THE STATE GUARD

SENTINEL

New York Guard

Fully trained, ready to respond.

FIRST QUARTER **2011**

TRAINING FOR Emergency Response

Commander's Corner

MAJ. GEN. FERGAL FOLEY

For many of us our Annual Training was cut short due to Budget shortfalls in the State. I commend all New York Guard Units for adjusting training schedules on short notice. As we plan ahead for training year 2011, we must make assumptions that the budget crisis will continue. We need to develop additional courses of action to ensure we meet our training and readiness goals to ultimately support the various New York National Guard Joint Task Forces.

An example of this is would be the New York Guard schools that were scheduled during the annual training at Camp Smith. We had to cancel the courses for that July week but the Regional Training Institute and Headquarters' staff rescheduled the critical courses to be conducted on weekends and in some cases at the Brigade locations. The NYG's future plans include utilizing the distance learning classrooms across the State to conduct courses.

My priority remains to have a trained and qualified force on hand. Not only does this support the JTF's but it helps each individuals achieve personal and professional advancement within the New York Guard ranks. As we review the projected 2011 budget there will probably be other operational areas that we may have to adjust. This is where the New York Guard is at its best – not finding ways why it can't be done, but ways on how to get the job done!

In regard to the ACU uniform conversion, I have received some positive feedback from the field that the implementation of the new uniform is going well. I expect leaders to continue to make on the spot corrections if they see soldiers not wearing the uniform properly. We need to wear this uniform proudly and to standard. Keep in mind that the Battle Dress Uniform (old uniform) is still authorized until September 30, 2013.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish our administrative officer Ms. Patricia Marciano good luck on her new assignment at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA). She has been instrumental in helping us with our administrative needs as well being our Point of Contact at DMNA. We welcome Pat's replacement, Mr. Gregory Schwartz as our new Administrative Officer. Greg has an extensive background as a former Guardsman in operations and administration.

In the next newsletter I will highlight many of the New York Guard success stories from 2010 as well as programmed initiatives for 2011.

It is an honor to lead such a fine force into another year.

A WORD FROM THE

Command Sergeant Major

CSM. JAMES HARTER

Non commissioned officers and enlisted staff, I will like to thank you for your hard work and consistency. As NCOs it is our primary duty to maintain, and raise, high standards of professionalism and military bearing. It is our job to do our job, so that the officers can do theirs. I'm a pretty straight forward guy, for enlisted and NCOs my door is always open. If it's closed, open it. If you've got something to say to me, go ahead, I want to hear it. Keep in mind though, for NCOs there is no open door policy with our Commanding General. Bring your issues to me and I will address them with the Commanding General.

If there is something you need done to help you better train and take care of your troops, if I can do it within the regulations, I will. It's not easy to find dedicated troops willing to do what we do for free. I will do all I can to help you keep those troops motivated and ready, and to help you find more like them. There are many changes to come for the NY Guard, changes that will further our alignment with the National Guard as an augmentation force. I think these changes will all be for the better, change is good, and change is an opportunity.

The CG is a firm believer in getting out into the field to see everyone, and we will both be paying visits to all the brigades. Keep focused on your training, your mission readiness. The NY Guard has had many successes over the past few years, all of which have brought us to this point: our new identity as a total augmentation force for the National Guard.

We have completed various constructions for our National Guard counterparts building several structures for training use across the state and soon we will begin assisting the renovation of Camp Smith.

Our NCO Corps should take great pride in those successes, but now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Keep raising the standards of professionalism; keep the NY Guard moving forward.

We have now completed this year's "iet," and have graduated () new soldiers. My congratulations goes out to you all.

As we expand, keep in mind our constant need for new additions to our Guard, keep a watchful eye out for recruits, especially in the construction and engineering fields.

Keep up the great work.

NYG Gives Defense Support to Civil Authorities

New York Guard Soldiers assisted National Guard units across New York at the Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill Friday evening, Nov. 19 in preparation for the training exercise at the Rockland County Fire Training Center on Saturday, Nov. 20.

Military vehicles began moving to the exercise location early Saturday morning.

The exercise scenario called for a the Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support augment team to be called to the site of a suspected terrorist attack to determine what kind of weapon was used.

The NYG and New York National Guard CERFP teams, an abbreviation for CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive) Enhanced Response Force Package then moved onto the site to rescue trapped survivors, decontaminate them, and provide initial medical treatment. This force was composed of New York Army and Air National Guard members and members of the New York Guard.

The exercise was used to test National Guard command and control procedures, as well as the ability to useCamp Smith as a staging site to respond to disasters or attacks in the Hudson Valley.

"Quote" COL DeSimone