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## *107th Attack Wing*

### **From a war zone, airman graduates with Buffalo State's Class of 2017**

**Buffalo News, Matthew Spina , Published Sat, May 13, 2017:**

Nine months ago, at the start of the most recent college year, a technical sergeant with the Air National Guard learned he was again being deployed to the Middle East. This time, it created an extra complication. He would miss his college graduation.

Adam Winters was juggling studies, a job and military service, and it was tough. It grew even worse when the mission of the 107th Air National Guard wing in Niagara Falls changed. His one-weekend-a-month training moved across upstate, to the 109th Air National Guard base in Schenectady.

Collecting his criminal justice degree, in cap and gown, was important to Winters. He explained his predicament to other students at Buffalo State and to the dean of students, Charles Kenyon.

This is the age of instant electronic communication, everyone reasoned. Surely something could be done to take some sting out of Winters' predicament.

At the college's highest levels, wheels turned.

On Saturday, hundreds of fresh college graduates paraded to the stage for a handshake and an unforgettable moment of recognition. Proud friends and relatives hooted and cheered in the first of the college's two ceremonies for a total of 1,752 undergraduates that day.

When everyone was back in their seats, the college president, Katherine Conway-Turner, returned to the microphone and waited for quiet.

"We have one more graduate to recognize," she began.

The graduate couldn't be in Buffalo because he had been deployed to Southwest Asia, she explained. Then on an overhead screen, Winters appeared in desert fatigues. His red hair was obscured by a graduation mortarboard atop his head. Its tassel fell along his grinning face. From seven time zones away, Winters was attending via Skype.

Service members Skyping in to graduation ceremonies is not unheard of. But it has been more commonly used to let proud parents deployed overseas watch their children collect diplomas and degrees. Service members graduating via Skype is less typical. Certainly it was a first for Buffalo State, Conway-Turner said later.

Winters launched into his prepared remarks. He thanked the college for accommodating him, and his family for their support. And he especially thanked his fiancée, Katherine Peterson of Buffalo, for all the support she had given him when the chips were down, or when he was tired and frustrated.

He had helped her through law school, at the University at Buffalo, and now she has helped him through Buffalo State, he said. A whoop went up when he told the crowd they were to be married in June 2018.

"To the graduating class of 2017, congratulations," he said. "We did it." He went on to give them a pep talk about life, saying "everyone here should strive to dedicate themselves for a greater purpose."

Over to the side, with a set of Winters' dog tags dangling around her neck, Peterson took it all in. They had met through mutual friends in 2012. Three deployments later, they are still together.

"I was anxious and excited," she said later. "I was anxious, hoping that all the technology would work. But I was also excited to see his face again because I haven't been able to talk to him these last few days."

What did she take away from his comments?

"That he loves me a lot. And that he credits me with a lot more than he probably should."

Reached by email, Winters was bubbling over with appreciation.

"The efforts of the college these past few weeks were incredible," he said. "Staff from many different departments came together to try and make me feel as close to home and part of the celebration as they possibly could."

In October, he will take the test to become a state trooper, but he's not leaving the Air National Guard. He would like to become a commissioned officer and work as an intelligence officer on the weekends he reports for duty.

Winters had previously been deployed to Kuwait and Afghanistan. He can't specify his current location – Southwest Asia is all he will say – but he said he's participating in Operation Inherent Resolve. A Defense Department website indicates the operation's intent is to defeat ISIS, and it appears most concentrated in Syria and Iraq.

Winters, who turned 27 on Friday, was given the day off Saturday, to enjoy his honor. But the means of celebration are limited.

"I plan on having a nice big slice of cake, and maybe even a little ice cream," he said by email.

"It is around 110 degrees daily here."

This is college-graduation season, so caps and gowns also were donned elsewhere on Saturday:

-- At Niagara University, graduates of the colleges of Education, Business Administration and Hospitality and Tourism Management received their degrees in a morning ceremony that conferred honorary doctorates on Bill Polian, the NFL Hall of Famer, and Michael Tobin, an international correspondent for Fox News. Biographer Ron Chernow, author of a biography about Alexander Hamilton, in the afternoon spoke to graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and received an honorary doctorate. The Very Rev. Michael Carroll received the Caritas Medal.

-- SUNY Fredonia recognized recipients of bachelor's and master's degrees and the advanced certificate at morning and afternoon ceremonies in Steele Hall. The speaker was Donald J. Tramuto, chief executive at Tivity Health, a provider of fitness and health-improvement programs based in Tennessee.

-- Hilbert College's approximately 230 graduates heard remarks by Candace S. Johnson, president and chief executive of Roswell Park Cancer Institute, in the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg at McKinley Parkway. The college gave her an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/05/13/war-zone-graduates-buffalo-states-class-2017/>

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## **109th Airlift Wing**

### **VIDEO AND MULTIMEDIA: Digital Immersion Into the Fate of Antarctic's Ice and What it Means to the Rest of the World**

**Military Technologies , May 18, 2017 :**

The New York Times has published a package of digital and virtual-reality segments, called "#Antarctic Dispatches", on its website that exposes viewers to the visceral experience of doing science on the southernmost continent.

The package of content looks at the current state and potential future of the #Antarctic ice sheet; allows readers to peel away the ice sheet digitally to see the terrain below and sends them on a scientific flight

over the ice sheet in an LC-130 aircraft flown by the 109th Airlift Wing of the N.Y. Air National Guard.

The virtual-reality package offers a scuba dive under Antarctic ice, a ride in a helicopter through the McMurdo Dry Valleys, home to NSF's McMurdo Long Term Ecological Research site, and a tour of NSF's McMurdo Station.

The content, which quotes #NSF-funded researchers Robin Bell, from Columbia University in the City of New York, and Robert M. DeConto, of UMass Amherst is available here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/./antarctica-ice-melt-climate-chang..>

Three, of an eventual four, virtual-reality segments are available here now:

<https://nytimes.com/antarcticavr>.

The virtual reality content is available on the web but is viewed at its

best by downloading a Times smartphone app.

<http://www.military-technologies.net/2017/05/19/video-and-multimedia-digital-immersion-into-the-fate-of-antarctics-ice-and-what-it-means-to-the-rest-of-the-world/>

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## **Miles of Ice Collapsing Into the Sea (109th AW Mention)**

**New York Times, May 18, 2017:**

We went to Antarctica to understand how changes to its vast ice sheet might affect the world. Flowing lines on these maps show how the ice is moving. Ice sheets flow downhill, seemingly in slow motion. Mountains funnel the ice into glaciers. And ice flowing from the land into the sea can form a floating ice shelf.

Glaciers in certain areas have been undercut by warmer ocean waters, and the flow of ice is getting faster and faster.

The acceleration is making some scientists fear that Antarctica's ice sheet may have entered the early stages of an unstoppable disintegration. Because the collapse of vulnerable parts of

the ice sheet could raise the sea level dramatically, the continued existence of the world's great coastal cities - Miami, New York, Shanghai and many more - is tied to Antarctica's fate.

Four New York Times journalists joined a Columbia University team in Antarctica late last year to fly across the world's largest chunk of floating ice in an American military cargo plane loaded with the latest scientific gear.

Inside the cargo hold, an engineer with a shock of white hair directed younger scientists as they threw switches. Gravity meters jumped to life.

Radar pulses and laser beams fired toward the ice below.

On computer screens inside the plane, in ghostly traces of data, the broad white surface of the Ross Ice Shelf began to yield the secrets hiding beneath.

"We are 9,000 miles from New York," said the white-haired engineer, Nicholas Frearson of Columbia. "But we are connected by the ocean."

PHOTO CAPTION:Nicholas Frearson, at left, in the cargo hold of an LC-130 Hercules.

A rapid disintegration of Antarctica might, in the worst case, cause the sea to rise so fast that tens of millions of coastal refugees would have to flee inland, potentially straining societies to the breaking point. Climate scientists used to regard that scenario as fit only for Hollywood disaster scripts. But these days, they cannot rule it out with any great confidence.

Yet as they try to determine how serious the situation is, the scientists confront a frustrating lack of information.

Recent computer forecasts suggest that if greenhouse gas emissions continue at a high level, parts of Antarctica could break up rapidly, causing the ocean to rise six feet or more by the end of this century. That is double the maximum increase that an international climate panel projected only four years ago.

But those computer forecasts were described as crude even by the researchers who created them. "We could be decades too fast, or decades too slow," said one of them, Robert M. DeConto of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. "There are still some really big question marks about the trajectory of future climate around Antarctica."

Alarmed by the warning signs that parts of the West Antarctic ice sheet are becoming unstable, American and British scientific agencies are joining forces to get better measurements in the main trouble spots. The effort could cost more than \$25 million and might not produce clearer answers about the fate of the ice until the early 2020s.

For scientists working in Antarctica, the situation has become a race against time.

Even as the threat from global warming comes into sharper focus, these scientists understand that political leaders - and cities already feeling the effects of a rising sea - need clearer forecasts about the consequences of emissions. That urgent need for insight has led scientists from Columbia to spend the past two Antarctic summers flying over the Ross Ice Shelf, a floating chunk of ice larger than California.

The Ross shelf helps to slow the flow of land ice from Antarctica into the ocean. Compared with other parts of Antarctica, the shelf seems stable now, but computer forecasts suggest that it might be vulnerable to rapid collapse in the next few decades.

The project to map the structure and depth of the ice shelf in detail, funded by American taxpayers through the National Science Foundation, puts Columbia and its partner institutions on the front lines of one of the world's most urgent scientific and political problems.

"Our goal is to understand how to predict what's going to happen to the ice sheets," said Robin E. Bell, the lead Columbia scientist in charge of the effort. "We really don't know right now."

Remote as Antarctica may seem, every person in the world who gets into a car, eats a steak or boards an airplane is contributing to the emissions that put the frozen continent at risk. If those emissions continue unchecked and the world is allowed to heat up enough, scientists have no doubt that large parts of Antarctica will melt into the sea.

But they do not know exactly what the trigger temperature might be, or whether the recent acceleration of the ice means that Earth has already reached it. The question confronting society, said Richard B. Alley, a climate scientist at Pennsylvania State University, is easier to ask than to answer:

"How hot is too hot?"

In the immersive video below, a military cargo plane flies over the edge of the Ross Ice Shelf. The orange and gray pod beneath the window will map the structure of the shelf with radar, a laser and other sensors.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/18/climate/antarctica-ice-melt-c>

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## **New York's 109th Airlift Wing's Greenland mission is underway**

**National Guard. Mil, By Master Sgt. Catharine Schmidt | New York National Guard | May 18, 2017:**



STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Scotia, N.Y. - The 109th Airlift Wing's annual support for National Science Foundation research in Greenland got underway in April and May as wing members delivered 177 tons of cargo and 2,000 gallons of fuel during the first three-week rotation of the season.

The second rotation of three LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft and 80 Airmen departed Monday.

Airmen and aircraft will rotate between the town of Kangerlussuaq (Kanger-loose-a-wack), the wing's operations base while in Greenland, and Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, New York, four more times between now and the end of August.

The Airmen and aircraft transport fuel, cargo and passengers to and from the various science camps throughout Greenland during the summer months.

The wing's Greenland missions also serve as training for the support the unit provides for the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Program when it is winter in New York and summer in Antarctica.

Along with the unit's routine supply missions, this rotation also includes 25 Airmen who are taking part in Arctic survival training at Raven Camp better known as "Kool Skool." Airmen spend three days in the field learning survival skills, including how to build a shelter and use only the items immediately available to them to survive in the Arctic.

The 109th deploys at various times between April and August for Greenland.

Each year, about six rotations consisting of two to four aircraft and up to 80 Airmen each, go for anywhere from six to 14 days at a time depending on the needs of the National Science Foundation

Each year the 109th flies more than 800 hours during the Greenland support season; while transporting about 2.1 million pounds of cargo, 49,000 pounds of fuel, and 1,790 passengers.

The Greenland season will come to a close in August; however, there's not much downtime for those supporting the mission.

The Greenland planning conference for 2018 will be held in October, around the same time Airmen and aircraft begin shifting to support Antarctic operations as part of Operation Deep Freeze, the U.S. Department of Defense's support to Antarctic science programs.

The 109th Airlift Wing flies the LC-130, which is a Hercules C-130 transport modified to land on snow and ice on skies. This is the largest ski-equipped aircraft in the world and the only ski-equipped aircraft in the U.S. military.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1186254/new-yorks-109th-airlift-wings-greenland-mission-is-underway/>

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## **27th Brigade**

### **Unique challenges spurred great training for New York Army National Guard snipers**

**National Guard.mil , May 12, 2017:**

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. - Being a sniper, according to New York Army National Guard Sgt. David Peters, is the ultimate challenge for an infantryman.

"You have to know so much information. You have to perfect and master the infantry tasks and you have to perfect and master the sniper tasks as well, said Peters, a sniper team leader in C Troop, 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry. "You have to be very precise."

Peters, along with Staff Sgt. Masami Yamakado, a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, got a chance to test his sniper skills against top-notch competitors from the Army National Guard, Active Army Sniper School, USMC Scout/Sniper School, USMC Reserves and foreign armies April 22-27 at the Winston P. Wilson Sniper Championship.

Held at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center at Camp J.T. Robinson, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, the 2017 competition brought together 25 two-man sniper teams from across the U.S. military, along with Canada, Denmark, Italy and Poland.

The two New York Army National Guard Soldiers finished ninth in the competition overall and came in at number three position among the National Guard teams.

Peters estimates he put about a thousand rounds down range during the five-day event.

They would have done better if he had not been a last-minute addition to the team, when Peters' original partner had to drop out, Yamakado said.

With Peters living in Hamburg in Western New York, and Yamakado living in Garrison in the Hudson Valley—342 miles away-- it was impossible to get together for training. Instead the two men went to ranges by themselves and knocked down targets.

They also hammered out a quick SOP over the phone over the course of a week.

"If we had more face time, more lead time, and more train-up time, I am confident we could have gotten into the top five and top four," Yamakado said.

"Everything was either all or nothing. We either cleaned it, and got maximum points on the event, or we didn't score because of something we didn't prepare for," he explained.

Yamakado, a former sniper section leader in Charlie Troop who helped train Peters, is school-trained and competed in the 2014 sniper competition. But he hadn't trained as a sniper in two years.

That experience, and their familiarity with each other, eventually let them work through the rough spots, the two men said.

"We were off to a pretty rough start, but once we started getting into our rhythm we started hitting targets left and right," Peters said.

A spotter and sniper usually need to work together for years to understand each other, said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Tippet, the Charlie Troop readiness NCO.

"They did extremely well, better than we could have hoped for, with no train-up time," he added.

Being a sniper means being expert with five weapons systems. It also means being a bit of a math whiz, since snipers have to calculate ballistic solutions on the fly. Some calculations are done on paper, and some done with a hand-held ballistic calculator.

Along with being able to shoot extremely well, snipers have to be able to collect battlefield information; knowing the difference, for example, between Russian 120 and 82 millimeter mortars. They've also got to be experts at camouflage and stealthy movement on the battlefield in order to get into a position to shoot or see.

The two-man sniper team consists of a shooter – normally the junior Soldier—and a spotter who is the more experienced Soldier.

The shooter concentrates on the target. The spotter maintains situational awareness and works out the ballistic solution-- based on the temperature, wind velocity and direction, humidity or rain, distance and bullet trajectory--necessary to hit the target.

At the Army National Guard sniper competition, Peters was the shooter while Yamakado was the spotter.

Charlie Troop snipers are equipped with three sniper weapons:

- The M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System or SASS, which looks like an M-16A2 on steroids and is used to engage many targets rapidly out to 800 meters;
- The M2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle, a bolt-action, single-shot weapon that looks like something from a science fiction movie and hits targets out to 1,200 meters;
- And the M107 Barret sniper rifle, which fires a .50 caliber round and can hit targets up to 1800 meters away.

Snipers must also be expert with the M-4 carbine and the M-9 pistol.

The sniper competition tested their abilities with all those weapons systems, Yamakado said.

"It ran almost like a three-gun event," Yamakado said. "I would run to a building for 50 to 100 yards and engage pistol targets. And then I would go in the building and engage in a room with the M-4 and then go upstairs and shoot the sniper rifle. There were a lot of plain, line-infantry oriented tasks."

"It dragged the snipers out of their comfort zone," he added.

This was a big change from the 2014 competition, in which 95 percent of the tasks involved the sniper rifle, Yamakado said.

One of the most challenging events, and one the New Yorkers did well at, was the "live-fire stalk" during both daylight and night time.

The teams had to don their camouflage "ghillie suits" and work into a firing position overlooking a target without being seen.

Once they were on target they fired a blank round. An evaluator would approach the area to spot the team. Not being spotted added points to the total score.

To keep the competitors honest – by ensuring they were actually in the designated area — the evaluator would hold up a placard with a number or letter on it. The snipers had to be close enough to call the number in to the score keepers.

Then the team would engage the target and get scored on the hit as to whether or not the right targeting information was "dialed in" on the weapon.

The event was challenging for the team, because it was an event that Peters had not trained for.

What's more, Yamakado's ghillie suit was in a shipping container heading for Australia, where the 101st Cavalry is scheduled to train this summer, because he wasn't planning to be at the competition.

"I showed up at the stalk as the only guy without a ghillie suit. So I put a bungee cord around my waist and stuck in some branches and rolled with it," he said.

Another unique event was the opportunity to engage targets from a hovering UH-60 helicopter.

Peters balanced his SASS on a safety strap and had one minute to fire ten rounds at targets ranged between 500 and 600 meters from the aircraft. It's not something many snipers ever get a chance to train on, Peters said.

Peters, said Yamakado, was one of the few shooters who actually hit a target firing from the helicopter.

While the event was a competition, both Peters and Yamakado said they learned new techniques and tactics from the other competitors every day - lessons they'll pass on to New York Army National Guard snipers.

"I think we changed the SOP several times, just looking at how other teams do things," Yamakado said. "The school house does a very good job at making it one part match and one part training event."

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1181471/unique-challenges-spurred-great-training-for-new-york-army-national-guard-snipe/>

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While the event was a competition, both Peters and Yamakado said they learned new techniques and tactics from the other competitors every day - lessons they'll pass on to New York Army National Guard snipers.

"I think we changed the SOP several times, just looking at how other teams do things," Yamakado said. "The school house does a very good job at making it one part match and one part training event."

[https://www.army.mil/article/187684/unique\\_challenges\\_spurred\\_great\\_training\\_for\\_new\\_york\\_army\\_national\\_guard\\_snipers](https://www.army.mil/article/187684/unique_challenges_spurred_great_training_for_new_york_army_national_guard_snipers)

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## **Military Notes: Cayuga County National Guard members graduate, are promoted**

**Auburn Pub, May 13, 2017:**

Military Notes: Cayuga County National Guard members graduate, are promoted



Auburn Pub, May 13, 2017

MORAVIA - Maj. Gen. Anthony P. German, the adjutant general of New York, announces the recent promotion of a member of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of his capability for additional responsibility and leadership:

. Daniel Spring, from Moravia, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, received a promotion to the rank of Private First Class.

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit [dmna.ny.gov](http://dmna.ny.gov) or [1800goguard.com](http://1800goguard.com).

[http://auburnpub.com/lifestyles/military-notes-cayuga-county-national-guard-members-graduate-are-promoted/article\\_1d9bd484-1408-52d4-9dee-e048167e09f5.html](http://auburnpub.com/lifestyles/military-notes-cayuga-county-national-guard-members-graduate-are-promoted/article_1d9bd484-1408-52d4-9dee-e048167e09f5.html)

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## **42nd Combat Aviation Brigade**

### **Guardsmen Slingload Howitzers at Fort Drum**

defense.gov , May 16, 2017:

Guardsmen transport 105 mm howitzers by helicopter at Fort Drum, N.Y., for a live-fire exercise, May 4, 2017. Photos by New York Army National Guard Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Essay-View/CollectionID/16480/>

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### **Notable Names: Rochester soldier re-enlists with New York Army National Guard**

Greece Post, May 17, 2017:

Spc. Emily Penders, of Rochester, recently re-enlisted to continue service with the New York Army National Guard.

Penders serves with the Headquarters and Service Co., 642nd Support Battalion.

"New Yorkers count on our citizen soldiers to be ready and be there when disaster strikes, and our nation counts on our soldiers when duty calls for overseas service," Maj. Gen. Anthony German said. "I congratulate our members for choosing to stay in service and striking that balance between military duties, education or employment commitments and family obligations."

<http://www.greecepost.com/news/20170517/notable-names>

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## **53rd Troop Command**

### **New York Army National Guard announces soldier re-enlistments**

**Madison County Courier, May 16, 2017:**

Major General Anthony P. German, the Adjutant General, announces the recent reenlistment of members of the State National Guard in recognition of their continuing commitment to serve community, state and nation as part of the Army National Guard.

Specialist Alexandria Woods from Munnsville has reenlisted to continue service with the 1156th Engineer Company.

Sergeant David Meleski from Solvay has reenlisted to continue service with the 206th Military Police Company.

"New Yorkers count on our Citizen Soldiers to be ready and be there when disaster strikes," German said. "And our nation counts on our Soldiers when duty calls for overseas service. I congratulate our members for choosing to stay in service and striking that balance between military duties, education or employment commitments and family obligations."

"Every one of the men and women serving in our 16,000 strong Army and Air National Guard plays an important role and these Soldiers who continue to reenlist provide experience and continuity for whatever challenges lay ahead for our New York National Guard family."

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit [www.dmna.ny.gov](http://www.dmna.ny.gov) or [www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com).

<http://madisoncountycourier.com/?p=80842>

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## **Armories**

## **A Recipe for Getting Armory Reuse Projects Right : Here's how to reimagine these sprawling facilities as community hubs.**

City Lab.com, May 17, 2017:

Just a block and a half away from where I live in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, is the Bedford Union Armory, which for a few years now has been sitting largely unused. Turned over by the state to the City of New York in 2013, this massive, 110-year-old former National Guard facility appears from the outside to be headed toward quiet dereliction, but in fact, it's now the epicenter of a major development fight in one of the most rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods in New York City. Like hundreds of other armories around the country, finding the right kind of re-use for the site-plus the money, will, and community support to move forward-is proving challenging.

The current plan for this particular armory involves a private developer retrofitting the space to include a recreation center, a community complex, a mix of non-profit and commercial rental space, and housing. On the surface, this seems like a reasonable re-purposing of the 138,000-square-foot site, ensuring the kind of diverse uses and income streams necessary to convert and maintain the enormous structure. But the project is being pitched to the community as a tradeoff: you only get the community and recreation centers if we also build luxury housing. While 20 percent of the condos and 50 percent of the rental units in the current proposal are classified as affordable, their designation has come under scrutiny given the actual incomes of area residents. Add to that questions about whether the site will employ union workers and concerns about who will afford to make use of the recreation and community centers, and you've got a prescription for a fight over this project.

The challenge of re-making armories in a way that local communities will support is likely familiar to many U.S. cities. With a huge boom in armory construction in the early 1900s, the majority of these spaces have now entered their second century and are in need of a new life. In 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Guard Bureau released a report offering advice and encouragement for communities considering re-use of these white elephants. (Among other things, the report recommended involving passionate groups of local citizens in the process, and tapping multiple organizations to help redevelop these large-scale projects.) But before leaping into the future, it's worth taking a quick step back to understand how so many cities ended up with massive military facilities at their centers in the first place.

Most of the armories built in the U.S. were initially intended to provide year-round training, storage, and social facilities for local militias, which didn't become formally organized as the National Guard until well into the 20th century. It was no coincidence that many of the armories built in cities like New York and Cincinnati were designed to appear fortress-like. The years before and after 1900 saw some of the most intense and violent labor, race, and class struggles the U.S. has experienced, and it was often local militias who were called upon to quash the violence in the midst of these clashes.

These city-bound strongholds also served their communities in other ways over the years. When not being used by militias, the buildings, which were typically the largest indoor spaces in their cities, frequently served as sites for everything from dances to fairs to boxing matches and art exhibitions. Into the second half of the 20th century, armories continued to be used by National Guard units and local communities, including being pressed into service as shelters during natural disasters.

Today, armories rarely serve their original purpose, remaining under-utilized or entirely unused as the Guard seeks to shed these costly facilities. The structures often come with serious drawbacks ranging from toxic construction materials like lead and asbestos to the need for extensive retrofits to accommodate accessibility requirements. That said, because armories were built like fortresses, they have often stood the test of time. Because ownership is often offered to cities much below market rate, armories present intriguing opportunities.

With the armory in my own neighborhood such a site of conflict, I was curious to find redevelopment projects that seem to have gotten it right-benefitting existing residents from a range of incomes and focusing on community benefit instead of lining developers' pockets.

#### Park Slope Armory: Brooklyn, NY

When it was transferred to the city in first half of the 1990s, the Park Slope Armory, which stands 2 miles away from the Bedford Union Armory, initially served as a homeless shelter (a recurring theme in armories around the country). When early renovations by a group focused on providing sports fields for city youth fell through, the city's Department of Homeless Services took over the redevelopment of the entire property, with a local task force of representatives from nearby block associations providing community input on the project. Today, the facility houses a women's homeless shelter operated by the non-profit CAMBA. It also includes a large recreational facility operated by New York City's YMCA that is available to local public schools, as well as a military veteran's museum operated by Tom Miskel, who provides space in the museum's room for veterans services ranging from AA meetings to counseling to technology classes. In addition, the old drill hall now occupied by the YMCA served as an emergency shelter during Hurricane Sandy in 2012, with over 600 people making use of the facility after the storm, some for as long as four weeks.

Miskel, who is a longtime Park Slope resident and served on the Armory Task Force, says the majority of the redevelopment funds came from the city and state. And today, a wide swath of the local community makes use of the space, from public school kids to local residents to nearby veterans to those in the shelter. Though Miskel indicated that some spaces in the cavernous building remain unused, such as the old shooting range in the subbasement and the Officer's Club in the head house, he felt the project was a "perfect fit for the neighborhood."

#### Dawson Armory & Community Building: Dawson, Minnesota

Not far from the center of Dawson, Minnesota, sits another example of a mixed-use redevelopment. In 1992, with help from the state, 12 different Minnesota towns, including Dawson, were offered the chance to buy recently

decommissioned National Guard facilities for only \$1 each. Many Dawson residents wanted to preserve the space for local use: For much of its history, dating back to the 1920s, it served dual purposes as both a military facility and a community gathering place for everything from basketball games to dances. After a few years of trying out different ideas and tenants, the town landed on relocating the local library to this much larger facility, and adding 10 affordable apartments for seniors. In addition, space upstairs and downstairs from the library offers room for art, local artifacts, and community meetings and events. Though it's much smaller than the Brooklyn armories, coming in at just under 30,000 square

feet, the combination of elements in the Dawson armory fulfilled a need for accessible housing and offered a new home for a much-loved community institution.

Peterborough Community Center: Peterborough, NH

Many armories possess a commercial kitchen, or at least the space and plumbing for them. These can be prized assets in cities: They can be used for everything from large events to cooking classes and business incubation.

The town of Peterborough, New Hampshire, decided to take advantage of the space offered by their armory to create a combined community center and recreation space that they also rent out as a location for indoor farm and flea markets, along with a large community kitchen, food pantry, and nutrition and gardening program for young people. The particular focus on food, along with the funds needed to create the up-to-date commercial kitchen, was spurred in large part by a local Peterborough nonprofit, The Cornucopia Project. The frequency with which existing nonprofits and government agencies become key players in armories is a good indication of where funding and community support comes from in these complex and lengthy redevelopment projects. Without long-term support and cash flow, these community-focused projects can struggle to maintain the will to keep going in the midst of many inevitable managerial and construction hurdles.

Newburgh Armory Unity Center: Newburgh, NY

The Newburgh Armory Unity Center, which sits just a few blocks from the Hudson River, incorporates indoor and outdoor sports fields, a gymnasium, conference rooms, classrooms, a mobile office for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, offices for an immigrant and refugee-focused wing of

Catholic Charities, and also for Latinos Unidos, a nonprofit that provides services and advocacy for the Latinos in the region. This unique combination—all managed by a single nonprofit named after the

center—provides a one-stop shop for recreation, and also serves as a central place for immigrants, refugees, and those in the Latino community to access services and support. With the many sports facilities, they seem to be hedging their bets that high frequency rentals can help offset the areas

with less opportunity for income generation. It's clear that striking the right balance of income streams is crucial when just one organization is responsible for a facility as large as an armory, shouldering the financial and management pressures.

While these four examples hardly cover the full range of armory projects that exist in the U.S., and other projects with a community focus like those in Los Angeles, and Defiance, Ohio, are also worth looking into, the projects listed above do demonstrate some of what's possible. They also illustrate that maintaining a focus on the existing community around these buildings helps retain their legacy of service. These armories offer cities and neighborhoods a way to engage with complex local histories while providing a single door through which many groups can come together. At a time when we're facing resurgent segregation across the U.S., these projects could offer important pathways to connection. And given how much is required

to complete them, it's well worth getting as much community support behind them as possible.

<https://www.citylab.com/design/2017/05/a-recipe-for-getting-armory-reuse-projects-right/527082/>

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## **Citizens Preparedness**

### **Free Emergency Preparedness Training on May 16**

**Warwick Valley Dispatch, May 14, 2017:**

Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus announces that the County will host a Citizen Preparedness training seminar offered by Governor Andrew Cuomo's office in conjunction with the New York National Guard and the State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services on Tues., May 16.

The event is open to the public and will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the County's Emergency Services Center, located at 22 Wells Farm Rd. in Goshen.

Those in attendance will receive a complimentary Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit, which includes emergency supplies such as a first aid kit, batteries, blanket and other important items. All participants must register in advance for the seminar at [www.prepare.ny.gov](http://www.prepare.ny.gov).

"We have received a great response to this seminar and the class is always well-attended," Neuhaus said. "This training is important because it gives Orange County residents the opportunity to learn about basic steps that can protect them and their families in the event of

an emergency or natural disaster. We're glad to have this opportunity to present important information that will be useful to all of the attendees."

Presenters, which will include a contingent from Orange County's Division of Emergency Management, will offer tips on responding to a natural or man-made disaster and answer questions from the audience. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing

a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Proper preparation in the home will be emphasized along with encouragement to ensure that smoke, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers are all readily available and working properly.

Trainers will provide information regarding what organizations offer additional support, how to register for NY-Alert, the free statewide emergency alert system, and how to be aware of notifications from such sources as the Emergency Broadcast System.

For more information, contact Justin Rodriguez, Assistant to the County Executive for Communications and Media Relations at 291-3255 or [jrodriguez@orangecountygov.com](mailto:jrodriguez@orangecountygov.com).

<http://www.wvdispatch.com/news/free-emergency-preparedness-training-on-may-16/>

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## **Eastern Air Defense Sector**

### **Air Force secretary invited to tour Rome lab, EADS**

**Rome Sentinel ,May 18, 2017:**

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson has been invited to tour Air Force installations in Central New York by two area members of Congress.

Reps. Claudia L. Tenney, R-22, New Hartford, and John Katko, R-24, Camillus, have sent a letter to Wilson asking her to visit facilities like the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Eastern Air Defense Sector, both in Griffiss business park. They are in Tenney's district.

"These Air Force installations play a vitally important role in research and development that further strengthen our readiness capabilities as well as our nation's security," said Tenney. "I look forward to the opportunity to share our region's assets with Secretary Wilson in the near future."

Katko's district is home to the Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing, which is based at Hancock Field near Syracuse. It performs remotely piloted aircraft missions.

"I was pleased to join Rep. Tenney in inviting the Air Force secretary to visit Central New York and see first-hand our strong defense infrastructure," said Katko.

Wilson was sworn in Tuesday as the 24th secretary of the Air Force.

The loss of military installations is always a concern of federal, state and local officials.

The communities in which facilities are located benefit economically from the direct spending by the Department of Defense on expenses such as the salaries of military personnel and government civilian employees. In turn, these individuals and their families spend money on numerous things such as groceries, haircuts, gasoline, and car repairs.

<http://romesentinel.com/county/air-force-secretary-invited-to-tour-rome-lab-heads/QBqqr!mZVI2eoaS0Nkyqgod2TSw/>

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## **Tenney, Katko invite Air Force secretary to visit Central New York**

**Madison County Courier, May, 18, 2017:**

Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY-22) joined Congressman John Katko (NY-24) to invite the Secretary of the United States Air Force, Heather Wilson, to Central New York to tour the Air Force assets the 22nd and 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts. In a letter to the newly confirmed Air Force Secretary, Tenney and Katko detailed the importance of the region's Air Force assets and the value these installations provide to our national security.

Central New York is home to three Air Force installations, including the Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing, the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate at Rome (Rome Lab) and the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS). Additionally, with five Wings and EADS, New York is home to the largest Air National Guard in the entire country.

"It is an honor to join Congressman Katko today in extending an invitation to the Air Force Secretary to visit Central New York to see firsthand the important work being done by the installations in our districts. These Air Force installations play a vitally important role in research and development that further strengthen our readiness capabilities as well as our nation's security," said U.S. Rep. Claudia Tenney. "Specifically, in the 22nd District, Rome Lab is on the forefront of advanced cyber research and development. Our country's superiority in cyberspace is critical, and Rome Lab provides full spectrum support of cyber space operations. In a recent tour of Rome Lab, I had the opportunity see the many ways their staff is working to and enhance cyber-space operations and support systems to aid our warfighters on today's high-tech battlefields. Additionally, the Air National Guard personnel at the Eastern Air Defense Sector, also located in the 22nd District, provide critical air defense for the Eastern Region of our nation. I look forward to the opportunity to share our region's assets with Secretary Wilson in the near future."



"I was pleased to join Rep. Tenney in inviting the Air Force Secretary to visit Central New York and see first-hand our strong defense infrastructure," said U.S. Rep. John Katko. "The 174th at Hancock Field is a premier unmanned aerial training facility which draws airmen from around the country to Central New York. Moreover, our regional defense operations work collaboratively, efficiently, and successfully. They are vital to our national security and to our local economy, and it would be an honor to host Secretary Wilson."

<http://madisoncountycourier.com/?p=80895>

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## **Emergency Response**

### **Keeping Up: More Sandbags, More Help Needed**

**WWNY TV, May 17, 2017:**

At the Crescent Yacht Club in Chaumont, the same battle is being fought over and over.

"We put all those in the other day to protect the porch and the rest of the building and now the water's coming up more and more every day," said Carl Seery, Chaumont fire police chief.

Thousands of sandbags are being filled in Chaumont every day, but it's simply not enough.

"At this point, we're losing ground. The sandbags are being taken just as fast as they're being filled," said Joe Plummer, Jefferson County Emergency Management.

Twenty Air National Guard members have been helping firefighters and other volunteers and everybody's getting a little tired.

"It is very labor intensive. These bags are approximately 50 pounds. As soon as we are loading them up they're being taken away," said Sr. Master Sergeant Helen Crouch, 174th Air National Guard.

The sandbags are being taken away by people like Dale Streeter, whose camp on Guffin Bay is flooded.

"This is amazing. If I had more time, I'd come down and help, I really would, because this is a godsend," he said.

The county legislature chair is asking Governor Cuomo for more help.

"We have asked the state to double, double up on the National Guard. We've asked for more sand. We've asked for more sandbags," said Scott Gray, legislature chair.

Wednesday afternoon, Gray said the request was granted for more National Guard help as well as a sandbagging machine.

But even though operations will ramp up further, it may still not be enough.

"Not going to be no winning battle. This isn't going to go down 'til the end of June," said Seery.

But to keep fighting, more is needed - more sand. more sandbags, more volunteers.

<http://www.wwnytv.com/story/35454099/keeping-up-more-sandbags-more-help-needed>

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## **Efforts to help with Lake Ontario flooding (Video)**

**WGRZ, May 15, 2017:**

WILSON, N.Y. - People living along Lake Ontario have every reason to be concerned as the water continues to rise.

For homes situated up high, erosion is a strong possibility. At the pier in Wilson, docks are nearly floating and walkways are completely submerged.

The lake is well over 30 inches higher than normal and still rising.

Sandbags are vital for flood protection. But more importantly, those wanting permits to be put in place protecting structures may see the process fast-tracked.

New York Lieutenant Kathy Hochul told reporters on Monday, "projects that would normally take six months to get a permit, they're getting them in 12-20 hours. We deployed additional resources in terms of The National Guard. Until you see it in person you cannot underestimate how important they are. They are literally working 8, 10, 12 hours a day filling 40 or 50 pound sand bags, putting them on pallets taking them to neighborhoods and assisting neighbors get them on their property shored up."

<http://www.wgrz.com/news/local/efforts-to-help-with-lake-ontario-flooding/439938616>

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**Flooding in Fair Haven: State sending sandbag machine, National Guard as water rises**

**Auburn Citizen, May 17, 2017:**

New York state officials are sending additional resources to the village of Fair Haven as flooding and rising lake levels become more of a concern.

The state Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services will deliver a new sandbagging machine, 10,000 more sandbags and a National Guard unit will be deployed to help fill the bags.

The sandbagging machine and additional sandbags will be delivered to Fair Haven Tuesday. The National Guard unit will arrive no later than Wednesday.

Fair Haven had a sandbagger until late last week when the state moved the machine to Jefferson County, which had a more immediate need. Before the sandbagger was relocated, the village built a stockpile of 10,000 sandbags. With the machine gone and water levels rising over the weekend, the number of available sandbags quickly went from 10,000 to 2,000. Residents picked up the sandbags at the village hall for use on their own properties.

Kristin Devoe, a spokesperson for the state Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, said the state purchased more sandbagging machines so that each of the eight counties along Lake Ontario will have one to response to flooding.

"At the direction of Governor Cuomo, New York state has launched a full scale response to the flooding along the Lake Ontario coast," Devoe said.

"Right now, the primary focus must be on keeping residents safe and ensuring everyone has access to critical resources. Once the flooding subsides and our recovery operations begin, we will be able to assess the overall impacts to communities in the region."

The decision to purchase more sandbagging machines was made weeks ago when state officials recognized that the rising lake levels would pose long-term challenges. While Fair Haven is experiencing some flooding, the rising water has had a bigger impact on other communities along the lake, such as Sodus Point in Wayne County.

Fair Haven Mayor Jim Basile lauded the state for its support and being attentive to the village's needs. He said the sandbagging machine and the National Guard unit will help the village rebuild its stock of sandbags to respond to the flooding.

According to Basile's tally, water levels in the village have risen five or six inches over the last eight days. He estimated that the levels are now more than a foot above base flood elevation.

[http://auburnpub.com/blogs/eye\\_on\\_ny/flooding-in-fair-haven-state-sending-sandbag-machine-national-guard/article\\_5add070e-3fa7-5814-aa05-8452f701a693.html](http://auburnpub.com/blogs/eye_on_ny/flooding-in-fair-haven-state-sending-sandbag-machine-national-guard/article_5add070e-3fa7-5814-aa05-8452f701a693.html)

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## **NYS Approves More Help for Jefferson County Sand Bag Efforts**

**Spectrum News, May 17, 2017:**

SPECTRUM NEWS VIDEO: Two weeks ago, the Village of Chaumont started leading the charge to fill sandbags, hoping to beat the upcoming floods. They were filling thousands of bags, all by hand. Despite the Air National Guard coming in last Friday, the volunteer departments haven't quit, but fatigue

is setting in. Plus, the demand is growing. For every bag that is filled, it seems someone needs two and it's only going to get worse. That's why Jefferson County has filed several new requests with the state. The highlights: an extension for the length of time the National Guard will be here, adding 20 more members to the detail, and a second machine.

<http://www.twcnews.com/nys/watertown/news/2017/05/17/sandbaggers-needed-jefferson-county-calls-for-more-state-help.html>

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## **National Guard Helps With Flood Relief In Ogdensburg (Video)**

**WWNY TV 7, May 18, 2017:**

The National Guard is in Ogdensburg to help as people deal with ever-rising flood waters on the St. Lawrence River.

Ten troops from the Rochester area were the first to deploy to St. Lawrence County since the flooding began.

They immediately began filling sandbags upon arrival at the New York State Department of Transportation yard in Ogdensburg.

"The rivers aren't going to go down anytime soon. It's a big river and it takes a long time for the levels to go down. So with the weather we're experiencing today, there's a good chance that wind is going to drive some water up onto shore where people may not have been experiencing problems before may start seeing some issues today," said Michael LeCuyer, director county Emergency Management.

The troops will be in Ogdensburg for two days.

<http://www.wwnytv.com/story/35464505/national-guard-helps-with-flood-relief-in-ogdensburg>

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## **Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River may be nearing peak, but don't expect lower levels anytime soon**

**NCPR Radio, May 19, 2017:**

Record high water continues to threaten homes and camps along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. But there are signs the water could stop rising soon.

Meanwhile, emergency crews are scrambling to keep up with the demand for sandbags. And regulators are doing everything they can to push more water downriver.

Lake Ontario remains at the highest level it's been since recordkeeping began a hundred years ago. So the St. Lawrence River is extremely high too.

From Henderson Harbor to Alexandria Bay, Jefferson County is having trouble keeping up with residents' need for sandbags. Boathouses, docks, camps, even some homes' lower levels have taken on water.

"The National Guard works during the day. Volunteers work during the evening," says Joe Plummer, who directs the county's Fire and Emergency Management. "The demand is outgoing the supply. However, it's appearing today we're starting to make a little headway at it."

Regulators shared some measured good news Thursday. Lake Ontario remained at basically the same level for the first time in weeks. "Does that mean we've reached the peak," said regulators with the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board on Facebook. "Likely not, but we appear to be close."

That's in part because the Board is aggressively pushing water downstream, now that flooding has largely subsided in Montreal. Wednesday, because the Moses-Saunders hydropower dam was already at capacity, the New York Power Authority opened a side dam - a rare occurrence.

In my 35 years, it's two times for high flows.

Ed Rider, a 35-year veteran with the New York Power Authority says it's only the second time he's seen the Long Sault Dam open to release more water, the last time being in 1993. "That was the last time we opened it for high flows," Rider says. "We had the ice storm of '98, but not because we had high flows. It was because we couldn't pass the power. 1998 was for power restrictions."

Regulators caution that even when the lake and river peak, it will take weeks for them to return to normal levels.

Meanwhile, lawmakers are setting the stage to request emergency aid.

Republican Elise Stefanik is among a group of Representatives urging Governor Cuomo to make the initial request for federal assistance with FEMA.

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33962/20170519/lake-ontario-and-st-lawrence-river-may-be-nearing-peak-but-don-t-expect-lower-levels-anytime-soon>

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## **Rep. Stefanik calls on Gov. Cuomo to seek FEMA assistance as St. Lawrence River flooding continues**

**North Country Now, May 18, 2017 - 2:41 pm:**

Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik NY-21 is joining several other New York representatives in urging Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo to request assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency as flooding continues along the St. Lawrence River.

Chris Collins (NY-27) penned a letter and John Katko (NY-24), Claudia Tenney (NY-22) Stefanik joined in the call.

In a letter to the Governor released today, the Representatives who all represent shore areas, called on Cuomo to comply with the federal Stafford Act and make the initial request for federal assistance. Federal law requires the initial request to come from the governor in order for President Trump to declare a federal state of emergency for the Ontario lakeshore areas.

"Heavy rainfall in recent months has caused near historic levels of flooding along the St. Lawrence River," said Congresswoman Stefanik (NY-21). "As water levels continue to rise, so do concerns about damage to homes, businesses, marinas and docks. My office has been working closely with officials at the state level to address this issue, and I have been in continued conversations with FEMA officials and regional representatives for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who are monitoring the situation closely.

We must act now to protect our shoreline property owners and I urge Governor Cuomo to expedite a request for federal relief."

According to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), current water levels in Lake Ontario are measuring in 31 inches higher than average and are expected to rise another 5 inches over the next 30 days. Shoreline property owners continue to invest in break-walls

and other erosion protection resources; however, a significant number of homes have been condemned and impacted property owners anticipate tens of thousands of dollars in damage.

The letter details that while both the National Guard and USACE have helped provide counties along the shoreline with hundreds of thousands of sandbags, unfortunately "they are no match for waves measured between 5-7 feet tall that are crashing against private property, housing structures, and docks causing irreparable damage to the shoreline."

The letter can be seen below:

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We are writing you today regarding the recent flooding along the shoreline of Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario water levels have recently surpassed record high levels, currently sitting 31 inches higher than normal levels with an expected increase of 5 inches over the next 30 days.

It has come to our attention that your office has not yet requested the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in getting damage assessments. This is a crucial first step in the process of declaring a federal state of emergency through the Stafford Act. As you know, a declaration by the president of a major disaster must originate from the Governor of the affected State.

Erosion along the shoreline is a serious issue; nearly all of the shoreline in New York State erodes at a rate of one foot per year, some parts erode at a rate of more than two feet per year. This recent flooding has exacerbated erosion, some property owners who once had 80 feet of land standing between their home and the lake, are currently looking at 40 feet or less.

Numerous shoreline property owners have invested in break-walls surrounding their property that are now sitting far into the lake. Homeowners and shoreline property owners are experiencing tens of thousands of dollars in damage, homes have been condemned, and there is no relief in sight.

The National Guard and Army Corps of Engineers have helped counties along the shoreline to fill and place hundreds of thousands of sandbags.

Unfortunately, they are no match for waves measured between 5-7 feet tall that are crashing against private property, housing structures, and docks causing irreparable damage to the shoreline.

While we commend you for ordering the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to speed up permit processing for the construction of protective structures, we respectfully request that you swiftly begin the process for requesting federal assistance. We must act now to protect our shoreline property owners.

<http://northcountrynow.com/news/rep-elise-stefanik-calls-gov-cuomo-seek-fema-assistance-st-lawrence-river-flooding-continues>

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## **New York National Guard members sandbagging areas around Lake Ontario**

**National Guard.mil , By Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell | New York National Guard | May 16, 2017:**

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. – More than 30 Airmen from the New York Air National Guard's 107th Attack Wing here are working throughout Orleans County in response to the rising water levels of Lake Ontario since May 9, 2017.

The 107th Airmen are among about 320 New York Army National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have been assisting local governments in filling and distributing sandbags since May 3 at the direction of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

Water levels in Lake Ontario are currently three feet higher than average for this time of year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The flooding has affected homes, businesses and entire communities and prompted the governor to declare a state of emergency on May 2.

"We have various missions out here; part of the group is filling sandbags and preparing them to be sent out into the field," said Lt. Col. Ken Kieliszek, a health services administrator assigned to the 107th and site commander at the Kendall Department of Public Works. "We have also had teams going out into the field and building break walls."

The work has been strenuous, yet vital to limiting the amount of damage done by the flooding lake. It is a role that the Airmen of the 107th have fully embraced.

"There's no complaints and no issues," said Kieliszek. "They are proud to be here and proud to serve their country and New York State."

With more than 47,000 sandbags filled, they have then been placed in various areas around the Lake Ontario shoreline. The bags provide much-needed relief to affected residents.

"I've been out there in the communities and seen these sandbags giving hope to communities, families, homeowners and businesses," said Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul. "So many people have come together to fight for these communities but you're the brawn behind it all, you're the strength that we needed at this time of need."

Between May 3 and May 13, New York Army and Air National Guard members have been part of flood control efforts in Monroe, Oswego, Wayne, Orleans, Niagara and Jefferson counties.

As of May 13, Soldiers and Airmen have filled and assisted in distributing 239,703 sandbags. Around 200 Soldiers and Airmen have been on duty at any one time.



The Soldiers and Airmen have been working at local highway departments, filling the sandbags using special machines, as well as distributing them to local governments and in some cases to property owners.

Airmen from the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, have also been part of the mission, filling sandbags in Oswego and Jefferson counties.

New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 642nd Aviation Maintenance Battalion—which has units in Rochester and Olean—have also been filling sandbags along with Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which is headquartered in Syracuse, and has units located throughout western New York.

The New York National Guard rapidly and effectively fills a role that would have been otherwise difficult to fill. These Citizen-Airmen and –Soldiers use their skills and capabilities to keep their communities safe when called upon, Hochul said.

"I cannot imagine what we would do without the New York National Guard in this situation," said Hochul. "They know how to run an operation, this is what they train for.

"Also, this work is physically grueling. I've seen these strong men and women use their personal strength to fill thousands of sandbags that many citizens might find impossible to even lift."

Airmen said they see this mission as one of the reasons why they enlisted in the first place.

"This is my first activation since joining the 107th," said Airman 1st Class Rachel Anderson, an Airman assigned to the 107th Security Forces Squadron. "It's been great to see what we get called to do."

Though this might be a new experience, the Airmen said the ultimate goal is not lost on any of those involved. Everyone recognizes the importance of what is at stake.

"People are scared, they don't know what's going to happen," said Anderson.

"It's important to help the community because we need them just as much as they need us."

Moving forward, the work of the Guard will continue until the danger has subsided. That means filling as many sandbags as it takes, and ensuring they are in position to protect vulnerable areas, Kieliszek said.

"We're going to continue our current assignment of filling sandbags, and deploying them as needed," said Kieliszek. "I would like to see the levels of Lake Ontario recede so the citizens can get back to their normal way of life.

"This is one of the reasons why I joined the Guard - to help my fellow citizens in a time of need."

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1183613/new-york-national-guard-members-sandbagging-areas-around-lake-ontario/>

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## **Airmen Respond to Rising Waters Near Lake Ontario (Photo Gallery)**

**DOD.gov, May 16, 2017:**

New York Air National Guardsmen prepare sandbags to combat flooding at Sodus Point and Williamson, N.Y., May 8-9, 2017. More than 120 New York Air and Army National Guardsmen were placed on state active duty in counties bordering Lake Ontario to help combat rising flood waters at the direction of New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Lillque Ford

<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Essay-View/CollectionID/16479/>

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## **National Guard Helps With Local Flood Relief (Video)**

**WWNY TV, May 12, 2017:**

The National Guard has been deployed to the town of Lyme.

It's a traveling pack that has gone from flood area to flood area, trying to make a dent in the relief effort.

"It's a time to give back, especially with this need, and we're happy to do so," said Senior Master Sergeant Helen Crouch, New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing.

The governor has equipped them with some heavy machinery - a sandbagger meant to crank out the defenses against high water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

"It's a lot more fast, faster, more efficient," said Jefferson County Emergency Management Director Joe Plummer.

Jefferson County has been equipped with 140,000 sandbags.

St. Lawrence County received 30,000.

There is no quota to fill. The goal is to fill as many sandbags as possible.

In the town of Brownville, 6th graders from Sackets Harbor Central School rolled up their sleeves to make a difference.

"We need to do something about it to help people because if I lived closer to the water, it would have done a lot of damage to my house," said Kendell Bisbort, student.

There will soon be more federal help.

Senator Chuck Schumer has announced Army Corps of Engineers experts will be headed to Lyme and Ogdensburg to further assist with the flood efforts.

<http://www.wwnytv.com/story/35417536/national-guard-helps-with-local-flood-relief>

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## **New York Army National Guard**

### **Army Guard funeral honor guard members hone advanced skills during two-week training**

**National Guard.mil, Staff Sgt. Mike Davis, May 16, 2017:**

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. – Some of the rifles fired at Camp Smith Training Site weren't loaded with rounds, but their impact could still stop you.

The ceremonial rifles, along with a folded American flag, a bugler playing taps and a weighted casket were all part of the specialized training that 12 Army National Guard Soldiers from across the country were conducting here.

Four New York Army National Guard Soldiers, along with eight other Guard members from across the country, were selected by their respective states and territories to attend the 80-hour, Train-the-trainer Military Funeral Honors (MFH) course held at Camp Smith Training Site May 1-12.

Soldiers who successfully completed the course became state-level training instructors.

The course is designed to be both physically and mentally challenging to ensure Soldiers are ready and able to perform their duties. Each day starts early with physical training and goes long into the evening for studying and practice.

Training tasks include:

- Rehearsing the honorable transfer of remains;

- Casket team sequences;
- 2 or 3-Soldier funeral procedures;
- Inspections of the ceremonial uniforms;
- Familiarity with the M14 Rifle used by honor guard members;
- Firing party sequences, drill and ceremonies;
- Chapel sequences;

And the 9-Soldier "modified" full military funeral honors sequences.

Since 2000, federal law has mandated that any military veteran who did not receive a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces is eligible for military honors at his or her funeral.

The ceremony must include the folding and presenting of the flag of the United States to the veteran's survivors and the playing of taps.

The size of the detail varies from a minimum of two service members to nine or more personnel for deceased service members who retired from the military after a full career or were awarded medals for valor.

Because the Army National Guard is a community-based force located in places where the active Army can be far away, the responsibility for performing many of these funerals falls upon Guard Soldiers.

The New York Army National Guard, for example, has a 31-member Honor Guard which conducts about 98 percent of military funeral details for Army veterans within the state.

Sgt. Stephanie Imenndorf, a food-service specialist in the New Jersey Army National Guard, wasn't surprised by the intense training. A Guard Soldier for seven years, she noted that "repetition makes it hard to do something wrong, which is a good thing."

Every move must be precise and every command executed must be flawless. The exacting nature of the training mirrors the expectations of the Soldiers when they're performing military funeral duties, the instructors explained. "We change minds with our performance, not our words," said Brian Hise, a Military Honors Senior National Trainer.

Hise, who is prior military with 26 years of experience, explained that Soldiers who complete this training and perform these duties are held to a higher standard.

However, any of the trainers or participants will tell you that it's not about the Soldier, it's about the deceased service members and their families. Even the Army Service Uniform worn by the Soldiers has their name tapes removed to show that it's not about them, Hise explained.

Spc. Jeremy Cardenales, a field artillery automated tactical data system specialist assigned to the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, New York Army National Guard, said he performs these challenging duties to give back to those who came before him.

"Our veterans gave their all for us," said Cardenales a Woodhaven, New York, resident. "I want to give what I can back to them and their families."

The New York Army National Guard has the second-largest funeral honors program in the country, performing between 9 and 10,000 military funeral services per year.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1184319/army-guard-funeral-honor-guard-members-hone-advanced-skills-during-two-week-tra/>

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