From the leadership

The achievements of our New York National Guard across the state this summer continue to show remarkable flexibility and value in our thousands of Guardsmen and women serving this great state and nation.

This summer began with the continuing cleanup operations on New York’s Southern Tier where engineers and aviation flight crews supported local recovery operations and aerial assessments of flood damaged towns and villages. Locals in the area estimate the flooding and water damage as the worst in more than a decade. Our response saved lives and our recovery support is helping restore normalcy.

Within weeks of that natural disaster our Citizen Soldiers answered a different call with their rapid response of additional security forces to New York City’s Kennedy and LaGuardia airports. Here, elements of Task Force Empire Shield and then our 53rd Troop Command responded to the increased security needs of our city’s airports with dozens of trained and ready Soldiers to partner with the Port Authority Police Department. It is a glaring reminder that our efforts in Homeland Security are an integral part of defending our state from terror attacks.

At the same time that we meet the needs of our state, other forces have answered the needs of our nation. Troops from across the 53rd Troop Command mobilized this summer with more than 250 Soldiers from the 466th Medical Company, the 272nd Military Police Detachment, the 4th Personnel Services Detachment and the 222nd Military Police Company all shipping out for mobilization sites as they prepare for deployment to Southwest Asia and Operation Iraqi Freedom later this fall.

They join the ranks of our fellow Citizen Soldiers currently serving in Iraq or recently arrived in Afghanistan where members of the 27th Brigade’s trainers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) are providing key support, training and oversight of the future security force for their fledgling government.

Out in Central New York, the skies have filled with the sounds of F-16 jet engines as members of the 174th Fighter Wing prepare for their next air expeditionary force rotation to the Middle East later this year.

These achievements are made even more remarkable by the pace of our current training and transformation. Across our state, National Guard armories and Soldiers have been in the midst of one of the largest reorganizations of our forces in recent history. What began this summer with the arrival of a new tactical command post for the 42nd Division on Staten Island will expand this fall to armories across the state. As unit colors are deactivated and set aside, we welcome new organizations and capabilities to our armories and ready ourselves for the training, equipping and manning these units to bring new value to our state, our Army and our country.

This fall we will see the first results of all this effort and can begin our drive towards our most important goals: recruiting and retaining the best Soldiers and Airmen across our force with the best possible equipment and most effective and quality training. Keep the drive going and move the ball farther downfield!

CONUS stores now accepting Voyager for military fleet vehicle payment at pump

WASHINGTON — To help accommodate more military fleet customers and to speed up fueling transactions, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service now accepts Voyager credit cards for payment at its gasoline pumps at its CONUS locations.

Previously, Voyager credit cards were only authorized when military customers physically went into AAFES facilities to pay because of software limitations that didn’t allow verification of user information at the pump. This limited the use of the card to the hours the facility was attended. Now, anything from officer staff cars to motor pool vehicles can fill up and pay with Voyager at the pump at anytime, day or night.

“AAFES finance and technology directorates worked together for the last two years to make this option available,” said AAFES Chief Financial Officer Mike Howard. “Adding Voyager to the pump is a way to ensure we are serving military communities’ needs 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

AAFES information technology associates had to reprogram the gas pumps to accept information required by Voyager, such as driver identification number and odometer readings. Roughly 260 AAFES shoppettes now accept Voyager for payment at the pump.

New Air Force uniform changes take effect

WASHINGTON — There will be noticeable changes with the Air Force uniform Oct. 1, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley said.

Three changes include doing away with enlisted shoulder board ranks and introducing a new physical training uniform and an insignia.

The Air Force introduced shoulder board rank, originally called shoulder mark insignia, for senior NCOs in 1982. At the time, the Air Force said that was a way to bring added recognition to the top three enlisted ranks. Senior NCOs may now only wear shoulder boards on the blue sweater.

Chief McKinley said many senior enlisted leaders agree NCOs should wear chevrons.

“We are excited for our enlisted force to return to our heritage of wearing our stripes on our sleeves,” the chief said. “Now every Airman should be proud to wear their rank on their sleeve.”

Airmen will now also have physical training gear to wear when taking part in group physical training events or annual fitness tests. The chief said Airmen must have their gear ready on Oct. 1.

“You should have a full compliment of PT gear,” Chief McKinley said. “This uniform gives us distinction as Airmen as we increased our fitness and readiness.”

The insignia change takes place Jan. 1. The U.S. insignia in a circle will be mandatory wear that day on the blue jacket enlisted members wear. The change reverts back to the traditional insignia—with the circle—Airmen wore from 1918 through the early 1990s.

Army Combat Uniform Marches to New Order

WASHINGTON — With the latest edition to the Exchange Online Store, busy troops can now assemble their uniforms with just a few clicks of the mouse.

The virtual exchange’s new “Uniform Ready-to-Wear” site makes it easy to complete uniform orders through one easy-to-use webpage. The final product is shipped to the Soldier’s door, ready to wear right out of the box with no assembly required.

Uniforms can be ordered along with add-on items such as boots, belts, t-shirts and socks. A local alterations contractor will even attach all nametapes, rank, insignia, badges and patches.

“This is a great opportunity for Soldiers in remote locations to purchase their ACUs,” said AAFES Army Program Manager, Military Clothing Maj. Lula Hart-Evans. “Assembling a complete uniform is now as simple as using a pull down menu.

Operational since July 24, the “Uniform Ready-to-Wear” site may be accessed by logging on to www.aafes.com. From there, military service members need only to select “Military Uniforms Ready-to-Wear” to begin creating their custom uniform.

Guard Youth Program unveils new website

LATHAM, N.Y.—The New York National Guard Youth Program has changed its website address to www.guardfamilyyouth.org. The new site for our youth is interactive and has many programs and resources for our National Guard Families. Plus, it’s free!!!
FORT DRUM, N.Y. – The situation on the Mexican border has changed significantly from the days of the National Guard’s 108th Infantry mission 90 years ago to conduct the manhunt for the notorious Francisco “Pancho” Villa. This time, infantrymen from the Guard’s 27th Brigade Combat team provided Homeland Security support as part of Operation Jump Start.

The 150 Citizen Soldiers from brigade’s 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry deployed to Arizona to assist the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency in preventing and deterring illegal immigration through the nation’s Southwest Border.

As the remainder of the brigade conducted scheduled annual training, a select group of volunteer Soldiers from across the battalion formed an ad hoc company team for deployment. Their annual training would support a real-world mission: helping secure the nation’s border.

“There were five different (rifle) companies coming together for this mission,” said 1st Sgt. David Oliver, senior NCO of Company A from Rochester, N.Y. “We pulled together within 24 hours and got the team ready. It was a seamless process.”

Personnel from armories all across New York State came together as one team to prepare for the deployment and the homeland security mission.

“One of my key tasks was to make sure that Soldiers from the other companies were welcomed,” said Capt. Timothy Hoy, the company commander from New York City. “I wanted to treat them as if they were our own.”

As the Soldiers arrived at Ft. Drum, battle rosters were finalized and the deployment process began. For those troops with prior experience with active duty deployments, the process was very similar.

Working long into the night to make the departure deadline within 24 hours, troops signed for and received equipment, sized new boots and Army Combat Uniforms (ACUs) and made sure their body armor fit securely, all the while keeping focused on planning for the mission ahead. A day at the weapons qualification ranges on Fort Drum ensured all the Soldiers were qualified with assigned weapons during the deployment.

“We are ready for anything,” said Spc. Timothy Haag, a company team leader and resident of Lansingburgh, N.Y. “We are squared away, flexible and adaptable. I am looking forward to going to Arizona.”

As the training to prepare the Soldiers for the mission came to a close and the Soldiers prepared to move out to the border, excitement increased as well as the workload.

“To keep our Soldiers safe is going to require a lot of work,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Fisher, the platoon sergeant for second platoon in alpha company. “It is a huge responsibility.”

Mission essential supplies – from sunblock to weapons – are issued and the company is formed for a final inspection.

(See BORDER, page five)
Orion Welcomes New Commander

By Staff Sgt. Shannon M. Cunningham
27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

FORT DRUM, N.Y. - Under perfect weather conditions early in the unit annual training, the mantle of leadership for the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team transferred from Col. Daniel T. Maney to Col. Brian K. Balfe.

The symbolic transfer of command was performed by the reviewing officer, Brig. Gen. Genereux, the Division Commander of the 42d Infantry “Rainbow” Division.

The ceremony took place July 9th at Division Hill, Fort Drum N.Y. before assembled guests, former commanders and Soldiers of the “Hunter” Brigade.

Balfe assumed command from Col. Daniel T. Maney, who had assumed the role of brigade commander after 31 years of service in the New York Army National Guard. Maney has led the 27th Brigade Commander since April 1, 2003.

Maney described his command of the brigade as an “Honor, a privilege and a fantasy come true to command.” Maney compared his command experience as playing baseball on the New York Yankees, a group “often maligned by other teams, but the one team that every ball player wants to be on in order to win a World Series ring.”

During the ceremony, Balfe received the brigade colors from Brig. Gen. Genereux Jr. representing the brigade’s higher headquarters with the 42nd Infantry Division. The passing of unit colors is a long standing Army tradition signifying the transfer of command responsibilities to its new leader.

The 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team has a long history of accomplishments; starting in 1917 during World War I with Maj. Gen. John F. O’Ryan. The 27th Division, New York’s National Guard combat division at the time, arrived in France and went into action in the Dickenbausch sector of Belgium. The unit is credited with the difficult task of breaking through German defenses along the Hindenburg Line in late 1918.

After the war, the 27th was reactivated and did regular National Guard service in its home state of New York. The division was reactivated in World War II in October of 1940, two months prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and America’s official entry into the war when President Roosevelt mobilized the 27th Division with other National Guard units.

Training took place at Fort McClellan, Alabama, with onward movement to Hawaii in March of 1942. The division served with distinction throughout the Pacific, retaking Okinawa in 1945.

The Orion shoulder insignia saw many changes over the following 55 years as the elements of the 27th Division reorganized as an armor force, a light infantry brigade and even up to nation’s Global War on Terror, a scheduled transformation into combat service and service support units.

Those plans changed on Sept. 11, 2001 when the Hunter Brigade was among the first military units to respond to the events of the day. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the brigade has participated in Operation Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In September 2005, the 27th was redesignated as an Infantry Brigade Combat Team, part of the Army’s modular structure and on June 1 was aligned with the 42nd Infantry Division.

“It is a pleasure to stand before this assembled command and pass the mantle of leadership on to Col. Balfe,” Maney said. “He is seasoned, a proven warrior and will expertly lead the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team into the future with its demand for Soldiers and unit combat readiness.”

Soldiers of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team present honors during the unit change of command held on Fort Drum during annual training. The brigade bid farewell to Col. Dan Maney and welcomed Col. Brian Balfe. “I started my command with this brigade in transition to support units but leave a brigade combat team. I am proud to have led that change,” Maney said. Photo by Maj. Kathy Oliver.

Balfe is a 1983 graduate of the United States Military Academy with a degree in Engineering. His first active duty assignment was the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he served as a multiple launch rocket system firing platoon leader, an 8 inch cannon battery fire direction officer and the composite battalion fire direction officer.

Balfe joined the New York Army National Guard in 1990, holding multiple leadership and command positions. Balfe is a two-time battalion Commander, in 1998 he was selected to command the 2-108th Infantry, becoming the first Artillery Officer to command a New York Army National Guard infantry unit. Balfe went on to command the 1-156th Field Artillery (Light), which he deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. in 2001. In 2001, Balfe was also deployed as a Task Force Commander in support of 9-11. Col. Balfe’s last assignment before coming to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was as Regimental Commander of the 106th Regimental Regional Training Institute at Camp Smith, N.Y.

Col. Balfe, the new 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander told the assembled Soldiers, “With the Brigade’s re-organization complete, we can now get back to business of being an Infantry Brigade. Our mandate is clear, we must train for deployment,” he said. “The call for mobilization may come tomorrow, or it may never come. Either way we will be prepared, we will be trained, we will be manned and we will be equipped.”

Col. Balfe told his Soldiers that “The road ahead will be difficult, but I know that looking into your eyes, challenge is not new. You have repeatedly been faced with challenges, both home and abroad, and you have come out on the other side tempered as hard steel, polished as a mirror, sharp as a razor. You stand here as individuals, and soon as a unit, a deadly weapon ready to defend freedom wherever she may be disputed.”

Col Balfe thanked Brig. Gen. Genereux, Jr. for entrusting him with this command stating, “Sir, if you put your trust in me, we will not let you down, our state or our nation.” Balfe went on to address his new Soldiers of the 27th Infantry Combat Team concluding with “I’ll see you on the field.”
‘Harlem Hellfighters’ receive South African guests

By Maj. Patrick Chaisson
JFHQ-NY State Partnership Program


The New York National Guard invited the leaders to tour the Harlem Armory as part of the State Partnership Program relationship with South Africa.

The South African dignitaries, led by Lt. Gen. L. J. Van Rensburg were greeted by Maj. Norman Easy of the 369th Corps Support Battalion. Easy escorted the group inside the Harlem Armory where a detail of New York City Youth Marines rendered honors. The delegation then met Lt. Col. Irving Donaldson, 10th Support Group Commander and the former battalion commander of the 369th during the unit’s deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Donaldson briefed his guests on the rich heritage of the “Harlem Hellfighters,” the first African-American infantry regiment to fight in World War I. His presentation addressed the 369th CSB’s many accomplishments over the years as well as the challenges overcome by the Harlem unit throughout its history.

As part of his briefing Lt. Col. Donaldson reflected on the 369th CSB OIF deployment in 2004-2005. The South African military leaders saw photos and heard about military life in Camp CEDAR II near Talil, Iraq. Many of the South African leaders showed surprise at several photographs where 369th Soldiers helped Iraqis rebuild their homes and lives. They said that little media coverage of such positive activities had yet reached South African audiences.

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Plans are underway to schedule visits between the 369th CSB and South African combat support units for next year’s training calendar.

The South African delegation left the Harlem Armory with a new understanding of a famous New York National Guard unit, the 369th Corps Support Battalion. They also left with many exciting ideas for future partnerships between the “Harlem Hellfighters” and the South African armed forces. According to Lt. Col. Donaldson, “that partnership made the event a complete success.”

The armory tour continued with a talk on National Guard community activities given by retired Maj. Gen. Nathaniel James, a former commander of the 369th. James described the many partnerships the armory formed with veterans associations, social organizations and local youth groups. He also addressed the challenges all armories face when trying to enable public access while also maintaining security.

Following a visit to the Harlem Armory’s historic commander’s quarters, the tour concluded with a dinner featuring many local area dishes. Several Soldiers of the 369th joined their South African guests for dinner, adding comradeship and conversation to the itinerary.

The Soldiers said they enjoyed this opportunity to share their experiences with the visiting dignitaries. Despite differences in rank and nationality, the South Africans and their Harlem hosts discovered they had much in common. It quickly became clear that both organizations take pride in their rich military heritage and record of achievement.

Best of all, the South African officers and “Harlem Hellfighters” began talking of future leader visits and unit exchanges as part of the State Partnership Program. All agreed the opportunity to learn from one another is a chance not to be missed.

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Troops mark anniversary of Terrorist Attacks in Special Oath Ceremony

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
Guard Times Staff

WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE, MANHATTAN — Nearly two dozen New York Army and Air National Guard men and women participated in a solemn pilgrimage on August 21 and returned to the World Trade Center site for a special re-affirmation ceremony of the National Guard service oath.

The representative group was mostly comprised of personnel who actually served on State Active Duty in New York City as a result of the attacks and a few members who joined the Guard in the years that followed. Many of the participants had also performed federal active duty, either at home or abroad as part of the Global War on Terror. A handful of Guard members still on duty to protect Grand Central and Penn Stations in Manhattan as part of Task Force Empire Shield were also there. Participants came from the Headquarters 42nd Infantry Division in Troy, the 109th Air Wing in Scotia, the 105th Air Wing in Newburgh, the 106th Rescue Wing on Long Island, the Fighting 69th Infantry in New York City and other units.

As the nation was approaching the Fifth Anniversary period, the New York National Guard had taken time out, in its own way, to reflect, take stock and help make sure that the world would never forget.

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department this summer kicked off a program August 7 to help prevent activated Reservists and National Guardsmen from facing financial hardships.

The Reserve Income Replacement Program will pay eligible National Guard and reserve members mobilized for extended or frequent periods the difference between their monthly civilian pre-mobilization income and their current total monthly military compensation.

“RIRP is designed to assist those mobilized Guard and reserve members that are experiencing a loss of income while mobilized,” said Tom Bush, principal director of manpower and reserve affairs for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Program payments are not automatic. Guard and reserve members must apply for the RIRP payments thorough their service personnel offices.

The first payments under the program will be made at the end of August for members who have completed the application and meet all eligibility criteria. Congress authorized the Reserve Income Replacement Program as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2006. The authority for RIRP will expire Dec. 31, 2008.

More information on the Income Replacement Program can be found at www.dod.mil/ra.
Building the Warfighting Team

By Staff Sgt. Shannon M. Cunningham
27th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

FORT DRUM, N.Y. – The command and staff of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team put their warfighting skills to work in a brigade level combat simulation exercise at Fort Drum in August that enhanced their readiness for deployment.

The Battle Command Training Program known as the Warfighter is a computer scenario driven combat simulation exercise that mirrors units’ wartime tasks and is essentially a tactical exercise without troops.

Brigade leaders and staff established the various command posts and operations centers in order to provide the most realistic training environment for Soldiers, leaders and staffs. Commanders and staffs of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry; 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery; 27th Special Troops Battalion and the 427th Support Battalion also established tactical operations centers for the 36-hour training operation to hone mission planning and execution skills in both offensive and defensive tactical environments.

Working in a series of tents and military vehicles outside the Fort Drum Simulation Center configured as they would be in a “real world” situation, the brigade and battalion staffs simulated real-time operations across the computer generated battlefield.

The brigade trained up for six months prior to the Warfighter exercise. The road to war for the exercise began with “receipt of the mission,” followed by staff training in mission analysis and written operations orders production. Staff members completed a week-long seminar in April at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to further mold the staff into a functional team.

Annual Training in July saw the conclusion of training, and the staff was ready to show what they had learned when the observer-controller-trainer (OC-T) team from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas arrived in August.

The Warfighter exercise was a hugely successful event in which the staff orchestrated the attack and defense of the brigade against a fictional opposing force. Col. Brian Balfe, Commander of the 27th Brigade Combat Team, described the exercise as “an opportunity to train staffs and commanders under simulated conditions that approaches those of war.”

“The United States military is continuously training,” Balfe said. “We’re always trying to refine our craft to be prepared for a myriad of different types of missions. We never stop training. That’s our bread and butter. That’s what keeps our skills honed. You can learn something new every day.”

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Recruiting support for Enlisted Association wins recruiting award

By Jeannine M. Mannarino
Enlisted Association, N.Y. National Guard

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah
– The winner of Enlisted Association of the New York National Guard (EANYNG) recruiting drive enjoyed the benefits of his grand prize here for the 2006* Membership Recruiting Campaign.

The enthusiasm, high energy and dedication to the Enlisted Association drove Sgt. Michael Wicks to win the free trip to the 35th Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States Annual Conference (EANGUS) in Salt Lake City, Utah. Wicks is assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters Detachment in Latham, N.Y.

In less than six months, Wicks recruited 38 new members and returned older members that had fallen off the roster into the association in less than six months.

“It was easy to recruit on behalf of the Enlisted Association,” Wicks said after receiving the award.

“I recruited a lot of friends and then asked some of them to help by sending me recruits so I could win the competition.”

“The greater the numbers the greater the strength of the association when they are lobbying for benefits for Guardsmen.”

When Wicks was asked what made him want to win the recruiting campaign so much that he recruited close to forty Soldiers and airman he said, “because I had a ball at the 34th conference the year before, when I was selected to attend the National Guard Bureau’s Professional Development courses there,” hosted by the Enlisted Association in Orlando, Florida.

“I was amazed at the men and woman that I had an opportunity to meet at the national level,” Wicks said.

“They all were so knowledgeable about the Guard and all the Association’s legislative goals. I feel it’s important that everyone should be a part of this organization. The greater the numbers the greater the strength of the association when they are lobbying for benefits for Guardsmen.”

The Enlisted Association conducted a membership recruiting campaign from January 1st to June 30th to spearhead the organization’s focus on members since the return of so many Army Guard units from service in Iraq in 2005. The New York National Guard’s membership declined over the past four years due to the numerous deployments among the Army and Air National Guard elements across the state.

Over the past two years, membership in the Enlisted Association has steadily increased by close to two hundred Soldiers and airman. The success is led by the volunteer force that guides the association, including area legislative representatives, the executive board, committee chairs and Citizen Soldiers like Wicks.

“The President of the national Enlisted Association Ed Brown and for New York Claude Imagna honored Wicks during the President’s Message before his peers and the 400 attendees of the national association. Wick’s dedication to the association was duly noticed by the newly appointed president, retired Command Sgt. Major Frank Lever at the 35th Annual Conference. On the last day of the conference Lever approached Wicks to discuss a possible opportunity to work on a newly forming membership steering committee at the national level.

“I was amazed, I just wanted to tell him how many ideas I have about recruiting our members and especially about how we need to retain them.”

“Wicks is a man of passion,” said outgoing President Imagna. “He understands all the great things that the association does for the common good of all Guardsmen, like lowering the retirement age for all Soldiers or giving all Guardsmen an opportunity to have health coverage through TriCare. The entire recruiting campaign was a tremendous success because of all the men and women like Mike that helped recruit one hundred members into the Association,” Imagna said.

Army Guard Medical Files enter digital age

Guard Times Staff

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – Members of the N.Y. Army National Guard who keep medical records at home or in their local armory are asked to deliver them to the Joint Force Headquarters Medical Command for entering their medical data into an electronic archive.

A recent directive from the Department of Defense will transfer all medical records for personnel serving in the N.Y. Army National Guard for electronic scanning and digital archiving. The project is expected to be complete in January of 2007.

After the electronic scanning project is complete all individuals should be able to review or retrieve their medical records on line.

Select Guardsmen can also send records directly to Headquarters, New York Army National Guard, Attn: Medical Records Department, Medical Command NY, Office of the State Surgeon (MNAG-SURG). U.S. Army Health Clinic, Building 40-4 Watervliet Arsenal, Watervliet, New York 12189-4050.

The Medical Command must have original records on file to legally support any current or future requests for medical information supporting the Soldier (for example, in filing disability claims with the Veteran’s Administration).

Medical records management questions may be directed to the Medical Records Manager Sharon Czaplicki or Pvt. Brad Provost at (518) 272-6390.

NEADS announces new construction, award recipients

Northeast Air Defense Sector Public Affairs Office

ROME, N.Y. – The Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) announced its five quarterly award winners for the April – June timeframe. These individuals received this recognition based on their superior accomplishments both on and off duty.


NEADS also broke ground in early summer on a building addition to its Command Center on the Griffiss Technology and Business Park. The Air Force-funded expansion will create 3,000 square feet of additional work space.

“This is the first major structural change to the Sector Operations Command Center since construction was completed in 1983,” said Col. Clark F. Speicher, NEADS commander. “This added space offers our folks an enhanced work environment while improving their quality of life.”

The project is expected to be completed before the end of 2006.

Later this year, NEADS will begin construction of a separate $3 million 10,000 square foot support facility adjacent to the Sector Operations Control Center.

The Northeast Air Defense Sector, with almost 400 people assigned, is responsible for air defense of the skies over the northeastern quadrant of the United States.
‘Arctic’ Air Wing holds change of command

Col. Max Della Pia passes Stratton Air National Guard Base mission to Col. Anthony German

Guard Times Staff

SCOTIA, N.Y. — Col. Max Della Pia passed control of the New York Air National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing to Col. Anthony German, Aug. 5, in a formal change of command ceremony at Hanger One. Della Pia has served as the organization’s commander for seven years. This ceremony marks the 11th time in the unit’s 58-year history that leadership has changed.

“Col. Della Pia has had an extraordinary tenure as commander of the 109th,” said the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto. “He has been an important advocate for the 109th and a valued member of the state military forces. I look forward to working with him in his new capacity at state headquarters and welcome Col. German, whose capability and experience has shown him to be ready to move into this position of great responsibility.”

Maj. Gen. Robert Knauff, Deputy Adjutant General of the State of New York and Commander of the New York Air National Guard, said, “Col. Della Pia has proven himself to be a great leader who is universally respected by those who served under him, as well as to those in the community. Under his command, the 109th has achieved unprecedented performance in their service at the North and South Poles. While he will be missed in Scotia, I know we can expect great things as he moves into a position of significant responsibility at Headquarters, New York Air National Guard.”

“I know Col. German will assume the mantel of leadership in distinguished fashion, calling upon his wealth of knowledge as a polar navigator, former squadron commander and staff officer with experience working with the National Science Foundation and the senior staff at the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs,” Maj. Gen. Knauff said. “New York State is indeed fortunate to have such outstanding officers from whom to select for its command positions.”

Col. Della Pia, outgoing commander of the 109th said, “It has been a great honor to have worked with such an extraordinary group of individuals. The Wing has served with distinction in Afghanistan, Iraq, and at areas of domestic crisis, each year it has reached higher and higher levels of performance. Whether moving science cargo for the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and Greenland, or providing relief supplies for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the 109th has been up to any task. I will miss this unit and treasure my experience as their commander, which has been a high point of my military career.”

Col. German said, “As one who rose through the ranks as a member of the 109th and knows its people and their capabilities in fulfilling our mission, I look forward with great anticipation to this new assignment. I would like to thank Col Della Pia for establishing a great foundation. Through his efforts, I know the future will be bright for the 109th.”

Upon completion of this assignment, Col. Della Pia will assume duties as Executive Support Staff Officer for Headquarters New York Air National Guard.

The 109th Airlift Wing is the only unit in the world equipped with the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft with responsibility for supporting scientific research in both the northern and southern polar regions.

Governor announces overhaul of Intrepid

Office of the Governor

NEW YORK — Governor George E. Pataki announced July 6 that the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum will receive a $5 million capital grant to support the significant repair and refurbishment needs that have developed in the 24 years since the Intrepid arrived in New York and opened as a Museum in 1982. The Intrepid will be “On Leave” and will be removed from its current home at Pier 86 while the infrastructure repairs and upgrades are being performed.

“The Intrepid is an American icon and a truly awe inspiring reminder of the sacrifices generations of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have made to protect our freedom,” Governor Pataki said. “On behalf of the citizens of our State, I am proud that our State will be providing additional support to help restore the Intrepid to the grandeur befitting of her legacy.”

“From her amazing service in defense of our nation to her continued service on September 11, the Intrepid has given so much to this Nation time and again, and with this overhaul she will continue to serve as a symbol of hope for all of us for many years to come,” the Governor added.

“Carries to will help preserve the tremendous vision of a great New Yorker, Zachary Fisher, who saved the Intrepid from scrapping and helped transform this aircraft carrier into a world class museum and tourist destination that reminds people from around the globe of the many battles American servicemen and women have fought to protect and promote freedom.”

The Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum will utilize the $5 million capital grant as part of a $55 million renovation plan which will consist of major interior and exterior exhibit overhaul and refurbishment of the Intrepid, maintenance work on the entire aircraft collection, and the acquisition of new historic aircraft.

Established in 1982, the Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum complex is comprised of the 900-foot-long aircraft carrier USS Intrepid with two full decks and four theme halls; the guided missile submarine, USS Growler; and an extensive aircraft collection including the A-12 Blackbird, the fastest spy plane in the world, and now Concorde, the fastest commercial aircraft in the world.

While the Intrepid is offsite, crews will use the opportunity to perform maintenance work on the submarine Growler, SSG-577, the British Airways Concorde and other major exhibits that constitute the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum and also address the extremely deteriorated condition of Pier 86 which will be completely demolished and rebuilt into a new modern facility.

The Intrepid is scheduled to return to berth the new Pier 86 and reopen to the public in time for Fleet Week 2008.

Governor Pataki announces the refit of the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space on the carrier’s flight deck July 6. Photo by Lester Millman.
SNOWBIRD, Utah – The Air National Guard Medical Service is filling a critical need that many Americans may not even be aware exists.

It’s called “surge capacity” or “surge capability,” and it’s the ability of hospitals and first responders to cope with a sudden influx of patients caused by a natural disaster such as a deadly hurricane, disease such as pandemic bird flu or manmade calamity such as a terrorist attack.

The problem: There isn’t much of it.

“We have no critical care surge capacity in this country,” said Col. (Dr.) Randall Falk, the National Guard Bureau’s air surgeon. “The problem is illustrated best by 9/11.

“We felt that the EMEDS capability would provide some of that support,” Falk said. “We think the EMEDS is the most flexible, most mobile, most agile medical system seen in the history of mankind,” Falk said.

Among the National Guard’s answers to the critical surge shortage are the self-supporting EMEDS that’s been domestically battle-proven by Hurricane Katrina and the medical elements of CERFPs.

EMEDS stands for Expeditionary Medical Support. CERFP stands for CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High-Yield Explosive) Enhanced Response Force Package.

Both were on display during an exercise at Readiness Frontiers 2006, an Air National Guard Medical Service conference held at Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort July 27 through Aug. 7.

“We’re one of the relatively few providers of surge capability that cities and states can look to,” said Col. (Dr.) Chip Riggins, incoming air surgeon.

EMEDS is a package that includes everything needed to screen, treat and release to other facilities for longer-term care people with injuries from trivial to traumatic.

“The EMEDS is the most flexible, most mobile, most agile medical system seen in the history of mankind,” Falk said.

“We felt that the EMEDS capability would provide some of that support,” Falk said. “We can’t make up for all the requirements. It’s not the only answer, but it certainly is a very strong answer.”

An EMEDS used in a civilian setting buys time while other facilities are ramped up, Falk said. “We hope that with the critical care capability we have with EMEDS, that we’ll be able to provide at least initial surge capability to be able to help some more people than we’re currently able to help in the managed care environment we live in today,” he said.

The team first went to New Orleans International Airport, where they saw several hundred nursing home and special needs patients among more than 1,000 total people.

Then it was on to the Convention Center.

“We were part of that mass medevac,” Beck said. “We medically screened over 5,000 people and evacuated them.”

That happened in just 10 hours at the Convention Center. The CERFP team – originally 22 or 23 strong – was augmented by New Orleans Emergency Medical Service and additional outside medics, he said.

For the Air Guard Medical Service, filling surge capacity has been a force preserver.

“We’ve retained our forces and our strength based on our ability to support the nation and provide this surge capacity,” Falk said.

The Katrina response – the first real-world use of a National Guard CERFP — proved the concept, Beck said.

The team then supported the members of the military relief operation in the weeks that followed, he said.

“The National Guard was front-and-center with two full-up EMEDS facilities,” Falk said. “We had 17,000 patient contacts. It was a rainbow coalition of medical forces from across the nation.”

The EMEDS concept has been proven on the active duty side during recent conflicts, Falk said – and Guard members have augmented active duty EMEDS, increasing their experience.

“The techniques used today in the overseas front have resulted in a survivability rate of 92 percent,” Falk said. “That is, if a wounded Citizen-Soldier or Airman reaches a medic with a pulse, he or she has a 92 percent chance of recovery.”

During the Vietnam War, that chance was in the 70 percent range. “It’s a leap forward with EMEDS technology, and with other medical technology,” Falk said. “This war has seen us not needing, not requiring a theater hospital more forward than Kundstuhl, Germany.”

The inference: If the active duty’s overseas EMEDS capability can be this successful in the war zone, the National Guard’s domestic EMEDS capability can be decisive for the homeland.

“I’m extremely enthusiastic about this,” Falk said.

Falk calls Kansas’ adjutant general (TAG) “the daddy TAG of the EMEDS” for the enthusiasm with which Maj. Gen. Todd Bunting embraced the concept. Kansas is the only state to pay for an EMEDS with a specific line item in the state budget.

“We like the EMEDS mission,” Bunting said, explaining that Kansas’ central location and experiences like hospital-wrecking tornadoes and hospital-closing snowstorms and floods motivated his state.

“The surge capacity for the nation in most public safety environments is the National Guard,” said Bunting. “That’s why you have the National Guard. EMEDS is a classic National Guard mission, and I’m excited to get it to the point where every state has this mission.”

“EMEDS can’t make up for all the requirements. It’s not the only answer, but it certainly is a very strong answer.”

An EMEDS used in a civilian setting buys time while other facilities are ramped up, Falk said. “We hope that with the critical care capability we have with EMEDS, that we’ll be able to provide at least initial surge capability to be able to help some more people than we’re currently able to help in the managed care environment we live in today,” he said.
Flight Facility delivers ‘Guard Focus’ message to community

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
Guard Times Staff

ARMY AVIATION FLIGHT FACILITY, ROCHESTER
– Popular radio personality “Brother Wease” of WCMF brought his studio and remote broadcast team to the Guard’s Army Aviation support Facility in Rochester on Friday, July 14 to help the Guard deliver its “Guard Focus” message to the community.

The often blunt talk show host and Vietnam Veteran broadcast his live show from under a Guard tent in the facility parking lot from 6:00 to 11:30 a.m. and included facility personnel and recruiting staff for on-air conversations. As usual, his banter with his studio team delighted Guard hosts, who alternately were both part of and the butt of jokes as the morning progressed. The Guard’s key message of readiness for community service, emergency response and achievements during federal overseas deployments were frequently described in detail.

At noon, a group of new Guard recruits took the oath of service in front of one of the facilities’ CH-47 Chinook Helicopters and in front of the cameras of two local TV stations. News reporters interviewed the new Guard members as well as the recruiters and facility leaders, including Col. Mark Burke who served in Iraq last year in his capacity as 42nd Aviation Brigade commander.

More recently, during flood response operations along New York’s Southern Tier in late June and July, air crews from Rochester operated UH-1, CH-47 and OH-58 aircraft, flying more than 50 sorties. Two confirmed roof top rescues were conducted and more than 500 people were transported from threatened areas. Emergency response equipment belonging to the New York State Police was also airlifted into the affected areas during the combined operation.

Recruiters and facility personnel teamed up to arrange static aircraft and other displays under the warm summer sun for visitors who had tuned in to the radio broadcast and stopped by to check it out. The one-day effort was judged to be a success in its efforts to communicate to the community and attract the interest of potential recruits.

Brother Wease was determined to continue to forge a partnership with his new Guard friends and invited the Guard to participate with him during broadcasts in August from St. Fisher College, where the Buffalo Bills Summer Training Camp was scheduled to run in August. Facility staff and the recruiting team were only too happy to oblige.

†
NEW YORK – New York State Governor George E. Pataki responded to the arrest of alleged terrorists overseas on August 10 with a quick decision to augment law enforcement officers at New York City’s LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy (JFK) Airports with Citizen Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard. Soldiers with Task Force Empire Shield and the 53rd Troop Command quickly responded to the state’s mobilization of Soldiers to partner with the Port Authority Police Department, the lead security element at the city’s bustling airports. Task Force Empire Shield is the standing task force dedicated to supporting ongoing security missions in New York City. New York has remained at a higher threat level since the implementation of the homeland security advisory system of national threat indicators in March of 2002.

The arrest of terror suspects in Britain uncovered an alleged plot to detonate explosive devices on board commercial airliners bound for the United States. With the increased security posture both in Great Britain and the U.S., dozens of Soldiers from the standing security task force in New York City responded within hours of Governor Pataki’s mobilization of the Guard in response to the increased terror threat.

“Today’s revelation about a plan to destroy commercial aircrafts underscores the need for continued vigilance, intelligence gathering and cooperation among law enforcement agencies and the public,” Pataki said in a statement announcing the increased security measures. The mission to assist security at New York’s airports is nothing new to the Guardsmen and women in the state. In the fall of 2001, President Bush called upon Governors to mobilize Army National Guard forces to provide security across all of the country’s commercial airports. That mission in 2001 laid a foundation for much of the ongoing staff coordination and planning between New York’s Office of Homeland Security officials and the New York National Guard.

Port Authority Police forces partnered with members of the National Guard for increased security patrols and manning key checkpoints at the airports within hours of the mission’s announcement. That mission was sustained in the weeks following the terror plot arrests as the City of New York prepared for the five-year commemoration of the September 11th, 2001 terror attacks at the World Trade Center.

One of the most significant security changes during the mission was the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) prohibition on liquids, gels, lotions and other items of similar consistency. These items were not permitted in carry-on baggage, slowing the boarding of thousands of passengers at airports both in Britain and the U.S.

“There is enhanced security in effect at JFK and LaGuardia airports and we should expect some delays and cancelled flights throughout the day, as well as longer lines at security checkpoints,” Pataki said in a public statement. “I would ask all New Yorkers to pack accordingly to facilitate easier screening of baggage, exclude prohibited items and remain patient.”

“One of the benefits from doing this work almost five years ago is that we both knew what to expect from each other,” said Port Authority Police Inspector John Cassimatis, head of security at JFK Airport. “You guys were fast.”

“Today’s incidents point out that what I think most of us already knew which is that we got to have an ongoing commitment to protect the freedoms and the people of this country because we are in an ongoing war against those who want to attack us again,” Pataki said during his press conference announcing the employment of the Guard at JFK Airport.

“We are extremely blessed to have our National Guard volunteers,” Pataki said in his concluding remarks. “These are true Citizen Soldiers, volunteers who don’t do this for a living who whenever the cause is necessary put on the uniform and take the measures to protect us.

“General Taluto, to you and the men and women of the New York National Guard, we’re proud of you, God bless you and thank you for answering the call.”

Guard responds to Governor’s mobilization

By Maj. Richard Goldenberg
Guard Times Staff
New York State Governor George E. Pataki announces the increased security mission of the N.Y. National Guard at JFK and LaGuardia Airports in New York City on August 10, 2006 following the arrest of suspected terrorists in the United Kingdom accused of preparing bombing attacks on transatlantic flights. Photo by Lester Millman.

At left, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto speaks with members of Task Force Empire Shield, the initial response force of Citizen Soldiers providing security support to the City of New York at JFK Airport. The task force provided the initial response force of security personnel before conducting a relief in place with elements of the 53rd Troop Command in late summer to sustain the security presence at the two New York airports. Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division are expected to sustain the security mission through the September 11th commemoration period. Photo by Maj. Richard Goldenberg.

“We are extremely blessed to have our National Guard volunteers”
NY Guard Supports Adirondack Search

By Capt. John Neeley
New York Guard, 10th Brigade

INLET, N.Y. – Members of the New York Guard’s 10th Brigade responded to a request for assistance from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) during a search for a missing camper in the Moose River Plains Wilderness Area in Hamilton County of the Adirondacks.

Former Central New York photographer, Jack Coloney, 45, returned from his current home in South Carolina to the Adirondacks on June 6 to photograph some of the rugged beauty that helped make his reputation as a nature photographer. Coloney presumably moved from his campsite into the woods for a hike, expecting to return to central New York on June 14. He never returned to his campsite and nobody saw him after he checked into the Adirondack Park. An off-duty N.Y. State Forest Ranger discovered that he was missing on June 16 when he checked the campsite with Coloney nowhere to be found. The Ranger went on and checked the trail registers and logs to discover the overdue hiker. There was no real way to determine exactly how long he had been missing.

The DEC requested support in the search and rescue from the New York Guard Search and Rescue Team and the 10th Brigade assumed command and control of the military support mission for the area. Civil Search and Rescue (SAR) teams also arrived from across the state and converged on the Indian Lake area on the start of the mission. Troops from 10th, 65th, 56th and 88th Brigades along with Air Division personnel all supported the mission, assisting more than six SAR teams, the N.Y. State Police Aviation element and N.Y. Air National Guard Pararescue personnel and aircraft from the 106th Air Rescue Wing from Westhampton Beach, Long Island.

Conditions were difficult and risk factors high – the Moose River Plains is one of the largest unpopulated areas of the Adirondack Park and covers some 35 square miles. The terrain is rugged with thick vegetation and insect life. Daily temperatures reached into the 80s with high humidity and frequent afternoon thunderstorms. The Team was billeted at the Durant Lake State campsite area by the Forest Rangers.

The search teams’ insertion area was 25 miles from any paved road, more than one hour of driving in the Forest Ranger’s four-wheel drive vehicles. The nearest telephone access to the staging area was an hour drive and the closest cellular telephone service coverage one and one half hours away.

Key to the command and control of the search in the Adirondacks were the placement of liaison officers between the Department of Environmental Conservation and the N.Y. National Guard. Lt. Col. Kevin Lynch from the 10th Brigade provided communications and contact with the Joint Operations Center in Latham while Lt. Col. James Bly supported the DEC operations at Indian Lake to answer specific New York Guard or Search and Rescue issues or questions.

The search mission lasted eleven days and employed more than 4,000 man-hours of search by the Forest Rangers and On June 27th will no clues or sightings the DEC scaled back the active search and placed the operation into a “limited continuous” mode where Forest Rangers will occasionally recheck sites.

Members of the N.Y. Guard search and rescue team conduct operations in the Adirondack Park in an attempt to discover a missing hiker. Photo courtesy the N.Y. Guard 10th Brigade.
NEW YORK — Since its establishment in the wake of 9/11, Sailors with the New York Naval Militia’s New York State Military Emergency Boat Service (NYSMEBS) continue to provide security, surveillance and other mission support to federal, state and local authorities in and around the waterways of New York State. Crews trained rigorously, and they put that training to the test on July 4 when they pulled a distressed swimmer from the swift unforgiving waters of the Hudson River at a popular fireworks display.

NYMEBS supported the Coast Guard’s security fleet assigned to the Macy’s annual fireworks display held in New York Harbor on Independence Day. The event attracts many pleasure boats filled with spectators into the harbor where they anchor and await sunset. The joint forces security fleet alone totaled 47 patrol boats representing several federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, including three NYSMEBS high-speed patrol boats.

Earlier that day the patrol boat crews embarked from their dock near Indian Point and proceeded down the Hudson towards New York City. After a brief stop at the Coast Guard station on Staten Island, the crews took up their assignments in the East River near Roosevelt Island. Their mission was to serve as “pickets” to the pleasure boats and maintain a safety zone around the fireworks barges, which were positioned several hours prior to the display.

Around eight in the evening, with the outgoing tide creating a swift current in the river, a NYSMEBS coxswain observed a man jump from a nearby, anchored, pleasure boat into the water. The man was wearing no floatation device, and he was immediately swept away from his boat by the current. With the sun sinking low, the crew watched as the man tried to swim against the current but with little success. He rapidly exhausted himself, became overwhelmed and floundered.

The patrol boat crew, anticipating a worst-case scenario, brought their boat to speed and maneuvered away from their station towards the desperate swimmer in a channel crowded with anchored spectators. Their boat was alongside him in a moment, and a life ring was thrown within reach. The crew brought the swimmer aboard safely where he stated he was “exhausted and didn’t have an ounce of strength left.” The boat then returned him back to his pleasure boat and resumed their patrol.

With the sun below the horizon, the fireworks exploded over the harbor with a crash of noise and colors as if in celebration of this lifesaving moment. Following the display, the boat crews remained on station until the fireworks barges were secured. Boats and crews returned to Staten Island where they secured for the night knowing their training had paid off.

At top, a Naval Militia sailor provides additional security along the Hudson River in New York City during the July 4th celebrations. Above, a Naval Militia Emergency Boat Service travels downriver during the operation.
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**Soldiers from the 222nd Military Police Company in Hornell, N.Y. conduct weapons familiarization training during the unit's final August. Photo by Maj. Richard Goldenberg.**

**Army Promotions**

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**Soldiers from the 222nd Military Police Company in Hornell, N.Y. conduct weapons familiarization training during the unit’s final inactive duty training weekend, Aug. 22, 2006. More than sixty members of the 222nd MP Company based in Hornell and Auburn mobilized for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in August. Photo by Maj. Richard Goldenberg.**
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**End of an Armor Era**

Lt. Col. Michael Mallin (photo at left), commander of the 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry, cases the colors of the headquarters guidon during the battalion’s deactivation ceremony on Staten Island on Sunday, August 20. The armor unit deactivated after nearly 150 years of service as part of the transformation of units across the N.Y. Army National Guard. The lineage of the 101st Cavalry continues with the 27th Brigade’s 2nd Squadron (RSTA), 101st Cavalry, based in Buffalo. Staten Island is now home to the 42nd Division Tactical Command Post and 145th Maintenance Company. Below, Capt. Mark Walsh receives the headquarters company guidon from 1st Sgt. David Waldron. Photos by Pfc. Mark Singalman.
Reaffirming Service

Nearly 100 Army and Air National Guard members from Central New York’s 174th Fighter Wing and 27th Infantry Brigade conduct a special reaffirmation of their Oath of Service at the NYS Fair Veterans Memorial August 31st. The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto led the ceremony in commemoration of the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attacks and the service the troops have performed at home and abroad ever since. Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Tows.
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**Early Entry ELM 369 Sust Bde**

- ELM 369 Sust Bde: A component of the U.S. Army that provides logistical support to units.
- HHC 369th Sustainment Brigade: The headquarters and support element of the brigade.
- Det 1 1156th Eng Bn: Detachment of the 1156th Engineer Battalion.
- Det 1 HHC 2-108th Inf: Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment.
- Det 1 105 MP CO: Detachment of the 105th Military Police Company.
- Det 1 827th Eng Co: Detachment of the 827th Engineering Company.
- Det 2 HHC 42D STB: Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 42nd Sustainment Brigade.
- Det 1 HHC 42D STB: Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 42nd Sustainment Brigade.
- Det 1 105 MP CO: Detachment of the 105th Military Police Company.
- Det 1 827th Eng Co: Detachment of the 827th Engineering Company.
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NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
FRASER, GLENDON A 137 AIRLIFT SQ
WARNICK, DAVID M 107 AIR REFUELING WG
GREGORY, ANN M 109 MEDICAL GP
DOLL, MARK T 139 AIRLIFT SQ
GARLIC, WENDELL B NEW YORK ANG HQ
ANDERSON, JAMES V II NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

MAJOR
KENNELLY, EDWARD R 152 AIR OPERATIONS GP
CAIN
Fritz, JESSE J 106 MAINTENANCE OPS

2nd LIEUTENANT
BURNS, JEFFREY J 139 AEROMED EVAC SQ

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
BARNES, GEORGE M 105 SECURITY FORCES SQ

MASTER SERGEANT
ROGERS, EDWARD C 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
BEAHAN, SHAWN 105 SECURITY FORCES SQ
SMITH, TRAVIS A 213 ENG INSTL SQ
BRADY, KEVIN T 213 ENG INSTL SQ
SIMONS, JENNIFER L 101 RESCUE SQ
GREEN, JEFFREY S 103 RESCUE SQ
JACK, ELLIS A 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
CHRISTOPHERS, PETER 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
BUTLER, JILL S 106 MAINTENANCE SQ
SAVIO, ROBERT T 106 MAINTENANCE SQ
DAGOSTINO, JAMES C 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ
GROGUL, DANIEL B 106 SECURITY FORCES SQ
MAHONEY, JENNIFER L 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
LATTUCA, JOHN M 107 COMMUNICATIONS FT
PRIES, JEFFREY T 107 SERVICES FT
RESTEY, PAUL M 109 AIR REFUELING SQ
HELMER, SCOTT J 109 AERIAL PORT FT
PREVENDOSKI, MARK 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
WILLIAMS, JAMES J 109 AERIAL PORT SQ
MADIA, FRANK A 109 MAINTENANCE SQ
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CONANT, JEFFREY F 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
OSTERHOUT, DAVID E 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
MOISAN, KENNETH D 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
FONG, BRUCE A 174 COMMUNICATIONS FT
MARTIN, JONATHAN D 174 COMMUNICATIONS FT
GREENER, CHARLES J 174 FIGHTER WG
PIERSALL, PATRICK B 174 MAINTENANCE GP
NIELSEN, KARA S 174 MISSION SUPPORT FT
TROCH, JAMES N 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ

TECH SERGEANT
DELROSARIO, RAFAEL A 105 AIRPORT PORT SQ
COLTON, JOHN S 105 AIRPORT PORT SQ
LYNCH, JAMES K 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
OLEARY, FRANCIS T 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
SIMONS, JAMES M 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
GREEN, JAMES F JR 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
ANDERSON, TONY 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
ROSSI, CHARLES J 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
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AQUINO, WILLIAM JR 105 SERVICES FT
STEVERSON, TROY T 137 AIRLIFT SQ
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MACQUILL, JAMES R 106LOGISTICS READINES SQ
BOTT, EDWARD P 106LOGISTICS READINES SQ
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LONCAR, MICHAEL P JR 107 AIR REFUELING WG

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GRANT, DEAN W 152 AIR OPERATIONS GP
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MCGEE, GARY L 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
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BINDER, STEPHEN J 174 SERVICES FT
SONNACCHO, VINCENTO 174 SERVICES FT
KAHE, ROBERT P 174 SERVICES FT
KURKOWSKI, SCOTT A 174 SERVICES FT

STAFF SERGEANT
HENNESSY, MAREA A 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ
LYNCH, KENNETH G 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ
DELTORO, CHRISTIAN J 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
RIVAS, NINO 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
VONDRA, CHRISTIAN J 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
FRANKENBERG, DOMINIC 105 MEDICAL GP
GRIFFIN, GARY L JR 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
VAN SKIVER, DANIEL JR 105 MAINTENANCE SQ
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REPP, MATTHEW A 106 MISSION SUPPORT FT
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BRODY, MICHAEL A NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ
OLSEN, LORA K NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS
DAY, ERICA Y 105 STUDENT FT
NORMAN, MATTHEW S 105 STUDENT FT
STARR, THOMAS W 105 STUDENT FT
PRZYBYLSZ, MATEUSZ A 105 STUDENT FT
BROWER, CLINT B 105 STUDENT FT

A “map maestro”. Tech. Sgt. Kim Sauer, 105th Airlift Wing, reads the Desert Dragon of the Week certificate she received at Ali Air Base, Iraq, August 14 in recognition of her support to the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Emergency Management Flight. Sauer repeatedly aided the Emergency Management Flight with her chart and mapping abilities providing the maps needed by Ali Air Base used in response plotting as well as pre- and post-attack recovery. The maps proved themselves in numerous rocket attacks against the base. The award makes special note of Sauer’s efforts when she organized and planned the production process for a master base map used by joint and coalition forces including civilian contractor agencies. “I received an award which I am very proud of,” Sauer said. Courtesy photo.
Guard Recruiting Assistance Program expands
Military retirees now eligible for referral incentives

Guard Times Staff

LATHAM, N.Y.— Retired Soldiers of the Army National Guard are now eligible to become Guard Recruiting Assistants and receive incentive awards for supporting the recruiting efforts of National Guard units across New York State. The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) just expanded its’ program in order to maintain a position of strength from which the Guard can achieve its accession mission and increase the number of MOS-qualified Soldiers. Retirees are eligible once they have been in a retired status for six months.

Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting Army Guard recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the Army National Guard. Recruiting Assistants earn $2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Initial Entry (Basic) Training or for each prior service member who affiliates with a unit for four months.

Full time members of the National Guard serving as Active Guard & Reserve (AGR), Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW), Military Technicians or immediate family members of the full time Recruiting & Retention force are not currently authorized to participate in the G-RAP program. Part of the online application requires the applicant to certify they are not in any of the above mentioned positions. Part of the evaluation of the applicant will be to determine the validity of this disclaimer.

Recruiting Assistants earn $2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Initial Entry (Basic) Training

Upon enlistment of a new recruit, the incentive program provides an initial payment of $1,000, with a second $1,000 payment upon successful shipment to Basic Training. Exact payment timelines vary depending upon prior service/non-prior status and availability of training seats. Visit www.guardrecruitingassistant.com for more information or to apply for the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program.

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Capt. Warren Sheprow of the 466th Medical Company receives his promotion during the unit mobilization and departure ceremony in Glens Falls, N.Y. on July 3rd. More than 75 Soldiers from the company deploy to Iraq later this year for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Medical Company includes medical professionals, nurses and support staff. The unit, like all mobilized forces of the New York National Guard, is expected to serve overseas for approximately one year “boots on the ground.” Photo by Sgt. Ed Balaban.
Letters to the Editor

Guard Really Makes a Difference Here at Home

Tuesday, July 04, 2006

Dear Guard Times:

With all the news about our fine Soldiers fighting the War On Terrorism that I read on your website, I just wanted to let someone know that they are also doing very difficult and amazing work right here at home.

On June 28th 2006, 13 counties in upstate New York and Pennsylvania were devastated by flooding. Whole neighborhoods were covered in water for several days. Roads were washed away, cars were washed away, homes were destroyed and we were all desperate for help. In Sidney, N.Y., where I live, there is an incredible volunteer Fire Department and local Police Department, but they were overwhelmed with evacuations, rescues and later, inspections to see if it was safe for people to enter homes.

The National Guard unit from Kingston, N.Y. was deployed to our town, where over 500 homes and businesses were damaged by flooding.

These men and women spend their days helping in any way they can, with no questions asked. They guard the flooded area to prevent not only looters, but the general public from being hurt trying to return to damaged areas.

Every day as we cross the railroad tracks that divide our town from the dry hill to the damaged area, we are greeted by National Guard members in full uniform (long sleeves, pants, boots and hats) who stand in the sun for hours listening to people be angry and cry about what they have lost. These Soldiers never lose their temper but instead offer water to someone in an air conditioned car, ask if we need anything from the Red Cross, hand out leaflets on how to take care of yourself when cleaning after a flood. They stand guard over our once beautiful Main Street and although it is a small town, and right now it looks horrible, every one of them that I have spoken to says they can’t believe how wonderful the people here are.

At the end of the day, they go back to the Middle School Red Cross Shelter and eat with hundreds of refugees who have lost everything. For these Soldiers, there is no “down time.” They are surrounded by this tragedy every minute of every day. And all night they do roving patrols of our town, are stationed at all entrances to the flooded areas and make sure no one is able to get in or out.

This job is hard physically and it is hard emotionally. Every day they are faced with new challenges and as the flood waters recede and people see what is left of their property, it is unimaginable the amount of suffering we are all witnessing. As the days of clean up continue, sadness turns to anger and frustration. Tempers flare and people become irritated at the slightest things. Often, these outbursts are taken out on the National Guard as every person who goes into the flood areas must speak with them each time. And people here are good at heart, but they have been put through too much. They can’t take anymore. So the poor Soldiers who are here to protect us hear things like “when is FEMA coming? Can’t you call them?” day in and day out.

Today is the 4th of July and instead of being at a backyard barbecue, these Soldiers are still patrolling in the rain. They are standing under tarps which really don’t keep out the wind and rain. They have nothing but bottled water to drink. No hot dogs, no soda, no swimming, no visiting with family. Just standing there waiting and guarding what is left of our downtown area.

Thank you is not a big enough phrase to cover what these brave Soldiers have done. Every one of them that I have spoken with offers words of encouragement, tells us that we will get through this and that they are honored to be here.

We would all like to do something for these Soldiers, but we don’t know how to let them know what their skill and kindness has meant to us. We face an uncertain future as a town but every day that the National Guard is here, we feel safe and secure. They have been carrying an entire area for almost a week and I don’t know how they find the strength to do it day and night, but we can’t tell you in words how much we appreciate it.

Thank you,

Tina Bargher
Sidney, N.Y.
Family Offices provide valuable Guard services to members, families

The State Family Programs Office (SFPO) facilitates training for contractors and volunteers to ensure their level of knowledge is consistent and conducive to administer appropriate levels of valuable services to the military families of New York State. The SFPO is also tasked with budgetary, policy and procedure as well as administrative duties to appropriately oversee all aspects of the New York National Guard Family Programs. It is the SFPO duty and responsibility to ensure that the successful delivery of services are employed in the most efficient and effective manner, so that the service member’s families obtain the fullest support throughout their service members career.

**The Mission of the New York National Guard Family Programs**

The Family Programs Office primary mission is to establish and facilitate ongoing communication, involvement, support, and recognition between National Guard families and the National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both. The Family Programs Office facilitates this through education, outreach services, and partnerships leveraging resources, training, and constantly capitalizing on new capabilities, concepts, and technological advances.

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330 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY 12110
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**New York National Guard Family Readiness Assistant (FRA)**
The core function of a FRA is to work with Family Readiness Groups (FRGs), Military Point of Contacts (MPOC), Rear Detachment Commander (RDC) (during deployment), and volunteers to provide training and hands-on assistance for establishing and maintaining an effective Family Readiness system within units and commands. The FRA coordinates all aspects of the family readiness triad: Family Readiness Groups, Rear Detachment Command and Family Assistance Centers.

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**What are Military Family Assistance Centers (MFAC) And Wing Family Assistance Centers (WFAC)**

When Military Service members are at basic training, annual training, drills, or are away serving their State or Country, the staff of the New York National Guard’s Family Assistance Centers are ready to help families on the home front.

Located in eight New York locations, MFAC’S and WFAC’S are easy-to-reach, one-stop shops for information and assistance.

The Center staff put service members and their families in touch with personnel or programs that meet their individual needs. Their locations are:

**NYNG/MFAC MANAGER**
Patricia Bradt
Joint Forces Headquarters
330 Old Niskayuna Rd
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**LATHAM REGION**
Dyette(Dee) Putnam
NYS Armory, Joint Forces Headquarters
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Fighter Wing’s Ironman goes the distance

By 1st Lt. Anthony Bucci
174th FW Public Affairs Office

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. – A member of the N.Y. Air National Guard from Hancock Field recently completed the grueling Lake Placid Ford Ironman competition held this year.

Senior Master Sgt. Scott E. Schaffer, the Intelligence Operations Superintendent for the 174th Fighter Wing finished this extremely demanding event on the 23rd of July.

Schaffer visited the Lake Placid Ford Ironman competition in 2005 to see what it was all about and to also use it as motivation for this year’s event. Immediately after viewing the event he waited in line for approximately 2½ hours to sign up for this year’s competition. Schaffer had a full year to train for this event as well as getting in the right mental frame of mind; however this would be the first Ironman competition he would participate in. Would he be ready?

The Ironman competition is frequently called the most grueling and demanding competition the body can endure. The competition consists of three events, which are completed in succession. Each participant starts with a 2.4 mile swim. After completing this the competitors climb aboard their bicycle and pedal 112 miles. This is followed by a 26.2 mile marathon run.

“I did it for the challenge of it”

Schaffer had never attempted an Ironman prior to this year. He did complete half of an Ironman competition, often referred to as a “tin man” competition, in 2005 at Tupper Lake, N.Y. This competition includes the same three events; however the distances are exactly half of the full Ironman race. Schaffer was able to participate in four additional half Ironman events prior to the race in July, but preparation for the full Ironman required much more endurance training.

“I tried to train two to three hours a day, six days a week,” Schaffer said. “But other than that I didn’t have a set schedule for what I did on each day. I basically went by how my body was feeling to determine what activity (run, bike, swim) I would do that day.”

Competing for an event like this is extremely demanding, both physically and mentally for the athlete; however Schaffer also pointed out another aspect that had to be included in his decision to compete. “Before I even signed up for the event I discussed it with my family, friends and supervisor at work, because if you don’t have buy-in from all of these people it would be very difficult, if not impossible to compete in an Ironman,” he said. With everyone behind him in his quest to compete, Schaffer was on his way to realizing his dream.

Cleared to begin his training regimen, personal and professional demands interfered with his full training plan to complete the distances required of the Ironman in before the competition.

“I went to this year’s Ironman without ever having biked the total distance of 112 miles, running the 26.2 miles or swimming 2.4 miles, so I wasn’t sure if I would even finish the race,” said Schaffer. Not only did Schaffer complete the Ironman competition, he completed the race in twelve hours, thirty minutes and eighteen seconds, placing him in the top forty percentile for his age class.

“I did it for the challenge of it. While I was competing in the events there was some pain definitely, but after it was over I had such a great sense of accomplishment,” said Schaffer. “It was the most physically challenging event of my entire life; however it feels so surreal now, like it was a dream. I definitely would like to do it again; maybe in 2008,” he added.