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[180 Local soldiers get deployed:](#)

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[Dozens of soldiers bid farewell during ceremony at Shaker High School:](#)

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[Flags Fly At Half Staff To Honor Staff Sgt. Lobraico, Killed In Action September 5:](#)
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[Staff Sgt. Todd James Lobraico, 22, who was based in Newburgh, declared killed in action while serving in Afghanistan:](#)
News Channel 12: Sept. 6, 2013

[Another Connecticut Serviceman Killed In Afghanistan:](#)
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[Airman from Connecticut dies in Afghanistan:](#)
My Fox NY: Sept. 7, 2013

[New Fairfield honors fallen son, Sept. 11 victims:](#)
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[NY flags to be lowered for fallen airman:](#)
The Wall Street Journal: September 9, 2013

[Candlelight vigil to be held in New Fairfield for Conn. airman killed in Afghanistan:](#)
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[Staff. Sgt. Todd Lobraico Honored At Vigil In New Fairfield:](#)
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[Staff. Sgt. Todd Lobraico Honored At Vigil In New Fairfield:](#)
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[Editorial: 9/11, still raging ? America must remember the fallen from that day and from the war:](#)
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[Slain Conn. airman's body to arrive in NY Wed:](#)
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[Todd J. Lobraico Jr.:](#)

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[Services set for local soldier killed in Afghanistan:](#)

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[Fallen air guardsman honored at Stewart ceremony:](#)

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[Servicemen honor fallen airman from New Fairfield:](#)

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[?TJ? given military farewell:](#)

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[Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr.'s body arrived:](#)

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[Fallen Airman Honored As Danbury Remembers Victims Of 9/11:](#)
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[Funeral to be held Friday for Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr., Conn. airman killed in Afghanistan:](#)
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News 12.com, Published: September 13, 2013 3:02 AM

105th Airlift Wing

Deployed 105 SFS remembers Dominguez, serve during 9/11 anniversary

**DVIDS: Sept. 0, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan - Sept. 11 is never too far from the hearts and minds of the 105th Security Forces Squadron deployed here from Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y. Through mementos and each other, they remember one unit member who was killed during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed that day, when three passenger airplanes were hijacked and flown into the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C., while a fourth airplane was hijacked and crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pa.

Among those killed at the site of the World Trade Center was Staff Sgt. Jerome Dominguez, 105th SFS.

When Dominguez wasn't wearing a US Air Force uniform for the New York ANG, he wore the uniform of the New York Police Department's elite emergency service unit while he

served and protected the people of New York City. He was an initial responder to the World Trade Center attack, and was killed while evacuating people from the interior of WTC Tower No. 2 when it collapsed.

While 12 years have passed since the attack of Sept. 11, deployed members from the 105th SFS keep the memory of their comrade alive by carrying an encased folded flag with a picture of Dominguez. The flag has been flown by the security forces personnel as they deploy around the world in support of operations to prevent future attacks on America.

“In addition to the flag, the team carries a historical folder documenting this practice through the years and deployment locations,” said Master Sgt. Anthony Kavouras, 755th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Reaper 7 noncommissioned officer in charge of tactical operations center, who knew Dominguez personally. “We have not forgotten to carry his memory with us everywhere we go.”

The quest to carry the mementos is inspirational, considering there were others there from the squadron in harm’s way after the buildings had fallen.

“I was one of the first responders to ground zero along with about 18 others who went there looking to see if we could rescue him,” said Kavouras, a native from the Bronx, N.Y.

Other security forces members here added why it was important to them to be here serving on a deployment during the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Master Sgt. Shawn Knowlton, 755 ESFS Reaper 4 squad leader, deployed from the 105th SFS, Stewart ANGB, Newburgh, New York, and a 19-year veteran, said he remembers vividly where he was on that day twelve years ago.

“I was in the North Carolina ANG at the time. I woke up and reported to base for activation,” said Knowlton, a native from Watertown, N.Y., on his fifth deployment, and works as a federal agent with the Department of Homeland Security, when not on military orders. “I feel proud to serve on this date in a deployed location, representing the Air Force, ANG and state of New York.”

Another security forces service member said it was with great honor to be here during this time.

“The 105th SFS stands strong together and on the war on terrorism due to our member that was lost on 9/11,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Pacenza, 755 ESFS Reaper 7 squad leader, deployed from the 105th SFS, Stewart ANGB, Newburgh, N.Y., and a 10-year Air Force veteran from Newburgh, N.Y.

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Drews, 755 ESFS 2nd in charge quick-reaction team 4, deployed from the 105th SFS, Stewart ANGB, Newburgh, N.Y., is a 13-year military veteran, who has served five years in the NY ANG.

“Never forget, history always repeats itself, and if there is one thing I have learned about history is men don’t learn from history,” Drews said.

Drews works as a police officer in New York and hails from Brooklyn, N.Y. He is on his sixth deployment, two of which have overlapped the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Another security forces member who is on his second deployment during the Sept. 11 anniversary, remembers his inspiration for serving and said it was bittersweet being here.

Senior Airman Adrian Torres, 755 ESFS gunner 240 B for QRT4, deployed from the 105th SFS, Stewart ANGB, Newburgh, New York, joined the Air Force a short time after the attacks.

“Nothing can bring back all that was lost, affected and changed after that day; but being here with the 105th shows everyone the unbreakable resiliency and perseverance we as New Yorkers have acquired after that day,” Torres said, who is a police officer for New York State's Metropolitan Transportation Authority. “We never quit and never stay down or depressed no matter what. We are here to win and motivated to do something positive here.

“My father is a fire lieutenant in the New York Fire Department and responded to the attacks while off duty. His actions later instilled in me a sense of selfless service and inspired me to become a police officer in New York and join the Guard,” said Torres, a 3-year Air Force veteran who hails from Queens, N.Y.

Torres said he was a college student at the time of the attacks and saw the towers fall from his block in Queens.

“I knew my father was there before the buildings had collapsed and honestly thought he wasn't coming back home, but thankfully he returned home, covered in debris, later that night.”

Through it all, they have never forgotten Dominguez. He was their friend who gave his life doing a job he loved and his legacy remains with them wherever they go; especially with the mementos their unit carries with them to ensure his memory lives on.

For more information on Staff Sgt. Dominguez, please see the video linked below on YouTube featuring fellow 105th security forces officer Master Sgt. Frank Berlanga, who was a close friend to Dominguez.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqM3VkwxEfY&feature=youtube_gdata_player

During the writing of this article, the 105th SFS lost another security forces member, Staff Sgt. Todd ‘T.J.’ Lobraico during an outside the wire mission here Sept. 5, 2013. In keeping with their tradition, the 105th SFS will now carry a flag in his honor.

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/113333/deployed-105-sfs-remembers-dominguez-serve-during-9-11-anniversary#ixzz2eUOkFF82>

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Deployed Airmen remembers Dominguez, serve during 9/11 anniversary

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Sep 12, 2013**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (AFNS) -- Sept. 11 is never too far from the hearts and minds of the 105th Security Forces Squadron deployed here from Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, New York. Through mementos and each other, they remember one unit member who was killed during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

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Among those killed at the site of the World Trade Center was Staff Sgt. Jerome Dominguez of the 105th SFS.

When Dominguez wasn't wearing an Air Force uniform for the New York ANG, he wore the uniform of the New York Police Department's elite emergency service unit while he served and protected the people of New York City. He was an initial responder to the World Trade Center attack and was killed while evacuating people from the interior of WTC Tower No. 2 when it collapsed. "I was one of the first responders to ground zero along with about 18 others who went there looking to see if we could rescue him," said Master Sgt. Anthony Kavouras, the 755th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Reaper 7 NCO in charge of tactical operations center, who knew Dominguez personally.

While 12 years have passed since the attack of Sept. 11, deployed members from the 105th SFS keep the memory of their comrade alive by carrying an encased folded flag with a picture of Dominguez. Security forces members carry the flag with them as they deploy around the world in support of operations to prevent future attacks on America.

"In addition to the flag, the team carries a historical folder documenting this practice through the years and deployment locations," Kavouras said. "We have not forgotten to carry his memory with us everywhere we go."

The quest to carry the mementos is inspirational, considering there were others there from the squadron in harm's way after the buildings had fallen. Members of the 105th SFS also consider serving downrange on the anniversary of Sept. 11 an honor.

"The 105th SFS stands strong together and on the war on terrorism due to our member that was lost on 9/11," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Pacenza, a 755th ESFS Reaper 7 squad leader.

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(Editor's note: During the writing of this article, the 105th SFS lost another security forces member, Staff Sgt. Todd 'T.J.' Lobraico during an outside the wire mission here Sept. 5, 2013. In keeping with their tradition, the 105th SFS will now carry a flag in his honor.)

<http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/467085/deployed-airmen-remembers-dominguez-serve-during-911-anniversary.aspx>

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109th Airlift Wing

Newfangled ?Icepod? Tracks Greenland?s Melting Ice Sheets

**Climate Central: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

The LC-130 Hercules flew low over the ice sheet in a tight grid pattern, Teflon-coated landing skis barely 300 meters above the soft upper layer of snow. At the rear of the plane, scientists clustered round a monitor displaying a regular pattern of dark red waves generated by a radar signal.

Somewhere in the vast, white emptiness below were two tiny cracks – barely 4 inches across – imperceptible to the naked eye from this altitude, especially beneath fresh snow.

But the cracks ran across an ice runway providing the only access to Camp Raven, a research outpost and extreme weather training center for the U.S. military, perched atop 1.25 miles of ice on one of the highest, coldest points on the Greenland ice sheet. If the researchers could detect cracks that small, it would constitute a scientific triumph.

The 10-strong team from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University are testing a suite of airborne radar and imaging systems known as IcePod, designed to track changes in the Greenland ice sheet. It would also confirm early signs of instability in the ice.

The latest research into how melting happens has proved more interesting and complicated than researchers initially thought – not just gusts of warm air or dramatic spectacles of chunks of ice calving into the sea. It is now clear that melting has been happening rapidly in some parts of Greenland, and that melt water can itself bring about new melting. All this matters because ice melt in Greenland is the single largest cause of global sea level rise, which is affecting coastlines around the world.

Last month, Greenland had its warmest day since records began in the late 1950s, with the weather station at Maniitsoq (Sugar Loaf) on the south-western coast registering 78.6F on the afternoon of July 30, the Danish Meteorological Institute reported.

And on July 11-12 last year, gusts of warm air caused melting on virtually the entire surface of the ice sheet. The melt water pouring off the glaciers washed out the main bridge at the town of Kangerlussuaq, the hub for scientists studying the Greenland ice sheet. All this is straining the ice sheet in various locations.

"The ice is failing. The ice is getting stretched," said Robin Bell, the geophysicist leading the IcePod mission.

The LC-130s, the military's cargo haulers, had landed at Camp Raven all season without incident, but the ice sheet is weakening, she said.

"Ice is like silly putty. If you move it slowly it goes like this," she said, drawing her hands slowly apart. "But if you yank it, it will snap ... That is what is happening with the ice sheet."

The cracks at Raven would eventually turn into big crevasses, she said. Would the radar be able to discern those cracks? "If we could see 10 cm cracks I would be really jazzed," Bell said.

It was during the extraordinary melt last year that crew at the New York Air National Guard, walking on the ice runway, discovered the cracks at Camp Raven.

"They are in close proximity to the ski way, but are not affecting any of our operations right now," said Major Joshua Hicks, as he flew the C-130 in a series of passes over the runway. "We're not talking large crevasses, that would be a problem. We are talking small, small cracks that we are monitoring."

But they can become a hazard. Some years ago, in Antarctica, the landing ski of a U.S. Air National Guard aircraft became caught in a crevasse beneath the snow and the aircraft sank into the ice. "We want to watch for them to make sure they are not going to get any larger," Hicks said. The camp sits on the flanks of the central mountain range. The site has a year-round population of two. The only permanent structure is an abandoned cold war-era domed radar installation which once guarded against a possible Soviet missile attack on North America.

But Raven is used during the summer by researchers and the New York Air National Guard to test pilots on the ice strip landings used in Greenland and Antarctica.

The pace of change has turned Greenland into a destination for scientists gathering evidence of climate change in real time and trying to predict its consequences. Satellite evidence indicates that Greenland has experienced continuous melting and ice loss for the past 22 years. The researchers aim to understand what this will mean for the ice sheet and what impact the melting will have globally.

In high summer, Kangerlussuaq in the south-west of the island is overrun by scientists. On their side of town, in a row of barracks-type buildings, researchers study every aspect of ice sheets and glaciers and how they change: how they calve, what happens when ice meets fjord, snow crystal structures and sediment deposits. Some of those changes were clearly visible from the bubble observation window at the rear of the IcePod team's LC-130, and on the feeds from the instruments bolted to a capsule on the side of the plane.

The IcePod project combines five instrument sets: a scanning laser to measure the ice surface, a radar trained at the upper crust of the ice sheet, another radar to penetrate to the bedrock up to 2,700 meters beneath the ice, a visual camera and an infrared camera producing thermal images. The instruments were shrunk and installed in a capsule bolted to the left of the plane.

The idea was to produce a regular data record of changes in the ice sheet, in far greater detail than is possible with satellite picture resolution, and covering far more ground than a traditional expedition.

The pod was also designed to be self-contained. "Traditionally, we built our systems into the plane structure," said Nick Frearson, the senior engineer for the project.

With IcePod, however, he added: "We can piggyback on missions. The Air National Guard can bolt the pod on to the plane, and we can kind of get that data for free."

As the plane flew low over the ice sheet on a test run last month, from Russell glacier towards the interior of Greenland, the ice at lower elevations was grimy from dirt forcing its way to the surface, the snow cut by countless black creases.

Deeper inland, the ice sheet turned cleaner and whiter, the surface cut by occasional long and winding channels of water or pools in a startling bright turquoise. Near Summit camp, the highest point on the ice sheet, there was nothing to see but white. But even at those elevations, the ice was moving, albeit at only a few centimeters every year.

On the edges of the ice – especially where ice meets water – the team saw ice melt proceeding rapidly. On the west of the island, Jakobshavn glacier was sliding into the fjord at an average of seven miles a year. Petermann glacier in north-west Greenland last year shed an iceberg twice the size of Manhattan.

And at the top of Greenland, where the ice is two miles deep, it is not melting because of the sun alone, said Kirsty Tinto, a Lamont geologist with the IcePod team. "It has become increasingly clear that it isn't just the balance of solar radiation that is melting the ice," she said.

The instruments inside the IcePod capsule provided a closer view of those changes occurring at the surface than existing satellite images.

The researchers hoped to study the waterways at the top of the ice sheet, which transport water across the ice or funnel it down towards the bedrock.

Some formations, known as moulins, have been known to drain entire glacier lakes in a matter of hours, drawing the water right down to the bedrock. That water layer beneath the ice in turn speeds the ice sheet's slide towards the ocean.

Scientists are also studying what happens when glaciers meet ocean, and how the mixing of fresh and salt water accelerates ice loss. And they hope to track those changes across the seasons, through regular flights.

"It is sort of being able to capture the pulse of the ice sheet several times a year," said Bell. "We used to think it happened slowly. Now we know it is happening on a human time scale."

In 2007, an international team of scientists set out to map 8,900 feet mountains beneath the snow and ice of eastern Antarctica.

The survey of the Gamburtsev range involved scientists from seven countries, camped for months on either side of the range. Their only direct connection to the outside world was through military cargo planes, which flew in supplies and performed 17 airdrops of fuel.

The high-altitude and dangerous enterprise took two years and cost about \$25 million, and when the survey was complete some researchers asked themselves: why not use a plane?

The scale of that ambitious exercise was the inspiration for IcePod. The \$5.9 million initiative was launched in 2009 with a grant from Barack Obama's recovery act. It represents the latest effort to study the vast expanses of the Greenland and Antarctica ice sheets using satellite data and aircraft mounted systems instead of boots on the ground – or boats in a fjord clogged with icebergs.

You don't bring an ice breaker up into these fjords to do traditional oceanography because there are so many icebergs. It's not a place you want to go. It's not a very safe environment," said Chris Zappa, an oceanographer with the project. "The beauty of this instrument package is that we can do this cutting edge science and learn more about how the process occurs."

The IcePod suite deploys five instrument systems in combination to generate more targeted and higher resolution images than available by satellite. Unlike earlier systems, the IcePod is entirely self-contained, and can be swapped out on to different aircraft.

The use of aircraft also allows for more regular data collection, with researchers planning three visits a season to Greenland.

Scientists increasingly are looking for such targeted images, Zappa said. "Until now people have studied the whole ice sheet," he said. But he added: "It's becoming more and more important to understand the surface processes."

Other projects have used similar instruments to track the changes in the ice sheets, but Lamont's version was the first time an entire suite of instruments had been collapsed in size and deployed together, the scientists said.

The biggest challenge was shrinking the instruments so they would fit inside a capsule measuring 8 feet by 2 feet.

"It is no mean feat trying to shoehorn all these things into a small cigar-shaped box, and to try and get a good data reference set from it," said Nick Frearson, the senior engineer on the project.

Then there was the matter of compensating for the movement and vibration of the host aircraft to avoid blurred images, or data crashes from disconnecting cables.

"The plane pitches and rolls. It is not flying in dedicated straight lines. These are all things that have to be accounted for," Frearson said.

The suite includes a scanning laser to measure the ice surface, a radar trained at the upper crust of the ice sheet, about 100 to 200 yards, another radar to penetrate through 2 miles of ice to the bedrock below, a visual camera, and an infrared camera.

The infrared camera produces thermal images of the ice sheet, enabling researchers to track temperature changes deep down inside crevasses on the surface of the ice sheet, or trace the circulation patterns of icebergs as they float off into the fjord.

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/icepod-tracks-greenlands-melting-ice-sheets-16442>

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109th Airlift Wing

Multiple agencies engage in disaster exercise

**Waypoint Air Med and Rescue Magazine 12 September 2013:
Sep 13, 2013**

Members from the New York Air National Guard 109th Airlift Wing, 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, the Albany Stratton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Disaster Medical System, the Civil Air Patrol and the Alplaus Volunteer Fire Department took part in a co-ordinated National Disaster Medical Systems Exercise on 8 and 9 August. The exercise was held at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Schenectady, New York, US, and involved simulated 'patients' – actually cadets from the Civil Air Patrol – being stabilised for transport, loaded onto an LC-130 Hercules plane and then evacuated. The exercise was intended to refine participants' skills, as well as strengthening both individual and interagency approaches to co-operation and co-ordination, and to reinforce the importance of the Air National Guard's domestic role – for example, 109th Airlift Wing airmen were instrumental in responding to Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

<http://www.waypointmagazine.com/story553>

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174th Attack Wing

Military achievements of people with connections to Syracuse and Central New York

**Syracuse.com: Sept. 9, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

The following announcements were submitted by military news agencies:

Air National Guard Airman David N. Williams has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Williams is the son of Pamela Hartsell of Alexis Drive, Liverpool. He is a 2012 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Army Pvt. Michael C. Abert has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Abert is the grandson of Lawrence Cardinell of Merritt Avenue, Syracuse. He is a 2010 graduate of Onondaga Central High School.

Air Force Airman David W. McCormick has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. McCormick is the son of Amy McCormick of Walnut Street, Auburn. He is a 2006 graduate of Auburn High School.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Tessa P. Bonham has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Bonham is the daughter of Jenny Nelms of Queens Way, Sierra Vista, Ariz., and niece of Trina Vanwie of Breman Avenue, Mattydale. She is a 2012 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Samantha L. Moade has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Moade is the daughter of Barbara Moade of Paradise Hill Road, DeRuyter. She is a 2010 graduate of DeRuyter Central School. She earned an associate's degree in 2013 from the State University College at Cobleskill.

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2013/09/military_achievements_of_people_with_connections_to_syracuse_and_central_new_yor_4.html

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Jobs

Hire Our Heroes Job Fair held at Camp Smith

**Mid-Hudson News: Sept. 11, 2103 :
Sep 12, 2013**

TOWN OF CORTLANDT – A Hire Our Heroes Job Fair held Tuesday at Camp Smith in the Town of Cortlandt did not draw as many veterans as officials had hoped. Nevertheless, the event sponsored by the New York National Guard and the US Chamber of Commerce, was successful, said Tony German, chief of staff of the New York Air Guard.

“Our goal is to get veterans hired so we are appreciative for all of the companies that are coming out here and giving their time to try and hire and hire some of or folks who have done so much for our country,” German said.

John Willsey, of the Military Personnel Support Group, said there were jobs being offered.

“Each employer here has at least five to seven jobs available otherwise they would not be allowed in here. If they are here, they have jobs available,” Willsey said.

The Camp Smith event was one of hundreds held across the country. Similar events were held in New York City, Buffalo, Syracuse and Long Island.

<http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2013/September/11/HireHeroes-11Sep13.html>

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Veterans Can Seek Employment At Special Peekskill Job Fair

**Yorktown Daily Voice: Sept. 9, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

PEEKSKILL, N.Y.-- More than 50 companies interested in hiring veterans will take part in the "Hire Our Heroes" job fair being sponsored by the New York National Guard at Camp Smith near Peekskill on Tuesday.

The event begins at 9 a.m. in Building 500 and ends at 1 p.m. Each employer must promise to have at least five job vacancies available to participate in the event.

The Camp Smith event is one of hundreds being held across the country co-sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Job seekers interested in participating in the Hire Our Heroes event can register online.

<http://yorktown.dailyvoice.com/business/veterans-can-seek-employment-special-peekskill-job-fair>

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Jobs

War veterans suit up

**Westfare On Line; By Crystal Kang, September 13, 2013:
Sep 13, 2013**

Longtime Ossining resident Keith Henderson can't remember the last time he attended a job fair. The U.S. Army veteran had never been unemployed for more than a few months in the past 40 years. When he got laid off in November, he began searching for jobs the conventional way – by submitting his resume online and waiting to hear back from companies.

He waited for nine months, but no jobs surfaced.

Last week, Henderson decided to attend a job expo at Camp Smith in the town of Cortlandt. He was pleasantly surprised to find 49 companies looking for military veterans like himself.

Ronald Webster registers at the expo at Camp Smith.

With employment numbers stagnant in Westchester County and other parts of New York state, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and First Command partnered with the New York National Guard and state Department of Labor to host the third annual "Hiring Our Heroes" career expo Sept. 10, open only to military veterans.

Among the prospective employees were war veterans who recently returned home from active duty and ones who have retired from the service years ago but haven't found a full-time job since. Henderson fits into neither category of job seekers. He had been employed even after he ended his military service 45 years ago, working as a paint and hardware supply retailer and later as a plant distributor. But for the first time, he's searching a lot longer than usual for a job that will help pay his bills.

Fifty years ago, Henderson served as a missile section chief in the Army, traveling to Korea for his first two years and then being stationed in New Jersey, Colorado and Texas for the next three. After his discharge, he worked as a salesman in the wholesale painting and hardware supply business for more than 20 years. But when K and N Supply went under, he found a new job as a plant distributor operating 30 greenhouses on a farm in Dutchess County for the next 20 years. He sold perennial plants to nurseries, homeowners and landscapers and since 1989 had stationed his delivery truck on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. After Henderson got laid off, he couldn't find a company that would hire him for the first time in all those years of employment.

When Henderson heard about the "Hiring Our Heroes" expo, he immediately knew he'd be there. As he walked up and down the rows of the 49 booths in his purple polo and black khakis, few companies piqued his interest.

"A lot of them are financial companies," Henderson said. "But I'm more of a manual labor kind of guy. I saw that Brickman Group is hiring grass cutters. And I looked at UPS for loading trucks. I think I can handle it since I used to carry 100-pound bags of rock salt every day when I used to work at K and N Supply."

With his mind set on expanding his job prospects, he said he would attend at least one other job fair before deciding to apply for a new job. He added that he wants to work for a national company so he can pay off his monthly mortgage and bills for his two-bedroom townhouse without depending on his two daughters to support him.

Other veterans have been unemployed since the economic downturn and have grown tired of bouncing around from one temporary job to the next. Ronald Webster from Montrose appeared in suit and tie with a messenger bag strapped over his shoulder and wrote his name on the sign-in sheet at the registration table before entering the job fair. Webster, a former military intelligence officer, said he wants to find a more stable job that will keep him stationed in one place.

“Everything was fine until 2008 and 2009 when the economy took a nose dive,” said Webster, a Dartmouth College graduate. “I haven’t found a full-time job ever since. I was a substitute teacher for French and math all throughout the nation from Tucson, Arizona to Trenton, New Jersey. I’ve been a sales rep, a copier salesman and I taught at a boarding school, too.”

Some Westchester County-based companies, including the Yonkers Police Department, Con Edison and Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, sent recruiters with active duty military service before to help ease the conversation for many prospective employees at the job fair.

“I’m a veteran and I’m pushing to hire more veterans,” Jackie Stern, Northern Westchester Hospital recruiter, said. “We have between 30 and 50 people on our staff who are veterans. We have job openings for positions ranging from housekeepers to physicians and we’re hoping to get eager veterans because we know they’re dependable, they go with the flow and are very calm and steady.”

Each of the companies received about 100 resumes prior to the job fair, said Terri Trapp, an investment principal at Primerica Inc. who represented her company at the expo. Others handed over their resumes as they walked in. Trapp said three people already interviewed for job positions at Primerica that day.

“We have displays of success stories of former marines, snipers . . .,” Trapp said. “These are people who were on active duty and turned to the financial services. We put examples on the table, so people can see veterans that go into this line of work.”

Primerica had 10 job openings at the career fair, including positions for management trainees, investment specialists and customer service. Trapp said there’s a strong possibility of hiring more veterans.

“Sometimes the employers hire on the spot,” Kathryn Poynton, director of hiring fairs at the Chamber of Commerce Foundation, said. “When you hire a veteran, not only do you get someone with the skill sets you’re looking for, but you get a person who is dedicated and responsible. Jobs are looking to hire an employee who has hard work instilled in them.”

Poynton said 49 employers is a strong turnout. They try to keep the job fairs smaller so veterans have a chance to have in-depth conversations and network as they job hunt.

The Chamber of Commerce Foundation has held 600 job fairs since 2011 and has helped more than 20,200 veterans find jobs, Poynton said. Job seekers are encouraged to register with the Chamber of Commerce Foundation and upload their resumes online, which are distributed to employers who attend the career expos. The foundation holds job fairs several times throughout the year across the nation.

<http://westfaironline.com/57529/war-vets-suit-up/>

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Military Museum

Harbor Defense Museum reopens at Fort Hamilton

**Brooklyn Eagle: Sept. 9, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

The US Army Garrison at Fort Hamilton is steeped in history. Located on Brooklyn's southwest waterfront in Bay Ridge, the fort was built in 1825, when the US was still a young nation. The famous names that have served there throughout its history include Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

The fort, the only active military base in New York City, is interested in preserving its history, according to Col. Eluyn Gines, the commanding officer. Gines welcomed elected officials, community leaders, and veterans to a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 5 to mark the reopening of the Harbor Defense Museum, a one-story building on the fort's grounds housing a treasure trove of historical items.

The museum, housed in Building No. 230 on the fort, had been closed for several months for a \$1.3 million renovation project. The work included waterproofing the building's roof and masonry walls and installing a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

The reopening marked the beginning of a new era, Gines said. "This is a special event Fort Hamilton and for our community," he said.

"The passion for history and the commitment to preservation are alive and well at the Fort Hamilton Garrison," said Richard Cox, the museum's director.

Founded in 1980, the Harbor Defense Museum is the only army museum in New York City. The exhibits include uniforms from the Revolutionary War, machine guns and ammunition from World War II, a fragment of the World Trade Center, a Civil war-era muzzle fragment

from a Confederate soldier, and an engraved trophy cup that was presented to the National Guard of the 27th Regiment in New York in 1839.

The museum is located in the garrison's caponier, a freestanding structure within a moat that was built in the 19th Century and was designed to defend the fort from attacks coming from New York Harbor.

The Lonely Planet guide for travelers lists the museum among its places to visit in New York, praising its "small treasure trove of artifacts.

The building is open for visitors Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on the first Saturday of the month. Admission is free. For more information, call 718-630-4349.

<http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/harbor-defense-museum-reopens-fort-hamilton-2013-09-10-181500>

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New York Army National Guard

Local military families wary of possible Syrian involvement

**Poughkeepsie Journal: Sept. 10, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

After two costly wars since the turn of the century, local military families say they are war-weary and concerned about United States involvement in Syria, which they believe — if it begins — may escalate.

Paula Zwillinger, president and founder of Semper Fi Parents of the Hudson Valley, a support organization for military families, said she could not speak for other parents, but personally, does not believe the United States belongs in Syria.

"As much as it is a catastrophe, I'm surprised that our president got the support that he did," she said.

Zwillinger, a LaGrange resident, lost her first son in Iraq in 2005 and has a second son who is on inactive reserve duty, both with the U.S. Marine Corps. Even without "so-called boots on the ground," she is concerned about the safety of military who are on ships nearby, she said.

"Even if it's an airstrike... what's the retaliation going to be?" she said.

Milan resident William Mansfield said he is not an expert on current events, but stands with his congressman, Rep. Chris Gibson, R-Kinderhook, a retired U.S. Army colonel, in opposition to United States involvement in Syria.

Mansfield, 54, served for eight months in Afghanistan with the New York Army National Guard, from April 2012 to January 2013 as a sergeant of the guard for a small group of soldiers who provided security for a government equipment storage area. He was also an active duty as a Marine for three years in the late 1970s, stationed in Japan and the Philippines during peacetime.

Mansfield said when he joined the military, he did so to be used as needed.

“I have no problem going anywhere in the world if it’s needed to protect national security for America, but from what I’m seeing this is something that we have no legitimate reason to get involved in,” he said.

He said he thinks the situation in Syria would escalate.

“If I or my friends are sent over there I would be furious, because we don’t need to be there,” he said.

Lisa Kriebel, a Hopewell Junction resident whose son-in-law is on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps stateside, said if the United States fires missiles on Syria, she does not believe its military engagement will end there.

She is also skeptical about what the intelligence leaders say they are receiving about the use of chemical weapons by Syrian leaders after George W. Bush’s administration said there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq — which were never found.

“Who are we to say that the information is correct?” she said. “I don’t know if the administration knows what effect this has on the family of active duty military.”

Kriebel said her daughter and son-in-law have two young sons, ages 18 months and 6. The 6-year-old was 2 ½ when his father was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010.

“The toll that it took on this child was unbelievable,” she said. “He didn’t know what was going on... only that his daddy wasn’t living at home.”

She is concerned that her younger grandson would be affected the same way, if involvement in Syria escalates.

“It’s extremely hard on the wives that are left behind, too, to take care of the family, the house, to work — everything they have to do,” she said.

Town of Poughkeepsie resident Ted Petersen, 66, said he and his wife are divided about what the country should do about Syria.

The couple have a son who is on inactive duty reserves with the Marines and served for 7 ½ months in Iraq.

“I would like to see it well thought-out, and a timeline. And know who you’re fighting — and really know who you’re supporting,” he said.

Joann Petersen, 57, said she is war-weary but also does not think the country can do “nothing” about the situation in Syria.

“I’m not pro war. I just feel that at this point the U.S. set a boundary or a limit or a point where if we don’t follow through with what we say we are going to do, it really lessens the power that we have as a country,” she said.

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20130911/NEWS01/309080038/Local-military-families-wary-possible-Syrian-involvement>

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Farewell ceremony for 175 soldiers and their families took place Saturday.

**Medford Patch: Sept. 9, 2103 :
Sep 12, 2013**

The official farewell ceremony for the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion heading to Fort Hood, TX and then Kuwait took place at St. Joseph’s College’s Long Island campus in Patchogue Saturday.

A private ceremony for the Long Island unit’s 175 troops and families was held at the college’s D’Ecclesiis Auditorium at 10 a.m. followed by a family picnic.

According to the college’s announcement the soldiers of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, previously known as the 642nd Division Aviation Support Battalion, were deployed in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and served in Iraq as part of the 42nd Infantry Division in 2004-2005.

Company B of the battalion is stationed at the Army National Guard Flight Facility at MacArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma, and Company C is from the Army National Guard Flight Facility at Rochester International Airport in Rochester, NY as well as Dunkirk and Olean armories in western New York.

Both companies are first heading to Fort Hood for post-mobilization training before being deploying to Kuwait as part of the New York National Guard’s 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade. They will provide maintenance and logistical support to the American Army helicopter units stationed there. Troops from National Guard entities from around the country are also training at Fort Hood.

According to the announcement, nearly 600 total guests were attending the private ceremony. Soldiers from the battalion's Company A and Company C also had farewell ceremonies at Dunkirk Armory and the Army National Guard Flight Facility in Rochester respectively on the same day.

http://medford-ny.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/troops-deploy-from-patchogues-sjc_a3601770

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National Guard 9/11 experiences part of Tribute Center web exhibit

**National Guard: Sept. 11, 2103 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEW YORK (9/10/13) - The ground zero experiences of five New York National Guard Soldiers are featured in a new online exhibit of the 9/11 Tribute Center.

The Tribute Center released the exhibit, "The National Guard: Stories of September 11th told by those who were there," as part of the commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

This interactive web exhibit (www.tributewtc.org) documents the National Guard's response to the 9/11 attacks. Viewers and educators across the country can experience individual stories from five National Guard Soldiers who responded on 9/11. Retired New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, who commanded New York National Guard troops in the weeks following the Guard response and later led many of those Guardsmen and women in Iraq, is featured in the introductory segment.

"This interactive web exhibit helps tell the story of our New York National Guard men and women who put boots on the ground here at the World Trade Center and would go on to serve overseas, proving their value in serving their state and their nation," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the adjutant general of the New York National Guard. "I wish to thank the 9/11 Tribute Center for adding our unique stories and experiences to the educational programs that reach around our country and around the globe."

On 9/11, National Guard Citizen-Soldiers left their jobs, mobilized and responded within hours of the attacks. By nightfall, hundreds of local units responded without formal orders to assist first responders at ground zero while thousands of additional troops were in position throughout the city. National Guard elements from across New York state deployed to lower Manhattan to assist in the rescue, response and recovery. The security effort in partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and emergency managers continues to the present day.

The 9/11 Tribute Center is dedicated to collecting the stories of 9/11, told by those who were there. The 9/11 Tribute staff collected these first-person accounts and created an interactive web exhibit that reflects the depth and scope of service of America's National Guard.

Lee Ielpi, president and co-founder of the 9/11 Tribute Center, said, "I spent nine months working the recovery at the World Trade Center site, and National Guard Soldiers gave me a sense of comfort during times of great turmoil. The importance of the National Guard can be summed up in a few words: service, valor and patriotism. Tribute is proud to present a web exhibit that will help the public and students better understand the role of the National Guard on 9/11 and in the aftermath of the attacks."

"The National Guard made history on Sept. 11, 2001, and I'm thrilled that our role in the response at ground zero can be part of the 9/11 Tribute Center education outreach," said Taluto. "That's our story, we're the homeland defense force for our nation, and for the hundreds of thousands of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who later deployed overseas to fight, it all started here."

The web exhibit can be found here.

The public, educators and students can now see and hear stories from soldiers who searched through the smoldering debris field for survivors, a soldier who secured the perimeter of the site, a soldier who conducted biological testing of the area, soldiers who protected our nuclear power plants, bridges and roads, and soldiers who went on to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. They will hear stories of a country, community and individuals forever changed.

About the 9/11 Tribute Center

The 9/11 Tribute Center is a museum opened in 2006 by the September 11th Families Association. Located directly across from the World Trade Center, the 9/11 Tribute Center shares the personal history and engages visitors in the authentic experiences of people directly impacted by the events of Feb. 26, 1993, and Sept. 11, 2001: family members of lost loved ones, survivors, first responders and people who live and work in Lower Manhattan. Join our community and share your experience at the 9/11 Memorial through the 9/11 Tribute Center volunteer program. Help others remember, understand and recover. To learn about 9/11 Tribute Center programs, visit tributewtc.org.

The New York National Guard and 9/11

The first members of the U.S. military to recognize that something was wrong the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, were members of the New York Air National Guard Eastern Air Defense Sector on duty in Rome, N.Y. By the end of the day more than 8,000 members of the Army National Guard were mobilized by the governor and New York Air National Guard jets were conducting combat air patrols over American cities. Units across New York City, Long Island and Westchester provided hundreds of Army Guard soldiers to assist first responders at the World Trade Center and in Manhattan.

Troops assisted with initial rescue efforts, security for first responders and law enforcement and provided additional expertise for logistics, security administration and recovery support. Soldiers and Airmen assisted city residents, emergency responders and recovery crews in the single largest response mission for the state's military forces.

Over the following weeks, the New York National Guard continued to expand its emergency and recovery operations at ground zero that transitioned into security augmentation duties alongside city, state and federal officials that continue to this day.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/news/archives/2013/09/091013-National.aspx>

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9/11 vignettes: A nation remembers

**The Republic: Sept. 11, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

Online exhibition features 5 National Guard soldiers talking about their response on 9/11

9/11/13

NEW YORK — Five New York National Guard soldiers talk about their response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in a new interactive web exhibition.

It's called "The National Guard: Stories of September 11th told by those who were there."

The exhibition is part of the 9/11 Tribute Center, which is dedicated to collecting first-person accounts of 9/11.

Maj. General Patrick Murphy says it tells the story of the men and women of the National Guard "who put boots on the ground" at the trade center and later went on to serve overseas in Iraq.

Hundreds of local National Guard units from across the state responded to Lower Manhattan to assist first responders within hours of the attacks.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/f4b81026215341eaa4284f584f2089fa/NY--Sept-11-National-Guard-Exhibition>

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Web exhibition features the National Guard on 9/11

**Troy Record, Sept. 11, 2103 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEW YORK (AP) — Five New York National Guard soldiers talk about their response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in a new interactive web exhibition.

It's called "The National Guard: Stories of September 11th told by those who were there."

The exhibition is part of the 9/11 Tribute Center, which is dedicated to collecting first-person accounts of 9/11.

Maj. General Patrick Murphy says it tells the story of the men and women of the National Guard "who put boots on the ground" at the trade center and later went on to serve overseas in Iraq.

Hundreds of local National Guard units from across the state responded to Lower Manhattan to assist first responders within hours of the attacks.

<http://troyrecord.com/articles/2013/09/11/news/doc5230875d7ce1d666110100.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

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Local man takes command of Guard battalion

**Finger Lakes Times: Sept. 10, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

SYRACUSE — Calling it the pinnacle of his career, a Seneca County resident has taken command of a National Guard battalion in central New York.

Major Scott Jessop, a combat veteran from Fayette, assumed command of the 427th Brigade Support Battalion last month during a ceremony at the Thompson Road Armory in Syracuse.

http://www.fltimes.com/news/local/article_3779ec18-1a2d-11e3-89e8-0019bb2963f4.html

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U.S. Soldier Returns From Afghanistan to 'Hipster Heaven' Home

**DNA Info New York: Sept. 10, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

GREENPOINT — Lounging by his single-speed bike against a tree in McCarren Park, Dennis Tierney seemed to fit perfectly into the neighborhood. But as his fellow 20-somethings returned from summer jaunts to the beach or music festivals, Tierney was back from a rarer North Brooklyn sabbatical: embedded with police in Afghanistan.

Tierney, 29, a captain in the New York Army National Guard, volunteered as part of a special unit, training border police in Afghanistan to defend against the Taliban. His eight-month deployment ended last month.

And now that he's back, Tierney admits he's a minority both in the military and among his Brooklyn friends.

"Everybody made fun of me. They called me 'The Hipster,'" Tierney laughed of the 14 members of his unit, the Security Force Assistance Team (called SFAT). He said his commander even put the nickname on his military challenge coin, a token honoring soldiers for their hard work.

But here in North Brooklyn, where Tierney has lived the past seven years, he's wary of responses from new acquaintances if he mentions his service.

"I don't usually tell people," admitted Tierney, one of just five Greenpoint members of New York's Army National Guard (compared with 2,500 in the city and 10,500 in the state), according to a guard spokesman.

Although his two identities may seem in conflict, Tierney said his experiences in Afghanistan actually drew him more fervently to his Brooklyn community — partly because he became "more open" to all people by living with soldiers from such different backgrounds.

"My counterpart was a 26-year-old Afghan with two kids and a wife," Tierney said of the border police member he trained to handle the group's operations. "This guy had a completely different life but we were so connected. We became really good friends."

Tierney and his unit ate every meal with the Afghan police and they relied on one another for everything, since they were stationed 2 1/2 hours away from the nearest base, he said.

A National Guard spokesman said the unit's risky role was key in "the United States' strategy to produce Afghan security forces that can fight and survive without U.S. assistance."

"These guys are the boots on the ground working with the actual people," said the spokesman, Eric Durr. "Everybody is supposed to be training their Afghan counterpart."

Tierney — a Virginia native whose service follows that of his father, grandfather and great uncle — laughed that his unit called Brooklyn "hipster heaven."

And he said he'd become more aware of the neighborhood's quirks since he returned.

"This is great, this is the life," he said, jeans stretched out in McCarren Park's grass.

"My cousin has the taco truck Endless Summer and my friend Felipe has a bike tour company. My other friend Jeff is a photographer for National Geographic...and my friend Jess has a handbag company called 'Brooklyn Bits.'"

His friend Felipe Lavallo, who runs Get Up and Ride and attended Hofstra University with Tierney, agreed that Tierney had changed "for the better" upon returning and was "definitely more open and willing to try new things."

Before his deployment, Tierney worked as a community liaison for Sam Schwartz Engineering on construction projects on the Williamsburg Bridge and the Second Avenue subway.

He plans to start studying for an MBA in January.

"I appreciate everything so much more now," mused Tierney, who said he planned to remain in the National Guard until retirement.

Now that he's back in Brooklyn, Tierney's hitting up his favorite local spots, especially Spritzenhaus beer hall, No Name bar, McGolrick Park and Skinny Dennis watering hole.

But even as he basks in the peace and flare of the neighborhood, Tierney said his transition has had its rough edges, like the occasional unexpected noise that jolts him into memories of Afghanistan.

"Even when you go to shower you're carrying your pistol with you...You're always being alert," he recalled. "I'm always going to have the military thing floating around."

http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20130910/greenpoint/us-soldier-returns-from-afghanistan-hipster-heaven-home#slideshow_modal_slot_1

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Area September 11 Memorial Celebrations

**WIBX 950 AM: Sept. 9, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

The 12th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 is Wednesday and local municipalities are holding special ceremonies that day to remember the first responders who gave their lives. In Whitesboro, the Genesis Group is sponsoring the "12th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast." The breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. at the Hart's Hill Inn. The prayer breakfast will feature keynote speaker Rev. Joseph Salerno, Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

For more information call (315) 792-7187

In Utica, the city will hold its annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at the 9/11 Memorial located across from Sherman Drive on the Memorial Parkway. Mayor Palmieri will place a wreath at the monument and be joined by Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi, Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente, Senator Joseph Griffo, and Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol who will all speak.

Following the ceremony, the names of the New York City Firefighters and Police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001 will be read.

For more information call (315) 792-0264

In Herkimer, the Herkimer County Community College will host a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony outside the Williams Library building. HCCC President Ann Marie Murray and English teacher Matthew Powers will speak for the college while Mohawk and Herkimer Police Chief Joseph Malone will speak on behalf of the community. There will also be a student speaker, sophomore Adam Lisser, an Iraq war veteran and current member of the New York National Guard.

For more information call (315) 866-0300 ext. 8525

The public are welcome to attend all ceremonies.

<http://wibx950.com/area-september-11-memorial-celebrations/>

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Army National Guardsman walks from Syracuse to Fort Drum to remember 9/11, raise money for wounded service members

**Watertown Daily Times: Sept. 11, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

As the 10th Mountain Division this morning marks the 12th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, it will be joined by an Army National Guardsman who marched more than 80 miles to observe the ceremony.

Sgt. Glenn A. Follett, who serves full time maintaining unmanned aerial vehicles with Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 27th Infantry Brigade, has walked since Saturday morning from Hancock Field Air National Guard Base to raise awareness of the day and to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

As of Tuesday afternoon, he had raised \$975 of his \$1,000 goal.

“I don’t want no fireworks; I don’t want no band,” he said.

During his first deployment to Afghanistan last year, Sgt. Follett, 44, spent Sept. 11 launching an RQ-7 Shadow drone in Pasab, Afghanistan.

“I just did what I was training for,” he said. “It was kind of overwhelming.”

When he returned to the States in December, Sgt. Follett said, he wanted to find a way to make the day memorable again. He got the idea for the march from the Wounded Walk, in which two Marines are traveling from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to Washington, D.C., over the course of four months with a targeted finish of Oct. 1.

To get to the post, the sergeant traveled primarily on routes 11 and 3, camping along the way. He said he had many people offer him help along the walk, including a free night and laundry at the Aspinwall Motel, Henderson Harbor.

“The farther north I go, the nicer people got,” Sgt. Follett said.

The only portion of the trip not done on foot was a short car ride on Route 3 to Henderson on Sunday after heavy fatigue set in while he was walking near a stretch of private property he was told he could not camp on.

He walked into Watertown on Monday afternoon.

Sgt. Follett spoke to the Times on Tuesday at the home of his friend Steven C. Wood, where he was recuperating in advance of walking about 10 miles to the post early this morning. He said his feet had some blisters, and his legs were sore from the walk.

He originally was supposed to make the trip with his son Sean, 15, but school commitments prevented the teen from going.

Sgt. Follett first joined the Army in the late 1980s, and has served in the military for about 15 years between active-duty and National Guard roles, including time in the 10th Mountain Division when its soldiers deployed to Somalia. The Afghanistan deployment last year was the fourth of his career.

He said he was working as a public safety officer at Syracuse University when the attacks happened in New York City.

“You just want to get down there and do something,” he recalled.

In addition to marking the anniversary, Sgt. Follett said, more attention needs to be focused on supporting service members through their transition home from deployments overseas. He said soldiers who appear unaffected in the weeks after returning from deployment started to exhibit signs of stress months later.

“It doesn’t hit people right away,” he said.

Despite visiting Clark Hall and the post’s memorial to fallen soldiers in the past, Sgt. Follett said, he was not sure how he would react when he arrived on post today.

“I think I might get bent out of shape,” he said. “I’ve never done anything like this before.”

More information about the walk can be found at <http://wdt.me/9YgzyS>. Those interested in donating to Sgt. Follett can do so at <http://wdt.me/MrHZBT>.

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20130911/NEWS03/709119832>

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NY Army Nat'l Guard MP unit getting new commander

**The Wall Street Journal: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

AUBURN, N.Y. — A 23-year veteran of the New York Army National Guard is taking over command of a military police battalion based in central New York.

Maj. Michael Fowler will take over the 102nd Military Police Battalion during a change-of-command ceremony being held Sunday morning at the state armory in Auburn in Cayuga County.

The Brockport native is a 19-year veteran of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, where he's a road patrol captain working out of the Rochester suburb of Henrietta. He led the New York National Guard's 105 Military Police Co. in Iraq in 2003-2004.

Fowler takes over from Lt. Col. Arthur Zegers, who has been named director of internal review for the National Guard's U.S. Property and Fiscal Office in suburban Albany.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/AP09619264d3a747d783b5a7777c9d640d.html>

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Deployment ceremony held for soldiers in Patchogue

**Fios1 News: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

175 soldiers from 642nd Aviation Support Battalion head to Kuwait

<http://fios1news.com/longisland/node/41992>

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Local guardsmen heading to Texas, then to Kuwait

**The Observer: Sept. 8, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

Deployment ceremonies are being held this weekend for more than 300 New York Army National Guard members who are headed to Kuwait.

Two of the ceremonies were held Saturday morning, one for a unit in Chautauqua County and the other for a unit based on Long Island.

Fifty members of Co. A of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion based in Dunkirk left Saturday morning to Fort Hood in Texas for training before deploying to the Persian Gulf in support of U.S. forces stationed there. They'll be joined by another 175 soldiers from the battalion's companies based at McArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma.

A send-off ceremony was held Saturday morning at Southwestern Central High School in Jamestown. The soldiers provide aviation maintenance and logistical support to Army helicopter units.

Also heading to Kuwait are 100 soldiers assigned to the battalion's headquarters based at Rochester International Airport. Their deployment ceremony is this morning at the airport.

a statement issued Saturday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo praised the soldiers for their service to New York and the United States.

"These citizen soldiers were there to help countless New Yorkers in need during Superstorm Sandy and now they stand ready to help their country overseas," Cuomo said. "Our thanks, prayers and best wishes for these brave men and women who serve our country, our state and its citizens to come back to us safely."

These units, as well as additional non-New York units, will fall under the command of Col. Albert Ricci, commander of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade when they deploy to Kuwait.

The 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade will take command of 400 soldiers of the Army's 4th Battalion 227th Aviation Regiment, an Attack Reconnaissance Battalion based at Fort Hood which flies the AH-64 D Apache "Longbow" attack helicopter. The brigade will also be assigned the 400 troops of the 3rd Battalion 238th General Support Aviation Battalion which is a Michigan National Guard aviation unit with some elements from the Delaware National Guard.

A General Support Aviation Battalion includes UH-60 helicopters configured as Air Ambulances for medical evacuation, UH-60 used in the command and control role to move key personnel around the country, and CH-47 heavy lift helicopters which can move up to 30 troops and large amounts of cargo.

The three New York National Guard elements will mobilize for federal duty at different times during the month of September so they are holding their mobilization ceremony at the beginning of the month.

The soldiers will be on federal active duty for 12 months and spend about nine months in Kuwait.

<http://www.observertoday.com/page/content.detail/id/588640/Local-guardsmen-h>

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Local troops prepare for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom

**Democrat and Chronicle: Sept. 8, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

CHILI — It's early September, but Jonathan Viola already is lining up someone to plow the snow this winter at his Irondequoit home. When you get deployed, you've got to think of these things while you have the chance to take action.

“There’s a lot of planning,” Staff Sgt. Viola said Sunday after the departure ceremony for the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion at the New York Army National Guard flight facility.

Approximately 100 members of the New York Army National Guard battalion will leave Oct. 4 for additional training at Fort Hood, Texas, and then on to Kuwait by the end of the year in Operation Enduring Freedom. The Rochester-area soldiers are among 268 from New York being deployed.

Sunday provided an opportunity for friends and family to give them a send-off for what is expected to be a nine-month assignment repairing, fueling and flying helicopters.

Battalion commander Lt. Col. Jack James thanked all those who support the soldiers.

“When these soldiers embark, they leave behind wives, husbands and children and other family members,” he said to several hundred people flanked by helicopters in the huge hangar. “What I want to tell you is as a father and husband myself, I know you, too, will be serving. Often in silence, without recognition, without reward. I thank you for all you do for our soldiers and our country.”

He said that even though soldiers will be far away, families won’t be alone.

“I don’t want anyone to think they’re on their own,” James said. “There’s a network of support. It’s there for you to take advantage of.”

As families entered the hangar, they walked by a table with resources for parents, children and spouses.

There still seemed to be things the soldiers need to do before they deploy.

Viola said financial planning is one aspect, and so is arranging all the things to do around the house.

The senior mechanic will be on his second deployment. This is the first time he’ll be leaving his wife, Chrystina, and sons, 2 ½ year-old Blake and 1 year-old Leonardo.

“That makes it tough in a different way,” Viola said. “It brings a different dimension to what will be going on at home. The first time it was just me. Now it’s my wife, the boys. A lot she has to take on by herself.”

Sgt. Laura Jaeger, 27, of Rochester was married in July. Even knowing that she would be deployed a few months later couldn’t diminish the joy for her and husband Robert.

“He is very supportive,” she said.

Robert Jaeger, 25, said he never served in the military, but is ready to tap into the support offered to the families.

“We’ll make it through and be stronger for it,” he said.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20130908/NEWS01/309080042/Local-troops-prepare-deployment-Operation-Enduring-Freedom>

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National Guard Soliders Honored Before Deployment

**Rochester Homepage :Sept. 8, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

<http://www.rochesterhomepage.net/story/national-guard-soliders-honored-before-deployment/d/story/rGxEjLcVFUyKhhvh2IksKQ>

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Brockport native Michael Fowler taking command of NY National Guard unit

**Democrat and Chronicle: Sept. 8, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

A 23-year veteran of the New York Army National Guard is taking over command of a military police battalion based in central New York.

Maj. Michael Fowler took over the 102nd Military Police Battalion during a change-of-command ceremony Sunday at the state armory in Auburn in Cayuga County.

The Brockport native is a 19-year veteran of the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, where he’s a road patrol captain working out of the Rochester suburb of Henrietta. He led the New York National Guard’s 105 Military Police Co. in Iraq in 2003-2004.

Fowler takes over from Lt. Col. Arthur Zegers, who has been named director of internal review for the National Guard’s U.S. Property and Fiscal Office in suburban Albany.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20130908/NEWS01/309080040/michae>

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325 NY Guardsmen heading to Texas, then Kuwait

**Daily Freeman: Sept. 9, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

DUNKIRK, N.Y. (AP) — Deployment ceremonies are being held this weekend for more than 300 New York Army National Guard members who are headed to Kuwait.

Two of the ceremonies are being held Saturday morning, one for a unit in western New York and the other for a unit based on Long Island.

Fifty members of Co. A of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion based in Dunkirk will head to Fort Hood in Texas for training before deploying to the Persian Gulf in support of U.S. forces stationed there. They'll be joined by another 175 soldiers from the battalion's companies based at McArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma.

Also heading to Kuwait are 100 soldiers assigned to the battalion's headquarters based at Rochester International Airport. Their deployment ceremony is Sunday morning at the airport.

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2013/09/07/news/doc522afc44ba3c6813011213.txt>

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GOVERNOR CUOMO WISHES 450 NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS A SAFE RETURN HOME AS THEY PREPARE FOR DEPLOYMENT TO KUWAIT

**Regional News Network: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the deployment of 450 New York National Guard soldiers to Kuwait. The Soldiers will deploy to Kuwait later this fall to provide helicopter aviation support to American military forces based in that country following a post-mobilization training process at Fort Hood, Texas. Many of the service members preparing for deployment helped their neighbors recover from Superstorm Sandy.

“These Citizen Soldiers were there to help countless New Yorkers in need during Superstorm Sandy and now they stand ready to help their country overseas,” Governor Cuomo said. “Our thanks, prayers and best wishes for these brave men and women who serve our country, our state and its citizens to come back to us safely.”

Latham Ceremony

The 180 Latham based Soldiers will hold their mobilization ceremony at 10.30 a.m. Saturday morning at Shaker High School in Watervliet.

The Soldiers belong to the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade; a headquarters unit based at the Albany International Airport in Latham, and Company A, 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation Regiment which flies UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters at Albany International Airport.

Patchogue Ceremony

A separate ceremony for 175 Soldiers assigned to Companies B and C of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion will also be held at 10 a.m. Saturday morning at St. Joseph's College, Patchogue.

Jamestown Ceremony

Company A of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion will hold a send-off ceremony for 50 Soldiers at Southwestern Central High School in Jamestown at 10 a.m. on Saturday, as well.

The Soldiers of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion provide aviation maintenance and logistical support to Army helicopter units.

Rochester Ceremony

Finally, the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion's Headquarters Company will hold a Sunday morning mobilization ceremony for 100 Soldiers at the Army National Guard's Rochester flight facility at Rochester International Airport at 10 a.m.

All these units, as well as additional non-New York units, will fall under the command of Col. Albert Ricci, commander of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade when they deploy to Kuwait.

The 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade will take command of 400 Soldiers of the Army's 4th Battalion 227th Aviation Regiment, an Attack Reconnaissance Battalion based at Fort Hood which flies the AH-64 D Apache "Longbow" attack helicopter. The brigade will also be assigned the 400 troops of the 3rd Battalion 238th General Support Aviation Battalion which is a Michigan National Guard aviation unit with some elements from the Delaware National Guard.

A General Support Aviation Battalion includes UH-60 helicopters configured as Air Ambulances for medical evacuation, UH-60 used in the command and control role to move key personnel around the country, and CH-47 heavy lift helicopters which can move up to 30 troops and large amounts of cargo.

The three New York National Guard elements will mobilize for federal duty at different times during the month of September so they are holding their mobilization ceremony at the beginning of the month.

The Soldiers will be on federal active duty for 12 months and spend about nine months in Kuwait.

<http://regionalnewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2013/09/governor-cuomo-wishes-450-new-york.html>

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N.Y. Guardsmen prepare to deploy to Kuwait

**Army Times: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

DUNKIRK, N.Y. — Deployment ceremonies are being held this weekend for more than 300 New York Army National Guard members who are headed to Kuwait.

Two of the ceremonies were held Saturday morning, one for a unit in western New York and the other for a unit based on Long Island.

Fifty members of Co. A of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion based in Dunkirk will head to Fort Hood in Texas for training before deploying to the Persian Gulf in support of U.S. forces stationed there. They'll be joined by another 175 soldiers from the battalion's companies based at McArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma.

Also heading to Kuwait are 100 soldiers assigned to the battalion's headquarters based at Rochester International Airport. Their deployment ceremony will be on Sunday morning at the airport. <http://www.armytimes.com/article/20130907/NEWS02/309070013/N-Y-Guardsmen-prepare-deploy-Kuwait>

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Ballston Spa colonel named chief of staff

**Times Union: Sept. 7, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

Col. Patrick Center Ballston Spa resident, was named chief of staff of the 10,500-member New York Army National Guard.

Center is responsible to Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the adjutant general of New York, for the day-to-day administrative management of the force.

He replaces Col. Michael Bresnahan of Saratoga Springs, who retired after 29 years of service.

Center previously served as director of logistics for the New York Army National Guard, managing a network of repair facilities across the state.

He also was responsible for logistics support provided to troops and local governments during the New York National Guard's response to Superstorm Sandy in 2012. His troops pumped thousands of gallons of fuel for local government vehicles that moved critical supplies across the state, and managed a logistics support area for 2,500 troops.

Prior to that, Center, who has served in the New York Army National Guard since 1979, served as the deputy officer in charge of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Operations Office for New York.

Center is a National Guard technician, which means he works for the National Guard daily as a federal civilian employee as well as serves in the Guard as an officer.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and Nyack College and has earned a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal and an Army Achievement Medal.

Soldiers advance

Kevin Manion of Mechanicville was promoted to New York Army National Guard major while serving at the Camp Smith Training Site.

Karen Marotz of Watervliet advanced to captain while assigned to Joint Force Headquarters.

Eric Lautenschlager of Colonie was promoted to master sergeant while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal).

Michael Kruzinski of Delanson and Bryan Sommers of Slingerlands advanced to master sergeant while on duty with Joint Force Headquarters.

Michael Broderick of Watervliet advanced to sergeant first class while serving with the 1569th Transportation Company.

Other Guard soldiers who advanced include:

Staff sergeant: Christopher Byron of Albany, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; Paul Croteau of Clifton Park, 206th Military Police Company; Shirley Charles of Clifton

Park, Headquarters and Support, 42nd Infantry Division; and Nicodeme Esmel of Hoosick Falls, Headquarters and Headquarters Combat Aviation Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division.

Also, Matthew Flood of Delmar, 206th Military Police Company; Matthew Gatta from Scotia, Joint Force Headquarters, Kenneth Geib of Saratoga Springs, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division; Erica Lucia of Clifton Park, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division; Thomas Myers of Troy, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; Matthew Odonoghue of Schenectady, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; Randall Partridge of Selkirk, Headquarters and Support, 42nd Infantry Division; and David Robinson of Albany, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry.

Also, William Rose of Schenectady, 2nd Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction; and Alexander Stephens of Cohoes, Joint Force Headquarters.

Sergeant: Codie Downen of Corinth, 727th Military Police Detachment Law and Order; Daniel Hayes of Glenville, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation; Andrew Herman of Watervliet, 107th Military Police Company; Domenico Logrippo of Castleton, Signal Company, 42nd Infantry Division; Alexander Madeo of Glenmont, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; and Stephen Pawlik of Scotia, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry.

Also, Joshua Phillips of Ballston Spa, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; William Rhodes of Rotterdam, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation; Nicole Richardson of Troy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 369th Sustainment Brigade; and Kris Surprenant of Cohoes, 1963rd Contracting Team.

Specialist: Tyler Bechand of Rotterdam, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation; Prince Dorbor of Schenectady, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation; Matthew Fluri of Saratoga Springs, 1427th Transportation Company; Sharon Fronk of Halfmoon, Company E (Forward Support Company Infantry), 427th Brigade Support Battalion; Joshua Hoffman of Watervliet, Company A, 101st Signal Battalion; Lisa Mierek of Ballston Lake, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion; and Robert Scheurer of Saratoga Springs, 1427th Transportation Company.

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Ballston-Spa-colonel-named-chief-of-staff-4795373.php>

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'Big shoes to fill': Ceremony introduces new commander for Auburn-based National Guard

**Auburn Pub: Sept. 8, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

AUBURN | Professional. Phenomenal. Respected. All of these words were used to describe Maj. Michael Fowler on Sunday.

The 46-year-old Brockport native was formally introduced as the new commander of the Auburn-based National Guard's 102nd Military Police Battalion.

A military ceremony was conducted to signify the change in command at the New York State Armory on South Street. The battalion's four companies stood at attention through the ceremony's series of formal exercises, including the symbolic change of command.

Attending the ceremony was Mayor Michael Quill along with a number military personnel, friends and family, among others.

In accepting the position, Fowler is taking command of a battalion that has performed in the thick of several notable disaster situations, including Hurricanes Sandy and Irene as well as the floods that occurred in Upstate New York in June.

The Brockport native is not coming in unprepared for the task. Fowler's resume includes tours of duty in Iraq and Bosnia on peacekeeping deployments. Fowler was also a responder during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The 19-year veteran of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office has most recently served directly under the now former commander, Lt. Col. Arthur Zegers, for several years as an operations officer.

"It was a no-brainer he was chosen for the position," Zegers said.

In his formal acceptance of command, Fowler referenced baseball legend Lou Gherig's retirement speech, saying that he was the luckiest man on the face of the Earth at that moment.

Col. James Pabis, commander of the 153rd Troop Command, delivered a speech prior to Fowler's, honoring Zegers and the work the battalion has done during his command. Zegers was presented with two Meritorious Service Medals from the state governor's office for his work.

Pabis called Zegers a "great commander," saying he was "the tip of the spear" during Hurricanes Sandy and Irene as well as the June floods.

"You're well-poised and well-experienced to lead the charge," Pabis said to Fowler in his speech. "Big shoes to fill, but we have high expectations and we know that you'll succeed."

Zegers is confident in his successor's ability to succeed. He said the Major was a key part of the battalion's operations as well as his success as a commander.

"He's a phenomenal individual," Zegers said. "As a leader, he represents the best without a doubt."

Zegers will return to the office of the New York Army National Guard in New York City to continue his work as the office's director of Internal Review.

The native of Malta, N.Y. said he is looking forward to spending more time with his family, but noted his departure would be "bittersweet."

Fowler is looking forward to starting his command, saying it is like taking the helm of a Super Bowl winning football team.

"This battalion is set up for success," he said. "Outstanding people with a history of great leadership."

http://auburnpub.com/news/local/big-shoes-to-fill-ceremony-introduces-new-commander-for-auburn/article_407d9b80-a7b2-5916-9f9b-04361ec123f7.html

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180 Local soldiers get deployed

**WRGB: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

LATHAM -- 180 Latham based soldiers gathered at Shaker High School Saturday morning, getting ready to deploy to Kuwait later this fall to provide aviation support to military forces based in that country.

But it's the nation's proximity to Syria, that has service members and their families concerned.

We asked Christian Saavedra if he has been monitoring the situation in Syria. It's his second time being deployed to the region and tells us he avoids the news reports.

"I try not to, I try not to stress myself out."

It was a mix of emotions Saturday, as hundreds of men and women get ready to get deployed. Some excited, some nervous, and some a combination of the two.

"I'm going to miss my family of course but as a junior pilot I'm very excited i'm deploying with a lot of very experienced pilots, so I'm eager to learn everything I can while I'm over there," one servicemen tells us.

"We'll be partnering with some other countries doing training exercises, and again as an aviation unit we're going to fly soldiers around and train and that's our capacity of what we're going to do," Col. Albert Ricci, commander of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade tells us.

Meanwhile the families left behind are ready to step up in the absence of their loved ones.

"So we'll be there, I'll be taking over all the duties of the house, I'll be helping with snow removal, and yard care, and everything else that needs to be done. I'm going to be stepping into my sons shoes," Robert Stockton, father of a soldier tells us.

He like many is anxiously waiting for these brave men and women to come home next year, and safely.

"Inherently as an aviation unit what we do on a daily basis is very dangerous. a split second decision sometimes, it can cost lives, the environment, the weather, that all comes into effect, of how we train and how we take care of ourselves," Ricci says.

The soldiers will be on federal active duty for 12 months and spend about nine months in Kuwait. Before heading overseas, troops will begin a training process at Fort Hood Texas. We're told many of these soldiers preparing for deployment assisted in aviation emergency response during Superstorm Sandy, Tropical Storm Irene and Lee, as well as flooding in the Mohawk Valley.

<http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/features/top-story/stories/180-local-soldiers-get-deployed-10750.shtml>

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Dozens of soldiers bid farewell during ceremony at Shaker High School

YNN: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013

9/7/13LATHAM, N.Y. -- National Guard Soldiers said goodbye to family and friends during a farewell ceremony on Saturday.

The 180 soldiers were officially mobilized at the ceremony at Shaker High School. The 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade and Company A 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation are heading to Fort Hood before being deployed to Kuwait.

The soldiers will provide Army aviation support to American forces stationed in Kuwait. One officer said he feels like it is his duty to continue to enlist and serve his country.

"It's part of being American, they call it selfless service and it truly is because you put a lot aside in your life and rearrange your life so you can do this," said Edward DeGuisto, Brigade Safety Officer.

The soldiers will be on active duty for 12 months and spend about nine months in Kuwait.

<http://capitalregion.ynn.com/content/news/695228/dozens-of-soldiers-bid-farewell-during-ceremony-at-shaker-high-school/>

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New York Army National Guard

Fort Drum marks 12th anniversary of 9/11 attacks (VIDEO)

**Watertown Daily Times, By GORDON BLOCK, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013:
Sep 13, 2013**

FORT DRUM — A memorial ceremony on post Wednesday morning for the victims of 9/11 brought back tough memories for Peter J. Dougan, a member of the Fort Drum Directorate of Emergency Services.

He said he was getting ready for a job interview that 2001 morning, when news broke of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

“Needless to say, that job interview got cut short,” Mr. Dougan said.

With his National Guard unit activated shortly after the attacks, he found himself in the middle of New York City’s recovery efforts for about two weeks, providing security and escorts.

“It was just a lot of debris; a hard smell of burnt flesh, debris,” Mr. Dougan said. “It’s kind of something that’s not really pleasant to be around.”

He admitted that he had mixed feelings when he learned he would be a part of Wednesday’s ceremony, which took place in front of Clark Hall.

“I really don’t like to relive the things that we did for the two weeks that we were down there,” Mr. Dougan said.

However, he said the event has made him thankful for the work of military service members. Mr. Dougan, who already was interested in law enforcement work when the terrorists attacked, said the events of that day affirmed his planned career choice.

The short ceremony included the laying of a wreath at a 9/11 memorial in front of the building and the ringing of bells representing the times the four hijacked planes crashed that day; the fourth went down in a field near Shanksville, Pa. Dozens of military and civilian police and emergency crews stood in formation Wednesday, as a large American flag was held up by the ladders of two Fort Drum Fire Department trucks.

Robert W. Tennes, a captain at the Fort Drum Fire Department and at the time a part-time worker at Guilfoyle Ambulance, was in New York City with a group of area volunteers who traveled to ground zero at the World Trade Center to help.

He spent a few days amid the wreckage, in a scene he described as “like a war zone.”

Looking back on the attack and its aftermath, he said the combined emergency response made him proud of the people who were there.

“It just does your heart good to see that a country, and a fire service, and police, and EMS all came together for one goal, one task that day, and they worked side by side together,” he said.

In addition to the leadership of the 10th Mountain Division, also in attendance at the ceremony was Lt. Gen. James L. Terry, former division commanding general, now commander of Third Army and the Army Service Component of U.S. Central Command.

Also at the memorial was Sgt. Glenn A. Follett, a New York Army National Guardsman who finished a march of more than 80 miles from Syracuse on Wednesday morning. Several of the top brass at the ceremony, including Gen. Terry and division Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Merritt, met with Sgt. Follett in front of the memorial after the ceremony.

Video from the ceremony can be seen at <http://wdt.me/G5HdsW>.

The post’s ceremony was one of several during the day. Jefferson Community College’s remembrance included a performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by Nelly’s Echo. At Thompson Park, soldiers of the division’s 1st Brigade Combat Team did a run on the park’s stairs, climbing one step for each of the 2,996 victims.

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20130912/NEWS03/709129881>

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NY Guard Soldiers' experiences part of 9/11 Tribute Center web exhibit

**www.army.mil September 12, 2013:
Sep 13, 2013**

NEW YORK (Sept. 11, 2013) -- The ground zero experiences of five New York National Guard Soldiers are featured in a new online exhibit of the 9/11 Tribute Center.

The Tribute Center released the exhibit, "The National Guard: Stories of September 11th told by those who were there," as part of the commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

This interactive web exhibit, at www.tributewtc.org, documents the National Guard's response to the 9/11 attacks.

Viewers and educators across the country can experience individual stories from five National Guard Soldiers who responded on 9/11. Retired New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, who commanded New York National Guard troops in the weeks following the Guard response and later led many of those Guard Soldiers in Iraq, is featured in the introductory segment.

"This interactive web exhibit helps tell the story of our New York National Guard men and women who put boots on the ground here at the World Trade Center and would go on to serve overseas, proving their value in serving their state and their nation," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the adjutant general of the New York National Guard. "I wish to thank the 9/11 Tribute Center for adding our unique stories and experiences to the educational programs that reach around our country and around the globe."

On 9/11, National Guard citizen-Soldiers left their jobs, mobilized and responded within hours of the attacks. By nightfall, hundreds of local units responded without formal orders to assist first responders at ground zero while thousands of additional troops were in position throughout the city. National Guard elements from across New York state deployed to lower Manhattan to assist in the rescue, response and recovery. The security effort in partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and emergency managers continues to the present day.

The 9/11 Tribute Center is dedicated to collecting the stories of 9/11, told by those who were there. The 9/11 Tribute staff collected these first-person accounts and created an interactive web exhibit that reflects the depth and scope of service of America's National Guard.

"I spent nine months working the recovery at the World Trade Center site, and National Guard Soldiers gave me a sense of comfort during times of great turmoil," recalled Lee Ielpi, president and co-founder of the 9/11 Tribute Center. "The importance of the National Guard can be summed up in a few words: service, valor and patriotism. Tribute is proud to present a web exhibit that will help the public and students better understand the role of the National Guard on 9/11 and in the aftermath of the attacks."

"The National Guard made history on September 11th, 2001, and I'm thrilled that our role in the response at ground zero can be part of the 9/11 Tribute Center education outreach," said Taluto.

"That's our story, we're the homeland defense force for our nation, and for the hundreds of thousands of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who later deployed overseas to fight, it all started here."

ABOUT THE 9/11 TRIBUTE CENTER

The public, educators and students can now see and hear stories from Soldiers who searched through the smoldering debris field for survivors, a Soldier who secured the perimeter of the site, a Soldier who conducted biological testing of the area, Soldiers who protected nuclear power plants, bridges and roads, and Soldiers who went on to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. They will hear stories of a country, community and individuals forever changed.

The 9/11 Tribute Center is a museum opened in 2006 by the September 11th Families Association. Located directly across from the World Trade Center, the 9/11 Tribute Center shares the personal history and engages visitors in the authentic experiences of people directly impacted by the events of Feb. 26, 1993, and Sept. 11, 2001: family members of lost loved ones, survivors, first responders and people who live and work in Lower Manhattan.

THE NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD AND 9/11

The first members of the U.S. military to recognize that something was wrong the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, were members of the New York Air National Guard Eastern Air Defense Sector on duty in Rome, N.Y. By the end of the day more than 8,000 members of the Army National Guard were mobilized by the governor and New York Air National Guard jets were conducting combat air patrols over American cities. Units across New York City, Long Island and Westchester provided hundreds of Army Guard Soldiers to assist first responders at the World Trade Center and in Manhattan.

Troops assisted with initial rescue efforts, security for first responders and law enforcement and provided additional expertise for logistics, security administration and recovery support. Soldiers and Airmen assisted city residents, emergency responders and recovery crews in the single largest response mission for the state's military forces.

Over the following weeks, the New York National Guard continued to expand its emergency and recovery operations at ground zero that transitioned into security augmentation duties alongside city, state and federal officials that continue to this day.

http://www.army.mil/article/111159/NY_Guard_Soldiers_experiences_part_of_9_11_Tribute_Center_web_exhibit/

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Puppy reunites with soldier in Rensselaer County: A puppy born near U.S. base in Afghanistan has a new home with an old friend

**Times Union, By Dennis Yusko, 7:26 am, Friday, September 13, 2013:
Sep 13, 2013**

North Greenbush--"Harris," a six-month-old puppy with a shaggy coat, reunited with Army Maj. Drew Pinckney in leafy Rensselaer County Thursday night, capping a six-week journey from a desert outpost in eastern Afghanistan.

Pinckney, 40, commanded a 12-soldier unit near the Iranian border, where the servicemen grew attached to a stray dog they named Sheba. The canine hung around the base and joined the soldiers on patrol missions. The New York Army National Guardsmen were among the only Americans within a 200-mile radius from January to August. Sheba provided them comfort, Pinckney said.

On March 23, the 65-pound mixed breed gave birth to seven puppies in severely cold weather. As Sheba nursed her babies, she began to lose weight.

The soldiers realized how important the dogs were to their mission. They built a shelter and brought Sheba food and water. Within weeks, the guardsmen were sharing their military rations and beef jerky. They called the puppies "The Magnificent Seven," and named them Cadence, Rocky, Sarah, Jack, Buckeye, Breezy and Harris.

"We were surrounded by just desert, gloominess and poor people who had lived really hard lives," Pinckney said Thursday. "The dogs kind of served as a reminder of home, that there's some good out there."

The story does not end there. When the soldiers heard the U.S. military would close the combat outpost at Islam Qala, six wanted to adopt the dogs and take them home. They embarked on an expensive mission that ended late Thursday, when Staff Sgt. Edwin Caba of Long Beach, Nassau County, delivered Harris — the last pup awaiting a new home — to Pinckney's five-acre property in North Greenbush.

"He's the Alpha male of the bunch," said Pinckney, who called Harris "Wardog" in Afghanistan. "He was the biggest dog and kind of lazy, too. We'll see if he's changed at all."

Pinckney grew up in Waterford and joined the Army in 1996. A field artillery officer, he served in Kosovo in 1999 and Afghanistan from 2004 to 2005. He returned to Afghanistan this year as leader of a small squad assigned to advise and assist Afghan infantry units. The soldiers landed at Islam Qala with little backup, no medical team and hardly any technical support, Pinckney said.

"That was my biggest fear as a commander," he said. "We were pretty vulnerable out there. We were so small."

Getting mail required a more than two-hour ride through the unknown, sometimes under fire, Pinckney said. The 12-man team was the last to work at the base before Americans left it. All the guardsmen returned home safe last month.

While in Afghanistan, Caba contacted home to try to adopt Cadence. Five other guardsman also wanted puppies. Guardians of Rescue and the Save-a-Pet animal shelter — Long Island organizations that remove dogs from combat zones — raised donations to bring Sheba and her entire litter to the U.S. The dogs arrived last week at John F. Kennedy International Airport after a 30-day quarantine. Sheba is on Long Island, being assessed to see if she would make a good companion dog for a veteran with post-traumatic stress.

The groups worked through a Kabul-based organization called Nowzad, which rescues stray and abandoned animals in Afghanistan. The entire operation, vaccinations included, cost about \$18,000, said Dori Scofield, founder of Save-a-Pet in Suffolk County. It was their largest reunion to date.

Pinckney couldn't attend the reunion with dogs and soldiers on Long Island last week, so Caba brought Harris to him. Pinckney and Harris didn't necessarily share a special bond in Afghanistan, as duties often preoccupied the commander.

Pinckney and his wife, Jaye, have three young children. They already had two dogs, Mr. Spock, a three-year-old French bulldog, and Meeka, a two-year-old Pomeranian. It took some convincing to allow Harris into their lives, but Pinckney said he promised those he served with that he'd take a puppy if no one else from the unit wanted one.

"He's going to do well," Pinckney said. "We're excited to get him integrated someplace stable. He's been in transit now for several weeks, and he deserves something better than that."

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Reminder-of-home-has-new-home-4810537.php>

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Afghan vets reunited in New York with eight battlefield dogs

**Sun Herald, September 12, 2013 , By FRANK ELTMAN ? Associated Press:
Sep 13, 2013**

PORT JEFFERSON STATION, N.Y. -- Army reunions have been held as long as soldiers have been going off to war, yet a reunion this week was perhaps like no other in history.

National Guard soldiers from New York who befriended a stray dog while on patrol in Afghanistan were reunited with the 65-pound mixed breed and her seven rambunctious puppies after the animals arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport last week.

The reunion was made possible by the efforts of a Long Island pet rescue organization whose motto is: "Paws of War -- No Buddy Left Behind."

"They really became part of the family to us," 1st Lt. Joseph LaPenta of Staten Island said. The soldiers befriended the dog they called Sheba after arriving in Afghanistan in January. She sometimes joined them on patrol, chasing away other stray dogs that may have threatened the soldiers, they said.

In March, Sheba had a litter of seven puppies. Because Sheba was weakened from the births, they nursed her and the puppies back to health, feeding her their allotment of beef jerky and MREs -- Army issued "meals ready to eat." Later, relatives sent bags of dog food from home.

Soon, however, the soldiers learned their base would be closed as part of the U.S. draw down in Afghanistan.

"It really broke our hearts that we might have to leave them there," LaPenta said.

Bringing them back

That's when Staff Sgt. Edwin Caba of Long Beach sprang into action and contacted an old high school teacher. She put him in touch with a Long Island group called Guardians of Rescue, which has for several years collected donations to bring dogs back from combat zones. They had rescued about 20 when the request came in for help getting Sheba and her pups.

"We won't turn our back on the servicemen and we won't turn our back on the dogs," said Guardians of Rescue president Robert Misseri. Working with a private Kabul-based organization called Nowzad, the groups arranged to have the dogs sent to the United States so they could be adopted by the soldiers.

Misseri estimates it costs about \$4,000 for every dog rescued from a war zone. He said an online crowd sourcing fundraiser is still collecting money to pay for Sheba and her pups. The money is needed to pay for transportation and other logistics, including health care for the dogs -- they are quarantined for 30 days and given all their vaccinations before being sent.

The effort appeared to pay off when the dogs and the soldiers arrived at the Save-a-Pet animal shelter on Long Island to celebrate the reunion.

"For this to happen now, leashes in their hands, they're kissing their faces," Misseri said with amazement. "This is what we do."

The puppies, already 6 months old and about two feet tall, are named Cadence, Rocky, Sarah, Jack, Buckeye, Breezy and Harris. Two soldiers are taking two dogs each, and three others are going home with one dog apiece. Most will stay in New York; two are headed for the Cincinnati area.

Mom could help others

Sheba's future is still being assessed, said Dori Scofield, vice president of Guardians of Rescue, who is caring for the dog at her Port Jefferson Station animal shelter. There is hope Sheba may

someday be trained as a service dog to work with veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome, although Scofield said it is too soon to know if Sheba would qualify for such training.

Caba, whose home was destroyed in Hurricane Sandy, said the dogs helped divert his attention from his troubles at home; he has just completed his third tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Read more here: <http://www.sunherald.com/2013/09/12/4947525/afghan-vets-reunited-in-new-york.html#storylink=cpy>

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Our view: Hits & Misses

**Auburn Citizen. Sept. 13, 2013:
Sep 13, 2013**

HIT: To a celebration in Auburn honoring National Assisted Living Week.

Auburn Mayor Michael Quill on Sunday kicked off the celebration at Northbrook Heights to help bring attention to the residents, staff and families involved in assisted living.

With more people requiring some assistance with day-to-day living, it's nice to know that so many people are dedicated to making living arrangements work to the benefit of those who need their help.

MISS: To a minor fire that caused a major disruption for a group of local college students.

A kitchen fire this week chased all the residents out of Lattimore Hall, a downtown Auburn dormitory used by Cayuga Community College students. While the fire was small, it set off the emergency sprinkler system, soaking many students' personal belongings. Students were forced to move into an area hotel while their rooms at Lattimore Hall were cleaned up, not the best way to start a new semester.

HIT: To the New York Army National Guard battalion in Auburn as it moves ahead under new leadership.

A change of command ceremony over the weekend marked the departure of Lt. Col. Arthur Zegers and the promotion of Maj. Michael Fowler as commander of the 102nd Military Police Battalion.

Fowler is a 19-year veteran of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office whose military service includes deployments to Bosnia and Iraq.

MISS: To an Auburn man who was living it up on other people's money.

Police said that a young man with a long history of arrests had been charging motel rooms in Auburn, ordering room service and paying for pizza deliveries with credit card numbers that had been stolen.

He was sentenced in county court this week to state prison for two separate convictions of felony identity theft.

http://auburnpub.com/news/opinion/editorial/our-view-hits-misses/article_9ba143c7-a760-5403-b768-2d21f9fe32e4.html

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SSG Todd Lobraico

New York Air National Guard member dies in Afghanistan

Utica OD: Sept. 6, 2013:

Sep 12, 2013

LATHAM — A New York Air National Guard member assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh died in Afghanistan on Thursday, Sept. 5, the Department of Defense announced Friday.

Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. died of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

He was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron which had deployed a team to Afghanistan at the end of June. The unit is trained to secure air bases and trains and fights much like Army infantry.

Lobraico, age 22, was on his second deployment since enlisting in the 105th Airlift Wing as a security forces apprentice in June 2008. He deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq from December 2010 to June 2011.

"The New York National Guard family extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. This fine, young airman had already served in a combat zone once before and knew the risks he was facing. Despite that, he did his job professionally and with courage. He will be missed by all who served with him and knew him," said Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York.

"One of the things that Staff Sgt Todd Lobraico most certainly knew when he volunteered to deploy is that our business is a dangerous business," said Col. Timothy LaBarge, the commander of the 105th Airlift Wing.

" Todd Jr. faced that fact and still did his job every day with unblinking determination and professionalism. He is rock solid model of the American Combat Airman and we are extraordinarily proud of him. The pride that we feel about Staff Sgt. Lobraico and his squadron mates amplifies that sorrow that we individually and collectively feel upon his passing. Todd Jr. has, and will continue to be, a shining example of heroism for all of us to look up to," LaBarge said.

Lobraico joined the 105th Airlift Wing in 2008 after graduating from New Fairfield High School in Fairfield, Connecticut. He attended the Air Force's Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, graduating in November 2008 and then entered Security Forces Apprentice School which he finished in February 2009.

Lobraico was a resident of New Fairfield, Connecticut.

Lobraico comes from an Air National Guard Family. His father, Master Sgt. Todd Lobriaco, is a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron and his mother, Major Linda Rohatsch, commands the 105th Medical Group .

Lobraico's awards include the Meritorious Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, and the New York State Humane Service Medal.

Lobraico is the first member of the New York Air National Guard to die in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001.

Thirty-two members of the New York Army National Guard have been killed in action or died in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001. Nine of those deaths were in Afghanistan and 23 were in Iraq.

This brings to 33 the total number of New York National Guard combat deaths since 2001: with 10 New York National Guard members dying in Afghanistan and 23 in Iraq.

Read more: <http://www.uticaod.com/latestnews/x1367238571/New-York-Air-National-Guard-member-dies-in-Afghanistan#ixzz2eOOEfnny>

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Member Of New York Air National Guard Killed In Afghanistan

**White Plains Daily Voice: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, Conn. -- A New Fairfield man who was killed in combat in Afghanistan was a member of the New York Air National Guard on his second deployment since enlisting.

Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. died Thursday of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire near Bagram Airfield, the Department of Defense announced in a statement.

Lobraico, 22, was assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh. He was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron, which had deployed a team to Afghanistan at the end of June. The unit is trained to secure air bases and trains and fights much like Army infantry.

He was on his second deployment since enlisting in the 105th Airlift Wing as a security forces apprentice in June 2008. He deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, from December 2010 to June 2011.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Staff Sgt. Lobraico. His family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time," said Gov. Dannel Malloy. "This loss reminds us of the dangers faced by our men and women stationed overseas. We should all be grateful for their service and sacrifices to our country."

Malloy ordered flags in Connecticut to fly at half-staff until his burial, details of which were not released.

A candlelight vigil is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the New Fairfield Senior Center, before the town's 9-11 memorial ceremony.

"The New York National Guard family extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. This fine young airman had already served in a combat zone once before and knew the risks he was facing. Despite that, he did his job professionally and with courage. He will be missed by all who served with him and knew him," said Major Gen. Patrick Murphy, adjutant general of New York, in a statement.

"One of the things that Staff Sgt Todd Lobraico most certainly knew when he volunteered to deploy is that our business is a dangerous business," said Col. Timothy LaBarge, commander of the 105th Airlift Wing, in a statement.

"Todd Jr. faced that fact and still did his job every day with unblinking determination and professionalism. He is rock solid model of the American Combat Airman, and we are extraordinarily proud of him. The pride that we feel about Staff Sgt. Lobraico and his squadron mates amplifies that sorrow that we individually and collectively feel upon his passing. Todd Jr. has, and will continue to be, a shining example of heroism for all of us to look up to," LaBarge said.

Lobraico joined the 105th Airlift Wing in 2008 after graduating from New Fairfield High School. He attended the Air Force's Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, graduating in November 2008 and then entered Security Forces Apprentice School, which he finished in February 2009.

He comes from an Air National Guard Family. His father, Master Sgt. Todd Lobriaco, is a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron and a police officer in Stamford. His mother, Major Linda Rohatsch, commands the 105th Medical Group .

Lobraico is the first member of the New York Air National Guard to die in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001.

<http://whiteplains.dailyvoice.com/news/flags-fly-half-staff-honor-fallen-airman-new-fairfield>

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Cuomo: Flags on state buildings to fly at half-staff for airman killed in Afghanistan

**Poughkeepsie Journal: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

Lobraico was assigned to 105th Security Forces Squadron at Stewart Air National Guard Base

A member of the New York Air National Guard is being mourned after he was killed in the line of duty Thursday in Afghanistan, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico, a New Fairfield, Conn., resident, died from wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, according to a DOD press release.

He was assigned to the 105th Security Forces Squadron at Stewart Air National Guard Base in New Windsor.

Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy ordered Connecticut and U.S. flags to fly at half-staff in honor of Lobraico.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo directed that the flags on all state buildings be lowered to half-staff in honor of and in tribute to the state's service members and those stationed in New York who were killed in action or die in a combat zone, his office said in a statement today.

“The loss of Staff Sgt. Lobraico is the first New York Air National Guard death in combat since operations began in Afghanistan in 2001,” Cuomo said in the statement. “This young airman served our nation honorably and well, and we will remember him and his service with

gratitude. Along with all New Yorkers, I extend my condolences to the family, friends, and comrades of Staff Sgt. Lobraico.”

Lobraico's unit is trained to secure air bases and trains and fights much like Army infantry, the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs said in as statement.

Lobraico was on his second deployment since enlisting in the 105th Airlift Wing as a security forces apprentice in June 2008. He deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq from December 2010 to June 2011, the statement said.

"The New York National Guard family extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. This fine, young airman had already served in a combat zone once before and knew the risks he was facing. Despite that, he did his job professionally and with courage. He will be missed by all who served with him and knew him," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, the adjutant general of New York in the statement.

Lobraico was a 2008 graduate of New Fairfield High School, a news release from Malloy’s office said.

“We are deeply saddened by the loss of Staff Sgt. Lobraico. His family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time,” Malloy said in the news release. “This loss reminds us of the dangers faced by our men and women stationed overseas. We should all be grateful for their service and sacrifices to our country.”

The U.S. Department of Defense declined to provide further information today.

“The loss of this brave young man is a sad reminder that hundreds of Connecticut military men and women are still in danger overseas even as our involvement in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan approaches a conclusion,” Connecticut Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman said in the release.

A candlelight vigil is set for Sunday evening at a senior center in New Fairfield, the Associated Press said.

Anyone wishing to share thoughts or memories may call Journal the newsroom at 845-437-4882 and ask to speak to a reporter.

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20130907/NEWS01/309070021/Cuomo-Flags-state-buildings-fly-half-staff-airman-killed-Afghanistan->

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Stewart airman killed in Afghanistan

**Times Herald-Record: Sept. 7, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

NEWBURGH – A New York Air National Guard soldier based at Stewart Air National Guard Base was killed in Afghanistan on Thursday, the Department of Defense said.

Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr., 22, had deployed in June with the 105th Security Forces Squadron. The Fairfield, Conn., resident died of injuries he sustained when his unit was attacked with small-arms fire near Bagram Airfield, the DOD said.

Todd Lobraico Sr., a master sergeant with the same squadron and a Stamford, Conn., police officer began calling family members to gather at his parents' house Thursday night, said Tracey Lobraico, Todd Jr.'s aunt.

Dozens of people were still there as dawn approached, she said.

“It was a long night,” she said.

The younger Lobraico had enlisted in 2008 after graduating from New Fairfield High School. After basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, he entered security officers apprentice school, graduating in 2009.

He deployed to Balad Air Base in Iraq from December 2010 to June 2011. In June 2012, he left for Afghanistan as a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron. His unit's mission was to secure air bases.

"One of the things that Staff Sgt Todd Lobraico most certainly knew when he volunteered to deploy is that our business is a dangerous business," said Col. Timothy LaBarge, commander of the 105th Airlift Wing.

His mother, Maj. Linda Rohatsch, is also an Air National Guard member. She commands the 105th Medical Group.

Lobraico's awards include the Meritorious Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon.

“This fine young airman had already served in a combat zone once before and knew the risks he was facing,” Major Gen. Patrick Murphy, the adjutant general of New York, said.

“Despite that, he did his job professionally and with courage. He will be missed by all who served with him and knew him.”

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Flags Fly At Half Staff To Honor Staff Sgt. Lobraico, Killed In Action September 5

**New London Patch: Sept. 9, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

The 22-year-old New Fairfield man was a member of the New York Air National Guard. He was killed in action in Afghanistan.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy ordered Connecticut and U.S. flags to fly at half-staff in honor of Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico, a New Fairfield resident who was killed in action on Thursday, September 5, in Afghanistan.

“We are deeply saddened by the loss of Staff Sgt. Lobraico. His family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time,” said Governor Malloy. “This loss reminds us of the dangers faced by our men and women stationed overseas. We should all be grateful for their service and sacrifices to our country.”

Staff Sgt. Lobraico, 22, was a member of the New York Air National Guard and 2008 graduate of New Fairfield High School.

“The loss of this brave young man is a sad reminder that hundreds of Connecticut military men and women are still in danger overseas even as our involvement in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan approaches a conclusion,” said Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. “I hope that all Connecticut residents take a moment to recognize the sacrifice in defense of our freedom made by Airman Lobraico and the other 64 heroes from our state lost in battle since September 11, 2001.”

Flags will fly at half-staff until burial, details of which are forthcoming.

<http://newlondon.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/flags-fly-at-half-staff-to-honor-staff-sgt-lobraico-killed-in-action-september-5>

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Staff Sgt. Todd James Lobraico, 22, who was based in Newburgh, declared killed in action while serving in Afghanistan

**News Channel 12: Sept. 6, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

WEST NYACK - A United States airman based in the Hudson Valley has been killed in action in Afghanistan.

Officials say Staff Sgt. Todd James Lobraico, 22, was killed Thursday while serving with the New York Air National Guard.

Lobraico, from New Fairfield, Conn., was based at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh

<http://westchester.news12.com/news/staff-sgt-todd-james-lobraico-22-who-was-based-in-newburgh-declared-killed-in-action-while-serving-in-afghanistan-1.6026731?firstfree=yes>

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Another Connecticut Serviceman Killed In Afghanistan

CBS Connecticut :
Sep 12, 2013

New Fairfield officials say a 22-year-old man serving in the U.S. Air National Guard in Afghanistan has died in the line of duty.

The family of Staff Sgt. Todd “TJ” Lobraico was notified Friday.

Lobraico’s father is a police officer in Stamford. Lobraico was a 2008 graduate of New Fairfield High School and a member of the New York Air National Guard.

New Fairfield First Selectman Susan Chapman says a gathering Sunday evening to remember victims of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks will be preceded by a candlelight vigil in Lobraico’s honor.

Governor Malloy called it a “sad reminder that hundreds of Connecticut military men and women are still in danger overseas” even as U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan winds down. He ordered Connecticut and U.S. flags to fly at half staff until Staff Sgt. Lobraico’s burial.

<http://connecticut.cbslocal.com/2013/09/06/another-connecticut-serviceman-killed-in-afghanistan/>

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Airman from Connecticut dies in Afghanistan

My Fox NY: Sept. 7, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013

MYFOXNY.COM - An airman from Connecticut serving with the New York Air National Guard was killed in Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense.

Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico, 22, of New Fairfield, died Thursday, September 5, 2013, when enemy forces attacked his unit near Bagram Airfield, the Pentagon said.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Staff Sgt. Lobraico. His family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time," Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy said in a statement. "This loss reminds us of the dangers faced by our men and women stationed overseas. We should all be grateful for their service and sacrifices to our country."

The governor ordered all state and U.S. flags to be flown at half-staff in Lobraico's honor until his burial.

Lobraico, a graduate of New Fairfield High School, was the son of a Stamford police officer, according to the Stamford Patch.

His remains are expected to arrive at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Saturday, according to Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations.

A candlelight vigil is set for Sunday evening at a senior center in New Fairfield, according to the Associated Press.

Lobraico was assigned to the 105th Security Forces Squadron based out of Stewart Air National Guard Base in New York.

Read more: <http://www.myfoxny.com/story/23365119/airman-from-connecticut-dies-in-afghanistan#ixzz2eOLi0vbH>

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New Fairfield honors fallen son, Sept. 11 victims

**News Times: Sept. 9, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEW FAIRFIELD -- It was a sense of honor and duty, not the need for a job or college money, that led Todd "TJ" Lobraico to join the military in 2008 after graduating from New Fairfield High School, First Selectman Susan Chapman said Sunday.

When the story is finally told of how the 22-year-old Air Force staff sergeant was killed in action in Afghanistan, residents of New Fairfield, where he attended school, and Sherman, where he lived, will know that he died as he lived, a "true American hero," she said.

So far, the military has only said that Lobraico, a member of the New York Air National Guard, died from wounds he suffered when his unit was attacked Thursday with small arms fire near Bagram Airfield.

"The full story will come out in due time, but he was directly responsible for saving the lives of his fellow airmen," Chapman said.

Hundreds of Sherman and New Fairfield residents, friends, family members, and military and public safety personnel filled the parking lot in front of the New Fairfield Senior Center for what a week ago was intended to be the town's annual commemoration of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

But on Friday, word came that Lobraico, whose father, Air National Guard Master Sgt. Todd Lobraico, is a Stamford police officer and whose mother, Maj. Linda Rohatsch, commands an Air Force medical group, had been killed. So a vigil in his memory was merged with the Sept. 11 ceremony.

Lobraico's parents were seated in the front row during the service.

"If it wasn't for 9/11, TJ would not have been in Afghanistan," Chapman said afterward. "So it shows that we're still paying a price for that."

The service almost seamlessly merged elements of previous Sept. 11 ceremonies, which honor the three New Fairfield residents -- Candace Williams, Christopher Blackwell and Robert Higley -- who were among the 3,000 people who died in the attacks, along with the New York City firefighters and police officers killed when the World Trade Center collapsed.

Now, said the Rev. Patricia Nichols, of the New Fairfield Congregational Church, Lobraico's name has been etched in the town's memory, along with those of the other local victims.

"He now joins the nearly 1 million men and women who have died defending America" in this country's wars, Col. Timothy LeBarge said.

New Fairfield firefighters and cadets from the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol and served as honor guards, and a dozen members of Lobraico's unit, the 105th Security Forces Squadron, stood at attention throughout. A number of Stamford police officers also attended.

The service began with a haunting, bagpipe medley of patriotic tunes and a return to New Fairfield of the Singing Policeman, Danny Rodriguez, the renowned tenor and former New York City police officer who was on duty on the morning of Sept. 11, and included a keynote address by Major Joseph Palys, commander of the Civil Air Patrol, who spoke about the CAP's role in the days after the terrorist attacks.

It ended with a three-gun salute in Lobraico's honor, and with the crowd holding candles in his memory.

"He never had a frown on his face. He was always smiling," recalled childhood friend Zac Doherty, of New Fairfield, who will be going into the Air Force next week.

Doherty said his enlistment wasn't because Lobraico had already chosen to serve, but he said his friend's sacrifice will serve as an inspiration to "make me succeed as an airman."

<http://www.newstimes.com/local/article/New-Fairfield-honors-Lobraico-9-11-dead-4797538.php#photo-5156769>

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NY flags to be lowered for fallen airman

**The Wall Street Journal: September 9, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

ALBANY, N.Y. — Flags on New York state government buildings will fly at half-staff on Tuesday to honor a New York Air National Guard member who died in Afghanistan last week.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has directed flags be lowered to honor 22-year-old Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. of New Fairfield, Conn.

Lobraico was killed by small arms fire on Thursday while on patrol outside Bagram Air Base. He was a member of the 105th Security Force Squadron, an element of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

Lobraico's death is the first New York Air National Guard death in combat since operations began in Afghanistan in 2001.

Connecticut Gov. Daniel Malloy also ordered his state's flags to fly at half-staff in honor of the fallen airman.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/APdc85bee25d234c8ea455647c40f042eb.html>

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Candlelight vigil to be held in New Fairfield for Conn. airman killed in Afghanistan

**The Republic: Sept. 8, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEW FAIRFIELD, Connecticut — A candlelight vigil is planned for a 22-year-old Air National Guard member from Connecticut who was killed in Afghanistan last week.

The gathering to honor Todd "T.J." Lobraico is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the senior center in New Fairfield, shortly before the town's annual 9/11 memorial ceremony.

Lobraico was a staff sergeant with the 105th Security Forces Squadron based at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, New York. The Defense Department says he was killed in action Thursday when enemy forces attacked his unit near Bagram Airfield.

Lobraico was a 2008 graduate of New Fairfield High School and a decorated airman who was deployed to Afghanistan for a second time in June.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has ordered flags to fly at half-staff in Lobraico's honor.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/9c897a96a245433d98287773cf53fe72/CT--Airman-Death-Vigil>

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Staff. Sgt. Todd Lobraico Honored At Vigil In New Fairfield

**Hartford Courant: Sept 10, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

At a ceremony planned to honor the 12th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, scores of people came out to honor a native who died recently while deployed in Afghanistan.

At the vigil outside the town's senior center, members of the armed forces joined family, friends and others who came out to remember Air Force Staff Sgt. Todd James "TJ" Lobraico Jr., 22, of New Fairfield, and also to honor the victims of 9/11.

"The recent passing of Staff Sgt. TJ Lobraico serves as a reminder to everyone that we should never forget the events of [Sept. 11]," said New Fairfield First Selectman Susan Chapman. "Our community has paid a high price for the events of that day, and I ask that we all never forget."

Lobraico was on his second combat tour when he was wounded by small arms fire near Bagram Airfield, according to a release from the U.S. Department of Defense. He was the

first member of the New York Air National Guard to die in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001, according to the release.

Lobraico's remains were expected to arrive at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Saturday.

A friend of Lobraico's, John Pastore of New Fairfield, remembered him as a person who was always never turned down a request for help.

"He was one of those kids that never said no to anything. ... He always was willing to do anything," Pastore said.

"He helped those around him," Pastore said. He remembered one time when he asked a dozen or so friends, including Lobraico, to help him move out of his apartment and Lobraico was the only one who showed up.

Friends at the vigil wore tuxedo T-shirts, a personal favorite of Lobraico's, to honor their fallen friend, according to a friend who didn't wish to have his name in the paper.

Lobraico, a 2008 graduate of New Fairfield High School, was assigned to the 105th Security Forces Squadron at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y.

Chaplain Eric Wishmar of the Connecticut Air Guard told those in attendance that his team fought much like the Army.

Lobraico was sent with a team to Afghanistan at the end of June. Lobraico also had served in Iraq from December 2010 to June 2011, according to the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

In remarks, Wishmar noted Lobraico's many service awards and medals, including the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal.

"Sgt. Lobraico now joins the nearly 1 million other men and women who have died defending America since our nation's founding," Wishmar said. "His name will join the roll call faithfully shared by our veterans each year and those ... who have laid down their life in service of our country."

"This fine, young airman had already served in a combat zone once before and knew the risks he was facing," Col. Timothy LaBarge, commander of the 105th Airlift Wing, said. "Despite that, he did his job professionally and with courage. He will be missed by all who served with him and knew him."

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy ordered flags in Connecticut to half-staff in Lobraico's honor.

"This loss reminds us of the dangers faced by our men and women stationed overseas," Malloy said. "We should all be grateful for their service and sacrifices to our country."

Lobraico was remembered by teachers as a kind young man who was involved in many charitable causes while at the high school.

"It was this compassion and sense of honor and duty that led him to proudly serve his country," his former social studies teacher, Chris Welter, said. "Our community and our country have lost an amazing young man."

"He will be remembered for his smile and support of school programs," Superintendent of Schools Alicia Roy said. "We are proud of students who choose to join the military to defend the United States. We are deeply saddened when that commitment costs the ultimate sacrifice. We will always remember and be thankful for TJ's dedication to our country."

Lobraico comes from a military family. His father, Todd Lobraico, is an Air Force master sergeant who also serves with the 105th Security Forces Squadron, according to a news release from the New York state military affairs office. The senior Lobraico also is a Stamford police officer. The slain airman's mother, Maj. Linda Rohatsch, commands the 105th Medical Group, the release said.

<http://www.courant.com/community/fairfield/hc-ct-lobraico-0909-2-20130908,0,536793.story>

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Staff. Sgt. Todd Lobraico Honored At Vigil In New Fairfield

**CT NOW: Sept. 10, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEW FAIRFIELD —At a ceremony planned to honor the 12th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, scores of people came out to honor a native who died recently while deployed in Afghanistan.

At the vigil outside the town's senior center, members of the armed forces joined family, friends and others who came out to remember Air Force Staff Sgt. Todd James "TJ" Lobraico Jr., 22, of New Fairfield, and also to honor the victims of 9/11.

"The recent passing of Staff Sgt. TJ Lobraico serves as a reminder to everyone that we should never forget the events of [Sept. 11]," said New Fairfield First Selectman Susan Chapman. "Our community has paid a high price for the events of that day, and I ask that we all never forget."

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first member of the New York Air National Guard to die in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001, according to the release.

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<http://www.ctnow.com/news/hc-ct-lobraico-0909-2-20130908,0,6302559.story>

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Sgt. Todd James Lobraico killed in line of duty in Afghanistan mourned

**News 12 Westchester:September 9, 2012 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEWBURGH - Friends and family are mourning the loss of an airman whose home station was in Newburgh at the Stewart Air National Guard Base.

The body of staff Sgt. Todd James Lobraico arrived over the weekend at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The 22-year-old combat veteran was shot and killed in the line of duty last week in Afghanistan.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has directed flags on New York state government buildings to be flown at half-staff tomorrow in his honor.

<http://westchester.news12.com/news/sgt-todd-james-lobraico-killed-in-line-of-duty-in-afghanistan-mourned-1.6039280>

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Flags at half-mast honor fallen soldier

**UB Reporter: Sept. 9, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has directed that flags on state government buildings—including those at UB—be flown at half-mast on Sept. 10 in honor of a New York Air National Guard member who died in Afghanistan on Sept. 5.

New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr., a resident of New Fairfield, Conn., died of small arms fire while on patrol outside Bagram Air Base. He was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron, which is an element of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base at Newburgh, N.Y.

The 105th Security Forces Squadron deployed a team to Bagram Air Force Base in June to help provide security there.

Cuomo has ordered that flags on all state buildings be lowered to half-mast in honor of and tribute to New York service members who are killed in action or die in a combat zone.

http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/campus.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/briefs/2013/flags_half_mast_9-10.detail.html

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NY flags to be lowered for fallen airman

**Press Connects: Sept. 9, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

Flags on New York state government buildings will fly at half-staff on Tuesday to honor a New York Air National Guard member who died in Afghanistan last week.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has directed flags be lowered to honor 22-year-old Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. of New Fairfield, Conn.

Lobraico was killed by small arms fire on Thursday while on patrol outside Bagram Air Base. He was a member of the 105th Security Force Squadron, an element of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

Lobraico's death is the first New York Air National Guard death in combat since operations began in Afghanistan in 2001.

Connecticut Gov. Daniel Malloy also ordered his state's flags to fly at half-staff in honor of the fallen airman.

<http://www.pressconnects.com/viewart/20130909/NEWS10/309090009/NY-flags-lowered-fallen-airman>

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Editorial: 9/11, still raging ? America must remember the fallen from that day and from the war

**The Anniston Star: Sept. 11. 2103 :
Sep 12, 2013**

On this the 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, we call your attention to Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr. of New Fairfield, Conn.

As a member of the New York Air National Guard, the 22-year-old Lobraico was on his second tour of combat duty since graduating high school in 2008. His friends called him T.J.

He died Sept. 5 from wounds suffered during an attack near the Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

According to the Department of Defense, Lobraico is the latest American soldier, sailor, Marine or airman to die in the Afghanistan War. He joins 2,133 other members of the U.S. military who have perished in Afghanistan since the United States and its allies invaded that nation following the 9/11 attacks. Among the deceased are at least 1,771 service members who have died in hostile actions, the DoD says. Nearly 20,000 members of the U.S. military have been wounded, as well.

On this solemn day, it is altogether right to remember the more than 3,000 people who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania. One of those is one of our own, Maj. Dwayne Williams, of Jacksonville, who died in the attack on the Pentagon. Most of 9/11's victims were American civilians going about their daily routines at work: fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters. Their families' pain, and that of the nation, has hardly diminished.

For a nation not accustomed to attacks on our soil — or terrorism-caused deaths of our civilians anywhere — today's anniversary marks an event the American people will never forget.

Commemoration can be either personal or public, depending on one's point of view. The 9/11 anniversary, like that of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, is not a national holiday. It's interesting to note, then, that more than half of polled Americans (52.3 percent) feel the the "right amount" of recognition is given to the 9/11 anniversary, according to a study conducted by American Pulse for USA Today. Likewise, 37.3 percent of those polled strongly disagreed with the notion that they had "moved on" from 9/11.

The emotion of today's anniversary certainly proves that correct.

Nevertheless, we owe it to America's fighting men and women to remember that the military cause of 9/11 still rages in Afghanistan, that mountainous nation of herders and farmers that at one time was a haven for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. The 9/11 anniversary and the status of America's military in Afghanistan can't be separated.

It's a staggering, numbing fact: America has been at war in Afghanistan for nearly 12 years. Sgt. Lobraico, and the thousands of others like him, military and civilian, are worth our time today.

http://annistonstar.com/view/full_story/23578329/article-Editorial--9-11--still-raging--%C2%A0America-must-remember-the-fallen-from-that-day-and-from-the-war?instance=home_opinion

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Ceremony at NY base to honor fallen Conn. Airman

**The Wall Street Journal: Sept. 11, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — Members of a New York Air National Guard unit will turn out at a Hudson Valley air base to honor a fallen comrade killed in Afghanistan.

The body of Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr. is scheduled to arrive Wednesday afternoon at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, home to the Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing. A memorial ceremony will be held at the base after his remains arrive.

Lobraico was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron. He died last Thursday after his unit was attacked near Bagram Airfield.

Known to his family and friends as T.J., the 22-year-old Lobraico was from New Fairfield, Conn. He joined the Air National Guard in 2008 and was on his second overseas deployment.

His parents also serve in the 105th Airlift Wing.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/APa99e1704a12548cda3953065a180ff40.html>

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Slain Conn. airman's body to arrive in NY Wed

**The Wall Street Journal: Sept. 10, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — The body of a Connecticut airman killed in Afghanistan is scheduled to arrive this week at the upstate New York Air National Guard base that's home to his security unit.

New York National Guard Officials say Tuesday that the body of 22-year-old Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. of New Fairfield, Conn., will arrive Wednesday at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh in the Hudson Valley.

Military officials announced last week that Lobraico had been killed by small arms fire when his unit was attacked near Bagram Airfield.

Lobraico was serving with the 105th Security Forces Squadron based at Stewart. The unit, which provides security at air bases, was deployed to Afghanistan last June. It was Lobraico's second overseas deployment

<http://online.wsj.com/article/APe18e52bb928848518412c80f46871cd0.html>

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Todd J. Lobraico Jr.

**Associated Press: Sept. 10, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

A transfer case containing the remains of Air Force Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr. sits on loader during a prayer Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. According to the Department of Defense, Lobraico, 22, of New Fairfield, Conn., died Sept. 5, 2013 from wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark

<http://bigstory.ap.org/photo/todd-j-lobraico-jr>

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Services set for local soldier killed in Afghanistan

**News Times: Sept. 10, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

Memorial services have been set for the 22-year-old soldier killed in action Thursday in Afghanistan.

Funeral services for Staff Sgt. Todd James "T.J." Lobraico Jr., a member of the New York Air National Guard and a 2008 graduate of New Fairfield High School, will be held at the O'Neill Center on Western Connecticut State University's westside campus Friday at 11 a.m.

Burial will follow in North Cemetery on Church Road in Sherman.

Lobraico's family will receive friends at the O'Neill Center, off Lake Avenue Extension, Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m.

A New Milford native who grew up and attended school in New Fairfield, Lobraico followed in the footsteps of his parents and grandparents in serving with the 105th Security Forces Squadron at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y., where his parents continue to actively serve.

Lobraico was on his second tour of duty in the Middle East, having served in Iraq from 2010-11. He planned a career in law enforcement, a plan that contributed to his decision to enter the armed services, said Tom Hicks, owner of Gil's Auto and Truck Repair, where Lobraico previously worked.

"He was just an overall good kid, an unbelievable kid," Hicks said.

The New York Air National Guard said Lobraico died as a result of wounds sustained when his unit near Bagram Airfield was attacked with small arms fire.

Lobraico's father, Todd, is an officer in the Stamford Police Department and an Air Force veteran who served in the first Persian Gulf War.

His mother, Linda Rohatsch, and his stepfather, Dr. R. Robert Rohatsch, live in New Fairfield.

His stepmother is Dianne Lobraico.

A scholarship fund has been established in his name. Donations may be sent to SSgt. T.J. Lobraico Jr. Scholarship Fund, c/o Wells Fargo, 1 Eagle Road, Danbury, CT 06810.

<http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Services-set-for-local-soldier-killed-in-4801237.php>

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<http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Services-set-for-local-soldier-killed-in-4801237.php>

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Body of Air Force Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico to arrive at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh tomorrow

**News 12: September 10, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

The body of a U.S. airman with ties to the Hudson Valley will arrive tomorrow at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

The casket of Air Force Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico, of Connecticut, returned home Saturday to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The 22-year-old was killed in Afghanistan Thursday when enemy forces attacked his unit during his second deployment.

He was assigned to the 105th Security Forces Squadron, which is based at Stewart.

Flags on state government buildings are to be flown at half-staff in his honor.

<http://hudsonvalley.news12.com/news/body-of-air-force-staff-sgt-todd-lobraico-to-arrive-at-stewart-air-national-guard-base-in-newburgh-tomorrow-1.6048402?print=true>

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Fallen air guardsman honored at Stewart ceremony

**Daily Freeman:September 12, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. - More than 500 members of the New York Air Guard's 105th Airlift Wing and more than 100 guests bid farewell Wednesday to a 22-year-old airman who was killed Sept. 5 in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr., known as “TJ” to his New Fairfield, Conn., family and friends, died of wounds from small arms fire in an enemy attack on his unit near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

He was deployed to Afghanistan at the end of June with a team of 105th Security Forces Squadron airmen.

Col. Timothy LaBarge, 105th Airlift Wing commander, spoke about the person Lobraico was and the person he could have been.

He was a son, a boyfriend, a soldier, a brother, a member of 105th Security Forces Squadron, and Reaper Team 7, LaBarge said. “Who he is, is the easiest of all the facts,” LaBarge said, “because TJ is, without a doubt, undeniably, a true American hero.”

State Sen. William Larkin, R-Cornwall, a retired career Army officer, was overcome with emotion when he spoke of the death of the young man.

“This is tragic for me too,” Larkin said. “And you’re right here today, where a young man, Silver Star, Bronze Star, but the one award that he got that he didn’t want -- the Purple Heart. This Purple Heart will be felt by everybody in this unit.”

Many of Lobraico’s friends and family members wore tuxedo T-shirts. His friend, Ashley Visser, said that it was Lobraico’s favorite shirt.

“TJ is a very classy, but un-classy guy. On every kind of fancy occasion where you had to dress up, TJ wore a tuxedo T-shirt. He wouldn’t want us to be in suits, or ties, or dresses he’d want us to be in his favorite shirt,” Visser said, calling him “a goofball kid.”

Lobraico is the first member of the New York Air National Guard to die in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001. His mother, Maj. Linda Rohatsch, commands the 105th Medical Group of the 105th Airlift Wing, and his father, Master Sgt. Todd Lobraico, is a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron.

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2013/09/12/news/doc5231a3f6e71b4356016366.txt>

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Fallen Airman Honored As Danbury Remembers Victims Of 9/11

**Danbury Daily Voice: 9/12/13:
Sep 12, 2013**

DANBURY, Conn. -- The war on terror felt very immediate and very close to home as Danbury held its annual September 11 Memorial Remembrance on Wednesday evening.

The U.S. flag billowed at half-staff above Elmwood Park in honor of New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Todd "T.J." Lobraico Jr., a 22-year-old from neighboring New Fairfield, who was killed in combat last week in Afghanistan.

"As we gather here for our 12th annual September 11 Memorial Remembrance, the flag flies at half-staff," Mayor Mark Boughton reminded the small crowd gathered in the middle of Main Street. "The war on terror continues."

The flag, which previously flew over the U.S. Capitol, is mounted on a flagpole directly across from the city's Sept. 11 memorial -- a column filled with crushed glass and inscribed with the names of 9/11 victims with ties to the Danbury area.

Boughton led the simple ceremony, which included opening and closing prayers, the presentation of the colors, a rifle salute from the Danbury Police Honor Guard and a moving a capella rendition of the national anthem by Erick Sanchez, a vocalist from Western Connecticut State University.

In a stark reminder of the losses suffered in the community that day, the two daughters of one victim took on roles in the ceremony, as they do every year.

Robyn Higley led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Her sister, Amanda, sang "God Bless America."

Amanda was just 5 and Robyn not yet born when their father, Robert D. Higley II, a 29-year-old insurance executive who worked on the 92nd floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center, was killed. Robert Higley grew up in Ridgefield.

In closing, Boughton thanked the Danbury Council of Veterans for providing a color guard as well as the politicians, firefighters and residents who turned out to honor those killed in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Each year we assemble we think it will be easier, that the emotions will not be as raw," Boughton said. "But the reality is, every Sept. 11, we can never forget the losses that day, it's ingrained forever in our culture and in our minds."

<http://danbury.dailyvoice.com/news/fallen-airman-honored-danbury-remembers-victims-911>

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Servicemen honor fallen airman from New Fairfield

**Eye Witness News 3: Sept. 11,2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEWBURGH, NY (WFSB) - Servicemen and women remembered a Connecticut hometown hero Wednesday afternoon.

National Guard members at Steward Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, NY, attended a ceremony for Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr.

Lobraico, 22, was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan Thursday, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said in a statement Friday.

Lobraico was a member of the New York Air National Guard and before joining the service, graduated from New Fairfield High School in 2008.

Services for Lobraico will be held on the Westside Campus of O'Neill Center at Western Connecticut State University on Friday at 11 a.m.

Off-site parking is being offered at Danbury Fair Mall, due to the lack of parking spaces in that area of campus.

<http://www.wfsb.com/story/23400139/servicemen-honor-fallen-airman-from-new-fairfield>

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Calling Hours, Funeral Set For Connecticut Serviceman

**CBS Connecticut: September 11, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

Public calling hours and a funeral service for a Connecticut airman killed in Afghanistan will be held this week at Western Connecticut State University.

Staff Sergeant Todd "T.J." Lobraico of New Fairfield was killed in action last week while serving with the New York Air National Guard near Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Lobraico was a student pursuing a degree in law enforcement in WCSU's Justice and Law Administration program.

Public calling hours will be from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 12 at the Feldman Arena of the O'Neill Center, 43 Lake Avenue Extension. The funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday at the O'Neill Center, with burial following in North Cemetery, Church Road, Sherman.

<http://connecticut.cbslocal.com/2013/09/11/calling-hours-funeral-set-for-connecticut-serviceman/>

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Parking guidelines set for local soldier's funeral

**News Times: Wednesday, September 11, 2013:
Sep 12, 2013**

A serviceman from New Fairfield killed in Afghanistan last week has been honored at an air base in the Hudson Valley.

The plane carrying Staff Sgt. Todd "T.J." Lobraico Jr.'s body arrived Wednesday afternoon at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y., home to the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing. A memorial ceremony was attended by Air Guard members and others.

Lobraico was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron. He died last Thursday after his unit was attacked near Bagram Airfield.

The 22-year-old Lobraico's parents also serve in the 105th Airlift Wing.

Danbury police on Wednesday released parking guidelines for those attending the funeral for Lobraico on Friday.

His funeral will be held at the O'Neill Center on Western Connecticut State University's westside campus Friday at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in North Cemetery on Church Road in Sherman.

Lobraico's family will receive friends at the O'Neill Center, off Lake Avenue Extension, Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m.

Police asked that those attending Friday's funeral service park at the Danbury Fair Mall, where buses will transport them to the O'Neill Center.

A section of the mall's parking lot near Sears will be reserved for the event, police said.

Police advised that those attending the funeral allow themselves extra time to get from the parking lot to the O'Neill Center.

<http://www.newstimes.com/local/article/Parking-guidelines-set-for-local-soldier-s-funeral-4806551.php>

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?TJ? given military farewell

**Mid-Hudson News:Sept. 11, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

STEWART AIR GUARD BASE – A Fallen Comrade Ceremony was held for Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico, Jr. at the main hanger at Stewart Air National Guard Base in the Town of Newburgh.

More than 500 members of the New York Air Guard's 105th Airlift Wing, 213th Engineer Installation Squadron, US Marine Corps Reservists, all stationed at Stewart, and over 100 guests, bid the 22-year-old airman farewell.

Lobraico, known to his family and friends as "TJ", died in Afghanistan on Thursday, September 5.

Lobraico Jr., of New Fairfield, Connecticut, died of wounds from small arms fire in an enemy attack on his unit near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. He was deployed to Afghanistan with a team of 105th Security Forces Squadron airmen who deployed to Afghanistan at the end of June.

Col. Timothy LaBarge, 105th Airlift Wing commander, spoke about the person Lobraico was and the person he could have been.

He was a son, a boyfriend, a soldier, a brother, a member of 105th Security Forces Squadron, and Reaper Team 7.

“Who he is, is the easiest of all the facts,” LaBarge said. “Because TJ is, without a doubt, undeniably, a true American hero.”

State Senator William Larkin, a retired career Army officer, was overcome with emotion when he spoke of the death of the young man.

http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2013/September/11/Lobraico_memorial-11Sep13.htm

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Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr.'s body arrived

**Facebook WINY Radio: Sept. 11, 2103 :
Sep 12, 2013**

FROM THE NEWSROOM: NEWBURGH, N.Y. (AP) — A New York Air National Guard member killed in Afghanistan last week has been honored at an air base in the Hudson Valley.

The plane carrying Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr.'s body arrived Wednesday afternoon at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, home to the Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing. A memorial ceremony was attended by Air Guard members and others.

Lobraico was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron. He died last Thursday after his unit was attacked near Bagram Airfield.

The 22-year-old Lobraico was from New Fairfield, Conn. He joined the Air National Guard in 2008 and was on his second overseas deployment.

His parents also serve in the 105th Airlift Wing.

A funeral will be held Friday in Danbury, Conn.

<https://www.facebook.com/winyradio/posts/658979840780922>

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Ceremony at N.Y. base to honor fallen airman

**Air Force Times: Sept. 11, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — Members of a New York Air National Guard unit will turn out at a Hudson Valley air base to honor a fallen comrade killed in Afghanistan.

The body of Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr. is scheduled to arrive Wednesday afternoon at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, home to the Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing. A memorial ceremony will be held at the base after his remains arrive.

Lobraico was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron. He died last Thursday after his unit was attacked near Bagram Airfield.

Known to his family and friends as T.J., the 22-year-old Lobraico was from New Fairfield, Conn. He joined the Air National Guard in 2008 and was on his second overseas deployment.

His parents also serve in the 105th Airlift Wing.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/article/20130911/NEWS/309110007/Ceremony-N-Y-base-honor-fallen-airman>

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Family and friends honor fallen soldier in Newburgh

**Hudson Valley YNN: Sept. 11, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

A fallen soldier was honored at Stewart Air National Guard Base. Staff Sergeant Todd Lobraico Jr., 22, died last week in Afghanistan and on Wednesday, his remains were returned to Newburgh. Meredith Zaritheny has more.

NEWBURGH, N.Y. -- Wednesday was a sad day at Stewart Air National Guard base as one of their own was brought home to be laid to rest. Family, friends and colleagues gathered here for the dignified transfer ceremony was held for Staff Sergeant "TJ" Lobraico Jr.

"It's just not real it just can't happen to him it's our TJ," said Ashely Visser, Lobraico's Friend.

"The loss is felt on many levels. We're talking about parents who've lost a fantastic young man. Security forces lost someone who watches their back, covers their six," said Captain Patrick Cordova, 105th Airlift Wing Spokesman.

More than 1,000 family, friends and servicemen and women gathered on base to honor the life and memory of Lobraico Jr.

"The pride that we feel in TJ and the enormous sense of loss we feel in his passing. The tremendous outpouring of support and emotion that we've seen over the past week is confirmation about how we all feel about TJ, who he was, who he is and who he could have become," said Col. Timothy Labargem, 105th Airlift Wing Commander.

Lobraico died last week from wounds suffered during an enemy attack near Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. The Connecticut native was deployed to Afghanistan at the end of June with 105th Security Forces Squadron Airmen. Lobraico, operations officers say, will be sorely missed by his unit.

"I remember him as a bubbly young kid. I remember he loved his dog. He was a such a part of our family and he will be dearly, dearly missed," said Maj. Emilio Melendez, 105th Security Forces Squadron.

Friends remember Lobraico as fun loving, saying he had a great sense of humor.

"Just, overall, he's just an amazing guy. At any bad moments, TJ could make you laugh. He's just an overall great guy. He'll be missed a lot," said Visser.

Lobraico received the Bronze and Silver Stars for his service, along with the Purple Heart.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at Western Connecticut State University.

<http://hudsonvalley.ynn.com/content/news/695747/family-and-friends-honor-fallen-soldier-in-newburgh/>

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Body of Fallen Connecticut Airman Returns Home: Staff Sgt. T.J. Lobraico was killed in Afghanistan on Sept. 5.

**NBC Connecticut: Sept. 11, 2013 :
Sep 12, 2013**

More than 800 U.S. Air Force and New York Air National Guard members saluted the flag-draped casket containing the remains of Staff Sgt. Todd "T.J." Lobraico, who was killed in Afghanistan last Thursday.

Lobraico's parents, both members of the Air Guard themselves, spent a few minutes alone with the coffin before the doors were opened to the hangar containing the coffin.

His body was transported by cargo jet to the Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y.

Not one but two ceremonies were held in Afghanistan on Tuesday so Lobraico's comrades could pay their respects.

After the doors opened for what the Air Guard chaplain Lt. Col. Bob Tilli called "a sacred fallen comrade ceremony," the casket was laid aboard the jet behind a podium.

Col. Timothy Labarge, the wing commander for Lobraico's unit, told the crowd, "T.J. had a very bright future. I only need to look at his parents, Major Linda Rohatsch, and his father, Master Sergeant Todd Lobraico, and reflect on their achievements and the environment that they brought him up in."

Pallbearers from an honor guard loaded the casket onto a hearse, and police led a motorcade off the base beneath a huge American flag.

Lobraico was 10 years old when the U.S. went into Afghanistan. He served in Iraq in 2011 and was 22 when he was killed in Afghanistan.

Calling hours will be held Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the arena at Western Connecticut State University, where Lobraico was studying for a degree in law enforcement.

Funeral services are set to begin at 11 a.m. Friday in the O'Neill Center. Lobraico will be buried at a cemetery in Sherman, where he lived.

The New Fairfield and Sherman communities held a candlelight vigil for Lobraico on Sunday.

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Fallen-Comrade-Ceremony-for-CT-Airman-223351581.html>

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Ceremony at NY base to honor fallen Connecticut airman

**Norwich Bulletin: 9/11/13:
Sep 12, 2013**

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — A New York Air National Guard member killed in Afghanistan last week has been honored at an air base in the Hudson Valley.

The plane carrying Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr.'s body arrived Wednesday afternoon at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, home to the Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing. A memorial ceremony was attended by Air Guard members and others.

Lobraico was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron. He died last Thursday after his unit was attacked near Bagram Airfield.

The 22-year-old Lobraico was from New Fairfield, Conn. He joined the Air National Guard in 2008 and was on his second overseas deployment.

His parents also serve in the 105th Airlift Wing.

A funeral will be held Friday in Danbury, Conn.

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/newsnow/x1868837001/Ceremony-at-NY-base-to-honor-fallen-Connecticut-airman>

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Newburgh ceremony honors Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr., fallen Conn. Airman

**LoHud.com: Sept. 11, 2103 :
Sep 12, 2013**

NEWBURGH — A New York Air National Guard member killed in Afghanistan last week has been honored at an air base in the Hudson Valley.

The plane carrying Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr.'s body arrived Wednesday afternoon at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, home to the Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing. A memorial ceremony was attended by Air Guard members and others.

Lobraico was a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron. He died last Thursday after his unit was attacked near Bagram Airfield.

The 22-year-old Lobraico was from New Fairfield, Conn. He joined the Air National Guard in 2008 and was on his second overseas deployment.

His parents also serve in the 105th Airlift Wing.

A funeral will be held Friday in Danbury, Conn.

<http://www.lohud.com/viewart/20130911/NEWS02/309110071/Newburgh-ceremony-honors-Staff-Sgt-Todd-J-Lobraico-Jr-fallen-Conn-airman>

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Bagram holds memorial services to honor Lobraico

**DVIDS :Sept. 11, 2103:
Sep 12, 2013**

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan - Two memorial services were held here Sept. 9 honoring Staff Sgt. T.J. Lobraico, 755th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, deployed from the 105th SFS, Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y.

"The purpose of today's ceremony was to bring closure to the loss and turn the focus to honoring Staff Sgt. T.J. Lobraico's memory by getting back after the mission," said Col. Glen Christensen, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Group commander. "We certainly understand that the mission must go on, so some will only be able to be there in spirit. To those airmen we will simply say thank you for the support, thoughts and prayers! To those who can make it, I will say, in advance, thank you so much for sharing this challenging time with us. As I told the wing commander, it's an absolutely amazing honor to serve as a part of this family."

Two services were held to ensure all of Lobraico's fellow unit members would be able to attend one of the memorials.

During the second service, the 105th SFS performed a military rite of passage when the members of Lobraico's unit conducted the Last Roll Call, which is a final tribute paid by military members to their fallen comrade. The Last Roll is called with the conviction held by service members that all unit members will be accounted for, and none will ever be forgotten.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of taps, a benediction and Lobraico's comrades passing by his memorial.

Lobraico, a five-year Air Force veteran from New Fairfield, Conn., was killed by small-arms fire when his unit came under attack Sept. 5 in Parwan Province, Afghanistan. He was deployed from the 105th SFS, Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh, New York.

Lobraico's father, Master Sgt. Todd Lobraico, 105 SFS, works as a police officer in Stamford, Conn. His mother, Maj. Linda Rohatsch, serves as a nurse with the 105th Medical Squadron.

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/113390/bagram-holds-memorial-services-honor-lobraico#ixzz2eao2Gbzt>

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Danbury Shuttle Offered For Mourners To Attend Services For Fallen Airman

**Danbury Daily Voice, Sept. 12:
Sep 13, 2013**

DANBURY, Conn. -- For residents who wish to pay their respects to Staff Sgt. Todd James "T.J." Lobraico, the New Fairfield airman who was killed last week in Afghanistan, a free shuttle will be offered from the Danbury Fair Mall to the Westside campus of Western Connecticut State University.

The free shuttle will be offered from the mall to the O'Neill Center from 2 to 9 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. Residents are advised to park between Sears and Dick's for the J&R bus to the Lobraico service.

The family of Lobraico, 22, will receive friends on Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Western Connecticut State University's Westside campus in Danbury. Services will be held at the O'Neill Center on Friday at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in North Cemetery on Church Road in Sherman.

Police advised that those attending the funeral allow themselves extra time to get from the mall to WestConn.

Lobraico was a member of the New York Air National Guard and a 2008 graduate of New Fairfield High School. His father, Todd, is a Stamford police officer and Air Force veteran.

He was killed when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire near Bagram Airfield, the Department of Defense announced. Read more about Lobraico here on The Daily Voice.

<http://danbury.dailyvoice.com/news/danbury-shuttle-offered-mourners-attend-services-fallen-airman>

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Fallen Airman Honored As Danbury Remembers Victims Of 9/11

**Danbury Daily Voice, Sept. 12:
Sep 13, 2013**

DANBURY, Conn. -- The war on terror felt very immediate and very close to home as Danbury held its annual September 11 Memorial Remembrance on Wednesday evening.

The U.S. flag billowed at half-staff above Elmwood Park in honor of New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Todd "T.J." Lobraico Jr., a 22-year-old from neighboring New Fairfield, who was killed in combat last week in Afghanistan.

"As we gather here for our 12th annual September 11 Memorial Remembrance, the flag flies at half-staff," Mayor Mark Boughton reminded the small crowd gathered in the middle of Main Street. "The war on terror continues."

The flag, which previously flew over the U.S. Capitol, is mounted on a flagpole directly across from the city's Sept. 11 memorial -- a column filled with crushed glass and inscribed with the names of 9/11 victims with ties to the Danbury area.

Boughton led the simple ceremony, which included opening and closing prayers, the presentation of the colors, a rifle salute from the Danbury Police Honor Guard and a moving a capella

rendition of the national anthem by Erick Sanchez, a vocalist from Western Connecticut State University.

In a stark reminder of the losses suffered in the community that day, the two daughters of one victim took on roles in the ceremony, as they do every year.

Robyn Higley led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Her sister, Amanda, sang "God Bless America."

Amanda was just 5 and Robyn not yet born when their father, Robert D. Higley II, a 29-year-old insurance executive who worked on the 92nd floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center, was killed. Robert Higley grew up in Ridgefield.

In closing, Boughton thanked the Danbury Council of Veterans for providing a color guard as well as the politicians, firefighters and residents who turned out to honor those killed in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Each year we assemble we think it will be easier, that the emotions will not be as raw," Boughton said. "But the reality is, every Sept. 11, we can never forget the losses that day, it's ingrained forever in our culture and in our minds."

<http://danbury.dailyvoice.com/news/fallen-airman-honored-danbury-remembers-victims-911>

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Funeral to be held Friday for Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr., Conn. airman killed in Afghanistan

**Westchester News 12, September 12, 2013 :
Sep 13, 2013**

A wake was held Thursday for an Air National Guard member from Connecticut who was killed last week in Afghanistan.

The plane carrying the body of Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. arrived Wednesday afternoon at the Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y. The 22-year-old was from New Fairfield and the son of a Stamford police officer.

Lobraico's funeral will be held Friday morning in Danbury...

<http://westchester.news12.com/news/funeral-to-be-held-friday-for-staff-sgt-todd-lobraico-jr-conn-airman-killed-in-afghanistan-1.6061242>

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Stewart guardsman who died in Afghanistan to be buried Friday

**Daily Freeman, Thursday, September 12, 2013:
Sep 13, 2013**

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. — More than 500 members of the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing and more than 100 guests bid farewell Wednesday to a 22-year-old airman who was killed Sept. 5 in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr., known as "T.J." to his New Fairfield, Conn., family and friends, died of wounds from small-arms fire in an enemy attack on his unit near Bagram Airfield.

He was deployed to Afghanistan at the end of June with the 105th Security Forces Squadron.

Col. Timothy LaBarge, 105th Airlift Wing commander, spoke during Wednesday's ceremony at Stewart about the person Lobraico was and could have been.

He was a son, a boyfriend, a soldier, a brother, a member of 105th Security Forces Squadron and Reaper Team 7, LaBarge said.

"Who he is is the easiest of all the facts," LaBarge said, "because T.J. is, without a doubt, undeniably, a true American hero."

State Sen. William Larkin, R-Cornwall, a retired Army officer, was overcome with emotion when he spoke about the death of the young man.

"This is tragic for me, too," Larkin said. "And you're right here today, where a young man, Silver Star, Bronze Star, but the one award that he got that he didn't want — the Purple Heart. This Purple Heart will be felt by everybody in this unit."

Many of Lobraico's friends and family members wore tuxedo T-shirts. His friend, Ashley Visser, said it was Lobraico's favorite shirt.

"T.J. is a very classy but unclassy guy. On every kind of fancy occasion where you had to dress up, T.J. wore a tuxedo T-shirt. He wouldn't want us to be in suits or ties or dresses. He'd want us to be in his favorite shirt," Visser said, calling him "a goofball kid."

Lobraico was the first member of the New York Air National Guard to die in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001. His mother, Maj. Linda Rohatsch, commands the 105th Medical Group of the 105th Airlift Wing, and his father, Master Sgt. Todd Lobraico, is a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron.

LoBraico's funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday in the O'Neill Center at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Conn., according to the News-Times of Danbury. Burial will follow in North Cemetery in Sherman, Conn.

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2013/09/12/news/doc5231a3f6e71b4356016366.txt>

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Funeral set for airman killed in Afghanistan

**News 12.com, Published: September 13, 2013 3:02 AM:
Sep 13, 2013**

DANBURY, Conn. - (AP) -- A funeral is set for Friday morning for a 22-year-old airman from Connecticut who was killed in Afghanistan last week.

Western Connecticut State University is hosting the service for Staff Sgt. Todd J. Lobraico Jr., a member of the New York Air National Guard. Burial will follow at a cemetery in Sherman.

He died Sept. 5 after his unit was attacked near Bagram Airfield. He was on his second overseas deployment after joining the Guard in 2008.

Lobraico was from New Fairfield, Conn., and was studying justice and law administration at Western Connecticut.

Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has directed flags to fly at half-staff until sunset Friday in Lobraico's honor.

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<http://connecticut.news12.com/news/funeral-set-for-airman-killed-in-afghanistan-1.6066037>

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