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> sniper team will take the lessons and observations from the State Partnership Program and better prepare themselves for two key marksmanship competitions this year.

In the spring, Mojica expects to lead eight Soldiers at The Adjutant General's Marksmanship Competition at Camp Smith in mid-April. There, the sniper team will compete with the best shooters from around the N.Y. National Guard.

In October of this year, select members of the sniper



Images from the NY National Guard State Partnership Program Sniper training in Pretoria, South Africa. At top, Sgt. First Class Pedro Mojica spots for South African Special Forces snipers during marksmanship training. Above, snipers don their field gear for tactical training. At far left, Mojica conducts weapons familiarization training with the M107 .50 cal. Barrett long range sniper rifle. Mojica, a NY National Guard Sniper Team leader with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry, provided training input to the South African sniper training program. Courtesy photos.

team will partner with the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment's Veterans' Corps to field a competition team against a shooting team from Massachusetts Army National Guard's 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry. The marksmanship match is known as the Logan Duffy Rifle Match and the winning team holds onto the prized marksmanship cup until the next match. The two infantry regiments, steeped in Irish heritage, originally met during the Civil War and formed an organizational friendship that led to the competitive rifle match established in 1936.

"Our Veteran's Corps fielded the last team while the battalion was deployed to Iraq," noted Mojica. "They brought the Logan Duffy trophy bowl back here to New York and my commander has told me over and over again that he wants to keep it in his office."

"When it comes to shooting, it's something you have to have inside," Mojica summarized of his experience. "When it's time to go live, you have got to express that confidence with the first bullet downrange." □



# Making Strong Chaplains

## State Partnership Program brings two services, faiths together for training

Story and photos by Maj. Patrick J. Chaisson  
JFHQ-NY State Partnership Program

**SWAZILAND** -- In the New York National Guard it is easy to take military chaplains for granted. Every Air Wing has them, as do most Army National Guard combat battalions. It seems our chaplains are always there, providing religious support to Soldiers and Airmen whenever needed.

But not all military forces have such a strong chaplaincy. Two New York National Guard chaplains learned this when they accepted an invitation from the Kingdom of Swaziland to participate in a chaplain policy training event there in February. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric Olsen of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and Chaplain (Maj.) Todd Luce of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing visited that small African nation in February as part of New York's State Partnership Program.

What these two chaplains discovered was a small country (Swaziland is about the size of New Jersey) proud of its rich spiritual heritage but also a nation faced with many challenges. Swaziland, bordered by South Africa and Mozambique, suffers not only from poverty and pollution but also has the highest AIDS rate in the world.

Yet the leadership of Swaziland's 3,500-member defense force has committed itself to making positive change. Their first step, with the help of the New York National Guard, was to revitalize the Swazi chaplaincy service.

Chaplain Olsen explained: "In America there is a long tradition of military chaplaincy. Our Chaplain Corps has been around since 1775. In Swaziland we found that not to be the case." Olsen said the Swazi military has one assigned chaplain and ten "extra-duty chaplains," enlisted soldiers with some theological training who provide religious support in addition to their normal duties.

The visiting New York chaplains helped their Swazi hosts develop a policy designed to formally establish the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) chaplaincy service. Working with USDF Chief Chaplain Sabelo Maseko and USDF Chief of Personnel Colonel G.G. Dlamini, the team spent the better part of a week crafting this document.

"We thought we would be showing the Swazis how American chaplains do business," Chaplain Luce observed. "Instead, we helped them create a chaplain service almost from scratch. It was very exciting to be a part of that."

Turning this concept into a formal policy meant some hard work. The New York chaplains first

listened to Swazi officers, then suggested ways to build the program. At all times they took care to coach and connect without forcing American doctrine on the USDF.

Finally the policy was written. All that remained was to get the commander's approval. That came when the Swazi officers presented a decision briefing on the new USDF chaplain policy to Brigadier General T.L. Similane, ground forces commander of the Swazi military, and his staff.

Chaplain Olsen admitted he was nervous as the briefing started. "Everyone worked so hard on this. We chaplains knew it was a historic document, but would the commander accept it as his policy?" The New Yorkers stood by as their Swazi colleagues began the presentation.

Within an hour it was complete – and a complete success. With one signature the USDF chaplaincy service was born. Yet all present recognized that much effort remained ahead.

For their part, Chaplain Olsen and Chaplain Luce each emphasized the need for training -- both in the religious and the military sense. The New York National Guard chaplains offered to help bring that training to the Swazis.

Chaplains Olsen and Luce left Swaziland proud of their contributions. "It's not often you get to help give birth to a nation's chaplaincy," Luce observed. "We did the Lord's work today."

The Swazi soldiers who now have assigned chaplains in their units would agree. With the assistance of some dedicated New York National Guard chaplains, religious support has come to the military forces of Swaziland – and no one there takes it for granted. □



Chaplain (Maj.) Todd Luce of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard, makes notes while Swaziland Defence Force Chief Chaplain (Captain) Sabelo Maseko (right) discusses a key issue. Two NY National Guard chaplains attended a State Partnership Program event in Swaziland in February 2007 to help establish chaplaincy doctrine and policy. At top right, a formation of soldiers pass in review bearing the colors of the Swazi armed forces during a military salute at the end of the training.

## Chaplains leave their mark in Swaziland with uniform insignia

By Maj. Patrick J. Chaisson

JFHQ-NY State Partnership Program

**SWAZILAND** -- Creating a nation's chaplaincy service from almost nothing is no easy task. The details are many: What qualifications must a military chaplain possess? What duties will he or she have? Can a chaplain serve both God and the military chain of command?

When the Kingdom of Swaziland decided to create their own military chaplaincy program, they sought help from the New York National Guard. A team of Guard chaplains visited this tiny African nation for a week in February 2007 to mentor and advise the Swazis on chaplaincy service policies.

One New Yorker on this team was Chaplain (Major) Todd Luce of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, NYANG. A mechanical engineer as well as a chaplain, Luce lent some unique talents to the project.

The Swazis wanted a distinctive insignia for their new chaplain's corps, one that kept the symbols of traditional Swaziland culture but which also reflected the nation's Christian heritage. It also had to be clear to anyone that this was a chaplain's badge.

Chaplain Luce listened to his hosts' comments and then asked detailed questions. What is the Swazi royal crest? What symbol represents the military in your country? How do the Swazis use religious imagery?

He then began sketching.

Soon a design took shape. First came the three red feathers symbolizing King Mswati III, Ruler of Swaziland. Next, Luce drew the *lehao*, or traditional Swazi warrior's shield. On top of the Swazi shield came another type of shield, the Bible. Finally, Chaplain Luce placed a Christian cross on the insignia.

In ten minutes it was done – with a nod from Colonel G.G. Dlamini, Chief of Personnel for the Swazi military, the new chaplains' insignia was approved.

Chaplain Luce then arranged to take his sketch back to New York, where professional graphic artists will render the design on computer. The final product shall be turned into an insignia worn proudly by the first corps of chaplains to serve in the Swaziland Defense Force.

It's not often that a National Guard chaplain from New York has the chance to help bring to life another nation's chaplaincy service. Fortunately, Chaplain Todd Luce has both a careful ear and a talent for drawing. His contributions in Swaziland will be worn by that nation's military chaplains for many years to come. □

# 174<sup>th</sup> Airmen return Blabber Bear home to families

Guard Times Staff



**SYRACUSE** -- Shortly after midnight on January 20th, during the first "real" snowstorm in Syracuse, N.Y., Airman Blabber Bear arrived home safe and sound with over two hundred and twenty 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing members. Staff Sgt. Kirsten Downs assisted Blabber on his return trip. He had a nice comfortable ride stuffed away in Downs' pillowcase. She said he traveled well and was no problem at all. He boasted about his new uniform, complete with a 332<sup>nd</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing patch sewed on his hat and a subdued flag patch sewed on his shirt sleeve.

Blabber's story will be completed in the next couple weeks, so please check the website for the summary of his adventures. Blabber will be hibernating in the Wing Family Program Office for the rest of the winter. Blabber sends many thanks to those who helped in his adventure, especially Senior Airman Abby Priolo, Staff Sgt. Kirsten Downs and Master Sgt. Rita Scheirer.

He was proud to be the mascot of the members of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (see Guard Times coverage in Nov-Dec 2006 issue). Most importantly, he was pleased to be able to help the children understand the mission of the deployed members. □

Staff Sgt. Kirsten Downs (left) returns Airman Blabber Bear to Ms. Terri Scanlin, Family Program Coordinator for the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. Blabber Bear redeployed home on January 20, 2007 with members of the wing serving overseas with the 332<sup>nd</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing. Courtesy photo.

## Black Knight receives Purple Heart

Story and photo by Sr. Airman Philip Grom

Headquarters, 174th FW

**SYRACUSE** -- A member of Hancock Field was awarded the distinctive honor of the Purple Heart on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.

Major A. J. Gaston, U.S. Air Force Special Ops Pilot, Air Liaison Officer is a member of the 274<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), and has been for the past six months.

He received the Purple Heart due to injuries he received while in serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom during the timeframe of February through May 2006.

This mission enabled him to serve as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) as part of his duties as an ALO. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, while manning an observation post as a JTAC on a rooftop in Al An bar province in Iraq, Gaston incurred injuries from grenade fragments to his lower right leg. It wasn't until after the smoke cleared from the grenade detonation that Gaston realized he had been injured.

In his first week of deployment an Army Sergeant patrolling with him was seriously wounded by a sniper while assisting a reporter who had also been hit twice by the sniper. "This was a humbling experience because I had personal friends injured in far more significant ways than myself," Gaston said. He cited one of his toughest moments was witnessing a young Army spec named Mike Stanley, who lost his right leg and several fingers of his right hand as a direct result of an IED attack on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Gaston effectively conveyed his sense of pride and humility towards those he served with, and those presently serving overseas. He went on to say out of his 17 year military career "this mission was the most intense and far more rewarding

than any other mission I have been assigned".

After speaking with him for the first five minutes it was extremely easy to witness the energy and determination Gaston has towards his job. It was easy to get the feeling he felt honored and extremely humble over what he had witnessed and been put through while fulfilling his duty as a JTAC. "My heart goes out to them," Gaston said in regards to all the men and women who are still serving overseas and abroad.

"This is an award that as a Commander I would rather not present because it is very often given posthumously, fortunately that is not the case with this event. I am extremely proud of Maj. Gaston for his heroic actions and grateful that he has safely returned to his family and friends," said Col. Tony Basile 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Commander

Lt. Col. Richard Smith, 274<sup>th</sup> ASOS Commander states that his dedication and commitment to the military is an example for others to follow. "He is an outstanding role model for the other unit members; all of whom have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom" and "while all have served, some have gotten into combat with the Anti-Iraqi forces. I am grateful that Maj. Gaston's injuries were minor enough that he was able to continue his service to his country and the New York Air National Guard."

The Purple Heart is a U.S. military decoration awarded in the name of the President of the United States to those who have been wounded or killed while serving on or



Maj. Gen. Robert Knauff, New York's Deputy Adjutant General presents the Purple Heart to Maj. A.J. Gaston at Hancock Field on Dec. 2, 2006.

after 5 April 1917. It was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, on 7 August 1782, during the Revolutionary War. It was then reestablished by the President of the United States per War Department General Orders 3, 1932.

Major Gaston continues to serve as a full-time Air Liaison officer with the 274<sup>th</sup> ASOS at Hancock Field, Syracuse, N.Y. □



Senior Master Sgt. John Ditro, NY  
Air National Guard NCO of the Year

## Air Guard names top NCO

By Sr. Airman Philip Grom  
174th FW Public Affairs

**SYRACUSE** -- A member of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing was awarded New York State's prestigious Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the year award.

Senior Master Sgt. John Ditro who is the senior Noncommissioned Officer of the 174<sup>th</sup> Financial Management Flight was awarded this honor on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. He has served in the Navy and Air National Guard a combined 18 years.

He has a total of 27 years total experience working for the government in some form. "Doing a good job and having people notice is very satisfying" said Ditro. He says his main drive has been "caring for the people around him and in his office". For the past four years he has been the NCOIC of the Financial Management Flight.

In that time he has had time to streamline and improve policies. He points to being able to "change people's previous perceptions of our job and at same time gain positive feedback for the first time in years". In the end Ditro has his sights aimed at making Chief before retiring.

He entered the service back in 1982 with the hopes of making E-7, and then calling it a career. "I have to adjust my sites now that the bar has been raised" said Ditro. In the end Ditro credited his leadership for giving him the opportunities he has been given, and being put into a position to win the 2006 Senior NCO of the year award.

"I'm not surprised John has been recognized. He's an all-round great guy.....excellent team leader, technically competent Finance NCO, volunteered to deploy to the AOR, and works hard in his community. What we realized about three months after he started with us is that he likes others to depend on him. That really shows." said Maj. Chuck Hutson, 174th FW Comptroller.

"He was the most instrumental in bringing the office together as a team", said Chief Master Sgt. Judy L. Van Wie, Budget Office NCOIC. She went onto say his experience as a soccer coach outside of work helped him in applying a teamwork attitude to the office. □

# NEADS members garner top-level awards

By Brooke Davis

NEADS Public Affairs

**ROME** -- Members from the Northeast Air Defense Sector garnered top-level awards from both New York Air National Guard and First Air Force annual awards.

Two NEADS members received NYANG awards - Tech. Sgt. Thomas Whiteman was awarded Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year for 2007 and Senior Airman Traci Reeves was awarded Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2007. Senior Master Sgt. Paul Dubay was awarded the First Air Force First Sergeant of the Year for 2007.

"These award winners really capture the dedication and excellence of the people working here," said Col. Clark Speicher, NEADS commander. "I want to congratulate all the winners for receiving these honors and encourage them and everyone here to continue pushing the envelope in performing at their best."

When asked about being selected as the Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year, Sergeant Whiteman said, "I was surprised, but very excited to win this award for the second time. I was also thankful to the rest of the NEADS Honor Guard team - we wouldn't accomplish what we do or receive the recognition that we do without them."

Sergeant Whiteman, who received the 2005 Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year, and the 24-person Honor Guard team here performed more than 72 Honor Guard details in 2006. Notable accomplishments for 2006 include being selected as the lead Color Guard of the entire Rochester International Marine Tattoo event. This was only the second time an Air Force Color Guard performed at the event, and the NEADS Color Guard generated top praises from military leadership.

As a Communication Systems Craftsman at NEADS, Sergeant Whiteman is planning on attending Utica College, N.Y., in the fall to pursue a baccalaureate degree in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance. He has been a member of the Air Force since 1993, joining the NEADS team in 1998.

Airman Reeves, an Aerospace Control and Warning Systems Journeyman, enlisted in the Air Force after being motivated by the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 to serve her country. She deployed in 2003 for seven months in support of Operation Noble Eagle, providing detection and

surveillance support in the defense of the northeast area of operations.

"I was born and raised in a very small town and deciding to join the military was an adventurous step," she said. "It is very gratifying to serve, travel and then return home to visit and feel proud that my experiences have taken me beyond Eagleville, California, which has a population of 32."

"I am proud of our mission; it gives me great feelings of patriotism and pride in our accomplishments here," she added.

As the lead Tracking Technician in her flight, she distinguished herself as being skillful at detecting, monitoring and providing continuity on air tracks in the NEADS' area of operation. Additionally, Airman Reeves volunteered time toward fund raising, planning morale-boosting events for her

flight and community-based organizations like the Rome Red Cross and the City of Rome 2006 Great American Clean-up Efforts.

Currently, Airman Reeves is nearing the completion of a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and is attending Airman Leadership School at McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn. She hopes to be a traditional Guardsman contributing to the NEADS' mission, and is thinking about becoming a High School Guidance Counselor mentoring students.

As the First Air Force First Sergeant of the Year for 2007, Sergeant Dubay coordinated the smooth integration of 50 Aerospace Expeditionary Force Airmen into NEADS operations from three active duty Air Force bases during four rotations. He is described by NEADS leadership as being the, "most effective enlisted leader able to provide guidance, mentoring and professional development for enlisted personnel here."

Also a member of the Honor Guard team here, Sergeant Dubay performed

more than 14 funerals honoring New York military veterans and is an active board member on the Rome chapter of the American Red Cross. His contributions to the local community include coordinating the first-ever Rome Red Cross 10k Chili Run & fundraiser, raising more than \$10,000.

He is currently the Security Forces Superintendent, but was pulling double-duty as the superintendent and First Shirt until his replacement was assigned into the First Sergeant position. □



Tech. Sgt. Thomas Whiteman, Northeast Air Defense Sector Communication Systems Craftsman, performs Color Guard duties during the September 2006 Rochester International Marine Tattoo event. Sergeant Whiteman was awarded the New York Air National Guard Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year for 2007. Courtesy photo.

# Guard engineers help

Story and photos by Sgt. First Class Peter Towse

HQ, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**OSWEGO COUNTY** – While New Yorkers dug themselves out of one of the worst snow falls on record, Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard rolled out of armories from across the state in dump trucks, humvees and front-end loaders in a joint operation to remove snow build up from towns that were hit the hardest from the lake effect snow fall of February, 2007.

Governor Eliot Spitzer activated more than 100 Soldiers from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and 827<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company to form Joint Task Force 5 (JTF-5) for snow removal in the towns of Mexico, Oswego and Orwell.

Whole towns were trapped in a deluge of over 140 inches of snow in only ten days. Emergency and public transportation vehicles in hospital and school parking lots were lost in fields of snow and ice as citizens fought to keep them open. With the Nor'Easter on its way, the Guard was called and placed ahead of the storm in key locations. Emergency Operation Centers were quickly established in Syracuse and Fulton and over forty vehicles were moved in place prior to the storm's forecasted additional two feet of snowfall.

"While the county and local highway departments and the State Department of Transportation have done an outstanding job keeping the roads open and clear in Oswego County, they will need additional help in combating the additional snow," Governor Spitzer said. "With additional lake-effect snows in the immediate forecast, New York State Department of Transportation and National Guard personnel and equipment continue to assist local governments in this monumental snow removal operation. The New York Army National Guard will be a tremendous resource as the State deals with the affects of the storm. With this storm quickly approaching, it is critical that we have the personnel and equipment in place to assist as needed."

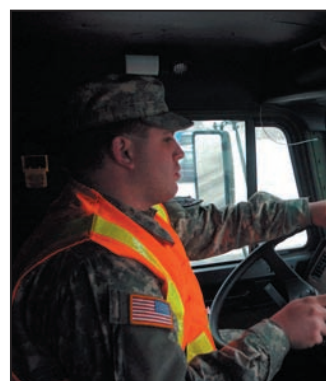
Heavy equipment was moved in from across the state and staged at the North Syracuse Department of Transportation before moving out to the sites.

"Support to our community and our fellow citizens [has been] the Guard mission for the last few hundred years," said Cpt. Chris Guilmette, the Officer in Charge of the engineer team for JTF-5. "As engineers, we come out quite often in time of natural disaster and in times of emergency."

Soldiers were selected based on their expertise in driving heavy equipment such as dump trucks and front end loaders for the operation in Oswego County.

Battling high winds and seemingly endless snowfall, Soldiers worked quickly to remove snow from town buildings and municipalities to ensure the county's infrastructure continued to operate.

"It is an honor and privilege to help our state," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Daniels, the Assistant Team Leader for the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineers. "We are very motivated to be here." □



# Up dig out Upstate NY



The New York National Guard responds to blizzard conditions in Oswego, N.Y. Clockwise from top left, Spc. John Zalesski, a dump truck driver for the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, verifies the position of his truck for the next load of snow in the Town of Oswego, N.Y. during Operation Empire Response February 16, 2007. Center, engineers move vast piles of snow using heavy equipment. Above, Soldiers of the 827<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company out of Walton and Horseheads, N.Y. position a HEMTT (High Extended Mobility Tactical Truck) near the Town of Mexico, N.Y. in order to prepare two front-end loaders for snow removal. Below, Soldiers from the 827<sup>th</sup> begin snow removal in Mexico. Bottom center images: Pvt. Joshua DeCirce, a dump truck driver for the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, hauls another load of snow from the Town of Oswego, N.Y. as bucket loaders prepare for additional snow removal. Lastly, Pvt. Robert Cody from the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineers directs traffic at the Oswego Fire Department building as Soldiers continue to battle the elements to remove snow during Operation Empire Response..



# NY Guard heats up Operation Deep Freeze '07

Story and photo by Spc. Richard Pummell

HQ, 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade, NY Guard

**CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR** -- On Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the New York Guard's 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade and many other New York Guard units throughout the state participated in Operation Deep Freeze. This exercise tested the ability of various agencies and states across the northeast to communicate with each other in case of an emergency where normal communications were disabled. Such a disaster is referred to as an ECOM or emergency communications scenario.

The exercise was sponsored and organized by the USAF Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) in the northeast, referred to as Region 1. The primary goal of the exercise

was to activate MARS, a communications system shared by all the military services and components throughout the Department of Defense.

Other organizations that participated alongside the New York Guard included the New York Air National Guard, the American Red Cross, NY State Police, Amateur Radio Emergency Service and eight regional hospitals. Additionally, two members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary were on hand with the 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade personnel as observers.

Staff Sgt. Paul White served as the senior NCOIC for the exercise and spent most of his time setting up and tweaking the communication equipment. He was assisted by the NY Guard's Pfc. Gary Maynard. Both men are licensed HAM operators and participated previously in dozens of disaster drills.

Soldiers and officers of the 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade had the opportunity to work on their radio communication skills as part of the Military Emergency Radio Network (MERN). Soldiers practiced installing the radios and antennas, using standard terminology. Staff Sgt. Paul White (left) and First Sgt. Lou Digiannantonio from the NY Guard's 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade set up the Military Affiliate Radio System during the NYS Operation Deep Freeze emergency communication exercise at Camp Smith, N.Y. on February 10. Members of the NY Guard conducted training on the emergency communication system alongside other state, regional and national response agencies."

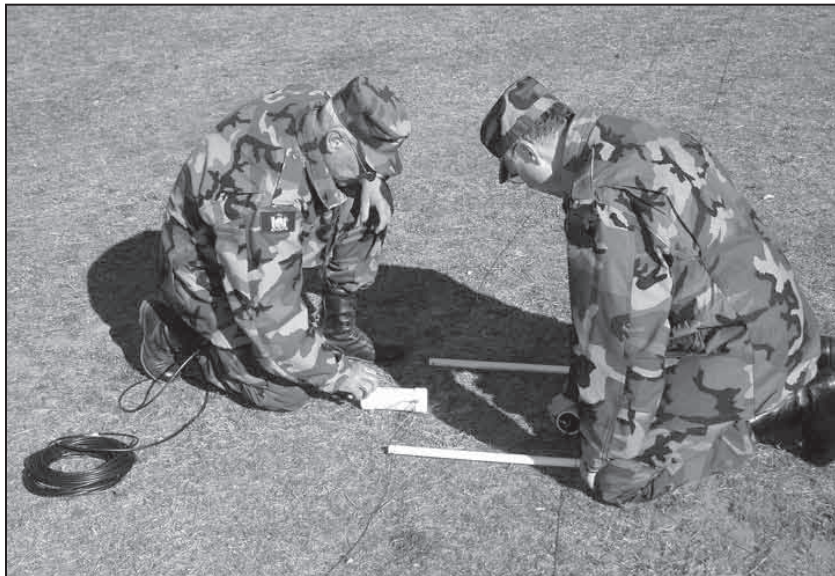
when communicating, and maintaining various radio logs. Those NY Guard members not actively working the radio participated as observers and picked up much valuable experience. There was a fixed station with a team at Camp Smith, and one man pack portable radio was sent on the road to various armories within the 56<sup>th</sup>'s area of operations to assess remote communications abilities.

As with any training event, there were unanticipated glitches that arose in the system. High-frequency (HF) radio communications require certain atmospheric conditions to achieve maximum communications ability; however, those conditions proved to be somewhat challenging on the day of the exercise. Additionally, the base station required troubleshooting – despite having been pre-tested earlier in the week.

True to the spirit of the 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade, these issues were taken in stride and addressed appropriately. Additionally, they demonstrated the ability for the members of the brigade to be creative and resourceful - particularly in the use of HAM radio equipment being used as a backup in the field.

Participation in Operation Deep Freeze provided yet another opportunity for the 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade to demonstrate the ability of the NY Guard to provide additional and unique skills and resources to a needed mission. Soldiers received an opportunity to participate in a multi-agency event, and received ongoing training in radio operations and communication.

"The training and experience exceeded all my expectations," said Staff Sgt. White in his summary of the event. "The 56<sup>th</sup> has taken a giant step forward in this area of priority, the MERN mission." □



# Naval Militia Sailor presents 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain with FDNY gift

Story and photos by Sgt. Nina J. Ramon

345<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN**—One New York City firefighter's journey came full circle from September 2001 at Ground Zero to the war on terrorism in Afghanistan when he presented a special gift to the U.S. Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI) here Jan. 20.

Cmdr. John Gormley, a Navy Reservist and New York City Fire Department captain, presented 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division with an FDNY flag and patch on behalf of the FDNY during a Combined Joint Task Force-76 award ceremony.

"This flag draped the casket of every New York City firefighter who gave his life on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>," Gormley said as he handed it to Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI) commander. "Also, this is the patch I wore on my uniform as I searched through the debris of the World Trade Center in the days following the attack."

Gormley and the FDNY were among the first to respond to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. As Gormley and the FDNY responded to initial attacks at Ground Zero, Soldiers at Fort Drum prepared to take

the fight to terrorists in Afghanistan as the first Army division to be deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the past year, Gormley was activated to serve in Afghanistan with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, which is currently serving on its third, one-year tour here.

"My friends, my family and myself count on the service members here to take care of business, defending our country," Gormley said. "I am grateful to have the opportunity to thank them myself for the personal sacrifices they have made."

Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI) commander, thanks Navy Cmdr. John Gormley after Gormley presented a New York Fire Department flag and patch, on behalf of the FDNY to the division during a Combined Joint Task Force-76 award ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Navy Cmdr. John Gormley presented a New York Fire Department flag and patch, on behalf of the FDNY to 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI) during a Combined Joint Task Force-76 award ceremony. □



Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI) commander, thanks Navy Cmdr. John Gormley after Gormley presented a New York Fire Department flag and patch, on behalf of the FDNY to the division during a Combined Joint Task Force-76 award ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

# Air Guard simulator trains Utica cops

By Brooke Davis  
NEADS Public Affairs

**ROME** -- In a dark room here, local cops take aim and fire. When the weapons are discharged, the carbon dioxide canisters create a realistic effect as if the weapons were actually real and not gutted for use in the Fire Arms Training Simulator.

Security Forces members at the Northeast Air Defense Sector run the simulator, known as FATS, that is configured to play out more than 200 scenarios to help train law enforcement officers. The simulator projects onto a large, movie-like screen and the scenarios are mixed up to keep users on their toes.

During the Jan. 16 training session, law enforcement officers from Utica were trained on scenarios ranging from an intoxicated, belligerent man disturbing the peace to a school shooting/hostage situation.

"Although FATS is used by military security forces members to train on military-style tactics and procedures, there are useful scenarios that involve realistic shoot, no shoot and use-of-force situations," said Staff Sgt. Jason Rutherford, NEADS Security Forces.

The high-tech system is set up in a dark-painted room with a humvee mock-up and camouflage-painted barriers used to create urban warfare situations for military members. The projector transforms the room into life-like situations that law enforcement officers have to deal with on a day-to-day basis.

The visiting officers used M-9 weapons for their training; however, they did check out other gutted weapons in the NEADS simulator arsenal including an M-4 Carbine, M-16 A-2, Remington 870 shotgun, M203 grenade launcher and M240 Bravo machine gun.

"The weapons are gutted and equipped with the carbon dioxide hook-ups to create realistic recoils or kickbacks when they're fired during the training sessions," explained Rutherford.


One young recruit was instructed by his fire arms instructor after a particularly exciting scenario where he had to deal with a situation involving two men attacking another in an alley behind a bar.

"The reality of the situation is that if you tell someone you're going to arrest them and you don't, you've lost control of the situation," said the fire arms instructor to the recruit. The Utica Police instructor, Sgt. Mike Hauck, discussed how the officers handled situations in the scenarios.

Later, Sergeant Hauck discussed how recruits train for more than a year at the police academy to be able to deal with situations encountered on a daily basis.

"It takes a while to become a good cop," he said. "For some, it takes almost 5 years of experience to really grasp how to handle certain situations."

FATS offers up difficult situations that are a part of everyday life for cops, he added. □



Sgt. Mike Hauck, Utica Police firearms instructor, practices shooting a Fire Arms Training Simulator M-9 Jan. 16. Sergeant Hauck provided instruction to law enforcement officers during their FATS training.

## Lessons Learned set to fix National Guard resource woes

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** -- The Defense Department has learned from its mistakes in resourcing the National Guard and now has systems in place to prevent those mistakes from happening again, the nation's top military officer said here February 1st, 2007.

Despite problems in the past, Joint Chiefs Chairman Marine Gen. Peter Pace told the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves that he is confident defense leaders are considering the Guard's unique resourcing needs.

"I think the performance of the Guard and reserve has clearly indicated to all of us that we would ignore their needs to the national defense's peril and to the disrespect of the great Americans and their families who serve in the Guard and reserve," Pace said. "We need to do this right. I am comfortable that we have recognized what we have done wrong in the past and that we have systems in place now to make that work."

Much of the National Guard's resourcing woes came to light in recent years as the force was moved from a strategic

reserve to an operational reserve. Officials agreed, though, that deployed Guard units are equipped and trained to the level of their active-component counterparts. Primarily at issue are the equipment and funding the Guard needs to handle its many other missions in the United States.

National Guard Bureau Chief Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum told the commission that 88 percent of the National Guard units in the U.S. are "poorly equipped."

Pace said three things are now happening to prevent reserve-component forces' needs from being overlooked in resourcing talks.

First, the Department of Homeland Security is identifying gaps in resources needed to respond to homeland emergencies. Once gaps are identified, the department will determine which agency is best suited to respond and what resources are needed, Pace said.

Second, a new force generation model will ensure National Guard units are resourced similar to their active-duty counterparts on a cyclical basis. The model ensures that a specific number of brigade combat teams are available to

deploy within a specific timeframe. Under the plan, four to five brigade combat teams will be available to deploy each year in a six-year cycle.

"Then we will be able to look at the unit and its equipment and personnel status and training status and do all the things that you need to do, ... just like we do on the active-duty side," Pace said.

Finally, lessons learned in the budgeting process were applied in developing the 2008 defense budget to ensure Guard and reserve input, Pace said.

"We did not do a good enough job getting the Guard and reserve into the process early enough (in 2006) so that not only were they properly resourced but they knew they were going to be properly resourced," Pace said.

The departments of the Army and Air Force learned those lessons in the 2007 budgeting process and applied them well in the 2008 process, Pace said.

"This year, to the best of my knowledge, ... everyone is saying, 'We did learn our lessons, and we are paying attention to that,'" Pace said. □

## NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL

COTE RICHARD ALLEN 727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
MCGURTY MICHAEL SCOTT 53D HQ AR LIAISON (ARFOR)

### MAJOR

KELLER JAMES ALAN NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
KELLERMAN CHRIS M. NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
KRUG JOSHUA BENJAMIN CO A(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
PANZER CHRISTOPHER M NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
SCHREINER CURTIS J 56TH PERSONNEL SER BN  
WALLACE JOHN C. JR HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD

### CAPTAIN

GOLDEN SCOTT DAVID CO C (MED) 427TH BSB  
HUBERT JAMES E. JR CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
KEYES MICHAEL S 2ND CIVIL SPT TEAM (WMD)  
LAIOSA JOSEPH JASON HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
MASTEN JOSEPH ERIC HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
RICHARDSON ADAM D. CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
SPILMAN CHAIM NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ

### 1st LIEUTENANT

CARRIS MICHELE LEE RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
EVANS DONALD EDGAR DET 1 HHC BSTB BCT  
HUGHEY BRIAN KEITH DET 1 105 MP CO  
HUJER PAUL EUGENE HHC (-) BSTB 27 BCT  
JOHANNESSEN THOR A. II HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
KLIMES JOHN FRANCIS RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
LASOTA BRIDGET LYNN 29TH PERSONNEL SERVICE DET  
MURPHY JOSHUA JOHN HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD  
STETZKO MARK ROBERT HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD  
TWITCHELL SCOTT TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)

### CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5

ALGOZZINO SALVATORE NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ

### CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

SKODA STEVEN F 249TH MED CO AIR AMB (-)

### MASTER SERGEANT

CABRERA FELIX HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
CASEY TIMOTHY P HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
CLEMONS CHARLES JR RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
GRAWE RICHARD E HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD  
MARTINEZ JACQUELINE HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
REYES ARNOLD GROSPRE HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
SALCEDO MARCO A 727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
SAYWARD ROY C. JR HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
WEISE MAUREEN A. HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE

### 1st SERGEANT

MALKOWSKI STEVEN RUDOLF HHC (-) BSTB 27TH BCT

### SERGEANT 1st CLASS

FERNANDEZ NESTOR JOSE RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
FUSANI ROBERT LEE HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
HUDSON MICHAEL DEAN HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
MCCLAM PAMELA DENISE HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
MORALES RAYMOND A. RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
PINNOCK FEDERICO V EARLY ENTRY ELMT 369 SUST BDE  
RAVERT ROBERT HUGH HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42 ID  
RENTAS JOHN 466TH MED CO AREA SUPPORT  
STRUNKKEY CLIFFORD E. EARLY ENTRY ELMT 369 SUST BDE  
WRIGHT THANE C. 105TH MP CO  
ZERILLO EMANUEL P. HHD 104TH MP BN

### STAFF SERGEANT

ALBRIGHT THEODORE L. FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
ANZALONE TODD A. 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 1  
BIGNESS PAUL J. HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
BYNUM PAUL M. 29TH PERSONNEL SERVICE DET  
COIA JEFFERY ALAN HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
COMER STEPHEN E. JR NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
CULLINAN CHRISTINE M. 27TH INF (BCT)  
DRAKE JAIME ROBERT 102 MAINT CO  
FANCHER KELLY LYNN HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
FELICIANO EDWIN CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
FERNANDEZ DAVID CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
FERNANDEZ JOHN BATTERY B 1-258TH FA  
HIGGINS CHARLES L. 152ND ENGINEER SPT CO  
KEATING MICHAEL J. CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
KELLY WILLIAM D. CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
KYLE SCOTT DAVID DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
LINO JAIME W. JR HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
LOOR AARON PAUL CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
NETHAWAY SHAWN J. HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD  
ODOM DARREN EUGENE 2ND CIVIL SPT TEAM (WMD)  
POLULECH THOMAS JOHN DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
SANSOCIE DAVID CARL HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
SANTANA ANDRES CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SIMON LUKE NATHANIEL TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
STARR MATTHEW JAMES NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ  
SWANSON STEVEN M. TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
TRZASKA ROBERT E. HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
WATERS ROBERT E. HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
WHITE JAMES J. HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
WOLF ANTHONY MICHAEL TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)

### SERGEANT

ANTONI JOHN A. FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
AZZOLINA TIM CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
BAKER RONALD EQUAN RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
BARKER MICHAEL JOHN CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
BARNER FRANK EARL IV 222D MP CO (FWD)  
BURT JOHN THOMAS 102 MAINT CO  
CARNRIGHT RANDY D. HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
CHIU AARON I. CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
CLARK GARY M. 222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)  
CLAUDIO ADAM E. CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN  
COMITO GILBERT DANTE 249TH MED CO AIR AMB (-)  
COOGAN DANIEL SCOTT 222D MP CO (FWD)  
COOLEY ROSS A. 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
CUNNINGHAM DAVID A. CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB  
DAY PETER JAMES 222D MP CO (FWD)  
DELORENZO MATTHEW B. A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
DELVALLE JOSEPH A. RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
DINKINS JESSICA MARIE DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
DRIESSEN ERIN VIRGINIA MEDICAL COMMAND  
EBEL JACOB CHRISTOPHER HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
FERNANDEZ JOHN JASON CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
FERNANDEZ ROBERTO III RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
FISCHER AMANDA JO LEE RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
FOSTER TROY MILFORD TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
GILL PAUL SINGH CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
GIRARD JESSICA LYNN RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
GOLDSBERRY BRANDON J. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
GRIFFIN JAMAR DAWAN HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
GUADAGNINO ANTHONY J. RECRUITING & RETENTION CMD  
HARTLEY JASON C. CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
HIBBARD JASON P. FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN  
HORNBECK SCOTT H. HHD 104TH MP BN  
HUELLE JAMES M. CO D 3-142D AVIATION  
HUNT MARTY GEORGE DET 1 HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY  
JANISZEWSKI OLIVIA A. HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
KAINA MARA MAHEALANI 1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO  
KOVACS JUSTIN B CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
LAUER CONRAD ARTHUR DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
LEISTER DONALD HOWARD 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
LUKASIK PAUL JAMES CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
MACQUEEN DOUGLAS M. H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
MADSEN TRACEY ANNE 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
MANCUSO JESSICA M. MEDICAL COMMAND  
MARBLE ROBERT F. JR CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
MARCIANO CHRISTOPHER CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
MCNAMARA SEAN R. CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
MOWER KEVIN JOSEPH 107TH MP COMPANY  
MURPHY JOHN CARL NYARNG JFHQ FWD 42  
NICHOLAS MICHAEL B. TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
PAULOMOLINA AIDA HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
PENG KUANG YUAN CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
PISA BENJAMIN MATTHEW DET 1 CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
POWELL RONALD C. 27TH INF (BCT)  
PROCTOR JEFFREY L. HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID  
RAAB JONATHAN PAUL CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY  
SALMON BRYAN JACOB 222D MP CO (FWD)  
SMITH OTIS DANIEL JR CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB  
SMITH WILLIS WESLEY DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ  
STEVENS CRAIG ALAN 222D MP CO (FWD)  
SUCHIT CLIFFORD HIRAM CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
TAFT JUSTIN TYLER 222D MP CO (FWD)  
TEZENO ELIJAH KARRIEM 102 MAINT CO  
THOMPSON LUKE M. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
VAZQUEZ DENNY HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
WALKER WENDY ANN 222D MP CO (FWD)  
WALLS BRYAN LEE 222D MP CO (FWD)

### SPECIALIST

ARCHIBALD NICHOLAS D. HHC (-) BSTB 27TH BCT  
BAUTISTA JOSE A. HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
BOYLE JAMES G. JR HHD 104TH MP BN  
BRIGHTMAN WILLIAM V. CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
BROWN RUSSELL J. CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
BURNHAM CHRISTOPHER 102 MAINT CO  
COVINGTON ELMALIK S 133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-)  
DAVIS MATTHEW JOHN HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
DAVIS STAFFORD M. 206TH MP COMPANY  
DEJESUS VICTOR 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
FARFAN ELVIS DAMIAN DET 1 1156TH ENG CO VERTICAL  
FRATI MICHAEL 206TH MP COMPANY  
GAUNAY MICHAEL A. 206TH MP COMPANY  
GAUTHIER JUSTIN RYAN DET 2 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY  
GORDON KENNETH E III DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN  
GURLEY ROBERT JACOB 206TH MP COMPANY  
JACKSON RICHARD 56TH PERSONNEL SER BN  
LATOURETTE PETER J HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
LOPEZ DEL VALLE M. CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
LUCKETT DONALD C. HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
MCNEIL LATONYA C. CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
MORALES JOHNATHON M. 727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
MOSES DWAYNE C. 102 MAINT CO

MYERS BRANDON J DET 1 CO B 3-126TH AVIATION  
NICHOLS AARON M. 827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
PAGAN VICTOR A. 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET REAR  
PALANSKY PAVOL HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
PEREZ JOSE FELIPE HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
PHILLIPS JENNIFER D. HHC 427 BSB  
RESSLER DAVID J. 27TH INF (BCT)  
SAAD SAMIR HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
SANCHEZ SAMANTHA 7TH FINANCE DET  
SINGER JEREMY H. 27TH INF (BCT)  
SMITH DAVID C. 27TH INF (BCT)  
STICKLE JOSHUA R. DET 1 HQ 42D ID  
STJUSTE RICHARD P. HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
SWAIDNER BRIAN P. TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
VENGAL AURA B. EARLY ENTRY ELMT 369 SUST BDE  
VERRELLI MICHAEL D. DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY  
WOODSON LADON F. HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN  
ZAYAS JOHN WAYNE JR 107TH MP COMPANY

### PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

ABDALLAH ADAM HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
ADAMO CHRISTINA G. CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
ARIZAGA JEANETTE SIG NTWK SPT DET 369 SUST BDE  
BARRACK DYLAN T. 206TH MP COMPANY  
BECKER CHRISTINA A. CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
BEGUM POPI 1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
CARDOZA CLAUDIA M. CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
CARROLL ZACHARY L. CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
CAVINESS TINA M. 29TH PERSONNEL SERVICE DET  
COE BRYAN MATTHEW CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
COLBY KEVIN P. CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
COLEMAN MICHAEL I. 727TH MP DET LAW AND ORDER  
COLLINS ROSEMARIE L. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
CORNELL BRADLEY J. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
DAVIS CHRISTIAN EAN 133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-)  
DERITTER JESSICA L. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
DORING JEFFREY M. CO D 3-142D AVIATION  
DUNCAN REID ALAN 1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL  
FEARS CHRISTIAN E. DET 1 105 MP CO  
FEISS JULIAN WILLIAM II HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
GLADDEN SEAN K. 102 MAINT CO  
GUINUP DEEDRA L. 222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)  
HALL ATHENA MARIE 222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)  
HALL MARK LEON HHD 104TH MP BN  
HANSON RONALD DANIEL CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
HERSCHA JOSHUA ALLEN CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
JOHNSON KIERON E II 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
JOHNSTON COURTNEY A. CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB  
JOZWIAK MICHAEL T. C CO(SIG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
JURKOWSKI JACOB D. 206TH MP COMPANY  
KARAGIC MIRELA CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
KELLY COREY LEE DET 2 HHC 42D STB  
KOLBE STEPHEN ARTHUR 206TH MP COMPANY  
KRUSZKA CLANCY P. A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
LANNON JEFFREY S. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
LAUREANO OMAR CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
MAHNKE BRADLEY M. A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH BCT  
MALDONADO DAVID W. CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY  
MARCOTTE GREGORY J. CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
MASSARO CHRISTINA L. HHD 104TH MP BN  
MATHEWS MELODY A. HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
MAY MEGAN TERESA HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
MAYNARD BRANDON C. HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)  
MCLAUGHLIN ADRIAN D. DET 1 1156TH ENG CO VERTICAL  
MCLAUGHLIN ADRIAN D. CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
PATTON IAN MAURICE 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
POIRIER TIMOTHY LEE DET 1 HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY  
POWELL TRAVIS N. SR 37TH FINANCE DET  
RESSLER TODD A. HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY  
RAPP ANDREW S. CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY  
REYNOLDS ALFRED W. II TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)  
RIANO OLARTE FRANCY Y. 466TH MED CO AREA SPT REAR  
RODRIGUEZ ADRIEL HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE  
RODRIGUEZ SONYA P. DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN  
SCHUE KYLE FRANKLYN 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO  
SCHWARTZ MATTHEW B. 827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
SELLIER KRISTIN 133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-)  
SHELBOURN TRICIA JANN HHD 104TH MP BN  
SKINNER ADAM CHARLES 827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ  
SPENCER DANIEL PATRICK CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB  
SUTFIN JEREMY PAUL 222D MP CO (FWD)  
TIPA JONATHAN CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY  
TRAVERS THOMAS VORIS CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY  
WALLIN JAMES P JR CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
WEEKES TEKARA NIKITA 133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-)  
WICKHAM AARON T. HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY  
WILDER JOSHUA A. 222D MP CO (FWD)  
WOODS ADAM SCOTT DET 1 105 MP CO  
ZWINGE MATTHEW E. DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY

### PRIVATE

ALBERT ALEX CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB  
ALLEN DUSTIN EDWARD TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)



APUNTE SIMON ROBERT ARCENALES ROY H. BERRY THOMAS JOHN JR BIEN AIME JOSUE BIRK CORY MICHAEL BOROWSKI JOSHUA D. BRITT JARROD M. BROOKS SHATARA V. BRUNO ALEXIS CAMACHO LESTER M. CAPUTO DEVON J. CARDONA VICTOR JR CASALE JASON G. CASTRO RAMON JR CHANITZ KYLE ROBERT CHECHAK JAMES BRYAN COLLADO EMMANUEL A. CONLEY BRENDAN D. CREE STEVEN PETER CRILL PETER MICHAEL DEERING LEEANN MARIE DIAZ EDGARDO DOLAN MICHAEL P. DONNELLY BRANDON J. DORR DARIN ROBERT DOWEN CODIE LEE DOXSTADER DALE JR DRUM PAUL SIANGA EARLY MICHELLE DEE EPPRECHT KURTIS J. ESTEVEZ ERIK MANUEL FADDEN THOMAS P. IV FELICIANO ADRIEL FOSTER CARL REGINALD FRIEDMAN SETH MILES GENTILE JUSTIN ROBERT GONZALEZ THOMAS M. GORDON LORIANN T. GRAHAM JAMAAL A. HAAS CHARLES LOUIS HAMILTON JORDAN D.	206TH MILITARY POLICE CO CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT) 133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-) 727TH MP DET L AND O REAR CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT) DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN 107TH MP COMPANY 145TH MAINTENANCE CO CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY DET 1 105 MP CO HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY 102 MAINT CO DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BDE HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY 206TH MILITARY POLICE CO TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA) 56TH PERSONNEL SER BN DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ 4TH FINANCE DET 1427TH TRANS CO (-) DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY H & S CO 204 ENGR BN HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN 133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-) SIG NTWK SPT DET 369 SUST BDE CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB 206TH MILITARY POLICE CO CO C (MED) 427TH BSB 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET REAR HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY 102 MAINT CO	HAUCK ANDREW JOHN HENRY CHARLES E. JR HOLDEN TYESHAWN LEE HOLMES JOSHUA ALAN HOLMES JUSTIN W. HORNEN NATHAN M. HSU WEI AN HULSIZER BRYON D. HURTADO PABLO N. HUSHINMUGNO KATLIN JANK GERALD JAMES JR KAMPS LANDON THOMAS KELLY DANIEL CASEY KEMAK CASEY ANN KEUCK JOSEPH ALBERT KOZILSKY JASON AARON KREMER NAZARATH L. LAFRENIERE JOSEPH D. LAMAY BRANDAN A. LIGHTHALL HARRY J. IV LINKOWSKI-MUNN C. LOCKE MATTHEW T. LOYSER ADAM J. LUGO ARGELIS A. LUGO JOHANNA LUTGEN JONATHAN LEE MACWHINNIE AMANDA R. MADRIZ ARNOLDO JOSE MARINO BRENDAN A. MOORE JEFFREY C. MORAN SEAN M NAPIER ERIN VIRGINIA NATAL ALEXANDER NESFIELD JAMMALL A. NICHOLAS ZAKIYYA K. NICHOLSON CHRISTOPHER ORTEGA HENRY ANTHONY OTERO CARLOS JR PAWEZKA MARCIN PIOTR PERRY DANIEL ALAN PERU MERLE DEVERE	DET 1 CO B 3-126TH AVIATION CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY 827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH BCT HHD 27TH FINANCE BN CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY 466TH MED CO AREA SPT REAR CO E 3-142D AVIATION HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT) 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY 222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-) C CO(SIG)BSTB 27TH BCT CO A(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT) CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB DET 1 HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY CO C (MED) 427TH BSB DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ 102 MAINT CO CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA) NYARNG JOINT FORCE HQ CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA) CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB 249TH MED CO AIR AMB (-) 442D MILITARY POLICE CO 37TH FINANCE DET HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA) CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY 133RD QUARTERMASTER CO (-) CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)	PHILLIPS PETER JOHN PLEUS DEVON TYLER POGGIOLI ALEXANDER POWELL NECOLE S. PRAYAG DONALD V. PRESTON WILLIAM J. QUILES JONA JEREMY M. RICHARDS ROBERT B. RINALDI THOMAS J. JR RIVERA ANTONIO RIVERA SEBASTIAN A. ROBINSON KRISTOFFER G. ROBLES MICHAEL A. SR RODRIGUEZ STEVAN ROSADO FRANKIE ROSE STEVEN C. ROSS STEPHEN WALTER RUCKH ALEXANDER P. RUSCHAK STEPHEN W. II SANTIAGO JESUS C. SAUVE CONOR JOSEPH G. SCOTT JONATHAN R. SEYMOUR JONATHAN L. SMANIA AMANDA ELISA SMITH DIANA MARIE SOTO XAVIER SPENCE STEVEN PAUL II SPINKS TOBIAS JACOB STEDGE JAY RAMON STILES DAMIEN ANDREW SUTTON JONATHAN W. THOMAS BRETT F. TOMPKINS DANA L. TRAN PHUONG THUY TUCKER MICHAEL WAYNE VALENTINE CRISTYAN VANBUSKIRK DAVID E. VOLLMER JEREMY R. WALLS ROBERT LEE WARE SHAQUANA P. WATSON JESSE MICHAEL	CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN 102 MAINT CO 107TH MP COMPANY DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY H & S CO 204 ENGR BN CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT) DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY FSC 204TH ENGINEER BN BATTERY B 1-258TH FA TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA) 206TH MILITARY POLICE CO 827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN DET 2 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN H & S CO 204 ENGR BN CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY 102 MAINT CO DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY 102 MAINT CO HHC (-) 2-108 INFANTRY B CO(MI)BSTB 27TH BCT CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
---	---	--	--	--	--

# Guardsmen recognized for life-saving actions

Story and photo by Private Mark Siegelman  
HQ, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**NEW WINDSOR, N.Y.** -- Two Army National Guard Soldiers, one a former member and another still serving, recently received honors for their actions saving the life of a local resident here last spring.

Mr. Brian Schuyler was out for a movie with his sons in this Hudson Valley town near Newburgh on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006. While in line for popcorn he suddenly dropped to the floor.

Ms. Dawn Marshall, theater manager and herself a retired member of the Army National Guard immediately went to Mr. Schuyler's aid. She quickly administered oxygen and began CPR as the request call went out to the members of the New Windsor Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Assistant Chief Michael Bigg III was only a few blocks away and responded second on the scene. Assistant Chief Bigg had a brand new defibrillator with him in his truck. Just as the Assistant Chief arrived he was joined by emergency medical first responder Master Sgt.

Phillip Giordano, a serving Guardsman with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 258 Field Artillery. The defibrillator was used multiple times on Mr. Schuyler with no success of reviving him.

The team was able to sustain Mr. Schuyler's continued breathing but could not fully revive him. Together the three ambulance corps members maintained resuscitation



efforts on Mr. Schuyler until their arrival at the city hospital. Once in the emergency room doctors continued to try and bring Mr. Schuyler back with no success. Finally the

doctors induced a coma in hopes of gaining more time.

Approximately five days later, Mr. Schuyler unexpectedly and randomly came out of the

average health.

Doctors attribute the lack of any long-term brain damage for Mr. Schuyler to the prompt response of quality care to the quick response

Heroes of New Windsor from left, Assistant Fire Chief Michael Bigg, N.Y. Army National Guard Master Sgt. Phillip Giordano and Ms. Dawn Marshall receive the Top Responder Award from the New Windsor Volunteer Ambulance Corps at their annual Installation Dinner here on January 19, 2007. Standing alongside the group is Mr. and Mrs. Brian Schuyler. Schuyler collapsed while attending a film at a Newburgh theater and lost consciousness on May 27, 2006. All three responders worked together to sustain Mr. Schuyler's breathing until he could receive additional medical care at the city hospital in Newburgh. Schuyler recovered from a medically induced coma five days later. Giordano serves in New Windsor as an emergency medical technician.

from Ms. Marshall and the ambulance corps members.

For their actions in saving Mr. Schuyler's life, Marshall, Assistant Chief Bigg and Master Sgt. Giordano all received the Top Responder Award from the New Windsor Volunteer Ambulance Corps at their annual Installation Dinner here on January 19, 2007. □

## NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD REENLISTMENTS

### 102 MAINT CO

1SG DELANEY MICHAEL D  
SGT HONEY EUGENE JEROME  
SGT O'DONNELL DALE LLOYD  
SFC SCANLON HUBERT LEO  
SGT SMOOT RICHARD ALLEN

### 105TH MP CO

SFC CHATTEN DEAN ANDREW  
SGT MILLIGAN SCOTT ADAM  
SGT PALMER RICHARD ALLEN II  
SFC WRIGHT THANE CLARENCE

### 107TH MP COMPANY

SGT ALBERT KEITH MICHAEL  
SPC BRENNAN JAMES RUSSELL  
SPC HENDERSON MILES JACOB  
SGT HERRINGSHAW CINDY LOU  
SSG HOLCOMB DAVID  
SPC PATTERSON CHARLES EUGENE

### 1156TH ENGR CO (-) VERTICAL

SSG COMAS RAFAEL N  
SGT DEGROTE TIMOTHY ALLEN  
SFC HANDSCHUH ROBERT JOSEPH  
SGT NIEVES ERIK DENNISON

### 133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO (-)

SPC CAPERS BRIAN SCOTT  
SPC JIMENEZ RICHARD  
SGT PADMORE COSNELL KENUTH

### 145TH MAINTENANCE CO

SPC CARRASQUILLO ANGEL MANUEL  
SGT GARCIA DANIEL ALBERTO JR  
SPC ILLESCAS ERICKSON

### 14TH FINANCE DET

SPC PINNEY CRAIG MCLEVERN

### 152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO

SPC GEMBOYS JAMES WILLIAM  
SSG HIGGINS CHARLES LAVERNE

1SG KALINOWSKI MICHAEL FRANK  
SPC KESTEL BENJAMIN LLOYD  
SSG TARABULA RICHARD LOUIS JR  
**1569TH TRANSPORTATION CO**

SSG BONNER ERNEST  
SFC BROWN CHARLES V  
SPC ESPADA JOSE JR

### 204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT

SGT ROBINSON PETER JOHN

### 206TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

SGT ANDOLINA ALLISON LYNNE  
SPC BORNT JAMES ANSON  
SPC HEPLER RUSSELL ANTHONY  
SFC MCCrackEN MARK MICHAEL

### 222D MILITARY POLICE CO (-)

SGT CLARK GARY MICHAEL  
SPC MURRAY CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY  
SSG SMITH ALAN R

### 222D MILITARY POLICE CO (FWD)

SFC DREW ALAN DALE  
SPC LONG ROBERT DANIEL  
SGT MCGARRIGLE KENNETH ROBERT  
SPC MOSES ANTHONY D  
SGT STEVENS CRAIG ALAN

### 27TH INF (BCT)

SSG GROW KRISTOPHER MATTHEW  
SSG WALTERS RICHARD CHRISTOPHER

### 29TH PERSONNEL SERVICE DET

SSG MAIURI MICHAEL R  
**2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB)**

SSG MURRAY CASEAN

### 42D INFANTRY DIV BAND (-)

SGT GONZALEZ DANIEL  
SSG LUCAS RYAN RICHARD

### 42D TAC CMD POST TAC 2

SPC CEPEDARODRIGUEZ ALVIN D  
MSG MARRA JOSEPH  
SSG PLATT JOHN EDWARD  
SFC SIMON WILLIAM C  
SFC ZAJONC DAVID J

### 442D MILITARY POLICE CO

SPC DELGADO ANTHONY CARMELO  
SPC RODRIGUEZ DAVID  
SGT SALES SANTOS W

### 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SUPPORT

SGT DEPALMA STANLEY MICHAEL  
**4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET**  
SPC HUTCHINS MICHAEL KATRELL  
SPC MEDRANOSALAMANCA DELIA  
SGT SHEAR JAMES JACOB

### 56TH PERSONNEL SER BN

SPC CLEMENT RAYA DORAL  
**719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)**

SSG ALAVA MARIO EDGAR  
SPC BUTLER THOMAS LUTHER  
SGT CARRASQUILLO JOSUE  
SSG PAULINO TOMAS F

### 827TH ENGR CO(-) HORIZ

SFC LOPEZ ARMANDO JR  
SSG MAZZARESE PHILIP CHARLES  
SGT STONE ROGER LEE

### A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)

SGT DELORENZO MATTHEW BENJAMIN  
SGT RIVAS JERRY ORLANDO

### AFGHAN NTL ARMY (ANA) BN JFHQ

SFC BAILEY JEFFREY EDWARD  
SSG WILSON DANIEL PATRICK

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

SGT SHERRICK DAVID DRYER  
**BATTERY A 1-258TH FA**

SPC BLOODGOOD JOHN EUGENE JR  
SPC CHATFIELD CHRISTOPHER HOHN

### BATTERY B 1-258TH FA

SGT CLARKE DELROY A  
SPC MORTON DARRELL LELAND  
SPC RODRIGUEZ ANTHONY TONY

### C CO(SIG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)

SGT HARTMAN DEAN TIMOTHY  
**CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE**  
SPC GRATE KENNETH

MSG GUIDOTTI VICTOR A  
SGT STILWELL RAYMOND E  
SGT WOODTON DAVID G  
**CO A (-) 642D SUPPORT BN**  
SPC HUSTED VICTOR LEE  
**CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB**

SPC ADKINS IVAN EUGENE  
SGT BROWN OWEN ROBERT  
SPC EISMAN RONALD E  
SFC KELLY JOHN THOMAS  
SSG KUCZYNSKI DENNIS PAUL  
SGT MISNER WILLIAM DAVID  
SPC NOLAN SEAN PATRICK  
SPC SCHOENHEIT MATTHEW D

### CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY

SSG FELICIANO EDWIN  
SGT HARTLEY JASON CHRISTOPHER  
**CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SFC PRUITT RICHARD DEAN

### CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY

SGT LAFAYE GREGORY ALAN  
**CO A 3-142D AVIATION**  
SGT AMBROSIO LOGAN VINCENT  
SFC BOULERIS TODD FRANCIS  
SPC SHAW ANDREW DEAN

### CO B (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY

SPC CAVALIER JOSHUA STEPHEN  
SPC CULPEPPER NICHOLAS AARON  
SGT MARTE NARCISO DANIEL  
SPC TABALES FELIPE JR

### CO B (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY

SSG GOLOVACH MATTHEW JOHN  
SGT STJOHN TODD ANTHONY  
SGT TURNER ANTHONY EDWARD

### CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB

SSG FAVO DANIEL PAUL  
SPC KOWALSKI TODD THOMAS  
SGT PUFFER JOHN WAYNE  
SPC SHELEY MICHAEL ROBERT  
SGT SMITH OTIS DANIEL JR

### CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN

SPC BURROUGHS CHARLES AMOS JR  
SSG OROSZ ALLEN JUDE

### CO B 3-142D AVIATION

SGT BONURA MATTHEW MICHAEL  
SGT SUCHIT CLIFFORD HIRAM

### CO C (-) 1-69TH INFANTRY

CPL MALDONADO RAYMOND FRANK  
SPC MCGOVERN PATRICK JOHN  
SPC PABON NELSON JOSEPH

### CO C (-) 2-108TH INFANTRY

SPC HUESTIS JOSHUA VERNON  
SGT JENKINS JAMES RUSSELL  
**CO C (MED) 427TH BSB**

SSG DOWREY JEANETTE FRANCES  
SSG PEARSON ANN MARIE  
SSG PEARSON WILLIAM LOREN  
SGT REIDY MICHAEL TIMOTHY

### CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN

SSG CERQUEIRA JOSEPH ESTEVES  
**CO C 642D SUPPORT BN**  
SPC DOMINGUEZ MICHAEL  
SGT MARSHALL CHRISTOPHER W  
SSG SANCHEZ JOSEIAS NEALE

### CO D (FSC RSTA) 427TH BSB

PFC BARRETT WILLIAM PATRICK  
SPC BRIGHTMAN WILLIAM VANDYKE  
SSG CASSICK THOMAS J JR  
SSG CRUZ RICHARD  
SGT KRAMER SCOTT JOSEPH  
SSG MUELLER CHRISTOPHER PETER

### CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY

SPC BANNON PETER CHARLES  
1SG MCLEAN ANTHONY VICTOR  
SPC STRITTMATTER JOSEPH MICHAEL

### CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY

SGT HICKOX WILLIAM DONALD  
SPC POGORZELSKI DOUGLAS B  
**CO D 3-142D AVIATION**  
SGT BENSON ROBERT THOMAS

SSG CASEY MARK DANIEL  
1SG IMBARRATO CHRISTOPH  
SPC MATHIASSEN JAMES RICHARD  
SFC NICOL RICHARD MARK  
**CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB**

SGT ARMSTRONG ALFRED EDWARD  
PV2 BRASSARD BENJAMIN JOSEPH  
SPC CHASE MATTHEW WARREN  
SGT CHASE RODNEY L  
SSG PEAT STEVEN WILLIAM  
SPC RILEY DAVID EDWARD  
SGT WIT JOEL ARNOLD

### CO F (FSC INF) 427TH BSB

SGT DOHERTY PATRICK JOSEPH  
**CO G (FSC FA) 427TH BSB**

SGT FOULKES GEORGE L  
SPC GOLDHECHT DAVID YEHOSHUA  
SGT HA HYONJIN  
SGT JONES PAUL M  
SPC MATTHEWS KENNETH JOEL  
SPC MELHADO MICHAEL  
SGT PIERRE MAXIME FRED  
SPC RIVERA ALBERTO  
SGT SANCHEZ MILTON  
SPC SPARKS ROBERT LEE

### DET 1 1156TH ENGR CO VERTICAL

SPC FARFAN ELVIS DAMIAN  
SGT MALIN BENJAMIN URRIAH  
SPC MARTINEZ JAMES MICHAEL

### DET 1 1427 TRANS CO

SPC ALLEN DANIEL NORMAN  
**DET 1 827TH ENGR CO HORIZ**  
SPC DERTINGER JOHN THOMAS JR

### DET 1 CO A 42D STB

SPC BENJAMIN TAMIKA LYNN  
**DET 1 CO A 642D SUPPORT BN**  
SSG WATERMAN MICHAEL EDWARD  
**DET 1 CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY**  
SSG MEEHAN RICHARD MAURICE  
**DET 1 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY**  
SGT AMES MICHAEL PATRICK  
SPC DIAZCASTRO DAVID OMAR  
SGT TODD JOSHUA NATHAN

### DET 1 CO B 3-126TH AVIATION

SGT AQUILINA MICHAEL JOHN  
SGT ARUCK CARMEL RAYMOND JR  
SSG BERARDICURTI TODD SCOTT  
SPC BREEMES CARROLL JAMES  
SFC CHECK PAUL N  
SSG CUMMINGS DARIN JAMES  
SPC DESAIN PHILIP ANTHONY  
SPC ERB RYAN ALEXANDER  
SGT FARMER GRANT JAMES  
SGT FUHRY STEVEN RICHARD  
PFC GILSEY ANDREW AUGUST  
SPC GUTSCHOW NATHAN WILLIAM  
SGT HERLEY DANIEL JAMES  
SPC HOPKINS THOMAS BRIAN  
SFC HYATT ROBERT N  
SGT ISLER NICKOLAS PETER  
SGT LINKE ERIC SIEGFRIED  
SGT MAIN STEVEN DALE  
SPC MILLER NICHOLAS HUGH  
SSG SIMMONS AVERY YARNELL  
SFC SMALLEY ROBERT BRUCE  
SFC SNYDER ROGER SHANE

### DET 1 CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY

SGT GONZALEZ KARL ERIC  
SGT LEARNIHAN JAMES MICHAEL  
SGT PONTARI ANTONIO MICHAEL

### DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY

SPC BRANN JAMES CHANDLER  
PFC HAMMOND ROY CHRISTOPHER  
SPC WILLSEY JAMES MICHAEL

### DET 1 HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY

SPC WHEELER JOSHUA PERRY  
**DET 1 HHC 42D STB**

SGT CAPUTI DAVID SAMUEL  
SPC LEWIS ROBERT EUGENE  
SPC ZALIKOWSKI ANDREW MICHAEL

## Army opens "Wounded Soldier & Family Hotline"

### Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Acting Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff, Army announced a toll-free number "Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline" at 1-800-984-8523. The hotline has two purposes:

\*To provide Soldiers wounded and injured in support of the Global War on Terror and their families with a resource to obtain outpatient-related assistance regarding issues they have not been able to resolve through their own chain of command or medical treatment facility (MTF).

\*To capture timely and accurate information from Soldiers and their families on the quality of outpatient care in order to ensure prompt and thorough response to concerns and to increase the reality and perception of Soldiers receiving timely, quality care.

The Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline goes live on Monday, March 19, and will be initially staffed 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (EDT) Monday through Friday with personnel who will relay Soldier's concerns to senior Army leaders so that resources can be properly allocated.

The hotline hours of operation will expand to 24 hours a day, seven days a week as additional personnel are trained to receive calls and refer them to the proper organization or agency for resolution. □

# Heroes Turn Out for Exhibit at Army Women's Museum

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy  
American Forces Press Service

**FORT LEE, Va.** – The first woman to win the Silver Star Medal for direct actions against an enemy force turned out for the opening of the Global War on Terrorism exhibit Feb. 3 at the U.S. Army Women's Museum here.

The exhibit showcases contributions women have made during the war.

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester made history when she earned the medal during actions March 20, 2005, while reacting to an insurgent ambush near Baghdad. She is also the first woman to earn the award since World War II.

Hester and most of the other members of her squad from the Kentucky Army National Guard's 617<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, to which she was assigned when the action occurred, were present for the exhibit's opening. It was the first time they had all been together in more than a year, Hester said.

The exhibit's centerpiece is a life-size diorama of the squad's actions.

Others in the unit also received the Silver Star, including Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein, the squad leader, whose award has recently been upgraded to a Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest award for valor. The Distinguished Service Cross ranks second only to the Medal of Honor.

While the exhibit focuses on the actions of Hester and Nein, both Soldiers emphasized that the entire squad worked together to succeed.

"It wasn't one person's actions that day," Hester said. "It was us as a team. You know, I wouldn't be standing here today without these guys having had my back that day."

The squad, call sign Raven 42, was escorting a convoy near the town of Salman Pak, south of Baghdad, when the convoy came under heavy fire. Acting without hesitation, the



Sgt. Leighann Hester, of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 617<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, reads the information panels of the Global War on Terrorism exhibit at the Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Va., during the exhibition's opening Feb. 3, 2007. The exhibit showcases the contributions women have made in the GWOT and features as the centerpiece a life-size diorama of the actions of Hester and her squad-mates during a March 20, 2005 ambush by insurgents near Baghdad. For her actions Hester was awarded the Silver Star Medal, becoming the first woman to receive the medal since World War II.

Guard Soldiers drove their vehicles between the insurgents and the convoy. Hester and Nein dismounted from their armored Humvees and led the counterattack against the ambush. Twenty-seven insurgents were killed, and seven were captured.

Two Soldiers in the squad were wounded during the engagement, which lasted roughly 30 minutes. But it could have been far worse, because the insurgents had getaway vehicles pre-positioned with open doors and trunks. They also had handcuffs, perhaps indicating they intended to take prisoners.

The fact that Hester is a woman who has served in a

combat zone, and in direct combat action, has been highlighted by many people. But it wasn't anything out of the ordinary to her. It was just another aspect of life in the squad, she said.

"I believe everybody in my squad changed a lot of minds," she said. "Not just me. We're a blend of several different cultures, and being a woman, to me, is just one of those cultures. It makes no difference. If you can do the job, you can do the job. Some people can, and some people can't."

Others in the squad agreed.

"A hundred years ago, I guarantee our forefathers would never have thought a squad that was as successful as we were that day could come from so many different backgrounds and look so different physically," said Sgt. Jason L. Mike, an African-American medic assigned to the unit who also was awarded the Silver Star for his actions that day.

While many in attendance expressed awe at the actions of Hester, Nein, Mike and the others in Raven 42, the squad members stood in awe of the exhibit that depicts their actions.

"They did an outstanding job," said Hester. "It's amazing what they did. I believe it captures the actions of March 20, 2005, very well."

But, for Hester, it still comes down to just the squad's Soldiers doing their jobs that day.

"There's a lot of Soldiers that are doing this job right now," she said. "Right this minute, right now, they're doing now what we were doing then, and they're not getting the credit they deserve. Look at the big picture. We did great one day, but there are people doing that every day. Don't lose sight of that." □

**DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE BCT**  
SPC BETHONEY PAUL ERNEST

**DET 1 HQ 42D ID**  
MSG POWER PATRICIA H E

**DET 2 CO B 2-108TH INFANTRY**  
SSG WEAKLEY JONATHAN EDWARD

**DET 2 HHC 42D STB**  
SFC PONCE EDGAR ALEX

**EARLY ENTRY ELMT 369 SUST BDE**  
SGT INGRAM ANDREA DENISE

SFC PEREZ JUAN  
SFC PESSO ANN PATRICIA

SFC PINNOCK FEDERICO V  
SPC SANTIAGO JUAN JR

**FSC 204TH ENGINEER BATTALION**  
SSG ALBRIGHT THEODORE LAWRENCE

SPC EMERY NORMAN DEAN  
SPC MAHON DAVID LLOYD

SPC PADDLEFORD JASON RAYMOND  
**H & S CO 204 ENGR BN**

SPC LOEFFLER JEFFREY SCOTT  
SGT MACQUEEN DOUGLAS MORGAN

**HEADQUARTERS (-) 42D ID**  
SPC ALBRECHT WILLIAM ANTHONY

**HQB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY**  
MSG CABRERA FELIX

SGT FRAZIER MARIANO EDWARD  
SGT GRIFFIN JAMAR DAWAN

**HHC (-) BSTB 27TH IN BDE (BCT)**  
SPC HOOKS JOHN WESLEY JR

1SG MALKOWSKI STEVEN RUDOLF

SPC RIOS ARAMIS TIO  
SPC SHELVAY CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL

**HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY**  
SPC CASTILLO EDWIN

SGT CODDINGTON TOBY JAMES  
SPC DAISLEY GEORGE N JR

SFC HUDSON MICHAEL DEAN  
SPC LEBRON MARIO MIGUEL

SGT SAWTELL EDWARD RUSSELL  
SGT VAZQUEZ DENNY

SGT WARREN DZHANTAM TESONDRO  
SPC WETHERINGTON JAMES A

**HHC 369TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE**  
SSG AGOSTO CASILDO

SGT BROOKS GARNET TYRONE  
SGT CALDERON WILSON

SSG DIAZDELOSSANTOS ABEDNEGO  
SPC FRAZIER KENNETH LEE

SPC GREENE MARTHA  
SSG LOPEZ MARIO

SPC LOUIS JAMES ANDREW  
SFC ROBINSON CARL WALFORD

SGT SMITH LUIS ALBERTO  
SGT THOMPSON SANDRA M

SGT TUFFOUR ALLAN AFRIFA  
SSG VARGAS MARTIN B

**HHC 427 BSB**  
SGT EGERER NEIL WILLIAM

SSG HAIRSTON THADDEUS URON  
SPC PHILLIPS JENNIFER DAWN

SPC SKELLINGTON ROLLIN JAMES

**HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV**  
SFC BICKNESE AUGUST JOSEPH

SPC HAYES JONATHAN DAVID  
SGT MULDOWNEY JOHN RICHARD

SSG SMITH MICHAEL JOSEPH  
SPC SOTO VENESSA EMILY

**HHC(-) 42D SPECIAL TROOPS BN**  
SPC DAS ANDREW ANATOLY

SPC TOWNE TANYA LYNN  
**HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN**

SGT MINER JACOB ANDREW  
PFC SHEEHY PATRICK ANTHONY

SSG TEJADA FRANK  
**HHD 27TH FINANCE BN**

SSG METZ KENNETH F  
SPC PACHECO JOSE ALBERTO

**HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD**  
SSG CONKLIN KEVIN LEE

SPC HALEY ROBERT JAMES JR  
MSG LANDY JOSEPH A

SSG NETHAWAY SHAWN JOSEPH  
**HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**

PFC ANDREWS CURTIS RYAN  
CSM PIWOWARSKI DAVID ANTHONY

**HQ 153RD TRP CMD (BDE)**  
SGT ESTEP DAVID E

SFC HOLMES CHRISTOPHER JOHN  
**HQ 53D TRP CMD**

SGT PORTER TRINA MARIE  
**HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)**

SFC KILLOUGH WILLIAM EDGAR

SFC LEWIS SCOTT ALLAN  
MSG REYES ARNOLD GROSPÉ

**HSC 642D SUPPORT BN**  
SPC MALONEY JOSEPH ADAM

1SG ROUNDS EDWARD A  
SPC STRAND JASON PAUL

**NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ**  
SFC BARSALLO LUIS ENRIQUE

SGT CASTILLO JEAN CAROLINE  
SGT FREDERICKS ROBERT RICKER

SGM LAMOURET DAVID GEORGE  
SFC PALASZ RICHARD JOSEPH

SSG YIP ERIK WAH  
**RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD**

SFC CONWAY JINEEN S  
SFC EDWARDS IVOR L

SGT FERNANDEZ ROBERTO III  
SGT FRANCISCO KARL

MSG HERNANDEZ RENE O  
SGT MARTIN ERIN MICHELLE

MSG SANCHEZ JOSEPH  
**TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**

1SG CZARNECKI CHRISTOPHER J  
SFC STARK MATTHEW JAMES

**TROOP B 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**  
SGT NICHOLAS MICHAEL BRANDON

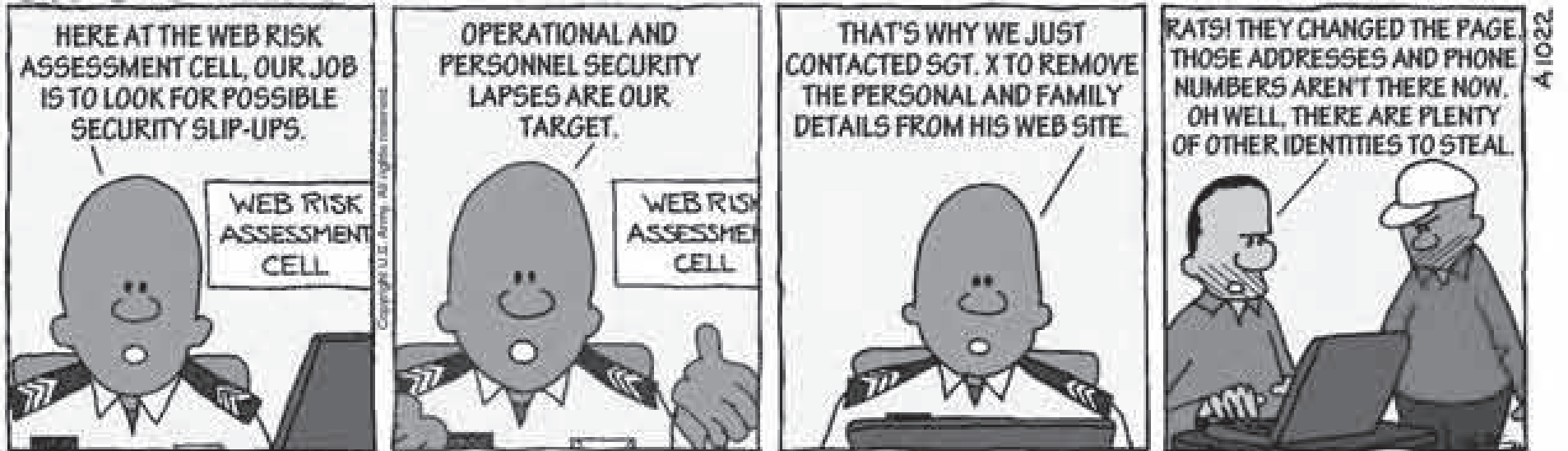
SSG PARTLOW BRIAN MICHAEL  
SSG PAYNE JAMES PATRICK

SFC VANZILE JACK LAVERNE JR  
**TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)**

SGT ROBERTS CHRISTOPHER LAMONT

## ON CYBER PATROL

As covered or mandated by AR 25-2



# Cyber Patrol: Beware of What You Post

By William J. Buzinski  
Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** -- Every day a dedicated group of Army experts search the Internet looking at official and unofficial Army Web sites and blogs.

They look for potential operational security violations that enemies can use to cause physical harm to Soldiers and their families, and personal information that could help criminals conduct identity theft. Each day they discover OPSEC violations and instances of personal data being posted in a public space. They immediately contact the owner of the information, explain why it should not be posted on a public site, and work with the owner to correct the problem.

**With the sophisticated search capabilities now available, any unsecured site - no matter how small and obscure - is available to the entire world.**

These experts belong to the Army's Web Risk Assessment Cell and their work has been very effective. In 2006, AWRAC reviewed more than 1,200 known Army Web sites, plus 500 blogs and unofficial sites. AWRAC officials worked with Soldiers who did not realize the security ramifications of the data they posted, resulting in the removal of such sensitive information as biological, chemical and missile weapon systems on public sites. They also worked to remove information that would have enabled the theft of Soldiers Social Security numbers, dates of birth and home addresses.

The Internet is an incredible forum that allows worldwide exchange of news, opinion and information. It gives people around the world the opportunity to take advantage of the freedom of speech that is so important here in the States and in other free nations. Yet even with the right to free speech, people normally would not tell the world the combination to the family's safe, where the extra house key is hidden or the route a child takes home from school. Following that same logic, talk of troop movements, weapon systems, upcoming deployments and tactical operations are best kept secret. The same is true for personal information that could result in identity theft. We must discipline ourselves to think before we post information.

Like most information assurance activities, keeping useful information out of the hands of criminals and

enemies requires nothing more than common sense. With the sophisticated search capabilities now available, any unsecured site - no matter how small and obscure - is available to the entire world. Thinking twice before posting

potentially harmful information is all it takes to help keep Army personnel and their families a little more secure.

(William J. Buzinski works for the Office of the Army Chief Information Officer, G-6.)

## American Idol, Iraq style



**ALI BASE, IRAQ** -- Tech. Sgt. Edwin Kuhl recently met with Carrie Underwood, an American Idol winner who performed a benefit concert December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at Ali Base in Iraq. Kuhl deployed to Ali Base as part of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing support to Air Expeditionary Forces from September 2006 to January 2007 with the base fire department. With Kuhl celebrating a birthday on the date of the American Idol concert, he met with Carrie Underwood following the performance. Courtesy photo.

# State Capital exhibits celebrate legacy of freedom

## Two Exhibits Commemorate New York's Military Heritage and Lincoln's Connections

Guard Times Staff

**ALBANY** -- Governor Eliot Spitzer announced the opening of two new exhibits at the State Capitol February 19, 2007 to celebrate both the recognition of the President's Day holiday and Black History Month.

The first, "United Under The Flag," features an exhibit of ten Civil War battle flags from the collection of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) that were carried into battle by ethnic regiments from throughout the State. The exhibit provides a silent testimonial to the more than 120,000 foreign-born immigrants, free African-Americans and Iroquois who selflessly defended our liberties and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

The second exhibit, "Lincoln in New York," celebrates Lincoln's impact on New York and is part of the commemoration organized by the New York State Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in recognition of the approaching 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth in 1809.

"These two exhibitions in the State Capitol will help us to celebrate the great President who led our Nation through four terrible years of Civil War, and help us remember the debt we New Yorkers and our Nation owe the men of all nationalities and backgrounds who fought to preserve both freedom and the Union," said Governor Spitzer.

The battle flag exhibit is located on the second floor of the State Capitol and features ten original Civil War battle flags that are part of a collection of more than 1,800 flags that were entrusted to the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs after the war. A joint project of DMNA and the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation (OPRHP) to conserve the flags was initiated in 2000. Since then, five different, theme-based, exhibitions of the flags have been organized in the State Capitol and hundreds more have been conserved.

The most recent exhibition, "United Under The Flag," includes the flags of the 37th New York Infantry, an Irish regiment, the flag of the 39th New York Infantry, a unit comprised of Italian immigrants and nicknamed, "The Garibaldi Guard," flags carried by German-American units, as well as two rare flags that were carried by African-American units, the 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops regiments. One of the latter flags was presented to the regiment by the "Ladies of New York" on March 27, 1864.

In accepting the colors on behalf of his African-American regiment, Col. William Silliman said, "I cannot tell you how dear to us will be this banner, the gift of loyal women of the North. We love it, not chiefly for its rare and costly beauty, but for what is beyond all price and more glorious than beauty."

The Adjutant General Major General Joseph Taluto, Jr., said: "These flags, torn

and tattered, sometimes bearing the painted honors of the battles they were carried through, or often the bloodstains of those brave men who carried them, are symbols of the fight to preserve freedom. It is a fight and a responsibility that New Yorkers have willingly and selflessly accepted since the earliest days of the Revolution."

The exhibition will remain in the Capitol until October 2007 and is open to the public free of charge.

The "Lincoln in New York" exhibit is part of the State's first efforts to commemorate the approaching 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth in 1809. The exhibit, consisting of four impressive panels and two display cases of Lincoln memorabilia, including a bust sculpture, "Meet Mr. Lincoln" by artist Robert Berks, is located

on the first floor of the State Capitol at the foot of the staircase in the southeast corner of the Capitol building. It will remain on display through the celebration of Lincoln's bicentennial in February 2009.

New York State helped to launch Abraham Lincoln onto the national stage. It was Lincoln's landmark Cooper Union address in New York City in 1860 that transformed the Midwestern lawyer into a national candidate for president.

Traveling by train, Lincoln made a cross-state journey to introduce himself to New Yorkers on the way to his inauguration in 1861.

From whistle stops to major speaking events, New Yorkers cheered Lincoln onward to Washington. In 1865, after his assassination, a funeral train transported

his remains across New York, retracing his inaugural route of four years earlier. Tens of thousands of New Yorkers lined the tracks and the streets of the New York's cities to pay final respects to this great man.

Harold Holzer, Co-Chair of both the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission as well as the State Commission, and the author of twenty-seven books on Lincoln said: "New York played a key role in Lincoln's, and America's transformation. This is the state that gave him the forum to win Eastern support, the votes to win the presidency, and the opportunity to reassure the country that he would preserve the Union and the idea of majority rule. There is no better way to understand what we are today than to recall what Lincoln and New York did to save the country 150 years ago." □

## New leadership for skies over LI



**RONKONKOMA** -- Soldiers of the 3-142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Battalion welcomed their new commander January 20, 2007 in a change of command ceremony at the Ronkonkoma Army Aviation Flight Facility.

Lt. Col. Albert J. Ricci (at left) assumed command of the battalion from outgoing commander Lt. Col. James P. Coan (right). Col. Mark Burke, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade Commander, was the reviewing officer.

The battalion headquarters provides command and control for more than 350 assigned Citizen Soldiers in armories in Ronkonkoma, Brooklyn and Latham.

Soldiers from the 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation provided support to the National Guard's response and recovery in lower Manhattan following the terror attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The

unit deployed a task force to Bosnia as part of the NATO Stabilization Force in June, 2002 and crews and aircraft to the Gulf Coast in September, 2005 as part of the National Guard's response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Aircraft and crews deployed for missions supporting engineer work in Honduras in the spring of 2006. Aircrews of the battalion also provided critical support during numerous state emergencies, including the early summer flooding along New York's Southern Tier in June 2006.

Other elements of the unit deployed to Arizona in July, 2006 to support Operation Jump Start, the National Guard's support to the Department of Customs and Border Enforcement.

Photo by Pfc. Mark Siegelman.

# The Day the GIs Lost A Buddy

Commentary by Jim Ferrell

The Army of World War II never had a poet laureate. It never needed one.

It had Ernie Pyle.

Everyone who lived during World War II had their share of war reporters to read in the newspapers. Despite the fine reportorial quality of many of them, no one understood and recorded the sentiments of the individual "GI" like Ernie Pyle.

Actually, it was probably easy for Ernie to so eloquently describe the daily routine of the "GI" at war. He was one of them. When the Americans launched "Operation Torch" to win in North Africa, Ernie went with them. Subsequently, he remained with them throughout their defeats and victories in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and the Pacific.

During this time, Ernie reported from almost everywhere, except maybe Bastogne. If he had had the chance to be at Bastogne, he probably would have taken it. Danger and privation were as common to him as they were to the "GIs." And, there wasn't a Nazi alive anywhere that could have scared him away.

A talented and prodigious reporter, Ernie filed his share of "big stories." Of course, there was an unlimited number of "big stories" to report during the war. Before he left Europe, all he needed to complete his collection of "big stories" was something like an interview with Hitler.

Since the 1940s were the days before television and instant live satellite news transmission, Ernie would have had to visit the Fuehrer in his basement in Berlin and rely upon his usual tools of the trade- pencil and pad. If Ernie had interviewed Hitler, he would have certainly asked him the one question in everyone's mind.

"What do you plan to do after the Allies retire you?"

No doubt, Hitler's answer would have made great "copy." Most likely, Ernie would never have bothered to record his specific choice of words. Instead, he would have saved his editor some effort, and noted the Fuehrer's colorful speech with a long line of symbols everyone would have easily understood- asterisks and dashes punctuated with an exclamation point in bold black print.

Then, he would have concluded the interview with a traditional American handshake and a not too well-intentioned "Good luck!"

In January of 1945, Ernie "shipped out" to the Pacific where he made some new buddies- the Marines. Those guys with the three-day old beards, dirty fatigues, and "We mean business" look on their faces all of the time. Not surprisingly,

he wrote as eloquently about them as he did the "GIs" elsewhere. "In a moment all hell cut loose from the beach," he wrote in "War Sounds" on April 12, 1945. "Our entire fleet and the guns ashore started throwing stuff into the sky. I've never seen a thicker batch of ack-ack. As one of the Marines said, there were more bullets than there was sky."

Honoring a wartime war correspondent Ernie Pyle, members of the Army's 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, known as the Statue of Liberty Division for its large number of New Yorkers, at top mark the spot where they lost an honored friend, killed on Okinawa in April, 1945. Above, Pyle talks with Soldiers in the field for his dispatches. Pyle was renown for his effort to describe the difficulties, stress and burdens of war on the average Soldier. Below, Ernie Pyle as most Soldiers would remember him: typing away on a field typewriter for his story submissions. Ernie Pyle is the author of "Here is your war," a compilation of his stories during his embed in the European Theater, first published in April, 1943. Courtesy photos.



After Ernie arrived in the Pacific, he might have liked to interview Tojo. If he had, he would have had no reason to ask Tojo about his post-war retirement plans. Instead, Ernie could have just asked him, "Have you heard of a place called Nuremberg?"



**The Army of World War II never had a poet laureate. It never needed one. It had Ernie Pyle.**

Ultimately, as happened with a lot of his buddies, Ernie did not escape the danger of war. He did not live to see the end of the war that he so eloquently reported for almost four years on three continents.

Death found Ernie Pyle. A sniper's bullet took his life on Ie Shima Island off Okinawa. He fell with those "Brave Men" he immortalized in his book of that title.

Afterwards, his "GI" and Marine buddies erected a sign that- in a brief eloquence of their own that he would have admired -simply read, "At this spot the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division lost a buddy- ERNIE PYLE -18 April 1945."□

*Editor's Note: Ernie Pyle was killed in action serving alongside the Army's 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, known as the Statue of Liberty Division for its New York roots. The organization still serves today at Fort Totten, N.Y. as an Army Reserve Reinforcement Training Unit (RTU).*

# Baghdad poetry reminds all to honor the troops

Dear Guard Times:

My son Michael is currently stationed in Baghdad, Iraq. His unit, the Army National Guard's 727<sup>th</sup> Law and Order Detachment, is from Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Recently my son sent me the enclosed letter and I was wondering if you could publish it and let your readers know how some Soldiers feel about the talk they hear coming from home.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,  
Ethel Coleman

## *The Crying Soldier*

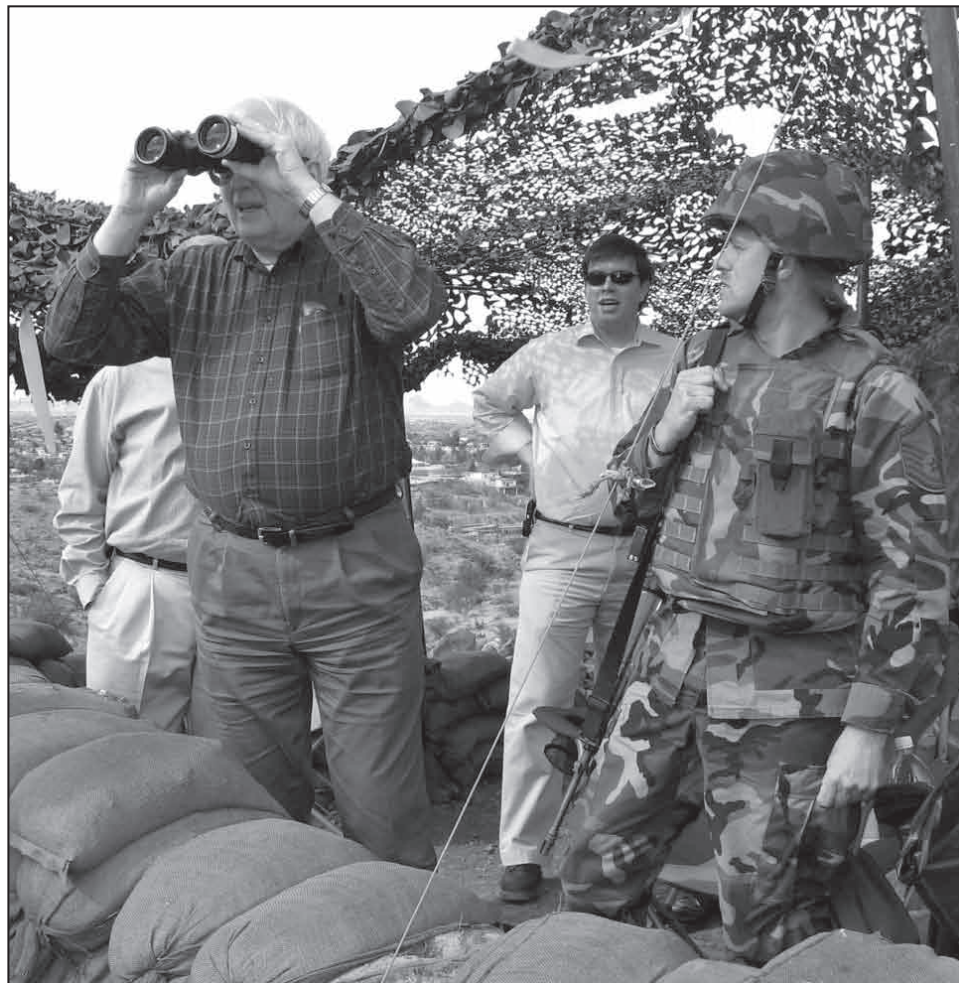
Crying.  
People ask why.  
They don't understand why.  
Why a nineteen year old would cry.  
But they never ask.  
They just think that he is a wimp.  
But what they don't see is that he's a Soldier.  
A Soldier fighting for them.  
And he can't tell them.  
He hears them talking.  
Talking about those who died.  
Those who died in the war.  
And hears them say that they died for no good reason.  
But what they don't know is that those who died  
Were once their neighbor,  
Their friend,  
Their co-worker,  
But they didn't know.  
Because of the stuff you said.  
The Soldier is crying inside.  
Wondering why you don't support him today.  
Like you once did on September 11<sup>th</sup>,  
When you cried for blood and revenge.

You call upon the Soldier,  
But when he starts to do what you asked of him,  
He's stabbed in the back by those he swore to protect.  
But now he knows why.  
You don't want him to do what you asked of him.  
He waited three years to answer the call.  
But when he answered there was no one there to answer back.  
So now he's off at war.  
Fighting for your liberties,  
But what do you care.  
He's not your son,  
Your father,  
Your husband,  
But if he were, would you feel the same way you do now.  
Or would you understand  
That the Soldier needs your support.  
He would rather be there with you today.  
But he's off to make sure your safe tonight.  
But you don't notice him.  
Until he comes back in a wooden box  
With that flag draped across.  
Then you fight to get the Soldier home,  
But it's a little too late  
For this one. You would never have met.  
But he fought for you.  
So you can grow old free.  
But this Soldier can't do that now.  
He gave the ultimate sacrifice for you,  
So pay your respects now.  
Maybe you'll feel better.  
But now you know why this Soldier cries.  
He cries for all those forgotten Soldiers who gave their life.  
He hasn't forgotten about them.  
He will fight for his country.  
And have the enemy die for theirs.  
But this Soldier is coming home.

And it won't be in a wooden box.  
It will be on that plane.  
In the seat  
That he earned for the past year.  
But will he be in uniform.  
Will he be in uniform for you to welcome him home?  
Or is he wearing a target here at home as well.  
It's sad today.  
That the ones who fight are not safe at home.  
The only place he was safe.  
Was with his family of Soldiers.  
Why do you think he wants to go back?  
Why do you think he volunteers?  
It's because they welcome him there.  
They pat him on the back.  
They tell him that he's doing a good job.  
They support him in what he does.  
Maybe one day  
When he comes home again.  
He'll be in that wooden box with the flag draped over it.  
Then you will acknowledge him then.  
But it'll be a little too late.  
Like it was before.  
You pushed him to war.  
Away from his family and friends.  
Now you have disrupted many lives.  
Like those terrorists did on September 11<sup>th</sup>.  
So how does it feel to be a terrorist?  
Your Soldier went to fight the terrorists.  
But they were at home the whole time.  
So when you see that Soldier's grave.  
Take a piece of joy.  
Because in the end.  
Terrorists didn't kill this Soldier.  
You did!

By Pfc. Michael I. Coleman

## Air Guard also watches border



**NOGALES, ARIZ.** -- Members of a congressional delegation scan the hills into Mexico from an Entry Identification Team site east of Nogales, Ariz. Master Sgt. Alan Barker, from the New York Air National Guard's 107<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing from Niagara Falls, N.Y., at right, watches vigilantly. The delegation, one of several, visited Arizona in February. While Army Guard Soldiers provide the vast majority of New York's support the nation's Southwest Border for Operation Jump Start, Airmen like Master Sgt. Baker from Buffalo, also volunteered to provide unique skill sets and capabilities to the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection Agency. Photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban.

## County Vets office works on your behalf

Dear Guard Times readers and our nation's Global War on Terror veterans,

My name is Jerry Donnellan and I am the Director of the Rockland County Veterans Service Agency. This office will work to make sure that our veterans get whatever benefits they are entitled to and provide with any other service that we can help you with. If we can't help you then we will get you to someone who can. Please do not short change yourself, you are entitled to veterans benefits and the sooner you contact us, the sooner we can help you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Donnellan

Director

Rockland County Veterans Service Agency

20 Squadron Boulevard, Suite 480

New City, New York 10956

(845) 638-5244

*Editor's Correction.* Our story on *Trees for Troops* in Nov-Dec 2006 incorrectly identified First Sgt. Tony Coluccio as a veteran of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Coluccio points out to our staff that he deployed as a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry serving in OIF 2 in North Central Iraq.

# Guardsmen help NASCAR racers compete in Bobsled Challenge

## Guard Times Staff

**LAKE PLACID** – Members of the New York Army National Guard supported NASCAR fundraising here as part of the Second Annual Geoff Bodine Bobsled Challenge.

The event, put on by NASCAR driver Geoff Bodine, helps raise money for the development and manufacturing of new bobsled designs to benefit the men's and women's bobsled teams.

Bodine, voted one of the top 50 drivers in NASCAR history, has been involved with bobsledding since watching the 1992 Winter Olympics on television and noticing the U.S. teams competed with European-made sleds. He created the Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project Inc. to help make sure U.S. sleds would be made in America, and his efforts have since helped provide the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation with sleds designed involving NASCAR technology.

This year, members of the New York Army National Guard participated in the event as the brakemen for all the drivers. Sgt. William Tavares, a member of Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry from Saranac Lake and a member of the World Class Athlete Program as one of the Women's Olympic Bobsled Coaches coordinated the event with Mr. Bodine to get New York Army National Guard Soldiers involved in the event.

In the Bodine Challenge, drivers from the world of auto racing pilot modified bobsleds on the same, yet slightly shorter course as the world's top bobsledders. The auto racers and their Guard brakemen negotiated a 17-turn, three-fourths of a mile track with speeds exceeding 60 miles per hour.

The top finishes in the bobsled challenge included Boris Said with Maj. David Palmieri of the Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command, Watervliet in first place.

Said's late father competed at the 1968 and 1972 Winter Olympics as a bobsled athlete, giving Said a hereditary edge over his race car competitors on the ice at Mount Van Hoevenberg in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Said won his first Geoff Bodine Bobsled Challenge in January 2006, and collected two gold medals at this year's race in January 2007, which was held in conjunction with the U.S. Bobsled National Championships.

"I don't know. I just kind of took to it right away—like a duck to water," Said commented.



NASCAR driver Geoff Bodine prepares for a run start (above) at the Lake Placid 2007 Bobsled Challenge and completes a different run below. Bodine gathers fellow race care drivers from across the sport to compete as a fundraiser for the U.S. Olympic Bobsled team. Partnered with this year's team of drivers were members of the New York Army National Guard. Courtesy photos.

"Both Boris' and my size worked to our advantage," said Maj. David Palmieri, the Army Guard brakeman in the leading bobsled. "By having to pack ourselves in, leaving no wiggle room, the unexpected effect was no weight shifting room. With our bodies and weight not shifting around within the sled, Boris' driving controlled the sled, rather than the weight shifting wanting to influence the sled."

Second place run with only one-quarter of a second difference from the winner was Morgan Lucas with Sgt James Bills, the recruiting NCO from Morrisonville and Randy LaJoie with Private Steven Spence from Detachment 2, Company B, 2-108 Infantry finishing third. The third place run finished less than one second from the leader.

"I've got a whole lot more respect for the Olympic guys that do it for a living," said J.R. Todd, a drag racer and newcomer to the bobsled challenge who finished the day in eighth place, 3 seconds from the lead. "You've got to be on your toes and be in control of these things at all times. The driving we do, we're not steering. There's a lot of steering going on in this. It feels like you're doing 100 miles an hour on ice. It's definitely a big adrenaline rush, for sure."

Guard Recruiters also participating in the event included recruiting NCOs Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Girard, Matthew Cryer and Ishmael Mohammed. Soldiers from Company B, 2-108<sup>th</sup> Infantry included Staff Sgt. Jonathan Weakly, Sgt. Richard Dumais, Sgt. William Tavares, Spc. David Gates, Spc. Bernard Roberts, Spc. David Ballard and Spc. Aaron Allen.

"Boris told me to maintain my weight, check in with him at Watkins Glen, and we would knock-out Lake Placid again next January," said Palmieri. "It was a once in a life time experience for myself and my family." □



## About Guard Times

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

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

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

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions via email saved in Microsoft Word or rich text (rtf) format along with digital (jpg) photos. Submission deadlines are February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15 and December 15. Send submissions to:

### Guard Times DMNA-MNPA

330 Old Niskayuna Road  
Latham, New York 12110-3514  
(518) 786-4581 FAX (518) 786-4649  
or  
richard.goldenberg@ny.ngb.army.mil

### Guard Times Address Changes

Changed your address recently?

Is the Guard Times still coming to an old address?

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

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

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

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

### Complimentary or Back Issues

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