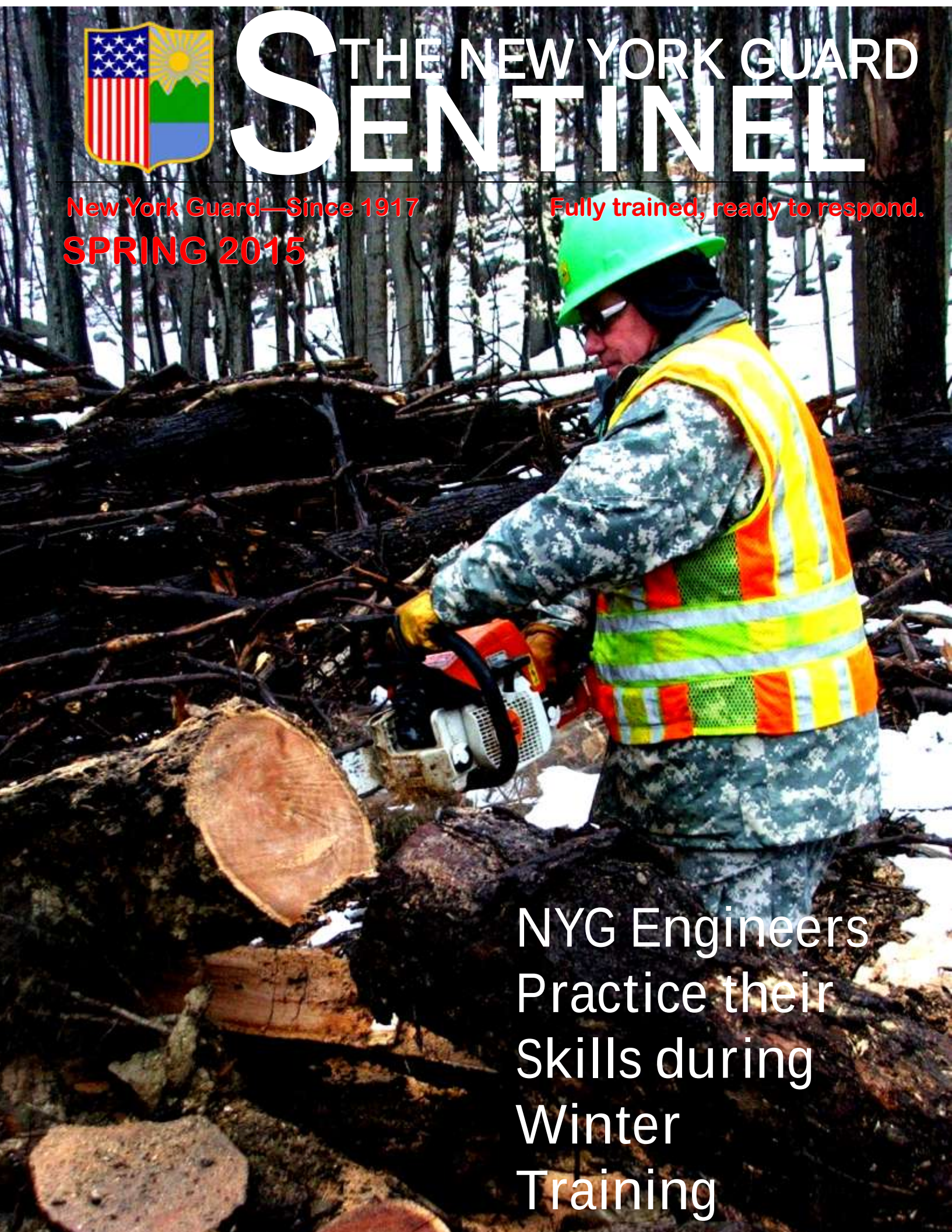
# THE NEW YORK GUARD SENTINEL

New York Guard—Since 1917

Fully trained, ready to respond.

SPRING 2015



## NYG Engineers Practice their Skills during Winter Training

***The New York Guard Sentinel*** *is published quarterly and has a circulation of about 500 soldiers through direct email. It is distributed free to all members of the New York Guard and other interested parties.*

**GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO**
*Commander In Chief*

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*New York State Adjutant General*

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*Layout and Design*

# MISSION STATEMENT

**The New York Guard augments and supports the New York military forces in order to enhance the overall capabilities of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.**

On the Cover- First Sgt. Robert Rathbun of the 102nd Emergency Response Battalion Engineers demonstrates a "Plunge Cut" during a training exercise at Camp Smith, NY. Photo by PVT Vincenzo Carciofolo 2nd Emergency Response Battalion, NYG

As a member of the New York Guard, you are a part of history and that history is documented in every issue of ***The State Guard Sentinel***. Let everyone know about the real world missions and training in the NY Guard.

## RECRUIT BY E-MAIL

Print out a couple of copies and tack them up in the break room at work, place them on a table in your office or waiting room, or leave them in your classroom. Your friends, relatives, associates, coworkers, and classmates might just be looking for a way to service and you could receive the credit.

Print out a couple of copies of this issue and tack them up in the break room at work or leave them on a table in your office waiting room. Your friends, relatives, associates, and coworkers might just be looking for wa way to service and also assist you in receiving your recruitment award.

## BE PROUD OF YOUR SERVICE!

The Recruitment Team at Headquarters is standing by to make sure YOU get the credit you deserve for every recruit you bring in. It only takes three recruits to get the New York State Recruiting Medal!

Contact the Recruiting/Retention Unit.

## LET THEM KNOW

**Are you on the NY Guard e-mail list?**

**Make sure all your soldiers stay informed! Update LTC Colety at HHD on your roster's email addresses. Are all your troops receiving *The State Guard Sentinel*? If not, they are missing out on important command information. Make sure your soldiers are well informed. Update the headquarters' email list with your troops email addresses today. Have your S-1 forward all updated email address to the G-1 at g1@dmna-nyg.ny.gov.**

**Recruiting, Retention and Public Affairs Update:**

BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN BUCARIA
*New York Guard Commanding General*

**The Recruiting, Retention and Public Affairs Directorate needs your help to support our mission to train, sustain and conduct decisive recruiting operations to promote and facilitate the recruiting of eligible professional, quality soldiers, both officer and enlisted, capable of executing operations to accomplish the New York Guard Mission.**

During the last year we have implemented a number of initiatives to make recruiting a new soldier easier and to encourage recruiting activities, such as:

**Stripes for Buddies Program – which permits new soldiers to obtain promotion from E-2 or E-3 up to E-4 depending upon how many new recruits are enlisted.**

**Streamlined procedures for re-enlisting NYG soldiers who have left the NYG and seek to re-enlist.**

**Expedited Recruiting Event Scheduling Procedure which allows units to schedule recruiting events in an expedited manner.**

**Sponsorship Program – which is being rolled out now, which will provide a mentor to each new soldier and provide timely information to new soldiers to get acclimated into the NYG.**

**Enlistment at advanced ranks policy for college graduates with either an Associates Degree or Bachelors degree.**

**Expedited Processing Standard – the goal is to process a completed application within one month of receipt.**

The NYG website and Facebook page has also been updated and a NYG LinkedIn page created. There will be further enhancements to the NYG social media sites in the near future and a NYG Social Media Policy will be published shortly. We need your help to provide us content for these sites. Every drill we should get pictures of your training or missions. Each picture must be accompanied by a short bit of information detailing who is in the picture (rank and name), the unit, the date and place and what you are doing. Action pictures are much better than staged pictures of individuals.

We will also be providing regular press releases highlighting the successes of our soldiers, (promotions, awards and NYG school graduations). These press releases will be dispatched using the "Home Town News Service" so that it is sent to your local newspaper, the weekly papers in your community. During Annual Training there will be an opportunity to have your formal NYG photograph taken, which you will receive a copy of and which will be kept on file for these releases.

Every unit has a recruiting section, but EVERY SOLDIER is a recruiter. Talk up with your friends your pride in serving in the NYG and the opportunities for training that are available. Applications are available on the website or you can ask your BDE recruiter, or contact the NYG Recruiting, Retention and Public Affairs Directorate at recruiting@newyorkguard.us.

# 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 to include your letters and photos to include in upcoming issues of** *The New York Guard Sentinel.*

**To have your letters or photos published in the next issue of** *The New York Guard Sentinel,* **email them to:**

**Captain Mark Getman**

**New York Guard Sentinel– Editor In Chief**
**Deputy Public Affairs Officer**

**Camp Smith Training Site—1944, CO B 9th Regiment, New York Guard– Photo Courtesy Joseph Giovinco MD S/Sgt. (Ret)**

**Email @ mark.getman@dmna-nyg.ny.gov Remember to visit us on Facebook at The Official New York Guard Public Facebook page....**

**www.facebook.com/newyorkguard**

## Chief of Staff

GREETINGS!

As the warmer weather arrives, I would like to share some thoughts about hurricane season and our upcoming Annual Training tour (AT2015).

As you should know, Hurricane season begins on 1 June and lasts through 30 November. The NOAA has estimated there will be 6-11 named storms and 3-6 hurricanes and possibly 2 MAJOR hurricanes in 2015. It is imperative that you take all prudent steps to insure that you and your family, young and old, family pets and your home are as safe as possible from the possible effects of major storms or a hurricane. Those who have served on SAD during Super Storm Sandy know just how bad it Can be!

I have recommended that every level of Command in the NYG spend some training time on hurricanes and coastal storms. In addition, I have requested that unit administrators ensure they gather the names of SMs who are available for SAD and further insure ALL SMs provide any/all current contact information.

Annual Training 2015, is from 16-22 August 2015 at Camp Smith (CSTS). To date, NOT all members have "signed up" for those Professional Military Education (PME) courses offered by the 12th RTI. These include Basic Officers Course (BOC), Sr. NCO (SNCO) Course and Initial Entry Training (IET). There are other NYG skills course offerings to include JRSOI, Communications, Logistics, Staff Development, etc.

**EVERYONE should be attending AT in some capacity**.

The G1 has informed me that they will publish orders as soon as SMs names are submitted. No names, NO orders! If you are new or confused, use your chain of command ASAP to ask for further guidance for AT15.

Finally, AT15 is in August. CSTS can get very hot and humid. I am concerned about the potential for heat injuries. YOU must insure you are thoroughly hydrated during AT. If you need water or a break from the heat, let your instructor know ASAP. Be safe! — **Colonel George J. DeSimone**, - **Chief Of Staff, New York Guard**

## Command Sergeant Major

Greetings, New York Guard Soldiers

As we ramp up for annual training next month there are a few points I want to bring up. The first is to Hydrate, Hydrate and Hydrate - make sure you and your soldiers are drinking water. The second is the need to observe military protocols during Annual Training.

August at Camp Smith will be very hot and humid. Any soldier that has had a heat injury must be monitored by his leadership. Squad leaders: you need to watch your soldiers. Make sure they drink water so that heat injuries can be avoided. Safety is paramount for the New York Guard by the very nature of what we do. Risks can be mitigated by doing a risk assessment prior to any mission or training event.

Camp Smith is a NYANG training center and ALL military protocols will be observed at all times!! Look and act like a soldier in the NYG, and bring honor to your unit. I will be on post for AT so I will be there to make sure that we all have a Safe AT-2015.

**Robert E Lefberg**
**NYG CSM**

The Chaplain Corps of the NYG is comprised of religious leaders and special staff officers who are ready to serve their fellow guardsmen, their families and community to provide military religious support. Under the Direction of the Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (MAJ) Sean P. Gardner, the State Guard Chaplains serve at all levels, from Battalion on up to NYG Headquarters, with one goal in mind: the overall spiritual and moral welfare of the individual guardsman and the unit. Pro Deo et Patria (for God and Country).

Military Chaplains provide religious support for all faith groups, moral leadership, emergency religious services, unit ministry team readiness and professional expertise to the Commander on free exercise of religion, morals, morale, and the ethical impact of command decisions. Military Chaplains also provide religious services, rites, sacraments, ordinances, religious education, pastoral care and counseling, religious education, family life ministry (Strong Bonds, marriage and family counseling), institutional ministry, professional support to the command, management and administration, humanitarian support (disaster support and relief), Suicide Prevention training and religious support planning and operations.

NYG members are encouraged to seek out their unit Chaplains in times of need. Your Chaplains are there to support you. It is our Honor and Duty to take care of our soldiers and their families. If you're not sure who your unit's Chaplain is, please contact your Commander or NYG Headquarters at (914) 930-1116.

If you are interested in becoming a Chaplain, Assistant Chaplain, or Chaplain Assistant (Religious support Specialist- Enlisted Position) Contact Chaplain (MAJ) Sean P. Gardner, New York Guard Chief of Chaplains
Email: sean.gardner@dmna-nyg.ny.gov | (Photo of Chaplain (MAJ) Gardner in front of the Camp Smith Training Site –Duffy Chapel)

# G6 NEWS

## NYG Reboots Emergency Radio System

New York Guard Times Staff

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. – More than 75 volunteers of the New York Guard completed their first full year of monthly communications exercises using the Military Emergency Radio Network (MERN) here May 2.

The communications system links military and civilian radio operators to create a sustainable emergency radio network during a disaster.

The training is part of the New York National Guard contingency plan, and tasks the New York Guard to train and operate the Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS).

While most of the communication stations involved use fixed-site radios, this year introduces "Mobile MERN" elements, allowing New York Guard communications experts to locate closer to an incident site.

New York Guard personnel begin training this August during New York Guard Annual Training with vehicle-portable high-power radio equipment that will give MERN operators unprecedented tactical interoperability with New York State's emergency responders. Mobile MERN will also create the ability to place low-cost, high-power communications units anywhere National Guard forces are deployed in the state.

New York Guard 1st Sgt. Mark Copeletti, 56th Brigade, from New Windsor, N.Y., performs an equipment check on a Military Emergency Radio Network receiver at the Joint Task Force Sandy operations center Nov. 6, 2012. The MERN provides back-up communication capabilities for the National Guard response to emergencies such as Superstorm Sandy.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dave Konig, 56th Brigade, New York Guard.

"We're going to have over 100 boots on the ground by 2016," said New York Guard communications officer Lt. Col. Barry Greene. Greene credited service component partners in the National Guard, as well as other supporting New York state agencies, federal, military and civilian radio operators for their tremendous training and operational support.

# NY Guard Volunteers Role Play Reporters

Story and photos by Officer Candidate Donald Ferguson, New York Guard

Captain Mark Getman, (R) Deputy Public Affairs Officer of the New York Guard portrays a local reporter attempting to access Camp Smith Training Site from the Force Protection soldier during an exercise for local first responders held in June at the training site

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. -- Two members of the New York Guard's Public Affairs Office played the role of reporters in support of an emergency response exercise here June 13.

Capt. Mark Getman and Officer Candidate Donald F. Ferguson portrayed local news media to exercise the Camp Smith security and response procedures for handling unexpected media arriving at the gate during emergencies.

The two helped prepare Camp Smith garrison staff leaders to better communicate with news media during a crisis.

"Informing our local residents through the press is an integral part of our emergency plan. So it makes sense to test our media plan and make changes if needed," said Lt. Col. Joseph Cetta, Camp Smith Training Site Garrison Commander.

"The New York Guard Public Affairs team played a key role by asking the kinds of questions real reporters would ask in an emergency." he added.

The exercise rehearsed emergency evacuation procedures at Camp Smith and included the New York Army National Guard, US Marine Corps personnel, Life Net of NY Air 2 from Wallkill, the Continental Village Fire Department Rescue, Cortlandt Regional Paramedics, and Peekskill Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Top- Officer Candidate Donald Ferguson, New York Guard (far right with Camera) participates in a "media" interview with Lt. Col. Joseph Cetta, Camp Smith Training Site Garrison Commander, after the "incident" training exercise for local first responders held at Camp Smith in June (photo by Captain Mark Getman, NYG)

The rehearsal simulated emergency treatment, stabilization and evacuation of injured occupants from a vehicle crash in a remote, woodland area.

Rehearsing the emergency procedures of Camp Smith personnel with their local first responders is crucial to the safety of everyone who trains at the installation, Cetta said.

Below– Captain Mark Getman, (R) conducts a media interview with NY Army National Guard JFHQ PAO SGM Corine Lombardo about the "incident" that occurred at the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Camp Smith Training Site exercise for local first responders held in June

Part of that training is understanding the important role that information plays in communicating with the local community and the National Guard members, he added

# 89th NYG BAND

**Top Photo- 1950, The 89th Army Band was part of the NY National Guard. Bottom photo, the 8th Regiment Band, NYG. The 89th New York Guard Band's lineage is derived from the 89th National Guard band after their deactivation in the late 1950's.**

**89th Army Band New York Guard**

**Camp Smith** **New York**

**MUSICIANSHIP**
**IN THE**
**NEW YORK STATE GUARD**

The New York Guard is recruiting musicians
for the
*89th Army Band New York Guard*

DO YOU HAVE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE?
Would you like to play in a military band?

**THEN JOIN US! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!**

**Our Mission**
To assist the New York State Guard with community relations, recruitment and troop morale.

**Our Goal**
Communicate the mission of the New York State Guard and the duties it performs for the New York Homeland defense.

**Our Charter**
Participate in parades, ceremonies, patriotic events, and to honor and support our veterans, especially those in veteran's homes and hospitals.

**WE ARE A GROWING, ALL-VOLUNTEER MILITARY BAND REPORTING TO THE NEW YORK STATE GUARD HEADQUARTERS AT CAMP SMITH, NY.**

For more information contact:
WO1 Roy Coates, Band Commander, Conductor
Via email: Royccoates@gmail.com

# New York Guard Service Members Receive Educational Benefits through Partnership with Mercy College

**(Cortlandt Manor, NY)** – The New York Guard partnered with Mercy College to provide specialized training under the Enactus Operation Employment program at no cost to the New York Guard.

Professor Charles Garcia, from Mercy College School of Business, and former Marketing Director at Bloomberg conducted the training on leadership and communications. Anthony Sicuranza, CEO and student of Mercy Enactus, and COL Glenn Marchi, Deputy Commander of 12th Regimental Training Institute, were the program coordinators. *"The training taught me the importance to believe in myself,"* stated Command Sergeant Major Pamela Parker, 12th RTI.

Professor Garcia teaching art of communications to NY Guard soldiers at the Camp Smith Training School

BG Stephen Bucaria and Mercy College professor Charles Garcia with Mercy College professors and New York Guard soldiers

Enactus is a community of student, academic, and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to transform lives and shape a more sustainable world.

The vision statement for Operation Employment is to enhance the lives of military veterans and service members by providing marketable job skill training through collaboration and mentor-ship with corporations, small businesses, and non-profit organiza-tions.

This was the inaugural session of what will become a long-term educational partnership between Mercy College and the New York Guard with several future training sessions planned. *"I am very excited about this program and the opportunity to continue."*

**The New York Guard Centennial (100 Years of Service) Celebration will be in 2017 -- be part of this celebration and get your New York Guard Commemorative Challenge Coin (See Back Page). A limited number will be made - details about pre ordering will be announced soon. If you have pictures, uniforms, memorabilia etc. that you would like to share in upcoming issues of the Sentinel and display at our 100 Year Celebration in 2017 please contact Cpt. Mark Getman - Deputy Public Affairs Officer mark.getman@dmna-nyg.ny.gov for further information.**

## THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM NEEDS YOU!

**With *The New York Guard Sentinel* expanding, our presence in the *Guard Times* grows with each issue, the NY Guard Public Affairs Team needs you!**
**If you are a writer, photographer, journalist, or web designer and you want to serve your country, we want to talk to you!**

**CONTACT**
**CPT Mark Getman,**
**Deputy Public Affairs Officer**
**(516) 644-9743**
**mark.getman@dmna-nyg.ny.gov**

# 244th MEDICAL COMMAND

**Story by Major Louis Nock, 88th Brigade, NYG**

CAPTAIN BETTY A. GANNON, a career-long member of the 88th Brigade, New York Guard, and recent-member of the 244th Medical Clinic, Headquarters, New York Guard, retired from active service this year after 24 years of dedicated service, beginning in 1991. As a nurse, CPT Gannon has dedicated herself to the health monitoring and healing of soldiers of the New York Guard, contributing greatly to force readiness and maximum strength, as well as ensuring that recruits are fit to serve in the New York Guard. She created innovative and efficient methods for periodic examination of soldiers of the New York Guard – inventing a mobile capability by which many members of various New York Guard units throughout the state, and recruits, were able to be served by her and the medical and medical support staff she worked with and, ultimately, commanded.

**COL George DeSimone (NYG Chief of Staff), CPT Betty Gannon, 88th BDE, COL Marty Ingram, Cdr, 88th BDE.**

CPT Gannon spent substantial numbers of years – far beyond those requested of her – in motivating and directing the medical and medical support personnel of numerous units she was assigned to throughout her 24-year tenure of service, to include the 1st Company, 9th Battalion, 88th Brigade; the 102nd Forward Medical Support Detachment, 88th Brigade; and the 244th Medical Clinic, Headquarters, New York Guard. CPT Gannon showed superb leadership and delegation skills, causing members of her medical and medical support teams to perform at optimum levels. She accomplished all this while creating an atmosphere of teamwork and military discipline, and was instrumental in making medical training drills of her units more productive, effective, and with high levels of attendance, and in requiring detailed preparation and substantive presentations from all who participated in the medical drill planning process.

**(Left to Right) Cpt. William Venditelli, Dr. Chiropractic Medicine, Sgt. Hamza Bashir, B.S.EMT/ Emergency Treatment Sergeant, Cpt. Betty Gannon, B,S, EMT, Commanding Officer, SSG. Natanya Aberra, MPA, EMT, NCOIC,/Emergency Treatment Sergeant , 244th/ Forward Medical Support Detachment.**

CPT Gannon was also instrumental in the procurement of modern medical, diagnostic, and prognostic equipment which enabled the various units she worked in and with, and commanded, to perform at the highest possible levels of professional excellence.

CPT Gannon's devotion to duty and exceptional meritorious service were further demonstrated during the periods of time that she provided and sustained round-the-clock medical support during critical missions, to include those related to the terror attacks of September 11, 2001,

## 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.**

**Story and Photo by PVT Vincenzo Carciofolo 2nd Emergency Response Battalion, NYG**

HANCOCK AIR FIELD, SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The New York Guard Syracuse based 2nd Emergency Response Battalion conducted CPR and AED training on April 18, 2015 At the 174th Hancock ARNG base. The purpose to this training is to certify the members of the NYG in CPR/AED usage.

In the event of the 2nd ERB being activated, they will be confident and proficient in these skills should the need for such actions be taken. The class is being taught by Wendy Czajak, a BLS Instructor with the American Heart Association. She maintains her qualifications by being an Active EMT and Infection Control Officer with the Minoa Volunteer Fire Department, as well as a RN with Onondaga County. "This training is valuable to everyone" Czajak, said to the Emergency Response battalion. Czajak brought a few mannequins for all to practice hands on with after the didactic portion of the training it is necessary for a practical examination. While all soldiers were professional and showed proficiency in their skills, it is clear everyone had a fun time with it. And that is important as well." Said SGT Kris Bateman, an NCO with the 2nd ERB. Everyone took away some great training and had fun in the process.

The mission of the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) is to advocate for the advancement and support of regulated state military forces established by state governments under the authority of Title 32, Section 109, of the United States Code. These units are typically called state defense forces, state guards, or state military reserves and are regulated by state law and operational guidance provided by the U.S. Army's National Guard Bureau. For more information about SGAUS visit http://www.sgaus.org/

*To join SGAUS click on https://www.sgaus.org/member_services/membership_application.asp*

*To read the latest issue of the SGAUS SDF TIMES click on https://www.sgaus.org/docs_forms/2015%20Docs/sgaus_newsletter_spring_2015.pdf*

## Engineers Joint Training with National Guard

**Story by Officer Candidate John W Schmidt, NYG**

**Photos by PVT Vincenzo Carciofolo 2nd Emergency Response Battalion, NYG**

On 7 March 2015 members of the 21st Emergency Response Battalion (ERB) (EN) and the 65th Regiment of the New York Guard conducted support operation for the 152nd ESC New York Army National Guard at the Youngstown Training Area in Ransomville, New York. The mission was to conduct clearing operations to widen the roads in Training Area 3.

The units from the New York Guard supplied troops to conduct chainsaw and clearing operations, and the 152nd NYARNG provided equipment operators to clear snow from around the trees that needed to be cut down. (Pictured Right are 1SGT Steven Tyrrell and SSG James Peck. (NYG)

This support mission helped the members of the 21st and 65th keep their skills with chainsaws current. This was a very important training evolution for the 21st and 65th because it gave them the opportunity to work with their National Guard counterparts showing joint training and joint operations between the two entities. This facilitates a positive relationship within the units and also ensures seamless integration between the New York Army National Guard and the New York Guard units, when they would be called upon for Joint missions and future activations together.

The 21st and 65th completed their tasks without incident. Pictured below are the cleanup operations of trimming a cutting the logs in smaller sections. MAJ Geoffrey Milligan Commander of the 21st ERB supervised soldier for both the 21st and 65thduring his part of the operation.

SPC Burnham cutting a group of trees.

( R ) SPC John Sage and SGT Bradley Bray cutting and trimming trees.

## New York Guard 1st Provisional Regiment, Sleepy Hollow Memorial Service

**Story by Capt. Mark Getman, New York Guard Headquarters**
**Photos by Capt. Dan Ozaruk, 56h Brigade and Sgt. Maj. Mark Copeletti, New York Guard Headquarters**

SLEEPY HOLLOW – A stone monument here at the at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery commemorates some of New York's fallen heroes of World War I, but they are unlike any other soldier killed in France during the war. The names recall 32 members of the New York Guard's First Provisional Regiment who perished during the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic while serving on the homefront.

Memorial Stone, hewn from the aqueduct quarry in upstate NY by the members of the First Provisional Regiment and placed at a site purchased by William Rockefeller for the burial of those members of the Regiment that were homeless or did not otherwise have a place to be buried. PVT Frank DeCosta, New York Guard is buried there, who died of the Spanish Flu while on duty guarding the aqueduct.

Members of the New York Guard and New York City Department of Environmental Police participated in the 97th Aqueduct Defense Memorial Service, Honoring those First Provisional Regiment volunteers here May 7.

The ceremony, supported by the 56th Brigade and New York Guard Headquarters element, honors the World War One service of those who died protecting their home.

"The main purpose of the memorial ceremony is to render honors to the memory of the dedicated men of the First Provisional Regiment, New York Guard who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the New York City Reservoir System during World War One, and second to remember our comrades in arms who have passed on in the previous year," said Col. David Warager, the New York Guard commander of Recruiting, Retention and Public Affairs.

More than 8,000 New Yorkers served in the 1st Provisional Regiment, the lineage of today's New York Guard.

56th Brigade, NYG Ceremonial Firing Squad fire a ceremonial volley during the ceremony, commanded by SSG Robert Tozzo..

**Soldiers from the New York Guard's 88th Brigade Honor Guard based out of the NYARNG 69th Regiment Armory, prepare to march in the NYC St Patrick's Day Parade on March 17th 2015- Photos by Specialist Chuck Garelick, 88th Brigade NYG, PAO**

**Soldiers from the New York Guard's 88th "Irish" Brigade, based out of the NYARNG 69th Regiment Armory, and from the 14th Regiment, Long Island March down Fifth Ave in the annual New York City St Patrick's Day Parade on March 17th 2015**

**Photos by Specialist Chuck Garelick, 88th Brigade NYG, PAO**

**New York Guard Col. Martin Ingram was congratulated on Saturday, March 14, 2015 after receiving New York State's highest military award, the Medal of Valor, from New York Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen Bucaria.**

**Ingram received the award in recognition of his heroic actions as the fire chief of the Point Breeze Volunteer Fire Department during Hurricane Sandy. The New York Guard is the state's volunteer defense and emergency response force. Photo by Capt Mark Getman - New York Guard**

## Martin Ingram, Breezy Point resident and New York Guard officer receives Medal for Valor

***New York State military award recognizes Ingram's roles as fire chief during Hurricane Sandy***

CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE, NY -New York Guard Colonel Martin Ingram, a resident of Breezy Point, Queens, received New York State's highest medal for bravery -- the Medal for Valor -- on Saturday, March 14. The award recognized Ingram for his actions as fire chief of the Breezy Point Volunteer Fire Department on Oct. 29, 2012 when Hurricane Sandy hit New York. Hurricane Sandy flooded the oceanfront community, and fire destroyed many of the areas structures.

Ingram led the efforts to evacuate citizens from rising flood waters, entered a burning building to save a stranded resident and extinguish the fire-saving other buildings from being destroyed-and rallied other members of his fire department by his personal example. Ingram has been a member of the New York Guard since 2004 and currently serves as commander of the New York Guard's 88th Brigade, headquartered at Lexington Avenue Armory.

Ingram, age 64, was awarded the medal during a leadership meeting at the New York National Guard training site here north of Peekskill. New York Guard Commander, Brig. Gen. Stephen Bucaria made the award. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo praised Ingram for his heroism and his efforts that night. "I am proud that New York's highest honor will be given to a local hero, Lt. Col. Martin Ingram for his selfless efforts to help fellow New Yorkers during Superstorm Sandy," Cuomo said. "A Queens resident, Lt. Col. Ingram put the needs of New Yorkers in harm's way first, without regard to his own safety. I thank him for his dedication to the people of New York and I am inspired by his courageous efforts," the Governor said.

The New York Guard Chief of Staff, Colonel George J. DeSimone added the following about Col. Ingram after the award presentation, “Col Ingram's personal sacrifice during the terrifying hours as Superstorm Sandy came on shore in Breezy Point clearly indicates the type of man he is. In his teens, Marty was a lifeguard; as my Deputy Commander in the 88th Brigade, Marty always displayed a willingness to help others. It seems that Marty is destined to serve others. His actions during Superstorm Sandy are in keeping with the highest traditions of the New York Guard. I am very proud to know Marty and call him a friend.”

The Medal for Valor is awarded to any member of New York's organized militia, which is composed of the New York Army and Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia, and the New York Guard. The medal is awarded for acts of valor, heroism, courage or gallantry in either a civilian or military capacity.

**Soldiers from the 15th Decontamination Company, 9th Battalion, 88th Brigade of the New York State Guard practice donning and doffing of their Class B Chemical Suits during a Decontamination exercise. Soldiers of the 15th Decontamination Company are an integral part of the Homeland Response Force, and augment the Decontamination Team of the New York Army National Guard.**

**Back row**: SSG Trevis Wimer, PFC Marcus Metayer, PV2 Damian Santiago, PFC William Hernandez, PFC Julia Nisvis, PFC Omar Mace, PV2 Michael Hyman, SPC Osbaldo Ocasio, PFC Francisco Cintron, SSG James Greene, SPC Livio Thompson. **Front row:** SSG David Velasquez, SGT Victor Calderon, SSG Trevor Hinds, SPC Hilario Fournier, SPC Juan Ocasio, SGT Wendell Poteau (Photo credit: SFC Rodney Harper, 15th Decon Company)

# New York Guard Stories

My name is Joseph Giovinco, and I enlisted in the 9th Regiment, NYG in April of 1944. My main purpose was to gain military experience prior to attaining draft age, which was 17 at that time. After joining, I benefitted from far, far more than just rudimentary military experience.

I found a group of men very much like myself. They were fellow New Yorkers who varied widely in age, religion, ethnicity and education, but all were united in a quiet, patriotic focus on our mission. Because of the age differences amongst the enlisted men, there was a cordiality and comradeship that was both fraternal and parental at times. (Our ages varied between 15 and late sixties).

I noticed praise and encouragement was publicly expressed: criticism only privately, one on one. The relationship between officers and men was disciplined, but nevertheless cordial at all times. Over a year later, with the Japanese surrender in August of 1945, my draft board excused me from service.

I remained in the NYG for a total of three years, and four summer encampments at Camp Smith. I continued to mature as I began my college career. I have always felt honored to have been accepted in the Ninth Regiment those many years ago, and was so very happy to meet with the men and women of the current First Battalion of the Ninth Regiment three years ago.

**Joseph Giovinco MD, NYG 1944-1947 S/Sgt. (Ret.)**

**William Walsh, NYG 1941-1945**

**In the spring of 1943, three of my friends, Lee, Lauer, Olsen and I were eating lunch (a spiced ham sandwich and a soda which I think cost 15 cents), across the street from our high school, when one of them starting talking about joining the NY State Guard. At that time I didn't even know it existed, but we decided to give it a try.**

**All four of us went to one of the Guard's drill nights to sign up, although were were all about 15 years old but we were pretty big kids and told them we were 17 years old and they believed us, that is how we became members of the 23rd Regiment of the NY Guard located on Atlantic Ave. and Bedford Ave. in Brooklyn NY. Another friend Boyle joined us later on.**

**We were lucky in the sense that a young Lieutenant from the Army, who had been injured and discharged, joined the Guard and was assigned to our company. He taught us a lot about combat tactics and personal defense. Of course I was "killed" in attacking the village at Camp Smith in summer camp. I was out of ammo for my Enfield and as Boyle ran by I yelled to him and he threw me a clip, which I went out to retrieve, and BAM, a Major yelled "Soldier you are dead! Go over to the red flag and stay there." Next year I stayed alive. When the war ended in 1945, and our enlistments in the New York Guard were up, we were all discharged, and when we turned 18 we all went into some part of the services. I joined the Army in 1946 right after my mother passed away, intending to make it a career but it didn't work out that way. I was discharged in 1948 and signed up in the Army Reserve for 3 years.**

My reason for joining the Guard was to learn the history of the organization, to give back to the State, and to help those in need when disaster strikes and to take ad-vantage of all the specialized training that the New York Guard has to offer like CERFP, MEMS and much more.

The feeling of being apart of an organization like the New York Guard couldn't be more positive in nature. We in the 15th Decon Company drill and train hard - we also try to come up with new, specialized training for the other units as well as the organization as a whole.

Special thanks to the following NCO's Master Sergeant Vera and Staff Sergeant Wimer for giving me a great deal of knowledge and support from within and outside the the guard. These two NCO's are a great asset to the organization in build-ing the next generation of guardsmen.

**Private First Class Omar S. Mace**
**88th Brigade 15th Decon Company**
**Enlisted NYG 06/01/14 Status: Active**

My NYG service started in 2002. I was compelled to join after the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center. I was a former member of the 69th Infantry regiment so I enlisted in the 9th regiment co-located at the Lexington Avenue armory. As a NYG soldier I was directly supporting the NYARNG and was placed on state active duty with the CERFP for the 2004 republican national convention, I was also a DMNA civilian employee at the Lexington Avenue armory and assistant manager of the 69th Infantry Officers club where as a NYG soldier I was on hand and supported the 2003 blackout. I was also assigned to support the 69th Infantry Regiment, NYARNG rear detachment funeral honors detail during their 1st OIF deployment in 2004-2005.

Today I am a 1SG with the Virginia Defense Force but am currently on TDY to the state of Indiana drilling with the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade Indiana Guard reserve as a senior advisor to the Battalion Commander. My New York Guard experience has served me well in the other state defense forces. When I first enlisted in the VDF my military bearing and knowledge set me apart from my fellow SDF soldiers, I pushed my command to emulate the NYG standard and improved my Company.

When someone finds out I was NYG they are impressed. being involved in the different states SDF's I know that the NYG is envied and many SDF's are following the NYG example just recently the IGR has implemented the NYG MAW program. Time and time again I hear soldiers from other state defense forces say they wish their organization had real mis-sions like the NYG it just goes to show that the professionalism and above standard training and schools make the NYG one of the premier State Guard/defense force in the United States today. I am proud to have been a part of the NYG and I know that NY is lucky to have such a great organization and it's members.

*SFC Oswald A Bracero*
**1SG MRG-D, 3rd Regiment**
*Virginia Defense Force*
*(above Right, and Left participating in a CERFP training exercise, 2003)*

# FINAL SALUTE

## Staff Sergeant James Rodriguez

SSG James Rodriguez of the 88th Brigade passed away on March 9. Services were held Harmon Funeral Home, 571 Forest Ave, Staten Island, NY.

SSG Rodriguez was a member of the IET Class of 2011 and served in Operation Hurricane Sandy, serving with the 71st Quartermaster Company. He was a member of the CERF Team, and cross-trained in Decon, Logistics, MERN, and MEMS.

SSG Rodriguez's daughter, SGT Rebecca Rodriguez is a current member of the New York Guard with the 88th Brigade.

*In Remembrance*

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| MG John F. Bahrenburg | LTC David G. Colvin | MAJ Gary E. Schell |
| BG Francis B. Brusino | LTC Edward I. Koffman | 1LT Donald P. Sanders |
| BG Richard C. Crabtree | LTC Roger G. Levy | SSG James Rodriguez |
| COL Anthony Spencer | MAJ Steven Cohen | AMN Elizabeth T. Edger |