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Times Union, August 5, 2017

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[New York Army National Guard leader to get promotion: He has led 10,300-strong force since June 2016:](#)
The Daily Gazette, August 9, 2017

New York Guard

[New York Guard To Celebrate 100 Years In Camp Smith Ceremony Wednesday: The Guard took over patrolling the state, first done by the National Guard after German spies blew up a New Jersey ammo depot in 1916.:](#)
Peekskill Patch, August 8, 2017

[New York Guard conducts annual training at Camp Smith:](#)
Mid-Hudson News, August 7

105th Airlift Wing

Navy Vet to Be 1st Woman to Lead NY National Air Guard Wing

Associated Press, August 5, 2017:

A former Navy pilot is about to become the first woman to command one of the New York Air National Guard's flying wings.

State military officials say Col. Denise Donnell will take charge of the 105th Airlift Wing during a ceremony Sunday at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

Donnell has nearly 4,000 hours of flying time in different types of aircraft. She started her military career in 1993 in the Navy, piloting anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft. After joining the Air Guard in 2002, she learned to fly transport planes in Newburgh.

She lives in the Albany suburb of Clifton Park with her husband and two children.

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Navy-Vet-to-Be-1st-Woman-to-Lead-NY-National-Air-Guard-Wing-Col-Denise-Donnell--438718403.html#ixzz4p4p3Dh46>

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New commander installed at Stewart Air Guard base

Mid-Hudson News, August, 7, 2017:

STEWART AIR NG BASE - The New York Air National Guard 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart International Airport has a new commanding officer.

Colonel Denise Donnell assumed the leadership role from Col. Howard Wagner during a formal ceremony at the base where she served until now as vice commander.

She is the 105th's first female commander.

Col. Donnell said she knows the men, and women, of the 105th know their mission and that she is aware of her own, that she needs to help facilitate the wing to answer their call of duty and make sure they have the technology, training, schooling, money and opportunities to benefit themselves as both professional airmen and individuals. However, she noted her main focus will be to listen, so the ideas on how to make the wing more efficient, and better, will be utilized to their collective advantage.

"You know our people," Donnell said. "You know our mission. There is no doubt in my mind that you have hundreds of great ideas at how we can do things a little better and probably, a lot smarter. The job of every leader in this wing is to listen and to help turn these ideas into reality, and make no mistake; every single member of this wing is a leader. That's how we're going to tackle our upcoming challenges."

Donnell, who joined the 105th in 2002 and has a myriad of flying experience, including piloting the C-5, C-17 and C-130 among others, will now command the 1,300 men and women of the Airlift Wing.

Wagner described Donnell as "smart, articulate, principled and passionate about our people and our mission." He told the guardsmen and women they are in "good hands" with the new commander.

https://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2017/August/07/AirNG_Donnell_CoC-07Aug17.html

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Orange County woman off to Dublin for Rose of Tralee

Mid-Hudson News, August 10, 2017 :

STEWART AIRPORT - Sinead Kirnan of Walden, who was chosen as the Tri-State area representative in the Rose of Tralee competition, was given a send-off party Wednesday evening at Stewart International Airport where she flew to Dublin to compete against 64 other women in the finals.

The Rose of Tralee competition began in 1959 and is based on the song "the Rose of Tralee" which is an Irish heritage song, to the tune of a Charles William Glover composition, about a wealthy Protestant man and poor Catholic woman falling in love, but becoming separated, only for the man to find out years later his love had died.

The competition seeks out fair, independent women of Irish descent looking to make a difference in the world. Those contestants then go on to do various public events that culminate with a three-week tour of Ireland to celebrate their heritage.

Kirnan, who is a veterans' advocate and C-17 loadmaster for the New York Air National Guard at Stewart, won her spot against 18 others in April. She said this is the first time she had ever done something like this and after some persistence from her family, decided to give it a go.

"I kind of grew up watching the festival. It was more a culture, traditional, family event, so my family's been pushing me to do this for years and years, and since the last show I was eligible because of my age," she said. "So, I went for it and here I am."

Kirnan didn't go to Ireland alone. She was accompanied by her "Rose Bud," seven-year-old Madeline Doyle, who is visiting the country of her heritage for the first time. Doyle said she was excited to find out she was chosen to go with Kirnan.

"I was hoping I was getting picked with her and I didn't know if I was going to get picked, but then I got picked and I was really happy," she said.

Doyle will also have an Irish Rose Bud counterpoint joining them when they arrive in Ireland, an also seven-year-old Kate McGuillichaugh.

Kirnan and Doyle will spend the next few weeks touring Ireland. If Kirnan wins as the Rose of Tralee she will hold that title for the following year and participate in social obligations as well as be responsible for participation in international charitable and social efforts.

http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2017/August/10/RoseTralee_Kirnan-10Aug17.html

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109th Airlift Wing

Air National Guard honors Chuck Steiner, his advocacy: Conference room called a fitting tribute to longtime advocate

The Daily Gazette, August 7, 2017:

GLENVILLE - Two more honors have been conferred on late chamber of commerce leader and tireless Schenectady advocate Chuck Steiner.

The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing has named the new conference room in its headquarters building at Stratton Air National Guard Base for the longtime Capital Region Chamber president.

In addition, Maj. Gen. Anthony German, New York's adjutant general, presented Steiner's widow and son, Marcy and Matt, with the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal , which is given to those who distinguish themselves by exceptionally meritorious service in a capacity of great responsibility.

Both honors were conferred in a ceremony Friday at the base, and both were in recognition of Steiner's advocacy for the area's military personnel and the facilities they staff.

The citation for the medal reads, in part:

"Through dedication and leadership, and keen insight and perceptive discourse, Mr. Steiner greatly assisted in securing the future, viability and stability of the 109th Airlift Wing in Glenville, the Navy Operational Support Center in Glenville, the Niskayuna Army Reserve Center in Schenectady, the Navy Support Activity in Saratoga Springs, the Armed Forces Recruiting Center in Schenectady and the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa."

German said: "Chuck was as much a member of the militia as the folks who do wear the uniform, because he fought it on a different battle." He added: "It's an honor to be able to recognize him. I miss him, and think about him often. He was just such a good person."

Charles P. Steiner died in April at age 66 due to a rare brain disease. The Wisconsin native made a lasting impression on those who worked with him and a lasting impact on the Schenectady area after starting with what was then the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce in 2003.

His colleague at the Capital Region Chamber, CEO Mark Eagan, said the honors extended Friday were fitting, considering Steiner's patriotism and his efforts on behalf of servicemembers.

"I think this recognition today really speaks to the impact of his work, and how much the military valued that work," he said.

"I wanted to thank Marcy and Matt and the rest of the family for allowing Chuck to share a great deal of his time for this base," said Col. Shawn Clouthier, commander of the 109th Airlift Wing. "We never really had a large conference room in this building for our headquarters, it means a lot to this base to get this. It only seemed fitting that we name it in honor of Chuck."

About 50 people attended Friday's ceremony, including state Sen. James Tedisco, R-Glenville; Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, D-Rotterdam; and Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto, New York Air National Guard command chief.

<https://dailygazette.com/article/2017/08/07/air-national-guard-honors-chuck-steiner-and-his-advocacy>

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REVA practices wing-to-wing with Air National Guard

AirMed & Rescue Magazine, August 11, 2017 :

US-based fixed-wing medevac provider REVA Air Ambulance last week participated in Empire Strike, a two-day medical evacuation training exercise with the Air National Guard.

Taking place at Schenectady County Airport, REVA's northeast base, the crews practised wing to wing transfers, taking REVA's state-of-the-art patient simulator from the Air National Guard's C-130 personnel carrier to the service's Learjet 35A.

According to REVA, the exercise resulted from a year-long design effort by Air National Guard Captain Stephen Hallenbeck, the lead exercise planner of the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the 109th Airlift Wing in New York. Hallenbeck enthused that the co-operative exercise was a great success, and highlighted the interaction between both organisations: "It was a unique and invaluable opportunity to build real-time, real-world experiences and a more definitive plan for responding to actual natural disasters."

Usually the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron will turn over critical care patients straight to a hospital, but as REVA's safety management system manager Calvin Hargaray explains, this training will be invaluable if a mass casualty situation ever arises: "This experience allowed us to see what we may and may not do in conjunction with the military in response to a natural disaster. Overall, the whole experience promoted our growing safety culture and opened our eyes as to what to expect."

<https://www.airmedandrescue.com/story/2334>

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42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

New York aviation mechanics turn wrenches to support Northeast UH-60 fleet

Army.mil, August 7, 2017:

GROTON, Conn. - Soldiers from Bravo Company, 642 Aviation Support Battalion spent their 2017 annual training (AT) out of state, heading across Long Island Sound July 22 from their home station at Ronkonkoma to apply their maintenance skills on Army aircraft in need of repair.

The company deployed 36 Soldiers to Groton in order to provide support to the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG). The unit is one of only four facilities of its type in the Army and Army National Guard.

Its day-to-day mission is to provide intermediate aviation maintenance to 23 Army National Guard aviation support facilities and approximately 500 aircraft in the northeastern United States. The New York Soldiers took full advantage of the work load to conduct repairs on a number of Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and their components.

Since the makeup of Bravo Company contains so many diverse aviation specialties, the unit formed a symbiotic relationship with the TASMG over the past 2 weeks, said Maj. Eric Fritz, the company commander.

The unit contributed more than 789 maintenance man hours during the annual training, Fritz explained, greatly increasing the throughput of aviation work-orders at the TASMG.

"I think it was beneficial," said Spc. Michael Rivera, an aircraft electrician. "The amount of work that was given (to us) in two weeks was equivalent to multiple drills at home or Fort Indiantown Gap."

The support mission also gave the Soldiers of the 642nd an unprecedented opportunity to practice many perishable aviation maintenance skills in a short period of time, Fritz said.

Many of the maintenance skills conducted in Groton were simply not available to the Soldiers back at home station, explained Capt. Voley Martin from the company.

Groton is mostly component repair, Martin explained, the backshops which include sheet metal, engines, hydraulics, or power train and the 642nd Soldiers get to work on parts as they are pulled from the aircraft.

"The difference between working in the facility (at home station) and at the TASMG is that Soldiers only get to work on components as they break and there are some components that rarely break," Martin said. "At the TASMG they get multiple opportunities to get to work on every component, every day they are there- some of which they never see at the facility."

"Sheet metal workers got a chance to inspect the entire airframe with the paint stripped off of it, which is something we never do back at the facility," Martin said as an example of the type of work done.

"This opportunity for Soldiers to work at such a facility allowed them to gain a large quantity of hands on experience, building individual confidence while greatly increasing unit readiness," Fritz said.

The increased maintenance output provided by Bravo Company Soldiers comes at just the right time, Fritz said, with a higher tempo of aviation operations during the summer annual training season. The unit contribution "has undoubtedly heightened readiness of all supported Aviation units in the

Northeast," Fritz said. "Bravo Company looks forward to expanding their newly minted relationship with the 1109th and providing more support to the TASMG in the future."

"The training was a breath of fresh air," said Sgt. Robin Fung, an aircraft electrician. "We were able to work on different levels of maintenance that we are not use to. I hope everyone from my shop gets to experience the same next year at AT."

The unit returned to its home station in Ronkonkoma August 5.

"I feel like AT gave us the opportunity spread our wings," said Avionics Technical Inspector Spc. Rafael Torres.

https://www.army.mil/article/191905/new_york_aviation_mechanics_turn_wrenches_to_support_northeast_uh_60_fleet

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42nd Infantry Division

'Rainbow Division' monument restored in Garden City

Newsday, August 10, 2017:

Veterans of the 42nd U.S. Infantry Division will return to Garden City on Saturday, 100 years after their forebears in the famous "Rainbow Division" marched through the village's Camp Mills for the first time during World War I.

Ahead of the centennial celebration, the village has restored its Rainbow Monument at Saint James Street South and Clinton Road, which includes inscriptions listing the National Guard regiments from 26 states and the District of Columbia that made up the 27,000-man division.

The division earned its nickname when Douglas MacArthur, who then served as its chief of staff, remarked that its troops hailed from hometowns that stretched across the country "like a rainbow."

The first soldiers began arriving at Camp Mills, a new tent camp that covered roughly a square mile over the southeastern corner of Garden City and part of Hempstead Village, in mid-August 1917, according to Paul Fanning, a retired New York National Guard lieutenant colonel and the memorials officer for the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation.

"The nation's first, quote-unquote, All-American division" came together then for the first time, said Fanning, who will preside over Saturday's ceremony.

The soldiers - wearing rainbow patches originally sewn by Hempstead seamstresses - would pass through Camp Albert L. Mills, named for a New York native and Medal of Honor winner during the Spanish-American War, for training, and go on to fight in France.

Nearly 3,000 of them were killed in action and more than 13,000 were wounded during World War I, according to the Garden City monument's inscription.

When the war ended in 1918, "many troops came back through Camp Mills to be discharged," local historian and Vietnam veteran Cyril Smith said.

In all, more than 200,000 troops passed through Camp Mills, Smith said -including poet Joyce Kilmer and writer F. Scott Fitzgerald, who mentioned the camp in his 1922 book, "The Beautiful and Damned."

The camp closed in 1919 and the monument was erected in 1941, Garden City Village historian Bill Bellmer said. The 42nd U.S. Infantry Division is now part of the New York Army National Guard based in Troy.

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/nassau/rainbow-division-monument-restored-in-garden-city-1.13959656>

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NY Army National Guard's 42nd Division marks centennial

Associated Press, August 5, 1917:

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - A New York Army National Guard unit that traces its lineage to the U.S. entry into the First World War is marking a century as a fighting force.

The 42nd Infantry Division was officially formed on Aug. 5, 1917, as the United States ramped up its small regular Army with units from state-run National Guard organizations. The division's first soldiers started reporting for duty two weeks later at Camp Mills outside Garden City on Long Island.

New York and more than two dozen other states contributed troops to the 42nd, which was dubbed the Rainbow Division after then-Maj. Douglas MacArthur said the unit would stretch across the nation "like a rainbow."

Part of the New York Army National Guard since 1947, the Rainbow Division is based in Troy.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/aug/7/ny-army-national-guards-42nd-division-marks-centen/>

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Army Times, August 7, 2017:

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<http://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2017/08/08/ny-army-national-guards-42nd-division-marks-centennial/>

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'Rainbow' marks 100 years: Unit incorporated members from across the U.S

Times Union, August 7, 2017 :

Division of Military and Naval Affairs is reminding residents about the key dates affecting New Yorkers. Here's some information they provided about the "Rainbow Division" anniversary:

The 42nd Infantry Division, a part of the New York National Guard since 1947, was born Aug. 5, 1917 as a way to get 27,000 troops to France quickly during World War I.

President Woodrow Wilson mobilized the National Guard, with 122,000 members 100 years ago July 12, but getting the troops into fighting shape would take time. The New York and Pennsylvania National Guards had division-sized units, and New York's soldiers had just served on the Mexican border, so the units could deploy relatively quickly.

But the War Department worried that if one of the state divisions went to France first it would look like favoritism. So Maj. Douglas MacArthur suggested taking Guard units from across the country and combining them into one division. In describing the division, first to his superiors and then later to newspaper reporters, MacArthur said the division would stretch across the United States "like a rainbow."

So the division, still without a number, quickly became known as "The Rainbow Division." The units were told to report to Camp Mills just outside Garden City, Long Island on Aug. 20.

The New York National Guard contributed its famous 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the "Fighting 69th" from its service in the Civil War and soldiers came from other New York Guard regiments to bring the 69th up to wartime strength.

When the commander of the 15th New York Infantry, an African-American regiment in a segregated Army, asked to join units in a farewell parade in New York City, he was told no. The commander was reportedly told that black was not a color of the rainbow.

In 1943 the division was reactivated to fight in World War II and liberated the Dachau concentration camp in the spring of 1945.

Since 1947, the division has been part of the New York National Guard, serving as part of the Army's strategic reserve during the Cold War, responding to state emergencies, and deploying Soldiers to Iraq in 2004 and 2005.

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Rainbow-marks-100-years-11740791.php>

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NY Army National Guard's 42nd Division marks centennial

Military Times, August 7, 2017 :

ALBANY, N.Y. - A New York Army National Guard unit that traces its lineage to the U.S. entry into the First World War is marking a century as a fighting force.

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<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2017/08/08/ny-army-national-guards-42nd-division-marks-centennial/>

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Citizens Preparedness

Due to Popular Demand, Disaster Preparedness Training Course Added for a Third Day :Training Takes Place on New Americans' Day and Senior Citizens' Days at the Fair, August 25, 28 and 29

**New York State Fair, August 08, 2017:
Aug 11, 2017**

The New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps Training, a free disaster preparedness course, will return to the 2017 Great New York State Fair, Acting Fair Director Troy Waffner announced today. The training sessions teach attendees how to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and manmade disasters and emergencies. A free backpack of resources will also be provided to participants. Registration for the training sessions are now underway online on the New York State Prepare website at

<https://prepare.ny.gov/training-events>.

Training will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, August 25, Monday, August 28, and Tuesday, August 29 in the Empire Room Restaurant on the Fairgrounds. The Monday and Tuesday trainings coincide with the Fair's Senior Citizens' Days, when senior citizens sixty years of age and older are offered free admission with ID showing their date of birth. Friday's training session has been added because of the strong demand at last year's Fair.

"We're pleased to be able to partner with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to make this essential training available to even more fairgoers this year," said Waffner. "Everyone should know what to do in the event of an emergency. This is very valuable training and time well spent. We encourage visitors to attend one of the three sessions."

The training kicks off National Preparedness Month, a nationwide campaign conducted annually each September to increase public awareness about emergencies with a focus on actions that can be taken before disaster strikes. This year's National Preparedness Month will focus on planning, with an overarching theme, "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can." Every week in September will focus on a different type of disaster - flood, wildfire, hurricane, and power outages.

The Citizen Preparedness Corps training curriculum was developed by experts from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Offices of Emergency Management (OEM) and Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) and is led by instructors from the New York National Guard. All training sessions are conducted in coordination with local county emergency management personnel and provide an introduction to natural or man-made disaster response.

Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. A key component of this training is the distribution of free New York State Disaster Preparedness Kits to all participants (one per family) containing key items to assist individuals in the immediate

aftermath of a disaster. The state training and kits will help New Yorkers be the most-trained and best-prepared citizens in the country.

DHSES Commissioner Roger L. Parrino, Sr. said, "Taking responsibility for preparing for a disaster is essential for individuals, businesses and communities because sometimes it may take hours and even days for help to arrive. The Citizen Preparedness Corps training is an important step to learn what to do before disaster strikes."

Division of Military and Naval Affairs General Anthony German, Adjutant General of New York, said, "Our Soldiers and Airmen are looking forward to sharing the Governor's message on the importance of emergency preparedness.

The information they have to share can be critical when preparing for, dealing with, and recovering from an emergency."

Office for the Aging Acting Director Greg Olsen said, "One of the most important steps we can take to protect people is to provide them with the necessary information, resources, and tools before an emergency or disaster occurs. Citizen Preparedness Corps Training is the perfect prescription to meet that goal-it teaches residents how to assemble an emergency preparedness kit; how to create a household evacuation plan, which includes pets; and how to stay informed about your community's risk and response plans. Our experiences in New York have shown us that planning can no longer be an afterthought; it must be at the forefront for all of us."

Senior group buses and vans are welcome at the Fair on Senior Citizens' days, which attracted 160,000 people last year. There is a reception area for senior group bus and van parking, which requires a special parking permit. Please contact the Art and Home Center office at 315-487-7711 ext.

1265 to pre-register for this permit. Fairgoers can use the Fair's internal tram network, with the service running from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Some trams are handicapped-accessible. These trams travel around the perimeter road, stopping at 11 scheduled stops. All trams may be ridden free of charge thanks to a sponsorship from Chevrolet.

The New York State Fair, operated by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, runs from August 23 to September 4, 2017. The Fair's mission, reflected in its theme, "FIND YOUR GREAT," is to showcase the best of New York agriculture while providing top-quality entertainment.

The home of the Great New York State Fair is a 375-acre exhibit and entertainment complex that operates all year. A year-round schedule of events is available on the Fair's website. Find The Great New York State

Fair on Facebook, follow @NYSFair on Twitter, on Snapchat at nysfair and enjoy photos from the Fair at Flickr.com/photos/nysfair. Also, New Yorkers are invited to send their ideas for the Great New York State Fair at statefairideas@agriculture.ny.gov.

About the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services DHSES and its four offices - Counter Terrorism, Emergency Management, Fire Prevention and Control, and Interoperable and Emergency Communications - provide leadership, coordination and support for efforts to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorism and other man-made and natural disasters, threats, fires and other emergencies. For more information, visit the DHSES Facebook page, follow @NYSDHSES on Twitter, or visit dhses.ny.gov.

<https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AD/release.asp?ReleaseID=3567>

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New York Air National Guard

Guard Bureau vice chief touts force, emphasizes 'Always Ready, Always There'

Army.mil, August 9, 2017:

ARLINGTON, Va. -- For Army Lt. Gen. Dan Hokanson, the unpredictable environment we live in today means Guard members need to embrace their motto "Always Ready, Always There" now more than ever.

"As an operational reserve and integral part of the Total Force," said Hokanson, the vice chief of the National Guard Bureau, "we need to take every opportunity to increase our readiness."

"As professional Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians, we must uphold the Army and Air Force standards and values, and leverage our Citizen-Soldier and Airmen roots.always," added Hokanson, who was confirmed as vice chief by the U.S. Senate in September.

Hokanson recently returned from Kuwait, where he attended the transfer of authority between the 29th and 35th Infantry Divisions, and visited numerous National Guard units. The units conveyed to him their pride in having the opportunity to support operations throughout the region, and briefed him on their mission, accomplishments, and goals for their deployment.

"They're not just supporting the warfight, they are in the warfight --completely focused on their mission," said Hokanson, adding that he returned from the visit energized. "Everything we are doing here [at the National Guard Bureau] is to support them and their ability to perform their mission overseas."

Before visiting Kuwait, Hokanson also had the opportunity to visit Antarctica, where the Guard supports the National Science Foundation's research programs. He praised the work of

the New York Air Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, the only unit in the DOD that flies the LC-130 Hercules transport aircraft equipped with skis.

"When you look at the importance of the science and research taking place in Antarctica, the Guard plays a critical role in helping facilitate the accomplishment of the National Science Foundation's mission," he said.

Hokanson also highlighted the State Partnership Program (SPP), a National Guard-managed, Department of Defense initiative that pairs Guard states with foreign nations in an effort to bolster global security through long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

"The program creates enduring partnerships, provides opportunities to train and conduct subject matter expert exchanges, and increases partner capabilities while we learn from them as well," Hokanson said.

The National Guard's 79 state partnerships, he added, also provide great value to combatant commanders by supporting their theater security cooperation goals.

While the SPP serves its purpose at the international level, Hokanson also noted Guard members continue to build enduring partnerships in their communities and states every day.

"As Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen," he said, "Guard members should continue to be active members of their communities, maintain the high standards we expect of our organizations, and inspire others to join the incredible National Guard team."

This also pertains to leveraging the innovative spirit our service men and women bring to the National Guard from their civilian jobs and experiences, he added.

He highlighted an example of how a deployed Army National Guard enlisted member, whose civilian employer was a delivery services company, observed issues with a convoy route system and made recommendations based on his civilian experience and expertise.

"His input streamlined operations," Hokanson said, "helping improve our convoy route system."

The National Guard's state and federal missions, and the unique requirements to support them, are reasons why the chief of the National Guard Bureau is working hard for NGB representation on the Joint

Requirements Oversight Council, or JROC. Members of this body, which is comprised of the Vice Chiefs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, review DOD acquisitions that support the war effort.

"Our military equipment, much of which is fielded in the National Guard, often has dual-use capabilities that can be used in our communities and states when responding to natural or man-made disasters," Hokanson said. The ability to represent the non-federalized National

Guard on the JROC, and advocate for how our equipment is often leveraged in the homeland, he added, would be a great benefit to the Total Force.

The service the National Guard provides to our communities, states and nation does not rely solely on our military assets and resources, however, noted Hokanson.

"Our greatest resource is our people. We have to take care of our service members and their families, and identify and develop our future leaders," he said. "Serving our states and nation is an incredible honor and an experience all National Guard members should be proud of."

Looking ahead, the vice chief challenges every member of the National Guard to focus on their individual and unit readiness, so when the call comes, "we will be 'Always Ready, Always There.'"

https://www.army.mil/article/192045/guard_bureau_vice_chief_touts_force_emphasizes_always_ready_always_there

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New York Army National Guard

Army shuts down Democrats' plan to change streets named after Confederate generals

The Rightly Report, August 11, 2017:

Demands by New York Democrats to rename streets that bear the names of famous Confederate generals were denied by the U.S. Army.

General Lee Ave. and Stonewall Jackson Drive are part of Brooklyn's Fort Hamilton military installation, home to the New York Army National Guard and Reserves and the city's only active military post.

Rep. Yvette Clarke joined fellow New York Democrats Nydia Velazquez, Hakeem Jeffries and Jerrold Nadler in a letter to the Army protesting the street names, according to the New York Daily News.

"These monuments are deeply offensive to the hundreds of thousands of Brooklyn residents and members of the armed forces stationed at Fort Hamilton whose ancestors Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson fought to hold in slavery," Clarke said. "For too many years, the United States has refused to reckon with that history."

The streets were named after Robert E. Lee and Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson, who both served at Fort Hamilton in the 1840s, long before becoming leaders of the Confederate

Army in the Civil War. The men were "an inextricable part of our military history," the Army wrote in its letter rejecting the request to change the street names.

"After over a century, any effort to rename memorializations on Fort Hamilton would be controversial and divisive," Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff Diane Randon wrote in the letter Clarke received last weekend. "This is contrary to the Nation's original intent in naming these streets, which was the spirit of reconciliation."

Some local residents near the military base, however, agreed with the Democratic Congress members.

"People don't realize what's behind these signs . It's a much bigger issue than two streets and a military base," Fort Hamilton High School senior Destiny Betts told the Daily News. The 17 year-old's parents are both in the military.

"I know where the military is coming from. It doesn't make it right, but they will never admit they are wrong," Armando Cordero, a former Army soldier and National Guard officer, said. "Changing the streets' names, would be an admission they were wrong."

Previously, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and the Rev. Al Sharpton have called for the names to be changed as well and Rep. Clarke vowed that her "fight isn't over yet."

Fort Hamilton, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Army and not any city or state, is not even in Clarke's district. Rep. Dan Donovan represents the Bay Ridge, Brooklyn district that the Fort falls in. The Republican congressman did not immediately respond to a request for comment from NY-1 TV.

<https://www.rightlyreport.com/army-shuts-down-democrats-plan-to-change-streets-named-after-confederate-generals/33230>

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Honored for his service (Photo)

Trumbull Times, August 10, 2017 :

Major Alexander Prezioso of Trumbull, a member of the New York Army National Guard, was honored for his 19 years of military service at the New York Mets vs Oakland A's game at Citi Field on Saturday, July 22. Prezioso, pictured with his wife Bree Ann Prezioso, was presented a flag and a special coin by New York Met Rafael Montero. He has made military presentations at Tashua School and Frenchtown Elementary. The YouTube link can be found at NY Mets Veteran of the Game - MAJ Alexander Prezioso

<http://www.trumbulltimes.com/70644/honored-for-his-service/>

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Soldiers Promoted

Post Star, August 5, 2017:

National Guard soldiers promoted, reenlist

LATHAM - Maj. Gen. Anthony P. German, the adjutant general for the State of New York, announced the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership. Local soldiers include:

Gary Burch of Granville, assigned to the 206th Military Police Company received a promotion to the rank of private first class;

- Jason Cossey of Gansevoort, assigned to the 466th Medical Company Area Support received a promotion to the rank of major;
- Daulton Bull of Lake George, assigned to the 1427th Transportation Company received a promotion to the rank of sergeant;
- Kimberlee Fariss of Brant Lake, assigned to the Division Signal Company, 42nd Infantry Division received a promotion to the rank of specialist;
- Hunter George of South Glens Falls, assigned to the Company C, 2-108th Infantry received a promotion to the rank of private;
- Cameron Thompson of Hudson Falls, assigned to the 466th Medical Company Area Support received a promotion to the rank of private;

and Neal Whiting from Hudson Falls, assigned to the Company C, 2-108th Infantry received a promotion to the rank of private.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential. These promotions additionally recognize the best qualified soldiers and attract and retain the highest caliber citizen soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

National Guard soldiers re-enlist

LATHAM - Maj. Gen. 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. Local soldiers include:

Staff Sgt. Melanie Groff of Schuylerville has reenlisted to continue service with the Joint Force Headquarters; and Staff Sgt. Bradley Provost of Queensbury has reenlisted to continue service with the Joint Force Headquarters.

http://poststar.com/lifestyles/hometown/in-the-military/article_43373375-5f7d-57b9-b60d-ff08cbd80560.html

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Knicks Rumors: New York considering re-signing Marshall Plumlee

Fansided, August 6, 2017 :

The New York Knicks waived center Marshall Plumlee to clear space for Tim Hardaway Jr. It's now considering a decision to re-sign Plumlee.

The New York Knicks are looking for high-character players who can help create a healthier environment in the locker room. Between feuds with the former team president and the franchise player chewing out both his coach and his mentee, the need for change is evident.

As the Knicks pursue that necessary change in culture, the organization is looking to re-sign one of the most respected players from the 2016-17 roster.

New York quietly waived center Marshall Plumlee in order to clear cap space for shooting guard Tim Hardaway Jr. The recently signed Hardaway Jr. was inked to a four-year contract worth \$71 million, and Ron Baker took up additional cap space with his two-year deal worth \$8.9 million.

According to Ian Begley of ESPN New York, the Knicks have contacted Plumlee about a potential return to The Mecca.

The Knicks are among several teams in touch with free agent big man Marshall Plumlee, per league sources.

Plumlee received limited playing time in 2016-17, but his military background and work ethic endeared him to the coaching staff.

Plumlee, 25, appeared in 21 games for New York, starting one. It was a limited sample size, but he provided an uncommon level of energy and defensive intensity for the Knicks, as well as a fearlessness as far as physicality was concerned.

Plumlee also appeared in 15 games for the G League affiliate in Westchester, where he was far more productive.

In 15 games with the Westchester Knicks, Plumlee recorded averages of 12.5 points, 9.1 rebounds, 2.9 offensive rebounds, and 1.3 blocks in 30.6 minutes per game.

Plumlee's NBA career is his focus at the moment, but it's worth noting that he's been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the New York National Guard. Thus, life after basketball projects to be even more rewarding than what transpires on the court.

For now, however, Plumlee is a free agent whom the Knicks will consider adding to an already deep rotation of bigs.

<https://dailyknicks.com/2017/08/05/knicks-rumors-new-york-considering-re-signing-marshall-plumlee/>

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Purple Hearts to be returned to veterans' families

NY Post, August 6:

A number of Purple Heart medals will be reunited with veterans or their family members at a Manhattan ceremony Monday.

Eight of the awards bestowed on veterans from World War I, World War II, the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and the war in Iraq were thought to be long gone - until they were recovered by the nonprofit organization Purple Hearts Reunited.

Two of the vets who will be honored at the ceremony in Federal Hall on Wall Street are FDNY firefighter Daniel Swift and late Air Force Lt. Brian Flavelle, from West Caldwell, NJ.

Swift, from Ladder 43 in East Harlem, was an Army National Guard medic wounded in Iraq in 2004.

Flavelle was killed during bombing raids of Romania in WWII. His family is in talks with the West Caldwell Public Library to display the medal.

<http://nypost.com/2017/08/06/purple-hearts-to-be-returned-to-veterans-families/>

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Rexford resident honored at retirement testimony

Times Union, August 5, 2017 :

New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Robert Giordano of Rexford, an Iraq War veteran, received a New York State Long and Faithful Service Award upon retirement from the National Guard after 34 years of service.

Giordano served as an anti-terrorism and force protection officer for the New York National Guard.

He joined the New York Army National Guard in 1983 and served while attending college as a Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet. In 1988 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduating from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

During his career, Giordano has served in a number of positions including mortar platoon leader, company executive officer, company commander, public affairs officer, battalion operations officer, battalion commander, and provost officer for the 42nd Infantry Division.

Giordano deployed to Tikrit, Iraq with the 42nd Infantry Division in 2005 and served as a public affairs officer. He also was part of the New York National Guard response to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and participated in numerous emergency response missions in support of state and local governments. He deployed to the Southwest Border in 2006 as part of a New York National Guard task force mobilized to increase border security and also deployed to Egypt in 2007 to participate in joint U.S.-Egyptian Bright Star exercises.

He has earned a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, and an Army Achievement Medal.

In civilian life Giordano is senior vice president of business development for Renaissance School Services.

He earned a bachelor of science degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and master of public administration from Marist College. He is also a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College.

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Rexford-resident-honored-at-retirement-testimony-11738192.php>

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Lost Medals Returned To Vets, Families On National Purple Heart Day

CBS New York, August 7, 2017:

NEW YORK (CBSNewYork) - Monday marked National Purple Heart Day - commemorating the creation of the oldest American military decoration for merit.

The Purple Heart is a military decoration awarded to those wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The medals were awarded to veterans from World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the war in Iraq.

For some people, the Purple Heart is all they have to remember a loved one.

Nick Geasland's father died during World War II.

"I was born in May. He was killed in July and he was overseas, so I was a baby. We never met," Geasland said. "And he never saw me. I never saw him."

Growing up, one of the few things Geasland had of his father's was his Purple Heart medal. But as an adult, his family moved and the medal was lost for 30 years - until his daughter got an interesting phone call from a man who returns lost and stolen medals of valor to military families.

"He basically said he found woman that had found it in a house in San Diego.

He would like to get it back to us, and it would be cleaned up, and polished up, and put in a frame and presented to us in a proper ceremony," said Geasland's daughter Nikki Greenstein.

On Monday evening, Geasland and his daughter joined members of seven other families to be reunited with lost Purple Heart medals.

The unprecedented group ceremony was hosted by the United War Veterans Council, Daughters of the American Revolution Knickerbocker Chapter, and the nonprofit organization Purple Hearts Reunited.

"For a lot of these families, that medal was the last tangible item that they have ever received of their loved ones so it became that last thing they could touch; they could feel, and to have them reunited - essentially own spiritual way - brings that veteran back to them," said Zachariah Fike, founder of Purple Hearts Reunited.

For the family of Army Private Dan Lyle Feragen, the process revealed that his Purple Heart had never been issued. It also answered a lot of painful questions about his military service and death as a prisoner of war during World War II.

"They never really knew what had happened exactly, so it's been a very emotional journey," said his nephew, Lyle Feragen.

The ceremony was held at Federal Hall, where George Washington - the founding father of the Purple Heart - was sworn in as the nation's first president.

Not all the honors were posthumous. Among those also being honored were FDNY firefighter Daniel Swift and 1st Lieutenant Brian Woolley Flavelle.

Swift was serving in Iraq as a combat medic with the New York Army National Guard in 2004 when he was injured by a roadside bomb that killed two fellow guardsmen, who were also members of the FDNY.

Flavelle, of New Jersey, was killed in a bombing raid on Romania in 1943. His medal was recently recovered in Oregon and will be returned to his nephews.

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2017/08/07/national-purple-heart-day/>

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Notable Names

**The Post, August 9, 2017:
Aug 11, 2017**

Rochester soldier joins New York Army National Guard Pvt. Samantha Harvey, of Rochester, recently completed Army basic combat training and individual training to join the New York Army National Guard.

Harvey was welcomed into the Company E, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation during a transition ceremony in Geneseo.

The ceremony marked her completion of the National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program, a preparatory training program that provides new recruits with training, lessons and skills to excel at their initial military training.

<http://www.monroecopost.com/news/20170809/notable-names>

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New York Army National Guard leader to get promotion: He has led 10,300-strong force since June 2016

The Daily Gazette, August 9, 2017:

LATHAM -- The commander of the New York Army National Guard will get a promotion Thursday.

New York Army National Guard will get a promotion Thursday. Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, a resident of West Sand Lake in Rensselaer County, will officially gain the rank of major general during an afternoon ceremony at the Latham headquarters of the New York State Division of Military & Naval Affairs.

Shields has led the 10,300-strong force since June 2016. His boost in rank was approved by both the state and U.S. Senate.

The leader of all military forces in New York state, Maj. Gen. Anthony German, said Shields is well-deserving of his second star.

"Ray has deployed numerous times in support of both our federal and state missions. He is a talented leader who will lead the New York Army National Guard to new, higher levels of success," German said.

Shields is an Afghan War veteran who started in the enlisted ranks of the 75th Field Hospital of the United States Army Reserve in Tuscaloosa,

Alabama, while attending college. He was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Marion Military Institute, in Marion, Alabama, and joined the New York Army National Guard in May 1983.

He has held roles of increasing responsibility through the years with units based in Troy, Utica, Peekskill, Morrisonville, Latham and Gloversville.

Shields was named chief of staff of the New York Army National Guard in October 2011. He served as director of joint staff, responsible for coordinating the Guard's response to state emergencies, from 2012 to 2016.

<https://dailygazette.com/article/2017/08/09/ny-army-national-guard-leader-to-get-promotion>

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New York Guard

**New York Guard To Celebrate 100 Years In Camp Smith Ceremony
Wednesday: The Guard took over patrolling the state, first done by the National
Guard after German spies blew up a New Jersey ammo depot in 1916.**

Peekskill Patch, August 8, 2017 :

CORTLANDT, NY - Members of the New York Guard, the state's volunteer state defense force, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of their organization during a morning ceremony on Wednesday at Camp Smith Training Site. Invited guests will join 250 members of the New York Guard for a ceremony during which a plaque marking the centennial of the New York Guard will be unveiled.

The plaque will be placed at Camp Smith, where the New York Guard has its headquarters. The event will also feature remarks from the Adjutant General, Major General Anthony German.

The New York Guard is the state's uniformed defense force which augments the New York Army and Air National Guard during state emergencies. New York Guard members are true volunteers. They receive no pay for routine training but are paid when placed on State Active Duty orders during an emergency.

New York Guard members - many of whom are retired members of the National Guard or active duty military with many years of experience-assist National Guard units with logistics and administrative support during emergencies and also undertake missions in the field.

The New York Guard was established on Aug. 12, 1917 during World War 1 when the New York National Guard was mobilized and began training to head for the battlefields of France.

The Guardsmen had been on duty protecting bridges, tunnels, the New York City water system and the Erie Canal from German sabotage. This was no idle threat. In 1916 German spies had blown up the Black Tom ammunition depot in New Jersey, even before America joined the war on the Allied side.

To replace the National Guard, congress authorized the creation of state militia's to replace the National Guard and New York's legislature acted.

By October 1917 there were 10,600 men serving in the New York Guard. The state created the 1st and 2nd Provisional Brigades in which New York Guard members served full-time serving on guard duty for \$1.25 a day. Men too young to be drafted or enlist in the Army served, as did men too old for Army service.

When the world-wide influenza pandemic swept the world in 1918, 32 members of the New York Guard who were serving in the Hudson Valley died of the disease.

In World War II the New York Guard was created once again and served the same mission, acting as a state military force in the absence of the National Guard Soldiers fighting in Europe and the Pacific.

In the 1950s the New York Guard was created as a full-time force and members have served ever since.

While New York Guard members wear military uniforms similar to the Army National Guard, they have no federal military obligation and do not serve outside the state.

<https://patch.com/new-york/peekskill/new-york-guard-celebrate-100-years-camp-smith-ceremony-Wednesday>

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New York Guard conducts annual training at Camp Smith

Mid-Hudson News, August 7 :

CORTLANDT MANOR - Two hundred members of the New York Guard, the state's volunteer state defense force, are conducting their week-long annual training at Camp Smith Training Site in Cortlandt Manor through 12.

The New York Guard is a force of 500 uniformed volunteers, organized as a military unit, who augment the New York National Guard during state emergencies. They provide administrative and logistics support to the National Guard. Members of the New York Guard have been involved in flood control efforts along the Lake Ontario shoreline this summer.

Unlike members of the New York National Guard, New York Guard members do not have a federal military role and do not deploy outside the state. New York Guard members usually train in a volunteer status and are only paid when they are placed on state duty during emergencies.

Many members of the New York Guard are retired members of the National Guard and Reserve forces, who bring their experience to the force. Previous military membership is not a requirement for New York Guard service.

During the week-long training session, new Guard members will go through an initial entry training program and current members will conduct primary leadership and officer training. New York Guard engineers will also be involved in construction projects at Camp Smith.

The New York Guard will celebrate its 100th anniversary this month.

http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2017/August/07/NYGuard_training-07Aug17.html

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