

THE NEW YORK GUARD Sentinel



WARAGER

U.S. AIRFORCE

State of New York
Governor's Chamber
CITATION

Whereas, the New York Guard is a unique and distinguished unit of the New York State National Guard, and its members have served with distinction in various capacities throughout the State's history;

Whereas, the New York Guard has a long and proud tradition of service to the State of New York, and its members have demonstrated exceptional courage and sacrifice in the line of duty;

Whereas, the New York Guard has played a vital role in the defense of the State of New York, and its members have been instrumental in the State's military operations;

Whereas, the New York Guard has a rich and storied history, and its members have been the backbone of the State's military forces;

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Whereas, the New York Guard has a rich and storied history, and its members have been the backbone of the State's military forces;

Now known as
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK GUARD

Andrew Cuomo
Governor



The New York Guard is a New York Institution

This year is a little special as the NYG celebrates its Centennial. We have spoken often of the establishment of the New York Guard at the outbreak of WWI and the courageous efforts of our founding NYG soldiers who protected the aqueduct supplying fresh water to NYC and the Erie Canal from Troy to Buffalo.

We have also spoken about the largest activation in the history of the New York Guard during World War II as a Home Guard with a mission to guard critical infrastructure and public buildings; we were even blessed to have with us at our annual gala Dr. Joseph Giovinco SSG, New York Guard (RET), who served in the NYG during WWII, prior to joining the US Army.

In the post 9/11 era, the New York Guard began a transformation from the post WWII "Cadre" model to a military force that could augment the National Guard in its state mission in support of civilian authorities. In the last 18 months, we have been called to duty to support missions including:

- the Anti-Terrorism Surge of last fall (2016)
- Operation Lake Ontario from May to August of this year,
- Operation Maria Support
- Operation Turkey Drop

We have answered the call to serve when called out by the Governor in each of these times of need. I want to particularly note and thank the NYG soldiers who served on Operation Lake Ontario and Operation Maria Support. Both of these missions were each almost three months long. The work was long and hard. For OLO it was primarily filling and distributing sandbags.

For Maria Support it was unloading, sorting and reloading pallets and trucks. But when the call went out the NYG stepped up. Similarly, with Operation Maria Support we met all of our commitments to DMNA. Our soldiers were outstanding in their performance. On behalf of the entire NYG I extend a big THANK YOU to all those NYG soldiers who answered the call to serve this year on State Active Duty!!

As we work with our National Guard brethren we are often asked – "You do this service and you don't get paid?" And the answer is YES, we do!! The NYG is the true citizen soldier, month after month, year after year we train to prepare to be called to serve, without pay and in many instances, spending money out of our own pocket in order to participate.

We are called by the opportunity to serve and help our neighbors and to serve side by side during an activation with our brethren in the Army Guard and Air Guard and Naval Militia.

We may be a little older, but we bring our civilian work skills and our patriotic spirit and "can do" work ethic.

As we move into our second century we will be focused on improving our training and devoting more resources to support our training efforts. We will also continue our recruiting efforts to sustain the force to be able to perform our current mission and any new missions that are assigned.

I want to thank the past commanders of the NYG and the NYG Army Division who have joined us here today for their leadership in helping us achieve the successes that we have achieved.

I want to thank The Adjutant General, MG German for all his continuing support and the support of his staff at DMNA during this last year including the support of the NYG Centennial celebration events.

Lastly, I want to thank you, all my fellow soldiers in the NYG. Without you, there is no NYG. Thank you!!



**COL David Warager,
Commander NY Guard**

An Introduction to CSM, NY Guard—George Hodge

Hello. My name is George 'Skip' Hodge. I serve as the newly appointed CSM of the New York Guard. As a proud member of the NYG I was equally proud to be selected for this position. As senior enlisted advisor I submit the following to all NYG service members officers and enlisted alike.



**CSM George Hodge
Command Sergeant Major,
NY Guard**

I joined the NYG in 2003 out of an overwhelming feeling that I needed to do something more to support and defend my country and state. As a prior 4 year active duty, honorably discharged 2nd class petty officer, E5, in the US Navy I enlisted in the NYG as a staff sergeant, E6, and drilled with the 14th BDE in Riverhead. During my journey up through the ranks to NYG CSM I have held billets as S3 of the 14th BDE, ANCO senior enlisted course advisor with the 12th RTI, CSM of the 12th RTI, NCOIC of the G3 section and during AT17 was selected by Col. Warager to serve as NYG CSM. In total I have spent more than two thirds of my life in one uniform or another in service to country, state or county.

Through my tenure with the NYG my main concern has been the training and welfare of the soldiers I have been responsible for. I believe a well trained and supported NYG is more than capable of quick response, nimble maneuver and readiness to support NYS whenever and wherever asked to do so. Regarding training Gen. George S. Patton Jr. was once quoted as saying "a pint of sweat saves a gallon of blood" and I fully support that contention.

Military camaraderie is a soldier's greatest asset. It has often been repeated that soldiers in combat fight to support and defend their battle buddies. I believe this camaraderie is also one the NYG's most resilient strengths. Civilians join the NYG and as they become integrated into the guard and their units they develop a sense of purpose, mission if you prefer, as well as the friendships and bonds that keep them coming back. Instilling and supporting this camaraderie is crucial.

I look forward to my tenure as CSM of the NYG. I see my primary responsibility during this tenure as maintaining readiness in the NYG through appropriate training, consistent discipline and whenever possible the enhancement of the camaraderie spoken of earlier.

A Message from the Chief of Chaplains, NY Guard

As we celebrate this joyous time of year, our thoughts turn to the brave men and women who serve our country both a far and near this holiday season. Their extraordinary and selfless sacrifice is an inspiration to us all, and part of the unbroken line of heroism that has made our freedom and prosperity possible.

We also take a moment to recognize the men and women serving throughout the State of New York in various missions including Task Force Donation/Operation Maria, in which various troops from the New York Guard, New York Army National Guard and the New York Naval Militia are working tirelessly around the clock packing truck loads of donations to ship to Puerto Rico during the Governor's initiative to help the people of Puerto Rico and it's recovery process.

I'd like to also send a special thank you to CH (CPT) Frederick Marasco, 56th Area Command, CH (CPT) John Muniz, 88th Area Command, CH (CPT) Timothy Miller, 53rd Troop Command, and CH (MAJ) James Kim, Joint Task Force Empire Shield that have provided weekly Worship Services along with WO1 Stephen Johnson and myself - New York Guard Chief of Chaplains, at the Duffy Chapel on Camp Smith Training Site. Together, we have been able to fulfill the spiritual needs of our troops, while they spend several weeks away from their homes, and work day to day to fulfill the needs of the mission.

Furthermore, we continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers all those that have passed away this year, including our dear brother SPC Shawn Putnam of the 10th Area Command in which CH (1LT) David Grate and myself were able to assist the family during this transition, and delivered a honorable send off in conjunction with the members of the 10th Area Command during a Memorial Service officiated in Rochester, N.Y. In doing so, I've come to the realization that now, more than ever, we must rededicate ourselves to the notion that we share a common destiny as Americans, and children of God – that I am my brother's & sister's keeper.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season filled with love and joy, and have a very prosperous New Year!
CH (MAJ) Sean P. Gardner Chief of Chaplains, NYG.



Mail Call

One of the most exciting things about the New York Guard is the variety of individuals, enlisted and commissioned, who comprise the body of this amazing organization.

The members of the Public Affairs team would love to hear from you include your letters to *The State Guard Sentinel* right here.

To have your letter published in the next issue of *The State Guard Sentinel*, please send an email to:

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Please provide article submissions via email saved in Microsoft Word or rich text format (rtf) along with high resolution digital (jpg) photos.

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THE NY STATE RECRUITMENT MEDAL — Got yours?



The Recruiting Medal may be awarded to any member of the New York State Organized Militia who obtains three new members for any unit of the organized militia.



www.dmna.ny.gov

99th Annual Memorial Ceremony Held for 1st Provisional Regiment of the New York Guard

Story by SPC Zach Perkins, New York Guard. Photos by CPT Mark Getman and SPC Zach Perkins, New York Guard

SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY – On Sunday, 7 May 2017, the New York Guard was joined by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Police Department and the Veteran Corps of Artillery (VCA) for the 99th Annual Aqueduct Defense Memorial Service. The annual ceremony at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery memorializes the 40 New York Guard soldiers of the First and Second Provisional Regiment whose lives were lost between 1917 and 1918 during their service to the State of New York in the First World War.

The New York Guard presence at the memorial was spearheaded by the 56th AC, led by Colonel Ray Mechmann, Commander of the 56th, and included soldiers from the 88AC, 12th RTI, 89th New York Guard Band, and New York Guard Headquarters. Together, the soldiers of the New York Guard provided a color guard alongside the NYC DEP Police, a band performance, firing party, and chaplains' services.

The ceremony began with the national anthem, followed by two wreaths laid by representatives of both the New York Guard and the Veterans Corps of Artillery. Speeches commemorating the fallen soldiers of the First Provisional Regiment were then given by Ken Wray, Mayor of Sleepy Hollow, Chief Peter Fusco, NYC DEP Police Chief, COL James Whalen, Acting Commandant of the VCA for the State of New York, Col. David Warager, Acting Commander of the New York Guard, and Col. Ray Mechmann, Commander of the 56AC, with a prayer service lead by Chaplain (MAJ) Sean Gardner, New York Guard Chief of Chaplains.



Color Guards from the NYC DEP Police (left) and the New York Guard (right) at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, on 7 May 2017. Photo by CPT Mark Getman, New York Guard

During Chief Fusco's comments, the names of fallen were recited, each punctuated by the sound of a bell tolling. Honors were also rendered with a 21-gun salute and the playing of TAPS by a New York Guard bugler.

Col. Warager, speaking of the First Provisional Regiment, remarked that "They were citizens who cared for their country, its ideals and the freedom that they enjoyed due to the service of those that served before them. ...While there were 1600 soldiers authorized, no more than 1300 soldiers at any one time were available for service, and their service required them guarding a 100-mile-long aqueduct. The National Guard, the 27th infantry division, had done that mission with 3700 soldiers. It was a daunting mission, but the Regiment was successful at this mission. However, it was not successful in fighting the 1918 Flu Pandemic which spread swiftly across the world, and killed an estimated 40 million people around the world. More American soldiers fell to the flu than died in combat

during World War 1. Of the 40 members of the New York Guard First Provisional Regiment that we are celebrating and memorializing today, 32 of them died from causes related to the flu."

This year, the memorial service holds additional significance, as it also commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the New York Guard. COL Warager went on to consider the parallels between the First Provisional Regiment and the present-day New York Guard, as it enters its second century of service. "Our vigilance and our mission continue today. The dangers of sabotage and terrorism faced by the members of the First Provisional Regiment are still with us today. Since 9/11, there have been 35 incidents of terrorism in the United States, and another 31 that our law enforcement has been able to stop before they happened. We have witnessed an increase in other regions as well. Our primary role in the New York Guard as soldiers is to augment the National Guard and Air National Guard in their State mission.

As the role of the National Guard has changed, especially since 9/11, the role of the New York Guard has also changed, and it has evolved, and we are more depended upon today than ever to support the National Guard in supporting their State mission. Most recently in the response to Operation Sandy in 2012, and the operation in response to the blizzards in Upstate New York in 2014, and just this past fall in response to the Governor's call for an increase in military protection after the recent incidents of terror that occurred at that time. As members of today's New York Guard and VCA, we continue the tradition of service of citizen soldiers that the First Provisional Regiment exemplified.

Throughout the ceremony, several New York Guard officers were interviewed by Spectrum News Hudson Valley, including COL Warager, Col Mechmann, and Captain Mark Getman, Public Affairs Officer for New York Guard Headquarters. The soldiers told reporters of the significance of the New York Guard's mission to defend the home front in World War 1, and how the sacrifices of the 40 New York Guard soldiers who lost their lives in the line of duty between 1917 and 1918, would never be forgotten.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR
SUNDAY
6 MAY 2018
100th Annual
Memorial Ceremony
SLEEPY HOLLOW**

New York Guard Assist Hudson Valley Veterans Alliance For Armed Forces Day

Story by 1LT Robert Ellis, photos by SGT Zach Perkins

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY – New York Guard soldiers from the Mid-Hudson region mobilized for a recruiting and public affairs mission on 20 May, for the Hudson Valley Veterans Alliance’s Armed Forces Day celebration, held along the banks of the Hudson River, at Waryas Park in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Led by the 244th Medical Clinic, the team included CPT Christopher Dunbar, OCS Lauren Colasacco, WO1 Paul Green, CSM Mark Johnson, SSG Fred Ehren and SPC Charisse Texeira. Joining them from Headquarters were SPC Zach Perkins and SPC Michael Tatum, as well as 1LT Robert Ellis from the 56th Brigade.

The weather began with cloudy skies and cool temperatures, but warmed up with the afternoon sun. Food and music drew crowds to the southern end of a city park. At the northern end of the park, where various military and veterans’ groups were located, New York Guard soldiers interacted with veterans, the general public, and recruiters from other military branches.

SPC Tatum remarked that “Events like this enable military recruiters to collaborate on the best way to route potential recruits to the most suitable branch of service.”

The New York Guard worked alongside New York Army National Guard recruiters, a United States Marine Corps Color Guard, and Air Force ROTC cadets to provide a robust military presence for the public event. Summarizing the day’s accomplishments,

SGT Perkins noted: “This event provided an excellent opportunity to increase our visibility not only with the local public, but with other military branches and the greater veterans’ community”.



New York Guard soldiers and New York Army National Guard recruiters in formation during the National Anthem, on 20 May 2017 in Poughkeepsie, NY. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins



United States Marine Corps Color Guard during opening ceremonies, on 20 May 2017 in Poughkeepsie, NY. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins

New York Guard Prepares for Disaster Response with Emergency Communications Drill

Story and photos by SPC Ed Shevlin

STATEN ISLAND, NY: In keeping with its training regimen, the 88th Area Command held a Consolidated Drill on 25 June 2017 which had as its centerpiece a Military Emergency Radio Network Exercise (MERNEX).

Hosted by the 14th Detachment at the 1st Marine Corps District facility in Garden City New York, this multi-faceted drill also included Physical Training, Drill and Ceremony, and a hands-on introduction to Tactical Combat Casualty Care.

The MERNEX is conducted once a month throughout the State of New York and includes New York Guard Headquarters along with MERN units from the 10th, 56th and 88th Area Commands, as well as stations from both the United States Army and the United States Air Force. The MERNEX conducted on 25 June was a quarterly training event during which the core Commo Teams train other service members within the Area Command in



SPC Michael Bilski of the 14th Detachment, 88th Area Command, operates a radio during the 25 June MERNEX. Photo by SPC Ed Shevlin.

the efficient operation of the MERN. Under this “Train the Trainer” concept, experienced operators pass on their knowledge while simultaneously sharpening their teaching skills.

The 88AC demonstrated a high level of proficiency during this MERNEX by passing digital message traffic in the form of a Situation Report (SITREP) to the designated 88AC Tactical Oper-

ations Center (TOC) at the Staten Island Armory, in spite of the interference from solar storm activity and High Frequency propagation.

In the words of the 88th’s Signals NCO, Sergeant First Class Richard Martino, “The Military Emergency Radio Network exercises are important in order to maintain proficiency in what would be considered a perishable skill. In other words, if you don’t use it, you lose it.” When asked about the state of readiness of the 88th’s MERN Unit, SFC Martino had this to say, “As fast as we can pack our equipment, we can hit the ground running. In short, give us twenty four hours and we can be in the field, ready to go.”

The motto of the US Army Signal Corps has not been lost on the New York Guard’s 88AC MERN Unit – Pro Patria Vigilans or Watchful for the Country holds as true as ever.



Soldiers of the 88th Area Command conduct a Mass Casualty Exercise concurrent to the 25 June MERNEX. Photo by SPC Ed Shevlin.

New York Activates 70 Members for Puerto Rico Donation Duty

Story and photos by SGT. Zach Perkins

CAMP SMITH--As donations of relief supplies for Puerto Rico continue to pour in, the New York Guard state defense force has doubled the size of its force on State Active Duty.

On September 24, under the direction of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York National Guard established donation collection points across the state. These collection points were set up to accept the influx of much needed public donations of emergency relief supplies for Puerto Rico, following the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, including items such as bottled water, flashlights, batteries, diapers, baby wipes and baby formula.

Camp Smith was set up as the primary consolidation point for the donations coming from all the state's collection points.

"I've been on State Active Duty alongside the National Guard before," said SPC Steve Morelli of the 88AC, "but this is by far the most challenging and rewarding activation yet."

Since day one, the New York Guard and Army National Guard efforts have been a 24-hour operation, working around the clock to consoli-



New York Guard members load bottled water donated by people across the state for Puerto Rico relief onto a flatbed at Camp Smith Training Site on Oct. 9. Seventy New York Guard members have been placed on State Active Duty to help package and process donations. (Photo NYG Spc. Zach Perkins)

date and prepare these much-needed supplies for rapid shipment.

"We're ahead of the curve," said 2LT Shaw. "Our committed soldiers are preparing relief supplies faster than expected. We've pro-

cessed over 1500 pallets, which exceeds our previous target goals."

"This is personal for me," said Staff Sergeant Jesus Sanchez. "90% of my family are in Puerto Rico. When I was a kid I lived there for

two years."

The mission is expected to continue as long as the volume of donations from the public warrant the New York Guard's logistical support, and will continue into 2018 .



NY Guard NCOs on State Active Duty review inventory lists and discuss the plan for the day. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins



PV2 Vincent Herring moves critical supplies for Hurricane Maria relief efforts into place at the Camp Smith warehouse. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins,



New York Guard soldiers on State Active Duty in support of Hurricane Maria relief efforts pose for a group photo at Camp Smith during a warehouse shift change. To date, more than 75 New York Guard soldiers have served on this extended activation alongside the New York Army National Guard and New York Naval Militia. Photo by 2LT Richard Shaw



SPC Zach Perkins moves pallets to secure tarps over Hurricane Maria relief supplies, to protect them from the coming rain. Photo by SPC Orlando Villa



1SG Rodney Harper supervises the unloading of supplies from a New York Army National Guard flatbed truck, during an overnight shift at Camp Smith. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins

New York Guard Marches at Veterans Day Parade

Photo by CPT Mark H Getman

NEW YORK—On November 11, soldiers from the New York Army National Guard, and the New York Guard State Defense Force marched in the Annual New York City America’s Veterans Day Parade along Fifth Avenue in New York City.

The Grand Marshal this year was the legendary astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who served in the U.S. Air Force and was the second man on the moon, piloting the Apollo 11 and following Neil Armstrong onto the lunar surface in 1969.



LTC Joram Aris marches New York Guard soldiers through Manhattan during the Veteran's Day Parade. Photo by CPT Mark Getman

New York Guard Completes Annual Training, Celebrates 100 Years of Service to NY

Story by CPT Mark Getman, Photos by CPT Mark Getman and SPC Chuck Garelick

CSTS – The year 2017 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the New York Guard, which was established August 3, 1917. New York State created the NY Guard as a state militia to replace the New York National Guard when 24,000 guard soldiers were mobilized to fight in France; these soldiers had been guarding railroad bridges, the New York City water system, and the Erie Canal, to prevent sabotage by enemy agents.

Eventually there were 10,000 NY Guard members across New York State, with close to 2,000 serving on active duty as a security force.

The NY Guard opened its Annual Training (AT) on August 5, 2017 with a special centennial dinner celebrating 100 Years of Service to the State by the New York Guard.

The speaker for the evening was Brigadier General G Michel Natali, Commanding General, NYARNG 53rd Troop Command, who attended the event with COL Isabel Smith, Chief of Staff, 53rd Troop Command, & CSM Corey K Cush, 53rd Troop Command CSM.

BG Natali and his staff were presented with a commemorative NY Guard challenge coin and commemorative mug, by the NY Guard Commanding Officer David Warager, celebrating the establishment of the NY Guard 100 years ago, .

The annual conclusion to the New York



New York Guard Acting Commander, Colonel David Warager addresses the New York Guard and guests during the New York Guard Centennial Celebration, held during the New York Guard annual training on August 9th, 2017. Photo by CPT Mark Getman

Guard yearly training cycle is the week long “Annual Training” event, held this year at the Camp Smith Training Site, held this year from August 5-11.

During AT, 35 soldiers completed initial entry training (IET), learning basic soldier skills such as drill and ceremony, basic first aid, map orientation and wear and appearance of the New York Guard uniform.

Also taking place during AT-2017, 20 newly appointed officers completed the in-residence portion of their Basic Officer course. Additionally, 40 Junior non-commissioned officers (NCO’s) completed their Professional Development Leaders course (PDLC), preparing them for the role as future NCO’s in the New York Guard

While soldiers were in classes, over 40 soldiers from the NY Guard Engineer unit were involved in construction projects throughout Camp Smith.

The culmination of the events at AT was a graduation ceremony on August 9, 2017 recognizing the soldiers who completed IET, BOC, and PLDC; each soldier was presented a certification of completion by Colonel David Warager, the NY Guard Commanding Officer

As part of the NY Guard Centennial Celebration, the 300 Soldiers attending Annual Training along with former commanders of the New York Guard and invited guests celebrated the 100th anniversary of the New York Guard with a commemorative plaque unveiling ceremony that Commemorated and celebrated the establishment of the NY Guard 100 years ago, on August 3, 1917.

The Commemorative plaque was unveiled by Major General Anthony P. German, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, and Colonel David Warager, who was also presented a Citation Com-



SPC Foster (Left) and SPC Thompson (Right) practice land orientation as part of their week long Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) held at Camp Smith Training Site. Photo by SPC Chuck Garelick.



New York Guard in formation during the unveiling of plaque Commemorating their Centennial Celebration during their Annual training in August 2017 at Camp Smith Training Site. Photo by CPT Mark Getman- NYG, PAO

memorating the 100th Anniversary of the New York Guard from the Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo.

The Commemorative plaque was un- veiled by Major General Anthony P. German, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, and Colonel David Warager, who was also presented a Citation Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the New York Guard from the New York Guard Commander In Chief, Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo.

MG German remarked “I would like to Congratulate you on behalf of the Governor on your celebration of 100 Years of Service to the State of New York. Soldiers of the New York Guard you are the epitome of what volunteering is about. You have answered the call to your State, when called upon. Since 1917, New York Soldiers have served to protect the State and its Citi-



The Adjutant General of New York, Major General Anthony German congratulates the New York Guard after the unveiling of New York Guard Centennial Celebration plaque held during the New York Guard's annual training in August.



New York Guard Chief of Staff, Col. David Molek, joined with the other senior officers to serve mess to the IET candidates and soldiers during Annual Training at Camp Smith in August.



The New York Guard graduates of Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) 2017-01 and Initial Entry Training (IET) 2017-01 pose for a graduation photo with 12th RTI Cadre and Headquarters Staff."

zens, with 9/11, Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and most recently this summer assisting with filling sand bags and providing assistance to the National Guard, where needed with the flooding upstate in Lake Ontario. I appreciate all you do for New York State and its Citizens."

In addition, the NY Guard was also presented with a framed picture of the NY Guard from 1917, honoring their service since 1917 to the State, and a Procla-

mation by the New York Senate Honoring the NY Guard's 100th Anniversary presented by Jared Manfredi, on behalf of NY State Senator Terrence Murphy, 40th Senate District where Camp Smith Training Site is located.

At the end of the ceremony, NY Guard soldiers posed along with NY Guard senior leaders with the Commemorative plaque to commemorate this historic event, before they returned to their an-

nual training.

During World War II the New York Guard was created again, and in the 1950s the New York Guard was established as a permanent force.

The New York Guard is a force of 500 uniformed volunteers, organized as a military unit, who augment the New York National Guard during state emergencies. They provide administrative and logistics support to the National Guard.



Soldiers of PLDC Class 2017-01 return from a FTX in formation during their final days of the Primary Leadership Development Course. Photo by SPC Chuck Garelick.



Color Guard members take to the parade field to rehearse for the Centennial Celebration during Annual Training 2017. Photo by SPC Chuck Garelick



Soldiers of PLDC Class 2017-01 move through the Leadership Reaction Course at Camp Smith during Annual Training 2017. Photo by CPT Mark Getman.



One of the many engineers from Area Commands around the state working to complete an assignment project in time and under budget during the August 2017 Annual Training at Camp Smith Training Site. SPC Chuck Garelick



Soldiers of IET Class 2017-01 conduct D&C during the Drill Down competition at Annual Training 2017. Photo by SPC Chuck Garelick



Soldiers of IET Class 2017-01 march onto the Parade Field during graduation at Annual Training 2017. Photo by SPC Chuck Garelick



Soldiers of PLDC Class 2017-01 conduct a Mass Casualty Exercise during their FTX at Annual Training 2017. Photo by SPC Chuck Garelick



Soldiers of PLDC Class 2017-01 celebrate a victory during the Drill Down at Annual Training 2017. Photo by SPC Chuck Garelick

New York Guard/Naval Militia Honor Citizen Soldiers

Photos by CPT Mark H Getman, SGT Zach Perkins, and SPC Chuck Garelick

WEST POINT—On December 2, 2017 at the West Point Officers Club, located on West Point Military Academy over 250 guests attended the New York Guard and the New York Naval Militia Annual Holiday Ball, which also celebrated the Centennial of the New York which was established in 1917.

The New York Guard Acting Commander, COL David J Warager and the New York Naval Militia Commander, Rear Admiral “Trip” Powell addressed those in attendance. Guest remarks were made by Brigadier General Timothy LaBarge, Chief of Staff, NY Air National Guard, who was representing The Adjutant General, MG Anthony German .

During the evening the NY Guard presented the “NCO of the Year” Award to SSG Trevis Wimer, and the “Soldier of the Year” Award to SPC William Hernandez, both from the 88th Area Command, which includes New York City and Long Island. .

In attendance at the gala was Dr. Joseph Giovinco, who served in the New York Guard as a Staff Sergeant at Camp Smith Training Site from 1944-1947, and then went on to service in the Florida National Guard 1948-1952. COL David



SPC William Hernandez (left) and SSG Trevis Wimer (center) of the 88AC stand at attention with CSM George Hodge (right) as they are honored as the New York Guard Soldier and NCO of the Year respectively, during the Centennial Ball. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins.



SSG Robert W. Tozzo, First Sergeant from the 56AC, 1st Detachment, and his wife at the New York Guard and the New York Naval Militia Annual Holiday Ball at West Point.

Guard Soldiers Participate in Governor's Thanksgiving Initiative



On November 20 and 21, soldiers and airmen from the New York National Guard Joint Task Force Empire Shield, along with soldiers from the NY Guard State 88AC, 56AC and Headquarters Company assisted in the preparing and packing of over 2800 boxes of Thanksgiving food at the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan as part of Governor's Office NY Holiday Giving event. Photos by Captain Mark Getman/New York Guard



The New York Guard, together, at the New York Guard and the New York Naval Militia Annual Holiday Ball at West Point.



GySgt Green and SGT Garry Ferris at the New York Guard and the New York Naval Militia Annual Holiday Ball at West Point.

Warager, presented Dr. Giovinco with an Honorable Discharge from the New York Guard, a New York Guard 1st Provision Regiment Medal and a Commemorative New York Guard Centennial Challenge Coin. .

As part of the evenings festivities, New York Guard Sgt Garry Ferris performed his World War II Radio, with music from the time played during his show.

In addition, special guest Actor/Producer Michael Nathanson, who currently plays DHS Agent Sam Stein in *Marvel's The Punisher*, currently on Netflix, and his Wife Haley attended the New York Guard Centennial Gala. Mr. Nathanson addressed those in attendance with his remarks of thanks to all who serve, and offered congratulations to the New York Guard on behalf of the show, its star Jon Bernthal and the entire cast and crew. Mr. Nathanson's comments were followed with a special Video Message from his co-star Deborah Ann Woll, who plays Karen Page in the series. Mr. Nathanson was presented a Commemorative New York Guard Centennial Challenge Coin by COL Warager as an appreciation to Mr. Nathanson for attending the



COL David Warager and LTC Barry R. Greene, Director Recruiting & Retention and Public Affairs, New York Guard present Dr. Joseph Giovinco with an Honorable Discharge from the New York Guard at the New York Guard and the New York Naval Militia Annual Holiday Ball at West Point.



Sailors of the New York Naval Militia pose for photos at the Centennial Ball. Photo by SGT Zach Perkin

New York Guard Responds to Flooding In Lake Ontario Area

Story by PFC Vincenzo Carciofolo. Photos provided by New York Guard Staff.

ROCHESTER, NY – Thirty New York Guard members have been working alongside National Guard and Naval Militia members as part of the state’s response to Lake Ontario’s extra-high waters.

The New York Guard members have conducted a variety of missions ranging from filling sandbags to going door-to-door to see if homeowners need help with flooded basements, said Ed Keyrouze, the New York Guard’s administrative officer.

Warrant Officer Mark Folgert, the officer-in-charge of the New York Guard contingent said that the team has the “right people to hit the ground running.”

Daily operations consist of crews going out to either fill sandbags or being sent to the flooding front to construct the sandbag wall, said SGT. M.J. Phillips, who is tasked with tracking the employment of personnel.

“The work is physically demanding, but we are all having fun and enjoying what we do,” said PVT. Aaron Patnode.

At the peak of operations, which began on May 3, just over 300 New York National Guard, Naval Militia, and New York Guard personnel have been involved in the flood response mission.



Right: New York Guard Soldiers load sandbags into a truck to be transported to flooded areas. Photo by PV2 Taylor Jonihen



Soldiers serving State Active Duty as a part of the Joint Task Force in response to Lake Ontario flooding pose with COL David Warager, Acting Commander of the New York Guard.

Successful Drill Shows New York Guard Commo Team Is Ready for Action

Story and photos by SPC Ed Shevlin

GARDEN CITY, NY On Saturday, 21 January members of the New York Guard's 88th Brigade, 14th Battalion Commo Team conducted a MERNEX (Military Emergency Radio Network Exercise) to maintain and enhance their proficiency and readiness in MERN operations. The exercise concentrated on the Commo Team's ability to install, operate and transmit voice messages and the primary exercise objective of passing digital messaging over HF radios from both a fixed station and deployed mobile stations in the field.

Two mobile stations of the 14th Detachment Commo Team were established in the parking field of the 1st Marine Corps District Base in Garden City, NY. The exercise at both mobile field stations was led by SFC Richard Martino, S6 Chief Signal NCO acting as instructor. Members of the 14th Detachment operating the mobile field units included SSG Fantini, SGT Cruz, SPC Morelli, SPC Bilski, SPC Hershenfeld and PFC Strack.

The ability to pass and relay digital message traffic between stations, when previous voice communication proved to be intermittent, was successful and established the value of having a secondary High Frequency (HF) communication system available with operators fully knowledgeable in its use.

The Military Emergency Radio Network (MERN) was established to provide the ability for New York Guard units to communicate effectively during disaster response and its assigned missions. The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), which is a program operated jointly by the United States Army and United States Air Force with a mission objective to assist, and provide local, national and



Soldiers of the 88AC Commo Team pose for a photo by their mobile communications trailer after a successful MERNEX. Photo by SPC Ed Shevlin.

international communications in support of United States Military and the New York Guard, is staffed by volunteer civilian Amateur Radio Operators and active duty military personnel. MARS works hand-in-hand with MERNs to assist in maintaining a robust emergency communications network.

To promote interoperability with MARS, the 88 AC also conducts operations out of

the Air Force MARS MEOC -Mobile Emergency Operations Center. This unit can deploy to any location and has the ability to be set up and become operational in a short period of time to facilitate communications.

The mobile MERN Units maintain two forms of power supply, a gas-powered generator and solar panels which provide dual electric systems. State-of-the art HF / VHF radio and computers

and all equipment necessary to conduct field operations are also contained in the Air Force MARS MEOC.

Additional stations participating in the 21 January MERNX included a fixed station at the Staten Island Armory, which was operated by 1LT Arbeeney, 88th Brigade HQ S6 Signal Officer and a mobile field station located in Rochester, which was operated by members of the 10 AC, New York Guard.

10AC Participates in Drill with 109th Air Wing

The 10AC, in conjunction with the 109th Air Wing participated together in a training mission which consisted of an area set up as a storm damaged area and a road that needed to be cleared.

Training by both NYG NCO's and the Airwing NCO's contributed to a successful mission and training.

We have been invited back for spring and summer training and also put on their call list if they are activated for State Duties.



89th Army Band Welcomes New Members

Story and photos by SPC Richard Mayfield

CAMP SMITH--The commander of the 89th Army Band, New York Guard, Captain Roy Coates, is welcoming two new members. SFC Myruski is no stranger to the military; he joined the West Point Band in 1976 and was a participant in many exciting performances and events as we celebrated our nation's Bicentennial. He went on to serve for 32 years in the National Guard including a 2005 deploy-



CPT Coates, Commander of the 89th Army Band, with SFC Myruski, NY National Guard (retired), who joined the ranks of the New York Guard and the 89th this year.

ment to Iraq with the 42nd Infantry Division Band. Myruski early on developed a love of music in high school playing the clarinet. He graduated from Orange County Community College, granted his Bachelors from University of Houston and then attended SUNY Binghamton for his Masters.

Once he completed his education, Myruski taught music to inmates at the Eastern Correctional Facility Napanoch, New York and currently teaches as a music teacher for the Warwick Valley Central School System. It was during his time at Napanoch that he was recruited into the 199th New York Army National Guard Band.

Myruski is deeply involved in his community and believes that service in the New York Guard will be a continuation of a lifetime of service to our military. He currently lives in Greenville with his wife Fern and they have one daughter Alyssa.

PV2 Hondo enlisted on November 7, 2016 with the desire to participate in



CPT Coates, Commander of the 89th Army Band, welcomes PV2 Hondo to the New York Guard.

Veterans Day programs and has been actively practicing and performing with the 89th Army Band ever since. Hondo began playing the piano at the age of six and is now an accomplished flutist. He is currently attending the Adelphi University majoring in Anthropology.

Hondo views his service in the New York Guard as one of giving back to his community and developing his skills as a musician.

Five Soldiers Earn Engineer Specialty Qualification

Story and photos by MAJ Geoffrey Milligan

CAMP SMITH—COL David Warager, acting commander, New York Guard, pinned the Engineer Specialty Qualification Device (ESQiD) on the graduates of the first NYG ESQiD Class.

CPT Keith Tidball and CW2 David Jenkins of HQ's, 10th Area Command; 2LT John Schmidt of the 65th Detachment, 10th Area Command; and 2LT John Olszewski and CSM Wayne Curry of the 102nd Detachment, 10th Area Command all had successfully completed a year-long training program designed to teach senior engineer skills to New York Guard members.

The ESQiD training is designed to teach engineers who have been trained in the civilian sector how to integrate with New York State's military forces and support the NY Guard's engineer missions. This training begins with a combination of on-line and instructor taught classes during the training year, and ends with the students taking on a hands-on leadership role during an Engineer Field Training Exercise (FTX) held during Annual Training.

The NYG ESQiD program covers basic military skills, such as field sanitation and



The NYG ESQiD 2017 Graduating Class, from left to right: CPT Keith Tidball, 2LT John Schmidt, 2LT John Olszewski, CW2 David Jenkins and CSM Wayne Curry. Photo courtesy of MAJ Geoffrey Milligan

basic first aid, as well as engineer specific training in debris operations, flood mitigation, and storm damage assessment. The course also teaches leadership

skills and basic project management techniques. These graduates will be instrumental in conducting training for future NYG ESQiD classes.

88th Brigade Marches in 256th NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade

Story and photos by SPC Ed Shevlin

NEW YORK, NY – Led by their commander, Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Lamboy, the 88th Brigade of the New York Guard stepped off in the 256th New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. While the 88th BDE has marched in the parade many times in the past, this year was different, as the Brigade was designated an "Honor Unit" by the Parade Committee following their third place finish in the "Specials" category of the 2016 St Patrick's Day Parade. With the sun on their faces and a stiff breeze from the north lifting their colors, the 88th Brigade stepped out onto 5th Avenue to the cheers of thousands of St Patrick's Day revelers.

"Marching up 5th Avenue with my unit on St. Patrick's Day was such a thrill. I was humbled by the outpouring of gratitude from the crowd" said SPC Derida Deflorimonte. The sentiment was one that was shared by officers and enlisted soldiers alike, as evidenced by the comments of LTC Lamboy, "I was very proud to have led such fine troops up the avenue before crowds who truly appreciate their hard work and dedication. This has been a day that I will never forget."

As the 88th came to a halt before St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Commander and his Brigade staff broke formation to pay their respects to Cardinal Dolan and the clergy. Having done so, the officers rejoined the Brigade which continued its march up the avenue behind the battle flag of their historical forebears, the 88th Regiment, or the 2nd Regiment of the Irish Brigade. The raucous crowd seemed to recognize the old regimental standard as it passed them and thus increased their cheers of approval in both volume and number. The effect of the

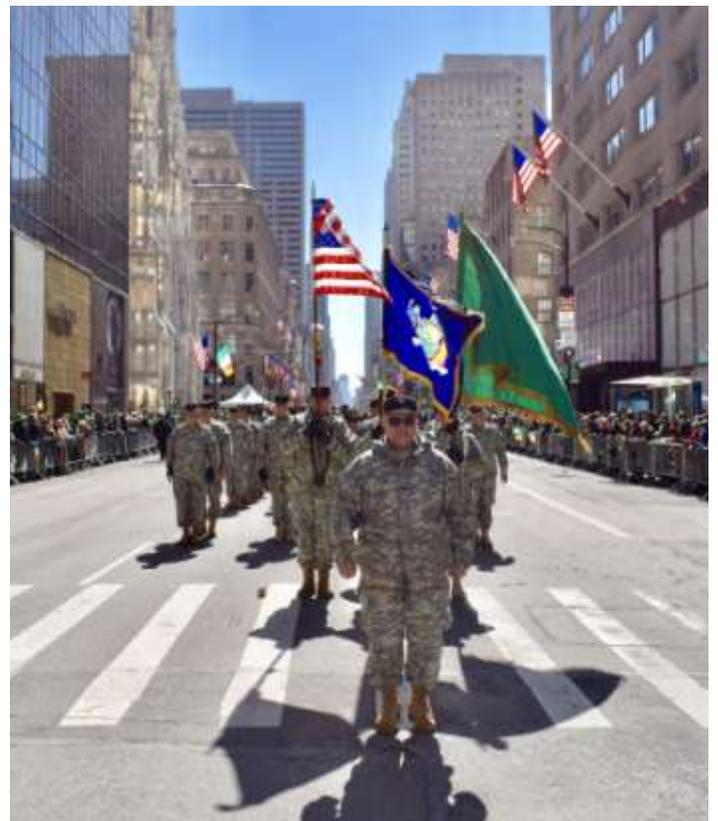


Soldiers of the 88th Brigade and other New York Guard units march in Manhattan on 17 March.

cheers upon the soldiers was palpable, as with their colors flying and heads held high they presented a scene of martial precision.

The pride that runs through the soldiers of the 88th Brigade while marching up 5th Avenue each St. Patrick's Day may have been best encapsulated in the words of Color-Bearer Staff Sergeant Trevis Wimer. "With my ancestors of the Mullholland, Murphy and Bailey families all having served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and my Mother and children having lived in County Clare, there is no greater honor than to carry the Battle Colors of the Irish Brigade's 88th Regiment on parade in New York City during St. Patrick's Day."

Having marched admirably and with pride, the 88th BDE looks forward to participating in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade again next year.



LTC Raymond Lamboy leads New York Guard soldiers as they march in Manhattan on 17 March

88AC Commemorates The Battle of Fredericksburg

154 years after the fateful Civil War battle at Marye's Heights, near Fredericksburg Virginia, the 88AC held their annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg at the Irish Brigade Monument in Calvary Cemetery, Queens.

Because such bravery and commitment must never be forgotten, members of the NY Guard gather each year to salute their forebears, the soldiers of the US Army's Irish Brigade at the monument dedicated in their name in Calvary Cemetery here. This year's ceremonies began with a Mass of Remembrance in the cemetery's chapel, followed by a parade to the Irish Brigade Monument from the chapel which was led by bagpipers and drummers from the 88AC and the VCA with an assist from Pipe Major Emeritus John McManus of the County Tyrone Pipe and Drum Band.



Members of the 88th Brigade, New York Guard, at Calvary Cemetery in Queens, NY.

Westchester Resident earns New York Guard Meritorious Service Award Medal

Story by SPC Richard Mayfield, Photo by CPT Mark Getman, New York Guard.

CSTS – On December 2016, Somers resident, Paul Green, a WO1 (Warrant Officer 1) in the New York Guard, was awarded the New York State Medal for Meritorious Service Award from the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs for his heroic actions responding to a dangerous and potentially life threatening auto accident in the Town of Somers.

On 11 June 2014, Green, who is also a volunteer member of the Somers Fire Department, responded to a motor vehicle accident with multiple personal injuries reported. Upon arriving at the scene, Green assessed the situation and immediately began rendering assistance to the passengers. At the time of the incident smoke was emanating from multiple points of the car and passengers had sustained serious injuries. Green was able to stabilize the first passenger and remove him from the car preventing further injury.

After extricating the first passenger Green found another victim who was in respiratory distress and non-responsive. WO1 Green, along with fellow firefighter Kevin McDonald log-rolled the victim on her side and Green performed several fingers sweeps removing large blood clots from the victim. These procedures allowed the victim to return to normal respiration and allowed her to be transferred to Westchester Emergency Medical Services. The incident commander Captain Jonathan Mackey stated, "that all victims...are alive due today in part due to the efforts of Firefighter Paul Green."



WO1 Green credited his training as a nurse, emergency medical technician, firefighter and NY Guard soldier for having the skills necessary to assist those in harm's way. Green who has been a member of the NY Guard for the past five years is currently a Warrant Officer and Licensed Practical Nurse assigned to the New York Guard's 244th Medical Clinic. As a vital member of the 244th Medical Clinic and the New York Guard, WO1 Green renders invaluable service not only to his fellow soldiers but to the people of the State of New York. Green currently lives in Somers with his wife of 21 years Leslie and their daughter.

New York Guard Supports Village of Johnson City, Local Churches' Salute to Veterans

Story by CHAP (1LT) David Grate

JOHNSON CITY, NY - The NY Guard Recruiting and Retention Directorate participated in the Village of Johnson City's Christian Union Churches Salute to Veterans this past Veterans Day.

This particular Veterans Day held special meaning for World War II veterans as it was the rededication of the World War II monument previously located at the historic Frank A. Johnson mansion the former home of the villages American Legion Post. When the American Legion sold the building the monument remained but it has recently been relocated to the village's Veterans Park.

The day began with two minutes of silent reflection at the World War II monument. Afterward, Johnson City Mayor Greg Deemie, the Johnson City Board of Trustees, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2332, and American Legion Post 758 held a ceremony to honor veterans and rededicate this important piece of history.

"It kind of sums up what this



Chap (1LT) David Grate explains the mission of the New York Guard to Fred Akshar, State Senator for the 52nd District and Thomas Nedlik, American Legion Post 758 commander at the Johnson City World War II Monument on November 11.

park is all about," said Thomas Nedlik, American Legion Post 758 commander. "We have a monument to the Korean War, we have a monument to the Vietnam War, and now we have the World War II monument."

Mr. Fred Akshar, NYS Senator for the 52nd District and Mrs. Donna Lapardo,

representing the 123rd Assembly District attended the ceremony and read the names of soldiers from Johnson City who never came home.

During his remarks, Senator Akshar commented that New York needs, "citizens to step up during times of crises to assist the New York

Army National Guard's mission."

Lapardo added, "that having local citizen soldiers ready to respond during natural or man-made disasters keeps the infrastructure solid."

After the ceremony at the Johnson City World War II Monument, NY Guard Acting Command Chaplain (1LT) David Grate performed a ceremony at the Johnson City Christian Union Church. Chaplain Grate is the pastor of the local Churches of Christ in Christian Union Johnson City location.

"Events like this Salute to Veterans are simple ways that the area can show support to those who have served, and continue to serve," said Grate. During services, Chaplain Grate held a special 100th Anniversary Salute to the NY Guard, showing a brief segment of NY Guard soldiers during Operation Sandy in 2012.

Throughout 2017, the New York Guard has held dozens of recruiting events to bring attention to the job it does and its need to refresh its ranks.

Western NY Armed Forces Honor NY Guard Soldier

Story and photo by PVT Nicolas McKinney

BUFFALO, NY—PFC Ty J. Parmentier received the Western NY Armed Forces Week Honor Award (NYG Category) on May 6. He was presented the awards at the WNYAFW Ball at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Buffalo, NY.

PFC Ty J. Parmentier joined the 65th RGT, NY Guard in May 2016.

PFC Parmentier graduated from Tonawanda High School in 1995 and served in the US Army from 1995-97 as a Heavy Construction Equipment Mechanic. He was Honor Graduate of the NY Guard Mess Operations course during Annual Training 2016 at Camp Smith, NY. He was mobilized in SEP 2016 in support of OPERATION NYC SURGE, in response

to increased security concerns in New York City following the Sept. 17 bomb attack there. PFC Parmentier's awards include Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Ribbon, Rifle Qualification Badge (Expert) Grenade Qualification Badge (Expert), and the NYG Commanders Citation Ribbon. He is presently employed by Seneca Niagara Casino as a Building Services Manager.

PFC Parmentier is married and has 4 children.

PFC Ty J. Parmentier proudly presenting the Western NY Armed Forces Week Honor Award.



Command Sergeant Major Parker Retires After 21 Years of New York Guard Service

Story and photos by SGT Zach Perkins

If you asked any enlisted soldier who served at Camp Smith in the last decade if they know the name “Parker”, they would answer with an immediate “yes.” Her presence could be felt everywhere at drill or annual training. Even when you could not see her, you heard her – her unmistakable voice booming from across the parade field, or calling soldiers to attention in the mess hall – always ringing with the perfect tone of leadership and discipline, but also empathy and sincere caring.

On September 16th, 2017, Command Sergeant Major Pamela Parker-Collwood, Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard, called soldiers to attention at morning formation, at what was to be her final drill before retirement. In this somber but proud moment, CSM Parker was then called forward by the Commander of the New York Guard himself, COL David Warager, to be awarded the Long and Faithful Service (20 Year) Award and the Medal for Meritorious Service from the State of New York.



COL David Warager presents CSM Pamela Parker-Collwood with the Long and Faithful Service (20 Year) Award and the Medal for Meritorious Service from the State of New York.

Later at that same drill, a Change of Responsibility ceremony was held in which CSM George Hodge III was appointed the new Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard, following CSM Parker-Collwood’s retirement. Following that ceremony, CSM Parker took a moment to reflect on her 21 years of service in the New York Guard.

CSM Parker first enlisted in 1996, and was assigned to the 88th Area Command (then the 88th Brigade). At that time, the New York Guard was involved with a youth cadet program, and Parker was a part of the parents association. Parker recalls that cadets would come to drill at Camp Smith with New York Guard and National Guard soldiers, which helped keep the young cadets off the streets and out of trouble. She became involved with her own son’s participation, which helped him go on to JROTC and ROTC, to eventually be commissioned as an officer in the US Army. The program was in need of additional



CSM Pamela Parker-Collwood at her retirement.

cadre for the cadets, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) Milton, a friend of Parker’s, convinced her to enlist in the New York Guard so she could bring her years of civilian experience as a transit supervisor to the program to help mold more cadets into responsible young adults. Despite her experience, Parker said that she had much catching up to do in her transition to a military role – but catch up she did.

Later that same year, Parker graduated New York Guard Initial Entry Training (at that time still called “Basic Training”), and was named Soldier of the Year for 1996 and awarded the New York Guard Achievement Medal. Over the next few years, Parker received one on one training from New York Army National Guard senior enlisted, who became her mentors and helped prepare her for becoming an NCO. Parker fondly remembers one of her mentors, Sergeant First Class James Johnson, “he was like a personal trainer to me.” SFC Johnson gave Parker a copy of McKinney’s Consolidated Laws Of New York



CSM George Hodge III with CSM Pamela Parker-Collwood.



COL David Warager (Center), Acting Commander of the New York Guard, commends the service of CSM Parker-Collwood (Right), outgoing Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard, during the Change of Command ceremony on September 16, 2017, in which the role of Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard was transferred to CSM George Hodge (Left). Photo by SGT Zach Perkins, New York Guard State Defense Force.

and told her to learn the New York Code of Military Justice, and recalls him saying “know that you will be held accountable for your actions. You have to read this.”

By the time of the September 11th terrorist attacks in 2001, Parker was now a Master Sergeant in the 88AC. During the New York Guard activation following the attacks, MSG Parker had significant responsibilities to bear. “I had to know where each and every soldier was,” Parker said. During the activation from September through January, Parker was sleeping at the Lexington Armory most nights to keep her close to her duties. Parker recalls the New York Guard soldiers under her command stepping-in for anything the National Guard was unable to do while resources were being stretched – posting as guards for the armory while the National Guard were on duty at Ground Zero. “We wound up down at the Trade Center distributing supplies to the first responders. We had to be all over the place, wherever we were needed.” When asked what her fondest memory of this challenging activation was, Parker replied joyfully; “being able to get everybody paid!”

Later that decade, Parker became the Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard’s 12th Regimental Training Institute (RTI), returning full time to her role as a mentor and mold of enlisted

soldiers. This was to be the longest held leadership position of her military career, and one where she enacted significant changes that still hold today. While CSM of the 12th RTI, Parker re-designed the then “basic training” program into the New York Guard Initial Entry Training program that we know today, and adapted National Guard manuals into the first New York Guard IET Manual. During that time she also overhauled and updated the Basic Non Commissioned Officer Course (BNOC) and the Advanced Non Commissioned Officer Course (ANOC), and introduced the Senior Non Commissioned Officer Course (SNOC) in 2008. Despite all of these major institutional reforms and accomplishments, Parker said that her proudest moments as CSM of the 12th RTI were marching new soldiers in as fresh recruits at the beginning of Annual Training, and then seeing the transformation they had made into soldiers as she marched them out again as graduates.

In 2016, Parker left the 12th RTI to become Command Sergeant Major of the New York Guard, completing her ascent to the highest position that can be held by an enlisted soldier in the New York Guard. Parker received no less than six New York Guard Commander’s Citations during her career, as well the

New York Guard Commendation Medal, the New York State Military Commendation Medal, and the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal with WTC Device for her service during 9/11. But most all, CSM Parker will be remembered for her unyielding dedication to crafting junior enlisted and NCOs into exemplary leaders. “It’s important to for all NCOs to be good leaders and learn as much as you can. Your troops rely on you more than you know, and they learn from you,” she said. “You have to remember that people are volunteers and appreciate them. But remind them that even though they are volunteers, they have responsibilities.”

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Colonel Edwards Retires, Reflects on 50 Years of Public Service

Story by SPC Richard Mayfield. Photos by SGT Zach Perkins

As the New York Guard pauses to thank Colonel Chester B. Edwards II for his years of service to our State and Nation, the question arises how do we judge the character or measure of a man? In the oft quoted, anonymous poem, "The Measure of a Man," we find the following, "Not – What did he gain? But – What did he give?"

COL Edward's life has truly been one of giving back to the nation that he loves and has so proudly served. His story begins like that of so many young men who are looking for something more in life, and turned to the military to help them find their way. At the age of 17, Edwards enlisted in the United States Navy where he trained to work on various classes of nuclear and conventional submarines.

His second posting came about as a result of his volunteering for duty in Vietnam, where he served as a member of the Mobile Riverine Force. He was trained as a boat gunner, engineer, and coxswain,



Colonel Chester Edwards (Right) poses with Brigadier General Raymond Shields, Assistant Adjutant General and Commander of the New York Army National Guard, during the New York Guard Holiday Gala in December 2016. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins

and upon completing Camp Pendleton Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (S.E.R.E.) school was as-

signed as the coxswain and of A-111-1 Assault Support Patrol Boat for 12 months. While serving in a combat role he found the time and determination to obtain his GED. COL Edwards later completed his federal service aboard the USS Tatnuck, an ocean-going tug boat, and after his reserve duty was honorably discharged on the 18 April 1972.

As he returned to civilian life, he used the GI Bill to go to college and complete his Associates Degree at Elizabeth Seton College and his Bachelors at Marymount College. He initially chose the path of business and finance, but after almost three decades of steadily advancing his career in the corporate world, he still wanted something more. COL Edwards always believed in the uplifting power of education, and while working fulltime he received his Master's in

Education from Pace University, ultimately earning three teaching certificates. COL Edwards eventually rose to the position of Dean of Students at the Choir Academy of Harlem before he retired from the New York City School System in June of 2014.

In 2002, Edwards' wife Mary saw an article in the newspaper about the New York Guard's work during 9/11. Despite his job and other voluntary activities with the American Red Cross, Port Chester-Rye Ambulance Corps, Port Chester Fire Department and Port Chester Council for the Arts, Edwards saw another opportunity to serve, and as in so many other areas of his life he threw himself into the service of the New York Guard with gusto.

Beginning his career as a Sergeant with the New York Guard in 2003, he served as a clerk in the Office of the Commander. Edwards then com-



Chester Edwards during his US Navy service. Facebook photo



Colonel Edwards during the 2015 New York Guard Holiday Gala, the event which Edwards and his wife coordinated together for many years. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins, New York Guard.

missioned as an officer, and went on to eventually become Assistant Chief of Staff G2 (Intelligence) and Commander, New York Guard Directorate for Inter Service Cooperation. His rise to these positions of importance and responsibility were due in part to this personal belief regarding the importance of giving back and the positive influence of his fellow soldiers. COL Edwards is also very grateful for the example and leadership of Brigadier Generals Barry Hartman and Stephen Bucaria, and other past Commanders of the New York Guard who embodied the best of public and military service, and who gently directed him forward during his service.

He was also fortunate enough to be fully supported by the woman he hitched hiked across the country to be with, his wife of 45 years, Mary. COL Edwards is very clear about the importance of family. His two daughters Christine Mary and Kimberly Dianne along with granddaughter JoAnna Maria are the joys of his life. The Colonel

also acknowledges the many years of hard work by his wife who not only supported him during his many years of volunteer service, but actively assisted for the last 10 years by helping to organize and execute the New York Guard/New York Naval Militia Annual Holiday Gala.

COL Edwards has enormous respect for all members of the New York Guard who selflessly serve the people of New York, not for personal gain but to make a better state for themselves, their families and all the citizens of the State of New York. He would like to remind soldiers to have patience and respect for the positive work of the New York Guard, saying, "It is a great organization, but is only as good as the members who serve. The members must train and practice to be ready to respond to activations when the need arises no matter how often or seldom that may be. They must also remember that satisfaction of a job well done is always worth the effort."

Casing of the CERF Guidon

Story by MAJ Richard Jung, New York Guard. Photo by CPT Mark Getman, New York Guard



CAMP SMITH — The CERF team started training in late 2003 in preparation for the Republican National Convention in 2004. The team was tasked to train and augment New York Army National Guard troops rotating in to the CERF-P mission.

The 50 plus members of the New York Guard CERF team consistently stepped up to the plate and performed well above what was requested of them. Through those years, there were some times complaints as to how hot, cold or tough the missions were, but if one was to ask any member of the team involved, they would tell you they would have it no other way – they loved it.

There was a sense of pride knowing that the members of the CERF team were considered and treated like subject matter experts. They also earned the respect of the National Guard troops they trained and augmented.

The New York Guard no longer has the mission to support the National Guard with CERF missions, but as with anything, when there is a need someone will eventually seek assistance. With constant rotations of National Guard troops and with the New York Guard being the only constant, it would not surprise me if we are once again flying this important representation of our dedication to New York State's CBRNE response enterprise.

While missions come and go, we must be prepared for any and all circumstances in which the New York Guard can operate in order to mitigate domestic hazards. It is always a somber moment when a mission comes to a close. As former Commander of the team I reflect on the hard work, sweat, tears and sometimes blood that our New York Guard soldiers shed in order to ensure that they carried out the mission to the best of their abilities. I will miss the camaraderie that developed with the troops involved and look forward to the same level of dedication and self-sacrifice in our missions moving forward.

Colonel Ryder Retires After 30 Years of Guard Service, Finds New Role in Coast Guard Auxiliary

Story by SPC Richard Mayfield. Photos by SGT Zach Perkins

CAMP SMITH— The famous boxer, Muhammad Ali once said, “I know where I’m going and I know the truth, and I don’t have to be what you want me to be. I’m free to be what I want.” Having spent some time with Colonel Carole Neidich-Ryder, one is assured that the Colonel knows where she is going, what star guides her and what motivates her to serve the greater community.

COL Ryder is no stranger to public service. A proud native of Long Island, New York she has had a 35-year distinguished career as a biologist with the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums. She has been the Chair of the Nassau County Open Space Committee and a member of the New York State South Shore Estuary Council and the Open Space Committee, representing her county. She now teaches Earth and Environmental Science courses as an Adjunct



Then Lieutenant Colonel Carole Neidich-Ryder (Left) speaks with another service member during a New York Guard Legal Support Operation. Photo provided by COL Carole Neidich-Ryder

Professor at Nassau Community College and Long Island

University, C.W. Post Campus. It is apparent that her

career as an environmental scientist and the discipline that governs the scientific field provided a strong baseline for her military career.

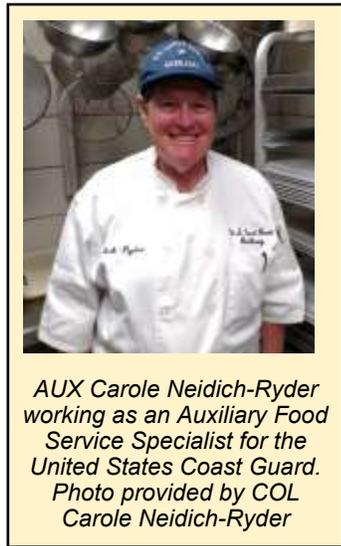
COL Ryder began her career with the New York Guard in 1986. Originally commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, she spent the next 30 years advancing through the ranks and earning the respect of superiors and subordinates as a soldier’s soldier. As Deputy Commander of the 14th Brigade and later, Deputy Commander of the Army Division, COL Ryder has been an integral part in planning and supporting some of the most complex and critical missions carried out by the New York Guard. She credits her growth and success to a series of mentors and leaders that she admired during her time with the New York Guard. Major General Bahrenburg, Major General Lax, Brigadier General Cornute,



COL David Warager (Left), Acting Commander of the New York Guard, applauds COL Carole Neidich-Ryder (Right) during her last drill before retirement in February. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins, New York Guard.



COL Carole Neidich-Ryder (Le) poses with COL David Warager, Actin Commander (Center) and COL Chester Edwards (Right) during the February 2017 drill at Camp Smith. During that drill, the New York Guard celebrated the reti ements of both COL Ryder and COL Edwards. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins, New York Guard.



AUX Carole Neidich-Ryder working as an Auxiliary Food Service Specialist for the United States Coast Guard. Photo provided by COL Carole Neidich-Ryder

Brigadier General Bucaria, COL Conroy and others left a lasting impression on her as to what can be accomplished if you're willing to work, be goal oriented and respect the military decision making process.

COL Ryder began her service during a time of great transition and when new roles were opening up for women throughout the services. When this point is raised, Ryder acknowledges that she was the first woman to take on many roles in the Guard, however she is more interested in how she accomplished the mission and did she make the role better for those who came after her.

As COL Ryder mentioned many times during her interview, the New York Guard mission is ever evolving but the concept of giving and serving where as you can, allowed her to make great choices, great friends and have great times in the New York Guard. The Colonel also shared her memories of tougher times that taxed her training, resolve and abilities as a soldier. These difficult assignments included serving as Radio Officer during the sec-

ond Woodstock Concert, being deployed for 21 days during the Flight 800 investigation/disaster and 11 days during 9/11. These events had broad impacts on our nation and New York State,

and Ryder expressed how they changed her as a soldier and as a person. These challenges made her reach deep inside, do more and find a strength that was always there but came to the fore

during times of great importance.

As Colonel Ryder ends her time with the New York Guard, don't assume she will be relaxing. She has begun a new role as a volunteer with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, providing MWR (Morale, Well-being and Recreation) for active and reserve members of the Coast Guard at Coast Guard Station Jones Beach in Long Island, NY.



COL Carole Neidich-Ryder (Left) with Brigadier General Stephen Bucaria (Right) as the General establishes the 12th Regimental Training Institute. Photo provided by COL Carole Neidich-Ryder

Brigadier General Stephen A. Bucaria Retires, Reflects Upon His Military Career

Story by *SPC Richard Mayfield*

CAMP SMITH – “Accomplish the mission and take care of your people,” this simple thought sums up the lifetime of service of Brigadier General Stephen A. Bucaria, the recently retired Commander of the New York Guard.

In 1993, because of his belief in the power of public service, he ran for and was elected to the District Court of Nassau County and then in 1995 was elected Justice of the Supreme Court, of the State of New York where his work continues to this day.

Never one to be content with the status quo, Bucaria joined the New York Guard and was assigned to the 7th Regiment where as an attorney he joined a group of professionals whose talents and experience were utilized during difficult and stressful times in the lives of our soldiers.



BG Stephen A. Bucaria, with Chief of Chaplains Sean Gardner, at the general's retirement ceremony. During BG Bucaria's time as NY Guard Commander, the NY Guard Chaplains' Corps has expanded its mission to represent the soldiers, and the families, in New York State. Photo by CPT Mark Getman



CSM Pamela Parker-Collwood presents BG Stephen A. Bucaria, with a small token of appreciation from NCO's of the NY Guard for the general's decades of service.

Photo by Cpt Mark Getman

As his time and experiences grew, so too did his responsibilities. Shortly after the active involvement of the 13th in its post 9/11/2001 deployment, LTC Bucaria was transferred from a Legal Affairs Division to the Army Division as Deputy Commander for Operations. He was instrumental in changing the NY Guard's training and promotion policies. The next challenge was being named Commander of the NY Guard's Army Division. It was during this time many significant changes occurred, most notably the reorganization of the New York Guard into the current one service we know today. Looking back, September 11, 2001 forever and fundamentally changed not only the world we live in but the New York Guard as well. On September 12, Bucaria found himself and his unit of lawyers ordered into New York City. After an initial deployment of 5 days in New York City, he was ordered to organize a distribution center at a King Kullen warehouse, in Hicksville, Long Island. It was here that rank and privilege were left at the door.

These men became working soldiers, spending hours unloading trailers of supplies, sleeping on unfolded cardboard boxes, often on the floor, and doing anything they could to respond to

the attack on our nation.

The New York Guard that we all serve today owes an enormous debt of gratitude to BG Bucaria. His talents and skills have helped to shape the organization we are so proud of. His legacy of professionalism will be remembered long after we have moved on to other challenges. His hope is the organization will continue to grow and prosper. His confidence in the current Acting Commander, Colonel Warager is without limit. Without a doubt, Colonel Warager has stepped up and proven his ability—most noticeably in the recent deployments due to natural disasters that have struck the state.



BG Bucaria, outgoing Commander of the New York Guard, conducts the 89th Band following the conclusion of morning formation at his final drill on 21 JUL 2016. Photo by SGT Zach Perkins.

Fallen Soldiers



SFC Mauro Bacolo, 10 DEC 2016

SFC William G. Heiselman, 22 DEC 2016

COL Gabriel B. Roy, 27 SEP 2017

SPC Shawn Putnam, 05 OCT 2017

MG Joseph A. Flumano Jr., 20 DEC 2017

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