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105th Airlift Wing

Super Galaxy's will now soar for decades, but the service has other transport problems

Air Force Times, Nov. 4, 2018 :

In August, Lockheed Martin finished 17 years of upgrades to the Air Force's C-5M Super Galaxy, delivering the 52nd aircraft to the service under the Reliability and Re-engineering Program, which began in 2001.

At 65 feet tall, 247 feet long, and with a wingspan of 223 feet, the C-5 is the largest transport plane in use by the U.S. Air Force.

It can haul 120,000 pounds of cargo more than 5,500 miles — the distance from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey — without refueling. Without cargo, that range is more than 8,000 miles.

The upgrade program involved 70 modifications to improve the plane's reliability, efficiency, maintainability and availability. Among them were changes to the airframe; to its environmental, pneumatic, and hydraulic systems; and to the landing gear and flight controls.

The main addition was more powerful engines— an upgrade from four General Electric TF-39 engines to GE F-138 engines, which are quieter and will allow the Super Galaxy to haul more cargo with less room needed for takeoff.

All together, RERP upgrades yielded "a 22 percent increase in thrust, a shorter takeoff roll; [and] a 58 percent improvement in climb rate," according to a Lockheed release, which said the modifications also gave the C-5M greater fuel efficiency and reduced its need for tanker support.

Those upgrades extend the Super Galaxy's service life into the 2040s. But they didn't make the Air Force's largest plane any more comfortable to fly.

So the 105th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard took over.

"You know, the big Air Force is spending millions and millions of dollars — new engines, avionics upgrades, all that kind of stuff — but then, at the end of the day, it looked like something that would be ... on a used-car lot," Capt. Paul Gonzalez, the officer-in-charge of the C-5M refurbishment program

team at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, New York, told Air Force Magazine. Gonzalez said his team overhauled the C-5Ms' interiors, re-doing many of the features that make using the aircraft bearable for the crews who fly them. They revamped or replaced interior panels, cleaned up crew and passenger seating, and added decals, according to Air Force Magazine. They also reapplied non-skid materials to the cargo area for safety purposes.

Each aircraft required 40 days of work. These weren't just cosmetic changes, however.

"Even if you have the brand-new interior of a house, if the outside's falling apart, you're still not gonna feel comfortable in that house," Master Sgt. Sara Pastorello, the 105th's public affairs superintendent, told Air Force Magazine.

The team at Stewart pursued the refurbishment project after they learned some 200 maintainer jobs would be lost as the base switched from handling C-5s to C-17s. The project wrapped up in October, after eight years, refurbishing 49 of the 52 upgraded C-5Ms and saving the Air Force \$45.5 million.

'The next discussion'

The C-5 modernization push began in 1998. The first upgraded one was delivered in 2009 and the final arrived earlier this year — two decades later. But now the Air Force is planning more changes for its airlift fleet.

In September, the service detailed its goal to build the "Air Force We Need" by adding another 74 squadrons by 2030, bringing the total to 386 squadrons. The proposal called for 14 more tanker squadrons and one additional airlift squadron.

Air Mobility Command chief Gen. Maryanne Miller said at the end of October that analysis in the plan supported the addition of three new C-17 Globemaster III squadrons and the elimination of two C-130J Hercules squadrons.

The Air Force is in the process of returning to service eight C-5Ms put in reserve due to the sequester, but those will go to existing squadrons rather than to starting new ones.

Dozens of older C-5s were retired earlier this decade, but there are no plans to pull them out of the boneyard — where the Air Force previously got parts to repair other C-5s— and upgrade them to augment the airlift fleet.

Air Force studies found that the newer C-17, a strategic airlifter, is in higher demand than the much older C-130, a tactical aircraft put to use in transport, airborne assault, search and rescue, aerial refueling and other roles.

The rejiggering described by Miller, first reported by Defense News, a sister publication of Air Force Times, would give the service 54 airlift squadrons — one more than it has now. But there's always a catch. The C-17 production line run by Boeing in Long Beach, California, has been shut down. The firm produced its last Globemaster in 2015, according to Defense News.

Restarting it would be an expensive proposition, and Miller said it's one the service has not discussed with Boeing, stressing that discussions of the airlift fleet's future composition will also be shaped by a study that is underway.

"Those are the details that we have not looked at," Miller said of restarting the production line. "That will be the next discussion as we proceed, talking with Congress and working with Congress, because the same would apply for the tanker fleet. An additional 14 squadrons by 2030 — what would be the path to get there?"

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2018/11/04/super-galaxys-will-now-soar-for-decades-but-the-service-has-other-transport-problems/>

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42nd Infantry Division

Troy-based National Guard members featured on Netflix show

Saratogian, Nov. 8, 2018 :

LATHAM, N.Y. — Current and former members of the New York Army National Guard's Troy-based 42nd Infantry Division will be seen on an episode of the new Netflix series, "Medal of Honor, which begins Friday.

The television series tells the stories of eight Medal of Honor recipients.

The 42nd Infantry Division members will be featured on the episode about Master Sgt. Vito Bertoldo, a member of the division during World War II.

Bertoldo received the Medal of Honor for his heroism in Hattan, France on Jan. 9 and 10, 1945.

One of the program's executive producers is Robert Zemeckis, who directed the "Back to the Future" movies as well as "Forrest Gump."

The show uses actors recreating the incidents as well as interviews to tell the stories of the Medal of Honor recipients.

The producers interviewed retired Major General Joseph Taluto, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq in 2005 and a former adjutant general of New York; Col. Lt. Col. Sean Flynn, who currently serves as the 42nd Infantry Division operations officer; and Sgt. Major Corine Lombardo, a former 42nd Infantry Division public affairs chief who is currently on duty with the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

The three were interviewed about Bertoldo's heroism and what that story tells soldiers today.

Vito Bertoldo was a cook in the mess section of Alpha Company of the 2nd Battalion, 242nd Infantry Regiment of the 42nd Infantry Division. He was originally classified as 4-F and exempt from the draft for his eyesight, but insisted on enlisting in the army.

In January 1945 the division's three infantry regiments were deployed to France and assigned to defend part of the Allied line in the Alsace region.

A German offensive called Operation Nordwind hit the area being defended by the 242nd Infantry Regiment.

In Hattan, the battalion headquarters was forced to evacuate. Bertoldo volunteered to hold off the advancing German Panzer Grenadiers.

Bertoldo manned a machine gun and drove back repeated German attacks for almost two days.

"On the close approach of enemy soldiers he left the protection of the building he defended and set up his gun in the street, there to remain for almost 12 hours driving back attacks while in full view of his adversaries and exposed to 88-millimeter, machine gun and small arms fire," his Medal of Honor citation says.

Bertoldo kill at least 40 of the enemy and wounded many more.

"It was Bertoldo's devotion to duty and his fellow Soldiers that leaves a lasting impression," Taluto said. "Vito obviously took his responsibilities seriously and without compromise. He stood his ground time after time and made a difference."

Bertoldo's story is inspiring for any soldier, Lombardo said.

"The lesson passed on to soldiers today is that every soldier, regardless of your military skill, is a soldier first," Lombardo said. "Bertoldo was an unassuming man who volunteered as a cook and ended up becoming a hero."

"He relied on his basic training and survival instincts to overcome and defeat insurmountable odds," she said.

"As a senior Army NCO it was an honor to be part of a program that told this soldier's story," Lombardo said.

https://www.saratogian.com/news/local-news/troy-based-national-guard-members-featured-on-netflix-show/article_ddbef930-e140-11e8-b383-47f90667aaf8.html

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New Netflix TV Series Features Interviews With NY Soldiers

WIBX, November 4, 2018:

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Three officers with ties to the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division will appear in a new Netflix series about recipients of the U.S. military's highest decoration for bravery in combat.

"Medal of Honor" tells the story of eight recipients of the medal. It begins streaming Nov. 9. One of the episodes features Vito Bertoldo, of Decatur, Illinois, who served in the 42nd Division during World War II.

Bertoldo was awarded the Medal of Honor for holding off a German attack in France for two days in January 1945, during which he killed dozens of the enemy and wounded many others.

The episode on his heroics features interviews with three former or current 42nd Division officers who discuss Bertoldo's actions and what his story tells today's soldiers.

<http://wibx950.com/new-netflix-tv-series-features-interviews-with-ny-soldiers/>

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Netflix Docuseries Highlights Medal of Honor Recipient

Military Spot, Nov. 2, 2018:

NOVEMBER 2, 2018, Troy, NY – An unlikely World War II hero of the Army's 42nd Infantry Division will be featured in a Netflix docudrama series highlighting Medal of Honor recipients scheduled for release November 9, 2018.

Master Sgt. Vito Bertoldo, a cook who was initially classified as 4-F and ineligible for military duties due to poor eyesight, will be featured in one of the eight episodes of the series "Medal of Honor" which begins streaming Nov. 9.

One of the program's executive producers is Robert Zemekis, the director of the Back to the Future movies and Forest Gump.

Fighting solo, Bertoldo stopped a German attack for almost two days, fighting desperately to buy time for his command and fending off German tanks and infantry on January 9 and 10, 1945.

The 42nd Infantry Division is now part of the New York Army National Guard and several Guard Soldiers appear in the production.

Former 42nd Division Commander, retired Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto; 42nd Division Operations Officer Lt. Col. Sean Flynn, and former division public affairs chief Sgt. Maj. Corine Lombardo were interviewed for the show.

Although he was not eligible to be drafted, Bertoldo volunteered for service after his younger brother enlisted.

Bertoldo, from Decatur, Illinois, said later, he talked himself into “limited service in the Military Police.” But he wanted to do more.

Bertoldo was assigned to the 42nd Division’s Company A, 1st Battalion, 242nd Infantry Regiment; arriving in France in December 1944.

The 42nd had earned the nickname “Rainbow Division” during World War I, when it was formed of National Guard units from around the country.

Bertoldo was a cook with an infantry company. But he volunteered for infantry assignments “to do something more than just stand guard or do the cooking,” he admitted to the “Independent Journal” in 1960.

Bertoldo was persistent and determined to find a way into combat service.

“My only disciplinary problem was with a cook who could not get along with the mess sergeant,” said Capt. William Corson in a letter to fellow Rainbow Division veterans in 1995.

“The solution came quickly when an order was issued by battalion for a detail of three men from each company to serve as a battalion command post guard. I told the first sergeant that the cook, Vito Bertoldo, was number one on that detail. Good riddance, I thought.”

Bertoldo, then a private first class, could not have predicted what that new assignment would mean.

The Rainbow Division task force of three infantry regiments near Strasbourg faced an attack by the German 25th Panzer Grenadier and 21st Panzer Divisions on January 5, 1945. Hitler’s Operation Nordwind was the final German offensive on the western front.

The German objective was the capture of Hatten and nearby village of Rittershoffen, held by the 242nd’s second battalion. The Germans wanted to move west and control all of northern Alsace.

In their path were the inexperienced infantry regiments of the 42nd Division, fighting without their divisional artillery or support elements.

“A new assault was then launched against Company A, which had taken up positions in Maginot Line pillboxes (outside of Hatten), and Germans by-passed them,” the 42nd Infantry Division history records. “The enemy then made their way into Hatten and began a furious house-to-house battle.”

Bertoldo’s former company was quickly surrounded and overrun. Captain Carson was wounded and captured with dozens of his Soldiers.

At the battalion command post in Hatten, Bertoldo volunteered to hold off German forces as the headquarters staff retreated.

“Imagine my surprise in 1945,” Carson said, “when at Camp Atterbury, Indiana I picked up a copy of The Chicago Tribune and saw on the front page a picture of President Truman pinning the Congressional Medal of Honor on the former cook,” Carson said.

“All I did was try to protect some other American Soldiers from being killed,” Bertoldo would tell newspapers back home. “At no time did I have in mind that I was trying to win something.”

Bertoldo drove back repeated German attacks for 48 hours. He was exposed to enemy machine gun, small arms and even tank fire.

“From cook to a one-man defense against an oncoming enemy, it’s a story of courage under fire but even more, the warrior spirit of the American Soldier,” Taluto said of Bertoldo’s valor.

Moving among buildings in Hatten to fire his machine gun, at one point Bertoldo strapped it to a table for stability. He fired on approaching German tanks and panzer grenadiers, repeatedly defeating the German attacks.

“On the close approach of enemy soldiers, he left the protection of the building he defended and set up his gun in the street,” the Medal of Honor citation states, “there to remain for almost 12 hours driving back attacks while in full view of his adversaries and completely exposed to

88-millimeter, machine gun and small arms fire.”

Bertoldo withstood “the attack of vastly superior forces for more than 48 hours without rest or relief, time after time escaping death only by the slightest margin while killing at least 40 hostile soldiers and wounding many more,” the citation says.

“I did nothing more than any other Soldier would have done in the same situation,” Bertoldo said.

Others disagree.

“It was Bertoldo’s devotion to duty and his fellow Soldiers that leaves a lasting impression,” Taluto told the TV show interviewers.

“Vito obviously took his responsibilities seriously and without compromise.

He stood his ground time after time and made a difference,” Taluto said.

“Bertoldo fired a machine gun, his rifle and threw hand grenades at the enemy,” his company commander said after the war. “He was a one man task force they could not defeat.”

“His actions are the essence of both personal courage and selfless service,”

Lombardo said. “Faced with overwhelming odds he persevered against enemy tank, machine gun and small arms fire and then stayed behind and single-handedly covered the withdrawal of his fellow Soldiers.”

While Bertoldo received the Medal of Honor, every member of the battalion fought tenaciously.

The 1st Battalion, 242nd Infantry was awarded Distinguished Unit Citation for its actions in Hatten.

At the beginning of the battle there were 33 officers and 748 enlisted men in the battalion. Fifty-two hours later there were 11 officers and 253 enlisted men, the other two-thirds of the battalion having been killed, wounded, captured or missing in action.

The Rainbow Division Soldiers, without the benefit of armor, artillery or air support, fought the Germans to a standstill.

German Col. Hans Von Luck, a regimental commander in the attacking 21st Panzer Division, recalled the fight as “one of the hardest and most costly battles that had ever raged on the western front”—and the American infantry held off the Germans for two weeks.

Bertoldo continued to serve with the 42nd Division through the end of the war, rising in the ranks to master sergeant.

His Medal of Honor presentation ceremony on December 18, 1945 included meeting both President Harry Truman and Army Chief of Staff Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Bertoldo returned home to Illinois in December 1945 and served as Veterans Administration representative in Chicago for a year before moving to San Francisco in 1947, working until 1958.

“The best way to honor the dead is to try to make it up to the living who have given the best years of their lives in the interest of peace,” Bertoldo said 20 years after his combat actions. After leaving the VA, Bertoldo started a landscaping business in Marin County.

He passed away in July 1966 just shy of age 50 after a long battle with cancer.

The Medal of Honor series employs interviews, actors and archival footage to tell the story what many surviving Medal of Honor recipients describe as “the worst day of their lives.”

“When you read citations of (Medal of Honor) recipients, often times it would not be far-fetched to think to yourself there is no way this person could have done this,” said Mike Dowling, a Marine Corps veteran of Iraq and technical advisor for the series. “Only they did do that, and their stories deserve to be told.”

“The lesson for military members today is that every Soldier, regardless of military skill, is a Soldier first,” Lombardo said. “Bertoldo was an unassuming man who volunteered as a cook and relied on his basic training and survival instincts to overcome and defeat insurmountable odds.”

Telling the story of the heroism of a former Rainbow Soldier helps extend Bertoldo’s legacy to modern Soldiers, Taluto said, explaining why he participated.

Taluto is also former chairman of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, connecting 42nd Division veterans and descendants of the Rainbow Division from its creation in 1917 to the modern day.

“I was truly honored to participate,” Taluto said. “As a senior leader it always gives me great pleasure to talk about the character of the American Soldier.”

Story by Col. Richard Goldenberg

New York National Guard

<http://www.militaryspot.com/news/netflix-docuseries-highlights-medal-honor-recipient>

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Airmen and Soldiers

Max Rose's uphill battle for Staten Island

Politico, Nov. 5, 2018 :

NEW YORK - As Democrat Max Rose, a pugnacious 31-year-old Army veteran and former healthcare executive, made his way around a gathering of veterans at a high school auditorium in one of Staten Island's most conservative neighborhoods Oct. 28, he didn't mention his opponent, incumbent GOP Rep.

Dan Donovan.

He didn't mention the president, Donald Trump, either.

Instead, he shook hands, promised a new bipartisan future if he's elected to Congress Nov. 6, and doubled down on their shared service.

"Hey everybody, Max Rose, running for Congress, I'm a vet as well," he told the group of about 60 veterans and their families, sitting at round tables covered with vinyl tablecloths, waiting for a catered hot lunch provided by local restaurants.

Still, it was clear that Trump was very much on the minds of some of the veterans whose vote Rose was trying to win.

After all, while Rose is running for Congress in a city that's one of the country's liberal bastions, this is a district where Trump is not, for a change, the bogeyman. The key to winning for Rose won't be his ability to motivate the liberal Democratic base, as it might be in other districts.

Instead, he's got to win over the independent voters who helped make Staten Island the one New York City borough to vote for Trump in 2016. Mary and Paul DiTrento, two registered Democrats at the gathering, said it was unlikely they would vote for Rose. It's not really about him, or even Donovan, they said.

Paul DiTrento likes President Trump, he explained. Trump "talks like we talk," he said, in an almost apologetic tone. "I know it's not presidential."

The DiTrentos and the other swing voters in this unusual district present a difficult problem for Rose. Democratic voters outnumber Republicans in New York's 11th congressional district, and the district voted for the Democrat in every presidential election between 1992 and 2012, before going

overwhelmingly for Trump in 2016. A recent New York Times/Siena poll also showed that 51 percent of the district approves of the job Trump is doing as president; 42 percent said they disapprove. And the district is divided on the issue of which party they think should win the House next week, with 48

percent saying they think the GOP should retain control, and 44 percent saying they think Democrats should win.

Polls show the race is tight, with Donovan leading Rose by 44-40 and 15 percent of voters undecided. Winning over those voters is probably the key to winning the whole thing.

"I just can't see voting for a Democrat, especially the way they acted during the hearings for [Supreme Court Justice Brett] Kavanaugh," Paul DiTrento said.

So during 15 months of campaigning, Rose has run a hyper-local race, avoiding unnecessary criticism of Trump for the most part and instead focusing his barbs on the "political class" that he says Donovan – who fended off a high-profile primary challenge from ex-convict and former Rep.

Michael Grimm in June - belongs to.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, and a graduate of Wesleyan and the London School of Economics, Rose served five years in the Army, including ten months in Afghanistan, where he was wounded when his platoon's vehicle drove over an improvised explosive device, earning him a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He moved to Staten Island in 2015, when he returned from active service; he most recently worked as chief of staff at the nonprofit health care provider Brightpoint, and remains a captain in the National Guard. He quit his job at Brightpoint a year ago to campaign full time, and got married six months later.

A standard line in his stump speech goes: "Whether you like me or not, my wife very much wants to be married to an employed guy."

Rose says he would not necessarily vote to impeach Trump if he's elected; he says he first needs to see the results of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. He says he wouldn't support Nancy Pelosi for speaker if the Democrats retake the House. He doesn't support "abolishing ICE." He's quick

to paint Democratic politicians as part of the problem he says he's running to solve. The divisions in the country aren't between Democrats and Republicans, he argues.

"I think that the real division is between the American people and the political class," he told POLITICO. "You know, the Democrats had the keys to the castle in 2009! We didn't do anything about the carried interest loophole, we didn't do anything to eliminate some of the egregious unfair practices in our system - we didn't do anything about money in politics and its toxic nature."

"The problem that has existed in this district, and in districts like it around the country, did not start in January of 2017," Rose said. "That's not to say that this administration has not done some ... bad things, things that I disagree with, that have certainly harmed people in my district and scared some of them."

The district is a harder pickup for Democrats than it might seem on paper.

Of the 416,000 active registered voters in the 11th, Democrats far outnumber Republicans; there are about 189,000 registered Democrats, and 112,000 registered Republicans as of this week. But that still leaves about 114,000 active registered voters who aren't registered in any party, and history shows those voters tend to vote for Republicans.

Since November of 2016, about 11,500 new active voters have registered. The growth in enrollment is majority Republican.

"I wouldn't make a prediction, but if you look at the history it's been a very tough seat for Democrats to win," Tom Wroblewski, a senior opinion writer at the Staten Island Advance, told POLITICO. "I don't know if Staten Island voters are ready to throw over Dan Donovan, who they voted for in big numbers, for Max Rose. . What has Donovan done to lose their vote?"

Indeed, as Rose left the veterans luncheon, he shared a warm hug with a Vietnam veteran in a wheelchair named Joe.

A POLITICO reporter asked Joe if he was a fan of Max Rose.

"I'm a Purple Heart fan," Joe said. Asked who he's voting for, he paused. "I don't know yet. I'm still a friend of Dan Donovan. It's hard."

Rose's critique of Donovan is that he hasn't done enough, across the board - to address the district's opioid crisis, to improve transit and traffic problems on the island, or to push back on the President's tax bill, which stripped away the state and local tax deduction from states like New York.

He's pointed to Donovan's campaign contributions from corporations like Verizon and Purdue Pharma, the company that manufactured Oxycontin, as signs that the incumbent is in league with the wealthy and not the middle class.

Donovan and Rose agree on some policy ideas - they're both for universal background

checks on gun purchases and they both have said they want to invest more money to tackle the opioid crisis.

In an interview with POLITICO this week, Donovan pointed to immigration, and Rose's support for New York City's status as a sanctuary city, as his biggest difference with the Democrat. It's a stance that resonates in this corner of New York City.

"I'm against sanctuary cities. He's for sanctuary cities," Donovan said.

Rose has attacked Donovan as a flip-flopper on immigration who once supported more moderate bipartisan immigration reform, but tacked to the right when he was challenged in a Republican primary this summer. Donovan voted against a bill to strip federal funding from sanctuary cities because, he said, it would hurt local law enforcement.

Over the past week, the president has tried to gin up support for Republicans by attacking a caravan of migrants approaching the U.S. from Central America as possible criminals, gang members and disease carriers.

It's rhetoric that resonates in this corner of New York City.

It's also rhetoric many people see as nakedly racist, but Donovan disagrees with that assessment.

"It's not racist. We don't know who's coming," he told POLITICO. "We have thousands of people who are still waving their home country's flag. They're not waving the flag of the United States."

Donovan's campaign recently sent out a mailer that says "Build the Wall" and has a line drawn through what's supposed to be an immigrant family crossing the border.

Rose has significantly outraised Donovan, pulling in \$4.1 million in donations to Donovan's \$2.3 million. But outside groups have spent more than \$1 million in Donovan's favor.

Donovan is calling Rose a "carpetbagger" and using the large number of out-of-district donations Rose has received as a

way to paint him as an outsider - at a time when President Trump is using fear of outsiders to motivate Republican voter turnout in the midterms.

One of Donovan's campaign ads attacks Rose, who moved to Staten Island two years ago, as "not one of us."

After the veterans luncheon last Sunday, Rose drove to a house nearby on Todt Hill, a leafy neighborhood of big houses and gated driveways, for a house party of about 20 at the home of retired physician and epidemiologist Deeptha Nedunchezian.

Steve Higgins, president of the Democratic Association of Richmond County, brought up the Donovan ad as he introduced Rose to the group of guests seated on plump couches and dining room chairs arranged around a coffee table.

"'Not one of us.' Isn't that just the worst thing to say in this country?" Higgins asked.

Rose offered a version of his stump speech: How Congress banded together to fund the armor on his military vehicle that doctors credited with saving Rose's life when he was injured in Afghanistan; how America needs to dream big again to fund solutions to the opioid problem and develop new highways and ferries. How he hasn't accepted money from corporate PACs, and how there should be consequences for people, like Dan Donovan, who belong to the political class that Rose says got America into the mess it's currently in.

Afterward, the group asks questions. A retired NYPD detective who says the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school "destroyed him" wonders what Rose will actually do to end gun violence. A physician wonders what will happen to his older patients if Congress cuts Medicare or Social Security.

Another wonders whether Rose will support Pelosi, and Rose says he won't.

Prior Democratic party leadership has hurt the reputation of Democrats across the country, Rose says. "No one trusts us."

Rose urged the group to "have hope."

"The future of the Democratic party can be found in the Democrats running for Congress in these swing districts," Rose says. "Things will change. They really will."

<https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2018/11/04/max-roses-uphill-battle-for-staten-island-681628>

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Max Rose Upsets Dan Donovan, NYC's Lone Republican Congressman

Spectrum News, Nov. 07, 2018:

NEW YORK (AP) - An Army veteran beat the odds Tuesday in unseating New York City's only Republican member of congress.

Max Rose, a moderate Democrat who was wounded in Afghanistan in 2013, defeated U.S. Rep. Dan Donovan in a district that covers Staten Island and a small part of Brooklyn. New York's 11th Congressional District was Trump Country in 2016 and the president remains popular in much of suburban Staten Island, but Rose zigged from other liberal candidates by not making President Donald Trump's leadership a central issue of his campaign.

Instead, the 31-year-old campaigned on nonpartisan issues like fixing infrastructure and fighting the opioid addiction epidemic. He took two weeks off from his campaign in August for National Guard training.

"The story of this country has always been that no matter our differences, no matter the challenges in our way, we do what others said was impossible and they said this was impossible," an enthusiastic Rose told supporters in Staten Island.

Donovan, who turned 62 on Tuesday, was Staten Island's district attorney before being elected to Congress in 2015 in a special election to replace former U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm, who pleaded guilty to tax fraud and served prison time.

"I don't look at this as a sad occasion," an emotional Donovan told his supporters. "I look at this as the end of something that I have enjoyed so much."

Rose's victory was part of an overall triumph for Democrats in the U.S.

House of Representatives, as the party had picked up at least 23 House seats as of 12:07 a.m. Wednesday, putting them on track to reach the 218 needed to seize control from the GOP.

<http://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2018/11/07/democrat-max-rose-upsets-dan-donovan-nyc-lone-gop-congressman-11-congressional-district>

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UB to hold Veterans Day celebration

UB Now, November 6, 2018:

UB will honor the university's veteran and military service members with a two-part program on Nov. 9.

The ninth annual celebration will begin at 11 a.m. with a flag ceremony at Flint Loop in front of Capen Hall on the North Campus.

Following the ceremonial procession and presentation of colors by the UB Police Color Guard and student cadets of the local ROTC Color Guard, the flag will be raised on the center pole in the middle of Flint Circle in honor of all veterans who have served. The UB Thunder of the East marching

band will play the national anthem while the flag is raised.

The invocation will be offered by retired Navy Chaplain Mike Zuffoletto.

Following the flag-raising, the celebration will move to the Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall, for refreshments and remarks. A. Scott Weber, vice president for student life, will welcome attendees.

Remarks will be offered by UB student Chanel Powell, an Army veteran and resident of the UB chapter of the Student Veterans of America; Troy Miller, director of admissions and an Army veteran who served in the Gulf War with Delta Co 1/327 Infantry Regiment; and Tech. Sgt. Thomas Whitmore of the 107th Attack Wing Intelligence Group of the New York Air National Guard, who is in charge of mission qualification training.

Each will reflect on what it means to be a veteran.

An archival display curated by the Poetry Collection of the University Libraries and featuring manuscripts and other memorabilia of World War I poets, including Robert Graves, will be on display in the Buffalo Room.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information and to RSVP, visit the University Events website.

<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/briefs/2018/11/veterans-day.html>

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Paul Davies completes Army training

Springville Journal, November 04, 2018:

BUFFALO—Pfc. Paul Frederick Davies, of Springville, completed Army basic combat training and advanced individual training and was welcomed into his unit during a New York Army National Guard battle handoff ceremony.

He was formally welcomed into the C Troop, Second Squadron, 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance Surveillance and Target Acquisition) during a transition ceremony at the Masten Avenue Armory in Buffalo on Oct. 14.

The ceremony marked the completion of the National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program, a preparatory program that provides new recruits with training, lessons and skills to excel at their initial military training. The soldiers now embark on their tradition National Guard service as part-time citizen soldiers.

<https://www.springvillejournal.com/articles/paul-davies-completes-army-training/>

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Army National Guard promotes local soldiers

Wayne Post, Nov. 8, 2018 :

The New York Army National Guard recently promoted Desirie Carson, of North Rose, to the rank of private first class and Michael Zerniak, of Wolcott, to the rank of specialist.

Carson is assigned to the Company C (Medical), 427th Brigade Support Battalion. Zerniak serves with the 832nd Engineer Company.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability and development potential.

<http://www.waynepost.com/news/20181108/notable-names/1>

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County hosts inaugural Meritorious Service Awards reception

The Warwick Advertiser. Nov. 8, 2018 :

GOSHEN —Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus hosted the inaugural Meritorious Service Awards reception on Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Graham Skea Lodge at Stony Ford Golf Course in Montgomery.

Awards were presented in the following categories: Police, fire, emergency and military service.

“Orange County has a rich tradition of public service and volunteerism,” Neuhaus said. “This event provided an opportunity to honor our first responders who work hard every day to

keep the County safe. The awards recognized individuals that exemplify dedication and selflessness for the greater good of our communities. Our first responders and military personnel deserve this recognition and I look forward to making the reception an annual event.”

The 2018 Meritorious Service Award recipients were:

City of Newburgh Fire Department: Recognized for its heroic efforts in responding to the Verla International fire in November of last year. One man was killed and several employees were injured after two explosions and a fire tore through the cosmetics factory. Several firefighters were also trapped and/or missing immediately after the explosion. Eight City of Newburgh firefighters were injured responding to the fire.

Asst. Chief Bradley Sukeena, Orange Lake Fire Department and Lt. David Kramer, Winona Lake Fire Department: Sukeena and Kramer acted heroically in removing two trapped victims, who ultimately succumbed to their injuries, at a fire on Coach Lane in the Town of Newburgh on Nov. 24, 2017. Both firefighters disregarded their personal safety when they entered the residence, under heavy fire conditions, to remove the occupants.

Cronomer Valley Fire Department: Recognized for outstanding actions by their members in the extrication of a trapped individual at a motor vehicle accident that occurred on the New York State Thruway on May 14th, 2018. The incident involved two tractor trailers which had collided and resulted in an extremely complex technical rescue.

Port Jervis Volunteer Ambulance Corps: Recognized for the caring and professional manner in which it has cared for the residents of the City of Port Jervis and the Town of Deerpark for over 60 years.

Captain Ben Conques, Woodbury Community Ambulance Corps: Conques was recognized for his 36-plus years of dedicated service during which he has handled more than 5,000 EMS calls.

Sgt. Robert McCann and Officers Michael Graziano, Anthony Altero and Joel Hahn, Town of Blooming Grove Police Department: With the assistance of the New York State Police, the group apprehended a man who had just shot and killed his brother in Mountain Lodge Park on February 6th of this year. The suspect was charged with second-degree murder.

Senior Investigator Yan Salomon and Investigator Joseph Lofrese, State Police: The investigators’ exhaustive efforts helped apprehend the 18-year-old man who vandalized the Temple Beth Shalom cemetery in Warwick with anti-Semitic graffiti in October 2016.

Goshen Police Officer Brian Kelly: The calm, quick-thinking of Kelly in July of this year helped save the lives of an elderly couple before their car burst into flames on Route 17 East in Goshen. He was off-duty at the time of the incident.

Master Sergeant Sara Pastorello, New York Air National Guard, 105th Air Wing, New York Stewart International Airport: Provided sensitive public affairs support and closely advised the U.S. Marines for more than two months after the KC-130T Hercules crash in Mississippi last July. Fifteen U.S. Marines, including nine stationed at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, and a U.S. Navy sailor were killed in the accident. For her efforts, Pastorello was also awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal.

“The men and women who commit their lives to public service as first responders don’t do it for awards or accolades, they do it because they have answered a call to serve their

communities,” said Orange County Commissioner of Emergency Services Brendan Casey, a 30-year State Police veteran. “That said, it is always an honor to recognize exemplary service. I applaud County Executive Neuhaus and his staff for honoring these men and women. Their hard work and dedication make our County a safer and better place to live and work.”

<http://www.warwickadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20181108/NEWS01/181109956/County-hosts-inaugural-Meritorious-Service-Awards-reception>

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Five promoted in New York Air National Guard at EADS

Rome Sentinel, Nov 7, 2018:

New York Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Shields announced the recent promotion of five members of the New York Air National Guard's 224th Air Defense Group in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

The 224th ADG, composed of the 224th Air Defense Squadron and 224th Support Squadron, provides the forces to conduct the Eastern Air Defense Sector's (EADS) mission.

Part of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the sector is responsible for the air defense of the eastern U.S.

Promoted airmen are:

- . Kathleen Bielecki, Rome, to the rank of technical sergeant. Bielecki is a weapons director at the 224th Air Defense Squadron.
- . Timothy Deckard, Cicero, to the rank of technical sergeant. Deckard is an interface control technician with the 224th ADS.
- . Bryan Norman, Oneida, to the rank of technical sergeant. Norman is security forces journeyman at the 224th Support Squadron.
- . Sullivan Derrick, Lee Center, to the rank of staff sergeant. Derrick is an identification technician at the 224th ADS.
- . Amanda Nazar, Bronx, to the rank of senior airman. Nazar is a source intelligence analyst at the 224th ADS.

Air National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability and development potential. For more information about the New York Air National Guard, visit www.dmna.ny.gov.

For more information on the Eastern Air Defense Sector and the 224th Air Defense Group, visit www.eads.ang.af.mil.

<http://romesentinel.com/rome/five-promoted-in-new-york-air-national-guard-at-eads/QBqrkf!BpNjMFK710DpwjGdk8B2eQ/>

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Counter Drug Task Force

New York News: 14 Members Of A Washington Heights Drug Trafficking Organization Charged With Distributing Heroin

STL News, Nov. 8, 2018 :

New York – Geoffrey S. Berman, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Keith Kruskall, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”), Angel M. Melendez, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”), James P. O’Neill, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”), and George P. Beach II, the Superintendent of the New York State Police (“NYSP”), announced today that PEDRO VICIOSO DE LIMA, a/k/a “Pep,” a/k/a “Pepo,” VICTOR HIDALGO, a/k/a “Jordan,” a/k/a “Vico,” DAVID PEREZ, a/k/a “Bori,” a/k/a “Macho,” JACINTO GARCIA, a/k/a “Cuba,” SIXTO VANCAMPER-BRITO, a/k/a “Cito,” CESAR GIL, a/k/a “Ralphy,” JUAN GIL CABRAL, a/k/a “Menor,” ANTHONY BELLiard, a/k/a “Jafet Montas,” a/k/a “Café,” MAYRA MONSANTO, a/k/a “La Flaca,” RICKY ROSA, a/k/a “Pra,” a/k/a “Black,” a/k/a “Moreno,” MINERVA VENTURA, a/k/a “La Bori,” MARK VIERA, a/k/a “Leo,” a/k/a “Biz,” ROMEO SUNCAR, a/k/a “Stacks,” and ANTONIO YERIS ALMONTE, a/k/a “Ciobao,” have been charged with participating in a conspiracy to distribute heroin. Eleven of the defendants were arrested yesterday evening and this morning and will be presented before United States Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lehrburger in Manhattan federal court this afternoon. PEREZ and ROSA remain at large, and GIL will be transferred from immigration detention next week.

The case has been assigned to United States District Judge Colleen McMahon. U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said: “As alleged, these defendants operated a distribution network of highly addictive and dangerous drugs, which has been plaguing a Washington Heights community for years. Even after they realized the potency of the drugs they were distributing and selling – and the overdose risk those drugs posed – the defendants allegedly continued to sell their poison in order to protect their brand. Today’s arrests are part of our continued commitment, along with our law enforcement partners, to stop the flow of heroin and fentanyl onto the streets of New York City.”

DEA Acting Special Agent-in-Charge Keith Kruskall said: “Today’s heroin is deadlier for two reasons: fentanyl potency and traffickers’ motives. Two to three milligrams of fentanyl can be fatal. And, traffickers, not chemists, are pushing their toxic mixture of heroin and fentanyl on our streets for no reason other than money. New York law enforcement is weeding out those responsible for the record number of fatal overdoses in our city and warning users that every dose could be their last dose.”

HSI Special Agent-in-Charge Angel M. Melendez said: “These individuals allegedly distributed fentanyl laced heroin out of a building on 167th street, with a total disdain for the lives of their customers. This investigation rids the community of Washington Heights of alleged criminals that continue to fuel the opioid epidemic. Opioid addiction touches families and communities across our country, and we will remain focused on criminals

who seek to distribute these highly addictive drugs with little regard for the lives ruined.” NYPD Commissioner James P. O’Neill said: “Abuse of heroin and the deadly additive fentanyl has cut a wide swath across our nation, affecting people from all walks of life, in every neighborhood. To combat this scourge, the NYPD and our partners on the Drug Enforcement Strike Force are relentless in our work to shut down illegal drug supplies, to send dealers away with meaningful prison sentences and, ultimately, to save New Yorkers’ lives. For dismantling this alleged dangerous drug organization based in Washington Heights, I congratulate and thank everyone involved in this important case.”

According to the allegations in the Indictment:[1]

The defendants were members of a drug trafficking organization (the “DTO”) that operated in Manhattan, New York, and controlled heroin sales from a building at 501 West 167th Street (the “DTO’s Drug Building”) and the surrounding vicinity (the “DTO’s Drug Territory”). As a means of marketing its heroin and fentanyl-laced heroin, and to ensure that the only heroin sold in the DTO’s Drug Territory belonged to the DTO, the DTO placed stamps on the glassines of heroin and fentanyl-laced heroin that it sold to customers. Among the stamps the DTO used were “Annuit Coeptis,” “Toyota,” “Ras Baraka,” and “Porsche.” From July 2016 to October 2018, the DTO is estimated to have distributed more than 85 kilograms of heroin, much of it laced with fentanyl.

Glassines marked with the DTO’s stamps were recovered at the scene of fatal and nonfatal suspected overdoses of individuals who were believed to be customers of the DTO. For example, on March 29, 2018, an individual died of a suspected heroin overdose in a building across the street from the DTO’s Drug Building, and glassines marked with the stamps “Ras Baraka” and “Porsche” were recovered at the scene of the overdose death, along with a slip of paper with the name and phone number of a member of the DTO. Certain members of the DTO were aware of suspected overdoses resulting from the use of fentanyl-laced heroin sold by the DTO. The DTO was nevertheless reluctant to change the stamps it used to label the DTO’s heroin and fentanyl-laced heroin because the stamps were known by the DTO’s customers, and the DTO wanted to maintain its reputation for selling a strong product.

LIMA, 49, HIDALGO, 58, PEREZ, 36, GARCIA, 61, VANCAMPER-BRITO, 51, GIL, 26, GIL CABRAL, 28, BELLIARD, 29, MONSANTO, 59, ROSA, 32, VENTURA, 64, VIERA, 46, SUNCAR, 33, and ALMONTE, 26, each of New York, New York, are each charged with one count of conspiring to distribute heroin, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison. The maximum potential sentences in this case are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendants will be determined by the judge.

Mr. Berman praised the outstanding investigative work of the DEA’s New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force. The Strike Force comprises agents and officers of the DEA, the New York City Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, the New York State Police, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigative Division, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshals Service, the New York National Guard, the Clarkstown Police Department, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Port Washington Police Department, and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. The Strike Force is partially funded by the New York/New Jersey

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (“HIDTA”), which is a federally funded crime fighting initiative and part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“OCDTEF”) program.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office’s Narcotics Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys Jessica Greenwood, Aline R. Flodr, and Dominic Gentile are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

<https://www.stl.news/new-york-news-14-members-of-a-washington-heights-drug-trafficking-organization-charged-with-distributing-heroin/206406/>

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New disposal drop box location opens at Dunkirk Police Department

Observer Today. com, Nov. 5, 2018 :

As part of Hope Chautauqua’s ongoing Take It To The Box campaign, they announced a new location site for a medication disposal drop box at the City of Dunkirk Police Department. This newly added drop box site will allow local residents to dispose safely of their unused, unwanted or expired prescription medication 24/7, free and anonymously. By providing this drop box location for residents, they will have another place to dispose of medications safely in the county.

The medication disposal drop box is located at 342 Central Ave. Dunkirk. All prescription medications are accepted, liquids and sharps are not.

There are additional drop box sites across Chautauqua County: Jamestown Police Department (201 East 2nd St. Jamestown), Westfield Police Department (27 Elm St. Eason Hall Westfield), Chautauqua County Sheriff’s Office (15 E. Chautauqua St. Mayville), Fredonia Police Department (9 Church St.

Fredonia), Lakewood/Busti Police Department (20 W. Summit Street, Lakewood), Town of Ellicott Police Department (215 S. Work Street, Falconer; M-F 8am-4pm) and Silver Creek Court Clerk’s Office Municipal Building (172 Central Ave. Silver Creek; M-Th, 9am-2pm). Again, all of these are free and anonymous and local residents are encouraged to utilize these resources without fear.

These drop box locations have made huge improvements for not only county residents but for public health and the environment. Studies have shown that flushing prescription pills down the toilet that are unwanted or expired puts more drug compounds into the environment and water supply. HOPE

Chautauqua’s Take It To THE BOX campaign is aimed at bringing awareness to the permanent disposal drop boxes in the county and three very important actions Safe Use, Safe Storage and Safe Disposal of medications. These important actions can be taken today to prevent the misuse of, and addiction to prescription drugs and heroin.

Mayor Rosas said, "Having this "drop box" located outside of our Dunkirk Police Department provides one more opportunity for our residents to be assured that out-dated, unwanted, or dangerous prescription drugs can be disposed of safely and kept out of the reach of children or vulnerable

adults. I want to personally thank the City's Deputy Director of Planning & Development, E.J. Hayes for helping to coordinate this important benefit to our community." Mayor Rosas went on to state, "Once again our Police Chief David Ortolano and Fire Chief Mike Edwards have joined CASAC to make this added resource available 24/7 – the drop box, like our police and fire departments, never closes."

City of Dunkirk Police Chief, Dave Ortolano stated, "We encourage all our residents to bring in their expired or unused prescriptions and drop them in the box where they can be safely disposed of."

A special thanks for the coordination and help in this process to the City of Dunkirk's DPW staff for installing and securing the drop box, Western New York Community Action Partners, WNYCDC, Erie County Department of Health, and the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs you can go to HOPE Chautauqua on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hopechautauqua or contact CASAC at 366-4623 or 664-3608.

About Hope Chautauqua

HOPE Chautauqua is a community substance abuse prevention coalition and an initiative of Chautauqua Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council (CASAC). Since 1974, CASAC has provided prevention education and community awareness regarding the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse. For more

information visit www.casacweb.org.

<http://www.observertoday.com/news/local-region/2018/11/new-disposal-drop-box-location-opens-at-dunkirk-police-department/>

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Emergency Response

One year of New York aid to Puerto Rico: The state's support for the storm-battered territory, by the numbers.

City and State NY. November 8, 2018 :

Over a million people living in New York state identify as Puerto Rican, so last year when Hurricane Maria tore through the U.S. territory, the devastation hit close to home. Shortly after, Gov. Andrew Cuomo launched the Empire State Relief and Recovery Effort to "put the full weight of New York's resources behind the Puerto Rican people."

Here's the support New York has provided to Puerto Rico since then, by the numbers.

4,400 pallets of supplies

The Cuomo administration's most immediate response was to ship pallets of relief supplies like food, water, personal hygiene items, first-aid kits, batteries and flashlights. Though initially a challenge, delivering the pallets became easier once President Donald Trump temporarily waived the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, also known as the Jones Act, and allowed for non-U.S. ships to transport the donations.

1,000 personnel

New York also deployed personnel to provide on-the-ground assistance with law enforcement, medical response and the rebuilding of houses and infrastructure. The New Yorkers helping in Puerto Rico included utility workers and power experts as well as members of the New York Army National Guard and New York State Police.

650 student volunteers

(who spent 41,000 hours restoring and rebuilding homes)

Over the summer, student volunteers from SUNY and CUNY spent 10 weeks renovating houses as part of the NY Stands with Puerto Rico Recovery and Rebuilding Initiative. They originally began with the goal of repairing 150 houses, but they left having restored 178. That summer, both universities also extended in-state tuition to students displaced by Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma.

\$13 million

In June, Cuomo established funding to create new housing and employment opportunities for people who evacuated Puerto Rico and came to New York. The state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance launched a \$1 million program to get the evacuees into affordable housing and the state Department of Labor agreed to provide up to \$10 million worth of job training and placement. In July, Cuomo announced that he was committing an additional \$2 million to support nonprofits working with Hurricane Maria victims in New York City, Rochester and The Capital Region.

While New York has provided \$13 million in aid and thousands of volunteers and supply packages, the island is nowhere close to being back to normal. A report Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló submitted to Congress concluded that Puerto Rico needs \$139 billion to fully recover from Hurricane Maria.

<https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/politics/new-york-state/new-york-aid-to-puerto-rico-by-numbers.html>

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New York Army National Guard

Exchange program offers overseas experience to N.Y. Soldiers

National Guard. mil, Nov. 2, 2018 :

LATHAM, N.Y. – New York Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Christian Larrabee normally leads an infantry platoon in Bravo Company of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry. His unit training frequently takes him to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, or Fort Drum, New York.

But in September, the Sauquoit, New York, resident spent two weeks leading a platoon of the British army's Fifth Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in a training exercise in the mountains of Slovenia, thanks to the National Guard's Military Exchange Program.

The experience, Larrabee said, was "invaluable."

He got to see part of world and make new friends while seeing firsthand how other NATO allies fight, Larrabee said.

"I learned what tactics and kits work best in different environments and for different units and I was also able to contribute valuable insight from U.S. Army doctrine and test those tactics while in command of a British platoon," he said.

The Military Exchange Program places National Guard Soldiers in units from America's allied partners, including the German Army, the British Army Reserve, the Danish Home Guard and Estonian Army.

In return, these nations deploy military members to participate in a host unit two-week annual training back in New York.

Each general officer command in the New York Army National Guard annually nominates Soldiers to attend.

Soldiers who participate can be company grade officers, Warrant Officers 1 through 3 and NCOs from Sgt. through Sgt. 1st Class who best represent the organization. Soldiers selected must be worldwide deployable, not on a temporary profile, be able to participate in field exercises and be

compliant with Army physical fitness and medical deployment standards.

"Historically two to five Soldiers are selected by a combined Office of the Secretary of Defense, National Guard Bureau and NATO committee after being vetted and prioritized by New York," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mulligan, who manages the program for the Operations and Training Branch.

Larrabee's experience from September 10-21, 2018, highlights the program's benefits; placing American Soldiers with allied partners, in this case for challenging mountain warfare training.

Larrabee applied in the fall of 2017 and was selected to join the Fifth Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, a part of the British Army Reserve, in their annual training in Slovenia.

"Admittedly at the time, I could only tell you that Slovenia was in Eastern Europe. I didn't know their language, weather, terrain or much else for that matter," Larrabee said.

His exchange with the Fusiliers supported the multinational training exercise known as Triglav Star 2018.

Unlike the training areas back in New York, the training in the Julian Alps for Triglav Star was part of the NATO Multinational Centre of Excellence for Mountain Warfare.

"It was immediately apparent that the Julian Alps were going to provide an interesting and challenging training environment for the two weeks to follow," Larrabee said.

Arriving in Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital on a Royal Air Force transport plane, the troops moved on to the Slovenian 132nd Mountain Regiment base in Bohinjska Bela.

Reception and staging operations included a staff ride to the Slovenian/Italian border to explore where German Gen. Erwin Rommel described his WWI combat actions as a platoon commander in his 1937 book, "Infantry Attacks."

Larrabee led a platoon of Fusiliers through various training lanes, culminating with an attack across the high alpine mountains.

The exchange program provided opportunities to train at the squad, platoon and even company level.

"I was able to command a platoon of U.K. soldiers on a successful platoon attack comprised of four in-depth enemy positions over rugged terrain," Larrabee said. "It was enlightening to learn how the U.K. army fights and draw similarities with our own U.S. tactics. I was able to both benefit from their techniques and provide them with useful solutions from our doctrine."

Units taking part in the exercise came from the Slovenian armed forces, U.S. and British forces, he said.

The U.S. component also included 100 Colorado Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry, a mountain warfare unit. The battalion is part of the Colorado National Guard's State Partnership Program with Slovenia.

"It was a grueling climb to the top and a complex fight across the mountain ridgeline scattered with pill boxes and trench systems," he said. "Simulated casualties were extracted via helicopter rescue and provided an added touch of realism to the exercise."

The training is an opportunity every junior leader should seek out, whether officer or NCO, Larrabee said.

"There are very few opportunities in the Army Guard that afford the experience and benefits of the Military Exchange Program," he said. "It gives young leaders the opportunity to develop critical skills in mission planning and execution alongside our allied partners. You get to see the world and meet incredible people."

"Be ready to have fun, but be ready to be challenged. This experience will test communication skills, leadership style, and the mental and physical stamina of a leader," Larrabee said.

Applications for the 2019 annual training season are available through December 10, 2018. Soldiers with inquiries about the program can contact Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mulligan, the New York Army National Guard Operations and Training Branch NCOIC at (518) 786-6070 or paul.a.mulligan.mil@mail.mil.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/State-Partnership-Program/Article/1679864/exchange-program-offers-overseas-experience-to-ny-soldiers/>

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"There are very few opportunities in the Army Guard that afford the experience and benefits of the Military Exchange Program," he said. "It gives young leaders the opportunity to develop critical skills in mission planning and execution alongside our allied partners. You get to see the world and meet incredible people."

"Be ready to have fun, but be ready to be challenged. This experience will test communication skills, leadership style, and the mental and physical stamina of a leader," Larrabee said.

Applications for the 2019 annual training season are available through December 10, 2018. Soldiers with inquiries about the program can contact Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mulligan, the New York Army National Guard Operations and Training Branch NCOIC at (518) 786-6070 or paul.a.mulligan.mil@mail.mil.

https://www.army.mil/article/213311/exchange_program_offers_overseas_experience_to_ny_soldiers

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PFOA Issue

Feds to address Newburgh's contaminated watershed

Times Herald Record, Nov.6, 2018 :

Department of Defense and Air Force officials will appear next week at a public meeting in the City of Newburgh to address what has been an environmental and public health crisis after the discovery of the toxic chemical PFOS in Washington Lake.

John Henderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy, and Robert McMahon, assistant secretary of defense for sustainment, will attend a forum at the Newburgh Armory Unity Center on Nov. 15. Henderson and McMahon will also visit the Stewart Air National Guard Base.

A starting time for the public meeting has yet to be released.

The forum comes a month after Sen. Chuck Schumer announced that he met with Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and pressed her to prioritize a full cleanup at the Stewart Air Base and the end to discharges of contaminated water into Washington Lake's watershed.

"Clearly, the secretary heard me and has been responsive," Schumer said. "While this visit is certainly a step in the right direction, there is still much more work to be done."

Newburgh stopped drawing water from Washington Lake in May 2016 due to levels of PFOS, which belongs to a class of chemicals associated with kidney and testicular cancers, ulcerative colitis, low infant birth weight and other health problems.

Federal and state officials have criticized the pace of the DoD and Air Force investigation and cleanup process at Stewart Air Base, whose use of PFOS-containing foams to fight aircraft fires is blamed for Newburgh's water contamination.

<https://www.recordonline.com/news/20181106/feds-to-address-newburghs-contaminated-watershed>

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World War I

Our Nation's Heroes: Through the Years

Department of Defense.gov, Nov. 9, 2018 :

Take a visual walk through history with a look at our troops from World War I to the present. NOTE; this photo collection features the 369th Infantry

<https://www.defense.gov/Experience/Our-Nations-Heroes-Through-the-Years/>

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History: National Guard assisted WWI allies in ending war

Army.mil, November 7, 2018:

ARLINGTON, Va. - At 11 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time on Nov. 11, 1918 ("the eleventh hour of the eleventh month"), an Armistice took place between the Allied and Central powers across all battle zones. It marked the beginning of the steps that would bring the First World War to an end.

The efforts of the National Guard were pivotal to Allied success in obtaining this goal of ending the bloody and futile war. The Guard engaged in combat for the first time ever with the official name of "National Guard."

In the War, forces fought alongside them from both the active-duty component, and the foreign partners. These united efforts incorporated into a means to halt the German advance that had recently menaced France and the entire Allied effort on the Western front. From the point at which Gen. John J. Pershing and the entirety of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) arrived in France in 1917, strategy dictated organizing an American Army under American command as soon as possible.

However, the severity of losses experienced by French and British armies prior to American arrival in Europe revealed an urgent necessity that separated some forces and linked other units from the other nations' commanders. This did not always sit well with Pershing, something

demonstrated in other combat encounters in France. This included the first armed exchange in summer 1918, which began in a benign fashion after training and maneuver exercises.

Four companies from Illinois' 131st and 132nd Infantry Regiment, Companies C and E, as well as A and G, respectively, aided Australian 4th and 11th Brigades at the Battle of Hamel on July 4, 1918, and swiftly overran German positions in two hours. The encounter marked the first occasion that the

United States and Australia fought together in combat. The Independence Day victory also marked the first action meriting the Medal of Honor from a National Guard member, Cpl. Thomas A. Pope.

The Battle of Hamel denoted a change in fortune for Allied hopes dampened by German advances in spring 1918. About 10 days later, Champagne-Marne marked the first successful Allied defense against German movement with a counterattack that ended in July, 1918.

Another campaign came first in July

1918. Central to its success along with the 3rd Infantry Division, were the 26th, 28th, and 42nd Divisions, whose effort was also aided by the 369th Infantry Regiment, also known as the "Harlem Hellfighters" who fought among three French armies in just over four days. This action showed what the collective brawn of the AEF could accomplish.

The breach of the "Hindenburg line" also hastened the War's end. The 27th "Empire" Division, composed mostly of New York Guard members, and the 30th "Old Hickory" Division, hailing from Tennessee and the Carolinas, provided much of the strength needed to punch through by Sept. 29 in what would

become known as the Somme Offensive. Other Guard campaign participation included the Oise-Aisne, Aisne-Marne, and Ypres-Lys offensives that pushed Allied operations into Germany and Belgium.

These operations all solidified into strategic maneuvers that opened an opportunity for a final blow, designed to have German forces fighting in France capitulate in fall 1918. This took place with the Meuse-Argonne offensive that started on Sept. 26. It included elements of 11 National

Guard divisions at one point or another during the 47-day battle fought through the 11th of November. Overall, this proved to be the most costly offensive in U.S. combat history in terms of casualties lost, with over 110,000 casualties.

Valorous actions proved characteristic for Guard Soldiers in these final campaigns of the War. The 30th Division earned more Medals of Honor than any other Army division, 12, mostly for their work in the Hindenburg operations.

While the formal end of the War came through diplomatic talks that started in 1919 with the Treaty of Versailles, the end of war required Allied forces to serve occupation duty, including the National Guard units previously serving in combat operations. This included the 26th "Yankee" Division from

New England; the 28th "Keystone" Division; the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division from Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as the as well as the 35th Division from Kansas and Missouri.

German High Command also recognized the prowess of Guard fighting units in its post-war evaluation of the performance of American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in 1919. It rated eight U.S. divisions as "superior or excellent." Among these were National Guard divisions: the 26th, 28th, 32nd, 33rd, 37th

and 42nd (respectively; the Yankee, Keystone, Red Arrow, Prairie, Buckeye and Rainbow) Divisions.

The National Guard provided exemplary service to the AEF, despite many obstacles from the time of the declaration of war in April 1917, the mobilization process, and training multiple divisions and sending most of them overseas to Europe. Using the framework of the modern 20th century organization, the National Guard incorporated its men and units into a larger, more potent U.S. Army. Rigorous training in a series of stateside camps, many of which still operate today, constant adaptation, and sheer will propelled these men to achieve victory. In all, 18 divisions served in the 19 months since the U.S. entered the conflict.

A total of 17 divisions and one provisional division that contained the segregated Soldiers from the 369th, 371st and 372nd Infantry Regiments served; however, not all divisions fought in Europe due to the war ending when it did. Be it the "Harlem Hellfighters," the only unit to go to Europe under their state colors; Pennsylvania's "Men of Iron" fighting throughout the Alsace-Lorraine countryside; the "Sunshine" Division from California and the western United States filling critical places as "Depot Divisions;" detached units from the 39th "Dixie" Division, or the famed "Rainbow

Division" that fought under Douglas MacArthur, representing 26 states and the District of Columbia - the combination of all National Guard and all of its combat elements involved proved crucial to Allied victory.

https://www.army.mil/article/213469/history_national_guard_assisted_wwi_allies_in_ending_war

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An Arkansas native's role in early military aviation

Eldorado News -Times, November 7, 2018 :

World War I has been largely forgotten in the century since it ended.

Millions of brave Americans fought for America and nations around the world to be able to live free from tyranny. It was also a time of many firsts as aircraft began being used by the U.S. in large numbers during the war. One of the men responsible for establishing America as an aviation power was an

Arkansas native, Col. Raynal Bolling.

He was born Raynal Cawthorn Bolling in Hot Springs in 1877. His father was a businessman who traveled often and moved the family from one end of the country to the other.

As a young man, he enrolled at Harvard University, graduating in 1900 with a bachelor's degree before earning a law degree from Harvard two years later. He soon began a successful career as a corporate attorney for US Steel. At the end of 1903, he learned of the first successful airplane flight of

Wilbur and Orville Wright and was immediately fascinated by the idea of flight. And he foresaw the possibilities for defense and industry alike with aviation.

Bolling joined the New York National Guard and began taking flying lessons. He used his influence to help organize the First Aero Company within the New York National Guard in 1915, the first air component to any national guard unit. His role expanded in 1916 as this group became the First Reserve Aero

Squadron, beginning the air reserves. After President Woodrow Wilson declared war in 1917 after a series of German provocations against the United States, Bolling and his unit was one of the first American units to arrive in France.

However, Bolling met with many obstacles on his arrival. Aircraft manufacturers in Europe refused to supply him with aircraft or engines or replacement parts. At the time, the air corps was still a branch of the army signal corps, whose primary function was communications. Many of the

generals fighting World War I were still using 19th-century tactics and failed to see how aircraft were going to change warfare and did not see aviation as a priority. Nevertheless, Bolling was soon promoted to colonel and given direct responsibility for procuring supplies for the air corps while working with another military aviation pioneer, Gen. Billy Mitchell.

By the spring of 1918, with German forces from the Eastern Front being shifted to France after defeating Russia, the Allies faced a desperate new chapter of the war. American forces were not yet in place. Bolling pressed forward with his duty regardless. He and his driver left for a British airfield on the morning of March 26. They found the post abandoned and moved forward closer to the German lines to scout the situation in person. They moved quietly ahead 3 miles from the British post and stopped.

The early morning quiet was shattered by German machine guns. Bolling was killed, but his body was never recovered. In the chaos of that war, many bodies were never identified or able to be recovered. He was the senior-most American airman killed during the war. Bolling was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously while the French awarded him the Crois de Guerre, their highest award. He was only 40 when he died, still with the promise of so much life ahead. Eight more months of fighting would follow until the war ended in a cease-fire agreement on the morning of Nov. 11.

The armistice of Nov. 11, 1918, planted the seeds of hope for a war-weary world, hope that their sons would not have to die in faraway lands in distant conflicts. The death of Bolling and so many others led America to be a force for peace and democracy in the century that followed, on both the field of battle and in the annals of diplomacy.

This month marks the centennial of the end of that war, a day noted afterward in the United States as Armistice Day and later as Veterans Day.

The world had paid a heavy price for peace. President Wilson's prayer that the 118,000 American lives lost in the war could be transformed into a new age of understanding and cooperation among the nations of the world would not come to fruition. As the guns fell silent and the world moved on from the Great War, the seeds of the next war were being sown and dark plots were hatched against the peace of the world.

A statue was later dedicated to Bolling in Greenwich, Connecticut. Bolling Field was established in the summer of 1918 in Washington, D.C. It was later expanded into Bolling Air Force Base in 1948. Today, the United States has the most advanced aircraft and air force in the world because of the vision for the future of men like Bolling.

Dr. Ken Bridges is a professor of history and geography at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado and a resident historian for the South Arkansas Historical Preservation Society. Bridges can be reached by email at kbridges@southark.edu.

<http://www.eldoradonews.com/news/2018/nov/07/arkansas-natives-role-early-military-aviation/>

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Celebrations here and there marked end of World War

Times Union, November 6, 2018:

During the World War I centennial observance the Division of Military and Naval Affairs via ReadMedia has issued press releases noting key dates which affected New Yorkers based on information provided by the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. On Sunday, the Times Union will have more stories and photos about the 100-year anniversary of the Armistice.

SARATOGA SPRINGS – The last American soldier to die in World War I-and the last soldier of any of the warring powers to die during the war-was a member of the 313th Infantry Regiment, made up of draftee Soldiers from Baltimore, Maryland.

No one really knows what possessed Sgt. Henry Gunther to charge a German outpost near Chaumont-devant-Damvillers at 10:59 a.m. on the morning on Nov. 11, 1918.

The Armistice ending the fighting was to take effect at 11 a.m.-the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

But Gunther ignored the orders to stop. He fired at the Germans and kept coming at them with his bayonet fixed. The Germans fired back and killed him.

But although it was the last day of World War I, Gunther was joined in death by other soldiers – about 320 Americans – including 56 New Yorkers, according to the roster of World War I casualties maintained by the New York State Military Museum.

Although the Armistice had been signed at 5:10 the morning of Nov. 11, French General Ferdinand Foch, the allied commander in chief, wanted to give his generals six hours to get the word out to stop fighting.

American commander John J. Pershing had wanted to push the Germans back into Germany and force a surrender on Germany territory. He told his generals to keep the pressure on until 11 a.m.

Cpl. Bryan Chamberlain, a member of the New York National Guard's Company E, 105th Infantry from Schenectady, had been wounded as the 27th Division attacked German positions in the Somme area. He died of his wounds on Nov. 11, 1918.

During World War I spruce lumber, a light and strong wood, was a strategic material. Spruce was used to make airplanes. So the Army set up logging camps manned by 10,000 soldiers to harvest the vital wood.

A casualty of influenza and pneumonia on Nov. 11, 1918 was Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute student, Pvt. Percy T. Keator.

Keator was assigned to the Student Army Training Corps. This predecessor to ROTC allowed men who had been inducted into the Army to continue their college education while preparing to enter the military.

Keator, from Tillison, NY, was one of 550 students at RPI enrolled in the program.

News of the Armistice came to New Yorkers back home at when they woke on the morning of Monday, Nov. 11. The State Department had announced the deal at 2:45 a.m.

In New York City, according to the New York Times, workers on night shifts saw the posters that went up outside newspaper offices – the 1918 version of a “we interrupt this program” – announcing the end of the war and began celebrating.

In the Adirondack hamlet of Saranac Lake there was also a parade to celebrate the end of the war on Nov. 11. People were celebrating so hard, the Adirondack Daily Enterprise noted, that Mrs. Larry Evans was thrown from the car she was riding in during the parade.

For most New York soldiers in France, though, the last day of World War I was not that remarkable, according to contemporary accounts.

After taking so many casualties that the number of infantry soldiers in its ranks had gone from 12,000-plus to 2,377 the 27th Division was resting and reequipping in a number of small villages centered on the village of Corbie.

New York National Guard soldiers of the 42nd Division's 165th Infantry – formally the 69th New York-were in the town of Sivry-Les-Buzancy on Nov. 11.

They heard reports of an armistice but they did not trust them, the regimental chaplain Father Francis Duffy wrote in his diary.

Not until Nov. 13 when they marched into a village they had tried unsuccessfully to take from the Germans five weeks before did the Guardsmen get the official word of the end of the war. Then they set off rockets used for signaling in combat as a way to celebrate and lit bonfires, Duffy wrote.

<https://blog.timesunion.com/history/celebrations-here-and-there-marked-end-of-world-war/2925/>

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Warwick's Citizens in the Great War: The writer Robert Putnum Benedict

The Warwick Advertiser, Nov. 8, 2018 :

WARWICK — With the advent of compulsory education during the late 19th century, literacy rates in the modern world had grown to the highest point in human history up to that point. Due to the outbreak of the Great War, millions of soldiers sent and received mail daily, thanks to great advances in transportation methods.

An estimated 12 million letters were sent weekly, with around two billion being sent through the entire war. Due to the demoralizing environment of the trenches as well as long periods of inaction for up to months in certain sectors of the vast fronts, soldiers took solace and joy in their only connection with the outside world.

One of these men, who was an especially proliferate writer was Robert Putnam Benedict, telling his loved ones about his experiences in battle.

Robert like so many others, was only 18, when he found himself in the ferocity of the war in France.

Robert had a tough beginning, his father passed when he was 2, and his mother, when he was 4, leaving him to be raised by an aunt, who affectionately referred to him as "Bobby." He, in return, saw her as his closest family.

Before his enlistment, the then 17-year-old Benedict worked at the Warwick Valley Dispatch, where he was well-liked. In February 1917, two months before American entry into the war, Benedict signed up for the Army and handed in his letter of resignation.

Upon receiving his letter, Editor George F. Ketchum, responded with a message: "Go with your company, my boy; glad you have enlisted."

Benedict was also promised that his job would be held for however long that he was in the service.

Ketchum knew Benedict's service would entail incredible adventures that local people would love to read about.

So he told the young man: "Write your stories."

The 107th Infantry Division like many Orange County men, Benedict was in the 107th Infantry Division of the 27th Infantry Division, formed of New York National Guard troops, though men from other states served in it as well.

The division would see heavy combat during the latter half of 1918, fighting alongside the British and distinguishing themselves in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line.

The 107th is well-known in Orange County, as on the opening day of the battle, Sept. 29, 1918, 40 Orange County men would be killed, the highest one-day losses for an American Regiment in the entire war. In recognition of this hallowed day, Orange County annually holds its own special Veterans Day. Due to its impact, the Orange County Historian Johanna Yaun had led a group there for the centennial of the battle.

But Benedict was not among those 40 killed that day.

He would survive through the chaos and carnage of the battle, gaining a citation for evacuating wounded men under heavy fire. As the opening day was especially known for the ferocity, Benedict exemplified bravery by rescuing his brothers in arms, indifferent to his own wellbeing. He would celebrate his 19th birthday on Oct. 6 just as the battle was wrapping up.

As often as he could, he would write letters to his aunt, telling her of his experiences, the challenges faced against a hardened enemy and the hope of a close end.

For such a young man, what he witnessed was unimaginable, but by having someone to write to, he could keep himself sane. His aunt would keep all of his letters and donate them to the Warwick Historical Society. The battle would play a pivotal role in winning the war, as it was a strong point of the Germans' defenses, believed by many experts to impenetrable. With its capture, German forces would be forced out of the area. 'His life for the cause of his country' while the Hindenburg Line had been broken, German resistance to hold its ground till the last man. During one of these engagements, Benedict would fall in the line of duty, on Oct. 19, 1918, less than two weeks after his birthday. The telegram informing his aunt of his death came only a few days before his last letter would arrive home.

The memorial document, given to his aunt by the United State Army, stated that "he bravely laid down his life for the cause of his country." It was signed by American Expeditionary Force Commander, John J. Pershing.

Feeling a great responsibility for his men, Pershing would spend the rest of his life committed to the memorials and cemeteries, built in France for all those who fought and died in service.

However, Benedict would be returned to his hometown and lies in the Warwick Cemetery. He rests in the shade, watching quietly as life in Warwick goes on peacefully. As well, a monument was erected in the cemetery in honor of his sacrifice.

The Benedict family still resides in this area, and so Bobby's memory is not lost. He is celebrated as a family member who answered his nation's call and gave everything for his homeland.

And because of his aunt's donation of his letters, certificates and photographs to the Warwick Historical Society, he lives on to his hometown as well.

A special thank you to Mary Ann Knight, for her help with information and the photograph of Benedict, without her, this article would not have been possible.

<http://www.warwickadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20181108/NEWS01/181109929>

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