105th Airlift Wing

Hancock Air National Guard Base civilian firefighters reassigned to Hudson Valley base

CNYBJ: April 11, 2014

SYRACUSE — Civilian firefighters now assigned to the Hancock Field Air National Guard Base will be offered reassignment to support the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh this summer.

That's according to a news release the New York State Division of Military & Naval Affairs issued Wednesday.

Four firefighters will be shifted to Stewart to work with the 105th Airlift Wing and Marine Aircraft Group 49, a Marine Corps Reserve unit, which fly C-17 and C-130 cargo aircraft around the clock, according to the release. The Stewart Air National Guard Base fire department also provides fire protection for Stewart International Airport.

Pilots of the 174th Attack Wing, based at Hancock Field, fly the MQ-9 remotely piloted airplane. The wing stopped flying F-16s in 2010.

Air Force regulations mandate having emergency personnel trained to extract aircrews and passengers from crashed aircraft, the release stated.

New York state civilian firefighters currently provide emergency-response services at the New York Air National Guard bases in Westhampton Beach (Long Island) and Scotia (near Schenectady), under agreements between the Air National Guard and the state Division of Military & Naval Affairs.

If all four firefighters at Hancock Field accept their reassignment, the number of emergency responders at the firehouse in Newburgh will increase to 29 from 25, according to the news release.

The four firefighters would start work at their new location in mid-July.

The firefighters were part of a crash-rescue capability that worked with Hancock Syracuse International Airport firefighters to save the lives of pilots when the 174th flew F-16s, or A-10s before that, the state Division of Military & Naval Affairs said.

Firefighting equipment at the Hancock Field Air National Guard Base will stay behind for use in training Air National Guard firefighters, the release noted.

Firefighting operations at Hancock Field will continue to be supported by local fire departments, as they have in the past, the state Division of Military & Naval Affairs noted. Syracuse Airport firefighters will continue to respond to aircraft accidents or incidents at the entire airfield. And, the East Syracuse Fire Department provides fire protection for buildings on the base, the release stated.

Contact The Business Journal at news@cnybj.com

http://www.cnybj.com/News/Articles/TabId/102/ArticleId/39022/language/en-US/hancockair-national-guard-base-civilian-firefighters-reassigned-to-hudson-valley-base.aspx

107th Airlift Wing

NY Air National Guard unit headed Down Under to install equipment used to track space objects

The Republic: April 14, 2014

NIAGARA FALLS, New York — Nearly three dozen members of a New York Air National Guard unit will head Down Under to help install radar used to track space debris and satellites.

National Guard officials say 35 airmen with the 107th Airlift Wing based at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station will head to Australia later this week for a three-week mission in the state of Western Australia.

The 107th Civil Engineer Squadron will renovate a building and construct a new antenna support structure at a naval communications station.

The U.S. military is moving more than 75 tons of space surveillance network radar equipment from Antigua to Australia under a 2012 agreement between the two countries. Officials say the radar will allow for better tracking of space debris and inactive and active satellites orbiting the Southern Hemisphere.

 $\underline{\text{http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/fd825e1d85144fe98fa98b7137507e79/NY--Air-Guard-Australia}$

NY Air National Guard unit headed to Australia

Chron: April 14, 2014

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — Nearly three dozen members of a New York Air National Guard unit will head Down Under to help install radar used to track space debris and satellites.

National Guard officials say 35 airmen with the 107th Airlift Wing based at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station will head to Australia later this week for a three-week mission in the state of Western Australia.

The 107th Civil Engineer Squadron will renovate a building and construct a new antenna support structure at a naval communications station.

The U.S. military is moving more than 75 tons of space surveillance network radar equipment from Antigua to Australia under a 2012 agreement between the two countries. Officials say the radar will allow for better tracking of space debris and inactive and active satellites orbiting the Southern Hemisphere.

http://www.chron.com/news/science/article/NY-Air-National-Guard-unit-headed-to-Australia-5400297.php

NY Air National Guard unit headed to Australia

WIVB: April 14, 2014

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — Nearly three dozen members of a New York Air National Guard unit will head Down Under to help install radar used to track space debris and satellites.

National Guard officials say 35 airmen with the 107th Airlift Wing based at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station will head to Australia later this week for a three-week mission in the state of Western Australia.

The 107th Civil Engineer Squadron will renovate a building and construct a new antenna support structure at a naval communications station.

The U.S. military is moving more than 75 tons of space surveillance network radar equipment from Antigua to Australia under a 2012 agreement between the two countries. Officials say the radar will allow for better tracking of space debris and inactive and active satellites orbiting the Southern Hemisphere.

http://wivb.com/2014/04/14/ny-air-national-guard-unit-headed-to-australia/

Niagara Falls Air Guard engineers helping to move massive radar to Australia

NFP: April 14, 2014

35 members of the 107th Airlift Wing will work on building that will house Space Surveillance Network radar

Thirty-five members of the 107th Airlift Wing will spend three weeks in Australia this month helping the Air Force Space Command install a Space Surveillance Network radar there.

The airmen belong to the 107th Civil Engineer Squadron. They are due to deploy to Australia later this week.

The Citizen Airmen will be working to renovate a building at the site and constructing a new antenna support structure at H.E. Holt Naval Communications Station in the state of Western Australia.

Air Force Space Command and the Space and Missile Systems Center are working with the Air National Guard to move more than 75 tons of Space Surveillance Network radar equipment from Antigua to Western Australia.

The radar is being moved to Australia, under a 2012 agreement between the two countries, in order to allow for better tracking of space debris and inactive and active satellites orbiting the southern hemisphere.

The radar is due to be in place later this year. An Air National Guard team deployed to Antigua in January to begin disassembling and packing the giant radar.

By having Air National Guard engineers work on the project as part of their annual training, the Air Force anticipates saving taxpayers about \$20 million to \$30 million.

The U.S. Space Surveillance Network detects, tracks, catalogs and identifies artificial objects orbiting Earth, ranging from active and inactive satellites and used rockets to equipment dropped by accidents during a space walk.

The C-Band mechanical tracking ground-based radar is useful in space surveillance and can identify space objects in low Earth orbit. It can accurately track up to 200 objects a day and can help to identify satellites, their orbits and potential anomalies, according to a fact sheet about the system.

When the radar is relocated to Australia, it will be the first low-Earth-orbit space surveillance network sensor in the Southern Hemisphere. The new location will give needed southern and eastern hemispheric coverage that will lead to better positional accuracies and predictions, the fact sheet states.

The system will provide a critical dedicated sensor for the main system the U.S. and its partners rely on to detect, track and identify objects in space.

C-band radar also can help in tracking high-interest space launches from Asia.

"This is an excellent training opportunity for our Civil Engineer and it also allows our airmen to put their skills to work to met national security objectives," said Col. John Higgins, commander of the 107th Airlift Wing.

The 107th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard is based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The wing is currently in the process of preparing to operate the remotely

piloted MQ-9 aircraft. The wing also provides trained airmen worldwide in support of Air Force operations while providing personnel with specialized skills to respond to emergencies within New York at the direction of the governor.

http://www.wnypapers.com/news/article/current/2014/04/14/115756/niagara-falls-airguard-engineers-helping-to-move-massive-radar-to-australia

Niagara Falls Air Guard Engineers Helping to Move Massive Radar to Australia

Black Anthem: April 14, 2014

Thirty-five members of the 107th Airlift Wing will work on building that will house Space Surveillance Network radar

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, NY - Thirty-five members of the 107th Airlift Wing will spend three weeks in Australia this month helping the Air Force Space Command install a Space Surveillance Network radar there.

The Airmen belong to the 107th Civil Engineer Squadron. They are due to deploy to Australia later this week.

The Citizen Airmen will be working to renovate a building at the site and constructing a new antenna support structure at H.E. Holt Naval Communications Station in the state of Western Australia.

Air Force Space Command and the Space and Missile Systems Center are working with the Air National Guard to move more than 75 tons of Space Surveillance Network radar equipment from Antigua to Western Australia.

The radar is being moved to Australia, under a 2012 agreement between the two countries, in order to allow for better tracking of space debris and inactive and active satellites orbiting the southern hemisphere.

The radar is due to be in place later this year. An Air National Guard team deployed to Antigua in January to begin disassembling and packing the giant radar.

By having Air National Guard engineers work on the project as part of their annual training the Air Force anticipates saving taxpayers about \$20 million to \$30 million.

The United States Space Surveillance Network detects, tracks, catalogs and identifies artificial objects orbiting Earth, ranging from active and inactive satellites and used rockets to equipment dropped by accidents during a space wallk.

The C-Band mechanical tracking ground-based radar is useful in space surveillance and can identify space objects in low Earth orbit. It can accurately track up to 200 objects a day and

can help to identify satellites, their orbits and potential anomalies, according to a fact sheet about the system.

When the radar is relocated to Australia, it will be the first low-Earth-orbit space surveillance network sensor in the Southern Hemisphere. The new location will give needed southern and eastern hemispheric coverage that will lead to better positional accuracies and predictions, the fact sheet states.

The system will provide a critical dedicated sensor for the main system that the United States and its partners rely on to detect, track and identify objects in space.

C-band radar also can help in tracking high-interest space launches from Asia.

"This is an excellent training opportunity for our Civil Engineer and it also allows our Airmen to put their skills to work to met national security objectives," said Col. John Higgins, the commander of the 107th Airlift Wing.

The 107th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard is based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The wing is currently in the process of preparing to operate the remotely piloted MQ-9 aircraft. The wing also provides trained Airmen worldwide in support of Air Force operations while providing personnel with specialized skills to respond to emergencies within New York at the direction of the governor.

http://www.blackanthem.com/News/U_S_Military_19/Niagara-Falls-Air-Guard-Engineers-Helping-to-Move-Massive-Radar-to-Australia26418.shtml

Local Guard members to work on radar station

Buffalo News: April 14, 2014

Members of the New York Air National Guard based at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station are heading to Australia to help set up a radar to track satellites and space debris.

Thirty-five Guard members from the 107th Airlift Wing's civil engineer squadron are scheduled to leave later this week for the H.E. Holt Naval Communications Station in the state of Western Australia, where a radar is being relocated from Antigua in the West Indies.

In the three-week mission, guard members will renovate a building and construct a new antenna support structure for the radar, which will be the first low-Earth-orbit space surveillance network sensor in the Southern Hemisphere, the Air National Guard said in a news release. The radar is expected to be in place later this year.

 $\frac{http://www.buffalonews.com/city-region/all-niagara-county/local-guard-members-to-work-on-radar-station-20140414}{on-radar-station-20140414}$

Wing Inspection Team

DVIDS: April 15, 2014

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. - April 13, 2014, Members of the 107th Airlift Wing at the Niagara Falls Reserve Station swore in as the new Wing Inspection Team (WIT). The team consists of deputized members in the Inspector General's office. They will be performing inspections and evaluations for the new Commanders Inspection Program. This is a cost saving program for the Air Force. In the past they would send IG inspector teams to Air Force units. Now with a new program like Management Internal Control Toolset (MICT) the IG and commanders can be anywhere to track the progress of their units. This cuts the cost for travel and lodging of inspection teams.

"All WIT members have been hand-picked by their commanders because they have the expertise temperament and experience to accurately and fairly provide a report card to the Wing Commander." said Maj. Justin Pautler, 107th director of inspections.

The new instruction is AFI 90 – 201 titled Air Force Inspection System (AFIS). This details the Commanders Inspection Program. WIT members plan the exercise and objectives and write the Master Scenario Event List (MSEL). Planned for this year is a Force Support Squadron MICT inspection, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) and Emergency Management Exercise.

Read more: http://www.dvidshub.net/news/125995/wing-inspection-team#ixzz2z2yg2uMK

109th Airlift Wing

Photos: Canadian And U.S. Forces Take Part in Operation NUNALIVUT in the North

Ottawa Citizen: April 17, 2014

These pics are courtesy of Combat Camera:

Caption: A LC-130 Hercules aircraft from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing flies over Ice Camp One, Sherard Osborn Island, Nunavut during Operation NUNALIVUT on April 15. Photo: Captain Graham MacMillian, Joint Task Force (North), Yellowknife, NWT

Caption: Leading Seaman Keith Slade, a Clearance Diver from Fleet Diving Unit (A) checks the cables running from the Defence Research and Development Canada's camp to underwater sensors at Gascoyne Inlet, Nunavut during Operation NUNALIVUT on April 14. Photo: Master Seaman Peter Reed, CFB Shearwater, Nova Scotia

Caption:A CC-177 Globemaster from 429 Transport Squadron, Canadian Forces Base Trenton lands at Resolute Bay Airport, Nunavut to deploy members of 1st Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment as part of Operation NUNALIVUT on April 13. Photo: Master Corporal Chelsey Hutson, CFJIC

Caption: A CF-138 Twin Otter from 440 Transport Squadron and an LC-130 Hercules aircraft from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing sit at Ice Camp One, on Sherard Osborn Island, Nunavut during Operation NUNALIVUT on April 15. Photo: Master Corporal Chelsey Hutson, CFJIC

http://blogs.ottawacitizen.com/2014/04/17/photos-canadian-and-u-s-forces-take-part-in-operation-nunalivut-in-the-north/

New York Air National Guard?s 109th Airlift Wing to Participate in Canadian Forces Arctic Exercise

Military Spot: April 11, 2014

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SCOTIA - Nearly 40 Airmen and two LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft from the 109th Airlift Wing will be demonstrating their vast capabilities on the arctic ice as they join the Canadian Forces on Friday to participate in Canada's annual Operation Nunalivut Exercise.

Canada's Joint Task Force-North has been conducting this exercise in and around the area of Resolute Bay, Nunavut, Canada, since 2007. This will be the first year the 109th will participate.

This year more than 250 people will be involved in the exercise, including the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Navy Fleet Diving Unit, divers from the U.S. Navy, and the Royal Canadian Air Forces 440 (Transport) Squadron.

The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing team, which will consist of maintainers and aircrew, will be operating out of Resolute Bay and Thule Air Base, Greenland, during the weeklong exercise. Shortly after arriving, maintainers and operations Airmen will establish a "skiway" camp in the vicinity of Resolute Bay to support LC-130 flight operations.

"We see on the horizon the need for aircraft capabilities to meet Arctic taskings," said Lt. Col. Clifford Souza, 109th Operations Group who will be the lead 109th officer on the exercise.

"We're trying to get out ahead of it and demonstrate LC-130 capabilities. So we're taking advantage of this exercise - we want to develop joint capabilities and interoperability with the Canadian Arctic Forces because they have a need to maintain an airlift reach throughout the high arctic," he explained.

The Canadians have ski-equipped CC-138 Twin-Otter aircraft which don't have the lift capacity or range the 109th LC-130s have.

The 109th will help bring fuel and supplies to the forward-deployed locations during the exercise. Normally Canadian aircraft would do this, but the LC-130 is able to do in one trip what they would need to do in 10, Souza said.

"That shows interoperability and integration between the U.S. and Canada to jointly develop capabilities for the future to operate in the Arctic," Souza said.

"The Canadians are very interested in what we can provide," he said. "We're also taking advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate those capabilities to set up an expeditionary skiway on the sea-ice. That has significance for search and rescue, because now we have the ability to go somewhere where there's no runway, set up a ski landing site on sea ice which can provide a forward staging area for personnel, supplies and fuel to increase the operating radius of other aircraft."

While the 109th AW's primary mission is to support the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and Greenland, in the past "the unit existed to support military customers from the high arctic," Souza said. This is the opportunity for the 109th AW to show that they can still support those missions if needed.

In 1975, the 109th received their first ski-equipped LC-130s and assumed the responsibility of resupply missions for the Greenland ice cap's radar stations.

Since then, the 109th Airlift Wing has provided the U.S. military's only ski-equipped aircraft, which has been supporting polar research in the Arctic and Antarctic since 1988. Since 1999, the unit has been the sole provider of this type of airlift to the National Science Foundation and U.S. Antarctic research efforts.

http://www.militaryspot.com/news/new-york-air-national-guards-109th-airlift-wing-to-participate-in-canadian-/

Citizens Preparedness

Preparing for disaster: Training, supplies given for dealing with emergencies

Syracuse: April 12, 2014

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- What should you have in case of an emergency? New York State wants you to be prepared.

The state's Citizen Preparedness Corps will hold s training program Saturday at 10 a.m. at Onondaga Community College's Gorden Center Great Room.

The program, highlighted in Gov. Andrew Cuomo's State of the State Address in January and launched in February, aims to provide 100,000 New Yorkers with the tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible.

Training sessions will be led by the New York National Guard, working with experts from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Emergency Management and Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The training course will provide an introduction to

responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster.

Such training sessions can be especially valuable because they help keep the public from becoming complacent about disaster preparedness, said Onondaga County Emergency Management Commissioner Kevin Wisely.

"It's all about making sure that we're prepared and that we're thinking about these things," he said.

A key component of Saturday's training effort is the distribution of Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Kits that contain key items to assist individuals in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

Every training participant will receive a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit, which includes:

- Plastic drop cloth
- Light stick
- (2) D Batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Face mask
- Safety goggles
- AM/FM pocket radio w/batteries
- (6) packs of drinking water
- (6) food bars
- Regular flashlight
- Emergency blanket
- Duct tape
- Work gloves
- Water bottle

For more information visit www.prepare.ny.gov.

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/04/emergency_preparedness_kit_onondaga_county_emergency_management.html

Military Spot

New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing to Participate in Canadian Forces Arctic Exercise

Joint Force Headquarters

Military achievements by local residents week of April 14 to 18

Syracuse: April 15, 2014

Air National Guard Airman Erik J. Anderson graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Mary and Rand Anderson, of Baldwinsville, and a 2012 high school graduate.

Army Spec. Cuong M. Tran graduated from basic military training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of Wendy Hutchings, of Auburn, and a 2004 graduate of South High Community School, Mass. He earned his bachelor's degree in 2013 from Worcester State University, Mass.

Army Pvt. Joshua P. Catlin graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of Kristine and Kevin Catlin, of Syracuse, and a 2013 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Army Pvt. Alan-Michael Caswell graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of Rebecca and Paul James, of Oneida, and a 2013 graduate of Oneida High School.

Army National Guard Spec. Brian B. Bach graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of Brenda and Bill Bach, of Weedsport, and a 2002 graduate of Weedsport High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Hobart College.

Air Force Airman Collin P. Keysor graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Donna and Kipp Keysor, of Martville, and a 2012 graduate of Cato-Meridian High School.

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Reinhardt, of Liverpool, has been recognized as senior noncommissioned officer of the year by the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing.

Tech. Sgt. Brent Wightman, of Syracuse, has been recognized as noncommissioned officer of the year by the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing.

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Spier, of Mattydale, has been recognized as honor guard manager of the year by the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing.

Airman Christopher Dorion, of Clay, has been recognized as honor guard member of the year by the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing.

Master Sgt. Kim Lagoe, of Cicero, has been recognized as first sergeant of the year by the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing.

Senior Airman Drew Field, of Syracuse, has been recognized as airman of the year by the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing.

Lt. Col. Maureen Murphy, of Baldwinsville, received the meritorious service medal. She currently serves as director of staff for the New York Air National Guard.

St. Major Jason Zeller, of Syracuse, completed the army sergeants major academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, the adjunct general, announced the promotions of members of the New York Army National Guard: Promoted are:

Antonio Lebron, of Fulton, with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, to the rank of Private; Roderick Erwin, of North Syracuse, with the Company A (Distribution), 427th Brigade Support Battalion, to the rank of Private; Kyle McCartney, of Syracuse, with the Company B, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, to the rank of Spc.; Brandon Vanwormer, of Pulaski, with the Forward Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, to the rank of Private 1st Class; Matthew Dudley, of Port Byron, with the Forward Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, to the rank of Spc.; and Anthony McCoy, of Liverpool, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, to the rank of Spc.

Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, the adjunct general, announced the reenlistment of members of the New York Army National Guard: Re-enlisted are:

Spc. Kenneth Plumadore, of East Syracuse, with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; Staff Sgt. Everett Walter, of Auburn, with the 466th Medical Company Area Support; Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Robinson, of Oneida, with the Company C, Recruiting and Retention; Spc. Christopher Kulis, of Cato, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion; Spc. Rollin Skellington, of Syracuse, with the Headquarters and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion; Staff Sgt. Vallon Smith, of Brewerton, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion; Spc. Anthony McCoy, of Liverpool, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion; and Sgt. Craig Smith, of King Ferry, with the Headquarters Service Company, 642nd Support Battalion.

The following members of the New York Air National Guard 174th Fighter Wing have been recognized for their service in a combat zone:

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Andrus, of Pennellville; Master Sgt. Aaron Shaffer, of Parish; Staff Sgt. Alexander Bobka, of Baldwinsville; Tech. Sgt. Branagan Glennen, of Oswego; Tech. Sgt. Brandon Greenwaldt, of Syracuse; Senior Airman Brett Kilborne, of Liverpool; Staff Sgt. Briana Houghtalen, of Clay; Maj. Bryon Sherriff, of Brewerton; Senior Airman Catherine Palladino, of Fabius; Lt. Col. Charles Hutson, of Manlius; Capt. Christopher Clifford, of Minoa; Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Harmeyer, of Liverpool; Lt. Col. Christopher McDonald, of Baldwinsville; Senior Airman Daniel Krajcar, of Liverpool; Senior Airman David Fairbrother, of Liverpool; Master Sgt. David Kaminski, of Syracuse; Tech. Sgt. David Vogt, of Liverpool; Master Sgt. Dennis Reinhard, of Jamesville; Senior Airman Devin Wells, of West Monroe; Senior Airman Donald Anderson, of Baldwinsville; Tech. Sgt. Douglas Murdie, of Mattydale; Tech. Sgt. Eric Turner, of Brewerton; Maj. Frank Casavant, of Brewerton; Capt. Gerald Benton, of Baldwinsville; Lt. Col. Glenn Dubois, of Cicero; Staff Sgt. Jacob Penfield, of Baldwinsville; Chief Master Sgt. James Boswell, of Chittenango; Master Sgt. James Gallup, of Syracuse; Senior Airman James Spicola, of Liverpool; Senior Airman Jamie Biviano, of East Syracuse; Tech. Sgt. Jason Ditro, of West Monroe; Master Sgt. Jason Renda, of Williamstown; Senior Airman Jeremy Quesada, of Syracuse; Senior Airman Jessie Nola, of Liverpool; Chief Master Sgt. John Ditro, of West Monroe; Tech. Sgt. Joseph Straub, of Cicero; Senior Airman Joshua Ditro, of West Monroe; Staff Sgt. Justin Goerss, of Liverpool; Tech. Sgt. Keith Kinsey, of Mexico; Tech. Sgt. Kelley House, of Central Square; Master Sgt. Kevin Mckillip, of Bridgeport; Senior Airman Kevin Rech, of Syracuse; Senior Airman Kyle Wisner, of Central Square; Staff Sgt. Leanne Stevens, of Liverpool; Senior Airman Llamara Cibrian, of Syracuse; Master Sgt. Louis Bruno, of Auburn; Senior Master Sgt. Mary Oaksford, of Marcellus; Staff Sgt. Matthew Winnie, of Liverpool; Senior Airman Matthias Anderson, of Liverpool; Lt. Col. Michael Smith, of Manlius; Tech. Sgt. Michael Zimmerman, of Liverpool; Staff Sgt. Mitchell Kuhn, of Jordan; Staff Sgt. Ncholas Guilbeault, of Kirkville; Lt. Col. Nicholas Lotito, of Central Square; Tech. Sgt. Patricia Garrity, of Liverpool; Tech. Sgt. Paulette Gardner, of Syracuse; Master Sgt. Peter Metz, of Manlius; Staff Sgt. Philip Netzband, of Erieville; Senior Airman Robert Relyea, of Clockville; Capt. Roman Lopez, of Syracuse; Staff Sgt. Ronald Atwood, of Baldwinsville; Lt. Col. Ronald Berzins, of Kirkville; Staff Sgt. Samuel Allen, of Port Byron; Master Sgt. Scott Haines, of North Syracuse; 2nd Lt. Scott Prietti, of Syracuse; Capt. Seth Anderson, of Manlius; Master Sgt. Shawn Hopkins, of Central Square; Staff Sgt. Steffan Martin, of LaFayette; Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Barnes, of Hubbardsville; Senior Airman Stephen Boswell, of Kirkville; Tech. Sgt. Steven Boni, of Oswego; Senior Airman Steven Pardee, of Hastings; Tech. Sgt. Terrence Buckman, of Syracuse; Tech. Sgt. Timothy Cullipher, of Bridgeport; Staff Sgt. Tony Hill, of Syracuse; Master Sgt. Vidda Serrato, of Syracuse; Master Sgt. Warren Engell, of Cicero; Master Sgt. William Hartung, of Minoa; and Senior Airman William McLennan, of Skaneateles.

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/04/military_achievements_by_local_residents_week_of_april_14_to_18.html

The Fiscal Times: April 18, 2014

Reducing overall U.S. troop levels may put a strain on states' resources, particularly when they need to respond to natural disasters.

While lawmakers, both inside and outside the Beltway, often fight to keep military dollars flowing to their constituents for political reasons, this time around they're aiming to keep the Pentagon from making cuts to Army National Guard personnel, the ones who respond to wildfires and hurricanes.

The Army has proposed reducing the number of guardsmen from about 355,000 to 335,000 starting in fiscal 2015, which begins on Oct. 1. That level could drop even further, down to 315,000, if Congress doesn't find a way to avert the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration that are scheduled to resume in 2016.

State governors did not welcome the proposal.

"The nation's governors strongly oppose the potential cuts to the Army National Guard advocated by the U.S. Army's fiscal 2015 budget request," the National Governors Association wrote in a letter, signed by all 50 members, to the White House after the Pentagon announced its plan. "The modern National Guard is a highly experienced and capable combat force and an essential state partner in responding to domestic disasters and emergencies."

The Army said the cuts are part of a reduction in troop levels in the years ahead for its National Guard, reserve and active-duty components, which is expected to drop from about 510,000 to between 440,000 and 450,000. As a result, the Army's budget request for next year is \$120.5 billion, down from \$125 billion this year and a recent peak of \$144 billion in 2010.

National Guard expertise and their access to equipment such as UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters helped Colorado last year when it battled a wildfire that scorched 16,000 acres, claiming two lives and about 500 buildings in the process.

"Active duty and National Guard soldiers fought the flames, rescued our citizens from rising floodwaters and saved countless homes," Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) said at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on April 8. "In Colorado we benefited greatly from having National Guard Black Hawks available to perform search and rescue missions, evacuate flood victims, drop water on wildfires, even deliver hay to cattle stranded by blizzards."

Colorado also relied on Air Force C-130 planes to drop retardant as a means of containing wildfires.

Army National Guard troops helped battle wildfires last year in California, where some rural residents have been paying protections fees of \$150 to help bolster the state's firefighting

budget. In New Jersey and New York, the National Guard rescued residents during Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and provided food and drinking water in the aftermath.

While the National Guard reductions would vary by state, each would see some level of cutbacks. For example, Maryland would probably the loss of as many as 500 soldiers in the state's 4,700-member force.

"As our government confronts the hard choices that need to be made during these times of fiscal uncertainty, decision-makers need to understand that cuts to Guard personnel and force structure means degradation to domestic response," the National Guard Association of the United Sates, a lobbying group, said on its website.

Some members of Congress have already introduced legislation calling for further study of the proposed reductions. The Army says that delaying the cuts would actually increase costs by about \$1 billion each year and pull money away from readiness accounts.

 $\underline{\text{http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2014/04/18/States-Decry-Proposed-Cuts-National-Guard}}$

Event Raises Awareness Of Public Services

WAMC: April 17, 2014

At the Saratoga Springs City Center, the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council celebrated its Annual Interagency Awareness Day.

A.C. Riley, President of EOC, said the event offers social service agencies from all sectors including healthcare, housing, and homelessness prevention visibility, and allows members of the public to become more involved with their communities.

"They might want to be a volunteer, and if they walk around they can see what volunteer opportunities there are," said Riley. "It's a really good opportunity for different nonprofits and service agencies to communicate about what they do."

Social service agencies from Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties attended the event.

Jamie Gandron of Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County said the annual event is important in allowing her organization to make connections with other agencies.

"A lot of other agencies might have clients or even coworkers that are going through abusive situations, and just knowing or getting information from us so they can refer people to our agency is really helpful," said Gandron.

Capital District Congressman Paul Tonko also attended the Awareness Day, and said such events are an important resource for local communities in supporting the organizations that provide services to the working poor and others in a time of economic recovery.

"In this comeback, the recovery that we're experiencing, it's always important to make certain that people are provided the greatest stability as possible," said Tonko.

Prior to his visit to the City Center, the Democrat joined the Unified Military Affairs Council, or UMAC, at the Naval Support Facility Saratoga Springs. UMAC is a partnership between members of the business community and military leaders.

Tonko, in the district during the two-week House recess, met with officials from the Kesselring site, Watervliet Arsenal, Naval Support Saratoga, KAPL, Stratton Air National Guard Base and others.

Tonko said advocating for the businesses and military installations in the Capital Region is important, as about ten thousand jobs are impacted by defense spending.

"Some of the federal outcomes as of late have been challenging and threatening," said Tonko.

In March, Knolls Atomic Power Laboratories, which operates the Kesselring site, a facility used to train Naval personnel for work on submarines and aircraft carriers, announced federal budget cuts could result in the shutdown of a prototype reactor in 2015.

Tonko said he's working within the House, along with his colleagues Bill Owens and Chris Gibson, to get adequate funding in next year's budget to fully support operations at the Kesselring site.

"We're working again with the Appropriations Committee, working with the subcommittee under the Appropriations banner on energy and water, which will enable us to speak to the people most forcefully and get them to have the awareness done is so important, and to understand what they're doing to the military here," said Tonko.

According to KAPL, 700 Navy and civilian personnel are assigned to the MARF prototype reactor at the Kesselring site.

http://wamc.org/post/event-raises-awareness-public-services

Military Museum

Gun registration deadline fuels fears

The Record: April 16, 2014

LIVINGSTON MANOR — Richie Post's passion for guns and gun history fills the walls and rafters of Fur, Fin and Feather, the Livingston Manor sports shop he owns.

There hangs a Civil War-era Spencer carbine rifle. Over there hangs a rifle members of the New York National Guard used in the Spanish-American War.

But it is the present that concerns Post as he pulls out a Colt-made .223-caliber semiautomatic rifle.

He points to its bayonet mount, flash protector and pistol grip. Each feature makes the gun illegal under the 2013 state SAFE Act, and owners of such weapons faced a Tuesday deadline to register those guns with the state police.

"The first step of confiscation is registration," said Post, who grudgingly registered his rifle Monday.

Other gun owners and gun-rights groups were making similar predictions Tuesday, the last day of registration for weapons banned under the gun-control provisions of the SAFE Act legislation.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo pushed the legislation in response to the shooting deaths of 20 children and six staff at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn. But it has inspired a federal lawsuit and the ire of gun owners convinced their rights to own weapons are under assault.

"What we are hearing is one of three things," said Tom King, president of the state Rifle & Pistol Association. "We're hearing we won't comply; two, we will make our firearms New York state legal; three, it's none of your business."

Stiffer penalties for gun felonies and stricter reporting requirements for mental-health professionals are included in the SAFE Act. It is the new laws relating to guns and ammunition, however, that have riled the passions of gun owners.

State lawmakers expanded the number of banned weapons by redefining "assault weapon" to include semiautomatic pistols and rifles with detachable magazines and at least one secondary feature, such as a pistol grip or folding or telescoping stock.

Also banned were semiautomatic shotguns with a secondary characteristic, such as the ability to accept a detachable magazine or a folding or telescoping stock.

Anyone who legally owned such a weapon before Jan. 15, 2013, can keep it but had to register it by Tuesday. Failing to register is a misdemeanor.

"I don't know what the state was seeking to gain by making people register their guns," former Ulster County Legislator Terry Bernardo said. "Law-abiding citizens are not the ones committing the crimes."

Sullivan County Friends With Firearms was recommending that gun owners comply with the registration requirement even if they opposed the new gun laws, said Christine Schiff, founder and president of the organization.

She also accused the state of failing to adequately explain the new provisions. That allowed confusion to spread among legal gun owners, who already felt they were being punished for the acts of criminals, she said.

Of gun owners she knows, "quite a bit" were planning to ignore the registration requirement, Schiff said.

"They're just afraid that their guns are going to be taken away from them if they register," she said.

Don Crawford Jr. of Middletown was in Post's shop Tuesday afternoon to pick up a shotgun his 13-year-old daughter, Samantha Crawford, won in a raffle and planned to use for turkey hunting. With them was 10-year-old Don Crawford III.

The elder Crawford does not have a gun covered by the ban. Still, he called the SAFE Act "a joke."

"You can take all our guns away," he said. "The crooks are still going to have them."

http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140416/NEWS/404160306

New Exhibit at military museum focuses on the New York National Guard and sports

DVIDS: April 15, 2014

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. -- Sports and the New York National Guard us the theme of a new exhibit opening at the New York State Military Museum this week.

"For the Development of First-Class Fighting Men: Sports and the New York National Guard, 1890-1950" chronicles the importance of organized sports to the National Guard during those years.

National Guard units had baseball teams, fencing teams, and boxing teams, and sports became almost as much a part of the Guard's tradition as the military training.

In his opening remarks at the 1899 convention of the National Guard Association of New York, Col. Henry Chauncey lamented "the narrow chest, round shoulders, and trailing feet" of today's soldiers, noting how their jobs in "stores or counting houses . . . have rendered them generally unfit material from which to make soldiers."

However, Chauncey believed that "properly regulated athletic exercises" as part of routine training can "change this material into the active, athletic being, which a twentieth century soldier must be."

The exhibit takes its title from a remark by Maj. Gen. Robert Lee Bullard, the commander of the 1st Infantry Division in World War I.

"Athletics . . . are the best stimulants for enlistment and for the development of first-class fighting men," Bullard wrote.

The exhibit uses photographs, sports trophies and other memorabilia to tell the story of the New York National Guard's organized sports teams.

The New York State Military Museum, located at 61 Lake Ave in Saratoga Springs is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free.

Read more: http://www.dvidshub.net/news/125989/new-exhibit-military-museum-focuses-new-york-national-guard-and-sports#ixzz2z2pXmuNB

New York Army National Guard

George Raynor reenlists in New York Army National Guard

Riverhead Local: April 15, 2014

Major General Patrick A. Murphy, the Adjutant General, announces the recent reenlistment of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their continuing commitment to serve community, state and nation as part of the Army National Guard.

Staff Sergeant George Raynor from Manorville, N.Y. has reenlisted to continue service with the Company B, 642nd Support Battalion.

"The New York Army National Guard has sustained our force at or above 100 percent strength for the better part of five years now," Murphy said. "Keeping those ready forces in our ranks mean that New York is ready to provide forces for state missions here at home, as we saw during Hurricane Sandy or for the federal missions supporting our nation around the country and around the world."

"Each of our 16,000 men and women serving in the Army and Air National Guard as an important role and I'm pleased that so many continue to reenlist and remain part of our New York National Guard family."

 $\underline{http://www.riverheadlocal.com/briefs/george-raynor-reenlists-in-new-york-army-national-guard}\\$

Rape charge prompts more women to come forward to police

Post Star: April 15, 2014

KINGSBURY -- Police have been contacted by "multiple" women who claim they were sexually assaulted by a former military recruiter who was arrested last week for allegedly raping a woman, officials said Tuesday.

The ongoing investigation into a series of alleged sexual assaults by Robert S. Haas, 35, of Queens Drive, Kingsbury, has led Washington County sheriff's investigators to interview additional women who say they were his victims, sheriff's Senior Investigator Bruce Hamilton said. He would not be more specific as to the number.

The Washington County District Attorney's Office will review the evidence before deciding whether additional criminal charges are warranted, Hamilton said.

Haas' lawyer, Washington County Public Defender Michael Mercure, said his client has stated that sex with the woman he has been charged with raping was consensual. Mercure did not elaborate.

The Washington County inquiry has also led police in Glens Falls to file four new criminal charges against Haas this week, two of them felonies, authorities said.

Police recently searched a storage unit in Glens Falls that Haas rented, and seized an unregistered handgun, illegal assault rifle, electronic stun gun and brass knuckles, Glens Falls Police Detective Lt. Pete Casertino said.

Haas has been charged with two felony counts of criminal possession of a weapon and two misdemeanor counts of criminal possession of a weapon, Casertino said. He will be arraigned on the charges Thursday in Glens Falls City Court.

Haas was charged with first-degree rape last week for allegedly raping a young woman at his home several days earlier.

Haas met the woman while working as a recruiter for the Army National Guard in Watervliet. He was removed from those duties last fall for reasons the military would not reveal, other than to say they did not involve sexual assault allegations.

Hamilton said the other possible victims were not women Haas met through his military duties. Haas was active on several online dating websites and women he met through those sites have come forward to police, Hamilton said.

Washington County Sheriff Jeff Murphy said the Sheriff's Office's entire investigation division has been assigned to the case.

A preliminary hearing in Haas' rape case was held Monday and Tuesday in Kingsbury Town Court, with the woman for whom he has been charged testifying that he forcibly raped her.

Kingsbury Town Justice Michael Keenan found reasonable cause to believe a felony had been committed and ordered Haas held in Washington County Jail, pending a grand jury review of

his case. Washington County First Assistant District Attorney Christian Morris said grand jury action had not been scheduled as of Tuesday.

First-degree rape is punishable by up to 25 years in state prison. Haas was also charged with misdemeanor criminal obstruction of breathing in connection with the pending case.

http://poststar.com/news/local/rape-charge-prompts-more-women-to-come-forward-to-police/article_e712b8dc-c4df-11e3-a919-0019bb2963f4.html

JB-MDL Combat lifesaver obstacle course gives chemical, finance Soldiers realistic training

DVIDS: April 14, 2014

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — As part of their pre-deployment training, 16 Army reservists and National Guardsmen from various units throughout the Northeast put their Army first-aid skills to the test during a practical exercise at a local combat obstacle course that culminated a four day Combat Lifesaver Course April 1.

The exercise tested the Soldiers' ability to render Tactical Combat Casualty Care to a wounded Soldier and then evacuate the victim from the area. The Soldiers had to navigate their casualty through several obstacles including over a six-foot wall and under and through barbed wire barriers while being assaulted by simulated automatic weapon gunfire.

"This is to let them see what it's like to do treatment in the field...care under fire...tactical field care, and how it's done during the evacuation phase," said Jesse Lucarano, a civilian contractor who works as a CLS instructor at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. "It's not set up to pass or fail, but to see how they do under a little pressure."

The Soldiers moved through the course in two groups, one after the other. The first group was comprised of eight chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear specialists who were all from different units and had never worked together before.

"It was the first time we worked together and a lot of us have never done this kind of task before. We had a matter of hours to put it together so there's no time for a major rehearsal," said Sergeant 1st Class Rayon Everett, a CBRN specialist for the 401st Chemical Company from Boston, Mass. "We received small arms and an improvised explosive attack, so a complex attack. We encountered casualties and we had to treat them and get them into a safe location, and also call in for medevac. But I think we were able to overcome those challenges and make it through."

The CLS obstacle course also gave some junior Soldiers the rare opportunity to lead a team and build their leadership skills.

"Fortunately I was able to be the leader of this group and get some of my leadership skills up and learn a little bit more," said Spc. Philip Alleyne, a CBRN specialist with the 479th

Chemical Battalion from Camp Totten, N.Y. "Being in charge of every aspect of this training was enlightening and definitely a learning experience. I learned it's not so easy, but its something I do look forward to in the future."

The second group, comprised of eight finance Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard, also gave a junior enlisted Soldier the opportunity to lead their team.

"This is pretty much my first time in a squad leader position," said Pfc. Oscar Chicaiza, a finance specialist with the 4th Finance Detachment. "I think I did fairly well. There were a couple of hiccups here and there from miscommunication but we overcame it. There was a lot of teamwork going on. Towards the end of the exercise we had a flow going and our mission was accomplished."

Pfc. Catherine Medina, also with the 4th Finance Detachment summed up the training and the importance of the CLS course. "It's repetitive and we do the trainings over and over and I think it's really going to prepare me for Afghanistan," she said. "It's important for all Soldiers. You never know when you are going to need your skills; everybody should know how to save your battle buddy out in the field."

Read more: http://www.dvidshub.net/news/125677/jb-mdl-combat-lifesaver-obstacle-course-gives-chemical-finance-soldiers-realistic-training#ixzz2yrABTaRF

Local guardsmen receive promotions

The Leader Herald: April 13, 2014

LATHAM - Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, 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, a news release said.

Dylan Stockwell, from Northville and serving with the 1427th Transportation Company, was promoted to the rank of specialist.

Samantha Ward, from Dolgeville and serving with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division, was promoted to the rank of private.

 $\underline{\text{http://www.leaderherald.com/page/content.detail/id/563447/Local-guardsmen-receive-promotions.html?nav=5001}$

Palladium Times

New York Army National Guard announces promotions

Saturday, April 12, 2014 4

LATHAM — Major General Patrick A. Murphy, the adjutant general for the state of New York, has announced the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

http://www.palltimes.com/news/local/article_e82637ac-96c6-528e-b53c-926bc7ebf332.html

Veterans look to boost awareness of military suicides

Newsday: April 10, 2014

Asked whether the issue of suicide among America's military veterans has touched his life, John Walis grimaced.

"I've lost four good friends," said Walis, 45, of Bay Shore, who served in Afghanistan with the New York Army National Guard.

Jarrett Gimbl, a Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, said several veterans he knew well have taken their own lives.

"I've known Marines who have shot themselves in the head who were married, who had kids," said Gimbl, 32, of Holbrook. "They were personal friends of mine."

Walis and Gimbl joined about two dozen veterans' advocates at Huntington Town Hall Thursday to kick off a campaign drawing attention to the military's suicide crisis.

The gathering was organized by Northport-based Cow Harbor Warriors, an Afghanistan and Iraq veterans support group that plans to spend the next 22 weeks raising public awareness -- and cash -- to help address the problem.

Although firm numbers are difficult to come by, the Department of Veterans Affairs last year increased its estimate of suicides by veterans from 18 to 22 a day.

"It is mind-boggling that we can't protect our own once they are back," said Cow Harbor Warriors president Rocco Donnino, of Centerport.

The organization intends to hold fundraisers this spring and summer to aid organizations such as Paws of War, which trains rescued canines as soothing companions for emotionally fragile veterans.

Donnino said other funds will be given to the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Semper Fi Fund.

The Cow Harbor Warriors' effort comes two weeks after local members of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) went to Washington, D.C., to lobby members of Congress to make anti-suicide measures a priority.

"Veterans suicide is considered the most important issue among our membership," said Zach Goldberg, an IAVA spokesman.

Goldberg said a recent IAVA survey shows that of the more than 2.6 million Americans who have served in the Middle East since 9/11, more than 2 in 5 report some difficulty adjusting to civilian life.

The organization said 40 percent of its members reported knowing someone who had committed suicide, and half knew of someone who attempted suicide.

Unemployment, relationship problems, psychological issues and law enforcement encounters were among problems that put veterans at risk of suicide, according to the survey.

Another survey, released this month by The Washington Post and Kaiser Family Foundation, found that half of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans know at least one veteran who has committed or attempted suicide.

Gimbl, who like Walis has a service dog provided by Paws of War, said he's still grieving over the suicides of several veterans he knew.

He said he struggled financially himself after returning to civilian life, and hit a low point when his electricity was shut off.

"Without this dog, I don't think I'd be talking to you now," he said. "I don't think I would leave my house."

http://www.newsday.com/long-island/veterans-look-to-boost-awareness-of-military-suicides-1.7671515

NY Air National Guard unit headed to Australia

The Wall Street Journal: April 14, 2014

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Nearly three dozen members of a New York Air National Guard unit will head Down Under to help install radar used to track space debris and satellites.

National Guard officials say 35 airmen with the 107th Airlift Wing based at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station will head to Australia later this week for a three-week mission in the state of Western Australia.

The 107th Civil Engineer Squadron will renovate a building and construct a new antenna support structure at a naval communications station.

The U.S. military is moving more than 75 tons of space surveillance network radar equipment from Antigua to Australia under a 2012 agreement between the two countries. Officials say the radar will allow for better tracking of space debris and inactive and active satellites orbiting the Southern Hemisphere.

http://online.wsj.com/article/APfd825e1d85144fe98fa98b7137507e79.html

Going Hollywood: New York Army National Guard Soldiers Support New TV Thriller

DVIDS: April 14, 2014

EAST FARMINGDALE, N.Y. – The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry aren't Navy SEALs, but now they've played them on TV.

Nine members of the battalion were among the 18 members of the New York Army National Guard who supported a Universal Studios television show called "State of Affairs" during filming on April 3.

The show is due to air on NBC TV this fall.

The program stars Katherine Heigl—famous for her roles in the TV show "Greys Anatomy" and the movies "Knocked Up" and "27 Dresses"— as a CIA agent. It will be a high-intensity thriller ,heavily focused on operational maneuvers, said Sam Glenn, the show's military and technical adviser.

The pilot was being filmed in the New York City area, which is home to many TV productions.

Along with the infantry Soldiers, the TV production company used a UH-60 Blackhawk and four-member crew based at Army Aviation Support Facility 1 in Ronkonkoma, and four members from the New York Military Forces Honor Guard to lend reality to the TV story. The 69th Infantry also provided humvees and LMTVs to "dress the set".

For the purposes of the TV show, the Army Guard infantrymen portrayed Navy SEALs exiting the helicopter instead of an Army unit.

"It was really cool to work on a show that's going to be on an actual TV network. All of the guys had a good time especially since a lot of them have never been in a Blackhawk before," said Sgt. Herbet Gomezmaldonado, a member of B Co. from Central Islip, N.Y.

The Honor Guard team, which portrayed a military color guard during a funeral, was filmed at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale. The bulk of the shooting involving New

York National Guard members took place during a 12-hour session at Republic Airport in East Farmingdale.

The Guard Soldiers worked closely with production crews and costume staff as they meticulously tweaked details to ensure accuracy.

For the Army Guard aviators it was business as usual. They were asked to fly the UH-60 into a hover, do a 180 degree turn, and taxi into position. They also shot a third scene in which they landed at night and the 69th Soldiers, costumed as SEALS, exited the aircraft.

This is something they'd all done before in Afghanistan or Iraq, said Chief Warrant Officer John Seeger, a pilot from Center Moriches, N.Y.

The infantrymen simply executed a standard air assault drill as they exited the helicopter.

"It was fun to use what I learned in Air Assault School for something other than the military. It's good to know that some of the skills they give us here can apply to the civilian world," said Sgt. Anthony Olivari, a member of Company F, 427th Forward Support Battalion from Brooklyn.

Television production companies come to the Department of Defense, and the National Guard in particular, for assistance in providing equipment and personnel because "there is nothing more authentic than using the real thing," explained Russell Maheras, the National Guard Bureau's expert on working with TV and movies.

The military wants to help Hollywood get it right, but the rules about when the military can provide equipment and personnel are strict, Maheras said.

"We do our best to be very selective," he said. "Support must not interfere with the unit's mission, must come at no additional cost to the government, and must be accurate – even for programs that are primarily fictitious."

"In addition, visible National Guard portrayal is also an important deciding factor, as is whether or not the production is fully funded by a studio or network and is scheduled to have national distribution," he added.

Before the National Guard Bureau, and the New York Army National Guard, agreed to support the TV show, Mahares negotiated with the studios lawyers and producers to ensure that the New York National Guard was reimbursed the \$25,000 it cost to support the TV show. This covered the cost of three hours of helicopter flight time, Soldier pay, and additional supporting cost.

He also insisted that the New York National Guard gets mentioned in the script.

In the scene leading up to the helicopter landed, one of the actors will mention New York's 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation.

"I have the JSOC (Joint Special Operations Commander) on the phone with command center –tell them, his guys and the third of the 42nd are RED CON 1."

The sequence culminates in the SEAL team being airlifted into Somalia to execute a daunting night rescue of a key figure (or figures), whose identifies are left purposefully undisclosed to maintain suspense.

The helicopter's tactical maneuvers were dead on, they were accurate and looked good on film, Glenn said.

This type of work is nothing new to the show's director Joe Carnahan, whose work includes NBC's current thriller, "The Blacklist."

"The movie business is just like being in the Army, "joked Spc. Evelio Garcia, a Soldier from D Co. 1-69th who lives in Selden, N.Y. "You spend a whole day waiting to get something productive done."

"It was a pleasure to be a small part in the filming of 'State of Affairs', said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Hansen, a 3rd 142nd member from Patchogue. "It was great to showcase some of Army aviation's capabilities, especially on prime time TV," he added.

Being on TV and in the movies is nothing new for New York National Guard members. Soldiers from the 1-69th appeared in the Will Smith science fiction thriller "I Am Legend" and Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing are portrayed in the movie "The Perfect Storm."

And of course the 69th Infantry itself is one of the stars of the 1940 Jimmy Cagney movie "The Fighting 69th."

"Knowing that I was a part of an event like this, that millions of people are going to see, is really exciting and exhilarating," Seeger said.

Read more: http://www.dvidshub.net/news/125863/going-hollywood-new-york-army-national-guard-soldiers-support-new-tv-thriller#ixzz2yx2QZNIE

Duty Calls and Queensbury soldier wins Best Warrior title

Times Union: April 14, 2014

A New York Army National Guard soldier from Queensbury has won top honors in the state's annual Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site in Peekskill.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Dorvee took first place in the Active Guard Reserve noncommissioned officer of the year category. He is a full-time soldier in the National Guard.

Dorvee was one of a dozen troops selected from across the state who took part in the three-day competition, The competition tested the troops in a wide range of soldier skills, including marksmanship, physical fitness, endurance, military knowledge and land navigation.

"The timeline for the events made transitioning extremely intense," said Dorvee after the competition. "I definitely have a sense of accomplishment."

This year rain, cold and other unfavorable weather conditions did not deter the competitors.

"The stress from this brings out your weaknesses and helps you realize what you need to work on," said Dorvee. "I think this is beneficial for every soldier."

Sgt. Sean Massimo of New Rochelle took first place in the traditional NCO of year category, and Spc. Caleb Longley of Pulaski took first place in the traditional soldier of the year category.

Dorvee, a member of the 1427th Transportation Battalion, scored higher than Massimo to become overall NCO of the year. Dorvee will join Longley, a member of the 152nd Engineer Support Company, in the First Region Best Warrior Competition in May.

At the northeast region BWC, Dorvee and Longley will compete against the Best Warriors of Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and New Jersey. The Region One competition will take place from May 13 to 15 in Camp Ethan Allen, Vt.

Dorvee, a Glens Falls native, enlisted in the Army in 2003 and served with several active component and Army National Guard infantry units. He served two tours in the Afghanistan war and was wounded during one of the deployments. He earned a Purple Heart, two Army Commendation Medals and two Army Achievement Medals.

Dorvee and his wife, Shannon, have two children.

Afghanistan assignment

Army Reserve Lt. Col. Theresa Rusin, daughter of Richard and Jacki Rusin of Averill Park, is serving with the 831st Transportation Battalion in the Afghanistan war.

Rusin previously served as a convoy commander for 14 months in the Iraq war.

The Averill Park High School graduate attended Hudson Valley Community College. She earned a bachelor of science degree in applied mathematics from Rochester Institute of Technology while on a Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship and a bachelor of science degree in biology and secondary education from Metro State College, Denver, and a master of arts in curriculum development from the University of Colorado.

Rusin was commissioned as a transportation-logistics officer and trained as a med-tech at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

She previously served as a reserve emergency preparedness liaison officer.

Guard soldier promoted

Michael Hastings of Waterford was promoted to major while serving with the New York Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters.

Bryan Reed of Scotia advanced to major while serving with Headquarters and Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion.

Lance Geddis of Clifton Park advanced to chief warrant officer 3 while on duty with Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division.

Scott Dingmon of Saratoga Springs was promoted to sergeant first class while on duty with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry.

John Lavery of Schenectady advanced to staff sergeant while serving with Company B, 101st Signal Battalion, and Steven Taber of Schenectady advanced to staff sergeant while assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 104th Military Police Battalion.

Other promoted soldiers include:

Sergeant: Michael Burdick, Watervliet, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division; Karl Davis, Rensselaer, 1427th Transportation Company; Arielle Grober, Selkirk, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division; Timothy Odea, Gansevoort, 1427th Transportation Company; Ashley Oberry, Saratoga Spring, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division; and Davon Thomas from Stillwater, Company A (Engineer), 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

Specialist: Jason Barnes, Lake George, 1427th Transportation Company; Thomas Bennet, North Creek, 1427th Transportation Company; Lindsay Gravell, Colonie, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation; Tessa Marino, Clifton Park, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division; and Melanie Yosco, Lake George, 1427th Transportation Company.

 $\frac{http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Duty-Calls-Queensbury-soldier-wins-Best-Warrior-5401462.php}{2000}$

On-Duty Military Units Also Marched in St. Pat?s Parade

Gay City News: April 15, 2014

Protests this year against New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade, which for decades has banned identifiable Irish LGBT groups from participating, targeted the city's decision to continue allowing municipal personnel — police, fire, corrections, and more — to march in their uniforms. This despite the fact that Mayor Bill de Blasio and other leading elected officials boycotted the discriminatory parade and major sponsors are now abandoning it.

Mostly ignored — only a few years after gays and lesbians were first allowed to serve openly in the military — was the fact that most of the uniformed military in the parade were on duty and marching on the government's dime.

"It's an outrageous misuse of taxpayer dollars," said Bill Dobbs, a veteran peace and gay activist, "and more evidence that the parade is toxic to human rights."

Governor, who heads the New York National Guard, Defense Department offer no comment on discriminatory event

The 69th Infantry Regiment, part of the New York National Guard and more than 700 strong, led the parade for the 163rd year on March 17. Also in the line of march were color, honor, and ceremonial guards from the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and Air Force out of Washington, DC, and elsewhere, the 88th Brigade of the New York Guard, and military bands and pipe-and-drum units from all over.

Eric Durr of the New York Division of Military and Naval Affairs Office of Public Affairs would not respond to questions about the appropriateness of National Guard personnel participating on duty in a parade that discriminates, but told Gay City News that all guard units are entitled to participate in one local parade while on duty and that St. Patrick's Day is the 69th's "traditional unit day." Others participate in Memorial Day and Flag Day parades, he said.

"The 69th's decision to march predates anything" related to the controversy over the parade's exclusionary policy, Durr said. "They also go to Mass, whether Jewish, Protestant, or Catholic," though he insisted that no guardsman or woman is obligated to participate and could opt to participate in an alternate drill.

Governor Andrew Cuomo, the civilian head of the New York National Guard at Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral with members of the 69th Regiment. | DVIDSHUB.NET

Governor Andrew Cuomo, who does not participate in the Fifth Avenue parade, is the civilian head of the New York National Guard. His office did not respond to an inquiry about the appropriateness of guard unit participation, nor did the US Department of Defense.

Emmaia Gelman, a leader of the group Irish Queers which led the LGBT protest against the parade this year after picking up the mantle years ago from the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization, said just as they are pressing the case for getting uniformed city personnel out of the parade, they want uniformed, on-duty servicemembers out as well.

"We're not pretending that the military is going to suddenly stop being violent and repressive if we get soldiers out of the parade," Gelman said. "But it actually is important to stop the military from normalizing anti-queer, religious-right bigotry. And in this case, there's a legal constraint that says they have to stop."

In order to justify keeping Irish LGBT groups out, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has redefined itself as a "private, Catholic religious procession" rather than simply a celebration of Irish heritage.

In Boston, the St. Patrick's Day Parade is run by the Allied War Veterans, which also has a policy that identifiable LGBT groups are not welcome.

"It is not a sexuality parade," said Philip J. Wuschke, Jr., the parade organizer. He said there are some on-duty guard units marching in his parade, "but most of them are active reservists on their own time." His parade, too, has lost sponsors over the exclusion of Irish gay groups.

In the Wikipedia entry for the 69th, its roots in the Revolutionary War are noted as are the tensions that arose in 1855 between Protestant regiments and Catholic ones like the 69th. When the native-born American "Gangs of New York" leader Bill the Butcher Poole was killed and two Irishmen were arrested for the murder, Know Nothings retaliated against Catholics. The 69th and 9th (also Catholic and known for its Irish revolutionary sympathies) were dispatched to restore order.

"It was decided that military units would not march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade because of the tensions," the entry says, but once released from its duties battling Know Nothings that day, the 69th "marched with fixed bayonets down Broadway." The controversy over military participation in the parade is nothing new.

http://gaycitynews.com/duty-military-units-also-marched-st-pats-parade/

Man facing rape charges now hit with illegal weapons charges

WTEN: April 17, 2014

HUDSON FALLS, N.Y. - A former Army National Guard recruiter recently arrested on rape charges faces new charges in Glens Falls.

Robert Haas, 35, of Hudson Falls is accused of assaulting the victim earlier this month and obstructing their breathing in the process. An investigator tells NEWS10's Anya Tucker that they have heard from potential victims as far away as Arkansas and Texas – both areas in which he has worked and travelled.

The investigator also stated that the women say they met Haas through online dating sites.

As of Thursday, Haas also faces charges of illegal weapons. Police say they searched a storage unit owned by Haas and found two weapons for which he did not have a permit, as well as a set of brass knuckles and a stun gun.

Investigators say additional charges are likely.

If you have any information about Haas or feel you have been victimized. The Sheriff's Office is urging you to give them a call at 518-746-2494 or email khardy@co.washington.ny.us.

 $\frac{http://www.news10.com/story/25274974/man-facing-rape-charges-now-charged-with-illegal-weapon-possession}{}$

Walk A Mile

DVIDS: April 15, 2014

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. - Members of the 107th Airlift Wing assembled at the fitness testing area here to "walk a mile" in observance of April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The "Walk a Mile" Awareness event was organized by the 107th Sexual Assault Prevention office to highlight the wing's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault.

"When we all get involved we will move the Air Force closer to a culture free of sexual assault. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is our way to extend this message." said Col. John Higgins, 107th AW commander.

Participants enjoyed a rare warm, sunny April afternoon as they awaited the official start of the walk.

"It's symbolic. I think it's symbolic the fact that our family gathered together to say we're going to take a stand against this." said Col. Robert Kilgore before signaling the begin of the walk.

The wing also hosted various topical film screenings, events and table displays throughout the month to raise sexual assault awareness among unit members.

Read more: http://www.dvidshub.net/news/126016/walk-mile#ixzz2z2zOlGlp

Man hit with illegal weapon charges after facing rape charges

Fox 23: April 17, 2014

HUDSON FALLS, N.Y. - An Army National Guard recruiter faces new charged after recently being arrested on rape charges in Glens Falls.

Robert Haas, 35, of Hudson Falls is accused of assaulting the victim earlier this month and obstructing their breathing in the process. An investigator tells NEWS10's Anya Tucker that

they have heard from potential victims as far away as Arkansas and Texas – both areas in which he has worked and travelled.

The investigator also stated that the women say they met Haas through online dating sites.

As of Thursday, Haas also faces charges of illegal weapons. Police say they searched a storage unit owned by Haas and found two weapons for which he did not have a permit, as well as a set of brass knuckles and a stun gun.

Investigators say additional charges are likely.

If you have any information about Haas or feel you have been victimized. The Sheriff's Office is urging you to give them a call at 518-746-2494 or email khardy@co.washington.ny.us.

 $\underline{http://www.fox23 news.com/news/local/story/Man-hit-with-illegal-weapon-charges-after-facing/5tGHIbSAGESbAFnfAoxcJw.cspx}$