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# Guard TIMES

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# Over and Back



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## Guard Notes

### New Tax Relief Act Aids Service Members, Families

WASHINGTON, DC (American Forces Press Service) - Legislation signed by President Bush on Veterans Day increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000 and provides that the full payment is tax-free.

That portion of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 is retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001, to provide for service members who died in the terrorist attacks the following day and in the ongoing global war on terror, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, director, Armed Forces Tax Council.

"If you are killed on active duty, regardless of whether you're in theater, or in a training accident or die from disease, your family receives \$12,000 death gratuity that is not taxed," she added. "And that's a big change. In addition any future increases to the death gratuity will remain tax free."

The death gratuity has been \$6,000 since 1991, with half of it being taxed, said the director. "It just didn't seem to be fair for the military family who was left grieving for their service member to get hit with a tax bill," she added.

The 2003 act also includes above-the-line deduction for overnight travel expenses for National Guardsmen who travel more than 100 miles to attend drills or meetings.

"The act means you don't have to itemize your taxes to take advantage of this deduction," said Fenton. She added that service members will "be able to deduct unreimbursed travel expenses such as lodging, 50 percent of meals and any transportation costs." This part of the act is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2003.

The tax act also provides for extra tax-filing time for troops serving in contingency operations. The internal revenue code allows service members who are serving in combat zones or hazardous duty areas to have an extension of time - usually 180 days from the time the person leaves the combat zone - to file taxes.

"A lot of military operations don't rise to the level of being declared by the president as 'combat,'" said Fenton. "But there are several contingency operations where service members are outside the continental United States."

### New Relief Act Provisions Protect Service Members

WASHINGTON, DC (American Forces Press Service) - A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 will provide military personnel - especially those deployed or called to active duty - greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, Defense Department officials said here.

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19.

"The SCRA is a significant law, because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

"Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections," he continued, "or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment."

What Lindemann called "a significant change" added in the SCRA is an automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the service member. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings.

The SCRA also makes it clear that the 6 percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and that any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred, Lindemann said.

The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, service members who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. The SCRA increased that maximum lease amount to \$2,400 and added an annual adjustment for inflation. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465.

The SCRA also gives the service member who has received permanent-change-of-station orders or who is being deployed for not less than 90 days the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Prior to the SCRA, service members could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant provisions in the SCRA, Lindemann said, was an added protection for service members who have motor vehicle leases. Any active duty service member who receives PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who deploys for not less than 180 days, may terminate a motor vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges. "Now, service members won't have to pay monthly lease payments for a car they can't use," said Lindemann.

"Service members may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Lindemann said. "If service members have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."



Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., The Adjutant General

## Reflections from a Trip to Iraq

The British Airways 777 had just completed its gentle turn on to a final approach segment for landing at Kuwait City International Airport. The very early morning sun came streaming through the small aircraft window with the intensity of a laser beam. It was so bright that you could almost imagine the light rays screaming as they hit the side of the airplane.

Memories came flooding back to my days as a ANGC-5 aircraft commander and flying the approaches into airfields throughout Southwest Asia. It was always the same; fly all night, eyes burning from the lack of sleep, getting the plane and crew ready for landing and although it was only 6 or 7 in the morning, it almost seemed that it was high noon as the sun rose so rapidly into the sky—almost like a cartoon sequence.

But this time was different. I was going into this strange place without my fellow crew members from the 105th Airlift Wing, NYANG. I was by myself, arriving "in theater" to visit with soldiers and airmen of the New York National Guard.

I felt uncomfortable. I wasn't sure what the next few days would hold in store as I traveled throughout Kuwait and Iraq visiting with my fellow citizens. Would all the scheduled rendezvous be met? How would the soldiers and airmen feel about my coming to see them as part of a National Guard Bureau sponsored TAG visit?

Would they be upset that no sooner had I arrived, I would be going home to New York to be with my immediate family for the

holidays, while they were remaining behind, extended once again to an uncertain date in the future. How would Capt. Mike Fowler and the men and women of the 105th MP Co. perceive the support they received from those of us back at Latham while Spc. Mike Williams and Sgt. Heath McMillin paid the ultimate sacrifice?

### "I have never been prouder to be a fellow brother in arms"

There are no words within my vocabulary to express the emotions I felt from the minute I went through customs at Kuwait and saw the wonderful bright smiles of my official greeter, Lt. Col. Stephanie Dawson and Maj. Jorge Brita of the the 27th Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC). Without saying a word, they had set the tone for the rest of my visit. It was awesome.

I was commencing a most extraordinary 72 hour period in which I would be greeted with immeasurable enthusiasm. And, the pride and professionalism of the soldiers and airmen in doing mission, in getting the job done, in taking care of each other was even more immeasurable. Whether in the camps of Kuwait, the outposts of Iraq or the big international airport in Baghdad, your husbands, fathers, wives, mothers, siblings or children were the best of the best.

I have never been prouder to be a fellow brother in arms. God Bless you all.

**Our Cover Photo:** An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 174th Fighter Wing soars over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on Nov. 29, 2003. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt Suzanne M. Jenkins.

# New York National Guard 2003 Year in Review

## Supporting the Global War on Terror at Home and Overseas

Guard Times Staff

LATHAM

Since Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, as many as 8,000 National Guard troops have been on duty at one time, with as many as 5,000 providing support to the City of New York.

Nearly 15,000 members of the state's militia forces have been involved in state and federal missions since Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> marking the largest and most significant sustained deployment of the New York National Guard since World War II.

In 2003, the NY National Guard provided forces for every major military operation in the Global War on Terror, including Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. By the end of the year, there were more than 3,200 members of the New York Air and Army National Guard and state militia on both state and federal duty.

### Ongoing Federal Guard Missions:

#### -- Units deployed overseas with Central Command (CENTCOM)

- The **719<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company** (Harlem), with members of the **427<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion** (Rochester)
- The **442<sup>nd</sup> Military Police Company** (Orangeburg and Whitestone)
- The **105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company** (Buffalo, Rochester)
- The **27<sup>th</sup> Support Center** (NYC)
- The **10<sup>th</sup> Transportation Detachment** (Harlem)

#### -- Units mobilized for future deployment

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment** and other **27<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade** personnel (including Soldiers of the

**1-108<sup>th</sup> and 1-105<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments**). They will deploy to theater in the spring of 2004.

Members of the **156<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** (Kingston), **827<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company** (Buffalo) and **427<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion** (Rochester) federally mobilized to support the 2-108<sup>th</sup> in Iraq.

Members of Bravo (Buffalo) and Charlie (Syracuse) Companies of the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment** will deploy to Iraq with the 39<sup>th</sup> Brigade from the Arkansas Army National Guard.

The Headquarters Detachment of the **369<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion** (Harlem).

The **56<sup>th</sup> Personnel Service Battalion** (Latham).

Members of the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment** (Rochester) received mobilization orders in early 2004.

Soldiers from the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** (Jamaica, Bronx, Brooklyn) received mobilization orders for training as in-lieu-of Military Police in SW Asia in early 2004. They are augmented by Soldiers from the **1st Battalion, 127<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment** (Buffalo).

#### -- Units supporting Homeland Security

The **249<sup>th</sup> Air Ambulance Company** (Rochester) is on active duty for MEDEVAC support at Fort Bragg, NC.

Since Sept. 11, personnel from the **New York National Guard Counterdrug Detachment** have been supporting security and search operations at airports and seaports in the New York City area and international border crossings.

Soldiers of the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment** based in Central NY are deployed to NY's five Air National Guard bases for security support.

Air National Guard personnel at **Northeast Air Defense Sector** (Rome) continue to monitor the airspace over the Northeastern United States.

The **174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing**, the New York Air National Guard's F-16 unit in Syracuse supported combat air patrols over the City of New York and across the Northeastern US.

Soldiers of the **102<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Company** (Brooklyn) are on duty providing security to Ft. Hamilton in Brooklyn.

The **107<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company** (Utica) federally mobilized to provide security support to Ft. Drum, marking their second such deployment in the last year.

The **37<sup>th</sup> Finance Detachment** (NYC) is currently on federal active duty supporting ongoing operations.

### Ongoing State Active Duty Missions:

#### -- Task Force Empire Shield:

Security support to New York City law enforcement at Grand Central Station and Penn Stations in Manhattan.

Support to security forces at nuclear power plants across the State: Indian Point in Westchester County, Ginna in Wayne Co., and Nine Mile 1 and 2 in Oswego Co.

#### -- Civil Support Team

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team (Scotia)**, the Guard's highly trained weapons of mass destruction detection and response force, continues to be called in response to possible threats.

### Federal Missions Completed in 2003:

Members of the **106<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue Wing** (Westhampton) returned from a six-month deployment supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit was credited with two combat saves for their efforts to extricate and evacuate two soldiers from the Chinook shot down near Baghdad on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Members of the **174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing** (Syracuse) returned from federal duty in SW Asia supporting Air Expeditionary Force combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The **107<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing** (Niagara Falls), provided air refueling support to both Combat Air Patrols over US cities including NYC, and has supported Operation Enduring Freedom combat missions in Afghanistan.

Members of the **139<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing** New York Air National Guard (Scotia) returned from duty in southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Security forces from the **109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing** (Scotia), returned home in May from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Other Airmen of the **109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing** completed Operation Deep Freeze support to the National Science Foundation research at South Pole Station in the Antarctic.

Elements of the Newburgh-based **105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing** conducted strategic movement of forces to Southwest Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom in March and April.

Soldiers of the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment** (Jamaica, Bronx, Brooklyn) and **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 127<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment** (Buffalo, Dunkirk, Jamestown, Olean, Ithaca) completed federal duties at West Point.

The **4<sup>th</sup> Finance Detachment** (Latham) and the **27<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion** (Whitestone) completed federal mobilizations.

Members of the Syracuse-based **152<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group**, returned from SW Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Members of the Army National Guard's **3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation** (Latham/Islip) returned in March from Bosnia supporting the NATO peacekeeping mission there.

## Commander's Pride in Unit Runs Deep

Dear Guard Times -

My name is Capt. Sean O'Donnell and I am the 442nd Military Police Company Commander. We are currently assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion, a part of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). We are currently assigned in Iraq. Our unit is assigned to conduct Law and Order Operations in the south-central area of Iraq. The 105th Military Police Company is only an hour away from our base camp. They are conducting route security along the major highways in Iraq.

The 442nd has had outstanding results with our work this year and we received high marks from the U.S. Marines with which the unit was assigned to during Combat operations and the Stability and Support Operations (SASO).

Our company has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation because of the success of our joint assignment with the Marines.

The one story I have been trying to get out is the unbelievable work that this unit has undertaken since 9-11. We responded as Guardsmen and women on 9-11 to assist New York City with the call to state active state duty and now with federal active duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 442<sup>nd</sup> MP Company has been the lead unit for the 716th MP Battalion in a mission never before asked by the military: to rebuild a civilian police force. The 442<sup>nd</sup> used its extensive law enforcement knowledge and experience as a resource to pass on to our Iraqi brothers in blue. It was this civilian side of our Guard Soldiers now an active duty that secured a positive bond with the Iraqi Police.

It is a true credit to the 442nd MP Company and all the Soldiers who are here conducting themselves as true professionals and wanting to see freedom grow.

I can't tell you enough how proud I am to be the commander of such awesome Soldiers. Their level of selflessness is truly amazing. These New Yorkers have been sacrificing for the last 3 years for the State of New York.

I thank God that he has so far answered my prayers and we have not had anyone injured too badly. I hope the Lord will keep this unit close to his heart because these Soldiers are doing great things not for themselves, but for the Iraqi people trying to understand what freedom offers them.

These Soldiers are still willing to go out each and every day into harms' way and make a sacrifice at the alter of freedom because they are U.S. Army Soldiers who live up to the values we as Americans hold so dear.

So enough of my soapbox. What I really want to communicate is the pride I have in these men and women who are willing to make such sacrifices. Remember that there are a large number of us that will be answering your 911 call for help when we get back and go to work again. In some ways, these men and women are not really getting out of harms way in Iraq but rather just going to have a change of scenery.

Capt. Sean O'Donnell  
442<sup>nd</sup> Military Police Company  
"Guardians of the Empire"  
Al Hillah, Iraq

# Combat Training with an Iraqi Twist

Story and photos by Spc. Dennis Gravelle and Staff Sgt. Steve Petibone  
Guard Times Staff

FORT DRUM, NY

Dozens of American-born Iraqis and American soldiers huddled next to warm “burn-barrels” smoking, laughing and waiting. Like a scene from a Hollywood movie, the cold, steel-gray afternoon sky started dropping snow shortly before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry soldiers rolled into the Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) area in their Humvees.

The Humvees attract the role-players like kites being drawn in from the wind. The soldiers immediately jump out of the vehicles to keep the role-players at bay. The crowd is not happy. Several form snowballs to throw at the soldiers, others toss Meals Ready to Eat (MRE’s). Fatigue and cold weather make the soldiers tense. A few minor skirmishes occur but the soldiers maintain their bearing and professionalism and soon the role players move away.

Emerging from the chaos is A Company Commander, Capt. Vincent Heintz. The Captain is trying to determine and quell the mood of the edgy situation. He discovers there is a language barrier. He procures a translator and finds that the Iraqi’s are angered at the lack of available fresh water because U.S. soldiers had taken over a local water station.



Capt. Vincent Heintz radios instructions to his platoons after arriving at a mock Iraqi village during training at the Fort Drum. The training for is to prepare the 2-108th Infantry for duties in Iraq.

Just as the situation is about to reach a fever pitch, the town’s mayor emerges from a nearby building. The mayor’s presence brings a general calmness. The mayor and Capt. Heintz sit down with an interpreter to determine what can be done to defuse the situation.

Not much headway was made the first day, but Capt. Heintz now has the information to take to the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Mark Warnecke who will return with the Captain the next day.

The next day is a repeat of the same situation. The Iraqis are still tormenting the 108<sup>th</sup> soldiers even a little more aggressively than the day before. In addition to hurling snowballs and MRE’s, the Iraqi role players quickly dart toward the vehicle doors.

Again, each soldier maintains bearing and professionalism in the face of continuing fatigue and cold weather.

The town mayor once again comes to calm the crowd and meet with the battalion commander. Early in the meeting the mayor accuses the soldiers of killing his townspeople. Warnecke will not be dissuaded and assures that his soldiers are there to help as added security for the townspeople. Eventually, the mayor is convinced.



A lesson in extremes: Soldiers from the 2-108th braved the harsh conditions of a Fort Drum winter to prepare for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

This was a training exercise for every soldier of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The purpose was to put them to the test to see how they would withstand the anxiety and stress of being in a live situation while in Iraq.

Many of the Iraqi role players are refugees from Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship. Jamil Alzerjawi, the group’s manager, stated, “We are here to show soldiers what to look out for and to help them get the feel of being around an Iraqi citizen before they get to Iraq. This will help them immensely.”

The news of Saddam Hussein’s capture and the intense tempo of training almost make the heavy snowfall and cold-weather conditions oblivious.

By the third day of training, the best-laid plans of the 108<sup>th</sup> command fell apart. An Iraqi female role player made off with someone’s Humvee, the critical water shortage issue had not been resolved, and the crowd rioted and beat their fists on the Humvees. To acerbate a situation gone awry, a suicide bomber took the life of Capt. Heintz.

The after action report revealed plenty. The soldiers should have set up concertina wire around the town hall, the Humvees should have been secured at all times and soldiers should have been within eyesight of each other.

“All of our soldiers must be prepared and ready to encounter and react to situations such as these while in Iraq,” stated Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ron Martin, an observer, controller and trainer from Ft. Dix, N.J.

The training sharpened the wits and heightened the awareness of the 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry to give them the confidence to handle situations not only for their safety but also for the safety of the Iraqi people that want them there.



Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment conduct weapons qualification at Fort Drum in December. The unit is preparing for deployment to Iraq in the spring of 2004 for Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Photo by Sgt. Peter Towse.



**Soldier Sendoff for Families**

Chief Warrant Officer Michael P. Risewick, an aviation maintenance officer in the 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment, hands his son Adam to wife Linda during a brief interlude following the battalion's farewell ceremony and departure for mobilization. The Rochester-based unit mobilized on January 4th for duties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Petibone.

## Army Addressing Soldier Pay Problems

By Eric W. Cramer  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, DC

The Army is working on immediate actions to eliminate the pay problems of deployed Soldiers, and long-term solutions are also underway.

"The basic pay and allowances for most Soldiers is there. It's the situation-unique entitlements based on location, dependent status, special skills – these are the one's that, because they require additional documentation and inputs, fall through the cracks," said Eric Reid, chief of Finance & Accounting Oversight and Field Operations Division, U.S. Army Finance Command.

Reid said most difficulties lie in special entitlements built into the pay process.

"For example, the day a Soldier steps in country, he starts receiving hostile fire pay. He also is eligible for hardship duty pay location (HDP-L), but although his time starts on the first day, he has to be there for 30 days to be eligible. After 30 days, it's paid retroactively to the first day. He is also eligible for a combat zone tax exemption, and possibly for a family separation allowance. For some entitlements, the finance technician must input it in the system on a monthly basis," Reid said.

"The hardship duty pay is an example, they have to do an input every month for that entitlement," he said.

In addition to the hardship duty pay for Soldiers in theater, he said there is one other major entitlement that must be entered separately each month for most Soldiers, the Continental United States Cost of Living Allowance, or CONUS/COLA.

He said most problems occur for reserve component Soldiers when they are either initially mobilizing or when they return from mobilization.

"There are some issues where there are delays in getting them in the system when they mobilize and off the system when they're demobilized," Reid said.

He said that in the case of the 19th Special Forces, 5th Battalion, Company B, studied by the GAO, the problem was primarily human error, first by the demobilization station not stopping pay and then at home station when a technician used the wrong transaction to correct the problem.

"We're providing additional training to reduce the chance of these errors happening," he said.

Reid said the Defense Finance and Accounting Service sent a team to Iraq to help the finance personnel there learn to use their systems more effectively. He said a planned move to an integrated pay system for both active and reserve component Soldiers will automate many of the special entitlements by spring of 2005.

In the interim, plans call for immediate and near-term efforts to increase training, enhance procedural guidance, and provide some limited changes to the existing pay system. The plans include automation of hardship duty pay, the largest non-automated pay for the theater, in April 2004.

He said the plans will begin to solidify soon.

The HDP-L is scheduled for automation earlier, in April of '04. That will alleviate a potential source of error," Reid said.

"What we're doing now is a lot of things to help Soldiers using the current infrastructure. The long-term automated solutions will happen in that mid-term period, when we get the integrated active and reserve component pay system. That will be the first time we've ever had that."

## More Mobilizations for Guard

### Orion Support Slices Join the Fight

Guard Times Staff

SYRACUSE

Soldiers from the 27th Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade mobilized in December 2003 to augment the nearly 700 troops of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment preparing to deploy to Iraq in the spring of 2004.

They join dozens of troops from the 56th Personnel Services Battalion who mobilized in mid-December.

Members of the 427th Support Battalion, 156th Field Artillery Battalion and 827th Engineer Company deployed Soldiers from their armories in Rochester, Kingston and Buffalo to train alongside the infantry battalion. The Soldiers deploy as part of the largest rotation of troops into a combat theater since World War II. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning.



## Finance Detachment Checks the Block Army Guard Unit Released From Active Duty

By Spec. Jacob Kinne  
Guard Times Staff

WHITESTONE

Originally mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in February of 2003, Soldiers of the 7th Finance Detachment from Whitestone, NY, found themselves without a wartime mission after completing their post-mobilization overseas validation training at Camp Atterbury, IN.

"The speed with which the combined U.S. forces liberated the Iraqi people rendered their services unnecessary in Iraq," said Col. Robert Edelman, the 53rd Troop Command's Chief of Staff.

However, just an hour north of Camp Atterbury, at the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) in Indianapolis, IN, word of a backlog in the Contingency Travel Office had reached national press organizations, and the 7th Finance Detachment was eager to assist.

"They were officially assigned to HHC, DFAS on June, 12, 2003," Edelman said.

While there, the detachment was responsible for processing travel claims for reserve component soldiers deployed worldwide. These claims consisted of monthly accruals soldiers' receive. When they began working there was a backlog of over 25,000 unpaid travel claims. The turn around time in processing a claim was more than 30 days, while the DFAS goal is seven business days- soldiers were not being paid. Upon being released from active duty in November, the backlog was minimized to fewer than 10,000 claims, and the turn around time to 7-8 days.

As a result of their success, six 7th Finance Detachment soldiers received the Joint Service Achievement Medal, while all of the soldiers were given the DFAS coin. The unit was also awarded with a plaque, recognizing its contribution to the ongoing war on terror.

# From the Balkans to Ground Zero to the Sunni Triangle

## Courageous Soldiers of NY's 105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company Endure and Overcome

(Part 1 in a series of reports)

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning  
Guard Times Staff

### CAMP KALSO, IRAQ

Perhaps no other unit in recent memory has served as much or as well in the cause of peace and freedom — at home and abroad — as a family of nearly 170 soldiers from Western New York and the Capital District, known as the 105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, New York Army National Guard.

And, they are indeed a family. Brought together by circumstance, tested by tragedy and calamity, welded solid by desert heat and enemy fire — no other military organization has accomplished more.

The soldiers from the Buffalo, Rochester and Albany areas were ordered to federal active duty in February 2003, and arrived in Iraq the following spring. Since then, they have seen and experienced much. Injuries and illnesses have taken a toll. And, for the first time since the Korean War, two activated members of the New York Army National Guard lost their lives due to enemy fire. Sergeant Heath McMillin from Canandaigua and Specialist Michael Williams from Buffalo died in separate attacks in July and October (see Guard Times stories in July-August and September-October 2003). Both were members of the 105<sup>th</sup>.

### Roots

The 105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company's home is the Masten Avenue Armory in Buffalo, with one of its platoons based at the Culver Road Armory in Rochester following the Persian Gulf War in 1991. The former 206<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company at that armory had been cut from the force as part of the Army's overall downsizing. That unit mobilized and deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1990 for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and guarded Iraqi prisoners of war. Instead of eliminating a military police company in Buffalo, state headquarters simply replaced it with the structure of a different kind of MP unit that was formerly based in Troy — the original 105<sup>th</sup>.



Members of the New York National Guard's 105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company conduct Check Point operations in Iraq. The unit has been serving with Central Command for nearly one year in support. Courtesy Photo.



Soldiers of the 105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company at their base camp in Iraq (above) and moving out on security patrols on major highways in Iraq (top right). Courtesy photos.

The 105<sup>th</sup> was activated in the late spring of 1999 for Operation Joint Endeavor — the NATO Peacekeeping Mission to the Balkans, and completed a nine-month tour of duty at Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia. In addition to protecting facilities, conducting patrols and escorting convoys, the soldiers worked with Bosnian school children, including many orphans. The families sent over school supplies, toys and more to their soldiers to give to the young people of that war torn region.

The rotation complete, the unit returned home in March 2000 to a joyous celebration at Niagara Falls International Airport, where hundreds of family members waited with flags, banners and yellow ribbons. For decades, only one other NY Army National Guard unit had been called to active duty overseas — the 133<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Company for the same NATO Peacekeeping mission.

### 9-11

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 was and continues to be a defining moment for the nation, its military and the National Guard. Like many units, the 105<sup>th</sup> was called to State Active Duty by the state Commander-in-Chief, Governor George E. Pataki and was immediately deployed to New York City during that critical and difficult first two weeks. Serving at Ground Zero and at various sites on and near the security perimeter, the soldiers of the 105<sup>th</sup> were as stunned by what they saw as was everyone else. Many members of the unit volunteered for additional state active duty once the first two weeks were completed. In the months that followed, other members of the 105<sup>th</sup> would be incorporated into the joint task force continuing to render vital support to the civil authorities. The soldiers of the 105<sup>th</sup>, 107<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> Military Police Companies



were especially suited for key security missions in sensitive areas. They have been in high demand for both state and federal duty ever since.

### Operation Iraqi Freedom

In February 2003, five NY Army National Guard units were activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom — the 105<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> MP Companies, the 719<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, the 27<sup>th</sup> Support Center and the 10<sup>th</sup> Transportation Detachment. Joining the Buffalo and Rochester soldiers were nearly two-dozen military police soldiers from the Schenectady-based Detachment 1, Headquarters 27<sup>th</sup> Separate Infantry Brigade.

The 105<sup>th</sup> reported to Fort Drum on Valentine's Day and spent two months training, preparing for overseas movement and awaiting transportation into Southwest Asia.

In March 2003 forward deployed US and British forces launched the ground assault into Iraq and pushed their way through disorganized resistance. In dramatic fashion, and with embedded journalists moving with the columns to cover the action, coalition forces reached Baghdad. The Iraqi regime fell and Saddam Hussein went into hiding. By mid April, the coalition led by the US had near total control, and the 105<sup>th</sup> and other mobilized Guard and Reserve units arrived in Kuwait. In short order, the 105<sup>th</sup> moved into Iraq as military operations went from the offensive phase to occupation. The 105<sup>th</sup> was given the assignment to patrol main and alternate supply routes into Baghdad, thus providing security for military convoys. It would prove to be a very dangerous job.

In an open letter to the unit's family readiness group back home, Capt. Mike Fowler, the company commander described his unit's mission and the nature of the challenge they faced. "This mission is a dangerous one," wrote Fowler. "We are dealing with many religious factions, political ideals and thousands of years of tradition. There are some who want nothing more than to see this rebuilding process fail."

"Your soldiers are the brick wall between the peace plan and the resistance," he continued. "They are the hope for millions of Iraqi's who want nothing more than to be able to provide for their families and encourage their children to pursue their dreams," wrote the commander.

"Your soldiers are the police officers by day — playing soccer with the children, responding to traffic accidents on the roadway, and giving families that have been oppressed for so many years a true sense of security. By night they transition to a powerful combat force, seeking out and responding to enemy threats..."

When the coalition forces captured Baghdad, it was hoped that hostilities would end and the next phase — a rebuilding phase, would begin in earnest. The soldiers of the 105<sup>th</sup> MP Company found themselves in the middle of a new round of fighting, danger and insecurity that has only continued to increase.

**See Part II in the next issue**

# Rainbow Ready ... For Real



Capt. Vanessa Simms undergoes her dental screening from Dr. Mike Michuge during the December Soldier Readiness Checks at the Masten Avenue armory in Buffalo. The 42nd Infantry Division's Third Brigade Headquarters underwent deployment readiness checks as part of the division's annual program to review individual Soldier readiness. While the entire process is designed as a tool for commanders to better assess unit readiness, "Rainbow Ready" Soldiers have also used the administrative checks to better prepare for state and federal mobilizations. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Corine Lombardo.



## New Brigade Leadership – Same Soldier Commitment

By Sgt. 1st Class Corine Lombardo  
HQ, 42nd Inf. Div.

*BUFFALO*

When Lt. Col. John Luthringer took command of the Buffalo-based 3rd Brigade of the 42nd Infantry Division last summer, he was determined to further ensure his Soldiers were well trained and prepared for whatever the future holds.

"My primary focus is preparation and execution of our late 2004 Kosovo deployment for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry, but also to reestablish the 1st Battalion, 127th Armor and 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery as viable forces after their year long-Noble Eagle mission," Luthringer said.

A large part of the preparation consists of the Soldier Readiness Program. "The 'SRP' sets the stage for deployment, offering Soldiers and their families a tangible step providing a true sense of realism," said Luthringer.

Amidst the holiday family festivities of the early December 6-7 drill, Soldiers didn't lose sight of their primary mission. Over 70 Soldiers from the brigade headquarters, the 1-101st Cavalry and the 1-69th Infantry Regiment finalized the SRP process that began earlier this year.

The SRP serves as a "check-list" for unit commanders and Soldiers regarding individual readiness. The process enables Soldiers to identify and correct shortfalls in personnel records, equipment, clothing, medical, legal and family care requirements. Additionally, the process assists

commanders in planning activities to better prepare Rainbow Soldiers for routine training, state active duty or federal mobilizations in the future. Division headquarters personnel reviewed individuals' records and provided readiness resources. Headquarters staff personnel have streamlined the process since several 3rd Brigade Soldiers began the SRP process earlier this year. "I'm surprised at how smoothly the process is going," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ratka, who after four immunizations completed the process within three hours.

Assisting with the process were several civilian contractors providing dental screenings and required immunizations. Erie residents Dr. Mike Michuge and his wife Mary conducted over 70 dental exams. With two sons serving in the military, one currently assigned to the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq, they were proud to be contributing to the process. "We know how important it is for Soldiers to be prepared as far in advance as possible," said Dr. Michuge.

During the holiday drill, Soldiers and family members received Family Care briefings that emphasized the importance of pre-planning. Members of the already established Third Brigade Headquarters Family Support Group continued activities that included raising an additional \$150 toward their group initiatives.

As the new brigade commander, Luthringer considers the Soldiers' family readiness program a high priority. "To ensure our families are as prepared as our Soldiers for deployment is imperative", said Luthringer, adding "we

saw how important and supportive a strong Family Support Group can be, especially after the difficult loss of two Buffalo-area Soldiers in Iraq earlier this year."

*Editor's Note: Hundreds of Soldiers from the Third Brigade's 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery and members of the 1st Battalion, 127th Armor mobilized in early 2004 for support to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Robert Giordano, 42nd Inf. Div. contributed to this article.*



Lt. Col. John Luthringer took command of the 42nd Infantry Division's 3rd Bde in July 2003. Luthringer will oversee the Brigade's deployment in support of the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR) in late 2004. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning.

# 249<sup>th</sup> Medevac Ready to Respond

## Army Guard Unit Deploys to Fort Bragg for Enduring Freedom

By Capt. David Albano  
Guard Times Staff

### FORT BRAGG, NC

Some 130 Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 249<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Air Ambulance) deployed to Fort Bragg on December 3, 2003. Once there, they immediately began a rigorous schedule of in-processing at the Mobilizing Unit In-Processing Center (MUIC).

Among the many administrative requirements of mobilization, the Soldiers had medical and dental examinations to complete, M-16 qualification, security clearances, finance, and an unpleasant visit to a gas chamber to test their protective masks.

All of these tasks were just the preliminary steps to get the 249<sup>th</sup> ready for their real-world mission: saving lives. The company, once complete with post-mobilization training will provide medevac support to Army training throughout the southeastern states.

The 249<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Air Ambulance) mobilized and deployed to North Carolina for one year to provide medical evacuation support at Fort Bragg, Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, and the Army Ranger training camps in Florida and Georgia.

Despite the deployment away from home and family members, Soldiers such as Spec. Jose Vargas, an aircraft engine mechanic, believe they are up to the challenge. "The hard part about being here is that this is my second deployment away from my wife for another year. She is somewhat used to it now. We're working hard and believe in what were doing," Vargas said.

The 249<sup>th</sup> Medevac Company replaced Soldiers from the Louisiana Army National Guard's 812<sup>th</sup> Medical Company who in turn had replaced an active duty unit that remains deployed overseas in Iraq.

The entire experience for the Soldiers in the company is a new one. The 249<sup>th</sup> only recently transformed last October from an attack aviation unit with AH-1 Cobra helicopter gunships to a medical evacuation company with the UH-1 Huey. The unit has been progressively trying to assemble aircrews, medics, crew chiefs to man the company, as well as equipment and aircraft fielding.

This transition presented the unit with two major obstacles since their arrival at Fort Bragg: training and equipment. The medical evacuation mission requires specially trained medics and high-dollar equipment items such as aircraft hoists, and medical equipment. All of this equipment is scarce because of the small number of medical evacuation units throughout the Army and the significant costs involved in their purchase. It became difficult to train

post-mobilization tasks without the required equipment.

With the help of the Louisiana Guardsmen, the 249<sup>th</sup> was able to borrow the required equipment items until they receive their own through procurement. The unit successfully adapted and improvised to meet their training objectives.

Aircrewmembers of the 249th Air Ambulance Company conduct training during the unit's federal duty at Fort Bragg, NC. The Rochester-based detachment mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom last fall and supports Army operations throughout the southeastern United States. "The training has been fast and furious," said Spec. Craig Ribeiro, a medic in the company. Courtesy photo.

"The training has been fast and furious," said Spec. Craig Ribeiro, a medic in the company currently training to qualify as a flight medic. Ribeiro is an active member of the flight crew and is training to provide emergency medical care in flight during medical evacuations. "Leaving home and being deployed was not a pleasant thing, but getting here and being around positive people made this deployment easy. Everyone is working together and doing the job," he said.

In their first two weeks alone, the unit has completed 250 flight hours and 116 training missions. The training missions typically consist of two-hour flights where they do such things as navigation training, night vision goggle work, and medical hoisting. These significant accomplishments were summarized by the unit's First Sergeant, David Bimber, "There has been an amazing effort on the part of the aircrews and maintenance people who are out there everyday working long hours to support this mission. I've been real impressed and proud of the guys, the way they have pulled together, and the way the training has been executed."



Soldiers from the 249th Air Ambulance Company conduct hoist training as part of the unit's medical evacuation mission while serving on active duty at Fort Bragg, NC. The unit was formed only months before receiving mobilization orders to support Operation Enduring Freedom, serving the Fort Bragg community while another active duty medevac unit is deployed overseas. Courtesy photo.

# Air Guard Members Return From Gulf

## Air Wings Complete Air Expeditionary Force Tours

By Maj. Richard Goldenberg  
Guard Times Staff

LATHAM

Hundreds of members of the New York Air National Guard returned to air bases in Syracuse and Westhampton this December as Airmen of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing completed Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) mission tours with Central Command.

The Fighter Wing pilots and ground support crews conducted combat missions supporting both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. Six F-16 Falcon fighters were flown to Qatar earlier in the fall to support the AEF rotation. The Fighter Wing shared the combat duties with members of the 192<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing of the Virginia Air National Guard.

The missions overseas mark the first use of the Air Wing's modernized F-16C Fighting Falcon. The upgrade, referred to as a Block 30, allows the Fighter Wing to deliver precision-guided munitions. The use of the laser-guided bombs, known as JDAMs or Joint Direct Attack Munitions, provides much greater accuracy in supporting friendly troops on the ground.

At Gabreski Airport in Westhampton, Long Island, friends and family of the 106<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue Wing welcomed home some 50 members following a three-month AEF deployment to Baghdad.

The rescue team could reflect on the pride of responding to the November 2<sup>nd</sup> downing of an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter near Baghdad. The members of the wing's 102<sup>nd</sup> Rescue Helicopter Squadron are credited with saving the lives of two survivors of the devastating crash in which 16 others perished.



Air Guard Master Sgt. Keith Liming, an aircraft flight engineer assigned to the 101st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron in Baghdad, holds a bag of candy attached to a parachute to air drop to Iraqi children, Sept. 4, 2003. Liming deployed from the New York Air National Guard's 106th Air Rescue Wing, Long Island, N.Y. Department of Defense photo by Master Sgt. Robert R. Hargreaves Jr.

"I want to convey my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to members of the 106<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue Wing for a job well done," said New York State Governor George E. Pataki in a letter of commendation to the unit. "The courageous efforts of New York's own 106<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue Wing helped spare two

American families the pain of losing a loved one and that is true heroism," Pataki said.

The Airmen's deployment left a larger impact on the Iraqis near Baghdad. Like many other American forces serving to reconstruct the country, the members of the 106<sup>th</sup> assisted



Members of the 106th Air Rescue Wing display holiday wishes sent from home during a visit of The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire. Maguire visited with the Air National Guard personnel during a visit to Iraq in early December. The Airmen redeployed from Baghdad after completing a rotation with the Air Force's 101st Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF). Courtesy photo.



Aircrews of the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing from Syracuse patrol the skies over Afghanistan Nov. 29, 2003. The unit redeployed in December following the rotation of aircraft and crews to the Air Expeditionary Forces in Central Command. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne M. Jenkins

in the construction of a medical clinic in an Iraqi village outside of Baghdad.

"The people there were just like us," said Sgt. Andrew Mollo to Long Island Newsday at the unit's homecoming. "They want the same things from life that we do – security, decent homes, a steady job and education for their kids. They hated Saddam, and they were very appreciative of what we have done."

"I firmly believe that Americans will leave Iraq a better place than we found it," Mollo summarized. "I'm proud to be part of that effort."

# Learning by Design

## Air Guard Officer Gives Elementary Lessons about the Military

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean  
HQ, 107th ARW

NIAGARA FALLS

A local schoolteacher borrowed a member of the 107th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Nov. 14 to teach her students about Veterans Day and the men and women in the military.

Lt. Col. Daniel Green, an architect with the 107th ARW Civil Engineer Squadron, visited the 1st Grade class of his family friend, Ann Mauer, in her classroom at the Smallwood Elementary School in Snyder, N.Y.

Green arrived prepared, and the students were ready for him with 30 questions waiting. The children had been working on the questions for a couple of weeks, with Mauer posting the ones to be asked on large posters. The children had all of their answers by the time Green left the classroom (with some questions being answered several times over.) The children also learned the reasons behind the military tradition of saluting. After a little practice, they also knew how to salute (most even using the right-handed method.)

"I'd encourage anybody who has a chance to [visit a classroom] to take the opportunity," Green said. "Young children are like sponges. They love to ask questions about where you've been and what you do. It's a really positive experience," he added.

Green, who has been in the military for 14 years, answered the "where" question a few times. He told the children about his military training and deployment trips to Israel, Saudi Arabia and bases around the United States only to be asked again "where" he'd been. "The kids were just so

intrigued by the whole thing — the uniform, our planes and our jobs," he said. "They'd been very excited about my visit for days before. And [Ann] told me that some of the parents told her that the kids wouldn't shut up about it for days after," he added.

The children seemed to have no problems understanding that not everybody in the Air Force is a pilot. Green's explanation about his job and his illustration about hangars seemed to astonish them. "It was just mind blowing to them to hear that we put planes in buildings," he said. The point had added emphasis because Green had showed a video of the refueling mission. "They were just glued to the screen for the video. And then to find out that the tankers went inside buildings," he added.

Noting the differences between the Guard and active duty, the children were also interested in Green's "other" job and his family. The students seemed impressed to find out that by the time Green retires there will be more than 100 years of accumulated military service between him and his siblings — six of eight of the Green children are serving or have military service.

The excitement in the classroom seemed to be shared equally among both the boys and the girls. "There was one



Lt. Col. Daniel Green explains the mission of the 107th ARW to students in Mrs. Ann Mauer's 1st Grade class using a KC-135R model airplane. Courtesy photo.

girl who was so grateful that she hugged me three times. She gave me a hug, said thanks, went to the back of the line [of the children thanking me], and did it again," Green said.

"She was just so enthralled by the whole thing," he added.

Green seems to be in agreement with Mauer that having a real, live person to explain some things is the best way to teach students some of the most important lessons in life. The meanings behind Veterans Day and the lives behind the uniforms are two such lessons.

"It was just such an upbeat thing. I really hope that Ann asks me back next year," Green said.

# When the Award is Just Icing on the Cake

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean  
HQ, 107th ARW

NIAGARA FALLS

Each of the eight Airmen in the wing is exceptional, so he isn't too sure how he came out on top. But regardless, Master Sgt. Bradley Wittlinger is the 107th Air Refueling Wing First Sergeant of the Year. "This really is a big surprise," he said.

Wittlinger is charged with managing the affairs of the logistics support flight enlisted population, which makes him responsible for almost 185 people (depending on retirements and new enlistees in a given month.) That's quite a job for a traditional guardsman. "But this job is all about people," he said. "If you aren't here to take care of people then you shouldn't apply for this [first sergeant] position," he added, implying that the more people a first sergeant has assigned, the greater the opportunity he has to do what he loves: taking care of them.

"Any one of the first sergeants could have been selected for this honor," Wittlinger said. "The decision must really have been the difference of a nose length," he added.



Master Sgt. Bradley Wittlinger

relationship that [Rogers] has allowed me to have with him," Wittlinger said. "He values my opinions, often times meets

Wittlinger was also selected as the Western New York Airman of the Year from the 107th ARW earlier in the year. He was formally recognized for this distinction at Armed Forces Day ceremonies in Buffalo.

"It's nice to be recognized," Wittlinger said. "But all I do is do my job. I might not even get everything right all of the time, but I do try as hard as I can — it's great to be commended. I really appreciate that," he added.

Wittlinger attributes a large part of his success to the officers who he works with, especially Maj. Kevin Rogers, the person Wittlinger deals most directly with. "I can't find words to express the work re-

me half way on things, and always listens. Col. [Patrick] Ginavan and Lt. Col. [Joseph] Zizzi are the same way," he added. Rogers is Wittlinger's most direct in line, as the maintenance squadron commander. Ginavan is the group commander, and Zizzi commands the maintenance operations flight.

Wittlinger likens the position of first sergeant to that of a boxer. Along with all of the good will that a first sergeant creates as an advocate and problem solver, there's also the times when he's required to perform the more unpleasant parts of the job. "Sometimes you have to step up and take a disciplinary action or correct something or somebody. That's when you really start to take a pounding; you can really get pummeled — really beaten up. That's why it's like being a boxer. This job has to be in your heart. You really have to love what you're doing," he said.

Wittlinger's most recent opportunity in the ring was during an Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment in 2003. "I remember living on 'combat naps' for quite a while," he said. "But having the chance to help all of those folks in that kind of situation is what this job is all about," he added.

"As a first sergeant, I get to be a sounding board for anything, everything and every one. But that's a good thing. I love this job — it's absolutely the most wonderful job I've had in my 20-plus years in the Air Force," he said.

## Boy Scouts earn Badges with 'Galaxy' Program

By Staff Sgt. John Gassler  
HQ, 105<sup>th</sup> AW

NEWBURGH

Italian scientist and mathematician Archimedes once said, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world." Well, they may not have moved the world on November 25, 2003, but 12 Boy Scouts from Cub Pack 118 out of Cortland Manor, NY, may have broadened theirs during an opportunity to perform a few experiments, earn their science badges and learn about the physics of flight while attending the 105<sup>th</sup> "Galaxy Program" at Stewart.

For those eager young minds that attended the "Galaxy Program," the day's brain teasing curriculum covered everything from Newton's law of motion and Pascal's law of pressure to Bernoulli's principle of flight. According to Laura Trusler, scout leader for Cub Pack 118, everything a Webelos needed to learn in hopes of earning their science badge was touched on in the class.

"Learning about scientific methods and principles helps Boy Scouts develop their power of thinking and deduction. It also gives them an opportunity to perform experiments, which aids in the learning process. Couple those two factors with a chance to visit a military base and tour an aircraft like the C-5, and you have a wonderful and enjoyable learning experience," she said.

As fun as climbing around a C-5 may have been, all 12 of the Boy Scouts needed to focus on scientific learning when "Galaxy Program" instructor Staff Sgt. Odie Masztalics of the 137<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron opened his lesson plan. Masztalics said the only prerequisites for his students were positive attitudes and smiles.

"For as far back as I can remember flying has been my greatest passion in life. I volunteered to teach the 'Galaxy Program' because I wanted to share and spread that feeling to others. When you love and truthfully enjoy what you do in life, it's more than a pleasure to pass it along to those around you. When there's an opportunity to introduce such enjoyment to our youth, it makes everything that much more enjoyable," he said.

So, how do airplanes fly? Well, according to Bernoulli's principle, the four forces of flight are lift, thrust gravity and drag. "Teaching Bernoulli's principle was my favorite part of the class because it's the theory most associated with aircraft. It's also the segment of the class with the best experiments," Masztalics said.

From hovering ping-pong balls held aloft by a blowing hairdryer to rudimentary thermometers, there seemed to be something fun and exciting for every Webelos who attended the "Galaxy Program." Speaking on behalf of the kids in the class, Tech. Sgt. Kim Robertson, 105<sup>th</sup> Community Initiatives NCOIC who coordinated the event, "The scouts absolutely loved visiting the base and having the opportunity to earn their science badges at Stewart. It was a wonderful afternoon for both young and old alike," she said.



South African Air Force C-130 pilot Lt. Col. Nicolaas Robbertse and lead navigator Lt. Col. Marius Payne tour an LC-130H Skibird in its hanger on Dec. 8 with the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander, Col. Max Della Pia and Operations Group Commander, Col. Brian D. Gomula. The visit is part of the New York National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Republic of South Africa; a joint endeavor to support mutual security cooperation objectives. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara.

## 109<sup>th</sup> Aircrew Training Breaks New Ground

By Col. Brian D. Gomula  
HQ, 109<sup>th</sup> AW Operations Group

STRATTON ANGB, GLENVILLE

The 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing played a lead role in the New York State Partnership Program's initiation with South Africa this December. Two officers of the South African Air Force, pilot Lt. Col. Nicolaas Robbertse and lead navigator Lt. Col. Marius Payne spent December 8-9 in upstate New York. The crewmen received a unit mission briefing, a tour of an LC-130H and an airdrop orientation flight.

The New York National Guard State Partnership Program with the Republic of South Africa is a new endeavor that was implemented in August of 2003. The program jointly supports mutual security cooperation objectives.

The program began in the early 1990s to assist young democracies of Eastern European nations. South Africa considers itself a "young democracy." As of this writing, 33 states, two territories (Puerto Rico and Guam) and the District of Columbia are partnered with 34 countries around the world.

Our part of the program highlights the fact that the National Guard is an all volunteer, professional military with state and federal missions; the unique civilian-military nature of the National Guard enables it to interact with active and reserve forces of a foreign nation, as well as its civilian governmental agencies. The National Guard, to include 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing personnel and the military system under which they operate, are models for the role of a military in a democratic society.

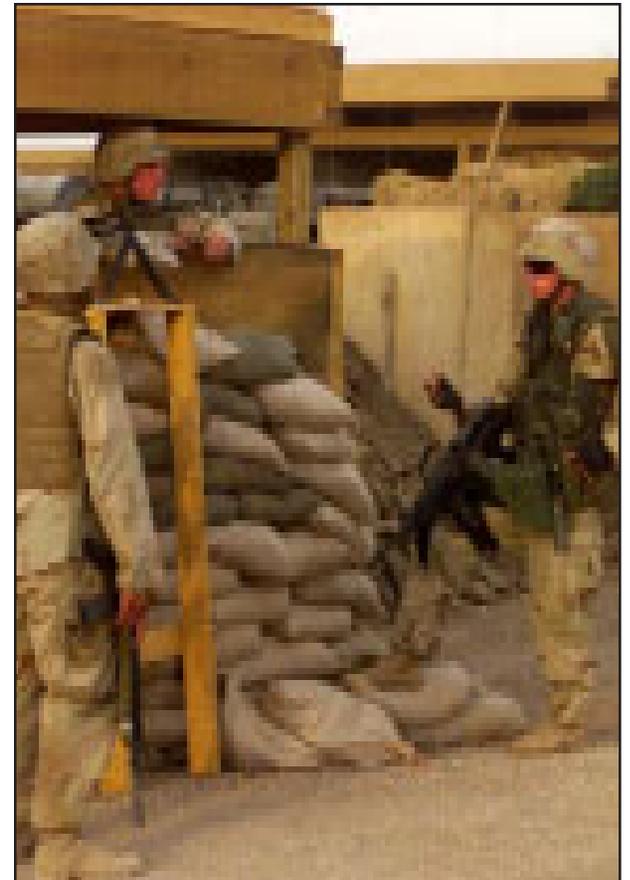
This relationship with South Africa is a historical first, but it's only the beginning. In Sept. 2004, the 109<sup>th</sup> plans to send one or possibly two aircraft to a South African Air Show. This and other future exchanges will provide more mission knowledge and involve additional Air Guard units in the partnership.

*Editor's note: The New York State Partnership Program with the Republic of South Africa continues to develop into 2004. The military to military relationship will expand to other New York Army and Air National Guard units in the missions to come.*

# 2003 in Review: Images of the



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jason Holmes, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, and New York Army National Guard Soldier Pfc. Chris Thompson of the 442nd Military Police Company, talk at the gate while waiting for Karbala City Police to show up and take a man into custody that was arrested by the Marines for waving around an AK-47 in public. The Marines and Soldiers worked in a combined task force in Karbala City for support in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathan Alan Huesdens.

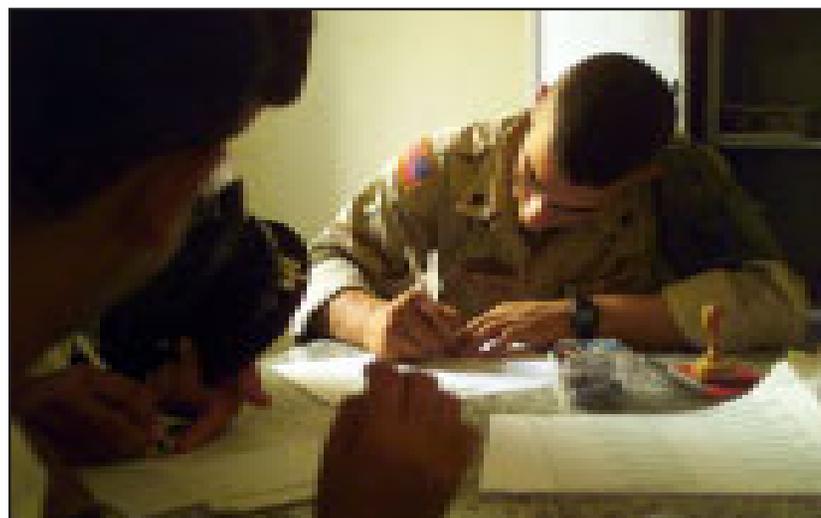


An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 174th Fighter Wing, Syracuse, New York, soars over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on Nov. 29, 2003. The 174th Air National Guard Fighter Wing has supported both the homeland security missions of the Air Force for Operation Noble Eagle as well as Air Expeditionary Force deployments to combat zones in Afghanistan and Iraq. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt Suzanne M. Jenkins.



Pararescuemen from the 101st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (above) guard the perimeter during a search and rescue training exercise at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, Sept. 16, 2003 (photo at left). The Airmen are members of the NY Air National Guard's 106th Air Rescue Wing from Westhampton, Long Island. Photo by Airman 1st Class Brian Ferguson.

Spc. Felix Hernaiz, 442nd Military Police Company, stands on top of his Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicle (Humvee) while searching the area for a possible chicken thief at a poultry farm in Karbala City, Iraq. The 442nd MP Company supported the U.S. Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment in Karbala City. U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathan Alan Huesdens.



Spc. Neil Brown with the 442nd Military Police issues out weapons cards to members of the police force in Karbala, Iraq, June 14, 2003. The New York Army National Guard Military Policemen are in Karbala City in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the multinational coalition to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and end the regime of Saddam Hussein. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nathan Alan Huesdens.

# Guard at War



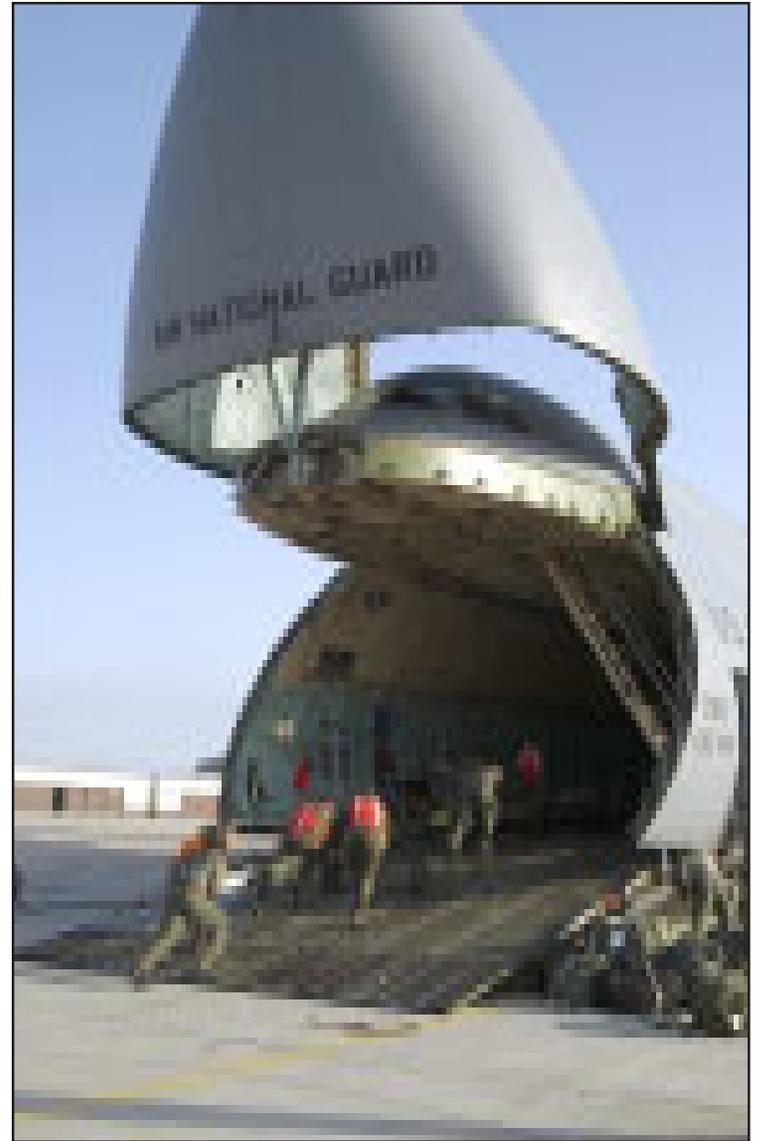
Above, members of the 105th Military Police Company conduct security patrols along some of the coalition authority's main travel routes in Iraq. The New York Army National Guard unit has been in Iraq for more than nine months supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Below, a Soldier from the 105th MP Company tries a different kind of transportation. Courtesy photos.



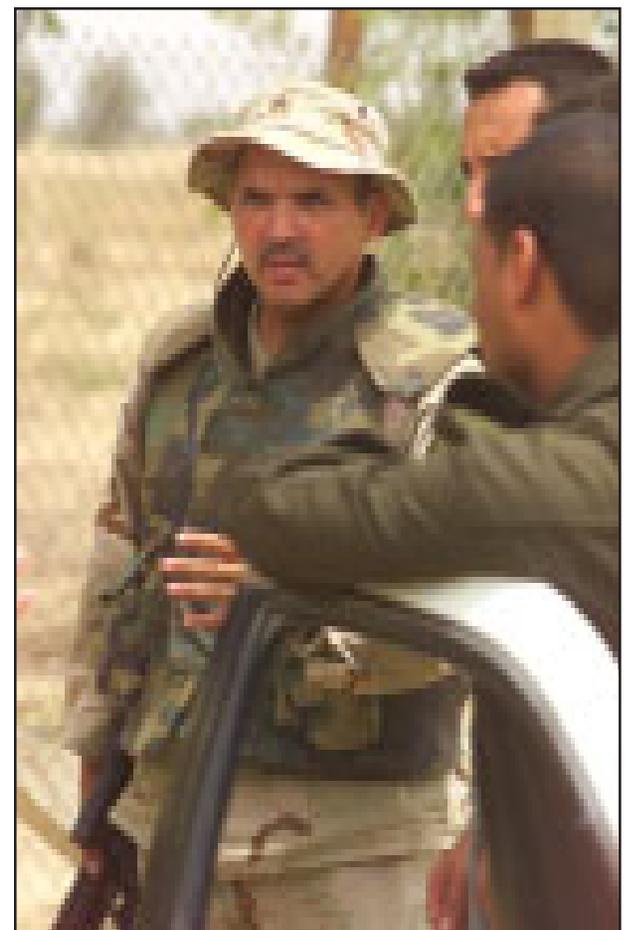
Sgt. Ernest G. Penn a Military Police Soldier with the 105th Military Police Company, New York Army National Guard, and assigned to the 504th Military Police Battalion Scania, Iraq, enjoys a cold soda and a hamburger during the grand opening of the first Burger King in Iraq, June 10, 2003. AAFES officials brought in the fast food chain to bring a taste of home to the troops during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Master Sgt. James M. Bowman.



Photo at right: New York Army National Guard Sgt. Hector Vega, 442nd Military Police Company, talks with Karbala City Police during a joint patrol in the city of Karbala, Iraq. The MP Company is working alongside U.S. Marines from the 3rd Battalion 7th Marines in Karbala City supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Below, Vega points out the possible location of a man believed to be stealing chickens from a poultry farm to Karbala City Police Officers. U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathan Alan Heusdens.



A load team from the 509th Bomb Wing and C-5 loadmasters from the 105th Airlift Squadron, New York Air National Guard, load a B-2 tow bar into a C-5 Galaxy for deployment to the Central Command theater on March 10, 2003 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The 105th Airlift Wing deployed the 509th Bomb Wing to its first-ever forward operating location to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Gaddis.



## 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade Safeguards Cub Scout Event

Guard Times Staff

CROSS RIVER

The Westchester-Putnam Council, Boy Scouts of America held its eleventh annual *Thunderbird Games* on October 18 and 19, 2003 at Ward Pound Ridge County Reservation, Cross River, New York. Supporting the scouts were Soldiers of the New York Guard's 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade, providing volunteer assistance for security and safety support.

The scouting event, one of the largest of its kind in America, included about 4,000 people in attendance, including thousands of Cub Scouts, Tiger Cubs and their families.

Col. William S. "Ziggy" Bernfeld, a twenty-five year scouting volunteer and retired Army Reservist, was the event's overall chairman. "The young scouts had a wonderful time exploring such events as "Jamboree on the Air," fire trucks, moonwalks and over twenty-five games and activities," said Bernfeld, a colonel in the New York Guard's 12<sup>th</sup> Training Regiment. "Our theme was "Super Heroes" and we were thrilled to have the scouts work with and learn from such outstanding members of our community as the New York Guard Soldiers, volunteer firefighters, local, county and state police officers, emergency medical service technicians and officers from the county department of corrections," he said.

Yonkers Police Detective Sergeant Kevin Murphy, a scouting volunteer and the event's chairman of safety and security paid special thanks to the soldiers of the

New York Guard. "Due to our concern for the safety of our scouts and our overall continued vigilance, we were glad that the New York Guard was again able to provide our event with excellent traffic flow coordination, crowd control and overall security," Murphy said. "The thousands of participants were more comfortable seeing and knowing that the New York Guard Soldiers were on duty. We hope that they will be an important part of our event for years to come."



Above, members of the NY Guard's 56th Brigade provide security and assistance duties at the Eleventh Annual Boy Scouts of America Thunderbird Games in Cross River, NY. About 4,000 scouts and families attended the event (at left) which included a tribute to heroes. The scouts and their families interacted with members of the NY Guard, volunteer firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical technicians from the area. "The thousands of participants were more comfortable seeing and knowing that the New York Guard Soldiers were on duty," said Kevin Murphy, the scouting volunteer in charge of safety and security for the event. Courtesy photos.



Sailors and Sea Cadets of the NY Naval Militia help to move their float vehicle to the side before stepping off on foot for the Albany Veteran's Day parade on November 11th. Courtesy photo.

## New York Naval Militia Misses Ride for Veterans Day Parade

By Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Kaskoun  
NY Naval Militia

ALBANY

Members of the New York State Naval Militia, Naval Reserve and Sea Cadets were on hand for the annual Veterans day parade November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003 in Albany, NY. The Sea Cadets took the honor of acting as the Color Guard for the marching unit, while the rest of the contingent fell into line behind the Color Guard.

Before the parade began problems occurred with the float. The Shore Patrol Jeep, from the USS Slater, was the mobile unit pulling the likeness of the Slater. There wasn't a problem getting to the parade route but once the jeep arrived at the start of the parade, it quit. The jeep and the float had to be pushed to the side and the parade went on without the float. Commander Kraus and Senior Chief Daniels can be seen moving the jeep to the side.

The day started out cold and cloudy and then proceeded to go down hill. By the time the Naval marches reached the end of the parade the weather turned to rain and snow. The rest of the parade had the honor of marching in the rain.

# Air Wing's Annual Good Deed Led by True Believer

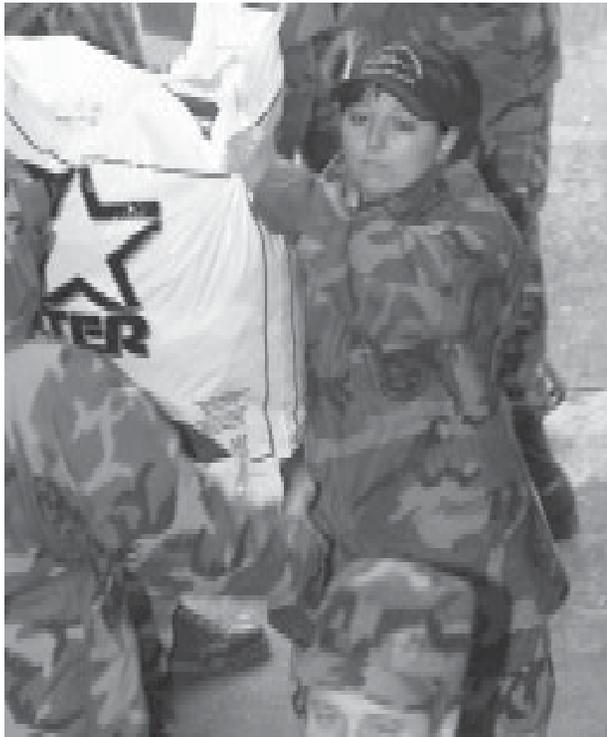
Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean  
HQ, 107th ARW

## NIAGARA FALLS

Not thinking that some used clothing was enough, he collected \$300 in one afternoon a decade or so ago. Now, after a steady annual increase, and because of donuts, chili and jeans, this year's 107th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) donation to the Niagara Falls City Mission and Kitchen exceeded \$3,700.

"It's like when you're down and out and then you see the cavalry show up," said Joanne Lorenzo, the supervisor working at the mission Dec. 17, when the second delivery from the 2003 107th ARW Mission Drive arrived.

Master Sgt. Gene Spino leads the fund-raising committee for the annual mission drive, and although he passes along all of the gratitude from those at the kitchen to everybody else in the wing, the secret that everybody knows is that he brings it all together. Spino is the man who collected the



Members of the 107th ARW help load two trucks worth of donated items to the Niagara Falls mission on December 17th as part of the Air Wing's community support project in 2003.

\$300 way back when. He also serves both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals at the mission.

The Thanksgiving meal is when he takes an opportunity to figure out how best to help the mission with that year's 107th donations. "I take a look around to see what they might need," he said (as if the only reason he shows up to serve the meal is some kind of clandestine operation.)

Fund-raising for the mission drive starts in October of each year. 2003's effort included a doughnut sale, chili cook off, command approved dress down days and a silent auction. "Every year seems to get better and better," said Spino. "All it takes is somebody to push the [giving] buttons in the people around here. All you have to do is ask and people are reaching into their pockets to help. This really is one big family," he added.

Tech. Sgt. Carol Bright also sees the mission drive as helping out a part of the 107th extended family. "We have a responsibility to pay back to the community. This base is one of the area's biggest employers and not everybody

is fortunate enough to have good jobs like [we] do here," she said. This was first time that Bright helped unload the donation at the mission. "I really wanted to help. This is a good cause — helping people in trouble, the homeless and people in hard times," she added.

The tractor-trailer, which left base on the snowy afternoon of Dec. 17, was met at the mission by a bus-load of 107th volunteers who would bucket-brigade the supplies down a dark alley — some then having to be passed to the 3rd floor of the building, others, like the 30 pound packs of flour, down to the basement.

"This is what this time of year is all about," said Master Sgt. Ken Kelkenberg. "This is about helping people who need help (and it's a great workout unloading the truck too)," he added.

Helping others is the "real" reason that Spino is so dedicated to the mission drive. And although he likes to deflect as much praise as possible, he is well aware that people see him as the person leading the effort. It's an identity that he's more than comfortable with, and one that doesn't burden him. "You do [things like this] for reasons. Not glory. Not for anything else but reasons. And all of [my] reasons are the right ones," he said.

The 107th ARW donated two trailers full of clothing, toys, gift certificates, and more than \$2,800 worth of groceries

and baby food purchased with the money raised during the 2003 mission drive. The donation will last well into March, according to Lorenzo, who said that the mission feeds 80 to 100 people each day, six days a week. 150 to 200 people eat at the mission on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Spino enjoys being at the mission Christmas Day, seeing some of the joy first hand. "It's nice to see them smile, especially the kids. They have a nice meal and get one or two toys to open," he said.

The gratitude of the people at the mission belongs to the members of the wing as Spino sees it. Everything is possible because of the people in his shop, who carry some of his work load during the fund drive, to his commanders, who support the cause and help in any and every way, and to everybody who donates time, money and energy.

Spino is sure that if and when he retires, somebody will step up and take over the cause. And Lorenzo isn't too worried about Spino retiring. "He'll probably just end up working [at the mission]," she said.

The two truckloads of donations, including food, money, clothing and toys is estimated to help support dozens of people for three months.

"It's great that we're able to do something to help, but I always wish I could do more," said Spino. He's a man on a mission for the mission, and his reasons are the right ones.

## Guard Members Receive Unlimited Commissary Benefits

AAFES News Release

WASHINGTON, DC

The Department of Defense announced Nov. 24 that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, the following members and their dependents will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores:

- Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

- Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

- Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see

banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until today when the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which contained provisions eliminating the restrictions. Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

"I want to thank Congress and the Department of Defense for their efforts in bringing the commissary shopping privilege to the total force," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "The Congress included unlimited commissary benefits in the National Defense Authorization Act thus making full time shopping possible for the men and women who serve their nation in the National Guard and Reserve."

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Abell acted decisively and immediately in providing interim authority for the Reserve component to have full-time commissary shopping just in time to take advantage of holiday savings.

For more information about the Defense Commissary Agency, see their Web site at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

## NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

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GARRETT FOUNTAIN HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE

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KYLE R. HEALY 108 IN BN 02 CO B  
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 NIBERLEY N. HUTSON HHD 342D FWD SPT BN  
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 RASHOUN A. JACKSON HHB 1-258TH FA  
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 PHILLIPA F. POWELL 1569TH TRANS CO  
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 RUBEN D. RODRIGUEZ 133D MAINTENANCE CO (-)  
 JOSEPH ROMERO BATTERY A 1-258TH FA  
 STEVEN A. ROY 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2  
 ERIC D. SMITH 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2  
 KYLE E. SMITH H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 HOLLY SPRINGSTEAD H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 DANIEL J. STEVENS 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2  
 CLAUDIO A. STJOHN II DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN  
 WILLIAM B. STJOHN JR HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)

TAMICO G. TOBY 1569TH TRANS CO  
 JUSTIN S. TREVETT DET 1 CO B 427TH SPT BN  
 KENNETH TRUESDELL 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2  
 JOEL VALLES DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN  
 GOANERGIS VARGAS 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 MARCOS VARGAS CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 MATTHEW S. WAGNER HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR  
 CHRISTOPHER WALLACE CO B 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 SCOTT W. WALSH CO C 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 SAM WEBSTER CO B 204 ENGR BN  
 SHELAAN L. WILLIAMS HHD 342D FWD SPT BN  
 LUCAS F. WOODS 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B

**PRIVATE 2**

JOSE M. ALONZO III CO C 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 JUSTIN T. AUSTIN 4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET  
 AYOOLA A. AWOSIKA 1569TH TRANS CO  
 ASHLEY N. AZZALINA DET 1 CO A 427TH SPT BN  
 DAVID M. BALLARD 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B  
 LUIS A. BAUTISTA HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 JAN M. BELL HHC 427TH SPT BN  
 DANA C. BELLIDO CO A 342D FWD SPT BN  
 ANGELO BENCIVENGA CO E 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 BERNARD BIRMINGHAM HHD 342D FWD SPT BN  
 JUSTIN D. BROWN HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 JOEL CANTRES CO B 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 JENNIFER CARRAWAY CO C 427TH SUPPORT BN  
 KEVIN G. COLEMAN 156 FA BN 01 HHS FWD 3  
 JACK D. COONS 108 IN BN 02 HHC REAR NY  
 HOLLY A. CORICA CO C(-) 638 SPT BN  
 ALEXANDER CORRIGAN 108 IN BN 01 CO A DET 1 REAR  
 JOHN D. CRESPO CO C 1-69TH INF (M)  
 DANNY L. DAWLEY II 827TH ENGR CO  
 RAY A. DELFI DET 1 50TH MAIN SPT BN  
 ADALGISA DIAZ DET 1 HHC 107TH SPT GROUP  
 SHAUN M. DOANE 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMORREAR  
 NADARIN A. EVANS CO C (-) 1-108TH INF  
 MICHELLE R. FIELDS HHD 342D FWD SPT BN  
 HIRAM E. FIGUEROA 1569TH TRANS CO  
 DUSTY L. FULLER 107TH MP CO (RD)  
 RAFAEL A. GABOT DET 1 HHC 107TH SPT GROUP  
 JORGE A. GAVILANES 14TH FINANCE DET  
 NICHOLAS E. GEYER CO E 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 MYISHA B. GODETTE HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
 MICHELLE J. GOMEZ CO B 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 DION G. GRANGER CO B 342D FWD SPT BN  
 CHRISTOPHER GRIVAS CO C 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 ANDREW D. HASSON CO C 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 WILLIAM M. HOOVER DET 1 CO C 1-108TH INF  
 ESSIEN R. HORNE CO B 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 JASON S. HWANG HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 KATIE J. JONES 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 DERYK E. KNIPES 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO B  
 DERRICK J. LAMB CO A(-) 204 ENGR BN  
 JOHN P. LEVANDOWSKI DET 2 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
 ARTHUR S. LOOMIS CO B 204 ENGR BN  
 BRIAN J. LOPEZ CO C 1-69TH INF (M)  
 MARIO L. LOZANO JR CO B 1-105 INF  
 NADEAN A. MCCABE HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV  
 RICHARD MCLAREN JR DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN  
 MOHAMED MUNASSAR DET 1 HHC 1-127TH ARMOR  
 JOSUE M. NEGRON HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 MICHAEL NEITHARDT CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 DONALD NEWCOMB JR CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 ANDREW P. NEWLOVE 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO C  
 SHAUN M. PRZYBYLSKI 827 EN CO SEP IN FWD  
 JACQUES RAPHAEL CO C 1-105 INF  
 SEAN W. ROWLAND 133D MAINTENANCE CO (-)  
 MARIO L. RUIZ HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID (M)  
 HARPREET SINGH CO C(-) 638 SPT BN  
 SHANIECE M. SLOWE 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMORREAR  
 MISTY N. SMITH CO C 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 DMITRY SOLOMINSKY 1ST BN 106TH REG (GS)  
 JESSE D. SOLOMON DET 2 CO B 638 SPT BN  
 DUSTIN M. SPIEGEL H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 ERIC F. TASAKOVIC CO C 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 WALTER TAYLOR CO B 230TH SIGNAL BN  
 AMANDA M. THAYER 107TH MP CO (RD)  
 MARK D. UNGER HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID (M)  
 MATTHEW WHITE JR 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMORREAR  
 CHAD T. WHITERMORE CO B 1-127TH ARMOR



## Well-Wishes Sent Back from Iraq

Members of the 105th Military Police Company display holiday wishes delivered from home by The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire during the TAG's visit to Iraq this fall. Pictured from left are Sgt. Troy Emke, Capt. Michael Fowler, Spec. Mikki Perkins, Staff Sgt. Dean Chatten, Maj. Gen. Maguire and Spec. Joel Weinheimer. The 105th MP Company is expected to redeploy to New York in the spring. See our Guard Times coverage of the unit on page 6. Courtesy photo.

## NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

### COLONEL

VARGO, JEAN A NEW YORK ANG HQ

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL

GRASS, GERALD T 106 LOG READINES SQDN

### MAJOR

BIGGIN, WILBUR C III 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
CASEMENT, RANDALL 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
FORRESTER, THOMAS F 105 SERVICES FLT  
HEIGLE, JAMES M 152 AIR OPERATIONS GRP  
LINCOLN, DANNY J 139 AIRLIFT SQDN  
RIZZO, JOSEPH A 105 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
SARMIENTO, MAURO 105 LOG READINES SQDN  
SHAPIRO, ROGER D 139 AIRLIFT SQDN

### CAPTAIN

CARDONSMITH, KIMBERLY 105 COMMO FLT  
LOBRAICO, LINDA A 105 MEDICAL SQDN  
MARAGLIO, PERRY R 102 RESCUE SQDN  
SEDOTTO, JOSEPH M 102 RESCUE SQDN

### 1st LIEUTENANT

CAPUTO, NICOLAS 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
GANCASZ, JOHN L NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQDN  
IUDICA, CRAIG A 106 STUDENT FLT  
MELENDEZ, EMILIO 106 RESCUE WG  
PYKE, DAVID W C JR 174 FIGHTER WG  
REYNOLDS, SHAWN P 136 AIR REFUELING SQDN

### 2nd LIEUTENANT

CORDOVA, PATRICK H 105 AIRLIFT WG  
COSGROVE, ERIN P 105 AERIAL PORT SQDN  
DIETERICH, ROBERT J 109 AERIAL PORT FLT  
FRENCH, MARISSA T 152 AIR OPERATIONS GRP  
HOCKEY, JAMES V 174 FIGHTER WG  
RICHARDSON, GARY 174 FIGHTER WG  
SCHROEDER, TRACY L 174 SECURITY FORCES SQDN  
SCHULTZ, NICHOLAS P 174 STUDENT FLT  
WEDDING, FRANK G 137 AIRLIFT SQDN

### CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

CHOMYCZ, JOHN W 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
ELLIS, ROBERT W 109 MEDICAL SQDN  
LEISER, ROBERT J 107 SERVICES FLT  
MORGAN, RAYMOND P 109 OPERATIONS GRP  
THOMSON, CHRISTOPHER 105 MAINT SQDN

### SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

DOXSEY, GREGORY J 105 LOG READINES SQDN  
LAMBERT, EDWARD J 109 MEDICAL SQDN  
MAUPIN, TERESA C 107 COMMUNICATIONS FLT  
ROBERTS, JOHN M 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
ZIMMERMANN, JOHN 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN

### MASTERSERGEANT

BUCCELLATO, JAMES JR 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
CHYLINSKI, MARK E 107 COMMUNICATIONS FLT  
CINCOTTA, JOSEPH A 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
COTTER, JOSEPH 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
DUNN, JEFFREY R 105 MAINT OPS FLT  
EDWARDS, DANIEL S 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
GALLMON, ALICIA C 106 COMMO FLT  
GRAUSGRUBER, STEPHEN 174 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
HODGSON, FELIX G 109 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
LAHL, JOHN A 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
LASSITER, JASON T 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
MANN, MARK J 109 AERIAL PORT FLT  
MARTIN, ROBERT J 174 LOG READINES SQDN  
MCDERMOTT, MICHAEL 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
MEISSNER, RICHARD C 105 LOG READINES SQDN  
PARRILLO, LIBERATO 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
PINK, DAVID L 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
PRONTI, KENNETH A 107 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
RANDOLPH, REYNOLD 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
RICHARDSON, STEPHEN 106 MAINTENANCE GRP  
ROBINSON, WAYNE A 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
RODRIGUEZ, ORLANDO 109 MISSION SUPPORT FLT  
ROY, JULES 102 RESCUE SQDN  
SCHROEDER, WILLIAM 174 SECURITY FORCES SQDN  
SCOTT, TIMOTHY J 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
SMITH, GLENN M 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
STICCA, MARIO 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
WINDELS, HENRY W 137 AIRLIFT SQDN

### TECHSERGEANT

AGUILERA, DANIEL R 137 AIRLIFT SQDN

ALVARADO, ALBERT 105 MISSION SUPPORT FLT  
BASHER, RICHARD R 107 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
BOUSKA, TIMOTHY E 109 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
BUSSE, ROBERT P 106 LOG READINES SQDN  
CIEJKA, CHRISTOPHER 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
CORRELL, SHERRY R 152 AIR OPERATIONS GRP  
EMERICK, VICTOR W 102 RESCUE SQDN  
FARLEY, DAVID P 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
JUDD, KEVIN M 106 COMMO FLT  
KEARNS, MARK E 109 SERVICES FLT  
KILDEA, TIMOTHY J 174 SECURITY FORCES SQDN  
KONG, KA W 106 SERVICES FLT  
LINAN, LISSETTE A 105 MEDICAL SQDN  
LOPICCOLO, OTTAVIO 109 SERVICES FLT  
MARTIN, PATRICK A 107 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
MOSEMAN, JEFFREY S 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
PERRETTA, CATHERINE 109 COMMUNICATIONS FLT  
TERRY, PETER J 174 LOG READINES SQDN  
WILLSEY, GREGORY A 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN

### STAFF SERGEANT

BARELA, CHRISTOPHER 105 SECURITY FORCES SQDN  
BARONELÓPEZ, THERESA 109 LOG READINES SQDN  
BEHNKE, JENNIFER L 105 SERVICES FLT  
BOULERICE, ALDEN G NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQDN  
BOULERICE, ALDEN G NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQDN  
BURNAH, PRISCILLA L NEW YORK ANG HQ  
CHAPKO, JEROD G 109 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
CITRULLO, JOHN A 174 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
CLEMETS, MISTY A 109 STUDENT FLT  
COOPER, JASON M 109 STUDENT FLT  
COVELL, PATRICK N 107 MAINT OPS FLT  
DAVIS, NATIMA S NEW YORK ANG HQ  
DEMANIA, JASON M 109 LOG READINES SQDN  
DICRASTO, PATRICK A 274 AIR SUPT OPNS SQDN  
DOHERTY, CHRISTOPHER 107 SECURITY FORCES SQDN  
FOUNTAIN, JENNIFER K 109 AIRLIFT WG  
FREDERICK, TODD J 105 AERIAL PORT SQDN  
FRISS, MARK A 109 AIRLIFT WG  
GRZESZCZAK, ERIC J 105 STUDENT FLT  
HELTZEL, NATHAN J 105 STUDENT FLT  
HOGAN, SEAN C 105 AERIAL PORT SQDN  
IRVING, TIMOTHY J 105 AERIAL PORT SQDN  
KING, ANTHONY J 107 LOG READINES SQDN  
KLINE, MARSHALL E JR 109 STUDENT FLT  
LEGUILLOU, HENRY 105 AERIAL PORT SQDN  
MACK, AVERY B 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
MADER, TIMOTHY D 174 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
MATTHEWS, BRIAN F 174 COMMUNICATIONS FLT  
OSBORNE, JEMMA L 105 LOG READINES SQDN  
OWEN, JASON A 174 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
RUST, MICHAEL G 174 LOG READINES SQDN  
SAMUELS, ALICIA T 106 MISSION SUPPORT GRP  
SANCHEZ, ALAND J 152 AIR OPERATIONS GRP  
SCHOEN, JOHN M 105 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
SILVA, CHARLES J 106 MEDICAL SQDN  
SIMMONS, JEFFREY P 105 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
SPIEWAK, DANIEL K 109 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
STAPLES, SHAWN C 105 STUDENT FLT  
SUNDE, REBECCA L 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
SWIDERSKI, MARK 109 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
SZCZEPANIEC, MATTHEW 107 SECURITY FORCES SQDN  
WALKER, KERRY J 109 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
WARREN, KEVIN JR 105 LOG READINES SQDN  
WILLIAMS, HAYWOOD NEAD SCTY FORC FLT FLT

### SENIOR AIRMAN

BANCROFT, ROBERT R 106 LOG READINES SQDN  
BIRMAN, DAVID A 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
BRYANT, FRANK J 109 STUDENT FLT  
CIGLIANO, HARRY M 106 SECURITY FORCES SQDN  
CLAYDON, SARAH K 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
CLINE, DANIEL R 107 ACFT GENERAT SQDN  
COLELLA, FRANK DOMINICK II 105 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
CORNELL, SCOTT A 105 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
DAHLSTROM, JERAD K 152 AIR OPERATIONS GRP  
DASCOMB, MARK J 107 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
DAVIS, THOMAS A 174 OPERATIONS SPT FLT  
DICK, GARY E JR 174 MISSION SUPPORT GRP  
FERREIRA, SKEETER N 109 STUDENT FLT  
FIORILLO, GARY S 109 STUDENT FLT  
FIORILLO, RONALD P II 109 MEDICAL SQDN

GARNSEY, ELIZABETH 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
GATELEIN, PHILLIP J 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
GILRAY, THOMAS JR A 107 ACFT GENERAT SQDN  
GORDON, ROBERT W 109 SERVICES FLT  
HANSEN, ROSS Z 152 AIR OPERATIONS GRP  
HENNESSY, MAREA A 105 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
HOMER, RENEE A NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQDN  
JAMES, BRIAN H 174 STUDENT FLT  
KINGKNIGHTS, CHARLENE 105 AERIAL PORT SQDN  
KNUDTSON, JOSHUA M 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
MANZELLA, DANIEL C 102 RESCUE SQDN  
MARRA, STEPHEN J 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
MCCLOWRY, MARK P 174 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
MOIX, DAVID 106 STUDENT FLT  
MOSS, JASON C 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
ODOM, BENJAMIN C 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
PRIETTI, SCOTT J 174 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
RICHARDSON, KARL V 174 SECURITY FORCES SQDN  
ROBERTO, NICHOLAS J 105 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
ROSANTE, DAVID A JR 102 RESCUE SQDN  
ROSARIO, ISAAC 105 ACFT MAINT SQDN  
SCHIESSER, MARK A 109 LOG READINES SQDN  
SCHULTZ, CARL B 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQDN  
SILVER, STEVEN G 109 STUDENT FLT  
WHITNEY, KENNETH E 274 AIR SUPT OPNS SQDN  
YUSUP, ANTHONY D 106 STUDENT FLT

### AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

BURROUGHS, TERAH P 174 STUDENT FLT  
CAMACHO, AMANDA L 109 STUDENT FLT  
CEPARANO, CHASE M 106 STUDENT FLT  
CHAKRABORTY, BUDDHADEV 107 STUDENT FLT  
CLARK, AURA M 106 STUDENT FLT  
CODY, MARTIN W 105 STUDENT FLT  
DANDRIDGE, JEFFREY S 137 AIRLIFT SQDN  
DEJA, JACEK R 106 STUDENT FLT  
DIAZ, ROBERT 105 STUDENT FLT  
FRANK, MICHAEL P 107 STUDENT FLT  
HAWORTH, MATTHEW 106 STUDENT FLT  
HINT, BRIAN R 105 STUDENT FLT  
JOHNSON, JONAH S 105 STUDENT FLT  
JORDAN, LARRY D JR 107 STUDENT FLT  
KEENO, RENAE M 105 STUDENT FLT  
KILEY, DANIEL G 105 MAINTENANCE SQDN  
LANTZ, JAMES M 174 STUDENT FLT  
MANOY, ANNE M 105 STUDENT FLT  
MARTINGREEN, SKY 105 STUDENT FLT  
MCDUFFIE, DARREN JR 107 STUDENT FLT  
NARAMORE, WILLIAM 174 STUDENT FLT  
SIMON, GERARD L 105 STUDENT FLT  
STARK, MICHAEL J 109 STUDENT FLT  
SWANICK, KATIE M 107 STUDENT FLT  
VALENTINO, MATTHEW 107 STUDENT FLT  
WOOLFORD, CARI E 106 STUDENT FLT

### AIRMAN

BREINER, NICHOLAS G 106 STUDENT FLT  
LEBRON, MARIE L 105 LOG READINES SQDN  
MCINTYRE, MARTIN B 105 STUDENT FLT



## Deep Freeze 2003

Master Sgt. Elliot McGuigan of the 139th Airlift Wing from Stratton Air National Guard Base directs unloading of cargo from an LC-130H ski plane at Willaims Field, Antarctica, in support of Operation Deep Freeze, Feb. 7, 2003. The 109th Airlift Wing returned to the South Pole for operations this fall. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Zuccaro.

# New Airmen Become 'Brats' at 109<sup>th</sup> Air Wing

Story and Photos by Senior Airman Mike R. Smith  
HQ, 109<sup>th</sup> AW

STRATTON ANGB, GLENVILLE

**W**hat kinds of challenges stand out when you think about your military career and when were they? It's easy to overlook the challenges new servicemembers face when first joining a unit, but most of us would agree that basic military training is one of the larger accomplishments of a military career. When compared to a football career, it's having the Super Bowl the first game of the season.

A new guard member must overcome many obstacles during their indoctrination. They must find their place among the ranks and work hard to prove their ability and dedication to serve.

In time, each makes their own mark through contributions to their unit, but in their first months with the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, they are called BRATS.

No, they are not spoiled, disrespectful children; at least, it's hoped not. BRATS is an acronym that stands for **B**asic **R**ecruits **A**ttending **T**raining at **S**tratton.

The 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's BRATS program continues to prove its value in preparing new members for basic training, technical school, indoctrination and successful military careers beyond.

"The BRATS themselves are the element and the sole purpose of why we do what we do, which is to better prepare and train basic recruits prior to their departure for basic training," said Master Sgt. Guy Yesse, BRATS instructor and NCOIC of Polar Plans and Programs here.

Training consists of physical conditioning, Air Force history and organizations (chain of command), dress and appearance, safety and customs and courtesies.

New guard members at Stratton, who are not prior-service, attend BRATS training one-weekend per-month, up to their departure for Air Force Basic Training at Lackland AFB, TX. Upon their return, each member returns to BRATS for two additional drill weekends to provide valuable insight on Lackland's current training requirements.

Some BRATS have received the Distinguished Graduate Award from Lackland for their outstanding performance.

"It gives the instructors a lot of pride to see our members succeed and to know we were able to provide for them a good start in their Air Force careers," Yesse said.

Yesse, a former Army Drill Instructor, explained that the cadre use a combination of items to prepare new recruits for basic military training including past experiences and manuals received from Lackland.

Cadre Advisor Tech. Sgt. Michael Trefzger, an Aircraft Mechanic here, developed the



idea of a BRATS program. Trefzger gained the Wing's support and received help from Chief Master Sgt. Lou Aldi and the Wing Commander, who additionally helped supply the BRATS with practice uniforms and lockers.

The continued success of the BRATS program is also due to the support of many individuals, including its instructors or cadre consisting of Senior Master Sgt. Michael Delgiacco, 139AS Standard Evaluation Flight Engineer and Master Sgt. Kari Booth, 109AWDOM. Additionally, the cadre works in conjunction with the management support of 109<sup>th</sup> First Sergeant, Master Sgt. James Cullum, Capt. Tammy Street (BRATS OIC) and Lt. Col. Thomas Mason, Personnel Director here.

The Wing's Recruiting Office, which is a first contact with the Air National



For new Air National Guard Recruits, it all starts here; standing in ranks in a crisp, new uniform, shining boots to a mirror-shine and pinning on name tags that set them apart. Who are they? They are the fresh pulse of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and the future leaders of the Air National Guard. They are the Stratton ANGB BRATS.



New recruits at the Stratton ANGB in Glenville, NY undergo a uniform inspection during last August's drill under the trained eyes of Senior Master Sgt. Michael Delgiacco and Master Sgt. Guy Yesse.

Guard for many recruits, provides key support for the program.

"The Wing Recruiting Office is a huge focal point of how we make things happen," Yesse said.

Prior to the BRATS program, there was little productive work to do for non prior-service recruits while they waited for training, said Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson, Recruiting Office Supervisor here.

"With the BRATS program, they now have a cadre that cares about their success."

Ryerson explained that the program helps reduce some apprehension of applicants by showing prospective recruits a system setup to ease their entry into military service and allow them to succeed.

It made boot camp much easier for me, especially when students would come back from basic and share their experiences with the group, said Airman 1st Class Jessica Tomlinson. "It let us know the little things of what and what not to do," she added. Tomlinson is currently working in the Wing's engine shop, conducting OJT while awaiting her technical school.

"It (BRATS) prepares you, and you know what you have to do when you get to boot camp," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson added that base dining-hall details provided an opportunity to meet people, hear stories and share in the Wing's experiences.

"Services work is more than a detail," BRATS instructor, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Delgiacco said.

Delgiacco explained that the BRATS use classroom knowledge—such as rank structures and customs and courtesies—in a real military setting and provide a valuable service while taking part in a military tradition.

"Everybody gains from having them up there as a group and treated equally as a single unit," said Delgiacco.

From a BRATS first drill in civilian clothes, to their departure and return from basic training and into their career as guardsman, past BRATS will remember their first months here training and receiving the best start the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing could give them.

"I hope they have an easier time than I did, because when I got to Marine boot camp I didn't have a clue what to expect until I arrived," Delgiacco said.

## NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD REENLISTMENTS

### HHD STARC (-) NYARNG

MSG JOSEPH M. MRAZ  
SFC JOEL B. POWZYK  
MSG RANDALL D. SWARTZ

### MEDICAL COMMAND

SGT PETER A. APONTE  
SGT THOMAS A. CZAJKA  
CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE  
SPC ANGELO L. CRISPIN  
SGT SAMUEL JACOBS

### HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)

SSG TERRY S. BENSON  
SSG JEREMY J. RYAN

### RECRUITING AND RETEN- TION COMMAND

SGT ASIF R. ISLAM  
SFC MOSE PERRY

### HHC 42 IN DIV (-)

SGT CHRISTOPHER E. ALBERT  
SPC MICHAEL J. BURDICK  
SFC DENNIS J. CHEVALIER  
SGT ANGEL D. DANZY  
SFC THOMAS S. FANCHER  
SPC RAYMOND G. SMALLING  
SSG TERRY M. STAUB  
SFC BERNARD M. STRUYS

### DET 1 HHB 42 DIV ARTY

SPC EDWARD M. SEYMOUR  
HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
SGT DONALD A. BEAUREGARD  
MSG RICHARD T. CROPISEY  
SSG MARCEL A. GRENIER

### CO C 642ND MI BN

SGT NATHAN J. BEASLEY  
SPC DUDLEY MCCONNELL II  
SGT MARK J. MILLER

### HHC (-) 1-69 INF (M)

CPL LINUS L. ALEXANDER  
CPL DAVID W. BARRY  
SPC STEPHEN P. MANNIX  
SPC CESAR D. SANCHEZ

### CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)

PFC EMILIO MONTALVO  
CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
SPC EDWARD J. BONINERGER  
SGT ERIC M. SEYMOUR

### CO C 1-69TH INF (M)

SPC KENNETH C. ALBARRAN  
SGT JAMES H. MIRRO  
SGT JOHN R. PIORKOWSKI  
SGT ROBERT R. RODGERS  
CO D 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
1SG THOMAS J. CAREY  
SGT JOHN J. CHIQUITUCTO  
SGT PATRICK M. MCNALLY  
SSG PABLO RIVERA

### DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF (M)

SPC FABIAN MALDONADO  
SGT JOSEPH P. NORMANDIA  
SPC DENNIS E. SACAZA

### CO A 342D FWD SPT BN

SGT OSCAR A. BURNS  
SPC ROLAND J. VANSKIVER JR  
CO B 342D FWD SPT BN  
SPC JAMES E. BROWN  
SFC LESLIE A. DOLLINGER  
SPC JAIME R. DRAKE  
SGT BARBARA MIDDLETON

### HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY

SPC DAVID L. BERNAL  
SGT ROBERTO J. FUNES  
SPC MICHAEL R. LENT  
SGT REINALDO LOPERENA  
SGT SAMUEL E. PERALTA  
SSG CHARLES J. STYCHEK  
SGT ASHVIN M. THIMMAIAH

SSG MICKEY VELAZQUEZ  
CPL RONALD W. VENERECE

### CO A 1-101ST CAVALRY

SSG WILLIAM J. MCKEOWN  
SGT JUAN A. RODRIGUEZ

### CO B 1-101ST CAVALRY

SPC ANDREW C. DICKSON JR

### CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY

CPL MATTHEW VALDEZ  
SSG DAVID J. ZAJONC

### HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID (M)

SPC BRIAN J. LOGAN  
SPC CHARLES M. VACANTI  
DET 1 HHC 1-127TH ARMOR  
SGT ED A. SCIPIO

### CO A 1-127TH ARMOR

SPC DANIEL L. ANDERSON

### CO C 1-127TH ARMOR

SGT KEVIN L. BLACK  
SGT ETHAN A. LYNCH  
SPC DAVID A. MCCOY  
SGT JAMES E. SOLOMON

### 1ST BN 142D AVIATION

SGT AROCHO R. BOUZID  
SSG EMANUEL P. ZERILLO  
249TH MED CO AIR AMB (-)

SPC ROY T. ARMSTRONG  
SGT PAUL ARZU  
SGT PETER W. BANNING  
SGT EDWARD J. BELANGER JR  
SGT ROBERT J. BELL

SGT JOSHUA COYLE  
SGT KEVIN CZACHOROWSKI  
SGT WILLIAM K. DAY JR

SFC DUANE M. DOBSON  
SGT JOSEPH P. DONOFRIO  
SFC DANIEL G. DOWNIE  
SGT JOANN G. DUCLOS

SSG HAL E. FELLOWS  
SGT JON P. GAINER  
SSG KEVIN H. GLOVER  
SGT WILLIAM A. GUELZOW JR

SPC LAWRENCE HARDENDORF  
SPC THOMAS J. HEYMAN  
SPC KELLY A. HORCSOG  
SGT TIMOTHY A. HUGHES

SPC BRETT A. JANES  
SPC MARK E. JENKS  
SPC RONALD E. JONES JR  
SGT KARA M. KRAMER

SGT DAVID R. LACROSSE  
SPC MARK D. LUPIANI  
SGT GORDON F. MCGREGOR  
SPC BRIAN A. NETZEL II

SSG JOSE M. NOBREGA  
SPC SHANNON M. PRATT  
SGT STEPHEN SCHUMACHER  
SPC CHERYL A. SHERMAN

SPC SOURITH THAMMAVONG  
DET 1 CO G 137TH AVIATION  
SPC RICHARD J. HAGGERTY  
SSG FRANK WASHINGTON

### HSC (-) 642D SUPPORT BN

SGT VICKY M. APPARICIO  
SFC BECKY L. RAPP  
CO C (-) 638 SPT BN

SGT JOHN L. RUTHERFORD  
HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTIL-  
LERY

SGT MARIANO E. FRAZIER  
SGT ANGEL L. ROSASOTO

### BATTERY A 1-258TH FA

SGT PIERRE E. SUME  
258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
SGT DELROY A. CLARKE  
SSG MIGUEL H. SUAREZ

258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
SGT RUSSELL C. GALLO  
SPC LUIS F. RONQUILLO  
SGT ZACHARY SMITH

### SERVICE BTRY 1-258TH FA

SGT STANLEY GONTAREK  
SGT PAUL M. JONES  
SPC JOSEPH J. LOPEZ

### HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV

SGT JAINAND NARAYAN  
HHC (-) 3-142D AVIATION  
SPC GLENN C. WALDINGER

### CO B 3-142D AVIATION

SGT WILLIAM D. RENNIE  
CO C 3-142D AVIATION  
SSG MARK D. CASEY

SSG MATTHEW A. ROBBINS  
SPC KEVIN J. SWINT

### HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID

SPC ROBERT A. BEUTNER  
199TH ARMY BAND (-)

SPC AMANDA F. HERNANDEZ  
SGT JAMES M. ROBERTSON

### CO B 230TH SIGNAL BN

SFC LUIS A. GALLARDO  
CO C 230TH SIGNAL BN

SSG JOSEPH S. FEJES  
SSG JOSEPH V. LATORRE  
SSG CARLOS B. PAOLI  
SSG PETER T. SANZILLO

### DET 1 HHC 107TH SPT GRP

SPC JONATHAN G. ANDREWS  
SPC KENNETH E. BASSARATH  
SGT NIGEL A. BREWSTER  
SPC JOE P. CHEN

MSG MARK DECKER  
MSG WILLIAM S. GRIFFIN  
SSG GREGORY L. HOLMES  
SPC ANTHONY JACKSON

SGT EVA J. KOONCE  
MSG JOSEPH MCPHERSON  
SPC GLENDA SARVIS  
CPL MARIO SMITH

SPC EDOUARDO STFORT  
HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN

SFC LORRAINE W. ANIM  
SGT RAYMOND ARROYO  
SPC ELIZABETH CORDERO  
SPC VICTORIA DAVIS

SFC BERNARD A. DIPACE  
SGT JOSE F. FERNANDEZ  
SPC RICHARD FIGUEROA  
MSG BENTLEY HEYLIGER

SGT RAYMOND D. MAHABIR  
SFC YOGINDRA MAHARAJ  
SFC JACQUELINE MARTINEZ  
SSG ALEXANDER PABON

SGT MARTHA SALAZARLOPEZ  
MSG ARTHUR W. STILLWELL  
SFC HECTOR D. VARGAS  
SSG MARTIN B. VARGAS

### 719 TRANS (MDM TRK CGO)

SGT MARIO E. ALAVA  
SFC DANIEL A. AMES  
SGT BARBARA J. ANDRES  
SGT JOSEPH G. BADILLO

SSG SERGIO E. BARRIO  
SSG ALBERT BETANCOURT JR  
SGT BIENVENIDO CASTILLO JR  
SPC BERNARD DIXON

SPC SCOTT P. DONAHUE  
SPC JOSEPH R. EDGHILL  
SSG CHRISTIAN ESCOTTO  
SGT EDWARD A. FOX

SPC DAVID C. HITCHCOCK  
SGT MARILYN LOPERA  
SPC LUC N. MAMODESEN  
SGT MAURICE R. MANGRA

SSG GWANANCII M. PAGE  
SPC CARLOS J. RIVERA  
SGT JOHN S. ROOKE III  
SPC RALPH RUIZ

SGT RONALD SIMON  
SPC STEPHENIE Y. SPEIGHTS

SGT CHARLES P. SPENCER III  
SPC JENNIFER S. TROSTLE  
SGT STEVEN A. WATT  
SPC ROBERT E. WIDMER  
SPC JOHN W. WRIGHT

### 1569TH TRANS CO

SGT TOMAS F. CORDONES  
SGT DAVID H. JORDAN  
SGT SEAN J. ROBINSON

SSG ARCADIO ROMAN  
SPC EMERALDA SOLTREN  
SPC OZVARDO D. TAYLOR  
SPC JOHN D. WILSON

### CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN

SPC FRANCA J. PERALTA  
HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
SGT EDWIN J. MORALES

MSG ANTONIO SERRANO  
102D MAINTENANCE CO

SGT JUNIOR E. ALEXANDER  
SPC JUAN A. CALDERON  
SGT VICTOR I. MUNOZ

### 133D MAINTENANCE CO (-)

SSG TODD R. EBERT  
SSG GAYAH S. JAGDHARRY  
SSG JOSE MEDINA

SPC LUIS A. ROSARIO  
SSG MICHAEL SANDERS  
SSG CHRISTOPHER SCHIMLER  
SPC JOSEPH VAZQUEZ

SGT EDITH N. WASHINGTON  
145TH MAINTENANCE CO

SPC ELIZABETH P. ANCI  
SPC ARNALDO COLON  
SPC FREDDY GIL  
SPC CARLOS ROBLES

SPC LIBU THOMAS  
DET 1 133RD MAINT CO

SSG BRENT S. PELL  
107TH MILITARY POLICE CO

1SG ROBERT A. KODNIA  
138TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DETACHMET

SGT JONATHAN R. CAMPBELL  
442D MILITARY POLICE CO

SPC GLENN A. CARLSON  
SPC JASON M. DIAZ  
SPC KEITH E. FREEMAN  
SPC ROBERTO MINEO

SGT JOHN P. NEIS  
SPC EDWINO C. PELIAS  
SPC ERICK O. RIOS  
SSG RAY A. WHITE

### 105 MP CBT SPT REAR PA

SSG RONNIE FUNDERBURK  
HHD 27TH FINANCE BN

SPC EDWIN MIRANDAGOMEZ  
56TH PERSONNEL SER BN  
MSG JOHN P. BAXTER  
SGT CHRISTOPHER R. BECKER

MSG JOSEPH R. CIOFFI  
SPC JAMES E. CONLIN  
SGT JUAN CRUZ  
SPC DANIELLE Y. MAXWELL

SFC ANDREW S. ORMISTON  
SPC CHRISTOPHER OROURKE  
SGT EDWARD E. PAIGE  
1SG RICHARD H. SIMMONDS

SGT SCOTT A. SWEZEY  
SPC THERESA R. YOUNG  
4TH PERSONNEL SVC DET  
SPC JAMES N. SYLVESTER

SPC TODD H. TURNER  
HHC 152D ENGINEER BN

SSG JEFFREY M. LYNESS  
CO A (-) 152D ENGINEER BN

SPC FRANKLIN L. JESS  
DET 1 CO A 152D ENG BN  
SPC CHRISTOPHER M. OKUN  
CO C 152D ENGINEER BN

SPC DENNIS W. DELLAPENTA  
SGT RONALD C. EVANS  
SGT GLENN V. MILLER

### H & S CO 204 ENGR BN

SGT TIMOTHY J. CLOUSTON  
PFC JASON P. HIBBARD  
SPC MICHAEL B. HODGE  
SGT DAVID E. KIPP

SGT NEVA L. KNISELY  
SGT WARREN E. NORTON JR  
SPC FREDDIE SANTIAGO  
SPC DALE T. SMITH JR

### CO A (-) 204 ENGR BN

SPC JO M. HENDERSON  
SFC ALAN G. HUGHES  
SPC FRANK J. HULTS JR  
SPC JOHN J. HULTS

SPC THOMAS J. POLULECH  
SPC MICHAEL A. ROSEN  
SFC SCOTT M. THOMPSON  
SPC DARRICK J. ZWACK

### DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN

SPC MICHAEL S. POSNER  
CO B 204 ENGR BN

SPC JAMIE L. GARDNER  
SPC DAVID L. HAUF  
SPC COREY J. KULCAVAGE  
SFC CRAIG L. PERKINS

SGT RONALD C. ROBINSON JR  
CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN

SGT MARIO DELGADO  
DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN

SGT JIMSEY L. ROBERTS  
1427TH TRANS CO (MDM TRK)  
SPC DERRICK E. DACK  
SGT MARRC D. JOHNSON

SPC MICHAEL R. SHELEY  
10TH MTN DIVISION DET

SFC LORNE D. WATSON  
827TH ENGR CO

SGT LUIS LOPEZ  
SPC TIMOTHY R. STARR

### 827 EN CO SEP IN FWD

SGT ELIAS H. ABOUSAID  
SPC DARNELL O. DAVIS  
SPC DANNY T. EDWARDS JR  
SSG MARK D. FRICANO

CPL TIMOTHY E. GAWRONSKI  
SPC LEVERNON N. GRAY  
SGT HOWARD HEARD  
SGT STEVEN A. HOLZMAN

SFC MICHAEL F. KALINOWSKI  
SPC PAUL R. KING JR  
CPL BRUCE E. KOWALSKI  
SPC MATTHEW D. MONDOUX

SPC RUSSELL J. MORGAN IV  
SPC CHRISTOPHER T. ROTH  
SPC MARVIN R. SADDLER  
SPC RONALD T. STURGIS

CPL JOSE L. VASQUEZ  
SPC JAMEKO A. WASHINGTON

### CO A (-) 427TH SPT BN

SSG CARL J. CAMMUSO  
DET 1 CO A 427TH SPT BN

SPC KEITH A. WINTERS  
DET 1 CO B 427TH SPT BN  
SPC ROSEMARIE E. BEIMEL

CO C 427TH SUPPORT BN  
SPC GINA M. OLCOTT

427 CS BN HHC FWD 2  
SPC WILLIAM D. KELLY

SPC KELLY M. KENYON  
HHD 27TH SUPPLY & SVC BN

SPC DANIEL P. ROSSIGNOL  
CO A 2-108 IN BN REAR  
SPC KENNETH M. BRYANT  
SGT FRANKIE HERNANDEZ  
SPC STEVEN W. KOZLOWSKY  
SGT ARTHUR H. LUSE III  
PFC ALEXANDRU POPA

# Celebrating a Distinguished Career

## NY National Guard Farewells Army Guard Commander

By Col. Robert M. Edelman  
HQ, 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command

### NEW YORK CITY

At the Squadron "A" Club in Manhattan on November 20, 2003, more than 125 members of the New York National Guard celebrated the distinguished career of Brig. Gen. Edward G. Klein. Klein was honored for more than forty years of dedicated and patriotic service to his state and nation.

Among the many honors bestowed upon Klein was a brevet promotion to Major General, the Army's Legion of Merit Award, the State Conspicuous Service Medal, a Certificate of Appreciation from President George W. Bush, a ceremonial flag flown over the White House in his honor and many other gifts of appreciation from the units with he served.



Mr. Charles Stanley (at left), representing Governor Pataki, and The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thomas Maguire, pin the stars of a Major General onto Brig. Gen. Edward Klein on his retirement as commander of the NY Army National Guard. Courtesy photo.

During the evening, Klein was lauded for his superior service to the New York Army National Guard and the nation. His leadership during the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks was especially noted by many presenters.

Major General Thomas Maguire, The Adjutant General, aptly remarked, when pinning the additional star on Klein that, "I was so fortunate to have Ed Klein in charge of the military support mission during the initial chaotic days after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack. The success that the New York Army National Guard enjoyed in assisting a dazed New York City would not have been possible without the efforts of Brig. Gen. Klein."

To commemorate Klein's leadership during the September 11<sup>th</sup> response, the gift from the attendees was a statue of a Fireman and Policeman raising the National Colors over the devastated Twin Tower Site. The presentation was emotional for both Klein and the participants.

The retirement party, hosted by Brig. Gen. Stephen Seiter, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command Commander and newly appointed Commander of the New York Army National Guard, was greatly enjoyed by all attendees. Members of the 199<sup>th</sup> Army Band provided music and the staff of Squadron "A" did an extremely professional job of arranging the party.

Klein was gracious when delivering his closing remarks. He expressed his appreciation to the Soldiers that he had the honor to serve with. He reminded the audience that whatever his accomplishments, they would not have been possible without the collective efforts of those who worked with him. He thanked The Adjutant General for the trust in him and ended his speech by expressing heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to serve with so many wonderful and dedicated Soldiers.

## Governor's Aide Awarded for Support of Guard



### ALBANY

Governor George E. Pataki joined New York Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire Jr. December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003 as he presented the National Guard Association of the United States' (NGAUS) Patrick Henry Award to First Deputy Secretary to the Governor William F. Howard, in recognition of his outstanding support of the National Guard.

"Since taking office in 1995, we have made rebuilding and taking care of our National Guard force a top priority – efforts that have paid huge dividends for the people of New York State," Pataki said. "I have been fortunate to have Bill Howard on my team to coordinate this effort.

The Patrick Henry Award, established in 1989, is the highest NGAUS award given to a civilian other than a state governor, member of Congress or state legislator. NGAUS awarded just 26 Patrick Henry awards nationwide in 2003.

Mr. Howard works with the Adjutant General to develop policy on Guard issues. He had a leading role in a number of Guard initiatives, including the 2003 Patriot Plan benefits to Guard members.

### Reenlistments (continued)

SPC VICTOR A. WONG  
108 IN BN 02 CO A DET 1  
SPC CRAIG S. BURLEIGH  
SPC MICHAEL J. MADISON  
**TROOPE 101ST CAVALRY**  
SGT JOEL L. FITZSIMMONS  
SGT THOMAS F. STONE  
**HHC 1-105TH INF**  
CSM THOMAS A. ARMSTRONG  
SFC DOUGLAS P. BELL  
SSG MAURICE G. CATEL III  
1SG THOMAS CIAMPOLILLO  
SFC CHRISTOPHER B. DESO  
SPC WILLIAM S. HONG  
SPC MICHAEL H. JUDGE  
SSG VINCENT J. MAHER  
SPC JOHN M. MILES  
SGT JOHN E. POMPEY JR  
SPC ROBERT L. WILLOUGHBY  
**CO A (-) 1 BN 105 INF**  
SGT JOSEPH W. DARMAN

SSG CHARLES LUSTIG  
SPC WILLIAM S. TAVARES  
**CO B 1-105 INF**  
SSG NORBERTO CARRASQUILLO  
SGT SAID CHEGUER  
CPL EDWIN FELICIANO  
SPC NEIL J. LEISSLE  
SGT JASON B. LOWENFELD  
SPC PAUL H. NOCH  
SPC ORLANDO PEREZ  
PFC MICHAEL B. SAHNO  
PFC JAMES A. STEWART  
SPC FELIX VARGAS  
SPC RAFAEL VASQUEZ  
CPL DAVID M. WILLIAMS  
**CO C 1-105 INF**  
SGT CASILDO AGOSTO  
CPL ERIC S. ANDRUS  
SGT ROCKFELLER BANDHU  
SGT FRANCIS BEAUPIERRE  
SSG VINCENT T. BROWN  
SGT FRANCIS G. DEVENECIA  
SGT JASON J. GUIDO

CPL TOMASZ Z. JODLOWSKI  
SSG TOM LONDON  
SPC TERRY E. MITCHELL  
SPC RICHARD A. MOHABIR  
**CO D 1-105 INF**  
SPC FRANK A. FEIDEN  
SFC RICHARD J. PALASZ  
SPC CHRISTOPHER R. PARKS  
**HHC (-) 1-108TH INF**  
SPC CHRISTOPHER CARMODY  
SPC BARTON J. CHAPMAN  
**CO B 1-108TH INF**  
SSG MICHAEL J. MOLGAARD  
**HHS (-) 1-156 FA**  
SPC MICHAEL B. CASSIDY  
SPC ALAN D. FABIANO  
SPC SCOTT H. HORNBECK  
SPC PHILIP M. NIMPHIUS  
**BTRY A 1 BN 156 FA**  
SGT ALLEN S. RICHARDS  
**DET 1 HHS 1-156TH FA**  
SGT RODRICK KENNEDY  
**HHS 1-156 FA BN FWD**

SGT SAIF U. AHMED  
SPC DAVID C. BAXTER  
SPC PETER J. BERGEN  
SGT PETER A. CLUM  
SGT ROBERT A. COBURN  
SGT KENNETH F. DANIELS  
SPC DAVID C. DARGAN  
SGT MICHAEL J. DEGROTE  
SGT MICHAEL C. HUBER  
SSG EARL A. JACKSON  
SSG MICHAEL A. KIBLER  
SGT WILLIAM A. LATOUR JR  
SPC JEREMY H. LEE  
SGT CHRISTOPHER L. LEVEY  
SPC HANS R. MALLOY  
SPC JAMES R. MAYO  
SPC JAVIER MERCADO  
SGT BENJAMIN D. OLIN  
SSG JEREMY S. REED  
SSG ROBERT W. ROACH  
SPC SHAWN M. ROCHE  
SPC BRIAN P. ROUGEUX  
SGT JESSE D. SERIO

SFC JOHN W. TYLER  
SSG KEVIN J. VERSHAY  
SPC GARY C. WEAVER  
**CO D 2-108 IN BN REAR**  
SGT ROBERT E. ECK SR  
**HHC 2-108 IN BN REAR**  
SGT LYLE K. BYLOW  
SGT THOMAS P. CZEPIEL  
SPC TIMOTHY A. DELANEY  
SGT ARTHUR J. FINCH  
SPC WILLIAM W. FISCHER  
SGT BRIAN B. HAZELTON  
SGT ED HILDENBRANDT  
SSG PAUL J. HOLCOMB  
SGT RANDY J. HOLCOMB SR  
SSG JOHN L. LEONE JR  
SPC DWAYNE R. MANLEY  
SGT TIM A. MESECK  
SPC BRIAN R. OJIDA  
SGT ROBERT A. RULE  
CPL ROBERT J. SCHMIDT  
SFC LEONARD J. SCHOTTS  
SPC LEO T. THOUIN

# Chaplains 'Called To Serve'

Story and photo by Spec. Matt Benedetti  
HQ, Mass. Army National Guard

NATICK, MA

It could be a word of encouragement, discussion of a family matter or a crisis of faith. Regardless of the circumstance, Chaplain (Maj.) Peter S. Daratsos of the Natick Soldier System Center and chaplain's assistant Staff Sgt. John A. Duffy are always accessible to Guardsmen.

Before mobilization for their duties in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Daratsos served as chaplain for the Latham-based 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment and Duffy with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command in Valhalla.

The last few years have been an uncertain time for soldiers and their families. Many have been turning to clergy for spiritual guidance and support. As a chaplain and assistant chaplain mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle, they travel to every major military installation in Massachusetts and have become a very popular team.

Despite the aggressive nature of the job, many Soldiers share a spiritual faith in a higher power. This belief helps Soldiers adapt to sudden changes and extended deployments. Many Soldiers find their way to Daratsos and Duffy to discuss a wide array of issues with the knowledge their conversation will remain private. They do not carry notebooks and all dialogue is confidential.

Daratsos calls it the "Ministry of Presence," helping personnel deal with a unique set of problems. Undoubtedly, the option of speaking to a uniformed counselor allows Guardsmen to discuss topics that a civilian chaplain may not understand.

Daratsos is a Greek Orthodox Priest but counsels soldiers of all denominations. He is also a licensed social worker. Both backgrounds help him in his ministry. "My role is to help all people. That makes my job so special," he said.

Having served in the Army Reserve from 1970 to 1976, Daratsos was compelled to reenlist after assisting with the

aftermath of the TWA Flight 800 tragedy off the Long Island coast in 1996. He counseled Navy divers, police and medical personnel during and after the grueling recovery operation. "It was a very difficult process, but I felt that I was able to help these people heal in a spiritual sense," said Daratsos. It was after that watershed experience that he decided to reenlist in the New York Army National Guard.

Duffy is a Roman Catholic Eucharistic Minister and is proud to serve in this capacity. "Being able to help soldiers and their families is a great honor," said Duffy.

"We try to be a resource for returning Soldiers, many from combat situations, who need to talk to someone. Often times we will just listen."

Daratsos said. "After the first Gulf War, many Soldiers had no chance to share their experiences. Wearing the same uniform makes it easier to establish communication and reach a comfort level with one another," he said.

The camaraderie between members of a unit never fails to impress Daratsos. "Soldiers often help each other and they never want to let their 'battle buddy' down. The loyalty they have for one another is truly an inspiration," he said.

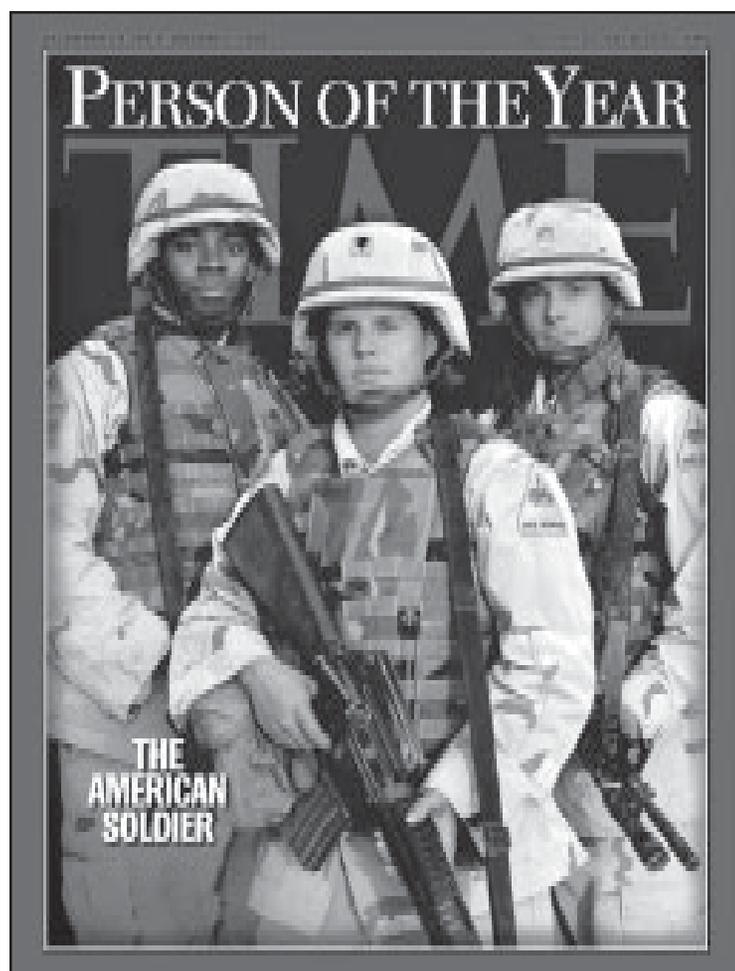
"Confronted with constant change, overseas duty and adapting to the new environment is a scary thing. You grow



Chaplain (Maj.) Peter S. Daratsos (left) and chaplain's assistant Staff Sgt. John A. Duffy from the New York Army National Guard's 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command are supporting Operation Noble Eagle at military installations across Massachusetts. "Being able to help soldiers and their families is a great honor," said Duffy.

up in a hurry. Often, Soldiers just need someone to listen and understand the position they are in. I am a soldier and a chaplain, they know that I will be able to empathize with their circumstances. They do not have to worry about our conversation going anywhere," he said.

Deployments, family issues and the increased possibility of engaging in combat can seem overwhelming to a young Soldier. Having someone to share your concerns is important to help manage the uncertainty. "It's a great job. We love what we do", said Daratsos.



## American Soldier Time's 'Person of the Year'

By K.L. Vantran  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, DC

Three 1st Armored Division soldiers — Sgt. Ronald Buxton, Spc. Billie Grimes and Sgt. Marquette Whiteside — grace the cover of December 22<sup>nd</sup>'s Time magazine. They represent "The American Soldier" - all men and women in uniform - who have been chosen as Time's 2003 Person of the Year.

"For uncommon skills and service, for the choices each one of them has made and the ones still ahead, for the challenge of defending not only our freedoms but those barely stirring half a world away, the American soldier is Time's Person of the Year," editor-at-large Nancy Gibbs wrote in the opening essay of the magazine.

"By naming the American soldier as Person of the Year, we're using that term in its broadest sense, to stand for all of those in a U.S. uniform who go in harm's way, including the Navy's sailors, the airmen and women of the Air Force and the Marines," managing editor Jim Kelly wrote in a letter to readers.

The magazine cover is a "fitting tribute to these young men and women who have volunteered to serve their country and are over there doing a superb

job," Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers said on CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer" Dec. 21.

Time officials said the magazine's naming of a Person of the Year recognizes "the person or persons who most affected the news and our lives, for good or for ill, and embodied what was important about the year, for better or for worse."

"It's a grand choice," said Mark Thompson, Washington correspondent for Time, who has been in Afghanistan and northern Iraq with U.S. troops.

The photo taken by James Nachtwey Dec 10, was shot a few hours before a grenade landed in the humvee he and Time reporter Michael Weisskopf were traveling in. Weisskopf lost his right hand when he attempted to throw the grenade from the vehicle. Nachtwey and two soldiers also were wounded in the attack. All are recovering from their injuries.

This isn't the first time the magazine has chosen U.S. military members for its annual honor. "The American Fighting-Man" was Time's Man of the Year in 1950 as the Korean War was being fought. "Allies would never be found (and mobilized) unless the American fighting-man first took his post and did his duty," Time wrote in its Jan. 1, 1951, edition.

## Warrant Officer Association Holds 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

By Chief Warrant Officer Ron Sardanopoli  
HQ, 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command

### PEEKSKILL

On November 19, 2003, the Empire State Warrant Officer Association celebrated their fortieth annual dinner. Chief Warrant Officer Ron Sardanopoli was elected as the new state Chapter President. Sardanopoli, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command Logistics Manager, takes the leadership reigns from Chief Warrant Officer Howard Haider.

Other elected officers were Chief Warrant Officer Francis Martin as Chapter Vice President, Chief Warrant Officer Joe Vumbico as treasurer, and Chief Warrant Officer Gerard Wieczorek as secretary.

Col. Michael Swezey, the Acting Commander of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command was guest speaker. Swezey provided the warrant officer attendees with an overview of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command missions beginning with the state active duty performed for the September 11<sup>th</sup> World Trade Center terrorist attacks to include all the federal mobilizations, including the current status of Soldiers in Iraq. Swezey reminded all that the New York National Guard has not supported this many state and federal missions since World War II.

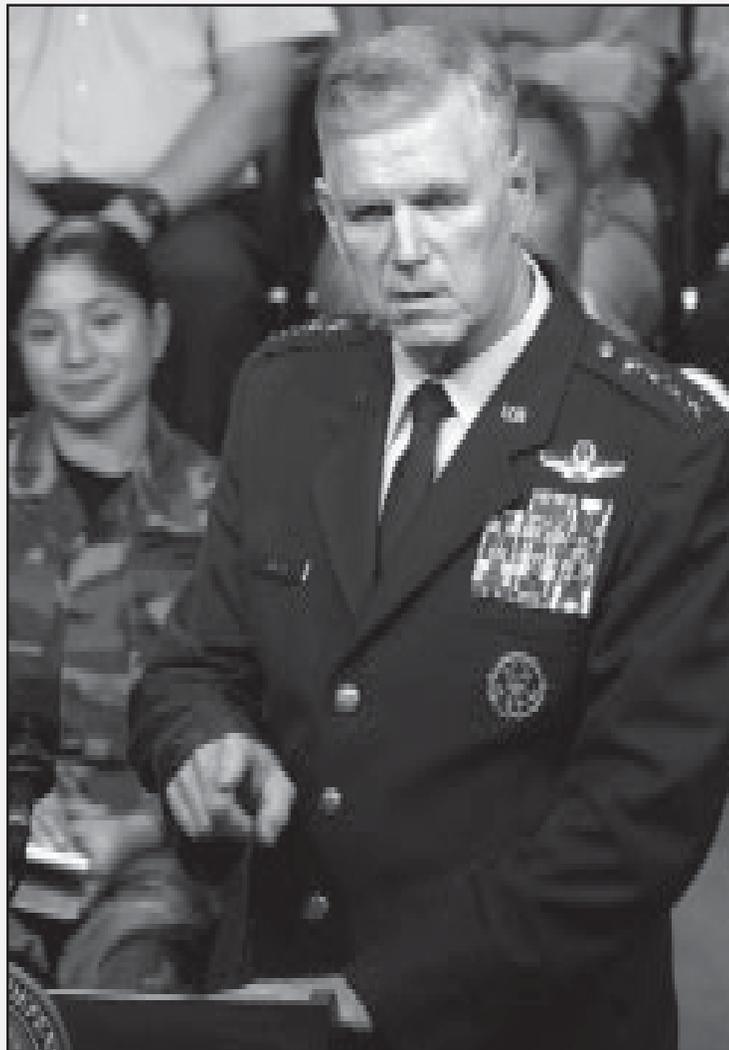


Col. Michael Swezey, Chief Warrant Officer Howard Haider and Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Sardanopoli. Haider retired in March of 2003 after 40 years of military service, and 24 years of service as a warrant officer. Sardanopoli is the newly elected Chapter President of the Empire State Warrant Officer Association. Courtesy photo.

He predicted that the United States would emerge victorious in the Global War on Terror. "The most powerful single force in the world is neither communism nor capitalism, neither the nuclear bomb, nor the guided missile, it is man's eternal desire to be free and independent," Swezey quoted from President John F. Kennedy.

The active and retired members of the Empire State Warrant Officer Association appreciated Swezey's words of encouragement. His departing words were, "As we sit here tonight enjoying each others company and fellowship, there are beady-eyed little men in places with names we can't even begin to pronounce that are plotting the overthrow of our nation and our way of life ... and the only thing standing between them and their success - are people like you and I." The entire warrant officer attendee's gave Swezey a standing ovation for his dynamic words of encouragement, and to thank him for his valuable time to speak at the association's fortieth annual dinner.

## Perspective from the Top



"It's my view that the threat we face from terrorism today is the greatest threat this nation has ever faced. They hope to instill fear, and it doesn't take much.

"I bet every time you schedule an air flight or you have a loved one fly to where you are, you think about it differently after 9/11 than you did before 9/11. It's an element of fear back there that says, gee, maybe the world's changed.

"And what it takes is great public service, both civilians, military, to work through this period. I mean, there's not a more important time to have ever served. It's really important that people stand up and serve their country in this time, because it's never been a more important time to serve. That's my view."

General Richard B. Myers,  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Pentagon Town Hall Meeting  
Nov 21, 2003

DoD photo by Helene C. Stikkel.

## Recognitions for a Full-Time Soldier

### 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command Awards Quarterly Honor

By Col. Robert M. Edelman  
HQ, 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command

### VALHALLA

The latest winner of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command Full-Time Manning Achievement Award is Master Sgt. Frank Kania. Kania, assigned to the Troop Command Headquarters staff in Valhalla, has been a member of the full-time force as an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldier for more than 17 years.

Kania's award recognizes his noteworthy accomplishments as the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command Senior Supply Sergeant. The Achievement Award notes Kania's "outstanding commitment to accomplish any logistical mission assigned, no matter the challenges. His logistical efforts in supporting many unit mobilizations were instrumental for these units to meet their required readiness requirements."

Remarkably, Kania somehow stays current with his other day-to-day responsibilities despite the considerable amount of time spent on the recent mobilizations of Troop Command units.

He is highly regarded as a true professional that takes great pride in his work. There is not one unit in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command that does not owe Kania a debt of gratitude. He has volunteered countless hours of personal time, visiting units and providing hands-on support. I cannot

overstate what his commitment has been, not only to the command, but to its soldiers as well. His supervisor, Chief Warrant Officer Reinaldo Sardanopoli, Logistics Manager said, "Master Sgt. Kania is, perhaps, the finest NCO I have ever worked with. The Troop Command is really fortunate to have someone of his ability."

Past winners of the Full-Time Manning Award belonged to the Troop Command's field units. However, Kania's work is of such high value and impacts on the thousands of Soldiers throughout the command that the senior leadership of the Troop Command felt that it must be acknowledged. The Achievement Award recognizes Kania as a Soldier who can be counted upon no matter the mission, no matter the difficulties. He sincerely cares that each and every soldier is logistically prepared for his assignment and that every unit is prepared for their mission.

As winner of the Achievement Award, Kania receives an inscribed personal desk coin holder, a gift certificate to Blockbuster Video and a framed letter of appreciation from the Commander, 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command. Additionally, his name was affixed to a permanent Full-Time Manning Award plaque located at the Valhalla Armory.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command is indeed fortunate to have MSG Kania assigned as a member of its Full-Time Force.

# New York Rifle Team Takes Aim at Guard's Winston P. Wilson Matches

By Master Sgt. Randy Ross  
Joint Force HQ Operations and Training

## CAMP ROBINSON, AR

The New York National Guard Combat Rifle Team took several honors at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winston P. Wilson Matches at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. This year, more than 600 of the National Guard's top marksmen from across the country and territories of the US arrived for the spirited competition. The combat rifle competitors participated in engagement distances from 25 to 600 yards in "combat" style shooting to include using the chemical protective mask.

Competition in rifle, pistol, machine gun, and sniper were all conducted. In addition to the Wilson Match, the Armed Forces Skill at Arms (AFSAM) pitted more than 200 U.S. and international competitors against one another alongside the Wilson competitors.

A team composed of both "new" and "old" shooters from the Army and Air National Guard represented New York. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rodney Richmond (Team Captain), 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion. Spec. Steve Woodruff, 342<sup>nd</sup> Forward Support Battalion, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Evans (Team Coach) and Staff Sgt. Randy Knowlton were the veterans on the team. Tech. Sgt. Bill Bednarowski, 109<sup>th</sup> Air Wing, Sgt. Tom Scott, 204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Master Sgt. Terry Potter and Master Sgt. Warren Christman, also from the 109<sup>th</sup> Air Wing represented new shooters this year.

The 109<sup>th</sup> Air Wing was the champion at the 2003 New York State TAG Match held at Camp Smith in April 2003. Potter and Bednarowski from the 109<sup>th</sup> Air Wing were on the winning team at that event.

New York finished second overall in a field of 38 teams from 36 states and 2 territories, just 3 points behind Texas, the overall rifle champions.

New York received several individual honors in addition to the team's accomplishments. The Chief's 50 Award is given to the top 50 competitors overall at the Winston P. Wilson Match. The competitors are broken down by discipline (rifle, pistol, machine gun, and sniper). This year, 21 rifle, 19 pistol, 6 machine gun, and 4 sniper competitors were selected to receive the Chief's 50 Award. Of those 21 rifle competitors, three were from New York, Tech. Sgt. Bednarowski, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richmond, and Sgt. Scott. Spec. Woodruff was one point below the cutoff, making this the second year in a row he has been the first competitor below the cutoff.

In addition to the Rifle Team, New York was also represented by a Combat Pistol Team composed of Master Sgt. Lance Robson, Capt. Daniel Dudziak, Sgt. Timothy Farnam, Sgt. Joe Dee, Sgt.



More than 600 members of the National Guard competed in the Winston P. Wilson Matches at Camp Robinson, AR in October 2003. The NY National Guard combat rifle team finished second overall in the competition. The next state competition will be April 2004. Courtesy photo.

1<sup>st</sup> Class Andrew Fegley, Staff Sgt. Jay Klaasen, and Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Derrick Banning Jr.

Sgt. Dee earned the Distinguished Pistol Award for those competitors who finish in the top 10% of the matches to accrue "distinguished points." Dee is already Distinguished as a rifle competitor. The pistol designation makes him the only soldier currently in the New York Army National Guard who is Double Distinguished.

The New York Combat Rifle Team has participated on many events throughout the year, placing second out of region at the MAC 2 Regional in Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa., and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 94<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command Match in Devens, Mass. Participation in the Winston P. Wilson Matches and other events throughout the year is coordinated through the Small Arms Readiness Training Section (SARTS). For more information visit the SARTS Webpage at: <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/sarts/index.htm>.



The 2003 NYS Combat Rifle Marksmanship Team. Courtesy photo.

## About Guard Times

The Guard Times is authorized under provisions of Army Regulation 360-1 and Air Force Regulation 190-1 and is a publication of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, and the New York Army and Air National Guard. Views which appear in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense.

The Guard Times has a circulation of 25,000 and is distributed free to members of the New York State Militia Force and employees of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions on a computer disk with a hard print out and a name and telephone number for a point of contact. We prefer stories saved in Microsoft Word or ASCII text. Submission deadlines are February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15 and December 15. Send your submissions to:

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## 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 state 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.