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We Are the Mighty, June 16, 2018

[Governors Pull National Guard Over Immigration Policy: East Coast governors from both parties are turning down requests for National Guard resources in protest of a federal policy of separating immigrant children from their families.:](#)

Associated Press ,June 19, 2018

## **PFOA Issue**

[New York sues 3M, five others over toxic chemical contamination:](#)

WSAU, Wednesday, June 20, 2018 2:08 p.m. CDT

[New York suing 6 makers of hazardous firefighting foams:](#)

Associated Press, June 20 , 2018

[NY suing firefighting foam companies for \\$38M:](#)

Newsday, June 21, 2018

[NYS To Sue Firefighting Foam Manufacturers :](#)

Patch.com, June 22, 2018

## **Ukraine Mission**

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Army.mil, June 21, 2018

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Nationalguard.mil, By Sgt. Alexander Rector | New York National Guard | June 22, 2018

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[National Guard Spouses Share Worries With Vice President's Wife:](#)  
Military.com, June 21, 2018

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## **106th Rescue Wing**

### **USGA pays tribute to the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York National Guard (Video)**

**Fox Sports, June 17, 2018 :**

Fox Sports

USGA pays tribute to the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York National Guard

(Video)

<https://www.foxsports.com/golf/usga/video/1257782339525>

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## **Home for Father's Day**

**Newsday , June 17, 2018**

Neil Theisen, a member of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Operations Group, returned to his Sound Beach home from Iraq in April.

Thiesen, 45, is especially grateful to be able to celebrate Father's Day this year with his wife, Joanne, and three children, who range in age from 6 to 11.

He's tragically aware that four airmen from the Westhampton Beach-based rescue wing will not be able to spend the holiday with family. They were among seven U.S. service members killed in a March 15 helicopter crash in Iraq.

"I know I am very fortunate to be home and to spend Father's Day with my family, especially knowing and understanding there are so many dads on Father's Day and moms on Mother's

Day who don't have that opportunity, because they are serving our country," said Theisen, who is a chief of standardization and evaluation.

On Father's Day, he is looking forward to enjoying his wife's home-cooked meal and, if weather allows, a family trip to the beach.

Theisen has been in the Air National Guard for 19 years, and has spent one Father's Day away since becoming a dad. His latest deployment in Iraq lasted 60 days.

His time in the armed forces has been a sacrifice not just for him, he said, but for his wife and children as well.

Joanne, a preschool teacher, had her students and children prepare care packages for Theisen and his entire team while he was away.

"Regardless of how many electronic means we have to talk and text, getting that care package from home, that physical package, there's nothing like that . . . physical connection to being home," Neil Theisen said. "It's just like in the movies, if everyone is getting mail, they're happy."

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/fathers-day-deployed-armed-services-1.19233073>

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## **107th Attack Wing**

### **New York airmen provide much needed repairs to school for kids with disabilities**

**LOCAL DVM.COM Jun 20, 2018 06:44 PM EDT:**

ROMNEY, W. Va. - Summer break often means taking the time to get work done that you may not have had time to do during the rest of the year.

At the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in Romney, W. Va., that work means renovating a number of their buildings. Luckily, they have an unlikely set of workers to help out.

Civil engineers with the 107th attack wing of the New York State Air National Guard traded in their helmets for hard hats to renovate several buildings on campus. They're part of the Innovative Readiness Program, an initiative by the Department of Defense to bring aid to underserved communities across the country.

The primary goal of the project is for the 107th to make buildings on campus compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Bathrooms in the primary dormitory, Keller Hall, don't have wheelchair accessible showers and the doorways aren't wide enough for ADA standards.

"A lot of these buildings are old. Some of these are over a hundred years old, actually 150 years old," said Master Sgt. Mitchell Sisco. "Some of them have been modernized several times, most of them have not been modernized in several decades."

The projects also give the airmen an opportunity to hone their skills that they normally wouldn't be able to fit into their standard training periods.

If the 107th and other members of the armed forces weren't providing the labor for free, these renovations would cost the state of West Virginia nearly \$4.5 million, says Technical Sgt. Christopher Blakowski. He added that the supplies alone cost the state close to \$1.5 million.

The 107th is just one of four units that are participating in the project. The next unit will arrive on June 24, and Sisco believes the renovations should be finished by early August.

"When we're done, when this project is complete, we've made a huge improvement to the school. We've made it easier for those who don't have really good access to have better access to the building," said Major Ryan Forrest. "And that's just awesome."

<http://www.localdvm.com/news/west-virginia/new-york-airmen-provide-much-needed-repairs-to-school-for-kids-with-disabilities/1251981237>

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## **109th Airlift Wing**

### **New York Air Guard takes on 'Kool' mission in Greenland**

Nationalguard.mil, By Staff Sgt. Benjamin German and Staff Sgt. Jamie Spaulding | New York National Guard | June 21, 2018 :

RAVEN CAMP, Greenland. – Twenty-five Airmen of the New York National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing spent three days learning to survive in the at the wing's annual "Kool School" at Raven Camp on the Greenland ice cap.

This "barren land arctic survival training," which ran June 7 to 9, provides vital life support training to Airmen who routinely operate in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Because the wing operates its LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft in the Arctic and Antarctic, wing members have to know how to survive if an aircraft is forced down.

This year, 25 Airmen participated in this unique training experience. The students were taught how to procure water, build shelter from available materials and how to properly treat/prevent cold-weather injuries.

The school is led by a team of four Survive Evade Resist Escape or "SERE" specialists, who are subject matter experts in barren land arctic survival skills.

"The 109th has a unique mission set," said Master Sgt. Mark Richard, a SERE specialist with the 66th training squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. "We spend about 48 to 72 hours out here [on the Greenland ice cap] teaching [the students] how to take care of themselves; find food, water, and shelter."

The students are tasked with building their own shelters out of ice, snow, and scavenged materials, to live in for the duration of the training.

"It's been interesting to see the different types of shelters you can build," said 2nd Lt. Phil Piambino, a Kool School student and navigator from the 109th. "You would think it's pretty barren out here, but it's surprising what you can use in the surrounding environment."

Along with conducting Kool School, the 109th Airlift Wing continued seasonal support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Greenland this month.

So far this year, the 109th has transported nearly 850,000 pounds of cargo, 175,000 pounds of fuel, and 670 passengers to research camps across Greenland.

The ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft operated by the 109th provide transportation of fuel, supplies and passengers to remote camps on the Greenland icecap throughout the summer season.

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

The Greenland season for the 109th will wind down in August, with only a brief respite before the focus shifts to Antarctica for the southern hemisphere summer.

Here the Airmen of the 109th support Operation Deep Freeze, the Antarctic science support program administered by the Department of Defense. The unique ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft they operate are the largest ski-equipped aircraft in the world and are the only such aircraft in the U.S. military.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1556783/new-york-air-guard-takes-on-kool-mission-in-greenland/>

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## *Army Birthday*

### **As the U.S. Army turns 243, NY Army National Guard dips below 10,000 soldiers**

**Spotlight News, June 20:**

The U.S. Army turned 243 on Thursday, June 14 and while there was not enough room on the cake for candles in those numbers, the New York National Guard did celebrate the milestone with a traditional cake-cutting ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, commander of the New York Army National Guard, said the guard has hundreds of soldiers stationed in countries around the world including Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, South Africa and many other countries “pivotal to our national security.”

But, he said, while a strong economy is a good thing, it does hurt recruitment and retention efforts.

“For the first time in many years we recently fell below 10,000 assigned soldiers,” he said. “We have made strength maintenance our number one priority and have devoted significant resources to that effort.”

As of June 1, The New York Army National Guard had 9,900 soldiers out of a possible full contingent of 10,186. It ended 2017 with 10,025 enlisted soldiers, according to its annual report, which is 100 below the authorized troop strength of 10,125 at that time. In 2010, there were 10,500 soldiers enlisted in the New York Army National Guard, according to the 2011 annual report.

The New York Air National Guard finished 2017 with 5,695 soldiers, below the 5,798 authorized in the state budget and below the 6,000 enlisted soldiers in 2010.

The party on Thursday, though, was a nod to the U.S. Army and in attendance at the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters at the end of Wade Road were the oldest and youngest soldiers in the New York National Guard – 58-year-old Master Sgt. John Batza of Watervliet and 24-year-old Sgt. Tyler Center from Slingerlands.

Batza swerved in the Army from 1980 to 1985 and joined the National Guard in 1991. He serves as a personnel specialist in the New York National Guard’s military personnel office at the Watervliet Arsenal.

Center, who grew up in Rotterdam, enlisted in the National Guard in 2014 and is a supply specialist assigned to New York Army National Guard headquarters.

The youngest soldier represents the future of the Army while the oldest represents continuity with the Army’s history.

“Stick around. It’s been a lot of fun,” Batza said to Center after the brief 12-minute ceremony. “It’s a lot of work but it’s been a lot of fun. We have accomplished a lot in 32 years and I just love what I do.”

“It seemed like the better route. I was working as an electrician and it wasn’t working out for me,” Center said, adding his uncle is in the military. “I always wanted to do it, so I signed the papers and here I am.”

It was on June 14, 1775, that the Second Continental Congress established an army to fight in the American Revolution, said Maj. Brendan Rowe during the ceremony. Essentially, the U.S. Army was formed a year before the creation of the country it defends.

This is year is also the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, Rowe said.

“While the Continental Army secured our freedom,” he said, “it was the Doughboys of World War I who secured our place on the world’s stage.”

That is why, he said, the theme of this year’s birthday is “Over there. A celebration of Army history from World War I to the present day.” There were more than 500,000 soldiers from New York fighting in WWI, or 12.5 percent of the total U.S. force or four million.

“The men and women who come before us from across the nation, from every walk in life, from every religious and ethnic background, are the best our nation has to offer,” he said. “And they carry on an important, hard-fought legacy, one of service and sacrifice, paid for in blood and treasure.”

To enlist in the New York National Guard an applicant must be between 17 and 35, a U.S. citizen or permanent residents, at least a junior in high school or have a high school diploma or GED, pass a written test and meet “medical, physical and moral requirements.”

The National Guard perform state and national duties such as emergency response to natural disasters and some are deployed overseas.

<https://www.spotlightnews.com/news/2018/06/20/as-the-u-s-army-turns-243-ny-army-national-guard-dips-below-10000-soldiers/>

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## **New York Army National Guard celebrates 234th birthday**

**My Twin Tiers, June 15, 2018:**

LATHAM, N.Y. (WTEN-TV) - The New York Army National Guard is turning 234 years old on Thursday.



A cake cutting ceremony was held at the State Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters in Latham.

One of the oldest soldiers joined one of the youngest to cut the cake.

They say the youngest soldier represents the future of the army while the oldest represents continuity with the army's history.

Cake cutters used a special cavalry saber to cut the cake.

<http://www.mytwintiers.com/news/local-news/new-york-army-national-guard-celebrates-234th-birthday/1240492954>

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### Border Issues

## **Massachusetts and New York Will Not Send National Guard Troops to the U.S. Mexico Border**

**Yahoo, June 18, 2018:**

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo will not deploy their state's National Guard troops to the U.S. - Mexico border, citing the Trump administration's zero tolerance policy on immigration and the resulting "inhumane treatment" of children and parents being separated.

While both states had plans in place to send troops to support immigration officers at the border, they are pulling back their offers as more information comes out about exactly how illegal crossings are being handled under Trump. The president signed an executive order in April authorizing the deployment of the National Guard to the border.

"It's cruel and inhumane and we told the National Guard to hold steady and to not go down to the border -period," Gov. Baker, who is a Republican, said on Monday to NBC 10 Boston. "We won't be supporting that initiative unless they change the policy."

Earlier in June, Gov. Baker had agreed to send a helicopter and two analysts to work in tandem with the Arizona and New Mexico National Guards, but has changed his mind as the Trump administration continues to separate migrant children from their parents at the border, according to the Boston Globe.

Gov. Cuomo also issued a statement on New York State's website saying, "In the face of this ongoing human tragedy, let me be very clear: New York will not be party to this inhumane

treatment of immigrant families. We will not deploy National Guard to the border, and we will not be complicit in a political agenda that governs by fear and division."

Other political figures have spoken out against the practice of separating children from their parents. Former first lady Laura Bush wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post decrying the practice, calling it "cruel" and current first lady Melania Trump issued a statement saying she "hates" seeing family separations occur.

On Tuesday, a Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, is expected to announce new legislation to stop the Trump administration from carrying out families separation of immigrants trying to cross the border into the U.S.

Massachusetts and New York join a handful of other states whose governors have previously said they would not send their state's own National Guard troops to the border. When President Trump signed the executive order in April, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, a Republican, said she would not dispatch troops to the border, Montana Governor Steve Bullock also said he would not dispatch any of his troops, and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper did the same.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/massachusetts-york-not-send-national-231113500.html>

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## **Cuomo won't deploy National Guard troops to border**

**Spectrum News Jun 18, 2018**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, in a statement Monday, said New York will not deploy National Guard units to the southern border amid the heightened controversy surrounding migrant families being separated upon entry.

"In the face of this ongoing human tragedy, let me be very clear: New York will not be party to this inhumane treatment of immigrant families," Cuomo said. "We will not deploy National Guard to the border, and we will not be complicit in a political agenda that governs by fear and division."

It was not clear how many units were to be deployed to the border. The statement comes as Cuomo has been increasingly vocal in his push-back against President Donald Trump's immigration policies, including the detention of an undocumented immigrant residing in New York who was detained

after delivering a pizza to an Army base in New York City.

"Day after day, I am increasingly disturbed by the reports of disgraceful tactics used by ICE both in our own state and along our nation's border," Cuomo said. "I have called on the

Acting Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to investigate illegal and discriminatory ICE tactics

in New York and to tell us what his office is doing about the assault on immigrant families along our border."

<http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2018/06/18/new-york-governor-national-guard-troops-border>

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## **Cuomo: NY will not deploy National Guard to the border**

**10 WHEC, June 19, 2018:**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo said in a statement Monday that 'New York will not be party to this inhuman treatment of immigrant families along our border.'

His full statement is as follows:

"The administration's unconscionable treatment of families at our border is a moral outrage and an affront to the values that built this state and this nation.

In the face of this ongoing human tragedy, let me be very clear: New York will not be party to this inhumane treatment of immigrant families. We will not deploy National Guard to the border, and we will not be complicit in a political agenda that governs by fear and division.

Day after day, I am increasingly disturbed by the reports of disgraceful tactics used by ICE both in our own state and along our nation's border. I have called on the Acting Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to investigate illegal and discriminatory ICE tactics in New York

and to tell us what his office is doing about the assault on immigrant families along our border.

In New York, we stand for the values embodied by the Lady in our Harbor. We know that our diversity is our greatest strength, and we will never stop fighting to protect and strengthen the rights of immigrants."

<http://www.whec.com/news/cuomo-ny-will-not-deploy-national-guard-to-the-border-/4954525/>

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## **Gov. Cuomo: New York Will Not Send National Guard Members to Border**

**WENY , June 19, 2018**

ALBANY, N.Y. (WENY) - On Monday, June 18, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that New York State will not deploy their National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border.

In April, President Trump ordered the deployment of up to 4,000 National Guard members to guard the border against what he said was large amounts of drug smuggling and illegal entry into the United States.

However, now, New York, along with Massachusetts and Colorado, have said they will refuse to do so.

It comes as part of the backlash over the White House's policy of separating migrant families trying to enter the United States.

Cuomo released a statement regarding the decision, which can be read below:

"The administration's unconscionable treatment of families at our border is a moral outrage and an affront to the values that built this state and this nation.

"In the face of this ongoing human tragedy, let me be very clear: New York will not be party to this inhumane treatment of immigrant families. We will not deploy National Guard to the border, and we will not be complicit in a political agenda that governs by fear and division.

"Day after day, I am increasingly disturbed by the reports of disgraceful tactics used by ICE both in our own state and along our nation's border. I have called on the Acting Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to investigate illegal and discriminatory ICE tactics in New York and to tell us what his office is doing about the assault on immigrant families along our border.

"In New York, we stand for the values embodied by the Lady in our Harbor. We know that our diversity is our greatest strength, and we will never stop fighting to protect and strengthen the rights of immigrants."

<http://www.weny.com/story/38458216/gov-cuomo-new-york-will-not-send-national-guard-members-to-border>

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**These governors are recalling their states' National Guard from border duty over Trump policy**

**The Associated Press . June 20, 2018:**

The governors of Maryland and Virginia said they are recalling members of their states' National Guard from the U.S.-Mexico border because they disagree with federal policy of separating immigrant children from their families.

Their announcements came a day after Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker said he was reversing a decision to send a National Guard helicopter and its crew to the border because of the "cruel and inhumane" Trump administration policy.

Governors from other states who announced this week they are recalling or withholding National Guard troops from border duty include Delaware, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut and North Carolina, according to the New York Times.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam made the announcement Tuesday, saying he would not devote resources that could support an "inhumane policy."

United States ? not supporting a policy of arresting families and separating children from their parents," Northam said.

The Democratic governor said he had ordered four crewmembers and a helicopter to return to Virginia from Arizona. The crew was assisting the Arizona National Guard in surveillance operations on the border as part of a 90-day mission.

President Donald Trump has defended his administration's border-protection policies in the face of rising national outrage over the forced separation of migrant children from their parents. Calling for tough action against illegal immigration, Trump declared the U.S. "will not be a migrant camp" on his watch.

Immigrant children are being held in fenced cages, separately from parents who are being prosecuted under the administration's "zero-tolerance" policy for illegal border crossings.

Northam said he would be willing to return troops to the border if the policy was repealed.

Maryland's Republican Gov. Larry Hogan also announced Tuesday that he was recalling National Guard members stationed at the border until the policy was rescinded.

Hogan wrote on his Twitter account that he has ordered four crewmembers and a helicopter to immediately return from where they were stationed in New Mexico.

"Until this policy of separating children from their families has been rescinded, Maryland will not deploy any National Guard resources to the border," the Republican governor tweeted Tuesday morning.

On Monday, Hogan tweeted that Congress and Trump's administration have failed repeatedly to deliver needed immigration reform.

“Congress and the administration must step up and work together to fix our broken system,” the governor wrote. “Immigration enforcement efforts focus on criminals, not separating innocent children from their families.”

The Maryland National Guard has participated in southwest border operations several times since 2000. and regularly between 2012 and 2015, the governor’s office said.

While her state isn’t participating in security along the country’s southern border, Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo said she would not deploy Guard units if asked because of the policy.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2018/06/19/these-governors-are-recalling-their-states-national-guard-from-border-duty-over-trump-policy/>

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## **These states are pulling National Guard troops from the border until family separations end**

**CNN, Updated 3:36 PM ET, Wed June 20, 2018:**

(CNN)Several governors across the country are canceling the deployment of their National Guard troops near the US-Mexico border in response to the Trump administration's practice of separating immigrant families.

And, in a symbolic gesture, governors who have not yet sent troops to the border are pledging to withhold resources.

President Donald Trump signed a memorandum to send National Guard troops to secure the US-Mexico border in April after hearing of a migrant caravan making its way through Mexico.

While US law limits what troops can do in the border region, they have contributed to at least 1,600 apprehensions, a Customs and Border Protection official told CNN last month.

Here's a look at what some state officials say they plan to do:

Pulling back troops

- Virginia

Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, recalled four soldiers and one helicopter, saying the state would be "ready to return and contribute to the real work of keeping our nation safe" when the enforcement of the zero-tolerance policy ends.

"When Virginia deployed these resources to the border, we expected that they would play a role in preventing criminals, drug runners and other threats to our security from crossing into the United States -- not supporting a policy of arresting families and separating children from their parents," Northam said in a statement.

- Maryland

Four crew members and one helicopter were ordered to immediately leave New Mexico and no more resources will be deployed to the region at the moment, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said.

"Washington has failed again & again to deliver needed immigration reform - Congress and the administration must step up and work together to fix our broken system. Immigration enforcement efforts should focus on criminals, not separating innocent children from their families," tweeted Hogan, a Republican.

- North Carolina

Gov. Roy Cooper has ordered that three soldiers working in the border region return to North Carolina, CNN affiliate WTVD reported.

"The cruel policy of tearing children away from their parents requires a strong response," Cooper, a Democrat, said in a statement.

Won't be sending troops

- Colorado

Gov. John Hickenlooper signed an executive order Monday limiting the use of state resources "to separate children from parents or legal guardians on sole ground of immigration status."

Hickenlooper, a Democrat, said he recognizes the importance of "maintaining safety at our international borders" but intentionally separating families is "cruel and un-American," he wrote.

The governor said it's "deeply troubling" that the US government "would participate in such inhumane actions."

- Delaware

Gov. John Carney, also a Democrat, refused to send his state's soldiers to the southwest border when he was asked to on Tuesday.

"Under normal circumstances, we wouldn't hesitate to answer the call. But given what we know about the policies currently in effect at the border, I can't in good conscience send Delawareans to help with that mission," he said in a statement.

"If President Trump revokes the current inhumane policy of separating children from their parents, Delaware will be first in line to assist our sister states in securing the border," he added. "I served in Congress, and I watched for six years as that body failed to pass a comprehensive immigration policy that would secure our borders in a way that upholds the values of this great country. Congress and the President need to step up and fix the mess that our immigration system has become."

- Massachusetts

Gov. Charlie Baker directed the state National Guard not to send any assets or personnel to the US-Mexico border because of the Trump administration's "inhumane treatment" of children, communications director Lizzy Guyton said in a statement.

Baker, a moderate Republican in a largely Democratic state, said the practice is "cruel and inhumane."

"We told the National Guard to hold steady and to not go down to the border, period," Baker told CNN affiliate WHDH. "We won't be supporting that initiative unless they change the policy."

- New Hampshire

In a statement, Republican Gov. Chris Sununu said Tuesday that he will not send his state's troops to the border, CNN affiliate WMUR reported.

He also noted that he has not been contacted by federal authorities.

- New York

New York state also will not deploy the National Guard to the border, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Monday, citing the treatment of families at the border as a "moral outrage and an affront to the values that built this state and this nation."

"In the face of this ongoing human tragedy, let me be very clear: New York will not be party to this inhumane treatment of immigrant families," Cuomo, a Democrat, added in a statement. "We will not deploy National Guard to the border, and we will not be complicit in a political agenda that governs by fear and division."

- Rhode Island

Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo has not been asked yet but she has announced that she would not be sending troops to the border amid the Trump's administration's "zero tolerance" policy, which she described as "immoral, unjust and un-American."



"Children should be with their families, not trapped in cages, sobbing and calling out for their parents. The Administration's immigration policy goes against everything we value as Rhode Islanders, as Americans and as decent people," she said in a statement.

"The President alone can end family separation. I'm standing with all good-hearted people in our nation and calling on President Trump to end this inhumane policy."

•Oregon

Gov. Kate Brown had said that if President Trump asks her to dispatch members of her state's National Guard to the US southern border, she'll "say no."

In a set of tweets in April, Brown, a Democrat, said she was "deeply troubled" by Trump's plan to send members of the US military to the border and implied that the President is doing so as a political distraction.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/20/politics/national-guard-border-troops/index.html>

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## **Counter Drug Task Force**

### **Police: Auburn man illegally sold narcotics, possessed weapons**

**Auburn Pub, Jun 16, 2018:**

An Auburn man was arrested Thursday and charged with multiple felonies and misdemeanors for illegally selling narcotics, according to the Auburn Police Department.

Johnnie Sease Jr., of 2 Capitol St., was arrested around 5:25 p.m. Thursday at his home after law enforcement executed a search warrant. The 57-year-old was charged with two counts of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, three counts of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and two counts of criminal possession of a firearm, all felonies. He was also charged with misdemeanor crimes including two counts of second-degree criminally using drug paraphernalia and fifth-degree criminal possession of marijuana. More charges may be forthcoming, according to police.

Sease was arraigned in Auburn City Court Friday morning.

The Finger Lakes Drug Task Force, with assistance from the Auburn Police Department Emergency Response Team, the Auburn Police Department K-9 unit, and the New York Army National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, executed the search warrant. The Cayuga County District Attorney's Office will prosecute the case.

[https://auburnpub.com/news/local/police-auburn-man-illegally-sold-narcotics-possessed-weapons/article\\_cf569d18-d291-5419-bfd4-7daa3b453960.html](https://auburnpub.com/news/local/police-auburn-man-illegally-sold-narcotics-possessed-weapons/article_cf569d18-d291-5419-bfd4-7daa3b453960.html)

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## **New York Army National Guard**

### **New York Army National Guard promotions**

**Utica Observer Dispatch, June 17, 2018 :**

Major General Anthony P. German, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announces the promotion of the following local members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

. Anthony Larocco from Yorkville and assigned to the 10th Mountain Division Mobile Command Post Operational Detachment received a promotion to the rank of Specialist.

. Cory Ouimet from Sylvan Beach and assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-108th Infantry received a promotion to the rank of Private 1st Class.

. Corey Scofield from Marcy and assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-108th Infantry received a promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

<http://www.uticaod.com/news/20180617/community-news-for-june-18-2018>

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### **National Guard soldier receives new rank**

**Pocono Record, June 17, 2018 :**

Maj. Gen. Anthony P. German, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Trey Jenkins from East Stroudsburg, assigned to the Battery C, 1-258th Field Artillery, received a promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

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

NY Army National Guard lists soldier reenlistments

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.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Delgado from Bushkill, reenlisted to continue service with the Battery B, 1-258th Field Artillery.

Sergeant Glenda Pink from Pocono Lake, reenlisted to continue service with the 1569th Transportation Company.

<http://www.poconorecord.com/entertainmentlife/20180617/service-corner>

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## **Military Notes: Cayuga County National Guard member promotions, re-enlistments**

**Auburn Pub, June 16, 2018:**

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

. Brandon Blake, from Auburn, and assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion received a promotion to the rank of sergeant.

. Todd Burnett, from Auburn, and assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company received a promotion to the rank of specialist.

. Ryan Cabal, from Union Springs, and assigned to the Company E, 3-126<sup>th</sup> Aviation received a promotion to the rank of private first class.

Additionally, German announces the recent re-enlistment 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:

. Sgt. Anthony Adams, from Auburn, re-enlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-101 Cavalry (Reconnaissance,

Surveillance and Target Acquisition).

. Sgt. Brandon Blake, from Auburn, re-enlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion. . Pvt. Kevin Thurston, from Union Springs, re-enlisted to continue service with the Company E, 3-126<sup>th</sup> Aviation.

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

[https://auburnpub.com/lifestyles/military-notes-cayuga-county-national-guard-member-promotions-re-enlistments/article\\_fe8dec0a-191b-5083-b1e8-9483d00a257f.html](https://auburnpub.com/lifestyles/military-notes-cayuga-county-national-guard-member-promotions-re-enlistments/article_fe8dec0a-191b-5083-b1e8-9483d00a257f.html)

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## Advances to colonel

**Times Union, June 17, 2018:**

Two Air National Guard personnel have been promoted to colonel during ceremonies at Air National Guard Headquarters in Albany.

Larry Schaefer of Niskayuna, an Iraq war veteran, has advanced to colonel in the New York Air National Guard during a ceremony.

Major Gen. Timothy Labarge, New York Air National Guard chief of staff, promoted Schaefer. Schaefer, who has more than 25 years of military service and has been a member of the New York Air National Guard since 1998, serves as the staff judge advocate for both the 105th Airlift Wing in Newburgh and the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia.

He received a direct commission in 1992 and was first assigned as an assistant staff judge advocate for the active Air Force's 436th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

He deployed to Iraq and served as counsel with the Coalition Provisional Authority and deployed again in 2005 in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in New Orleans.

In 2007, he returned to the Middle East and served as the deputy staff judge advocate for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Schaefer graduated from the University at Albany and then Syracuse University College of Law. He is also a graduate of the Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

He has earned a Meritorious Service Medal and an Air Force Commendation Medal.

In civilian life, he is a partner with the firm Lippes, Mathias, Wexler and Friedman where he focuses on labor and employment issues.

Charles Hutson, a veteran of the Afghanistan war, has been promoted to colonel.

Hutson serves as the deputy director of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office

for the New York National Guard. The office is responsible for allocating federal funds to the New York National Guard and accounting for government property.

Hutson, of Manilus, also serves as the director of property and fiscal operations.

He is a former active Army officer who was commissioned through Army ROTC at

Clarkson University in 1994. He served in the Army's 501st Military Intelligence Brigade in Korea and the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, Jefferson County, before joining the New York Army National Guard and serving in the 427th Support Battalion in Syracuse.

He transferred to the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing and has served at the Headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Hutson was recognized as the Air National Guard's Comptroller of the Year in 2013 and was also named the Howard W. Leaf Inspector General Officer of the Year in 2016 for the Air National Guard.

Hutson, a graduate of the Air War College and the Joint Combined Warfighting School, has earned a Bronze Star Medal.

<https://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Eagle-Scout-project-honoring-Latham-veterans-13002317.php>

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## **Female veterans pose on same ship that carried WW2 troops**

**We Are the Mighty, June 16, 2018 :**

Jackie (USAF Veteran), Tess (USMC Veteran), Jennifer (USMC Veteran), Shannon (USAF Veteran), Jennifer (Navy Veteran), Fernanda (ARMY Veteran), Megan (USMC Veteran), Dianna (ARMY Veteran), Melanie (ARMY Veteran) Award-winning nonprofit Pin-Ups for Vets is releasing its 13th annual

fundraising calendar to raise money for VA hospitals; ill, injured, and homeless veterans; deployed troops; and military families. The 2019 calendar, photographed on the iconic Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA, features 19 female veterans decked out in World War II inspired fashion.

"Fans of Art Deco will appreciate the look of the upcoming calendar that reflects the vintage glamour of this 1936 cruise liner, now permanently docked in Long Beach, CA as a floating hotel," said Pin-Ups For Vets Founder, Gina Elise, who established Pin-Ups For Vets in 2006, as a way to honor the WWII service of her grandfather.

Gina has devoted her life to giving back to the military community. To date, Pin-Ups For Vets has donated over \$58,000 to help hospitals purchase new therapy equipment and to

provide financial assistance for Veterans' healthcare program expansion across the United States.

The 2019 calendar is officially ready for pre-order at [www.PinUpsForVets.com](http://www.PinUpsForVets.com). All 2019 Pin-Ups for Vets calendar pictures were taken by Shane Karns Photography - and let me just tell you...he really nailed it.

From a linguist, to a Human Intelligence Collector, to a combat photographer, to a combat medic, to a motor transportation operator, to a heavy equipment transporter driver leading convoys in Iraq, to a helicopter door gunner in Afghanistan, these ladies also include an above-the-knee amputee veteran (Marine Corps veteran Kirstie Ennis - who, by the way, at the time of this publishing was climbing Mount Denali in support of Service to Summit to raise money for Building Homes for Heroes, a nonprofit organization that builds or modifies homes and gives them to veterans in need).

Army veteran Julie Noyes says, "It can be so difficult as a female service member to feel empowered in her beauty without feeling like she may betray the professionalism of her uniform when we only seek to be treated like our male counterparts. I feel that Pin-Ups for Vets does a superb job at raising money and awareness for our elderly, wounded vets and our currently deployed troops while also showcasing the class and beauty of female veterans without objectifying them. What Pin-Ups Vets Founder Gina Elise has done with this publication and non-profit is nothing short of empowering and inspiring."

I will always be thankful to the Navy. I met my husband in the Navy who is also a veteran now and I graduated from National University with Master's Degree in 2012 as well. I am happy to see there are organization such as Pin-Ups For Vets who are doing so much to support the military and Veterans.

I am happy that I got an opportunity to be part of the organization."

Patti is a veteran of the United States Army, where she proudly served in the New York Army National Guard as a 35M (Human Intelligence Collector) of the 42nd Infantry Division, located in Glenville, New York. She volunteered to attend JRTC in Fort Polk, Louisiana, alongside the 27th Infantry Brigade

Combat Team in July 2016. She also trained at Warfighter at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, with her unit in October 2017. Patti attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and attended Advanced Individual Training at the United States Army Intelligence Center of Excellence in Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

"Pin-Ups for Vets is an incredible organization with an important mission.

Being a part of a nonprofit that helps veterans and empowers women at the same time is truly an honor and one that I couldn't pass up when I was asked to be a part of the 2019 calendar. As the reigning Mrs. New York America, my platform is veteran organizations - and Pin-Ups for Vets is truly among the best of them!"

The 2019 calendar can be purchased at: [www.PinUpsForVets.com](http://www.PinUpsForVets.com) or by check to:

Pin-Ups For Vets, PO Box 33, Claremont, CA 91711.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/pinups-for-vets-2019-calendar>

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## **Governors Pull National Guard Over Immigration Policy: East Coast governors from both parties are turning down requests for National Guard resources in protest of a federal policy of separating immigrant children from their families.**

Associated Press ,June 19, 2018:

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - The governors of multiple East Coast states have announced that they will not deploy National Guard resources near the U.S.-Mexico border, a largely symbolic but politically significant rejection of the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" immigration policy that has resulted in children being separated from their families.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, announced Tuesday morning on his Twitter account that he has ordered four crewmembers and a helicopter to immediately return from where they were stationed in New Mexico.

"Until this policy of separating children from their families has been rescinded, Maryland will not deploy any National Guard resources to the border," Hogan tweeted.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, who like Hogan is a Republican governor in a blue state, on Monday reversed a decision to send a National Guard helicopter to the border, citing the Trump administration's "cruel and inhuman" policy.

On the Democratic side, governors in Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New York and Virginia have all indicated their refusal to send Guard resources to assist with immigration-related issues.

The resources in question from each state are relatively small, so the governors' actions aren't likely to have a huge practical impact. But they are a strong symbolic political gesture, said Mileah Kromer, the director of the Sarah T. Hughes field Politics Center at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland.

"I think at a time when you have a large percentage of the country questioning the leadership of the Trump administration, it certainly is a moment for the governors across the country to show leadership, particularly at a time when this is so divisive," Kromer said.

The forced separation of migrant children from their parents has fueled criticism across the political spectrum and sparked nationwide protests of President Donald Trump's immigration policies.

"Ever since our founding - and even before - our nation has been a beacon for families seeking freedom and yearning for a better life," Democratic New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said Tuesday as he signed an executive order prohibiting the use of state resources. "President Trump has turned this promise on its head by doubling down on his inhumane and cruel policy of separating families."

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday reiterated a decision he first made earlier this year to not send Guard resources to the border to assist with immigration-related duties. He's also asked for a federal investigation of the policy relating to the separation of the children from their families.

Delaware Gov. John Carney, a Democrat, said he turned down a request he received on Tuesday to send National Guard troops to the southwest border, while the Democratic governors of Virginia and North Carolina said they would recall Guard members and equipment they already had sent to the border.

"If President Trump revokes the current inhumane policy of separating children from their parents, Delaware will be first in line to assist our sister states in securing the border," Carney said in a statement.

Governors are not the only ones taking action: Mayors from across the U.S. announced plans to travel to the Texas border on Thursday to protest the "zero tolerance" policy. The mayors will gather at a point of entry near where migrant minors began arriving at a tent-like shelter last week.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors last week unanimously passed a resolution registering its opposition to separating children from their families at the border.

The summary of this story has been edited to correct that Massachusetts did not issue declaration Tuesday; it was Monday.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/maryland/articles/2018-06-19/governors-pull-national-guard-over-immigration-policy>

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**PFOA Issue**

**New York sues 3M, five others over toxic chemical contamination**



WSAU, Wednesday, June 20, 2018 2:08 p.m. CDT:  
Jun 22, 2018

NEW YORK (Reuters) - New York state sued 3M Co and five other companies to recover the cost of cleaning up environmental contamination caused by toxic chemicals in firefighting foam that they manufactured.

Governor Andrew Cuomo and Attorney General Barbara Underwood said on Wednesday the lawsuit seeks more than \$38.8 million plus punitive damages and is the first of its type by a U.S. state.

New York said the use of the foam at five military and civilian airports in the state caused "extensive contamination" to nearby fish, soil and water and increased the risk to people of immune system damage and other health problems.

The companies knew or should have known by the 1970s that the foam, when used as intended, could threaten public health and the environment, the state said.

"New York is working to end the dangerous practices that threaten our natural resources," Cuomo said in a statement.

The lawsuit was filed on Tuesday evening in New York's Supreme Court in Albany, the state capital.

In an email, 3M spokeswoman Donna Fleming Runyon said the St. Paul, Minnesota-based company "acted responsibly at all times and will defend its record of stewardship" in connection with its manufacture and sale of the foam.

Other defendants include Buckeye Fire Equipment Co, Chemguard Inc, Kidde-Fenwal Inc, National Foam Inc and Tyco Fire Products LP.

The five airports are Stewart International Airport in New Windsor, Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Southampton, Plattsburgh Air Force Base in Plattsburgh and Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome. The Plattsburgh and Griffiss bases have closed.

The case is New York v 3M Co et al, New York State Supreme Court, Albany County, No. 904029-18.

<http://wsau.com/news/articles/2018/jun/20/new-york-sues-3m-others-over-firefighting-foam/>

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**New York suing 6 makers of hazardous firefighting foams**

**Associated Press, June 20 , 2018 :**

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) New York state is suing six companies that made firefighting foam containing chemicals that have contaminated drinking water in two upstate communities and groundwater in a Long Island community.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood said Wednesday the companies manufactured foam containing PFOS and/or PFOA, which can pose adverse health effects.

The lawsuit contends the companies knew or should've known the chemicals could pose a threat to public health and the environment.

PFOA has contaminated drinking water in Hoosick Falls in Rensselaer County, while PFOS has contaminated drinking water around an Air National Guard base in Newburgh and groundwater near another base in Southampton, Long Island.

More than \$38 million in state funds have been spent to investigate and clean up contamination linked to the chemicals.

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<http://www.wcax.com/content/news/New-York-suing-6-makers-of-hazardous-firefighting-foams-486072721.html>

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## **NY suing firefighting foam companies for \$38M**

**Newsday, June 21, 2018 :**

New York State has filed a lawsuit against six companies that make firefighting foams that contain chemicals that are hazardous to human health, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and state Attorney General Barbara Underwood announced Wednesday.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in state Supreme Court in Albany, claims that the six companies knew or should have known the harmful effects of aqueous film-forming foam containing the chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonic acid/perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid/perfluorooctanoate (PFOA).

The chemicals have been detected at locations across New York, including Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh and Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, the officials said in a news release.

The complaint seeks to force the firms to reimburse New York State for the cost of cleaning up the contaminants, which the state says were also used at airports in New Windsor, Plattsburgh, and Rome.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Health have spent more than \$38 million to investigate and clean up contamination resulting from the use of the foam, the news release said.

The companies include 3M Company, Tyco Fire Products LP, Chemguard, Inc., Buckeye Fire Equipment Company, National Foam, Inc., and Kidde-Fenwal, Inc. "3M will vigorously defend this lawsuit. 3M acted responsibly at all times and will defend its record of stewardship in connection with its manufacturing and sale of AFFF," said company spokeswoman Donna Fleming Runyon, using an acronym for aqueous film-forming foam.

A spokesman for Chemguard and Tyco, which have the same parent company, said they do not comment on pending litigation. Representatives for the other firms could not be reached for comment.

"As state experts continue to investigate contamination caused by firefighting foams, New York is working to end the dangerous practices that threaten our natural resources," Cuomo said in the release. "By taking necessary legal action against these companies, we are sending a clear message that we will do everything in our power to protect New Yorkers." Underwood added, "The conduct of these manufacturers caused widespread contamination of our drinking water and our environment - and jeopardized the health of tens of thousands of New Yorkers."

The lawsuit contends that the products contaminate the environment, seeping into drinking water and potentially harming people who could experience serious illnesses including cancer, liver damage and immune system defects.

It also claims that the products "were not reasonably safe when used as intended" and that the manufacturers did not provide adequate warning of the potentially deleterious effects of their use.

"When New York's precious natural resources are threatened, the responsible parties must be held accountable and the public should be compensated for the damage," state Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said.

Added state Department of Health Commissioner Howard Zucker, "Only through our own diligence do we now know that the very products used decades ago to promote public safety, contained chemicals that pose a threat to public health."

<https://www.newsday.com/news/region-state/ny-lawsuit-firefighting-foam-1.19335732>

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## **NYS To Sue Firefighting Foam Manufacturers**

**Patch.com, June 22, 2018 :**

NEWBURGH, NY — New York State is suing six companies that manufactured firefighting foam that has been found at locations across the state, including Stewart Air National Guard Base in New Windsor and Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Southampton. The lawsuit was announced Wednesday by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state Attorney General Barbara Underwood.

The suit seeks to hold the companies accountable and recover state costs and natural resource damages associated with contamination at several sites and is the latest step in the state's ongoing efforts to tackle emerging contaminants.

Defendants in the suit include 3M Company, Tyco Fire Products LP, Chemguard, Inc., Buckeye Fire Equipment Company, National Foam, Inc., and Kidde-Fenwal, Inc.

It is alleged they manufactured aqueous film-forming foam containing the chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonic acid/perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and/or perfluorooctanoic acid/perfluorooctanoate (PFOA).

"As state experts continue to investigate contamination caused by firefighting foams, New York is working to end the dangerous practices that threaten our natural resources," Cuomo said. "By taking necessary legal action against these companies, we are sending a clear message that we will do everything in our power to protect New Yorkers."

<https://patch.com/new-york/midhudsonvalley/nys-sue-firefighting-foam-manufacturers>

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## **Ukraine Mission**

### **New York Army Guard Soldiers mentor and learn from Ukrainian counterparts**

**Army.mil, June 21, 2018 :**

YAVORIV COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER, Ukraine --Overseas deployments for Soldiers of the New York National Guard have usually meant Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

But deployment for 220 New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team meant a trip to Europe.

Since November 2017, Soldiers from the Syracuse-based 27th brigade have been serving in Ukraine to help train and mentor Ukrainian Army units. The New York Soldiers are part of

the Joint Multinational Training Group -- Ukraine; known as JMTG-U, serving as cadre and advisors at the Yavoriv Training Center helping Ukrainian Army units meet the goal of achieving NATO compatibility.

"I started ROTC in 2008 and I commissioned in 2012," said 1st Lt. Chasen Smith, a plans officer in the JMTG-U. "When someone said where do you think you're going to deploy, my first thought was Iraq or Afghanistan, maybe later on Syria. I never expected to be pulled onto a mission like this."

Smith currently serves alongside other Soldiers from Canada, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, the United States, and the United Kingdom as part of the multinational group.

Following a month at Fort Bliss, Texas, conducting pre-deployment training, the unit - consisting predominately of Soldiers from the Niagara Falls-based 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry- arrived in Ukraine to relieve the departing 200 members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

For two weeks, the Oklahoma Guard Soldiers mentored the New Yorkers before handing over command of the mission at the Combined Arms Training Center on November 22, 2017.

Now, after eight months working alongside the Ukrainian Army, the progress made by the training group is evident, Smith said.

"When we first arrived here the training center (staff) was struggling to conduct their planning any more than two to three days out," Smith said.

"Through our efforts with them, we have moved them to the point where they are now planning two to three weeks out. The third week is all theoretical, the second week is confirming and checking plans, and, by week one, the majority of the questions have been answered and plans are for the most part locked in," Smith explained.

"They have also made vast improvements in the way they present the training," Smith added. "We're dealing with a partner nation and trying to teach them to operate the way we do."

The U.S. Soldiers act as mentors and instructors to the Ukrainian training center personnel when needed.

Originally, the U.S. and allied nations conducted direct training for Ukrainian Army battalions that rotated through the center. Now, three years later, Ukrainian instructors now stationed at the combat training center teach the bulk of the training.

American Soldiers continue to act as mentors, providing guidance and clarification to both the rotational units training at Yavoriv and the Ukrainian instructors facilitating the exercises.

"During the rotation we will go out to the field, supervise the action, and make on the spot corrections as needed," said Staff Sgt. Riener Mogerson, a Charlie Company mentor.

As a mentor, Mongerson works directly alongside Ukrainian soldiers stationed at the training center.

"We have been trying to get away from Americans directly teaching classes and move toward assisting them teach their own classes," he said.

Though the bulk of the training has been handed over to Ukrainian personnel, the Americans and multinational partners here are ready to share their expertise and experience with their Ukrainian counterparts, Mogerson said.

Ukrainian partners, especially first line junior leaders, are willing and eager to learn, Mogerson said.

"We want to change the culture and empower junior leaders and NCOs to take the initiative," he said.

"When I'm giving a class, it will usually be for most of their non-commissioned officers and a few of their lieutenants," Mogerson said. "I want to be able to be able to instruct their non-commissioned officers so that they can then turn around and teach their Soldiers."

While working alongside a partner nation and trying to overcome both language and cultural barriers, the need for creating strong relationships is paramount, he said.

"One of the things we were told before coming over here is that Ukrainians don't take criticism well," Smith said.

"While that is true to an extent, the lower level leadership is very receptive to criticism, especially once you establish a rapport. Don't underestimate the relationships you make between yourself and your counterparts. This job is all about building relationships," he added.

"We're mostly there to supervise and give guidance when needed," said Staff Sgt. Jamah Figaro, a Bravo Company training NCO.

Each time a Ukrainian battalion completes a training rotation, the quality of the exercise improves as the Ukrainian staff and their U.S. mentors find ways to improve the training experience, Figaro said.

"You see a lot of professionalism out in the training area, and we strive to get things perfect." Figaro said.

"At first they might say it's because of our equipment, but we show them how resourceful we can be and they realize it's more about basic leadership skills, and leading by example. Once they see that, they realize why the United States Army is the most powerful army in the world," he added.

Along with providing training to the personnel staffing the combined training center, the U.S. Soldiers here say they are also working diligently to improve both the facility's infrastructure and training aides.

One valuable resource is MILES gear. MILES, short for Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System similar to a laser-tag system that allows Soldiers to conduct simulated battles as they exchange shot-for-shot.

The gear consists of a laser module and harness. The laser is mounted on a soldier's rifle, and the harness, which is covered in receivers, is worn by the Soldier.

When the Soldiers fire a blank round, it triggers the laser. If the laser strikes a receiver mounted on another Soldier's vest, a hit is recorded.

In addition to individual MILES gear, there are vehicle-based systems that can be mounted on tanks, trucks, or armored personnel carriers.

Since the Ukrainian training center began using MILES gear as a training aide, the Ukrainian training center staff has surprised their U.S. counterparts with their skills and resourcefulness, said Staff Sgt. Michael Powell, the joint training group simulated munitions --"simunitions"-- NCO.

"It used to be that if a piece of MILES equipment went down, that soldier was out of the fight for the rest of day. Now they are able to fix it out in the field and get that soldier back into the fight," he observed.

"I've watch them tear a whole miles unit apart and repair it with locally purchased parts." Powell said. "They will go to a hardware store and buy a bunch of doorbells, tear them apart, and use them to fix MILES components."

"The end state is for us to be able to outfit an entire Ukrainian brigade with MILES gear," he said.

Though MILES is a useful training aid, issuing the gear to the individual soldier is often a lengthy process. Fortunately improvements have been made that creates less work for both the MILES section staff and the rotational unit, Powell said.

"They used to have each soldier stand in line and sign for their MILES gear," Powell said. "It took hours to do. Now the commander comes to sign for the equipment and has his subordinates distribute it. Having the commander come and sign for the equipment is allowing the unit to save two to three hours of time where they can train with the gear instead of standing in line."

Though the mission is to train the Ukrainians, the U.S. Soldiers stationed at the training center are learning from the Ukrainians as well, the New York Guardsmen said.

"One of the biggest things we have learned from the Ukrainians is how to make do with what you have," Smith said. "These days we are so dependent on optics, thermal and night vision. The Ukrainians don't have any of that, but they still conduct night operations."

"One of the things they use to overcome that deficiency is through the use of vehicle mounted spotlights," Smith said. "Once they get an idea of where somebody is, they hit that spotlight, engage the target, and then turn the spotlight off."

As the Yavoriv training center continues to evolve and change, one thing remains constant. The enthusiasm of the U.S. and Ukrainian soldiers stationed there, New York Soldiers said.

Now nearing the completion of their rotation, the New York Soldiers are slated to be relieved by the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, who is scheduled to take over command of JMTG-U later this summer.

[https://www.army.mil/article/207482/new\\_york\\_army\\_guard\\_soldiers\\_mentor\\_and\\_learn\\_from\\_ukrainian\\_counterparts](https://www.army.mil/article/207482/new_york_army_guard_soldiers_mentor_and_learn_from_ukrainian_counterparts)

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## **N.Y. Army Guard Soldiers mentor and learn in Ukraine**

Nationalguard.mil, By Sgt. Alexander Rector | New York National Guard | June 22, 2018 :

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But deployment for 220 New York Army National Guard Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team meant a trip to Europe.

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"I started ROTC in 2008 and I commissioned in 2012," said 1st Lt. Chasen Smith, a plans officer in the JMTG-U. "When someone said where do you think you're going to deploy, my first thought was Iraq or Afghanistan, maybe later on Syria. I never expected to be pulled onto a mission like this."

Smith currently serves alongside other soldiers from Canada, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, the United States, and the United Kingdom as part of the multinational group.



Following a month at Fort Bliss, Texas, conducting pre-deployment training, the unit - consisting predominately of Soldiers from the Niagara Falls-based 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry- arrived in Ukraine to relieve the departing 200 members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

For two weeks, the Oklahoma Guard Soldiers mentored the New Yorkers before handing over command of the mission at the Combined Arms Training Center on November 22, 2017.

Now, after eight months working alongside the Ukrainian Army, the progress made by the training group is evident, Smith said.

"When we first arrived here the training center (staff) was struggling to conduct their planning any more than two to three days out," Smith said.

"Through our efforts with them, we have moved them to the point where they are now planning two to three weeks out. The third week is all theoretical, the second week is confirming and checking plans, and, by week one, the majority of the questions have been answered and plans are for the most part locked in," Smith explained.

"They have also made vast improvements in the way they present the training," Smith added. "We're dealing with a partner nation and trying to teach them to operate the way we do."

The U.S. Soldiers act as mentors and instructors to the Ukrainian training center personnel when needed.

Originally, the U.S. and allied nations conducted direct training for Ukrainian Army battalions that rotated through the center. Now, three years later, the bulk of the training is taught by Ukrainian instructors now stationed at the combat training center.

American Soldiers continue to act as mentors, providing guidance and clarification to both the rotational units training at Yavoriv and the Ukrainian instructors facilitating the exercises.

"During the rotation we will go out to the field, supervise the action, and make on-the-spot corrections as needed," said Staff Sgt. Riener Mogerson, a Charlie Company mentor.

As a mentor, Mongerson works directly alongside Ukrainian soldiers stationed at the training center.

"We have been trying to get away from Americans directly teaching classes and move toward assisting them teach their own classes," he said.

Though the bulk of the training has been handed over to Ukrainian personnel, the Americans and multinational partners here are ready to share their expertise and experience with their Ukrainian counterparts, Mogerson said.

Ukrainian partners, especially first line junior leaders, are willing and eager to learn, Mogerson said.

"We want to change the culture and empower junior leaders and NCOs to take the initiative," he said.

"When I'm giving a class, it will usually be for most of their non-commissioned officers and a few of their lieutenants," Mogerson said. "I want to be able to be able to instruct their non-commissioned officers so that they can then turn around and teach their soldiers."

While working alongside a partner nation and trying to overcome both language and cultural barriers, the need for creating strong relationships is paramount, he said.

"One of the things we were told before coming over here is that Ukrainians don't take criticism well," Smith said.

"While that is true to an extent, the lower-level leadership is very receptive to criticism, especially once you establish a rapport. Don't underestimate the relationships you make between yourself and your counterparts. This job is all about building relationships," he added.

"We're mostly there to supervise and give guidance when needed," said Staff Sgt. Jamah Figaro, a Bravo Company training NCO.

Each time a Ukrainian battalion completes a training rotation, the quality of the exercise improves as the Ukrainian staff and their U.S. mentors find ways to improve the training experience, Figaro said.

"You see a lot of professionalism out in the training area, and we strive to get things perfect." Figaro said.

"At first they might say it's because of our equipment, but we show them how resourceful we can be and they realize it's more about basic leadership skills, and leading by example. Once they see that, they realize why the United States Army is the most powerful army in the world," he added.

Along with providing training to the personnel staffing the combined training center, the U.S. Soldiers here say they are also working diligently to improve both the facility's infrastructure and training aides.

One valuable resource is MILES gear. MILES, short for Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System similar to a laser-tag system that allows soldiers to conduct simulated battles as they exchange shot-for-shot.

The gear consists of a laser module and harness. The laser is mounted on a soldier's rifle, and the harness, which is covered in receivers, is worn by the Soldier.

When the soldiers fire a blank round, it triggers the laser. If the laser strikes a receiver mounted on another Soldier's vest, a hit is recorded.

In addition to individual MILES gear, there are vehicle-based system that can be mounted on tanks, trucks, or armored personnel carriers.

Since the Ukrainian training center began using MILES gear as a training aide, the Ukrainian training center staff has surprised their U.S. counterparts with their skills and resourcefulness, said Staff Sgt. Michael Powell, the joint training group simulated munitions –“simunitions”—NCO.

"It used to be that if a piece of MILES equipment went down, that soldier was out of the fight for the rest of day. Now they are able to fix it out in the field and get that soldier back into the fight," he observed.

"I've watch them tear a whole miles unit apart and repair it with locally purchased parts." Powell said. "They will go to a hardware store and buy a bunch of doorbells, tear them apart, and use them to fix MILES components."

"The end state is for us to be able to outfit an entire Ukrainian brigade with MILES gear," he said.

Though MILES is a useful training aid, issuing the gear to the individual soldier is often a lengthy process. Fortunately improvements have been made that creates less work for both the MILES section staff and the rotational unit, Powell said.

"They used to have each soldier stand in line and sign for their MILES gear," Powell said. "It took hours to do. Now the commander comes to sign for the equipment and has his subordinates distribute it. Having the commander come and sign for the equipment is allowing the unit to save two to three hours of time where they can train with the gear instead of standing in line."

Though the mission is to train the Ukrainians, the U.S. Soldiers stationed at the training center are learning from the Ukrainians as well, the New York Guard members said.

"One of the biggest things we have learned from the Ukrainians is how to make do with what you have," Smith said. "These days we are so dependent on optics. Thermal and night vision. The Ukrainians don't have any of that, but they still conduct night operations."

"One of the things they use to overcome that deficiency is through the use of vehicle mounted spotlights," Smith said. "Once they get an idea of where somebody is, they hit that spotlight, engage the target, then turn the spotlight off."

As the Yavoriv training center continues to evolve and change, one thing remains constant. The enthusiasm of the U.S. and Ukrainian soldiers stationed there, New York Soldiers said.

Now nearing the completion of their rotation, the New York Soldiers are slated to be relieved by the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, who are scheduled to take over command of JMTG-U later this summer.

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1557426/ny-army-guard-soldiers-mentor-and-learn-in-ukraine/>

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## **Vice President Visit**

### **National Guard Spouses Share Worries With Vice President's Wife**

**Military.com, June 21, 2018 :**

SYRACUSE -- Nine New York National Guard spouses were able to voice their concerns to Karen Pence, spouse of the Vice President of the United States during a round table discussion at Syracuse University, on June 19.

"We have been traveling all around the world speaking to spouses of all branches of service, this was our first opportunity to speak to just National Guard spouses," Pence explained.

Pence accompanied her husband on a visit to Syracuse. This was an opportunity to visit local military spouses, she said.

Two of the spouse's husbands are in the Army National Guard and seven from the Air National Guard, their husbands either served part- time or full-time.

"This is the first opportunity I have had to get together with other spouses as a group and spend time together voicing our concerns and speak about possible changes," said Stephanie Cooney, a Baldwinsville, N.Y. resident and spouse of Air Guard Capt. Patrick Cooney.

After speaking with the spouses, Pence spent more than 10 minutes shaking their hands and taking group photos.

Pence spoke with the wives at the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University. She asked them what the government could do to make their lives easier.

"I think sometimes the spouses are not giving the accolades that they deserve," Pence said.

"We couldn't have the volunteer military like we have, without the support of the spouses," Pence said.

"The culture is different on every base, some have reading groups, classes, child care and help spouse's networks and some are slower getting different cultures." she added.

Because their spouse are reservist they do not have the community of an active duty base the women told Pence. They miss some of the support services at an active duty post they said.

Pence's son Michael is an officer in the United States Marines. She cannot relate as a military spouse, but she said but knows what it's like to be a military mom.

"We see a different level of stress," Pence said.

People want to support military families, Pence said. There are resources available for military spouses that they may not realize are available for them, she added.

Rachel Smith, a Rochester N.Y. resident spouse of Army National Guard Sgt. Matthew Smith, said she appreciate the chance to speak to the vice president's wife.

"It was such a positive experience speaking to Mrs. Pence today, she listened to what we had to say and she has the platform to help get our voices heard," Smith said.

"It was a great experience, she was kind, welcoming and genuinely cared for the spouses," said Jennifer Cogan a Liverpool, N.Y. resident and spouse of Army National Guard Sgt. First Class Colin Cogan.

She wanted to hear our concerns and the different ways we support our husbands. As National Guard spouses we do not often get to see each other, this was an awesome experience to meet other wives that live in the Syracuse area," Cogan said.

<https://www.military.com/spousebuzz/2018/06/21/national-guard-spouses-share-worries-vice-presidents-wife.html>

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## **Vice President Mike Pence touches down in Syracuse on Air Force Two**

**Syracuse.com, June 19, 2018 :**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- About 100 people crowded into a hangar near Hancock Airport Tuesday morning to greet Vice President Mike Pence as he touched down in Syracuse.

Air Force Two landed at the 174th Attack Wing Air National Guard Base at Hancock Field at 11:35 a.m. The Vice President disembarked and greeted U.S. Rep. John Katko, Katko's wife, Robin, and Onondaga County Legislature Chairman Ryan McMahon.

Flanked by Katko and Second Lady Karen Pence, the Vice President shook hands with the crowd, many of whom were uniformed Air National Guard members. One man told Pence he was a World War II veteran. The pair took a photo together.

Pence then hopped in a black limousine and left, surrounded by a motorcade of more than 30 official vehicles from Syracuse Police, Syracuse University Police, New York State Police, a pair of ambulances and at least six motorcycles.

Pence will spend the afternoon in Central New York. He's hosting a fundraiser for Katko at the Embassy Suites near Destiny USA at lunchtime.

From there, he will go to Auburn where he will tour the Nucor plant.

Second Lady Karen Pence is joining her husband in Syracuse. She will visit Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

[https://www.syracuse.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/06/vice\\_president\\_mike\\_pence\\_arrives\\_in\\_syracuse\\_on\\_air\\_force\\_two\\_photos.html](https://www.syracuse.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/06/vice_president_mike_pence_arrives_in_syracuse_on_air_force_two_photos.html)

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## **Vice President to visit Central New York**

**CNY Central, June 19, 2018:**

SYRACUSE, N.Y.-- Vice President Mike Pence will visit Central New York Tuesday.

Officials said the Vice president and Second Lady, Karen Pence, are set to arrive at The Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Mattydale in the 11 o'clock hour. He will then head to a fundraiser for Congressman John Katko.

Those invited to the event tell us he'll be stumping for Katko at a \$1,000 per plate luncheon.

The Vice President will then head to Auburn where he will speak about the Republican Tax Plan at the Nucor Steel Plant.

While Vice President Pence is in Auburn, the Second Lady will go to Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. She is expected to observe an art therapy session and distribute coloring books.

Syracuse Police say Secret Service will likely be handling security for the event, but they will help with traffic, street closures, and other security measures needed.

<http://cnycentral.com/station/vice-president-visits-central-new-york>

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