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Spectrum News, August 7, 2018

[City Of Newburgh Sues Over PFOS Water Contamination:](#)
WAMC, August 7, 2018

[City of Newburgh files lawsuit over contaminated water:](#)
Mid-Hudson News, August 7, 2018

[Newburgh Files Major Lawsuit Over Polluted Water Supply:](#)
Hudson Valley Post, August 7, 2018

[Newburgh files lawsuit over contaminated water supply:](#)
Daily Freeman, August 7, 2018

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[Mrs. New York coming to National Night Out:](#)
The Daily Gazette, August 6, 2018

World War I

[National Guard chief honors World War I battle anniversary:](#)
Army.mil, August 8, 2018

[NY Army National Guard Soldiers Touring WWI Battlefields:](#)
Associated Press, August 3, 2018

106th Rescue Wing

**“That Meetball Place” to host Aug. 5 fundraiser for fallen service member
Dashan Briggs**

Greater Patchogue, August 3, 2018 :

Get ready to eat and drink while supporting the family of a local fallen soldier.

This Sunday, Aug. 5, That Meetball Place of Patchogue is hosting a fundraiser in memory and in honor of Staff Sgt. Dashan Briggs, who was one of seven servicemen to lose their lives in March's tragic helicopter crash in western Iraq.

"Dashan loved coming to Patchogue and Alive After Five," said Briggs' sister-in-law, Tara Karen of Patchogue.

Briggs, who grew up in Riverhead, lived in Port Jeff Station with his wife, Rebecca, and daughters Jayden, 2, and Ava, 1.

"He joked around, but he was a big teddy at heart," said Karen. "Most of all, he was the greatest father, and he was so loved by so many people."

Briggs, 30, joined the New York National Guard back in 2010 and recently served as an HH-60G special missions aviation flight engineer.

Back in 2011, he became one of 12 local Air National Guard members to receive the New York State Humane Service Medal for his service during Hurricane Irene.

This weekend's event, which runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., is perfect timing, says Karen.

Every first weekend of the month, the New York National Guard hosts a Drill Weekend in Westhampton for training. Typically, Briggs would stop in Patchogue with his friends while heading to drill training.

"What better way to honor him out than on a weekend he would've been in Patchogue anyway?" said Karen.

The party details

Tickets are \$40 and that includes a food buffet and two drinks. Tickets will be sold at the door. There will also be raffles as well as family friendly activities.

<https://patchogue.greaterlongisland.com/2018/08/03/that-meetball-place-to-host-aug-5-fundraiser-for-fallen-service-member-dashan-briggs/>

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107th Attack Wing

State Police Major Eric L. Laughton takes over for Richard Allen, who was promoted to inspector

MPN Now, Agustus 9, 2018 :

FARMINGTON - State Police Maj. Eric L. Laughton remembers a time when he walked into a school, and everyone turned and looked at him.

Because many of the students and staff were not used to seeing troopers walk into class, they thought he was there to make an arrest, said Laughton, who noted a son attended the school.

But the more he visited, the more familiar his face became.

"Now, I was no longer viewed as someone coming into make an arrest, but someone coming in just to say 'Hi,'" Laughton said. "That's when you get the 10- or 11-year-old who comes to you and says, 'Hey, can I talk to you about something?' That could be serious, but you have created that relationship."

Building community relationships is something Laughton hopes to instill in troopers.

Laughton, who began service with the New York State Police in March 1989, is the new commander of Troop E on Route 332.

Obviously, troopers are not geared to do a full-on community policing effort like, for example, the Canandaigua Police Department can do.

But they can, and will, try, Laughton said.

"Let's get the troopers out of their cars and let's get them to communicate with the public," Laughton said. "Stop in a shop, grab a cup of coffee but then sit down and have a talk with the owner."

Laughton, who started in the new role July 5, takes over for Maj. Richard Allen, who was promoted to inspector. Laughton will command more than 430 troopers and civilians in Troop E, which encompasses 10 counties including Ontario County.

Originally from the Buffalo area, Laughton lives in the Lockport area with his wife and children.

A recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt Police Award, Laughton also is a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Air National Guard, and commander of the 107th Medical Group.

"I love my job because I get to serve something bigger than I am," Laughton said. "I wake up excited to do the job."

Because of his police and military background - and perhaps because he is a retired professional bodybuilder - Laughton said he is big into leadership training and self-improvement for himself and others.

"I push training hard," Laughton said.

And it's worked for him, as he has worked in various capacities in various troops throughout New York in the State Police organization, including with the Community Narcotics Enforcement Team, or CNET, and Special Investigations Unit.

Laughton was promoted to the permanent rank of lieutenant in 2005 and to captain in 2014.

Laughton said troopers are "fantastic" at what they do, but he expects complete and total professionalism in those he leads.

"I hold standards high," Laughton said. "It's how we get better."

<http://www.mpnnow.com/news/20180809/new-commander-takes-over-at-troop-e>

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Citizens Preparedness

Free Emergency Preparedness Training at the Greenburgh Public Library in Elmsford on August 17

Harrison's Hamlet Hub, August 8, 2018 :

New York National Guard troops, in conjunction with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, will be presenting a free disaster preparedness class at the Greenburgh Public Library in Elmsford on Friday, August 17.

The two-hour program begins at 2 p.m. The Greenburgh Public Library is located at 300 Tarrytown Road, Elmsford.

The event is open to any interested citizens but people are asked to call Kate Colquitt at 914-721-8233 to sign up in advance if possible.

The event is part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's continuing Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program, which provides citizens with the knowledge and tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

Working with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and local emergency management personnel, troops are conducting these training events across the state.

Since the program's launch in early February 2014, troops have held more than 2,585, events statewide, and taught over 148,370 citizens how to be better prepared for emergencies and disasters.

The program, designed by DHSES, covers a broad range of emergency-preparedness topics, like developing a family emergency plan, stocking up on emergency supplies, and registering for NY-Alert, the free statewide emergency alert system.

The Citizen Preparedness Corps has equipped thousands of New Yorkers to respond better to emergencies and disasters, he stressed.

Emergency preparedness is part and parcel of the New York National Guard's mission and experience, according to New York State Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Anthony German.

"The men and women of the New York Army and Air National Guard, who have responded to help their fellow New Yorkers during floods, hurricanes, and snow storms, know first-hand the value of being prepared for emergencies," German said.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen are proud to be part of Governor Cuomo's effort to help our fellow citizens prepare to cope with disasters and emergencies," German added.

For more information on the program and emergency preparedness, visit:
www.nyprepare.gov.

<https://news.hamlethub.com/harrison/events/4394-free-emergency-preparedness-training-at-the-greenburgh-public-library-in-elmstord-on-august-17>

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Naval Militia

Landing craft joins state's Naval Militia

Times Union, August 8, 2018 :

Landing craft joins state's Naval Militia

ALBANY — The New York Naval Militia said it accepted its newest vessel, a 35-foot-long landing craft-style boat, into its fleet Tuesday.

The "LC-350" — LC for "landing craft" and 350 for the length of the boat — was accepted into service at Albany's Jennings Landing park on the Hudson River, according to the state Division of Military & Naval Affairs.

The boat can deliver three tons of emergency supplies, a vehicle, or 27 personnel to beaches or shorelines along Long Island or the Hudson River during flooding or other emergency situations, the agency said in a press release.

The vessel provides a new level of capability to New York's Military Forces, said Naval Militia Rear Admiral Timothy J. Zakriski, Naval Militia commander. Cargo and people can be delivered directly to a shoreline during flooding or if roads can't be used, he said in the press release. The boat can also serve as a patrol vessel when necessary.

<https://www.timesunion.com/local/article/News-Briefs-13142691.php>

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State military officials to christen new Naval Militia boat

Associated Press, August 7, 2018 :

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - New York military officials will be christening a new landing craft-style boat that will be used to deliver supplies and personnel to areas of the state hit by flooding or other emergencies.

The 35-foot boat will be formally accepted into service during a christening ceremony being held Tuesday afternoon at a park on the Hudson River in Albany.

Officials say the vessel will enable the New York Naval Militia to provide 3 tons of emergency supplies, a vehicle or 27 passengers to beaches or shorelines along the Hudson River and Long Island.

The Naval Militia is part of the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs, which also includes the Army and Air National Guard programs and the New York State Guard.

http://www.hastingstribune.com/state-military-officials-to-christen-new-naval-militia-boat/article_5357e286-9492-5bcb-8caa-1bca0044fd45.html

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State military officials christen new Naval Militia boat

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<https://www.newsday.com/news/region-state/state-military-officials-to-christen-new-naval-militia-boat-1.20332697>

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New York Army National Guard

Purple Heart recipient honored at The Hideout

The News Eagle, August 9, 2018:

LAKE ARIEL - Recognizing valor, courage and sacrifice, a Purple Heart recipient from the Iraq War was honored, Tuesday morning, August 7th by Hideout Property Owners Association with a week vacation at the private recreational community. Daniel Swift, the guest of honor, was present with his family for the beach-side ceremony at the Hideout's Main Lodge where a flagpole was dedicated in honor of all Purple Heart recipients.

Spc. Daniel J. Swift, a resident of Yonkers, New York City and fireman with Ladder 43 in East Harlem, served in Iraq in the U.S. Army. On November 29, 2004, the Humvee in which he was riding outside of Baghdad drove over an improvised explosive device. The explosion threw the vehicle and the soldiers in the air. In the grisly aftermath, with an ensuing gun battle,

Swift, a combat medic, crawled with injuries of his own and was able to save the life of a severely wounded fellow soldier.

Swift received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart medal for his actions.

He was a member of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment of the New York Army National Guard.

Bob Wiegand, President of the Hideout Help a Hero Fund, Inc. and a U.S. Air Force veteran, explained that he has tried for six years to arrange for a Purple Heart recipient to benefit from a fee vacation at their community, and wanted for a long time to have a flagpole erected at the Main Lodge beach. These wishes came together, and with the aid of American Legion Post 807 in Hamlin, Hideout officials and many others, the ceremony was performed.

Hideout resident Noreen Crummy offered her house for the week stay for Swift, his wife Colette and young daughters Saoirse and Fodhla. A basket of free offers from businesses in the area was also provided, including gift certificates for meals, groceries and local attractions.

As a brunch was getting underway after the 10 a.m. ceremony, Swift shared, "As a whole we really want to thank the Hideout community." He said that the patriotism and respect they showed for veterans "really restored my faith in America." He and his wife thanked Wiegand and the many others who made it possible.

During the ceremony, however, it was Swift who was showered with thanks, acknowledging the sacrifice and bravery he showed as an example of the many wounded warriors of the U.S. Armed Forces and Purple Heart recipients who have served their country above self.

Rich Straczynski, Chairman of the Hideout Board of Directors, commented that Swift's actions was an example of facing the enemy and refusing to give up and allow the enemy to win. He urged the crowd to use Daniel Swift's story as an inspiration as we face our own enemies, whether it be cancer, broken families or drug abuse, to cite some examples.

Tim French, Past Commander of the 15th Division American Legion, spoke of the sacrifice and heavy price endured by the family, as well as the one who was wounded or killed for one's country. He took note of the common trait he has seen of Purple Heart recipients, that of "quiet humility."

A proclamation from the Wayne County Commissioners was presented. Others who spoke included Bill Wagner, Vice President, Hideout Help A Hero Fund; Joe Acla, Community Manager; Mike Mascari, Past State Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart; John Chrin, Candidate for Congress, 8th Congressional District; and Edward Sparkowski, Chaplain.

Post 807 provided Posting of Colors, Taps and Rifle Salute.

A plaque was unveiled, dedicating the 40-foot flagpole to all Purple Heart recipients. Swift assisted in hoisting the American flag on the pole.

The original Purple Heart, designated as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by George Washington in 1782, when he was commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. The Purple Heart was revived by executive order by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932.

An estimated 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded in the nation's history. The U.S. military decoration is awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving.

<http://www.neagle.com/news/20180809/purple-heart-recipient-honored-at-hideout>

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Max Rose takes time off campaign for National Guard training

Staten Island Advance, August 5, 2018 :

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island congressional candidate and decorated Army veteran Max Rose is taking two weeks off from his campaign for National Guard training.

Rose is on leave from his campaign beginning Sunday through Aug. 20. He is barred from campaigning, fundraising, speaking to the press and posting on social media while he's away.

The candidate didn't postpone training until after the Nov. 6 election because then he wouldn't be able to complete the training with his unit.

"Serving in the Army and now the Guard has been an incredible honor, and I would never put the campaign before my fellow soldiers," Rose said in a statement, prior to his leave. "In fact, the problem with Congress today is that politicians are putting their re-elections ahead of our country, and that's not who I am."

The St. George resident is running for Congress in New York's 11th Congressional District -- representing Staten Island and South Brooklyn -- against Rep. Dan Donovan.

He earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart while serving as an active duty officer in Afghanistan from 2012 to 2013.

He is now a company commander with the 69th Infantry Battalion in the New York Army National Guard.

https://www.silive.com/news/2018/08/max_rose_takes_time_off_campai.html

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General's 40 years of service feted

Times Union, August 5, 2018:

New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Patrick Center of Charleton received his second award of the Legion of Merit Medal and a New York State Conspicuous Service Medal during his retirement testimonial after nearly 40 years of military service.

Center, director of the Joint Staff of the New York National Guard, was honored during a ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Latham on July 31.

Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Anthony German, state adjutant general, presented the medals during the ceremony.

Center was responsible for coordinating National Guard joint responses to New York state emergencies.

New York Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge of Tupper Lake replaces Center

.Center enlisted in the New York Army National Guard in 1979. He attended Officer Candidate School in 1985 and 1986 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1986.

Center's responsibilities as director of Joint Staff coordinated all of New York's Military Forces during domestic operations for civil authorities.

He oversaw the work of Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the New York National Guard standing security force in New York City, two Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, the FEMA Region II Homeland Response Force, civic outreach programs of the Citizens Preparedness Training Teams and the New York Counterdrug Task Force.

During his time as director of the Joint Staff, New York deployed Army and Air Guard forces to Texas, Puerto Rico, Florida, and the Virgin Islands in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in the summer and fall of 2017.

New York Military Forces were also involved in a massive collection and distribution of donated goods for Puerto Rico and responded to Lake Ontario flooding with a massive sand bagging operation as well as response teams in response to aftermath of a tornado in western New York in the summer of 2017 and snowstorms in the Hudson Valley in 2018 that resulted in lost power for hundreds of thousands of people.

He previously served as chief of staff of the Army National Guard and was logistics director when the New York National Guard responded to storms in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Troops under his direction pumped half a million gallons of fuel into local government

vehicles, moved critical supplies across the state, and managed a logistics support area for 2,500 troops.

Center has also served as the deputy officer in charge of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Operations Office for New York and as executive officer for the adjutant general.

His other assignments had included commander of the 369th Quartermaster Battalion, Supply and services branch chief for the New York Army National Guard's Logistics Office, commander for Headquarters Company of the 427th Support Battalion, assistant logistics officer for the 42nd Infantry Division, quartermaster company commander and transportation detachment commander.

Center is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and Nyack College and has a National Security Management Certificate from Syracuse University's Maxwell School.

He has also earned four Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, an Army Achievement Medal, and three Army Reserve Components Achievement Medals.

"In today's society, there are so few who commit to a career that spans 40 years," said New York Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Richard White after presenting Center with a governor's proclamation, "no less having the distinction of doing it right, so congratulations."

<https://www.timesunion.com/local/article/General-s-40-years-of-service-feted-13133752.php>

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Soldiers Train, Compete for Best Warrior Competition (photo essay)

Department of Defense, July 31, 2018 :

Army National Guardsmen compete during the 2018 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, July 24-27, 2018.

<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Essays/#/detail/18575>

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Abelove retires from National Guard

Times Union, Saturday, August 4, 2018:

Rensselaer County District Attorney Joel Abelove retired from the National Guard Saturday after 27 years in the military.

A ceremony was held at the National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, and Ablove was awarded the Army's Meritorious Service Medal for his work as a judge advocate officer, the New York Army National Guard said in a statement.

Ablove enlisted as a military police soldier in 1991 and finished his enlistment obligations with the New York National Guard in 1995. After graduating from Albany Law School he was commissioned as a judge advocate general officer in 1998.

In 2008, he deployed with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Kabul, Afghanistan, as trial counsel as part of a joint task force. Ablove later served as brigade staff judge advocate for the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, as a judge advocate in the 42nd Infantry Division and Joint Force Headquarters, as the trial defense services chief and as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate in the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and most recently as Staff Judge Advocate for the 53rd Troop Command Headquarters, according to the National Guard.

During his career he received the the Joint Service Medal, the NATO medal, he National Defense Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon, and the Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon

<https://www.timesunion.com/7dayarchive/article/Ablove-retires-from-National-Guard-13132183.php>

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House candidate takes time off trail for National Guard duty

Associated Press , Aug 4, 2018:

NEW YORK (AP) - A decorated Army veteran running for congress in New York City is taking two weeks off from his campaign for National Guard training.

Democrat Max Rose reports on Sunday. He'll be barred from campaigning, fundraising, giving interviews or posting on social media while away.

The 31-year-old earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star as a combat platoon leader in Afghanistan. He's now a Company Commander in the New York Army National Guard.

Rose says he didn't think about postponing training until after the Nov. 6 election because then he wouldn't be able to complete it with his unit.

http://www.oleantimesherald.com/news/state/house-candidate-takes-time-off-trail-for-national-guard-duty/article_88d6fe6c-a872-5973-9d04-80ad0e153480.html

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Max Rose on leave from campaign trail to train with National Guard

New York Post, August 4, 2018 :

Staten Island Congressional candidate and decorated war vet Max Rose is detouring from the campaign trail for military training.

Rose is on leave from his campaign between Sunday and Aug. 20 for squad-level combat exercises with the New York National Guard, a spokeswoman for the Democrat said.

During the two-week training, Rose is barred from campaigning, speaking to the press, fundraising or even posting on social media, spokeswoman Jennifer Blatus said.

A company commander with the 69th Infantry Battalion, Rose is running against Republican Rep. Dan Donovan in a district that encompasses Staten Island and part of Brooklyn.

Rose earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star while serving as an Army captain in Afghanistan.

Though he could have put off the training until after the Nov. 6 election, Rose said he wanted to be able to train with his unit.

"Serving in the in the Army and now the Guard has been an incredible honor, and I would never put the campaign before my fellow soldiers," Rose said in a statement. "In fact, the problem with Congress today is that politicians are putting their re-elections ahead of our country, and that's not who I am."

<https://nypost.com/2018/08/04/max-rose-on-leave-from-campaign-trail-to-train-with-national-guard/>

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Military branches use Spiedie Fest as recruiting grounds (video)

12 WBNG, August 4, 2018 :

TOWN OF DICKINSON (WBNG) -- It's not just vendors and businesses that rely on Spiedie Fest to have a successful year, organizations like the Marines, National Guard, and the Civil Air Patrol, say they use the weekend to recruit.

Organizations say they constantly need young recruits and members to help sustain their numbers year after year.

Officials say branches like the National Guard are great opportunities to see the world and help serve your community.

"We have opportunities to travel throughout New York State and abroad, throughout the United States and overseas as well, but our primary mission is stay stateside and help render aid to natural disasters that are occurring here in New York State," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Krause of the National Guard.

The Civil Air Patrol is looking for members from the ages of 12 to 18 who want to learn moral discipline and help prepare themselves for a future military career.

Meanwhile, the Marines and National Guard are looking for recruits from the ages of 17 to 34 who are ready to serve their country.

<http://www.wbng.com/story/38813439/military-branches-use-spiedie-fest-as-recruiting-grounds>

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N.Y. soldiers building houses in Puerto Rico

Associated Press, August 3, 2018:

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. - New York Army National Guard soldiers are heading to Puerto Rico to build houses as Hurricane Maria recovery continues.

The 45 soldiers being deployed Saturday are members of the 204th Engineer Battalion headquartered in Binghamton. They're from across the state. They'll work with Habitat for Humanity as part of the Defense Department's readiness training program.

The New York National Guard deployed 300 soldiers to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria struck the island 10 months ago. The 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation flew four UH-60 Blackhawks on relief missions.

The New York Air National Guard also flew supply missions.

Military unit rotations to support construction efforts began in late spring and are expected to continue through the summer.

http://www.phillytrib.com/caribbean-briefs/article_4d624a35-955f-5bca-a07b-7c6b3c83727d.html

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PFOA Issue

NY: Newburgh Sues Feds, State, Manufacturers Over Toxic Water

Aviation Pros, August 8, 2018 :

Newburgh is suing the federal government, New York, state agencies and manufacturers it blames for the contamination of the city's primary water supply, which has been closed for more than two years due to high levels of a chemical associated with cancers, low infant birth weight and other health problems.

A suit filed Monday accuses the U.S. Department of Defense and Air Force, the state Department of Transportation, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the National Guard and 18 other defendants of allowing perfluorooctane sulfonate to poison Washington Lake through the use of firefighting foams at Stewart Air National Guard Base and New York Stewart International Airport.

According to the complaint, the airport and base lacked measures or had inadequate or "failing" protections in place to prevent the leaking of the chemicals into the lake's watershed. The airport and base are on DOT-owned land.

The suit, which was filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, also accuses 3M and other companies that manufactured the class of chemicals that includes PFOS of knowing the environmental and health risks since at least the early 1970s.

By 1987, the military knew the risks of the chemicals and that drinking water wells had been polluted, according to the suit.

Newburgh is asking a court to order the cleanup of Washington Lake's watershed, which encompasses the airport and air base; pay for clean water until the cleanup is complete; compensate the city for its costs; and require the defendants to pay damages.

"The City is asking the court to hear and respond to our citizens' exposure to toxic contaminants," Mayor Torrance Harvey said. "We are standing up for our citizens' rights to clean and healthy water, and demanding damages so we can provide our citizens rebates for the contaminated water they received."

Neither Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office nor the DOT and the New York National Guard have responded to requests for comment. A representative for the Port Authority said the agency does not comment on pending lawsuits.

The lawsuit is rooted in an environmental and health crisis that began in May 2016, when Newburgh announced it would stop drawing drinking water from Washington Lake due to high levels of PFOS.

Associated with ailments like kidney and testicular cancers, ulcerative colitis and high cholesterol, PFOS belongs to a class of chemicals known as polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. It is not only used in firefighting foams at airports and military bases, but also in oil-, stain- and water-resistant clothing and other products.

Amid growing concerns about PFAS, Washington Lake was tested in 2014 as part of a nationwide program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Results showed PFOS levels more than twice the 70 parts-per-trillion advisory limit for drinking water set by the EPA, as well as the presence of other PFAS. Testing of surface water samples from the lake in March 2016 showed PFOS levels as high as 243 ppt.

Investigators with the state Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health eventually pinned the contamination on accidental discharges and the testing of firefighting foams at the air base.

Wastewater from the base is discharged into Recreation Pond. The pond flows into a tributary of Silver Stream, whose waters Newburgh diverts to Washington Lake. Among the highest PFOS results at the base were 5,900 ppt at a Recreation Pond outfall and 6,990 ppt at a catch basin.

In August 2016 the state designated Stewart Air Base to its Superfund list of contaminated properties and began fighting the Department of Defense over cleanup and continued discharges into Silver Stream.

High levels of PFOS were also found at Stewart International Airport, including a runway area where firefighting foams were used to extinguish a fire that erupted on a FedEx airplane in 1996. Surface soil samples taken at the airport in June 2016 were as high as 1,840,000 ppt.

The airport has been declared a potential Superfund site.

<https://www.aviationpros.com/news/12424032/newburgh-sues-feds-state-manufacturers-over-toxic-water>

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A suit filed Monday accuses the U.S. Department of Defense and Air Force, the state Department of Transportation, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the National Guard and 18 other defendants of allowing perfluorooctane sulfonate to poison Washington Lake through the use of firefighting foams at Stewart Air National Guard Base and New York Stewart International Airport.

According to the complaint, the airport and base lacked measures or had inadequate or "failing" protections in place to prevent the leaking of the chemicals into the lake's watershed. The airport and base are on DOT-owned land.

The suit, which was filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, also accuses 3M and other companies that manufactured the class of chemicals that includes PFOS of knowing the environmental and health risks since at least the early 1970s.

By 1987, the military knew the risks of the chemicals and that drinking water wells had been polluted, according to the suit.

Newburgh is asking a court to order the cleanup of Washington Lake's watershed, which encompasses the airport and air base; pay for clean water until the cleanup is complete; compensate the city for its costs; and require the defendants to pay damages.

"The City is asking the court to hear and respond to our citizens' exposure to toxic contaminants," Mayor Torrance Harvey said. "We are standing up for our citizens' rights to clean and healthy water, and demanding damages so we can provide our citizens rebates for the contaminated water they received."

Neither Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office nor the DOT and the New York National Guard have responded to requests for comment. A representative for the Port Authority said the agency does not comment on pending lawsuits.

The lawsuit is rooted in an environmental and health crisis that began in May 2016, when Newburgh announced it would stop drawing drinking water from Washington Lake due to high levels of PFOS.

Associated with ailments like kidney and testicular cancers, ulcerative colitis and high cholesterol, PFOS belongs to a class of chemicals known as polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. It is not only used in firefighting foams at airports and military bases, but also in oil-, stain- and water-resistant clothing and other products.

Amid growing concerns about PFAS, Washington Lake was tested in 2014 as part of a nationwide program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Results showed PFOS levels more than twice the 70 parts-per-trillion advisory limit for drinking water set by the EPA, as well as the presence of other PFAS. Testing of surface water samples from the lake in March 2016 showed PFOS levels as high as 243 ppt.

Investigators with the state Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health eventually pinned the contamination on accidental discharges and the testing of firefighting foams at the air base.

Wastewater from the base is discharged into Recreation Pond. The pond flows into a tributary of Silver Stream, whose waters Newburgh diverts to Washington Lake. Among the highest PFOS results at the base were 5,900 ppt at a Recreation Pond outfall and 6,990 ppt at a catch basin.

In August 2016 the state designated Stewart Air Base to its Superfund list of contaminated properties and began fighting the Department of Defense over cleanup and continued discharges into Silver Stream.

High levels of PFOS were also found at Stewart International Airport, including a runway area where firefighting foams were used to extinguish a fire that erupted on a FedEx airplane in 1996. Surface soil samples taken at the airport in June 2016 were as high as 1,840,000 ppt.

The airport has been declared a potential Superfund site.

<http://www.recordonline.com/news/20180807/newburgh-sues-feds-state-manufacturers-over-toxic-water>

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Newburgh sues state, feds over PFOS water contamination

Spectrum News, August 7, 2018:

The city of Newburgh is making a major move against the government in its fight to clean up the potentially cancer-causing chemical PFOS in its water supply.

The city has filed a lawsuit against the Air Force, New York state and the operators of Stewart Air National Guard Base.

They claim all have a responsibility to clean up the contaminated Washington Lake.

The Department of Defense determined that the carcinogenic chemical PFOS had leaked into the city's Washington Lake Reservoir on the New Windsor-town of Newburgh line.

Washington Lake supplied water for more than 27,000 people, but since the discovery, the city has shut off its water supply from the lake and has been getting water from the Catskill Aqueduct and has been pressuring the government to pay for the cleanup.

<http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/udson-valley/news/2018/08/07/newburgh-lawsuit-state-feds-pfos-water-contamination-cleanup>

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City Of Newburgh Sues Over PFOS Water Contamination

WAMC, August 7, 2018 :

Newburgh officials are suing a number of parties concerning PFOS contamination found in the city's water supply - Washington Lake - more than two years ago. The city wants to be reimbursed for costs associated with the contamination, and it wants the contamination cleaned up.

The lawsuit filed Monday follows a notice of intent to sue from February.

The suit seeks to stop PFOS contamination of the city's water supply, as well as other chemicals under the same PFAS umbrella. New York state has already determined that PFOS originated at Stewart Air National Guard Base and Stewart International Airport, and has found some of the highest concentrations of PFOS from outfalls at the base. Newburgh Mayor Torrance Harvey:

"We want to hold people accountable for what has happened to the city residents of Newburgh," says Harvey. "We want to make sure that punitive damages are paid out."

The city is suing the U.S. Air Force, The Port Authority of New York & Jersey, which operates New York Stewart International Airport, New York state and manufacturers of firefighting foam. In August 2016, the state designated Stewart Air National Guard base a Superfund site, after finding the source of PFOS contamination in Washington Lake was the historic use of firefighting foam at the base. Harvey says the suit also seeks compensation for water bills.

"When our water was contaminated, it's been contaminated for a number of years, and people paid for bad water in the city of Newburgh. So there has to be some sort of compensation for that," Harvey says. "We want to set up a water rebate fund through our state and federal government."

The city is asking the court to find the defendants liable for the extensive contamination and require the cleanup of the city watershed, among other actions. Spokespeople for the U.S. Air Force and The Port Authority declined to comment on pending litigation. A spokesperson for

New York state did not respond in time for this broadcast. Tamsin Hollo is with the Newburgh Clean Water Project.

"We're glad to see the City of Newburgh fighting for its residents but, at the same time, we're urging the city, the county, state and federal agencies to participate in a highly transparent process to protect our water which would address the entire class of PFAS chemicals, not just PFOS, and would prevent all contaminants entering our watershed, including new developments proposed by the Town of Newburgh, which would directly affect the quality of our water supply," says Hollo.

Meantime, a state-funded \$25 million filtration system for the city has been constructed but is not online. In July, state Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said testing protocols were being worked out and was confident the system would protect city residents. Hollo and others have voiced concern about the ability of the system to catch PFAS chemicals beyond PFOS. The city continues to draw water from the Catskill Aqueduct, but, says Harvey, this source is about to be unavailable for 10 weeks beginning October 2.

"We're going to be drawing down from Brown's Pond for the 10 weeks starting in October when the Catskill Aqueduct is offline for its repair," says Harvey. "And I'm being told we have enough water to hold us through that time period."

Newburgh City Manager Michael Ciaravino says that's unless the Town of New Windsor also uses Brown's Pond during the 10-week shutdown period. Ciaravino says the city will not use Washington Lake water during the shutdown of the Catskill Aqueduct because of the ongoing contamination of the watershed, inadequate treatment, and lack of standards. He says the city has been forced to use taxpayer dollars to engineer solutions to ensure it has an adequate supply of clean water from its secondary water supply, Brown's Pond.

In June, New York state sued six manufacturers of hazardous firefighting foam that contained PFOA and/or PFOS. The lawsuit alleges that the foams used at military and civilian airports caused widespread contamination, as in the case of Newburgh.

<http://www.wamc.org/post/city-newburgh-sues-over-pfos-water-contamination>

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City of Newburgh files lawsuit over contaminated water

Mid-Hudson News, August 7, 2018 :

NEWBURGH - The City of Newburgh has filed a federal lawsuit over its contaminated water supply.

The suit, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of New York on Monday, against 23 defendants that have manufactured and sold PFAS, or owned and/or operated the Stewart Airport Air National Guard Base and the airport to clean up the contamination in the city watershed and pay for the city's continued supply of clean water until the cleanup is completed.

The city wants those responsible for the contamination by the chemical once used in firefighting foam at the Air Guard Base, to clean up the watershed.

The city also wants the defendants to provide residents with clean water until the contamination is abated, assist in the development of a comprehensive watershed management program, reimburse the city for costs that it has incurred from the contamination, and pay the city so it can provide city water users rebates for contaminated water they purchased.

The rebate issue has been pushed by Mayor Torrance Harvey for several months.

"I have been saying on the record that it was not just enough for parties that were responsible for contamination by PFOS in our water source and watershed, it is also significant for us to address the human element and the damage it has done to human beings," Harvey said.

Newburgh is also asking the court to award it punitive damages against the manufacturers.

Over two years ago, the city shut down its main water source, Washington Lake, and has been drawing water from the Catskill Aqueduct with the state picking up the tag.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has installed a granulated activated carbon filtration system for future treatment of Washington Lake water. But, testing by the state on Washington Lake using a similar carbon filtration system revealed the carbon was less effective for short-chained PFAS.

The state has committed to filtering PFAS to "non-detect" levels, but documents to the city do not yet reflect that commitment.

The Catskill Aqueduct will be shut down for repairs for 10 weeks beginning on October 2, but City Manager Michael Ciaravino said Newburgh will not use Washington Lake during that period "because of the ongoing contamination of the drinking watershed, inadequate treatment, and lack of standards."

Instead, he said the city would use its backup water supply, Brown's Pond, which has been determined to be safe to drink, but he warned that could run short if the Town of New Windsor also uses Brown's Pond during the shutdown period."

Among those entities being sued are the US Air Force, State of New York, airport operators and manufacturers of the PFAS products.

http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2018/August/08/Nbrg_water_contam_suit-08Aug18.html

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Newburgh Files Major Lawsuit Over Polluted Water Supply

Hudson Valley Post, August 7, 2018 :

The City of Newburgh has had enough, they've filed a major lawsuit alleging the federal government is responsible for polluting the cities main water supply. Washington Lake has been closed for more than two years after the discovery of a dangerous chemical that is associated with a number of health risks.

"The City is asking the court to hear and respond to our citizens' exposure to toxic contaminants." City of Newburgh Mayor Torrance Harvey said in a press release. "We are standing up for our citizen's rights to clean and healthy water, and demanding damages so we can provide our citizens rebates for the contaminated water they received."

The City of Newburgh wants 23 defendants that manufactured and sold PFAS, or owned and/or operated the ANG Base and Airport to clean up the PFAS contamination in the Newburgh and pay for the city's continued supply of clean water until the cleanup is completed.

The lawsuit alleges that the defendants' manufacture, sale and use of aqueous film forming foam ("AFFF") containing PFAS resulted in widespread contamination of Washington Lake, the city's primary water supply for more than 27,000 consumers, and the watershed for the city's drinking water supply reservoirs. PFAS are extremely mobile and persistent in the environment and may cause human health risks, officials say.

What are your thoughts on the matter, is the government responsible for cleaning up this mess?

<http://hudsonvalleypost.com/newburgh-files-major-lawsuit-over-polluted-water-supply/>

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Newburgh files lawsuit over contaminated water supply

Daily Freeman, August 7, 2018 :

NEWBURGH, N.Y. >> The city of Newburgh has filed a federal lawsuit over its contaminated water supply.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York on Monday. Among those listed as defendants are owners and/or operators of Stewart Air National Guard Base and New York Stewart International Airport, and manufacturers and sellers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which were once used in firefighting foam used at the base. New York state and the U.S. Air Force are also listed as defendants.

The suit seeks to force the defendants to clean up the contamination in the city watershed and pay for the city's continued supply of clean water until the cleanup is completed. In addition, the city wants the defendants to assist development of a comprehensive watershed management program, reimburse the city for costs it has incurred from the contamination and pay the city so it can provide city water users rebates for contaminated water they purchased.

The rebate issue has been pushed by Mayor Torrance Harvey for several months. Newburgh is also asking the court to award it punitive damages against the manufacturers.

Over two years ago, the city shut down its main water source, Washington Lake, and has been drawing water from the Catskill Aqueduct, with the state picking up the tab. In August 2016, the state Department of Environmental Conservation declared Stewart Air National Guard Base a state Superfund site, after finding the U.S. Department of Defense "potentially responsible" for contaminating the city of Newburgh's water supply.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has installed a granulated, activated carbon filtration system for future treatment of Washington Lake water. But testing by the state on Washington Lake using a similar carbon filtration system revealed the carbon was less-effective for short-chained PFAS.

The state has committed to filtering PFAS to "non-detect" levels, but documents to the city do not yet reflect that commitment.

The Catskill Aqueduct will be shut down for repairs for 10 weeks beginning on Oct. 2, but City Manager Michael Ciaravino said Newburgh will not use Washington Lake during that period "because of the ongoing contamination of the drinking watershed, inadequate treatment and lack of standards.

Instead, he said, the city would use its backup water supply, Brown's Pond, which has been determined to be safe to drink. He warned, however, that supply could run short if the town of New Windsor also uses Brown's Pond during the shutdown period."

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/article/DF/20180807/NEWS/180809792>

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Veterans

Mrs. New York coming to National Night Out

The Daily Gazette, August 6, 2018 :

Life's become pretty busy for Patti Gomez-Michalkow since she won the Mrs. New York State competition back in March.

A New York City native and Syracuse resident, Gomez-Michalkow will make a public appearance in Schenectady's Central Park Tuesday for National Night Out, an event put together locally by the Schenectady Neighborhood Watch.

The event starts at 4 p.m. and will conclude at 7 p.m. with a walk through the Central Park Neighborhood.

"Some of the people who first approached me about the Mrs. New York State contest were police officers, so I had heard of this event before," said Gomez-Michalkow, referring to National Night Out. "It's been so busy since I won; I've had a lot of different things to do. But I got familiar with the program, and I'm very excited to be a part of something like this. I'll be doing a little talking, meeting and greeting, that sort of thing."

The police officers who told Gomez-Michalkow about the National Night Out event were also members of the U.S. National Guard, as was Gomez-Michalkow until earlier this year when her two-year stint was up. During that time, she got very familiar with the Schenectady area, having spent plenty of time at the Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville.

"I used to drill out of Glenville with the 42nd Infantry, so I know the area pretty well," she said. "I'm looking forward to going back there and maybe seeing some people I know. There are a lot of public appearances you do as Mrs. New York State, and my profession is public relations and marketing. So I'll be doing a lot of smiling."

Gomez-Michalkow will be just one of the attractions at Schenectady's National Night Out. Organizer Frederic Lee, president of the Schenectady Neighborhood Watch, said the local event won a state-wide contest last year.

"We wanted to do something different and not just have another block party," said Lee, who has been with the board of Schenectady's Neighborhood Watch for 15 years. "It's a great opportunity for police officers and firefighters to interact with the community in a very good way. A friendly way. A few years ago, we also looked at what other communities were doing with their National Night Out, and we decided we wanted to do more to help out individuals who are dealing with the challenges of urban living."

Along with a strong presence from Schenectady Police and the Schenectady Fire Department, National Night Out will include representatives from groups such as Friends of Recovery, 518 Boys Day Out, 518 Girls Day Out, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the AT&T "It Can Wait" program, among others.

The Empire State Aerospace Museum will also have a small airplane on display. Free pizza, hot dogs and ice cream will also be available.

"National Night Out" is an organization created in 1984, "designed to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie," according to the group's mission statement. Schenectady Neighborhood Watch is affiliated with the National Association of Town Watch, which also oversees "National Night Out."

Schenectady's Neighborhood Watch program began in 1980 as an arm of the police department.

"It's always been a great event, but there were times that 'National Night Out' kind of evolved into just another opportunity for people to party, and then there would be criminals who would take advantage of the block parties," said Lee. "That's why it's important for us to ratchet things up a bit each year. We have a lot of great groups that will be there with tables set up offering their help, and Mrs. New York State is going to be a wonderful addition."

Gomez-Michalkow went to the Calhoun School on the Upper West Side in New York City and then majored in film, media and communications at Middlebury, Vermont. Now 29, Gomez-Michalkov's win in the state competition qualified her for the Mrs. USA Pageant in LaQuinta, California, on Aug. 25.

"I'd really like to win because that would raise my platform to the national stage," said Gomez-Michalkow, an avid supporter and fundraiser for the non-profit group, "Home For Our Troops," which helps disabled veterans build custom-made homes. "I'm trying to raise awareness for these post 9/11 veterans who are helped by this organization that makes their home completely accessible. It's a pretty remarkable organization."

<https://dailygazette.com/article/2018/08/05/mrs-new-york-coming-to-national-night-out>

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World War I

National Guard chief honors World War I battle anniversary

Army.mil, August 8, 2018 :

OISE-AISNE AMERICAN CEMETERY, France -- Thousands of headstones silently testify to the American sacrifice at the Second Battle of the Marne 100 years ago -- a sacrifice the chief of the National Guard Bureau honored recently.

Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel was the senior U.S. military attendee at the World War I Centennial Commemoration at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery on July 28, joined by Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner, the senior enlisted advisor to the chief. More than a dozen adjutants general from states that contributed to the American Expeditionary Forces

also honored the memory of service members who fought and died in "the war to end all wars."

"We are gathered here to remember the service of Americans who gave 'the last full measure of devotion' to their country," Lengyel said, quoting Lincoln, "and to find meaning in their service through this remembrance."

Remembrance is important in order to sustain an understanding of our obligations in a free society, Lengyel said.

The National Guard comprised 18 of the 43 divisions the United States sent to France in World War I -- about 40 percent of the American Expeditionary Force. More than 103,000 Guardsmen were killed or wounded, 43 percent of all American casualties.

By August 1918, the Second Battle of the Marne left Germany on the defensive, hastening the end of a war that had dragged on for four years, decimating a generation.

"We remember the battles that raged here in the fields, the forests, and the towns," Lengyel said. "We also remember the sacrifice made in the cause of freedom -- because the United States honors her war dead."

Lengyel also took part in other commemorations during his visit. Throughout, he emphasized France's importance as the United States' oldest ally, and he praised France's contributions to NATO.

France represents a core part of the National Guard's history: The force owes the French Garde Nationale its name, first approved for a New York State militia unit in 1825 to honor the Marquis de Lafayette, the former Garde Nationale commander lionized for his contributions to the American Revolution.

As Lengyel visited a World War I commemorative festival in Fere-en-Tardenois, residents lined the streets waving French and American flags. "These events build upon and strengthen our relationships with our allies and partners," Lengyel said.

The town's commemorations included a display of tents, equipment carried by infantrymen, entrenching techniques, and vehicles typical of the era. World War I remains vivid in France.

The war was fought in part on the streets of rural French towns, where the pockmarked walls of houses and public buildings evidence the sustained violence of the Great War.

Descendants of those who endured the fighting, evacuations, death and injury keep their ancestors' memories alive. Many French families can name members who fought and died. They know where they lie, and they bear this legacy with an enduring mixture of pride and a sense of epic tragedy. They also sustain a sincere gratitude for the role the United States played in hastening the war's end.

At Croix Rouge Farm, Lengyel left a wreath honoring the 42nd "Rainbow" Division. A towering bronze memorial rises from French countryside virtually unchanged in a century. A bronze soldier carries the limp body of a fallen comrade across the cornfields.

The Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery, where Lengyel also laid a wreath, bears tribute to American pilots who volunteered to fly for the French before the United States had even joined the war. It is a memorial to those killed -- and also a symbol of American fighting spirit.

Innovation may be a present day buzzword with high visibility because it's a Defense Department and National Guard priority, but Americans have been innovating throughout the country's history -- like the Lafayette Escadrille Airmen of a century ago.

When they first came to France, there was no Air Force, no aerial combat, and no history of a role for the new technology of flight in war. By war's end, many aerial tactics had been established, pilots were an increasingly important contributor to combat and air power was ascending. By war's end, four National Guard aviators were aerial combat aces and one was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The general also visited the Chateau-Thierry American Memorial, Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau Wood, and the Pennsylvania Memorial Bridge in Fismes dedicated to the 28th Infantry Division.

Both Lengyel and Kepner had moments where the enormity of World War I became especially vivid.

For the general, it was the sheer number of American graves, and he found himself walking the lines of 2,289 headstones at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery alone, consumed in thought, stopping to read names, ranks and states, and to reflect on a generation willing to die for allies' freedom, a generation scarred by brutality previously unimagined, a generation many of whose dreams ended in burial in a foreign field, with thousands more missing in action.

"General Pershing, the AEF commander, said 'time will not dim the glory of their deeds,'" Lengyel said. "We won't let it; we will never forget."

For the command sergeant major, most of whose career was spent serving in the 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania National Guard, it was standing on the 1926 Memorial Bridge in the small town of Fismes, a bridge honoring men who came from his home state and fought the Battle of Fismes in these narrow streets.

They had come to the aid of an ally; they found themselves in a special, bloody hell where the fighting was house-to-house, where gains were measured in feet and inches, where the wounded sometimes lay untended, covered in dust, and where the ferocity of battle delayed the burial of the dead for days: thousands of American Soldiers were wounded or killed here.

Lengyel was in France to represent the United States at World War I centenary commemorations on behalf of the Army and the National Guard in his capacities as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as the chief of the National Guard Bureau. The ceremonies he attended were part of a series commemorating the final year of the war. Active duty and Reserve leaders are taking the lead at other ceremonies, representing the Total Army's contributions to ending the conflict.

The American Battle Monuments Commission and the Army's Center for Military History were among U.S. organizations leading the commemorative ceremonies. The Commission administers, operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 memorials, monuments or markers in 16 countries.

https://www.army.mil/article/209561/national_guard_chief_honors_world_war_i_battle_anniversary

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NY Army National Guard Soldiers Touring WWI Battlefields

Associated Press, August 3, 2018 :

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) - A group of soldiers from a Syracuse-based New York Army National Guard unit are in Europe to commemorate the U.S. military's role in World War I.

National Guard officials say 10 soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will participate in a memorial event Wednesday at the Somme American Cemetery in Bony, France.

The soldiers will tour battlefields in France and neighboring Belgium before visiting the site of the 27th Division's offensive German defenses in late September 1918. The division was made up of New York National Guard regiments called up for federal duty in the summer of 1917.

Other groups from New York have recently toured or are currently touring WWI battlefields to commemorate the centennial of America fighting in WWI, including a contingent from the National Guard's Troy-based 42nd Infantry Division.

<http://wibx950.com/ny-army-national-guard-soldiers-touring-wwi-battlefields/>

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