



Division of Military and Naval Affairs

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



DMNA Supports State and Nation in 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul:

I am pleased to submit to you, the Commander in Chief of the New York National Guard and our State Defense forces, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs Annual Report for calendar year 2024.

This is the seventh annual report I have submitted as the Adjutant General of New York and the Commissioner of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA). I am happy to report that our New York Military Forces are thriving and capable of meeting every

call from both state and federal governments.

We have almost 21,000 uniformed service members. When combined with our state and federal civilian workforces, we approach 22,000 people focused on ensuring our military units are prepared to deploy to fight and win our nation's wars; while also prepared to respond to your call when needed to protect New Yorkers here at home.

During 2024 the New York National Guard and our State Defense Forces responded both overseas and here at home.

We deployed thousands of personnel in New York and Buffalo as part of the state's commitment to assist in running shelters for asylum seekers. We helped ensure stability in the shelters.

The National Guard also responded when you moved to respond to rising crime in the New York City subway system. Members of Joint Task Force Empire Shield partnered with New York City Police and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police to patrol subway stations across New York City. The presence of uniformed military personnel brought a sense of safety to the public and helped reduce subway crime significantly.

We were all proud when you said, "When I say the National Guard is going to be there, even before the disaster hits, I sleep better at night."

During 2024 our Air National Guard supported Arctic and Antarctic research while continuously deploying Airmen overseas. The Army National Guard's 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion was deployed in the Middle East and 10 Soldiers were injured in a drone strike against the Tower 22 outpost in January.

We expanded our State Partnership Program by signing an agreement with the

Kingdom of Sweden on July 12, 2024 during a ceremony at One World Trade Center. Since then our relationship with Sweden has been positive and growing.

The New York Army National Guard led the Nation for the fourth year in a row in recruiting and retention. And the New York Air National Guard led the Nation on new enlistments for 2024. Both organizations are well above 100% assigned strength.

Unfortunately, we suffered the tragic loss of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Casey Frankoski and John Grassia III on March 8, 2024 when their LUH-72 helicopter crashed in Texas along the U.S./Mexico border. Border Patrol Agent Chris Luna was also killed and the crew chief, Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Pratt was seriously injured.

You stood beside us as we brought Casey and John home to their families and then conducted their funerals.

DMNA continued to focus on facility improvements in 2024. The new entrance to the DMNA Headquarters building was finished in March and we opened a new 18,808 square foot Field Maintenance Shop in Troy in September. You and the state legislature supported these projects, along with the ongoing restoration of the Jamaica Armory in Queens.

Our service members are some



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields

of the best people our nation and state have to offer. They are professional, dedicated, highly educated, diverse in culture and thought. They are people of character who serve for the collective good of the American people and the people of New York.

I am proud, humbled, and honored to lead them.

RAYMOND F. SHIELDS JR.
Major General, NYARNG
The Adjutant General



New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, The Adjutant General, speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the entryway of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters, March 15, 2024. The new entryway includes historical displays and information about the New York National Guard.



New York Governor Kathy Hochul speaks to members of the New York National Guard and the press, during a Sept. 12, 2024 ceremony held at the Harlem Armory in New York City, recognizing members of the New York National Guard and the New York Naval Militia for their role in serving the citizens of New York in helping to lower crime in the New York City subway system.

“When I say the National Guard is going to be there, even before the disaster hits, I sleep better at night. Please know how grateful I am for that,”

-- New York Governor Kathy Hochul

FRONT COVER:

Left photo: A New York Air National Guard aircrew assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing stand in front of their C-17 Globemaster III during the Singapore Airshow 2024 at the Changi Airbase East, Republic of Singapore Feb. 20, 2024.
Right photo: A New York National Guard Soldier assigned to the 53rd Troop Command competes in a stress shoot during the command’s Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith, Cortlandt Manor, New York, Oct. 23, 2024.

BACK COVER:

New York Army National Guard Soldiers with the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 369th Sustainment Brigade, participate in the 2024 New York City Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 11, 2024.

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The Annual Report is published each year electronically under the provisions of New York Executive Law Section 164, and is intended to provide the public with information on the programs and financial activities of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.
Financial data reflects 2024 Federal and State Fiscal Years.
The Annual Report is produced by the New York National Guard Public Affairs Office. Publication date: May 2025. The Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York National Guard can be found online at: <https://dmna.ny.gov>

The New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs —DMNA for short— is the state executive agency responsible to Gov. Kathy Hochul for managing the New York Military Forces.

The New York Army and Air National Guard are dual state/federal entities that are reserve components of the Army and Air Force. The other components of the New York Military Forces are the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

Major General Raymond Shields, the adjutant general of New York, appointed by the governor, is both a federal general officer and a state agency commissioner. The governor serves as the commander-in-chief of the New York National Guard when those Soldiers and Airmen are not on federal

active duty.

The New York National Guard can trace its history back to 1640 when the Dutch East India Company in New Netherlands created a militia called the Burgher Guard, a citizen's guard.

New York was also the first state in the country to adopt the name National Guard for its state militia force, doing so in 1863.

The total strength of the New York Military Forces at the end of 2024 was 20,748. Strength for each component was:

- New York Army National Guard: 11,383
- New York Air National Guard: 5,835



Major General Raymond Shields, the adjutant general, addresses attendees during the 2024 New York National Guard Joint Leader Symposium at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Latham, New York, Nov 3, 2024.



Personnel assigned to New York National Guard headquarters in Latham, New York, gather to mark Denim Day on April 24, 2024. Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.



New York has the largest Air National Guard in the nation with five air wings and the Eastern Air Defense Sector.

- New York Naval Militia: 3,247
- New York Guard: 283

The DMNA workforce consists of New York State civilian employees, federal civilian employees, and full-time National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. These men and women handle logistics, personnel support, maintenance, and facilities support, which enable traditional part-time Soldiers and Airmen to function.

The number of Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the New York National Guard totaled 2,459 at the end of 2024.

The DMNA federal civilian workforce at the end of 2024 totaled 1,554 people. Of these, 1,115 were dual-status Title 32 technicians who are required to be members of the National Guard to hold their civilian positions. The other 439 people were Title 5 civilians.

The New York state civilian workforce totaled 412 employees at the end of 2024.

However, during the year, almost 3,000 New York Military Forces members were on state activity duty for sustained periods.

These personnel supported New York City as it dealt with a massive influx of migrants seeking asylum, topping more than 2,200 personnel on duty at one point.

About 800 people served on Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the New York National Guard security force in New York City, and the Citizens Preparedness Task Force, which conducts training in dealing with emergencies across the state.

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs state agency's regular budget allocation for 2024-2025 was \$331.1 million. This included \$149,882,000 for state operations and \$179,721,000 for capital projects. Another \$1.5 million was allocated for spending under aid to localities.

Federal expenditures were estimated at \$1.2 billion for 2024.



New York Army National Guard Col. Richard Goldenberg speaks with Air Guard leaders about public affairs operations during an Air National Guard professional development course in Latham, New York, May 10, 2024.

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 - ***New York Guard: 283***

Major General Ray Shields

The Adjutant General

Major General Ray Shields assumed duties as the 54th adjutant general for the state of New York on October 1, 2018. In this position, General Shields is responsible for providing trained and ready National Guard forces for both state and federal missions. Shields also serves as Commander of the New York Army National Guard.

Shields, a resident of Saratoga Springs, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the New York Army National Guard through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program in May of 1983 after graduating from the State University of New York at Albany.

He has served in a variety of military positions to include platoon leader, infantry company commander, battalion staff officer, battalion commander, brigade staff officer, brigade executive officer and deputy commander, brigade chief of staff, New York Army National Guard chief of staff and New York National Guard director of joint staff.

Shields served in Afghanistan in 2008-09 as chief of staff for the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, a NATO training mission.

During his service Shields has been involved in the New York National Guard response to Superstorm Sandy, several snowstorms, Lake Ontario flood control missions, the response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in 2017, Hurricanes Florence and Michael in 2018, the COVID-19 response of 2020-22 and the current Asylum Seeker Support Mission.

Shields holds a bachelor's degree in history from the State University of New York, Albany; a master's



Major Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, speaks at the signing ceremony for State Partnership Program between the New York National Guard and Sweden, held at One World Trade Center, in Manhattan, July 12.

degree in public administration from Marist College, and a master's degree in strategic studies from the Army War College.

His military education includes the Army Strategic Education Program, the Army Command and General Staff College, the Army War College, the National Security Studies Management Course at Syracuse University, the Army Senior Leader Development Program, and the General and Flag Officer Homeland Security Executive Seminar taught by Harvard University and the George C. Marshall European Center for Strategic Security Studies Senior Executive Seminar.

Shields' awards include the Legion of Merit, the

Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.



"We are proud to serve our state and nation and the people of the communities we live in across the State."

-- Major General Ray Shields, The Adjutant General



The first adjutant general of New York was Nicholas Fish, who was appointed on April 13, 1784.



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the New York National Guard, inspects a Stridsvagn 122 Swedish main battle tank during a visit to Stockholm, Sweden, September 12, 2024. Sweden and New York began a new State Partnership in 2024.

The New York Army National Guard was number one in recruiting and retention out of the 54 state and territorial Army Guards in 2024.

This marks the third year in a row that New York was tops in retaining current Soldiers and bringing new ones on board.

During federal fiscal year 2024, the New York Army National Guard enlisted 1,519 Soldiers while another 200 officers and warrant officers joined the force.

The assigned strength for New York's Army Guard at the end of 2024 was 11,383. The New York Army National Guard's strength at the start of the year was 10,970.

The Army National Guard assigns a weighted score to each Army Guard which combines enlisted Soldier recruiting, officer recruiting, and Soldier retention and attrition.

The New York Army National Guard scored 126.4 percent on this scale. The next highest state was Georgia with a score of 122.9 percent.

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general, attributes this success to a focus on Soldiers.

"The New York Army National Guard has led the nation in recruiting and retention for the last three years because we focus on our people," Shields said.

"Our commitment is demonstrated every day by the care, communication, and commitment to our Soldiers," he added.

Along with increasing overall readiness, growing the size of the force allows new units to be activated in the New York Army National Guard.

New York activated the 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, or DIVARTY, and the 27th Finance Battal-

ion, and is looking at adding a new transportation company, because there are enough Soldiers now to fill those units.

The 220 full-time Soldiers assigned to recruiting duty for the New York Army National Guard take pride in their mission, according to Lt. Col. Josh Heimroth, the commander of the New York recruiting and retention battalion.

"The success of the New York Army National Guard's recruiting and retention battalion is a direct result of our highly-trained recruiters," Heimroth said. "Their daily dedication, professionalism, and willingness to increase individual proficiency in the recruiting career management field has paid dividends."

The New York Air National Guard is also putting an effort into filling its authorized strength of 5,822 Airmen.

In fiscal year 2024, the New York Air National Guard recruited 628 Airmen, the highest number of any of the nation's state Air Guard elements.

Currently, the New York Air National Guard has an assigned strength of 5,835 Airmen.

The New York Air Guard has increased its recruiting force from 26 to 33 production recruiters to help bring in more recruits.



New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Joshua Pearl, an infantryman assigned to Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, shakes hands with Capt. Jason Webber, Delta Company commander during a ceremony in which Pearl re-affirmed his oath of enlistment along the Atlantic Ocean coastline during exercise African Lion in Tantan, Morocco, May 30, 2024.



When National Guard recruits swear their oath of enlistment, they promise to uphold not one, but two constitutions – the U.S. Constitution and the constitution of the State of New York.



New York Army National Guard first lieutenants Adrian Smith left and John Gamalski are administered the oath of office by Major General Michel Natali the assistant adjutant general Army for the New York National Guard during a promotion and award ceremony at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., June 7 2024. The two men were recognized for completing the Inter-service Physicians Assistant Program with their degrees and promotions to first lieutenant.



New York Army National Guard Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Scholes, assigned to the 369th Sustainment Brigade, recites his oath of office at Camp Smith, N.Y., July 20, 2024.

"Our recruiting and retention success directly contributes to the ability of the New York Army National Guard to respond to short notice or no-notice emergencies, most recently in response to hurricanes impacting North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida,"

-- Maj. Gen. Michel Natali, Assistant Adjutant General



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Tyler Linendoll, an infantryman assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, cuts down tree branches with a chainsaw following Hurricane Milton in Palmetto, Florida, Oct. 11, 2024.

“We are always ready and always there, be it in a combat zone, here at home in New York, or in another state. I am very proud of our service members who never fail to respond when called,”

-- Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, The Adjutant General

- o When Guard members are activated as members of the state militia by their state governor, they perform their duties in State Active Duty, or SAD, status.
- o Guard members called to State Active Duty by their governors are state employees when in a SAD status.
- o Pay and benefits are determined by New York State law, and Guard members are not eligible for federal pay or benefits.

During 2024, thousands of members of New York's Military Forces were on state active duty status responding to New York State missions, disasters in Florida and in North and South Carolina.

New York Military Forces respond to state emergencies in a State Active Duty (SAD) status as directed by the governor of New York. Additionally, with the consent of the governor, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen can deploy to other states and territories in a SAD status under the terms of Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMACs).

New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen also provide response capabilities during designated national emergencies under the federally funded Title 32, United States Code.

The New York National Guard conducts long-running state missions, including Joint Task Force Empire Shield and the Citizens Preparedness Corps, and conducts named contingency operations when directed.

Asylum Seeker Resource Support, January 1 - December 31, 2024

During 2024, a maximum of 2,200 service members were on orders to aid New York City in dealing with a massive influx of migrants.

Uniformed personnel assisted the city by providing administrative and logistical support to shelters housing migrants seeking asylum at locations in New York City, Buffalo, and Rochester. Service members from all components mobilized to provide administrative and logistical support at more than 152 shelter hotels and humanitarian relief centers, assisting more than 89,591 migrants.

At the close of the year, 609 service members remain on duty doing this vital work. The mission,

which started in September 2022, phased out on January 17, 2025.

Operation Winter Weather, January 9-14, 2024

On January 9, DMNA mobilized 60 service members from both the New York Air and Army National Guard to respond to severe winter weather in the eastern and western regions of New York, all forces were deactivated on January 17.

Operation NYNG Support to Special Olympics, March 5 and 16, 2024

The New York National Guard provided a color guard and baggage handlers to help the U.S. Special Olympics team depart to and return from the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy, in March. Ten Soldiers assisted in baggage handling, and Brig. Gen. Isabel Rivera Smith, the director of joint staff, also participated in the send-off ceremony.

Operation NYNG support to NYS in support of the Solar Eclipse: April 8, 2024

On April 8, as the totality of a Solar eclipse tracked across western and northern New York, including the Adirondacks, the New York National Guard mobilized 58 service members to six different locations to support local authorities with traffic control if required. All troops were deactivated on April 9.

Operation Heat Wave, June 17-21, 2024

On June 17, 50 service members were activated to assist civilian authorities in responding to the effects of severe heat across New York. All personnel were deactivated June 21.

Operation July Thunder, July 17-21, 2024

On July 17, 50 service members were activated due to severe weather conditions in Oneida County.

All personnel deactivated July 21.

Operation August Hurricane, August 8-12, 2024

On August 8, DMNA mobilized 212 service members from the Air and Army National Guard to respond to extensive flooding in New York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley and western New York. All personnel were deactivated by August 12.

Operation NYNG support to South and North Carolina, September 29 - October 19, 2024

North and South Carolina requested assistance due to severe wind and rain damage caused by Hurricane Helene.

On September 29, three CH-47's and 16 Soldiers based at Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Rochester deployed to South Carolina and conducted missions in western North Carolina. The team moved 99 tons of relief supplies, ranging from food and water to hay for cattle. They also transported 32 emergency response personnel before returning home on October 9.

The 107th Attack Wing's Fatality Search and Recovery Team deployed to North Carolina as well. The 11 Airmen are specially trained to locate the remains of people killed in a disaster and respectfully recover them. They worked in support of the medical examiner's office in Yancy County, North Carolina and returned to New York on October 15.

On October 2, 20 service members from the 204th Engineer Battalion with engineer equipment deployed in support of the South Carolina National Guard. On October 7, these assets were shifted to North Carolina to support recovery efforts. They conducted route reconnaissance missions in South Carolina and cleared debris and mud from bridges and roads around Old Fort, North Carolina before returning home on October 19.



Local residents use an all terrain vehicle to unload supplies from a CH-47F Chinook helicopter flown by Soldiers assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, in Green River, North Carolina, on October 5, 2024.



New York Army National Guard Spc. Jordyn Chappelle, assigned to Alpha Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, helps clear debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton in Parrish, Florida, Oct. 11, 2024.



New York National Guard Airmen assigned to the 174th Attack Wing inspect vehicles as they prepare to go on State Active Duty as part of New York's response to a heat wave on June 17, 2024 at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse.



New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment and 107th Attack Wing witness the beginning stages of the total solar eclipse covering the region on April 8, 2024 at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team load boxes of drinking water into a vehicle in Bradenton, Florida, Oct. 12, 2024. The Soldiers worked with members of the Florida Army National Guard to provide relief to communities impacted by Hurricane Milton.

Operation NYNG Support to Florida, October 8-17, 2024

On October 8, the New York National Guard mobilized 67 service members from the New York Air and Army National Guard to respond to extensive flooding in Florida.

On October 9, two C-17s assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing moved 41 Soldiers assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse to Cecil Airport in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Soldiers, from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, performed general support missions. During one food distribution mission, they were visited by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. They returned to Hancock Field October 15 on board two C-17s from the 105th Airlift Wing.

Twenty-four Airmen assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing, based in Westhampton Beach, were also sent to Florida. The Airmen were pararescue Airmen specially trained in a host of skills, including small boat operations.

They deployed boats and vehicles on board two of the wing's HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft, while a small contingent drove trucks and trailers to Camp Blanding, Florida.

Because there was less flooding than anticipated, the 106th Rescue Wing Airmen returned home on October 11.

Operation NYNG Support Orange County Wildland Fires, November 11-21, 2024

On November 11, DMNA mobilized Soldiers and helicopters to support the state's response to the Jennings Creek wildfire near Greenwood Lake.

New York Army National Guard aviators employed

four UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters and two CH-47F Chinook heavy lift helicopters to drop 550,160 gallons of water on the 5,200-acre blaze from November 11 to 20. During the period, 38 crewmembers were placed on duty for the mission.

This was the most extended New York National Guard firefighting response mission and the first time CH-47s were used to deliver water onto a fire. The firefighting buckets used by the UH-60M helicopters can carry 660 gallons of water, while buckets carried by the CH-47s carry at least 1,500 gallons each.

Operation Buffalo Winter Weather, November 29 - December 2, 2024

On November 29, 115 Airmen and Soldiers were mobilized in preparation to respond to expected severe winter weather in the western regions of New York. Forces deactivated December 2.

COVID Close Out, January 1 - February 12, 2024

A team of Naval Militia members and Soldiers assisted the DMNA Budget and Finance office in reconciling expenses from the COVID-19 response mission, which ran from March 2020 to July 2022 and involved over 7,000 service members.



New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Karlie Foster assigned to the 2nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team takes photos of radioactive areas during an exercise aboard the USS Slater museum ship in Albany, New York, March 28, 2024. The team worked with New York State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation to identify radiological sources aboard the ship during the joint training exercise.

The primary task and purpose of this operation was to reconcile costs incurred for T32 and state active-duty response. The operation completed its mission February 12.

Joint Task Force-Empire Shield (Steady State Operation)

Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTF-ES) is the New York National Guard's security force operating in New York City. The 800 Soldiers and Airmen on the task force support local, state, and federal law enforcement officials in the region.

In March 2024, JTF-ES supported a task from the Governor's Office to establish a presence in the New York City Subway System. Since March,



New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Nathan Wojtkowiak, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Pawlukovich and Staff Sgt. Jacob Qualiana, members of the 107th Attack Wing, pause from clearing entrances at a warming station at the Erie Community College South Campus in Orchard Park, New York on January 15, 2024.

this mission has resulted in daily subway support missions at approximately 65 subway locations throughout New York City, supported by over 250 service members.

At the end of 2024, the governor directed DMNA to add 250 troops to JTFES to expand the subway security mission, conducted with police agencies.

During 2024, JTF-ES conducted:

- 600 airport security missions
- 600 transit hub missions
- 500 subway security missions
- 1,100 physical security missions

The New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat service conducted 700 maritime security patrols in conjunction with the Coast Guard.

JTF-ES positioned forces to support four protest response missions and prepared to cope with the impact of Hurricane Debby, a storm that made landfall in the south in August.

The task force also facilitated distinguished visitor missions from senior leaders from the military services, National Guard Bureau, North American Aerospace Defense Command, and state partners from Brazil and Sweden.

The task force participated in seven Multi-Agency Super Surges/Regional Alliance Incorporating Local, State, and Federal Efforts in rail safety events.

These high-profile operations enhanced security at railroad and subway stations, increased patrol coverage, and strengthened the security presence aboard trains. JTF-ES has also expanded its footprint at civilian operation centers by establishing an intelligence analyst at the New York State Intelligence Center.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (Steady State Operation)

The New York National Guard maintains two Civil Support Teams-Weapons of Mass Destruction: the 2nd CST-WMD based

at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, and the 24th CST-WMD based at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn.

CSTs are highly trained first-responder units that support civil authorities responding to a weapon of mass destruction incident. The CST mission is to support civil authorities during a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear incident by identifying hazards, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on appropriate response measures, and assisting with requests for additional state and/or federal resources. CSTs will generally be the first National Guard units to arrive at a WMD incident.

The 2nd CST conducted 10 standby missions and 13 training exercises.

The 24th CST conducted 41 standby missions, two Secure the Cities maritime missions, 53 advise & assist events and 25-unit training events and exercises.

Homeland Response Force (Steady State Operation)

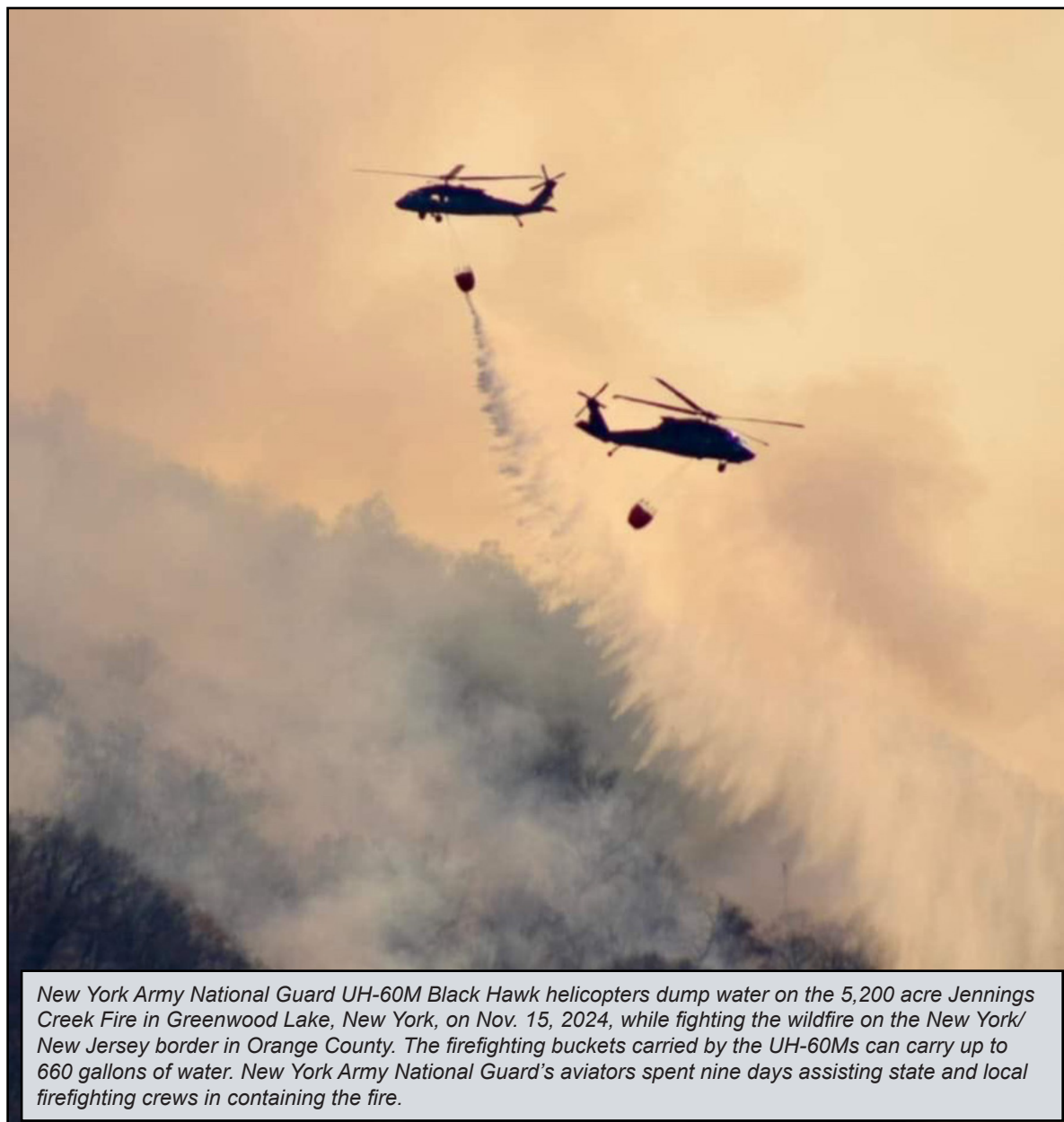
In concert with the New Jersey National Guard, the New York National Guard contributed forces to the FEMA Region II Homeland Response Force (HRF), a planned CBRN response force of 570 service members. If activated, the HRF increases the operational capability and flexibility available to Governors responding to CBRN incidents within their state.

Throughout 2024, HRF units conducted a multiple phase, large-scale exercise validating their ability to deploy and respond to a CBRN event as well as providing standby support to the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

Significant events conducted during the year included two large-scale collective training events with 187 and 353 service members respectively, a staff exercise with 80 service members, and support to the UN General Assembly with 40 service members.

Citizen's Preparedness Corps (Steady State Operation)

The New York National Guard continued to support the Citizens Preparedness Corps program, which trains individ-



New York Army National Guard UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters dump water on the 5,200 acre Jennings Creek Fire in Greenwood Lake, New York, on Nov. 15, 2024, while fighting the wildfire on the New York/New Jersey border in Orange County. The firefighting buckets carried by the UH-60Ms can carry up to 660 gallons of water. New York Army National Guard's aviators spent nine days assisting state and local firefighting crews in containing the fire.

uals to prepare, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. A fundamental portion of the course teaches attendees about items they should procure before emergencies. At designated training sessions sponsored by the NYS Governor's Office, a free Disaster Preparedness Kit is given to each participant to ensure they each have the necessary equipment and supplies on hand.

The mission is comprised of 33 service members, organized into 14 teams across the state.

From January 2024 to November 30, 2024, the teams traveled a total distance of 68,424 miles across the state and conducted 819 events, reaching a total of 29,350 attendees in all 62 counties. Fifty-six events were performed in 11 non-English languages, including American Sign Language. During the 295 events sponsored by the governor's office, 15,059 preparedness kits were distributed.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Mission Assurance Assessments Detachment (CIP-MAA) (Steady State Operation)

The CIP-MAA Detachment is composed of 20 New York Army National Guard Soldiers with the skills and training to conduct assessments of critical defense assets involving transportation, defense, energy, and communications infrastructure.

In 2024, the CIP-MAA Detachment

conducted 12 site assessments at locations throughout the eastern half of the United States.

The detachment directly supports Headquarters, Department of the Army, Mission Assurance Program. However, under limited circumstances, they can conduct missions in support of New York State entities. The team includes a mission analyst, electrical specialist, cyber specialist, transportation specialist, water, heating, ventilation and air conditioning specialist, communications specialist, petroleum, oil, and lubricants specialist, photographer, and team leader. The detachment is based at the Leeds Armory.

Cyber Support to DHSES (Steady State Operation)

DMNA provides support using State Active Duty to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Cyber Incident Response Team. This team provides cyber security expertise for counterterrorism, critical infrastructure, and cyber security risk assessments in support of authorities at all levels of New York government.

In 2024, the three personnel supported 46 cyber incident responses, six cyber readiness assessments, 1 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspection observation, four statewide water treatment facility reviews coordinated with the Department of Health and Human Services, and two critical infrastructure tabletop exercises.



New York National Guard Airmen assigned to the 174th Attack Wing clear a street following a tornado strike in Rome, New York on July 18, 2024.



New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to Joint Task Force Empire Shield support New York City police officers conducting bag checks at a subway entrance in New York on March 8, 2024.



New York Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Lawton, a member of 174th Attack Wing maneuvers a skid steer to clear debris in Rome, New York on July 17, 2024.

Honoring New Yorkers in 2024

20

DMNA

New York Army and Air National Guard Honor Guards provided military funeral honors for the families of 8,783 veterans during 2024.

Federal Public Law 106-65 directs the military to provide funeral honors to any veteran or former military member who was not dishonorably discharged from service.

Because the Army and Air National Guard are community based military forces, the responsibility for discharging this duty falls to those forces.

By law each former service member is entitled to a two-person detail which folds and presents a flag to the family and plays taps, usually using an electronic insert into a bugle, at each funeral. Retired military members and those who die while still serving are entitled to more elaborate services which include a full seven person detail and a firing party.

The New York Army National Guard Honor Guard program is centralized with 116 Soldiers, including both full-time and part-time members who operate at eight locations across the state.

The Army honor guard effort is budgeted for \$1.5 million annually and operates 29 vehicles.

In 2024, the New York Army National Guard conducted 6,833 military funerals. The detachment on Long Island, where the Veterans Administration's Calverton National Cemetery is located, conducted 2,245 services.

Funeral honors requests for Army honors come directly from funeral directors or family members, who must provide documentation indicating veterans' status. Requests for honors also come from Army Casualty Assistance Centers at Fort Drum in Jefferson County, and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey.

The New York Air National Guard supports the fu-

neral honors program with base honor guards located at four air bases and Eastern Air Defense Sector. The 107th Attack Wing, based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, provides personnel for that base honor guard who serve alongside members of the United States Air Force Reserve's 914th Airlift Wing.

Eighty Airmen served on the base honor guards in 2024 in both full-time and part-time volunteer status. They receive funeral taskings through the Air Force casualty assistance Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and through requests from funeral directors and families.

During 2024, New York Air National Guard personnel provided funeral honors 1,950 times. Like the Army National Guard, the busiest team, is the one that provides funeral services at Calverton National Cemetery.

The Honor Guard of the 106th Rescue Wing, located in Westhampton Beach on Long Island, conducted 647 military funerals in 2024.

While the Army Guard Honor Guard only conducts funerals, the Air Guard base honor guards provide color guard details for parades and other events.

As the number of veterans in New York has declined, with the passing of the World War II and Korean War generation, the number of military funeral honors requests have declined as well.

In 2012 there were 838,000 veterans living in New York while in 2022 that number was 580,000, according to the Census Bureau.

In 2012 the New York National Guard conducted 11,759 funerals while in 2022 that number was 9,824.



Above, New York Air National Guard Honor Guard members assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing fire a salute during military funeral honors for Senior Master Sgt. Matthew King at Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York on Dec. 17, 2024. Opposite page, New York Army National Guard Honor Guard Soldiers fold the American flag covering the casket of Chief Warrant Officer 2 John M. Grassia III during funeral services held at Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York on March 26, 2024. Grassia, along with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Casey Frankoski, was killed in a March 8 helicopter crash outside Rio Grande City, Texas while patrolling the southwest border in support of the Border Patrol.

"It is an honor for us to be there,"

-- Pfc. Suleyma Sanchez, 369th Sustainment Brigade, Military Forces Honor Guard



The U.S. Census Bureau estimates a veteran population in New York State of 563,400, some 3.6% of the population. Some 55% of these veterans are over 65.





Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors team load the remains of two helicopter pilots who lost their lives in a Texas helicopter crash. Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officers 2 Casey Frankoski and John M. Grassia III were transported from Kelly Field, Texas, to the Army Aviation Support Facility at Albany International Airport, March 18, 2024 on board an LC-130 Hercules assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing.



New York Air National Guard members assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing fire a salute during military funeral honors for Senior Master Sgt. Matthew King at Gerald B. Solomen Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York on Dec. 17, 2024.

Counterdrug Task Force

24

DMNA

The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force provides military support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies conducting drug enforcement actions.

The task force also provides support to community-based organizations across the state working to reduce drug use and demand.

The program is managed by Army National Guard Col. William B. Mur-

phy, the New York National Guard counterdrug coordinator.

During 2024, the task force's 122 personnel, 67 Soldiers and 55 Airmen, used their military skills to assist local law enforcement and community based groups. The task force operated with a budget of \$16.2 million.

Eighty-four Soldiers and Airmen served as investigative analysts in support of 54 law enforcement agen-

cies across the state working on 293 cases. These personnel conducted 50 drug detection missions.

These National Guard personnel aided narcotics investigation efforts through the development of graphs, mapping, pattern analysis, research, database queries, compiling of raw data and assist in developing reports.

They also enabled law enforcement to access specialized equipment. This equipment includes:

- Mini-Z, a handheld backscatter imaging system which allows operators to scan hidden areas for smuggled drugs.

- Tru-Narc Handheld Narcotics Analyzer which allows operators to do an onsite analysis of drugs recovered by law enforcement.

- Cellebrite Premium software which speeds up data analysis.

- MX908 Mass spectrometer which can identify drugs.

- Gemini drug analyzer also used to help identify drugs.

The counterdrug task force supported efforts resulting in 1,206 seizures by law enforcement. These included:

- \$67 million in illicit drugs

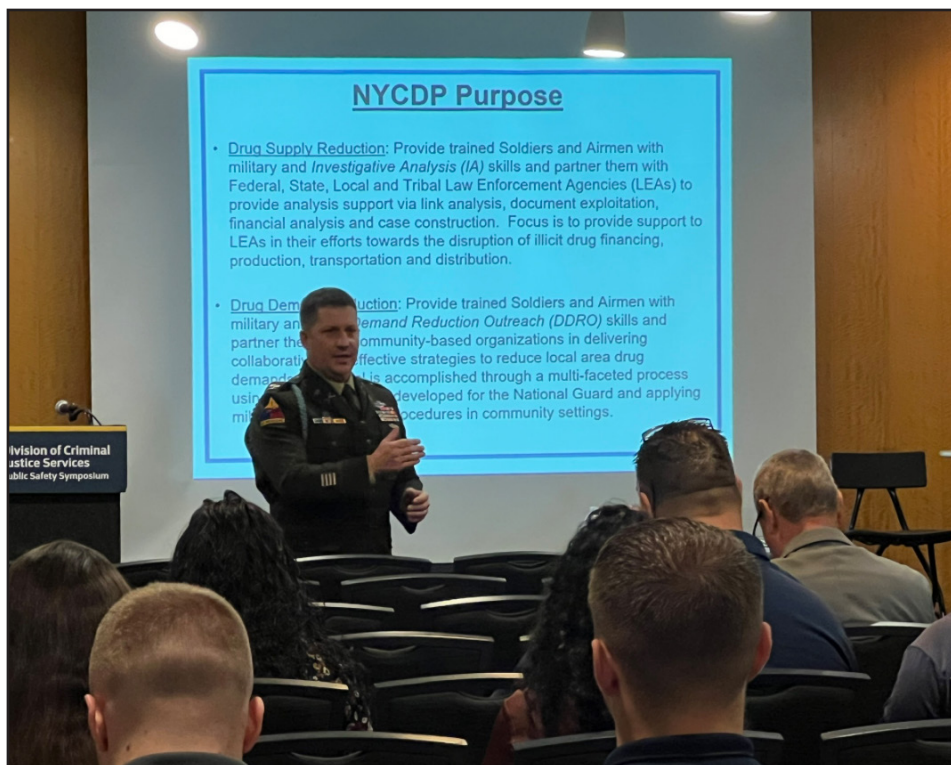
- \$7.7million in currency

- \$1 million in property and vehicles

Another 22 drug demand reduction

operators used their organizational skills to help community anti-drug groups operate more effectively. They assisted in 60 community anti-drug projects.

The task force also organizes counterdrug helicopter flights. None were conducted during 2024 because the UH-72 Lakota unit, which conducts these missions, was deployed to the Southwest border in support of the U.S. Border Patrol.



A Counterdrug Task Force member presents an informational program to members of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in Albany, September 18, 2024.



New York Attorney General Letitia James acknowledged Counterdrug Task Force analysts June 13, 2024 for their support in the convictions of 14 people for trafficking “major” amounts of fentanyl. The defendants were considered central figures in a drug ring and were convicted of selling over \$250,000 worth of cocaine and “thousands of fentanyl pills disguised as oxycodone” in Erie and Niagara counties.



The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, September 17, 2024. At right, members of the Counterdrug Task Force Detection Unit display equipment to find, identify, and interdict drugs that are hidden at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, New York September 17, 2024.



Members of the Counterdrug Task Force conduct a tug of war at the ALERT Sports Challenge June 29, 2024 at the MVP Arena in Albany. The event partnered local law enforcement and Albany Community organizations for drug demand reduction efforts.



NY Army National Guard Facilities

26

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs maintains 71 Army National Guard facilities across the state.

These facilities provide spaces to repair vehicles, train Soldiers, conduct administrative and logistics functions, store equipment and operate aircraft. They also serve as response centers during state emergencies.

Many of these facilities are legacy buildings constructed early in the 20th Century or during mid-century.

Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General of New York, has made refurbishing New York National Guard legacy buildings and constructing new facilities when needed, a priority.

During 2024 DMNA completed a new maintenance facility, moved back into a renovated armory, began the process of rebuilding another historic armory, and drafted plans and obtained funding for a new state-of-the-art headquarters for the 42nd Infantry Division.

The Office of General Services is responsible for drafting plans based on DMNA input and oversees the work.

New Field Maintenance Shop

On Sept. 27, the agency cut the ribbon on Field Maintenance Shop 17, located adjacent to the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters on Glenmore Road in Troy. Cost of the project was \$16.7 million. Work began in March 2023.

The 18,808 square foot state-of-the-art building replaced an 11,000 square foot facility built in 1971 which could no longer accommodate the division's modern vehicles. Six military vehicles can be serviced inside simultaneously. There are also outdoor concrete aprons which allow additional vehicles to

be serviced outside in good weather.

Rainwater falling on the roof is collected to help wash vehicles. Solar panels on the roof and on the ground outside, generate 145 megawatts annually. In addition, 75 percent of the construction waste produced during the project was recycled.

The facility qualifies for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification.

Jamaica Armory Rehabilitation

The \$103 million project resulted in the full restoration and renovation of the 190,000-square-foot

armory in Queens which opened in 1936. The work also involved the addition of 38,000 square feet of usable space, by installing a second floor above what had been an open drill shed.

Work began in October 2020.

The project involved rebuilding old and outmoded offices and maintenance areas into modern training, administrative and maintenance facilities. Along with the addition of a new second floor space, the renovation included a new roof, updated electrical, plumbing, gas, sewer, and water systems, and new communication and technology capabilities.



Major General Ray Shields, The Adjutant General, and Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy are joined by state and federal representatives and Army National Guard Soldiers as they cut the ribbon opening Field Maintenance Shop 17 in Troy, New York on Sept. 27 2024. The new shop will be home to 16 mechanics serving vehicles used by the 1,000 Soldiers assigned across New York's Capital Region.



The 1913 Armory Show, also known as the International Exhibition of Modern Art, held at the Lexington Avenue Armory in New York City introduced European avant-garde art to American audiences and helped transform the American art scene.

Administrative, storage, training spaces, and classrooms were all redone with new lighting, floors, and ceilings.

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery began reoccupying the building in October 2024.

Lexington Avenue Armory Rehabilitation

In November 2024 work began on the renovation of the historic Lexington Avenue Armory, the home of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry—"The Fighting 69th"—in Manhattan. The 180,000 square foot building was constructed in 1906 and was no longer suitable for use.

The \$123.2 million project will include replacement of mechanical, electrical, plumbing, security, telecommunications, and fire protection systems. There will be updates to the kitchen, gymnasium, offices, assembly hall, classrooms, and myriad storage spaces.

The armory is listed as a National Historic Site so the character of the armory's historic rooms, murals, staircases, entryway, and facade, and the drill hall will be maintained.

Construction of a new ADA-accessible visitor entry with an elevator and stairway and a new street-level vehicle ramp with new concrete flooring will be incorporated. There will also be new interior lighting and new roofing on the administration and annex buildings.

The project is due to be finished in February of 2028.



An architectural rendering of the drill hall renovations at the Lexington Avenue Armory. The project designs were developed in collaboration with the Division of Military and Naval Affairs with consultations with the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>The Division of Military and Naval Affairs currently maintains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 36 New York state armories;• 15 field maintenance shops;• 4 National Guard readiness centers;• 4 Local training areas in Dunkirk, Newark, Youngstown and Guilderland;• 3 Army Aviation Support Facilities | <p>in Ronkonkoma, Latham and Rochester;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Combined Support Maintenance Shops;• 2 Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team facilities; one at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia and one at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn; | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Maneuver Areas Training Equipment Storage Site (MATES) at Fort Drum;• Barracks, ranges, and offices at Camp Smith in Cortlandt Manor;• A warehouse and Central Issue Facility at the Watervliet Arsenal, and• The New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. |
|--|--|--|

42nd Infantry Division Headquarters

DMNA Facilities and Engineering and the Office of General Services (OGS) began work on plans for a \$120 million headquarters for the 42nd Infantry Division to be built on property near Albany International Airport acquired from Albany County.

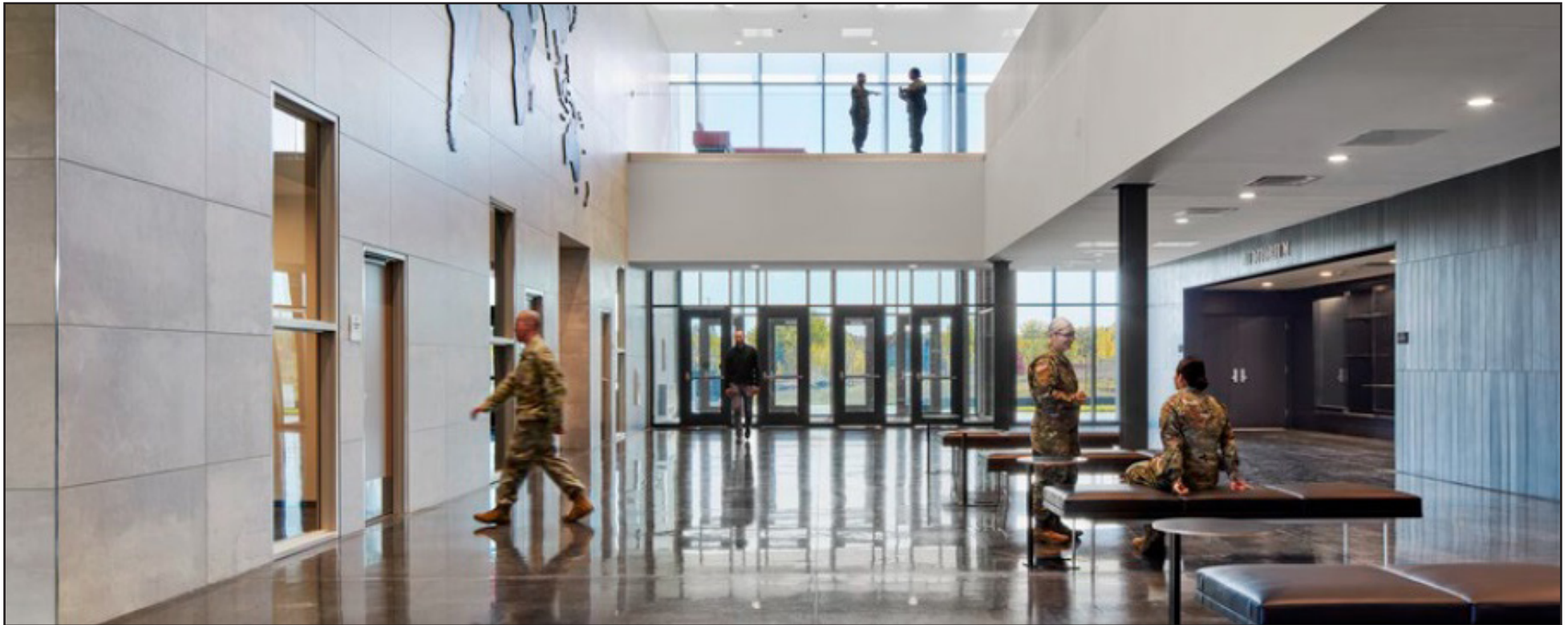
The division is currently headquartered at the New York State Armory on Glenmore Road in Troy. This building was constructed in 1971 and is no longer suited to serve as the headquarters for a 21st Century Army division. On training weekends up to 600

Soldiers will be on site.

The federal government is expected to cover 75 percent of the cost while the state covers the remaining share.

The two story building will feature a traditional military architectural look and incorporate the latest telecommunications and internet technology, as well as state-of-the-art energy conservation systems.

The goal is to begin construction in Spring 2026.



Architectural renderings of the proposed \$120 million headquarters building for the 42nd Infantry Division in Colonie, N.Y. The 140,000-square-foot facility would replace the division's aging, cramped headquarters in Troy and provide offices for 60 full-time Soldiers and about 500 part-time Soldiers who gather for assembly and training.



The massive drill floor of the Jamaica Armory in Queens, New York, was originally designed with a dirt floor and used for training horses. The armory housed the 104th Field Artillery's 75-millimeter guns after World War 1 with stable space for 138 horses.

“Our continual improvement of our work environment is based on one thing: you, our people, our Soldiers, our Airmen, our Naval Militia, our New York Guard, and our civilian employees. You are the most important thing we have. Without each of you, we cannot be successful,”

-- Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, The Adjutant General



New York State and Division of Military and Naval Affairs officials gather in Latham, New York on Friday, March 15 to conduct a ribbon cutting opening the new entryway to the National Guard Headquarters building. Cutting the ribbon are, from left, Gary Yaple, Director of Facilities and Engineering, Assemblyman Phil Steck, OGS Commissioner Jeanette Moy, Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, The Adjutant General, and State Senator Jake Ashby. The \$4 million project, launched in the fall of 2022, replaced a covered walkway with a modern reception area and security desk.



New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. David Myones, the 369th Sustainment Brigade Deputy Commander, discusses the story of the Harlem Regimental Armory in New York with the three granddaughters of legendary Harlem Hellfighter James Reese Europe - Lynn Europe Cotter, Theresa Europe and Patricia Europe Pearson on Feb. 24 2024. Lt. James Reese Europe led the 369th Regimental band in World War I, and is credited with introducing jazz music to Europe as the band played across France.

Camp Smith Training Site

30

Camp Smith Training Site is a state-owned 1,582-acre training and organizational readiness facility located in the town of Cortlandt Manor, which has been used by the New York National Guard since 1882.

It was named Camp Smith in 1919, for then Governor Alfred E. Smith.

Mr. Chris Panzer is the Camp Smith Training Site Director.

Ninety-four percent of the site is wooded, hilly, rugged terrain ideal for infantry tactical training. A 95-acre cantonment area includes multiple ranges and 53 buildings housing maintenance, training, storage, head-

quarters, and billeting facilities.

On average, 3,000 Soldiers use Camp Smith's facilities each month.

The 53rd Troop Command is headquartered at Camp Smith, as is the 106th Regional Training Institute, the New York Army National Guard Medical Command, and the New York Guard, a state defense force.

The Combined Maintenance Shop at Camp Smith provides support to 20 New York National Guard units with over 800 wheeled vehicles in the Hudson Valley and downstate New York areas.

New York Army National Guard medi-

cal readiness screenings are conducted at Camp Smith for Army National Guard troops. The camp also serves as a pre-mobilization and mobilization training location.

The Camp Smith Training Site Simulations Center is a 16,000 sq. ft. facility that supports five Army programs of record weapons and tactics simulators valued at over \$5 million. These systems enable Soldiers to conduct weapons training readiness in a safe, simulated, resource reduced, and cost-effective environment.

Camp Smith also plays a key role in logistics and mission command when the New York National Guard

responds to state emergencies and missions in the Hudson Valley and New York City.

Camp Smith's staff continually works to improve its facilities and infrastructure.

Baker Hall, building 502, is being renovated to serve as the New York Army National Guard Medical Command headquarters in support of the medical readiness program.

The electrical network throughout the 95-acre cantonment area is also being upgraded. Work on a new multilane live fire range is expected to begin in 2025.



New York Army National Guard Spc. Robbin Shen, assigned to the 145th Maintenance Company, marks his target during The Adjutant General's 45th Annual Combat Marksmanship Skills Competition at Camp Smith, N.Y., Sept. 12, 2024.



New York National Guard Staff Sgt. Nicole McKenzie, the supply sergeant assigned to the 1156th Engineer Company, secures a forklift onto a commercial trailer headed to South Carolina to assist disaster response forces in the wake of Hurricane Helene, Camp Smith, New York, Oct. 3, 2024.



Governor Al Smith, the namesake of the Camp Smith Training Site, would serve four two-year terms as New York Governor and in 1928 won the Democratic presidential nomination, losing in the general election to Herbert Hoover.



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Pedro Charles, assigned to the 145th Maintenance Company, and Staff Sgt. Irshaad Mohamed, assigned to the 106th Regional Training Institute, grade a competitor's target during the 45th annual The Adjutant General Match at Camp Smith, N.Y., Sept 13, 2024.



New York National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 53rd Troop Command compete in a stress shoot during the command's Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith, New York, Oct. 23, 2024. The competition tests enlisted Soldiers and non-commissioned officers in a variety of physically and mentally challenging tasks.

“Our success can be summed up in short - we care about our Soldiers, their families, and their personal growth, while welcoming new Soldiers to our team with open arms,”

-- Maj. Gen. Ray Shields,
The Adjutant General

Camp Smith Training Site

| Personnel Trained on Ranges | | Personnel Using Training Areas | | Facility Daily Use | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Army National Guard | 4,860 | Army National Guard | 28,600 | Barracks | 112,740 |
| Air National Guard | 100 | Air National Guard | 480 | Classrooms | 49,120 |
| U.S. Army Reserve | 120 | U.S. Army Reserve | 690 | Total: | 161,860 |
| U.S. Army | 0 | Other DoD | 1,880 | Simulator Daily Use | |
| Law Enforcement | 1,820 | NY Guard | 1,260 | | |
| Non-DoD | 120 | Non-DoD | 180 | | |
| Total: | 7,020 | Total: | 33,090 | | |
| | | | | Army National Guard | 16,600 |
| | | | | U.S. Army Reserve | 1,102 |
| | | | | Other DoD | 280 |
| | | | | NY Guard | 100 |
| | | | | Total: | 18,082 |



Youngstown Training Area

| Personnel Trained on Ranges | | Personnel Using Training Areas | |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Army National Guard | 0 | Army National Guard | 11,000 |
| Air National Guard | 0 | Air National Guard | 0 |
| Total: | 0 | U.S. Army Reserve | 590 |
| | | Other DoD | 110 |
| | | New York Guard | 440 |
| | | Total: | 12,140 |

New York Army National Guard

34

DMNA



New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team serve as a color guard during an Armed Forces Day ceremony at the New York State Fair Aug. 28, 2024.



New York has the fourth largest Army National Guard in the country.

Major General Michel Natali Assistant Adjutant General, Army

A native of Watertown, Maj. Gen. Michel Natali was commissioned into the Military Intelligence Corps in May 1987 upon completion of the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. He served on active duty and held assignments that included command of Headquarters Company of the 110th Military Intelligence Battalion and Intelligence Collection Man-

ager for the 10th Mountain Division Intelligence Section at Fort Drum. He also served as Battalion Intelligence Officer with 5th Battalion, 8th Infantry in Mainz, Germany.

While serving with the 10th Mountain Division, he deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy, to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope and to South Florida as part of the military response and relief efforts

after Hurricane Andrew. Natali joined the New York Army National Guard in December 1996. His assignments include Intelligence Officer of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Intelligence Officer for the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, Deputy Commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Commander of the 106th Regional Training Institute, Director for Intelligence and Security Joint Force Headquarters-New York, Commander of the 53rd Troop Command, and Deputy Commanding General for National Guard Affairs at the United States Army Cyber Center of Excellence.

Natali also served as the Senior Advisor to the Commander for the Canadian Joint Operations Command.

He deployed to Iraq with the 42nd Infantry Division as Deputy Intelligence Officer in 2004-2005.

His Active Duty Guardsman assignments included Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence for the 42nd Infantry Division, Commander of the New York National Guard Counter Drug Task Force and Dual Status Commander – New York in support of the Department of Defense COVID-19 pandemic response. He is a retired New York State Police Investigator whose 20 years of service included assignments



at the New York State Intelligence Center, the New York State Capital and in New York City subsequent to the attacks of September 11, 2001.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Army Parachutist badge.



New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Michel Natali, the Assistant Adjutant General, Army, visits with new recruits at the New York City Military Entrance Processing Station at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, April 18, 2024.

With 11,383 Soldiers, at the end of 2024, the New York Army National Guard is the fourth largest Army Guard in the Nation. The Army National Guard's in Texas, Pennsylvania and California are larger.

Major General Michel Natali, the Assistant Adjutant General, Army, oversees the day-to-day operations of the New York Army National Guard on behalf of Major General Ray Shields, the commander of the New York Army National Guard.

The New York Army National Guard traces its history back to the start of the militia system in colonial America.

New York militia Soldiers defended frontier settlements during the French and Indian Wars. During the Revolutionary War, New York citizen Soldiers helped defeat the British Army at the decisive Battle of Saratoga in 1777.

New York militiamen fought in the War of 1812, fought in the opening days of the Civil War, landed in Cuba during the Spanish American War and fought in Europe in World War I and in the Pacific and Europe in World War II.

During the Global War on Terror, New York Army National Guard soldiers served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and today they deploy to Europe and the Middle East to keep the peace.

The 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment gained fame as part of the Irish

Brigade during the Civil War, while the 369th Sustainment Brigade, traces its history back to the all-Black 369th Infantry Regiment which became famous as the Harlem Hellfighters in World War I. The 1st Battalion, 258th

Field Artillery, traces its history back to a militia unit that was part of George Washington's inauguration as the first president. And the 42nd Infantry Division earned its nickname of "Rainbow Division" from General Douglas McAr-

thur who helped organize the division in World War I.

The New York Army National Guard consists of 9,911 enlisted Soldiers, 253 warrant officers, and 1,219 officers.

Of the enlisted Soldiers, 4,017 are non-commissioned officers, while 5,914 are junior enlisted Soldiers.

A total of 817 Soldiers were in Active Duty Guard and Reserve status serving full time in 2024.

Another 550 Soldiers were dual status technicians who work as civilians but are also simultaneously in the Army National Guard.

These Soldiers operate 2,665 vehicles which range from Humvees to five-ton trucks, and special chemical detection vehicles.

Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Garriss is the senior enlisted leader for the New York Army National Guard. Chief Warrant Officer 5 William Solmo is the Command Chief Warrant Officer.

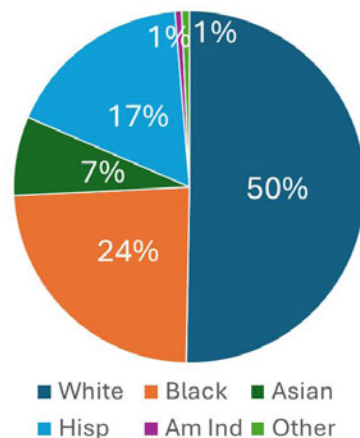
The New York Army National Guard consists of two general officer commands, the 42nd Infantry Division, with 5,567 Soldiers, and the 53rd Troop Command, which has a strength of 4,789 personnel.

Soldiers who are not included in these two major elements fall under the Joint Force Headquarters, with a strength of 1,027 Soldiers.

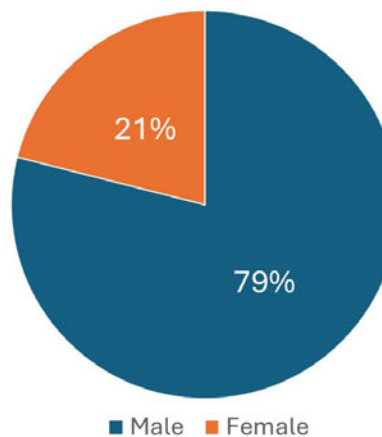


New York Army National Guard musicians assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division Band perform December 7, 2024 in Latham, N.Y.

NY Army Guard Ethnicities

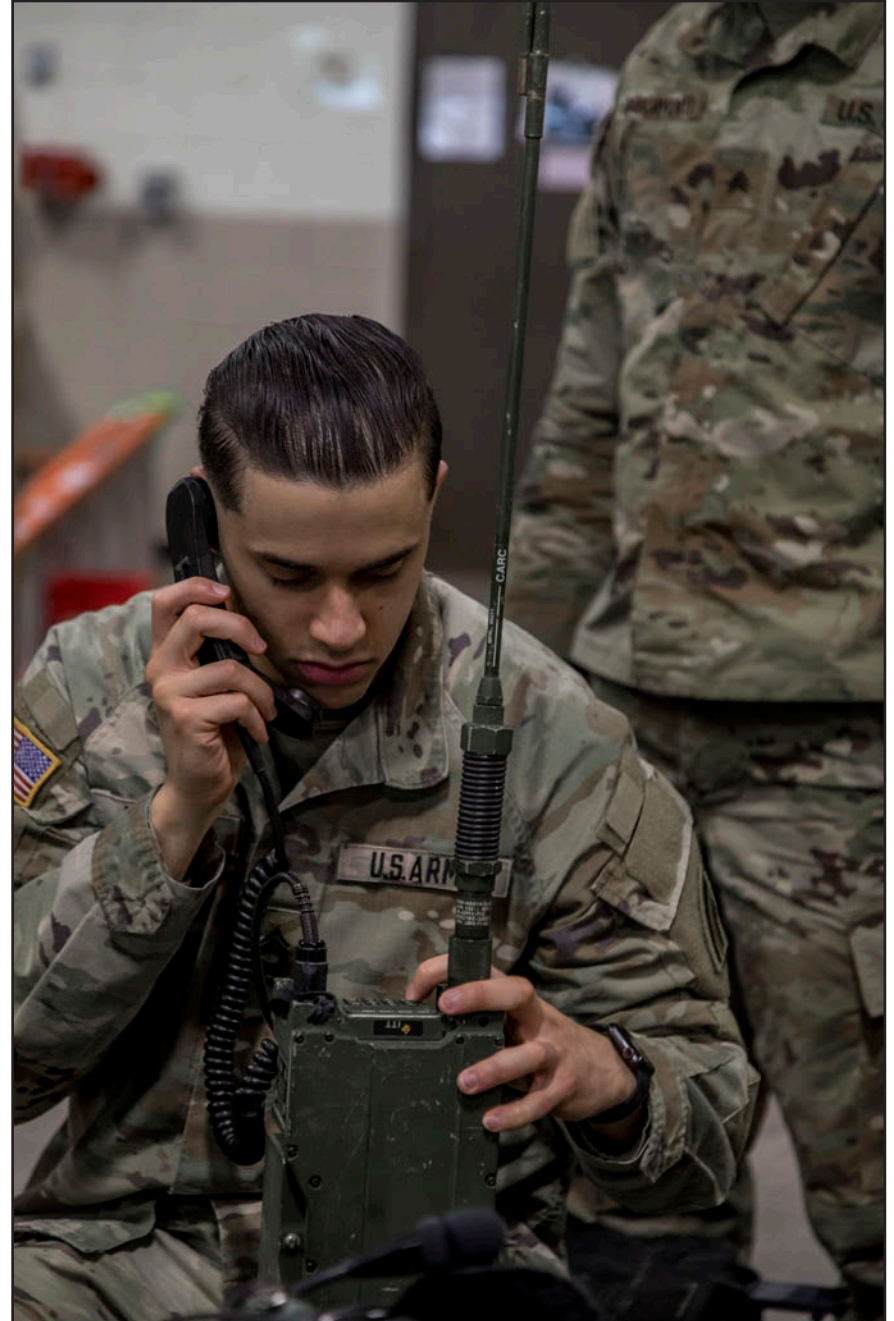


NY Army Guard Genders



“The New York Army National Guard has led the nation in recruiting and retention for the last four years because we focus on our people. Our commitment is demonstrated every day by the care, communication and commitment to our Soldiers,”

-- Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, The Adjutant General



New York Army National Guard Soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division, conduct radio systems training over their drill weekend in Troy, N.Y., April 14, 2024.

42nd Infantry Division



New York Army National Guard Sgt. First Class Ryan Sams (right), speaks over the radio to Soldiers during a command post exercise at the 42nd Infantry Division's annual training on Fort Drum, N.Y., Aug. 12, 2024.



The Chief of Staff of the newly-created 42nd Division, Colonel Douglas MacArthur, remarked in 1917 that the 42nd was truly a “national” unit, with component units stretching across the country “like a rainbow.” The nickname stuck for the Rainbow Division.

The 42nd Infantry Division is one of two general officer commands within the New York Army National Guard, with a total assigned strength of 5,567 Soldiers.

The division is headquartered in Troy and is commanded by Major General Jack James.

The division has three subordinate brigades within the New York Army National Guard: the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 42nd Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade and the 42nd Division Artillery.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade is part of the 53rd Troop Command, but doctrinally aligns with the division if mobilized.

The 42nd Division is one of eight combat divisions within the National Guard and 19 combat divisions in the Army.

The division serves as a higher headquarters for the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the New Jersey Army National Guard, the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain) of the Vermont Army National Guard, and the 197th Fires Brigade of the New Hampshire Army National Guard. Smaller elements from 10 other states are also considered part of the 42nd Division.

Nicknamed the “Rainbow Division,” the 42nd earned its name in 1917 during World War I when it was created out of National Guard units from 26 states and quickly deployed to France.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, then a colonel, came up with the concept and said that the division would “reach across the country like a Rainbow.”

In World War II the division served with the Seventh Army, fought across southern Germany, and eventually liberated the infamous Dachau concentration camp.

In 2005, during the Iraq War, the division headquarters and key division support elements served as the headquarters for Task Force Liberty, a 20,000-Soldier force of Active Army, Guard, and Reserve units operating north of Baghdad. This was the first time a National Guard division had been federalized since the Korean War.

In 2020, the 42nd Division headquarters was mobilized and served as the command element of Task Force Spartan, a 10,000 Soldier Army element in the Middle East.

The 42nd Infantry Division played a key role in the New York National Guard response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and has served as a key headquarters element in other domestic operations missions.

During 2024, the division headquarters focused on preparing for a 2025 division Warfighting exercise being held before a May 2025 mobilization and deployment to the Middle East to once again lead Task Force Spartan.

From August 3 to 17, 660 Soldiers spent two weeks at Fort Drum training in, and refining their command post procedures.

In November, 1,000 Soldiers from the division conducted CPX III at Fort Indiantown Gap. The two-week training—the Swedish Chief of Army visited—was a rehearsal for the Warfighter evaluation exercise in 2025.

Major General Jack James Commander, 42nd Infantry Division

Major General Jack James Jr. serves as Commanding General of the 42nd Infantry Division, Troy, N.Y. He leads one of the Army’s 19 combat divisions, a combined arms force consisting of up to 15,000 Soldiers serving in infantry, aviation, maneuver enhancement, sustainment and division artillery brigades.

James has served in numerous key leadership and staff positions prior to his promotion to general officer. He has led Soldiers at the platoon, troop, battalion, brigade and general officer levels. Key roles include attack helicopter platoon leader, attack helicopter troop commander, battalion operations officer, battalion executive officer, brigade operations officer, and battalion commander. He led the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade from 2014 to 2019, then served as Commander of the 53rd Troop Command and Deputy Commander, 42nd Division.

During his career, James has deployed on multiple occasions. In addition to his overseas service, he has participated in responses to numerous domestic emergencies including



Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy and others.

In his civilian career, Maj. Gen. James serves as a Vice President at New York Life Insurance Company.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Army War College and holds an MBA from New York University.

James is a Master Army Aviator and is rated in the AH-64, AH-1, UH-60, UH-1 and fixed wing aircraft.

The 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is a light infantry brigade with an assigned strength of 3,590 Soldiers located in armories across New York from Long Island to Jamestown.

The brigade traces its history back to the 27th Division which fought in Europe in World War I and in the Pacific in World War II.

In World War I the division was one of two American divisions which fought with the British Army and is credited with breaking the Hindenburg Line during the final days of the war. During World War II the division fought on Saipan and Okinawa.

In 1968, the 27th Division was reorganized and redesignated as the 27th brigade. It is an element of the 42nd Infantry Division.

The brigade deployed as a headquarters to Afghanistan in 2008 and to Kuwait in 2012. Brigade units fought in both Iraq and Afghanistan during the Global War on Terror.

The brigade is headquartered in the Thompson Road Armory in Syracuse, which is within Hancock Field Air National Guard Base.

The brigade's constituent battalions are:

The **1st Battalion, 69th Infantry**, known as the "Fighting 69th" which is headquartered at the Lexington Avenue Armory in Manhattan. The battalion was organized as a regiment of Irish immigrants and fought in the Civil War and in World Wars I and II, and in Iraq and Afghanistan. The nickname dates back to its Civil War service.

The **2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry**, is headquartered in Utica. The battalion's Soldiers have fought in World War I and II and in Iraq.

The **2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry**, headquartered in Niagara Falls. Soldiers of the 101st Cavalry

fought in World War II and in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The **1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry** of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, headquartered in Melrose, Massachusetts. The battalion traces its history back to 1636 and its Soldiers fought in King Phillip's War, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World Wars I and II and in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The **1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery**, headquartered in Jamaica, Queens, New York City. The battalion traces its history back to an artillery unit which escorted George Washington to his first inauguration as president in New York City in 1789. The battalion has two batteries of five 105-millimeter M117 howitzers and one battery of six 155 millimeter, M777A2 howitzers. Its Soldiers fought in World War II and in Iraq.

The **152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion**, headquartered in Buffalo. The battalion has two engineer companies, a signal company, and an intelligence company which includes an unmanned aerial vehicle section.

The **427th Brigade Support Battalion**, headquartered in Syracuse. The battalion is responsible for supply, maintenance, and medical support for the units of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



New York Army National Guard Spc. Mauricio Hernandez, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, observes mortar fire from his observation post in Ben Ghilouf, Tunisia, May 3, 2024. Hernandez participated in the U.S. Africa Command exercise "African Lion 2024" from April 19 to May 31 across Ghana, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia.

Training

During 2024, Soldiers from the 27th IBCT played key roles in African Lion exercises held in Tunisia and Morocco from April 19 to May 31.

One hundred Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery took part in exercises with the Tunisian Army from April 19 until the beginning of May. The Soldiers deployed with M119A2 105mm howitzers to Ben Ghilouf, Tunisia, and conducted fire missions alongside other National Guard units and their Tunisian counterparts.

From May 21 to May 31, a 480-Soldier task force, built around troops from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, trained in Morocco with the Moroccan Army.



The 27th Division made history in World War II as the first National Guard unit to go overseas in February 1942, beginning the longest wartime overseas service of any National Guard Division in the U.S. Army.

Colonel Bradley Frank

Commander, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

In addition to overseeing its own Soldiers, the 27th Brigade headquarters served as the command-and-control element for more than 130 active duty and reserve members of U.S. joint forces, and more than 40 members of the Italian Armed Forces.

In June, 27th Brigade Soldiers trained on two new systems.

Brigade Fire Support Team Soldiers and Scouts began using the Army's new Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder (LDM). The system integrates a thermal imager, day camera, laser designator spot imaging, electronic display, eye-safe laser rangefinder, digital magnetic compass, and GPS systems to enable Soldiers to determine the location of enemy units on the battlefield.

At night and in obscured conditions, the operator can recognize vehicle-sized targets at more than three kilometers. During day operations, Soldiers can recognize targets at more than seven kilometers.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, operate an M121 120mm mortar alongside Moroccan Royal Armed Forces soldiers in Tantan, Morocco, May 28, 2024.

ters. The LDM emits coded laser pulses compatible with U.S. and NATO laser-guided munitions. Soldiers can designate targets at ranges greater than five kilometers.

27th Brigade Soldiers also began employing the Soldier-Borne Sensor unmanned aerial vehicle (SBS).

The SBS is a hand launched drone which looks like a miniature helicopter. The system has a range of 900 meters and can be used to observe buildings and terrain which otherwise might require committing Soldiers.

In March, the brigade held a conference for its senior leaders from across the state at the National Veterans Resource Center at Syracuse University. The leaders learned about Army plans to modernize the infantry brigade, as well as political and military developments around the globe.

Civil Support

Colonel Bradley Frank received his commission as a second lieutenant through the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He served in numerous positions on active duty with the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, deploying twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon completion of active-duty, Frank joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard with the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 28th Division. Later he transferred to New York and commanded B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment. After two years at the

Pentagon, he returned to New York and mobilized in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq. Frank served as the Deputy Director, Security Sector Reform Group at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Frank then led the 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry Regiment at Niagara Falls, N.Y., supporting New York's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and security in the National Capital Region in 2021.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (2nd award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award),



and numerous other federal, state, and foreign awards.

In his civilian career, Frank is a Program Manager for New York's Energy Research and Development Authority located at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

In October, 41 Soldiers deployed to Florida to help with the recovery from Hurricane Milton.

Brigade Soldiers also responded to a winter weather emergency in Buffalo in January.

In March, the brigade's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry led the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade for the 173rd year. Originally a regiment of Irish immigrants, the 69th observes St. Patrick's Day as the regimental day. Prior to leading the parade, the Soldiers were honored with a special mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

New York Army National Guard Capt. Zachary Rowland, a field artillery officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, relays commands to U.S. forces during a U.S.-Moroccan joint, combined live fire during exercise African Lion in Tantan, Morocco, May 27, 2024.



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Peter Fillion, an Amherst resident and member of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, was the Army National Guard's top enlisted Soldier for 2024.

Fillion, an infantryman who is a part-time architect and graduate student, took top honors at the Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition held at Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vermont August 4-8, 2024.

To get there, Fillion had to finish first in four previous competitions: squadron, brigade, state, and regional events. This is the first time a New York Army National Guard Soldier has won at the national level.

Being best in the entire Army Guard "is kind of surreal", Fillion said.

"It's an interesting feeling because you've had a major accomplishment in one area, but in your ci-

vilian life you just go back to who you were before," he said. "They're happy for you, but they don't really understand what it took to get there."

What it took "to get there", Fillion said, was a lot of exercise and brainwork.

"These competitions are really good at testing you both physically and mentally," Fillion said.

His strong Christian Faith was helpful in sustaining him through those tough parts, he said.

Best Warrior competitions include marksmanship, a physical fitness test, land navigation, military skills, boards where Soldiers are quizzed on their military knowledge, and several long distance "ruck march" events to test endurance.



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Peter Fillion speaks among competitors prior to the historical weapon shoot during the National Guard's Best Warrior Competition August 06, 2024, near Jericho, Vermont. Fillion, at right during the competition August 5, 2024, beat six competitors from across the country in the junior enlisted Soldier category.

The 42nd Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) is configured to deploy and command a mix of Army aviation assets in support of the 42nd Infantry Division or other Army forces. The brigade has an assigned strength of 1,041.

The brigade is commanded by Col. Jason Lefton, who also serves as the New York State Army Aviation Officer. The brigade headquarters is in Latham.

An assault helicopter battalion and an aviation support battalion based in New York are organic to the 42nd ECAB. The brigade also has administrative responsibility for aviation elements with higher headquarters in other states but which are part of the New York Army National Guard.

The brigade traces its lineage back to 1947 when the New York Army National Guard consolidated all L-19 "Bird Dog" artillery spotting aircraft into one company located at Miller Field on Staten Island.

The brigade deployed to Iraq in 2005 as a component of the 42nd Infantry Division and to Kuwait in 2013 in support of Army elements in the region.

3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) operates 20 UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters at the Army Aviation Support Facilities at Albany International Airport in Latham and Long Island McArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma. A third company has elements in the Connecticut and Maine Army National Guards.

642nd Aviation Support Battalion is headquartered in Rochester and has elements in Dunkirk, Olean, Ronkonkoma, and Brooklyn.

Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion, (GSAB) operates 6 UH-60L medical evacuation helicopters at Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Rochester, at Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport.



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter flies over Fort Drum, N.Y., conducting aerial gunnery August 15, 2024.

Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, (GSAB) operates 7 CH-47F Chinook heavy lift helicopters at Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Rochester.

Detachment 2, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 224th Security and Support Battalion (S&S) operates 2 UH-72 Light Utility Helicopters from Army Aviation Support Facility #3 at Albany International Airport. The UH-72s are configured for support to civilian authorities and often fly missions in support of law enforcement.

Detachment 5, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion,

224th Security and Support Battalion, operates one C-12, the civilian version of the Beechcraft King Air, from Army Aviation Support Facility #3.

During 2024 aviation brigade Soldiers conducted operational deployments, major civil support operations missions, and important training support missions.

Kuwait deployments

In January 2024, 380 Soldiers of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion completed a 10-month long deployment to Kuwait as an element of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 185th Expeditionary Combat

Aviation Brigade.

The brigade provided aviation support to Task Force Spartan, the 10,000-soldier Army force operating in the region.

Forty-five Soldiers assigned to Det. 1, B Company, of the 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion also deployed to the same location with six aircraft to provide CH-47F heavy lift support. They too, deployed home in January.

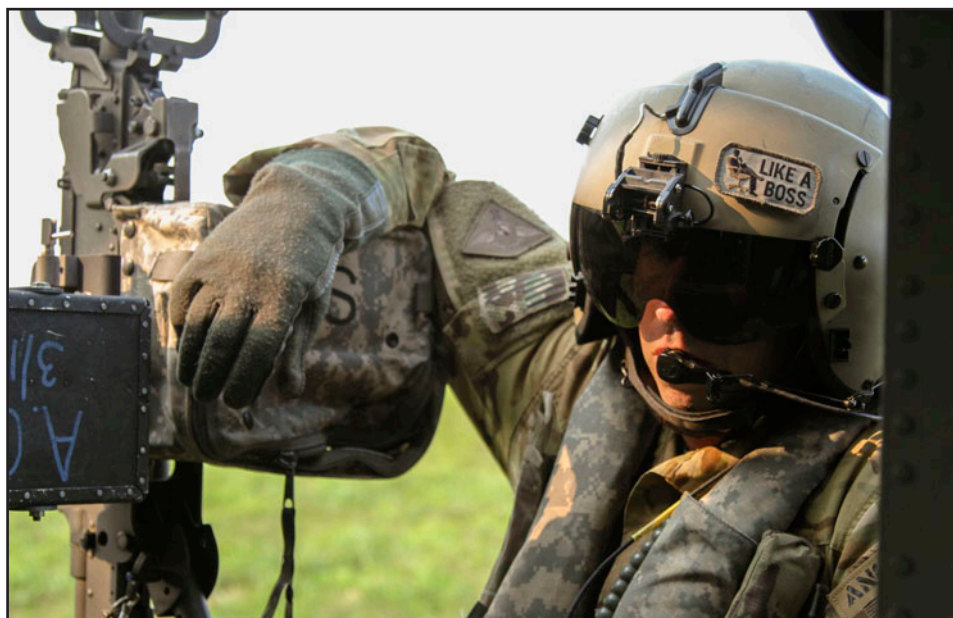
Southwest Border Mission

Detachment 2, Alpha Company, 1st

Battalion, 224th Security and Support Battalion began the year on duty in support of the Border Patrol in Texas., with 21 Soldiers and two LUH-72 Lakota helicopters.

During the deployment a LUH-72 assigned to the District of Columbia National Guard, being flown by members of the New York Army National Guard crashed on March 8, 2024. The two pilots and a Border Patrolman on board were killed and the crew chief was badly injured.

The detachment returned from the mission in October.



New York Army National Guard Sgt. First Class Matt Cordaro, a crew chief with the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade prepares a UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter for flight at Fort Drum, N.Y., August 15, 2024.

Colonel Jason Lefton Commander, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

Colonel Jason Lefton earned his commission in June 1996 from Marion Military Institute and joined the New York Army National Guard in August 1996. His career began as a Field Artillery Officer, first as Fire Direction Officer and then as a Support Platoon Leader.

Lefton also served as a TAC Officer and Instructor for NY State Officer Candidate School at the RTI from 1998-2000.

He joined Army Aviation in November 2000 and joined the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation as a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot.

In 2002, Lefton deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of SFOR 12 as a liaison officer and Task Force Battle Captain.

Upon his return, Lefton served three years as operations officer and intelligence officer of the 1st Battalion, 142nd Aviation Maintenance Battalion, including a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He completed the CH-47 qualification course in 2006 and then served as the detachment commander for the 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, preparing the CH-47 unit for deployment to Afghanistan. He returned to the 3-142nd Aviation as personnel officer and battalion execu-



tive officer for a deployment to Iraq in 2008-2010.

He then commanded Company B of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion before serving as the assistant operations and then executive officer for the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade for deployment to Kuwait. He then led the 3-142 Aviation Battalion during the 2017 deployment to Puerto Rico for Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Lefton currently serves as the State Army Aviation Officer.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal (second award), Meritorious Service Medal (third award), Combat Action Badge, Master Army Aviator Badge and Air Assault Wings.

Mexican Marines board a New York Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a 7th Special Operation Group (Airborne) Fast Rope Insertion and Extraction System training at Tradewinds 24 in Barbados, May 8, 2024. Tradewinds is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored, regionally oriented annual exercise.



Special Missions

From September through the end of 2024, the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation conducted a federal mission in support of the United States Secret Service.

The battalion assigned two UH-60M and 12 Soldiers to transport for details providing security for the presidential election and presidential security.

Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion provided medical evacuation support to United States Army Special Operations Command at the Nevada National Security Site in February and March.

The company dedicated two UH-60L medical evacuation helicopters and 12 Soldiers to the mission.

In May, the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation supported a Marine Special Operations Command pre-deployment exercise in Gulfport, Mississippi, with four UH-60M helicopters and 30 Soldiers.

From April 28 to May 20, the battalion also supported Trade Winds 2024, a U.S. Southern Command multi-national exercise for Caribbean nations which took place in Barbados. The battalion allocated four UH-60M and 43 Soldiers for the mission.

Domestic Operations

In June, Charlie Company, 1st Bat-

talion, 171st General Support Aviation and 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Battalion teamed up to support a domestic operations exercise in Puerto Rico that involved FEMA, the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Patrol and Puerto Rican law enforcement agencies.

Charlie Company dedicated two UH-60L aircraft, while 3rd Battalion, 142nd assigned two UH-60M helicopters. Eighty-five Soldiers took part in the mission.

Combat aviation brigade members played a significant role in two major civil support missions in 2024.

On Sept. 29, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation dispatched three CH-47F Chinooks and 16 Soldiers to South Carolina as part of the national response to Hurricane Helene's impact on western North Carolina.

The team provided general airlift assistance moving people and cargo supporting the North Carolina National Guard. During their deployment they moved 99 tons of cargo, encompassing food, water, medical supplies, generators and fuel, and 32 emergency responders.

The Soldiers returned to Rochester on October 9.

Between Nov. 11-20, eighteen Soldiers from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Regiment and Alpha and Bravo

3-142nd Aviation

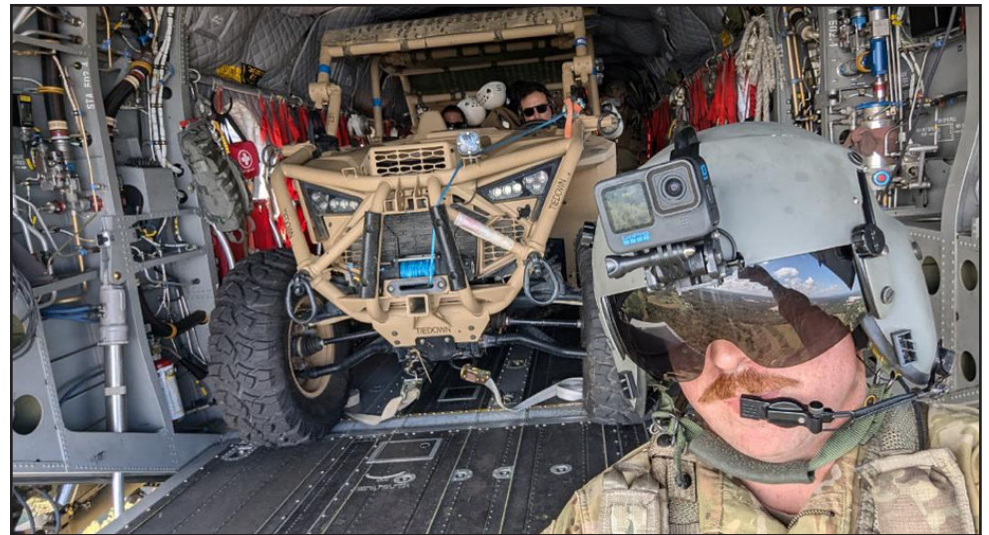
- Company A: 10 x UH-60M Black Hawks
- Company B: 10 x UH-60M Black Hawks
- Detachment 2, Company A, 1-224
- Support: 2 x UH-72A Lakota

642nd Aviation Support Battalion

- Company C, 1-171 General Support Aviation Battalion: 6 x UH-60L Black Hawks
- Company B, 3-126 General Support Aviation Battalion: 7 x CH-47F Chinooks

Company C, 2-245 Aviation

- 1 x C-12 King Air



Aircrews assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion offload a Razor vehicle assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group from Fort Liberty, North Carolina, at Mountain Heritage High School in Burnsville, North Carolina on October 3, 2024. The New York National Guard deployed three CH-47F heavy lift helicopters and 16 Soldiers to assist North Carolina.



A New York Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter lifts off from the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rochester, New York, for Greenville, North Carolina to support Hurricane Helene relief missions September 29, 2024.

companies of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment battled the 5,200 acre Jennings Creek Fire in Orange County.

The UH-60Ms and CH-47Fs dropped 556,160 gallons of water on the 5,200 acre Jennings Creek fire between Nov. 11-20 as state and local fire fighters

fought the Orange County blaze.

This was the longest firefighting mission New York's Army Guard aviators have ever deployed on and also the first time the CH-47s have been used for firefighting.

FALLEN FLYERS

On March 8 New York Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officers 2 Casey Frankoski, 28, and John M. Grassia III, 30, were flying a Border Patrol support mission in the vicinity of Rio Grande City, Texas. In the back of the LUH-72 were Sgt 1st Class



Sergeant 1st Class Jacob Pratt, left, Chief Warrant Officers 2 Casey Frankoski and John Grassia III stand beside their UH-72 Lakota aircraft in an undated photo from their deployment to the Southwest Border. Frankoski and Grassia were killed in a March 8, 2024 helicopter crash outside Rio Grande City, Texas while patrolling the southwest border.

Jacob Pratt and Border Patrol Officer Christopher Luna.

While hovering near the U.S./Mexico border the aircraft developed an unanticipated yaw and fell 195 feet to the ground. Frankoski, Grassia, and Luna were killed. Pratt was badly injured.

On March 18, the New York National Guard brought the remains of Frankoski and Grassia home to Latham on board a New York Air National Guard LC-130H. The aircraft ferried an Army Guard Honor Guard to and from Texas to retrieve the two flyers.

They were met by New York Governor Kathy Hochul and Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York.

People lined the route of the two hearses which carried the two to funeral homes in Rensselaer, where Frankoski's father was police chief for many years, and Glenville, where Grassia's family resides.

Their funerals and internments were attended by Gov. Kathy Hochul as well as the adjutant general and other New York National Guard leaders.



A crew chief on board a UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter monitors operations to dip a 660-gallon Bambi bucket into a lake to fight the 5,000-acre Jennings Creek fire on Nov. 12, 2024.

42nd Division Artillery



The 42nd Division Artillery, usually known as the 42nd DIVARTY, reformed in 2024 at the Kingston Armory.

The reactivation of division artillery is across the U.S. Army, signifying a renewed focus on integrating heavy artillery firepower directly under the command of infantry divisions. For the past 17 years, this capability had been scaled down to

only provide close-range fire support on the battlefield; the return of DIVARTY is seen as a shift towards preparing for potential large-scale combat operations.

New York Army National Guard Col. Marc Lindemann, a veteran of the Iraq War, took command of the Kingston, New York-based 42nd Infantry Division Artillery during an uncasing ceremony held on June 9, 2024.



Above, New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Major Curtis Moss unfurls the colors of the 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, or DIVARTY, during the unit's activation ceremony in Kingston, New York on June 9, 2024. The unfurling ceremony marked the return of the DIVARTY, a headquarters controlling the division's fire support, to the structure of the 42nd Infantry Division after almost 20 years. At left, New York National Guard Pfc. Justice Cook (right), and Spc. Jelease Santiago (left), assigned to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, prepare to fire an M777 Howitzer at Fort Drum, N.Y.

The 195-Soldier unit is a headquarters which controls the artillery fire of the division's 54 cannons and rocket and missile artillery.

Lindemann, with 20 years of military service, was promoted to the rank of colonel during the ceremony.

From World War II until 2007, the DIVARTY was an integral part of all divisions, including the 42nd Infantry Division, which has elements across the northeast but is headquartered in New York.

The Army eliminated the headquarters during the Global War on Terror when the division brigades were designed so they could deploy independently for low-intensity combat.

An artillery battalion was assigned to provide direct support to each brigade and the division coordinating headquarters was eliminated.

The June 9 ceremony marked the return of the DIVARTY to the 42nd Infantry Division.



New York Army National Guard Spc. Jeffrey Anicet, a joint fire support specialist with the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, operates a lightweight laser designator rangefinder during familiarization training at Fort Drum, N.Y., June 27, 2024.

Colonel Marc Lindemann Commander, 42nd Division Artillery

Colonel Marc Lindemann is a graduate of officer candidate school in 2004 and first served on active duty with the Army. In 2005 he deployed to Iraq as a platoon leader in Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, a part of the 4th Infantry Division. He joined the New York National Guard in 2007.

Lindemann has held numerous field artillery positions with increasing responsibility. Most recently he served as Chief of Fires under the 42nd Infantry Division.

He holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Yale University, a master's degree from the U.S. Army War College, and Juris Doctorate from



Harvard Law School.

During the ceremony, the unit flag was uncased by Lindemann and DIVARTY Command Sgt. Maj. Curtis Moss.

"It is wonderful to see the activation of the 42nd DIVARTY. This now completes and starts the process of a fully functional 42nd Infantry Division," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Biehler, the 42nd Division Commander.

In his remarks, Biehler said Lindemann was the right officer to command the DIVARTY.

"His tactical knowledge, caring personality and competent leadership

style are why he will be successful in this position," Biehler added.

"The return of the 42nd Infantry Division Artillery reminds us that the Army is fundamentally a learning organization. You can tell by the changes of the past several years," Lindemann said.

"Our focus on counterinsurgency has transitioned to a focus on large-scale combat operations. The key to success is the artillery, the King of Battle. And the Army has recognized this reality by reactivating the Division Artillery," he emphasized.

53rd Troop Command

The 53rd Troop Command is one of two general officer commands in the New York Army National Guard and includes 4,789 Soldiers in combat support and combat service support units across New York.

The command is headquartered at Camp Smith Training Site in Cortlandt Manor and is commanded by Brigadier General Isabel Rivera Smith, who also serves as the director of Joint Staff for the New York National Guard.

The 53rd Troop Command was named in honor of the 53rd Brigade of the 27th Infantry Division, which was organized during World War I and was a New York National Guard unit prior to World War 2.

The 53rd's two major subordinate commands are the 369th Sustainment Brigade and the 153rd Troop Command.

The troop command also has responsibility for several smaller, but important organizations.

These include the 2nd Civil Support Team the 24th Civil Support Team, known as CSTs. These two units are staffed by full-time Army and Air National Guard personnel whose mission is to assist civil authorities in determining the presence of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards.

The 24th Civil Support Team is based at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn and focuses on the New York City metropolitan area.

The 2nd Civil Support Team is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base outside Schenectady. From there the team can deploy rapidly across upstate New York by vehicle or by C-130 if required.

The two CSTs are normally on standby during important events, such as the annual meeting of the United States General Assembly or New Year's Eve



New York National Guard Soldiers assigned to units of the 53rd Troop Command compete in a stress shoot event during the unit Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, New York, Oct. 23, 2024. The competition tests Soldiers and non-commissioned officers in a variety of physically and mentally challenging tasks.

in New York City, or events at the Watkins Glenn International racecourse.

Another small but unique element is the Cyber Protection Team 173, a joint New York and New Jersey unit. Members of the unit serve full-time with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services ensuring computer security for the state.

The 53rd Digital Liaison Detachment is a small unit of officers and NCOs who train to work in operations at corps and army level commands. During 2024, the unit conducted operator training on the latest Joint Battle Command Platform system.

The 138th Public Affairs Detachment, a 12 Soldier unit which has deployed to Chile, Brazil, Kosovo and Barbados to cover Army activities, is also a part of the 53rd Troop Command.



The 53rd Troop Command can trace its roots to 1917 and its former service as the 53rd Brigade of the 27th Division. It comprised the 105th Infantry Regiment (Troy), 106th Infantry Regiment (Brooklyn) and 105th Machine Gun battalion for wartime service in France in World War I.

Brigadier General Isabel Smith

Commander, 53rd Troop Command

Brigadier General Isabel Smith enlisted in the active Army in October of 1985 as a Motor Transport Operator. Her first duty station was Fort Bragg, North Carolina, assigned to Charlie Battery, 368 Air Defense Artillery (HAWK) Battalion. In 1988, she enlisted in the North Carolina Army National Guard; and in 1989, transferred to the New York Army National Guard.

In 1995, Smith was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps after graduating from Officer Candidate School.

Smith's key assignments include commander of the 53d Troop Command Headquarters Detachment, commander of the 369th Special Troops Battalion, and Deputy Team Chief-Iraq Police National Headquarters in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2010.

Her key staff assignments include Assistant Operations Officer at the 27th Rear Area Operations Center; personalist for the 369th Corps Support Battalion, Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1 for the 53d Troop Command, Executive Officer of the 106th Regional Training Institute, Deputy Director of Logistics for the New York National Guard, Executive Officer for the Office of the Adjutant General, and Chief of Staff for the 53d Troop Command.

As commander of the 53rd Troop Command, she oversees the more than 4,000 men and

women in combat service and combat service support units stationed across New York. These Soldiers mobilize for federal deployments overseas and stand ready to respond to state emergencies at the direction of the governor.

Brig. Gen. Isabel Rivera Smith also serves full-time as the Director of Joint Staff for the New York National Guard. She is responsible for coordinating operations and activities involving both the New York Army and Air National Guard, as well as the New York Naval Militia and New York Guard.

Her awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Smith is also the recipient of the 2017 Latina Style Military Service Award.



New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Isabel Rivera Smith accepts the flag of the 53rd Troop Command from Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, The Adjutant General, during her change of command ceremony at Camp Smith, October 19, 2024.



New York Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Jonathan Morrison, 24th Civil Support Team, assists a simulated-casualty during decontamination efforts with Brazilian Army soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, Defense Química Biológica Radiológica Nuclear, during Operation Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro, July 9, 2024. The training supported preparations for the World Cup in 2026.



New York Army National Guard Spc. Joseph Liggio, assigned to the 138th Public Affairs Detachment, conducts an interview during Operation Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro, July 9, 2024. Operation Maracana was a training exercise between the New York National Guard and Brazilian Armed Forces at the Maracanã stadium in preparation for the World Cup.

The 153rd Troop Command is a brigade-sized element with a strength of 1,635 Soldiers assigned to military police, engineers, and other combat support and combat service support elements.

The 153rd Troop Command is led by Colonel Christopher Guilmette and is headquartered at the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo.

The troop command's battalions are:

The **102nd Military Police Battalion**, headquartered in Auburn with elements in Rochester, Hornell, Buffalo, Latham, and Utica.

The battalion comprises a detention headquarters and headquarters company, three maneuver support MP companies, and a detention (theater detainee reporting) detachment.

The **204th Engineer Battalion**, headquartered in Binghamton with units in Horseheads, Walton, Camp Smith Training Site, Buffalo, and Olean.

The battalion consists of an engineer headquarters company, two engineer construction companies (vertical and horizontal), an engineer support company (heavy equipment), an engi-



New York Army National Guard Pfc. Keith Alvarado operates a 10-ton dump truck as Spc. Joseph Warner, both assigned to the 1156th Engineer Company, provides a load of materials during training in Walton, N.Y., August 10, 2024.

Colonel Chris Guilmette Commander, 153rd Troop Command

Colonel Christopher Guilmette has served in the Army National Guard since 1997, when he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Maryland Army National Guard. He joined the New York Army National Guard in 2005.

In civilian life, he is the Senior Vice President for Innovation and Engineering with STACK Infrastructure which is an international data center developer.

Guilmette has served as an engineer company commander for the 121st Engineer Battalion with the Maryland National Guard, an intelligence officer, plans officer, and operations officer for the 204th Engineer Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division liaison officer, Commander of the 204th Engineer Battalion, Chief of Plans and Chief of Protection for the 42nd Division, Commander of the 53rd Digital Liaison Detachment and now commands



the 153rd Troop Command.

He deployed to Kuwait in 2012 with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as brigade engineer.

He returned to Kuwait in 2020 with the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters where he led the division's Force Health Protection response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

neer forward support company, and a quarry detachment. Some of the companies trace their history to World War I.

The **501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)**, with elements in Glenville and Queensbury.

The battalion headquarters can control three to five explosive ord-

nance disposal companies in combat. The battalion serves as the higher headquarters for one EOD company, a transportation company, and a medical company.

The battalion traces its history and lineage to the 105th Infantry Regiment, which fought in World War I and the Pacific in World War II. The regiment was known as the "Apple

Knockers,” a slang term for upstate New Yorkers in the first half of the 20th Century.

Deployments

From January to November, 160 Soldiers assigned to the 222nd MP Company were deployed to Poland and the Baltic States supporting the 4th Infantry Division, as part of a NATO deterrence mission.

From January to November of 2024, 125 Soldiers of the 1427th Transportation Company deployed to the Southwest Border to support the Border Patrol. Soldiers provided administrative, observation and maintenance support at Border Patrol Stations.

Civil Support Missions

From January 13 to 15, the headquarters led Joint Task Force 5 when a snowstorm hit the Buffalo area. The 132 Soldiers and Airmen conducted warming station operations at three locations and were prepared to provide general response forces.

Twenty Soldiers from the 827th Engineer Company deployed to South Carolina and then North Carolina from October 2 to 17 to assist in recovery operations from Hurricane Helene. The Soldiers deployed front-end loaders, skid steers, and dump trucks. They also conducted route reconnaissance and debris clearance missions.

Twenty-one Soldiers from the 204th Engineer Battalion's Quarry Platoon



New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class John Iseman, left, and Sgt. Jesus Calixto, explosive ordnance disposal technicians assigned to the 1108th Ordnance Company, discuss their strategy during the 2024 All-Army EOD Team of the Year competition at Fort Liberty, N.C., April 21-26, 2024. Iseman and Calixto represented the Army National Guard.



New York Army National Guard Pfc. Anthony Ricottilli, assigned to the 1156th Engineer Company, unchains a grader from an M870 trailer during training in Walton, N.Y., August 10, 2024.

spent June 10-26 in Cordova, Alaska, providing horizontal construction to local civilian and tribal authorities working on a road designed to link the town's airport to a port on Prince William Sound. The port houses watercraft intended to clean up maritime oil spills in the region.

In March the 153rd Troop Command assumed responsibility for the Army National Guard's Joint Task Force 2nd Homeland Response Force mission. The HRF is a component of the National Guard's chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear response enterprise. The 153rd Troop Command staff will provide command and control for response missions within FEMA Region II, including N.Y., N.J., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Training

In April 2024, the 1108th Ordnance Company Soldiers Sgt. 1st Class John Iseman and Sgt. Jesus Calixto competed in the U.S. Army's All Army EOD Team of the Year competition, conducted at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. This was the second year in a row that the 1108th was selected to represent all Army National Guard EOD in the All-Army Competition.

The battalion headquarters conducted detention operations training at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in June of 2024.

During 2024, the 206th Military Police Company executed pre-mobilization



New York Army National Guard Spcs. Logan Storrings and Thomas Butera, members of the 204th Engineer Battalion Quarry Platoon, guide two excavators grubbing out a roadway in rugged terrain near Cordova, Alaska June 20, 2024.

training in June and October to prepare for a 2025 deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The 204th Forward Support Company executed training at the Sustainment Training Center in Camp Dodge, Iowa in January, while the 827th Engineer Company trained at Fort Walker, Virginia in June to become proficient in heavy crane use.

On August 10, the 204th conducted an Engineer Rodeo at the Walton Armory to test Soldiers' equipment operating skills.

From October 16 thru November 3, the 152nd Engineer Support Company, part of the 204th Engineer Battalion, conducted a pre-mobilization collective training event at Fort Drum, in preparation for a 2025 deployment to the Horn of Africa.



Twenty-five year-old 1st Lt. Rebeka "Beki" Eaton, right, shoulders an inflatable boat during the Sappers Leader Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in June, becoming the first New York National Guard woman to earn the coveted Sapper Tab June 14, 2024.

The Sapper Tab is to Army engineers what the Ranger Tab is to infantry officers. This marks her as one of the best and toughest combat engineers in the Army.

Currently only four engineers in New York are authorized to wear the tab on their sleeve.

Making it through the Sapper Leader Course requires smarts, toughness, physical fitness, and determination.

"The school is tough, and the days are long," said Lt. Col. Nicholas Whaley, commander of the 204th Engineer Battalion, who is one of the three other New York Army Guard Soldiers who wear the tab.

Sappers is the name given to combat engineers who move forward under enemy fire to clear or emplace mines or obstacles.

"I like to see how far I can push myself, but truly the people who have conducted combat engineer missions in actual environments have inspired me," Eaton said.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered at the Harlem Armory in New York City, is configured to control three or more sustainment battalions supporting an Army division or higher echelon formation. For administrative purposes the brigade, with an assigned strength of over 3,000 Soldiers, is a component of the 53rd Troop Command. It is aligned for training with the 42nd Infantry Division as its division sustainment brigade in the event the division is mobilized and deployed as a whole.

The brigade has a strength of over 3,000 Soldiers and is commanded by Col. Patrick Clare.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade traces its history back to the 369th Infantry Regiment which gained fame during World War I.

This all-Black, segregated, element of the New York National Guard, became famous as the "Harlem Hellfighters", one of the most decorated units of World War I, even though its Soldiers fought with the French army because of prejudice. One of its commanders was Colonel Benjamin O. Davis who went onto become the first African-American general in the Army.



New York Army National Guard 1st Lt. Kelly Girolamo, the incoming commander of the 37th Finance Company, holds the company guidon she received from Lt. Col. Sara Mitchell, commander of 27th Finance Battalion, during her change of command ceremony in which Capt. Sea Na relinquished command to Girolamo at the Whitestone Armory, Queens, N.Y., Oct. 19, 2024.

In 2021, Congress moved to commemorate the 369th with a gold medal which will be displayed at the Smithsonian.

During 2024, WCBS television taped a Black History Month segment focusing on the history of the 369th at the Harlem Armory.

The brigade deployed to the Middle East in 2022 and 2023 supporting Task Force Spartan Shields the Army force in the region.

The brigade's subordinate elements are:

The **369th Special Troops Battalion**, which is also headquartered at the historic Harlem Armory with many of the brigade's company level units.

The **104th Military Police Battalion**, headquartered in Kingson, which has companies in Kingston, Camp Smith, Fort Hamilton, and Farmingdale. The headquarters detachment can trace its history back to a Dutchess County militia unit dubbed the "Poughkeepsie Invincibles" which fought in the American Revolution.

The **101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion**, headquartered in Yonkers. The battalion provides theater wide satellite communications to higher echelon Army units.

The **27th Finance Management Battalion**, headquartered at the Whitestone Armory in Queens, serves as the higher headquarters for four finance companies.

Training

The brigade's 133rd Composite Supply company and the 222nd Chemical Company supported training at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson, Louisiana in June.

The unit conducted warehousing and distribution operations, which included moving and distributing 325 pallets of Meals, Ready to Eat and ice, and issuing 20,000 gallons of bulk fuel.

The 222nd supported training light infantry brigades by conducting chemical reconnaissance and tactical decontamination during the brigade rotation in the training area. The company's capabilities were enhanced by the fielding of the Man Transportable Robotic System and the Short-Range Reconnaissance Small Uncrewed Aircraft System.



The 369th Infantry, whose members called themselves the Black Rattlers, was the most famous all-Black regiment to fight during World War I. By the end of the war, France awarded the regiment the Croix de Guerre. One hundred-seventy-one of the regiment's men received individual Croix de Guerre medals for valor.



New York Army National Guard Spc. Matthew Aronberg, assigned to the 369th Special Troops Battalion, calls in a nine-line medical evacuation during the 53rd Troop Command Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith, New York, October 22, 2024.

Operations

In 2024, the 145th Support maintenance company was identified as a contingency response force unit, assigned to respond if needed for a large-scale combat operation. The unit maintained a level of readiness that would allow them to be ready to mobilize in 45 days or less.

Colonel Patrick Claire Commander, 369th Sustainment Brigade

Colonel Patrick Clare enlisted in the New York Army National Guard as a truck driver in 1994 and became an officer in 2000 through the Officer Candidate School Program.

Clare is a veteran of the Iraq War and has deployed to Kuwait as both a brigade and division logistics officer. He also responded to the Sept. 9, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

Clare is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Nyack College.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



He is also a federal technician and serves as chief of staff for the New York Army National Guard.

The 1501st Field Feeding Company headquartered at Camp Smith Training Site in Cortlandt Manor, NY with detachments located in Troy and Rochester. The new company consolidates cooks who were formerly located in other units to more effectively provide meals to larger numbers of Soldiers. The company supported the 42nd Infantry Division during a command post exercise in November.

Deployments

From January to June 2024, the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion had 340 Soldiers deployed at locations across the Middle East providing satellite communications support to Task Force Spartan, the 10,000-Soldier Army force maintained in the region.

Battalion personnel were deployed at a number of remote communications nodes.



New York Army National Guard Spc. Angie Mejia, a supply specialist assigned to the 369th Sustainment Brigade, stands ready to qualify with her assigned weapon during annual training at Fort Drum, N.Y., August 11, 2024.



A New York Army National Guard Soldier assigned to Company C, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, receives the Combat Action Badge from Lt. Col. Paul Mulligan, his battalion commander, during a ceremony conducted in Jordan on April 17, 2024. The 14 Soldiers were deployed at a location known as Tower 22 on January 29, 2024, when a drone strike killed three U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and injured 47 other military personnel.

On January 28, 2024, 14 battalion Soldiers were on duty at a base in northern Jordan called Tower 22 as part of a 350-personnel force, when explosive drones controlled by a group in Syria called the Islamic Resistance hit the facility.

The Soldiers assisted in recovering from the attack and quickly moved to keep communications up and

running. They were all recognized with the award of the Combat Action Badge. Ten of the Soldiers were also identified to receive the Purple Heart.

The 4th Financial Management Company was deployed in the Middle East from January-May of 2024. The unit executed financial support operations to deployed U.S. forces in support of Opera-



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Judith Dallemand with the 1501st Quartermaster Company (Field Feeding) prepares food during the 42nd Infantry Division's command post exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., November 24, 2024.

tion Inherent Resolve.

From January to November, 125 members of the 1569th Transportation Company conducted a mission on the Southwest Border supporting the Border Patrol.



All New York Air National Guard aircraft assets sit on display for the retirement ceremony of former New York Air National Guard commander Maj. Gen. Denise Donnell at Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., May 23, 2024. The static display included an MQ-9 Reaper from the 174th Attack Wing, HH-60J Pave Hawk and HC-130J Combat King II from the 106th Rescue Wing, a LC-130H "Skibird" from the 109th Airlift Wing, and a C-17 Globemaster III from the 105th Airlift Wing.

The New York Air National Guard is the largest Air National Guard in the United States, with five flying wings, one of two air defense sector commands in the Air Force, and a strength of 5,835 Airmen.

The New York Air National Guard is commanded by Major General Michael Bank.

The New York National Guard acquired its first airplane in 1911, just eight years after the Wright brothers' first flight.

In 1915, the 1st Aero Company organized and went on to make the first military formation flight in the United States when 10 planes flew from Mineola, New York, to Princeton, New Jersey, and returned the next day.



Today, the 102nd Rescue Squadron of the 106th Rescue Wing can trace its lineage back to this first air unit.

At the end of 2024, the New York Air National Guard operated 40 aircraft:

- Nine C-17 Globemaster III strategic transports
- Ten LC-130H "Skibird" transports outfitted to land on snow and ice
- Three LC-130H Hercules transports
- Four HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft
- Four HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopters
- Ten MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft

Two more HH-60W helicopters will go into service with the 106th Rescue Wing in 2025 and 2026, replacing older HH-60G Pave Hawk versions.

The New York Air National Guard's formations encompass many unique capabilities.

The Eastern Air Defense Sector is responsible for the air defense of the United States east of the Mississippi and also maintains a detachment responsible for the air defense of Washington, D.C.

The 105th Airlift Wing flies operational missions supporting combatant commanders worldwide, delivering cargo and personnel. The wing also includes the 213th Engineering Squadron, which specializes in com-

munications systems, and a Base Defense Group partnered with an active Air Force counterpart.

The 106th Rescue Wing is one of seven rescue wings in the Air Force, whose members include highly trained special operations Airmen using search and rescue helicopters and planes.

The 107th Attack Wing flies operational MQ-9 Reaper missions from Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The wing also incorporates the 222nd Command and Control Squadron, which conducts space operations missions, and the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, whose members specialize in providing airpower to ground commanders.

The 1st Aero Company of the New York National Guard is considered the oldest unit of the Air National Guard, forming in 1915 as part of the Army Signal Corps, and its lineage is carried on by the 102nd Rescue Squadron.

The 109th Airlift Wing flies the only ski-equipped planes in the U.S. military and the largest ski-equipped planes in the world. They operate regularly in support of science efforts in Greenland and Antarctica.

The 174th Attack Wing flies operational Reaper missions from its base in Syracuse, serving as a training center for MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators and mechanics for American and allied Airmen. The wing also includes the 152nd Air Operations Group, whose members augment and support the Air Force's European Air Operations Center.

New York Air National Guardsmen also participate in state missions closer to home. In 2024, they responded to weather emergencies and the migrant crisis in New York City.

They also responded when hurricanes hit the southern United States in the fall.

During 2024 the New York Air National Guard emphasized recruiting new Airmen and retaining current members of the force to ensure enough trained personnel were available to meet these missions.

New York Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Mayra Winnie, belted out "God Bless America" in front of 41,966 people in Yankee Stadium in the Bronx on August 10, 2024.

Winnie, assigned to the New York Air National Guard Headquarters Detachment, performed as part of the New York Yankees Military Appreciation Day game.

While she loves to sing, Winnie is also good at her job as an administrative specialist for the Guard.

She's so good she was named Air Force Support Senior Noncommissioned Officer for the year for the entire Air National Guard.

When she isn't working, singing or spending time with her family she is volunteering at the City Mission of Schenectady and as a volunteer veterans advocate.



Major General Michael Bank Commander, NY Air National Guard

Major General Michael Bank is the commander of the New York Air National Guard. He is responsible for mission readiness and operational effectiveness of more than 5,800 members assigned to five flying units and the Eastern Air Defense Sector.

Bank earned his ROTC commission in 1988 at Florida State University, where he received a Bachelor of Computer and Information Systems degree.

On active duty, Bank was an Instructor Nav-

igator with the 644th Bomb Squadron at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan.

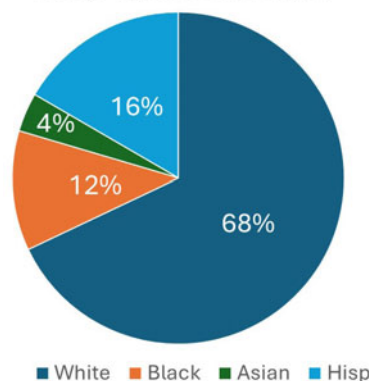
He joined the New York Air National Guard in 1994 and has held numerous positions, including Chief of Wing Plans, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander, Airlift Squadron Commander, Operations Group Commander, and Wing Commander, 106th Rescue Wing.

Bank is a former senior navigator in the B-52H and KC-135R, with over 1,800 total flight hours

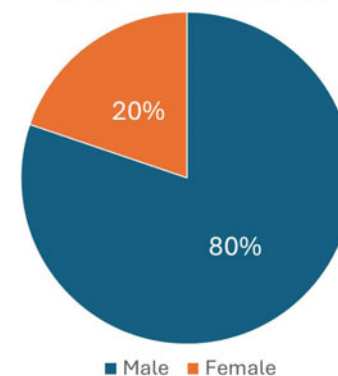


and is currently a command pilot with over 5,000 total flight hours. He mobilized for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Deliberate Forge, Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

NY Air Guard Ethnicities



NY Air Guard Genders



The 105th Airlift Wing operates nine C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlift planes at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

The 174-foot long, 55-foot high C-17 can carry 102 troops, or 85 tons of cargo, or three helicopters or one M-1 Abrams tank.

The wing is part of the Air Mobility Command and flies cargo and transport missions worldwide. Wing Airmen distinguished themselves during the evacuations from Afghanistan in August 2021 when they were part of the airlift of over 82,000 Afghans and foreign nationals from Kabul.

The wing had an assigned strength of 1,398 Airmen at the end of 2024.

The wing commander is Col. Ryan F. Dannemann.

The 105th Airlift Wing routinely flies missions in support of U.S. combatant commanders worldwide. The wing also flies missions in support of the New York Air National Guard and other National Guards.



New York Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Brandon Fyfe, part of the 105th Airlift Wing's 205th Base Defense Squadron, stands guard in a Tactical Operations Center at Camp Smith, New York, Aug. 14, 2024.

During 2024, the 105th Airlift Wing conducted 146 training flights using 283 flying hours.

The wing deployed 109 Airmen on federal missions during 2024.

105th Airmen flew 76 missions, moving 84 tons of cargo, and 7,180 passengers over the course of 1,694.6 flying hours. The passengers moved included 99 aeromedical evacuation patients being flown out of Qatar.

In February, 105th Airmen flew a C-17 to Singapore to take place in the Singapore Airshow at the request of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

105th Airmen also supported Arctic Care 2024, a May deployment of military personnel to Kodiak Island, Alaska, to provide medical care for people living in the remote islands native villages. Wing aircraft moved 50 passengers and 2.5 tons of equipment.

In July, wing Airmen supported the movement of 35 Soldiers and Airmen and 7.5 tons of cargo to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for a chemical, biological and radiological response drill conducted with the Brazilian Army.

In August, Airmen of the wing's 205th Base Defense Squadron conducted a five-day field exercise at Camp Smith Training Site.



A C-17 Globemaster III from the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing loads baggage and equipment October 9, 2024 in Syracuse, N.Y., for Soldiers of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team heading to Jacksonville, Florida. The mission brought New York troops to support the Florida National Guard response to Hurricane Milton's landfall.

In August, the 105th supported the New York Air Show at Orange County Airport with a flyover and displays on the ground.

During August 2024, six 105th Airmen, manning a C-17 took part in the evacuation of U.S. military personnel from bases in Niger. The government had previously allowed U.S. forces to monitor ISIS and other terrorist organizations from bases in that country. However, a military coup resulted in the new government withdrawing that permission.

In October, the 105th Medical Group conducted combat training at Stewart Air National Guard Base to help the medical personnel learn how to prepare for austere combat environments.

Col. Ryan Dannemann Commander, 105th Airlift Wing



New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. Mark Rodriguez, an Airman with the 105th Airlift Wing's Medical Group, participates in combat training Oct. 5, 2024, at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh, New York. In alignment with the U.S. Air Force Medical Service's new combat medic initiative, MEDIC-X, the 105th Medical Group is now training to treat wounded and injured personnel in austere environments.

Twelve 105th Airmen supported units at Dover Air Force Base and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst with their operational deployments.

The wing moved 30 Base Defenders, 11.8 tons of cargo and critical equipment needed in support of a 105th Base Defense Group for a readiness integration exercise with the Army at Camp Blanding, Florida.

The wing's 213th Engineering Installation Squadron, which specializes in communications systems, deployed 29 Airmen to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East in 2024.

During these deployments the Airmen:

- Installed infrastructure for MQ-9 ground control stations supporting 19 aircraft and installed three "Big Voice" loudspeaker towers at Chazelle Airfield in Djibouti.

Colonel Ryan Dannemann is the commander, 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh, New York. He is responsible for the combat readiness of assigned units by providing the necessary equipment, supplies, and facilities to support the global mission of its assigned C-17A Globemaster III aircraft.

Dannemann received his commission from the Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in 2002. He graduated from Miami University in 2001, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He attended undergraduate pilot training in 2003 and completed C-5 Galaxy qualification training in 2004. He has served both as a C-5 and C-17 instructor pilot flying with the 137th Airlift Squadron, and has held positions in the wing Inspector General office and squadron command in both the maintenance and operation groups.

Dannemann has flown combat missions in sup-



port of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn in Iraq. His humanitarian response missions include strategic airlift of first responders and recovery capabilities after natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina, Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami.

He is a command pilot with over 5,000 flying hours in the T-37, T1, C-5A/B and C-17A. Prior to his current assignment, Dannemann was the commander of the 105th Operations Group.



A C-17 Globemaster III from the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing prepares to depart from Syracuse, N.Y. with Soldiers of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team for Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Jacksonville, Florida. The mission brought New York troops to support the Florida National Guard response to Hurricane Milton's landfall.



The 105th Tactical Air Support Group flew forward air control missions from 1971-1984 in the Cessna O-2A Skymaster. Pilots deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam, including former New York adjutant general Maj. Gen. Thomas Maguire, who passed away in 2024.

- Diagnosed and repaired a defective weather sensor at Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates.
- Installed 13,000 feet of rigid conduit and fiber to improve base security posture and restore unmanned ariel vehicle force protection assets at Manda Bay Airfield in Kenya.
- Worked with U.S. Air Force, Africa to shut-down and reallocate land mobile radios to East Africa during Niger withdrawal.

The 213th also supported the Defense Information Systems Agency. They upgraded older equipment and enabled a dedi-

cated emergency communications line to be established with astronauts conducting a spacewalk as part of the Polaris Dawn mission in September.

During 2024, the wing mobilized 39 Airmen for domestic support missions.

In January, 19 Airmen were placed on state active duty to be prepared to respond to a snowstorm as part of a statewide mission.

In August, 20 Airmen were on state active duty as part of a 212-person force prepared to deal with a hurricane that could have hit the Hudson Valley and Long Island.



Above, New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. Godwin Chery, 105th Airlift Wing's 213th Engineering Installation Squadron, examines a communication tower at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, July 31, 2024. At right, Guardsmen with the 105th Airlift Wing Fire Department extinguish a simulated jet fire with their Portuguese counterparts at Lajes Field, Aug. 7, 2024.



New York Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Byran Pitts and Airman 1st Class Wisdom Chimezie, guardsmen with the 105th Airlift Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron, work on a generator at Lajes Field, Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal, Aug. 7, 2024.



The 106th Rescue Wing is based at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach on the eastern tip of Long Island. It shares a runway with the Suffolk County-owned Francis S. Gabreski Airport.

The wing operates four HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft and six HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopters.

The wing was transitioning to this latest rescue helicopter and had four on hand at the end of 2024.

The wing has a strength of 1,133 Airmen and is commanded by Col. Jeffery D. Cannet.

The 106th is one of three rescue wings in the Air National Guard and deploys Airmen and aircraft worldwide to provide combat search and rescue, as well as personnel recovery capabilities for U.S. and allied forces. The wing also conducts search and rescue and personnel recovery missions in support of federal and state authorities when required.

The 106th Rescue Wing's 102nd Rescue Squadron is the oldest unit in the Air National Guard, tracing its history back to 1908.

The HC-130J Combat King II aircraft is configured for long-distance search and rescue missions. The aircraft can deploy pararescue Airmen and equipment over land or sea and is capable of refueling the wing's HH-60W



An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter assigned to the 101st Rescue Squadron, and an HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft assigned to the 102nd Rescue Squadron at the 106th Rescue Wing, demonstrate mid-air refueling at the Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach, Wantagh, N.Y., May 25, 2024.

helicopters in mid-air. This extends the range of the rotary wing aircraft.

During 2024, wing Airmen flew 1,206.7 hours in the HC-130J.

The HH-60W is an upgraded version of the older HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, which is based on the UH-60 Blackhawk airframe.

Modifications to the HH-60W include a digital radar warning receiver; laser, missile, hostile fire warning; integrated chaff and flares; cabin and cockpit armor; externally mounted 7.62 mm and

.50 caliber weapons; LINK 16 military tactical data link network; Situational Awareness Data Link; integrated cockpit and cabin displays; advanced communications; Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast; tactical moving map displays; upturned IR-masking exhausts; and efficient wide-chord rotor blades.

The aircraft's name comes from the Sikorsky HH-3E helicopter, which was used for search and rescue during the Vietnam War. The large aircraft was

nicknamed "the Jolly Green Giant."

During 2024, wing Airmen flew 855 hours in the HH-60W.

Ninety-four 106th Airmen were deployed overseas to locations in Antarctica, Tunisia, the Middle East, Italy, Brazil, and Kenya.

Another 133 wing Airmen served on state active duty missions including Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the migrant support mission, and a deployment to assist Florida in recovering from Hurricane Milton in October.

The wing deployed personnel and equipment for the Florida mission, including boats, by air using the wing HC-130Js and by ground convoy. The team, which included pararescuemen, was deployed to assist in flood response. Since Milton did not cause excessive flooding in Florida, the Airmen returned after two days.

During 2024, the wing's maintenance personnel were recognized with the Air National Guard Maintenance Effectiveness Award. The award is based on mission accomplishment, innovative and effective use of resources, and personnel quality of life for the Airmen.

In February and March, 200 wing Airmen honed their combat search and rescue skills, during exercise Agile Rage 2024, at the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah, Georgia.

Colonel Jeffrey Cannet Commander, 106th Rescue Wing



New York Air National Guard pararescuemen assigned to the 103rd Rescue Squadron at the 106th Rescue Wing, transport patients onto an HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft during an exercise on F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., May 4, 2024.

Three Air National Guard wings and eight squadrons, totaling 750 people, were involved in the exercise. The 106th Rescue Wing maintenance, medical, and operations groups all participated in the exercise.

In August, the 106th's Force Support Squadron led an Air National Guard-wide deployment exercise at the base called Montauk Lightning. The tabletop exercise tested the participant's ability to work through the issues involved in deploying and sustaining Airmen in a combat zone.

In November, the wing conducted two mass accident drills. One scenario required personnel to deal with a ra-

dioactive hazard on board an aircraft, making people ill. The other involved responding to a crash landing.

The exercises evaluated the readiness of various units, including security forces, operations, maintenance, medical, emergency management, and the fire department.

Charles Mercurio, the Inspector General Director of Inspections, said the purpose of the drill was to refine readiness and rapid response skills.

In November, the wing hosted a visit from Swedish Air Force officers as the New York National Guard began ramping up a State Partnership Program relationship with the Swedish military.

Colonel Jeffery Cannet is the commander of the 106th Rescue Wing at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, N.Y. The wing consists of four groups with over 1,000 military and civilian personnel. The wing operates HC-130J Combat King II aircraft and HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopters along with a Guardian Angel Squadron comprised of Combat Rescue Officers, pararescuemen, and Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape specialists. Together, the wing supports Air Force Personnel Recovery operations, performs civil search and rescue missions, and assists state emergency response and disaster relief efforts as directed by the Governor of New York. Cannet also serves as the Vice Commander of the military joint task force for the Long Island region, supporting civil authorities when activated.

Upon entering the Air Force in 1993, Cannet served as an F-15C/D aircraft maintenance technician and later earned his enlisted aviator wings as a flight engineer on the C-141B. In 2000, he transitioned to the Air National Guard, serving as a combat search and rescue flight engineer on the HC-130P/N. Cannet was commissioned in 2004 through the Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson



Air National Guard Base in Tenn. and in 2005 graduated from the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training program at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

He has deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

Cannet is a command pilot with more than 5000 flight hours in various Air Force aircraft as a pilot and flight engineer. He also has over 125 combat and combat support hours.



Photo above, pararescuemen assigned to the 103rd Rescue Squadron, part of the 106th Rescue Wing, pull a patient toward evacuation during a personnel recovery exercise at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, N.Y., May 4, 2024. At left, an HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopter arrives at the 106th Rescue Wing, August 4, 2024. At top left, an HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft, flies over F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., during the personnel recovery exercise, May 4, 2024.



The 106th Rescue Wing was featured in the 2000 movie “The Perfect Storm.” The movie depicted the 1991 rescue of the fishing vessel Andrea Gail. Despite rescue attempts, the crew and boat were lost during the sudden, violent storm.



An Air Force HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopter assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing based at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., flies over the north shore of Long Island, August 4, 2024 to demonstrate the upgraded functions of the aircraft over land and water during the wing's historic first HH-60W flight.

The 107th Attack Wing is headquartered at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, a tenant of the U.S. Air Force Reserve's 914th Air Refueling Wing.

The wing operates the General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft. The wing has no MQ-9 assigned. MQ-9 aircrew and support staff conduct missions from a facility at the base. They operate aircraft assigned to other wings.

The wing also includes two remotely located units, the 222nd Command and Control Squadron, a space oper-

ations unit headquartered in Rome, and the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, located at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse.

The wing has an assigned strength of 742 and is commanded by Col. Andrew Carlson.

During 2024, the wing's MQ-9 aircrews conducted 267 aircraft sorties, including 121 combat missions. The total flying time for the wing was 2,880 hours. Aircrews spent 1,665 hours honing their skills on simulated missions.



New York Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Chris Kodak, 107th Communications Squadron, troubleshoots wire connections to a router rack during a training exercise, June 12, 2024 at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

During 2024, the wing reached full operational capability with the MQ-9 satellite communications launch and recovery capability.

When the MQ-9 was first introduced into service, pilots had to be on the ground at locations where the aircraft took off and landed in order to control them through direct link radio systems. The new technology allows the wing's pilots to land or launch MQ-9 from any airstrip, enabling more flexibility.

The wing's MQ-9 aircrews have also mastered the capability to conduct defensive counter air with the MQ-9.

An MQ-9 Self Protect Pod enables the aircraft to deploy countermeasures against attack and launch anti-aircraft missiles at threats.

While conducting MQ-9 missions, the wing supported combatant commanders worldwide by deploying 360 Airmen.

The 222nd Command and Control Squadron is headquartered at Griffiss Industrial Park. The wing's Airmen support the mission of the National Reconnaissance Office, based in Chantilly, Virginia, which is responsible for United States spy satellites.

The squadron is fully integrated into that mission and works as part of the Space Force. During 2024, 222nd personnel pulled 1,824 shift hours in the office's operations center in

Chantilly.

While the 222nd performs a space operations mission, the squadron was not included in the legislation integrating other Air National Guard space operations elements into the Space Force. The legislation directed the Department of Defense to study the future of the 222nd to determine where it should be in the force structure.

222nd experts are playing a key role in a Space Force effort to employ commercial and publicly available information to create surveillance, reconnaissance and tracking products for combatant commanders.

During 2024, the 222nd contributed 36 percent of the service members manning Space Forces Joint Commercial Operations cell, which ties together commercial entities, allied military information, and academia in order to maintain space dominance.

The 222nd also took part in outreach to foreign militaries.

In April, the 222nd Command and Control Squadron, Airmen offered instruction to Brazilian airmen assigned to Brazil's Aerospace Operations Command in space operations and best information collection and storage practices.

The 274th Air Support Operations Squadron is built around the Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, or JTACs, who are trained to direct airborne

Colonel Andrew Carlson Commander, 107th Attack Wing



Two New York Air National Guard staff sergeants who work in space operations were recognized by Space Force General B. Chance Saltzman, center, the chief of space operations, as enlisted service members of the year for 2024 by the Space Force Association annual conference in Orlando, Florida, December 10 to 12, 2024.

Staff Sgt. Jason Capostagno, left, from Rome, New York, was named National Guard Enlisted Airman of

the Year in Space Operations, while Staff Sgt. Curtis Grady, at right, a resident of Arlington, Virginia, was named National Guard enlisted Airman of the Year in the Intelligence Operations category.

Both men are assigned to the New York Air Guard's 222nd Command and Control Squadron, based in Rome. The squadron supports the National Reconnaissance Office, the agency responsible for United States spy satellites.

The squadron is part of the

107th Attack Wing, but also has Airmen working full time at the National Reconnaissance Office headquarters in Chantilly, Virginia.

The leadership of the 222nd is extremely proud of both Airmen, said Chief Master Sgt. Scott Rachon, the squadron's senior enlisted leader.

"This is an incredible opportunity for them to be recognized for their critical contributions, leadership, and outstanding dedication to the space mission," Rachon said.

Colonel Andrew Carlson is the Commander of the 107th Attack Wing, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, Niagara Falls, N.Y. He commands the 107th Attack Wing, encompassing operations, medical, and mission support group functions as well as two geographically separated units. The 107th Attack Wing enables full spectrum capabilities ranging from space command and control, tactical air control party operations, MQ-9 operations, and support to domestic operations as deemed by the Governor of New York.

Carlson is a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He attended The George Washington University under the Program Research and Education in Space Technology scholarship, earning an M.S. in Systems Engineering. He then completed Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, flying T-37 and T-38 aircraft and finished as a distinguished graduate.

He is a distinguished graduate from Squadron Officer School and is the 12A flying award recipient for his Air Force Weapons School class, F-15C division.

Throughout his F-15C career,



Carlson participated in multi-national exercises around the world, executed NATO alert postures, flew missions in support of the President of the United States, and completed two squadron deployments to Southwest Asia.

Carlson's MQ-9 tour involves supporting various contingency missions and named operations around the globe.

He has over 2,300 total military flight hours to include over 600 combat hours.

Prior to his current position, Colonel Carlson was the 107th Vice Commander, 107th Attack Wing.



weapons onto ground targets in support of troops in combat. JTACs deploy with U.S. and allied ground forces to ensure effective air support.

During 2024, the 274th provided trained JTACs to several combatant commands.

During 2024, the 107th Attack Wing began work on a new wing headquarters building, and implemented a new “One Base, One Network” computer system designed to reduce costs.

The wing also emphasized recruiting, welcoming 104 new Airmen into the wing during 2024.

In October, 129 wing Airmen took part in Niagara Warrior, a readiness exercise that simulated a deployment into a contested operating area with degraded operating conditions. Airmen involved in all of the wing’s elements took part in the four-day training exercise conducted at the base.

The wing also deployed 11 members of the 107th Fatality Search and Recovery team to North Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Helene. The Airmen are specially trained in locating and recovering human remains after disasters.

The Airmen operated out of Burnsville, North Carolina, and supported the Yancy County medical examiner. The team

worked with an emergency response team from Kansas to search the mountain towns for suspected fatalities. These missions took 12 to 14 hours a day.

The unexpected mission they encountered was recovering remains from cemeteries. The rain and steep slopes wound up resulting in mudslides, which washed coffins and some remains out of family cemeteries. In one case they had to deal with a tomb that had been partially washed out of the ground.

The 107th Airmen also assisted the local area when a snowstorm hit Buffalo in January.

The wing command emphasized professional development during 2024, conducting a Contemporary Base Issues Course for 263 people, as well as leadership seminars and classes focusing on historic battles.

Members of the 107th Attack Wing were recognized for their success at the South African Military Skills Competition, and two intelligence Airmen were awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal for their work in support of South Korea’s Ulchi Freedom Shield 24 exercise.

At left, New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, part of the 107th Attack Wing, practice rappelling from a U.S. Army CH-47F Chinook helicopter during training at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y. The helicopter was flown by Soldiers from the 42nd Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade.



New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the 107th Attack Wing Security Forces respond and engage with oppositional forces during training October 18, 2024 at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

The 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, flies the world's largest ski-equipped aircraft, the LC-130H "Ski Bird" variant of the Hercules transport plane.

The wing's chief mission is to move people, equipment and supplies to U.S. research facilities in Antarctica and Greenland. The wing's aircraft can also be used to support allied military operations in the Arctic.

The wing has a strength of 1,143 Airman. Sixty-one of these personnel are allocated to the wing's strength, but they constitute the headquarters of the New York Air National Guard.

The wing operates 10 LC-130H ski-equipped aircraft and three C-130H Hercules "slick" aircraft.

The wing is commanded by Col. Robert Donaldson.

During 2024, wing aircraft flew a total of 2,888 hours.

The wing is a critical component in Operation Deep Freeze, the annual Department of Defense effort to resupply the United States Antarctic Program facilities in Antarctica.

While conventional wheeled aircraft can land on the ice and snow airfield at McMurdo Bay, the leading U.S. base in Antarctica, only the ski-equipped New York Air Guard planes can land at remote locations and at the Amundson-Scott South Pole Station.

These unique aircraft are built around an older version of the C-130 and are becoming harder to maintain. Replacement LC-130J aircraft are required to allow the 109th Airmen to fulfill their unique missions.

In December, Congress included the costs required for the engineering work on new LC-130s and the money for a brand new aircraft in the National Defense Authorization Act for federal fiscal year 2025.

New members of the 109th go through the Barren Land Arctic Survival Training at a Greenland location known as Camp Raven. The three-day training course teaches Airmen how to survive in extreme weather.

The Operation Deep Freeze support cycle begins in October and runs through February, the summer season in Antarctica.

During the 2023-2024 support season, the 109th Airlift Wing moved 356 passengers, 117,938 gallons of fuel, and 382 tons of cargo and supplies across Antarctica, during 262 hours of flight time.

During the same period, the wing transported supplies, people, and fuel from Christchurch, New Zealand to McMurdo Bay. On those missions, the wing transported 852 people and 92,813 gallons of fuel.

During the summer of 2024, 109th aircrews flew 500 hours and moved

Colonel Robert Donaldson Commander, 109th Airlift Wing

Colonel Robert Donaldson is the Wing Commander of the 109th Airlift Wing, Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, New York. He provides leadership and management of the flying unit while organizing, training, and equipping 1,143 base personnel to support Department of Defense and New York National Guard requirements. The wing is home to the world's ten ski-equipped LC-130H aircraft operating from unprepared ice and snow surfaces, annually executing Operation Deep Freeze missions in the most austere polar regions of Antarctica and Greenland.

Donaldson commissioned in 1999 from the Academy of Military Science after serving eight years as an enlisted aircrew member with the Air Force and the New York Air National Guard.

As an LC-130H Navigator, he has accumulated nearly 2,000 flying hours supporting operations in Antarctica and Greenland in addition to mobilizing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Donaldson has deployed on multiple tours to McMurdo Station, Antarctica as the 13th Air Expeditionary Group Commander for United States Indo-Pacific Command's



Joint Task Force – Support Forces Antarctica.

He has served at National Guard Bureau, and in various Air Force Component, Numbered Air Force, and Wing level rated, staff and command roles and responsibilities.

Prior to his current position, Donaldson was the Deputy Commander of the 109th Airlift Wing. As Deputy Commander, he served as the principal advisor to the Wing Commander readying the Wing in support of critical federal and state mission sets.



Pilots from the 109th Airlift Wing land an LC-130 Hercules aircraft on a ski landing area, Greenland, May 9, 2024.



An LC-130 Hercules aircraft from the 109th Airlift Wing sits at Raven Camp, Greenland, May 9, 2024.



New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing prepare to depart from Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, New York to Christchurch, New Zealand on board LC-130H ski-equipped aircraft as the wing begins its annual mission to support science research in Antarctica on October 17, 2024.



Technical Sgt. Daniel Morgan, a combat arms instructor with the 109th Security Forces Squadron, instructs Airman Jon Perez in the proper use of the M320 grenade launcher at the the Ethan Allen training site in Vermont August 1st, 2024.



Airman 1st Class Riley Redman conducts post flight maintenance checks on an LC-130 Skibird at Kangerlussuaq, Greenland May 13, 2024.



An Airman trains at Raven Camp in Greenland, May 12, 2024. Raven Camp is used to train members on landing on ice runways, polar airdrops, and operating in the snow and ice conditions.

1,200 people, 70,000 gallons of fuel, and 900 tons of supplies to research stations on the Greenland Ice Cap.

These included Summit Station, a research station near the apex of the Greenland ice sheet, and East Grip, a science camp that drills and retrieves ice cores from the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream.

In September, the 109th's Airmen hosted members of the National Science Board—the entity ultimately responsible for setting U.S. polar research priorities—at Stratton Air National Guard Base.

“Without the capacity and capability (of the LC-130), we would not be able to build up the world-class science programs that we have at South Pole Station or Summit Station, or the deep fields of Antarctica. U.S. leadership in science is very much a partnership dependent on the LC-130s and the 109th,” said Dr. Jean Cottam Allen, the acting director of the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs.

The board members wanted to get an understanding of the challenges involved in keep-

ing the aging LC-130s flying.

Despite the challenges faced with the aging aircraft, the 109th has continually met the needs of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Allen said.

From February 23 to March 11, 46 109th Airmen participated in Arctic Edge 24, a U.S. Northern Command exercise demonstrating U.S. military capabilities in the Arctic.

Based out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, the 109th flew 31 sorties, transporting over 95,000 pounds of cargo and 61 passengers during the exercise.

The cargo transported by the

109th supplied various 400 U.S. and allied special forces operators with the equipment needed to carry out their training in Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, Kodiak and Fairbanks, Alaska.

On March 9, in the Arctic Ocean off Alaska's north shore, the 109th airdropped a supply package to east coast-based Navy SEALs and Norwegian Naval Special Operations Commandos as part of a first-ever integration of Special Operations personnel, aircraft and snowmobiles in conjunction with a submarine that surfaced far into the Arctic Circle.

The event utilized special

operations MH-47G Chinook helicopters to transport 15 Special Operations Force personnel to a secure zone on the ice, identified by the submarine, where four snowmobiles were unloaded.

The team then set up a command-and-control tent to coordinate the air-drop of a critical package from the 109th's C-130 Hercules. The package was retrieved and navigated to the waiting Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Hampton, which had surfaced through the ice moments before.

Alongside its specialized polar regions mission, the 109th Airlift Wing deployed 88 Air-

men on active duty missions. Seventy-one Airmen deployed to the Middle East for six months each, while seven deployed to U.S. bases, two went to Germany and eight supported missions in Africa.

Here in New York, wing Airmen trained throughout the year. In September, the wing's security forces Airmen trained on weapons at the Vermont National Guard's Jericho Firing Range.

The wing's security forces also trained 10 Airmen in the skills required to augment existing security force members when those Airmen deploy, adding security capability to deployed locations.



A 109th Airlift Wing LC-130 conducts ski landings and takeoffs at Camp Raven in Greenland May 12th 2024.

The 174th Attack Wing is based at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse and is assigned 10 General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft.

The MQ-9 is configured for both reconnaissance and combat strike missions using missiles or bombs.

The wing had an assigned strength of 1,416 Airmen in 2024 and is commanded by Col. John R. O'Connor.

The wing's 138th Attack squadron conducts operational combat missions, with Airmen operating from a ground control station at Hancock Field. The squadron Airmen provide reconnaissance and strike capabilities in support of U.S. and allied forces.

During 2024, the squadron flew 2,667 hours of operational missions.

The wing's 108th Attack Squadron trains MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators for all Air Force components and foreign militaries as well. During 2024 the squadron flew 2,057 hours of actual flying time and conducted 4,924 hours of simulator flying. Meanwhile, trainee aircrew dropped 91 training munitions during the year.

The wing as a whole maintained an aircraft operational readiness rate of 88.2 percent during 2024.

The wing also includes a field training detachment to instruct MQ-9 maintenance technicians. During 2024, the detachment trained 233 students.



New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the 174th Attack Wing's Maintenance Group gather research data to improve weight distribution of the MQ-9 Reaper July 23, 2024 at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y.



The wing traces its roots to 1947 and the 138th Fighter Squadron. In January 1950, the unit became the first jet-equipped flying unit in New York with the assignment of the F-84B Thunderjet.

Colonel John O'Connor Commander, 174th Attack Wing

Colonel O'Connor graduated from the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh in 1988. He was commissioned through the United States Air Force Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in 1989 and earned his Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Management from Troy University, Alabama in 1991.

O'Connor served on active duty for nine years holding leadership positions in supply operations, logistics management and as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

He joined the New York Air National Guard in 1998 and held squadron and group command positions in both the Maintenance and Mission Support Groups. Additionally, he served as the Principal Deputy Director of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection at the National Guard Bureau Air National Guard Readiness Center.

The wing includes the 152nd Air Operations Group (AOG). The group's members specialize in air operations and campaign and are tasked to support the United States Air Force Europe's 603rd Air Operations Center in Ramstein, Germany.

Sixty of the group's Airmen supported NATO exercise Austere Challenge,



O'Connor deployed in support of combat operations in Operation Desert Storm/Southern Watch in Saudi Arabia and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Prior to his current assignment he was the 107th Vice Commander, 107th Attack Wing, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

which was designed to strengthen the ability of alliance air forces to operate together.

Five wing Airmen were stationed with the 603rd in Europe and 11 supported Atlantic Resolve, the regular rotation of troops from the U.S. to Europe and back.

Fifteen of the 174th's Airmen operate the Adirondack Air to Ground Artillery Range—Range 48—at Fort Drum, New York. This range allows aircrews and Soldiers and Airmen tasked with directing air strikes to train in a live fire environment.

In July, the wing hosted 40 East Coast-based Navy SEALs and combat personnel for Exercise Oxblood East. The SEALs focused on honing their joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) skills at the range.

In September, the wing supported Joint Exercise Jaded Thunder for another 100 special operations personnel at the range.

In November, U.S. and Canadian JTACS were hosted by the wing in Exercise Hungry Horse at Fort Drum. Along with practicing their air to ground airstrike skills, the teams also conducted weapons training.

The wing's maintenance group maintains a Forward Operation Location at Fort Drum's Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield, which enables aircrews to conduct missions at the Adirondack range, including landing, rearming and refueling in order to enable more training.



A New York Air National Guard MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft flies over central New York during a training flight on Oct. 31, 2024.

During 2024, Airmen at the Forward Operation Location sustained 330 sorties and supported nine live fire, and two joint force exercises involving aircraft of all types from the B-2 Spirit strategic bomber to F-22 Raptors.

Seven members of the maintenance group also supported Exercise Freedom Flag at Osan Air Base in Korea.

Seventy-five Airmen assigned to the 174th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to Lajes Air Base in the Azores where they upgraded buildings. They also worked alongside their Romanian and Portuguese counterparts to conduct a building demolition.

The 174th MQ-9 Test Detachment, a unit focused on new MQ-9 technologies, traveled overseas with the Air National Guard/ Air Force Reserve Test Center to observe deployed MQ-9

operations. The trip was designed to help learn lessons which can allow the MQ-9 to function in contested environments.

Overall, 120 174th Attack Wing Airmen deployed to eight different locations during the year.

The wing mobilized 75 Airmen on state active duty status during 2024. Twenty-five were called up as part of the state's Operation April Eclipse, 25 for Operation Summer Heat, and 25 for the Rome Tornado Response.

Here at home 174th Attack Wing Airmen continued to work with the Ground Based Detect and Avoid radar system which enables the wing to fly MQ-9s in civilian airspace. The



New York Air National Guard Airman 1st Class David Myers, assigned to the 174th Attack Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, torch cuts an I-beam during training in Syracuse, N.Y., August 15, 2024

wing created the Air Force's first MQ-9 self-contained instrument approaches which enable emergency weather recoveries of aircraft.

In April, the wing played host to President Joseph Biden as he visited Syracuse to celebrate plans for new semi-conductor fabrication factory in the city. Air Force One flew into and out of Hancock Field.

The wing hosted the annual Civil Air Patrol encampment for 220 cadets in July and the third iteration of the popular Runway 5 K race—with 382 participants—in August. In June, the 174th's chaplain hosted a chaplain's day at the base for 100 local clergy.

The Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS), located at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome is responsible for the air defense of the United States east of the Mississippi. EADS is a component of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

The 224th Air Defense Group is the organization which conducts the mission of EADS. Along with subordinate units stationed in Rome. The group also includes two detachments responsible for the air defense of the National Capital Region around Washington, D.C; the 223rd Air Defense Squadron and the National Capital Region Coordination Center.

EADS also includes a 15-member detachment of the Royal Canadian Air Force, as well as Army and Navy liaison personnel.

The 224th has an assigned strength of 368 Airmen. Three hundred and eleven of these personnel –75 officers and 236 enlisted Airmen– are full-time Active Guard and Reserve personnel. Another 57 –22 officers and 35 enlisted– are traditional Guardsmen.

Forty-two federal Title 5 civilian employees are assigned to EADS, while there are 64 civilian contractors working at the site.

The Commander of EADS is Col. Joseph F. Roos. The commander of the 224th Air Defense Group is Col. Jennifer L. King.

Operations

During 2024, the 224th Air Defense Group and its subordinate commands conducted key air defense missions routinely.

These included:

- Enforcing Temporary Flight restrictions 186 times for presidential travel, and National Special Security Events, ranging from the State of the Union address to the Democratic and Republican political conventions and the space launches.
- Detecting, tracking, identifying and evaluating 30,500 potential airborne threats, investigating 341 contacts and 95 “tracks of interest.”
- Controlling 2,471 fighter sorties, 372 tanker refueling missions, and 550 practice scrambles, while handling air defense nationally on 17 occasions.
- Prosecuting 187 airborne threats over the National Capital Region.
- Prosecuted 240 airborne threats within the National Capital Region’s Special Flight Rules Area and Flight Restriction Zone.
- Coordinated 8,600 Department of Defense flights in the National Capital Region and supported operations for 13 flying units.
- Completing the \$13.1 million Agile Operations project to upgrade tracking systems and preparing to upgrade the 1980s-era Battle Command Center.



The Eastern Air Defense Sector marked the completion of its \$13.1 million agile operations project with a ribbon-cutting October 31, 2024 in its Battle Control Center in Rome, N.Y. A hardware configuration that took more than two years to plan and construct, the project condensed multiple systems into individual workstations.

- Providing Security Forces Airmen to help address a temporary, active-duty Security Forces shortage at Tyndall AFB, Fla. For four months.

- Conducted 130 temporary flight restriction short duration radar integrations for Presidential travel.

Training

During 2024, the 224th Air Defense Group’s subordinate elements conducted these training missions:

- Planned and executed the six-day Northern Strike homeland defense exercise which involved 54 live aircraft sorties and evaluated new tactics.

- Managed NORAD’s first F-35 Lightning II validation test, which measured the fighter’s effectiveness in cyber-degraded environments.

- Conducted AMALGAM EAGLE 24 exercise with the Western Air Defense Sector and the Mexican Air Force. U.S. and Mexican Air Operations Centers and tactical sectors trained together on cross-border operations during the exercise.

- Security Forces Squadron Airmen planned and executed the unit’s first-ever field training exercise, improving base defense and force protection skills.



New York Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Powell of the Northeast Air Defense Sector was the first member of the U.S. military to react to the attacks of September 11, 2001. At 8:37 a.m., Powell received a call from a Boston FAA controller about a possible hijacking and requested fighter jets for a visual on the plane.

Colonel Joseph Roos Commander, Eastern Air Defense Squadron



New York Air National Guard Col. Jennifer King, the Commander of the 224th Air Defense Group, presides over the promotion ceremony for Maj. Joshua Williams on January 25, 2024, in Rome, N.Y.

A native of East Syracuse, New York, Col. Roos graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1996 with a civil engineering degree. Commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, his first assignment was with the 325th Training Squadron at Tyndall AFB, where he earned the Undergraduate Air Battle Manager School's Distinguished Graduate award. After ABM training, he was assigned to the 603rd Air Control Squadron, Aviano Air Base, Italy.

During his three-year tour, he qualified as a Weapons Director, Evaluator Air Surveillance Officer and Evaluator Senior Director. While with the 603rd, Col. Roos participated in Operations Deliberate Guard, Noble Anvil and Allied Force and was Air Forces Europe Air Battle Manager of the Year for 1999.

In 2000, Col. Roos returned to the 325th Training Squadron, where he served as an Instructor Air Battle Manager, Flight Commander, and Chief of Training. Responsible for the instruction of more than one-third of the nine-month course, Col. Roos taught more than 500 future air battle managers and was named 325th Air Control Squadron Flight Commander of the Year for 2002.

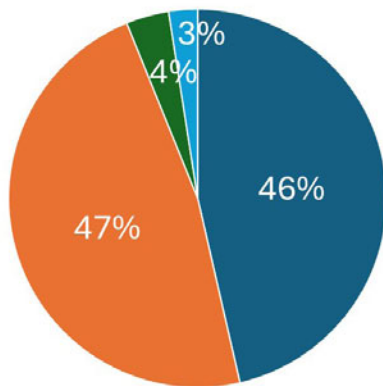


In 2003, Col. Roos joined the New York Air National Guard and was assigned to EADS. From 2003 to present, he has served in a variety of positions including Evaluator Senior Director, Evaluator Mission Crew Commander, Flight Commander, Inspector General, Standardization and Evaluation Chief, Director of Operations, and 224th Air Defense Squadron Commander. Prior to his current position, Col. Roos was the Commander of the 224th Air Defense Group.



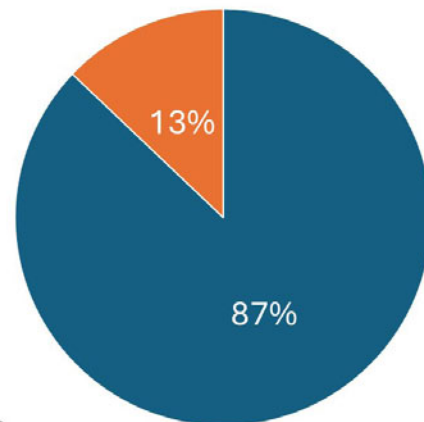
New York Naval Militia Landing Craft LC350 sets a perimeter in the Hudson River off Schodack Island State Park as a New York Army National Guard UH-60M Black Hawk conducts water drop operations during exercise Empire Challenge Sept. 6, 2024.

NY Naval Militia Services



■ USN Reserve ■ USMC Reserve
■ USCG Reserve ■ Other

NY Naval Militia Genders



■ Male ■ Female

The New York Naval Militia is a 3,247-member state defense force which enrolls serving members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard reserves, so they can serve New York as well as the United States.

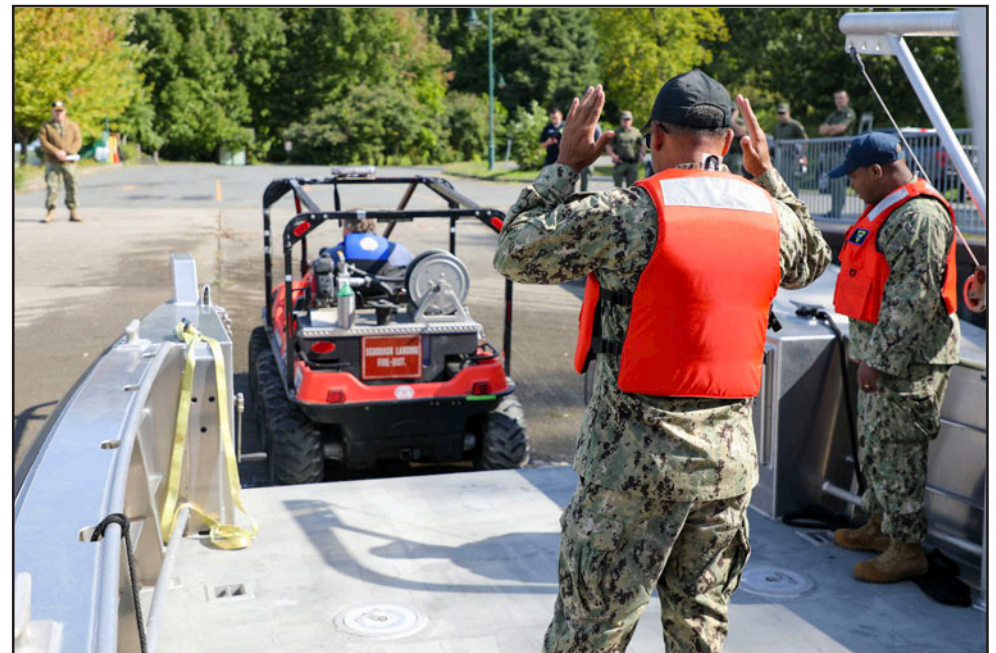
A small number of personnel, not to exceed five percent of the total force, can be people not currently serving in one of the reserve components.

The New York Naval Militia is commanded by state Rear Admiral Michael Perry.

New York Naval Militia members serve in state active duty status when responding to state missions and emergencies. They put the training they received in the naval services to work for the people of New York.

The New York Naval Militia also maintains a fleet of 11 patrol boats which operate as the Military Emergency Boat Service (MEBS).

Patrol Boat 440 is based at the U.S. Coast Guard Station on Staten Island and conducts maritime security patrol missions in New York harbor and the



New York Naval Militia Boatswains Mate Senior Chief Angel Santos directs vehicle loading aboard Landing Craft LC350 as part of exercise Empire Challenge at Schodack Island State Park, Sept. 6, 2024.



After 100 years, the 40-pound signal bell on the U.S.S. Flusser, a destroyer used to train naval reservists in the 1920s, including members of the New York Naval Militia, was rededicated in 2020 and is now on display at the New York National Guard headquarters in Latham, N.Y.

surrounding waterways as part of Joint Task Force Empire Shield.

The other 10 boats—including two landing craft—are deployed to locations across the state during the spring, summer, and fall. They participate in training missions and provide support to local, state and federal law enforcement as required.

During the winter months the boats are stored at the Naval Militia maintenance facility at

the Leeds Armory.

The New York Naval Militia operates nine trucks and trailers to move the boats. Another trailer is configured as a mobile shop, while another is a mobile command trailer.

New York's Naval Militia traces its history back to 1891, when it was created as a sea-going version of the National Guard. It is the largest of the five state Naval Militias still in operation.

During 2024, 608 members of the New York Naval Militia served on the asylum seeker support mission in New York City. Another 61 Naval Militia members worked at Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters, to reconcile financial issues associated with the two and a half year long COVID-19 response mission.

Fifteen Naval Militia members served as part of Joint Task Force Empire Shield and four were assigned full-time to maintain the MEBS fleet.

Two hundred and four

Naval Militia members served on state active duty during three training missions while supporting local law enforcement.

One of those exercises was Empire Challenge, an annual exercise involving the New York Guard. The three day exercise, which kicked off on Sept. 5, involved emergency radio communications and helicopter wildfire training on the Hudson River near Scho-dack Island State Park.

In July, two New York Naval Militia boats supported 104 Navy Reservists from hospital units in Jacksonville, Florida and Portland Maine, 12 Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division, and 35 Coast Guardsmen.

The boats supported cold water rescue training and hypothermia response training in the St. Lawrence River near Alexandria Bay on the weekends of July 12 to 14 and 17 to 21.

The New York Naval Militia has also played a part in State Partnership Program interactions with the Swedish military.

Rear Admiral Perry, and the Naval Militia civilian director

Rear Admiral Michael Perry Commander, New York Naval Militia

Rear Admiral (Lower Half) Michael F. Perry graduated in 1982 with a B.A. in Political Science from SUNY Albany and M.P.A. in Public Finance from Rockefeller College in 1985. Most recently, he graduated with a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2009 and Advanced JPME certification from the National Defense University in 2015.

Perry received a direct commission as an ensign in the Supply Corps of the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1991 and joined the Naval Militia the same day.

His assignments since 1993 include more than a dozen staff and command roles, culminating with assignment to the staff at U.S. Transpor-



tation Command Headquarters at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

Perry is a Seabee Combat Warfare, Navy Expeditionary Supply Corps, and Major Command qualified officer. He previously served on the Naval Militia Headquarters Staff.

David Hawley were part of the New York National Guard delegation to Sweden in September 2024.

The two visited Muskö Naval Base, which is a Swedish underground Naval facility located on the island of Muskö just south of Stockholm. They also visited Berga Naval Base

located in the Hårsfjärden fjord, the home of the 4th Naval Warfare Flotilla, the 1st Marine Regiment and Home Guard unit Södertörn Group.

Both toured a Swedish Navy Visby Class Corvette and were able to drive a CB90 amphibious assault craft.



New York Naval Militia Gunnery Sgt. Paul Hauschen, left, receives a retirement gift from Chief Petty Officer Bill Kall during retirement ceremonies in Latham, New York, on May 10, 2024.



New York Guard volunteer 2nd Lt. Sophia Labarbera-Limone stands in formation March 17, 2024 during the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City.

The New York Guard is a state defense force authorized under federal law. Currently, 20 states maintain these uniformed forces to respond to state emergencies and augment the National Guard.

The New York Guard has a strength of 283 men and women. The commander is New York State Brig. Gen. Peter Riley, a retired New York Army National Guard colonel.

The New York Guard can trace its history back to World War I, when it was created to replace New York National Guard units in state security roles, when those Soldiers were sent to France.

In 2024, the New York Guard re-organized to better support the needs of the state by augmenting the New York National Guard during an emergency. Redundant organizations were eliminated, and the chain of command was streamlined to become more flexible and cost-efficient.

The New York Guard's volunteers train one weekend a month. They augment the New York National Guard with logistics, administrative and general-purpose personnel support.

New York Guard members wear military uniforms and use military rank, but wear hats, nametags, and branch insignia to differentiate themselves from the National Guard. Instead of an American flag, they wear the New York flag patch on their shoulder.

The New York Guard also maintains the Military Emergency Radio Network (MERN) system, which can be deployed during emergencies to assist in communications. During 2024, eight new portable radios were fielded to

modernize the network.

The New York Guard's 10th Area Command has spaces in armories in Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse. The 56th Area Command drills in Peekskill and Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh. The 88th Area Command has elements at armories in Whitestone, Manhattan, Staten Island, and Garden City.

Civil Support Missions

In 2024, 137 New York Guard members participated in the Operation Asylum Seeker Resource Mission in New York City. New York Guard volunteers on state active duty supported reception operations, logistics support, and administrative functions.

Training

The New York Guard conducted six mobile MERN exercises during 2024.

Eighteen personnel participated in Empire Challenge, a multi-agency emergency response exercise conducted from September 6-8. Personnel established radio communication locations from Long Island to Albany and validated the MERN capabilities.

One hundred and thirty-five New York Guard members participated in the organization's annual training at Camp Smith Training Site from 22 to 28 September. Training included radio operations, the military decision-making process, drill and ceremony, food handling operations, and human resources skills.

New York Guard personnel took a two-day training course in the Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration system from 23-25 January to better support the New York

The first unit of the State Guard in New York was a cavalry troop made up of 40 polo players based in Garden City, Long Island, July 30, 1917.



National Guard personnel office.

Community Support

New York Guard members take part in local community events as a recruiting opportunity and to show they are part of the local community. During 2024, these included:

-Marching in the New York City St. Patrick's Day

Parade March 16.

- A Battle of Fredericksburg commemoration by the New York Guard's 88th Area Command at Cavalry Cemetery in Queens. The command is named for a New York Civil War regiment that fought in the 1863 battle.

-The Bronx Veterans Day Parade.



Members of the New York Naval Militia and New York Guard stand up a communications trailer during exercise Empire Challenge at Schodack Island State Park on September 6, 2024. The training simulated a multi-agency response to a major wildfire.

Brig. Gen. Peter Riley Commander, New York Guard

Brig. Gen. Peter Riley commands the New York Guard. Previously, he was the senior personnel officer for the New York Guard, in charge of all administrative, personnel, staff, recruitment and retention functions for 300 New York Guard volunteers.

Riley joined the New York Guard as a colonel in April 2020.

Soon after joining, he led Task Force COVID North, the New York response to the COVID-19 pandemic, for 100 days. The task force had over 600 service members and supported six testing sites and two distribution Centers from Albany to Niagara Falls.

Riley was previously a member of the New York Army National Guard, retiring in May 2019 after 30 years of service.

He commanded Joint Task Force Empire Shield in New York City from 2011 until



his retirement in 2019.

Empire Shield is the full time, 780-person security force for deterring terrorism in New York transit hubs. Riley also led Empire Shield during and after Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Riley deployed with the 42nd Infantry Division to Tikrit, Iraq from 2004-05.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and NYS Defense of Liberty Medal w/World Trade Center device.

He works as the Director of Veterans Services at Pace University.

A civilian workforce of 1,956 state and federal employees support the operations of the New York National Guard, the New York Naval Militia, and the New York Guard.

At the end of 2024, the federal civilian workforce totaled 1,544 people. Of these employees, 429 were Title 5 Department of Defense employees, and 1,115 people were dual-status Title 32 technicians.

Dual-status technicians are federal civilian employees who must also be members of the New York National Guard in a traditional part-time Guardsman status. They are normally assigned to positions where their military skill is applicable. They usually wear their uniforms on the job.

These employees often work in maintenance, administrative, and personnel positions.

Title 5 employees are civilian employees. They do not also have to be members of the New York National Guard, although many are.

There are 785 civilian employees supporting the New York Air National Guard. There are 565 people in Title 32 technician status, while 220 are Title 5 employees.

Another 759 civilians support the mission of the New York Army National Guard. This is broken down into 550 dual-status Title 32 technicians and 209 Title 5 employees.

There are 412 New York State employees supporting the Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York Military Forces.

The bulk of these New York state workers—136 people—work at armories across the state maintaining the facility. Another 106 work at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters. Seven support the military museum and five work in facility environmental support.

There are another 158 state employees working as firefighters, maintenance technicians, and administrative support staffers supporting the New York Air National Guard.



Jennifer Lammon, who worked in the New York National Guard's Directorate of Operations and Training as the funding manager, is presented a Conspicuous Service Medal and certificate from Assistant Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Michel Natali. Lammon retired after 39 years of federal service on May 22, 2024 at the New York National Guard headquarters in Latham, New York.

“As a people-first organization, our most enduring commitment is to those that serve with us and those that we protect. It is our reputation that sets us apart from other organizations and that will be directly proportional to our success and our future,”

-- Maj. Gen. Ray Shields,
The Adjutant General,
DMNA Strategic Direction 2029,
March 28, 2024



New York Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Lead Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Jacqueline O'Keefe, right, and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Advocate Yvonne Masse stand at the display in the atrium of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs Joint Forces Headquarters April 2, 2024, as they kick off Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

State Partnership Program

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DMNA

The New York National Guard maintains State Partnership Program (SPP) training and exchange relationships with the South African National Defence Force, the Brazilian Armed Forces and the Swedish Defense Forces, or Försvarsmakten.

The New York National Guard also has bilateral relationships with the Israeli Homefront Command and Denmark's Joint Arctic Command.

The State Partnership Program is a Department of Defense Security Cooperation program, which is managed and administered by the National Guard Bureau, executed by the regional U.S. combatant commands, and sourced by the National Guards of the States and territories.

A staff of eight officers and noncommissioned officers manage the New York SPP program under the direction of the Director, Joint Staff, Army Brig. Gen. Isabel Smith. The New York National Guard works with Southern Command, Africa Command and European Command in executing partnership activities.

South Africa

The partnership with South Africa dates back to 2003. The New York National Guard regularly participates in the African Aerospace and Defense Exhibition held every other year at South Africa's Waterkloof Air Force Base outside of Pretoria.

During 2024, New York National Guard took part in 17 shared events with South Africa.

From October 28 to November 2, 17 Army and Air National Guard members took part in the annual South African National Defence Force International Military Skills Competition at Army Support Base Potchefstroom.

The American women's team –three Airmen and

one Soldier– did particularly well at the event. Senior Airman Vincenza Costanzo was the top-scoring woman at the event.

From October 14 to 18, New York National Guard State Chaplain (Col.) Douglas Brock and Deputy State Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Miller joined 200 South African Defence Force chaplains at the symposium held by Brig. Gen. E.T. Masweu, South Africa's chief of chaplains.

Chaplains representing nine of the 16 counties in the Southern African Development Communities also attended.



New York Army National Guard Sgt. John Winheld, assigned to the 152nd Engineer Company, negotiates an obstacle during the South African National Defence Force Military Skills Competition, held in Potchefstroom, South Africa, from October 28 to November 2. The New York National Guard sent a team of 10 Soldiers and seven Airmen to compete in the event.

Brazil

The New York National Guard entered into an SPP relationship with the Brazilian Armed Forces in 2019.

In 2024, New York and Brazil conducted 34 training exchanges and events. Each exercise addressed unique operational challenges and reflected a commitment to shared strategic objectives such as exchanges in cyber policy concepts, jungle warfare survival, and the development of Joint Terminal Attack Controller capabilities.

From July 5–13, 2024, Rio de Janeiro hosted Operation Maracanã, a joint training exercise involving 32 New York National Guard personnel from the 2nd and 24th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams. These teams specialize in identifying biological, radiological, and chemical weapons.



New York National Guard and Brazilian Armed Forces service members train together in different Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear response techniques during Operation Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro, July 9, 2024.

The exercise was conducted by the Brazilian Army's 1st Batalhão de Defesa Química, Biológica, Radiológica e Nuclear, which translates into English as the 1st Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Battalion. This unit provided support for security missions when Brazil hosted the soccer World Cup in 2014 and the Summer Olympics in 2016.

The exercise simulated a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attack — known as CBRN — during a soccer match at the Maracanã, stadium, which is home to the Brazilian soccer club Flamengo F.C.

The New Yorkers were interested in learning everything the Brazilians know about securing a major sports venue as New York and New Jersey prepare to host the Soccer World Cup in 2026.

From August 11–16, 2024, Exercise Nuntius took place in Campo Grande, where Brazilian service members underwent their first live Joint Terminal Attack Controller qualification course. The event was supported by the New York Air Guard's 274th Air Support Operations Squadron. These efforts marked a critical step in Brazil's ambition to develop an independent JTAC capability.

Key highlights included: training for eight Brazilian JTAC students with 16 live control operations, Air Guard JTAC instructors conducting 10 live controls as demonstrations, academic instruction and tactical planning, concluding with live exercises involving Brazilian A-29 and A-1/AMX aircraft.

From June 6 to 10, the commander of Brazil's Aerospace Operations Command led a nine-person delegation from the Brazilian Air Force on visits to New York.

Created in 2017, the command coordinates and

controls both air and space operations for Brazil.

The Brazilian team spent a day talking about space operations with New York Air National Guard Airmen of the 222nd Command and Control Squadron, headquartered in Rome, New York.

The "Triple Duece" provides trained personnel for surge and contingency support to the National Reconnaissance Office Operations Center, the agency that runs the U.S. network of surveillance and reconnaissance satellites.

The Brazilian team also visited the Eastern Air



New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jonathan Harris, a member of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry heads down the land obstacle course November 1, 2024 at the South African National Defence Force Military Skills Competition, held in Potchefstroom, South Africa. The New York National Guard sent a team of 10 Soldiers and seven Airmen to compete in the event as part of the State Partnership Program relationship with South Africa's military.

Defense Sector in Rome, which is staffed by Air Guardsmen and is responsible for air defense of the United States east of the Mississippi.

The Brazilians also visited the 174th Attack Wing, based at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse. The wing has operated the remotely operated MQ-9 Reaper aircraft since 2010.

The Brazilians spent time with Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, and his command team to better understand National Guard domestic operations.

The visit finished with a firsthand look at the New York Naval Militia watercraft security efforts in New York harbor, highlighting the Guard's support to civil authorities.

Finally, two members of the New York Air National Guard's 105th Rescue Wing attended and graduated from Brazil's world-famous Jungle Warfare School. New York National Guard personnel have been attending the six-week international course since 2019.

Sweden

The SPP agreement with Sweden, NATO's newest member state, was signed on July 12, 2024, during a ceremony conducted at the top of New York City's Freedom Tower.

Sweden began seeking an SPP agreement in April of 2023.

New York, according to Swedish Major General Johan Pekkari, the chief of the Defence Staff's Strategy Unit, is a good fit for what the Swedish military wants to learn.

"The New York National Guard has, among other things, divisional capabilities and extensive experience in training, educating, and exercising large unit

formations, which is an important capability for the Swedish Armed Forces to develop. Other capabilities we look forward to collaborating on include the field of combat aviation and information exchange in the air domain", according to Pekkari.

During 2024, there were 20 training events conducted with the Swedish military.

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, led a New York National Guard delegation to Sweden from September 9 to 13 to kick off the partnership. The delegation included Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Gary Charlton, the Assistant Adjutant General, Air, and Rear Admiral Michael Perry, the commander of the New York Naval Militia.

The 21-member delegation visited Swedish Army bases in Boden and Lulea, as well as taking part in discussions outlining a way forward.

In October, Swedish civil defense officials visited New York City to discuss New York National Guard domestic operations missions and meet with New York City Emergency Management Agency representatives.

In November, Major General Jonny Lindfors, Sweden's Chief of Army, the equivalent to the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, led a delegation to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, to observe the 42nd Infantry Division conducting a command post exercise to prepare for an upcoming division Warfighter.

Lindfors said the New York National Guard's operational and planning strengths, including river crossings, responding to chemical disasters, and border and customs control, are key areas that the two organizations will be working together to share knowledge and training.

Also in November, ten Swedish Air Force members visited the 106th Rescue Wing at F.S. Gabreski Air

National Guard Base. The Swedes came to learn about the 106th's search and rescue capabilities.

Airmen from the 109th Airlift Wing, which specializes in arctic transport and fly the LC-130H Hercules, and 174th Attack Wing, which operates the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft, also gave briefings on their capabilities.

At the end of November, seven New York Airmen and two Soldiers attended the Winter Training Planners Course at the Swedish Armed Forces Subarctic Warfare Center, in Boden. The center is located just 48 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

The week-long course consisted of a mix of classroom instruction and hands-on training out in the



New York Army National Guard Sgt. Teshawn Cook, assigned to the 24th Civil Support Team, shows a piece of equipment to Brazilian army 1st Lt. Daniel Junior, assigned to Companhia de Defesa Química Biológica Radiológica e Nuclear, during Operation Maracan in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, July 8, 2024.

Swedish winter.

Israel Home Front Command

In July, 13 representatives from Israel's Home Front Command attended a planning conference at Camp Atterbury, Indiana to plan 2025 exchanges with New York and four other partner states.

In September, the Home Front Command Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Liron Donnell visited New York City. She toured the asylum mission support sites

staffed by the New York National Guard and met with officials from New York City Office of Emergency Management.

Denmark

In September, representatives of the Danish Arctic Command met with New York Air and Army National Guard representatives in Greenland to discuss participating in the command's Exercise Arctic Light 2025.



Rear Admiral Michael Perry, the Commander of the New York Naval Militia, receives instruction from Swedish military members during a leadership visit to Stockholm, Sweden, September 11, 2024, to collaborate with their new state partner.



Leaders from the New York National Guard and Swedish military sign an agreement for the National Guard State Partnership Program at New York's Freedom Tower on July 12, 2024. Major Gen. Ray Shields, left, The Adjutant General of New York; Pal Jonson, Sweden's Minister for Defence; Marcos Soler, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety for the State of New York; and Maj. Gen. Johan Pekkari, Sweden's Chief of Policy and Plans, sign the document.



New York Army National Guard Col. Robert Mitchell, chief of staff of the 53rd Troop Command, greets Brazilian Army Brigade General Aurelio Baldassarri at Maracanã Stadium during Operation Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro, July 12, 2024.

The New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center preserves and tells the story of New Yorkers in our nation's wars.

A significant amount of New York National Guard archival material is stored and curated by the museum in the Saratoga Springs Armory, which houses it. The building was designed by state architect Isacc G. Perry and built between 1889 and 1891 to house the 22nd Separate Company of the New York National Guard.

During 2024, 10,431 people visited the museum.

Volunteer docents are on hand to help answer questions about the exhibits.

The museum staff is also responsible for curating historical artifacts housed in armories across the state. The museum staff also creates and updates historical displays at each of the state's armories. These displays educate Soldiers who drill there and visitors about the history of the building and the units that served in those buildings.

Thirty-two volunteer docents greet visitors to the museum, while another six volunteers help in the

museum's library. Finally, 200 Hudson Valley Community College students have worked remotely to help organize the digital collection.

The collection traces its history back to 1863 when the State Legislature charged the adjutant general of New York with preserving the history of New Yorkers in what was officially known as the "War of the Rebellion."

The officer who was given this mission collected

battle flags and other artifacts donated by Civil War units and compiled records of all New Yorkers who served in the war.

The collection was housed in many places before finding its current home in 2001.

The museum's holdings include:

- 17,466 photographs
- 17,081 books and articles



Among the items added to the collection at the New York State Military History Museum include the brass identification disc for George Allison, who served with Company F of the 61st NY Volunteers, 172nd NY Volunteers, and the 6th Artillery Volunteers during the American Civil War. The discs were the precursors to the dog tags used in World War II up to the modern era.



The Army recognized the 80th anniversary of the allied landings in Normandy for D-Day, June 6, 1944, and the subsequent Normandy Campaign that led to the defeat of Nazi Germany. Part of that force included Citizen Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 258th Field Artillery Regiment, employing the M12 155 mm Gun Motor Carriage self-propelled artillery vehicle. The artillery formation fought from Normandy across Northwest Europe during WWII.

Two U.S. Presidents have served in the New York National Guard: Chester Arthur and Theodore Roosevelt.



Among the items added to the collection at the New York State Military History Museum include a M1910 service coat for a Soldier of the 27th Division from World War I. The museum received 412 objects from private donors in 2024.

- 4,465 military records
 - 1,415 military oral history transcripts
 - 1.073 million military unit rosters
 - 348 pieces of sheet music
- and 30,571 artifacts.

Those artifacts include 700 weapons ranging from pistols to machine guns, 2,139 battle flags from the War of 1812 to today, and thousands of uniforms, equipment items, artwork, and personal items.

During 2024, the museum added 412 objects from 52 donors to the collection.

These include a 22nd Regiment Cork Helmet from the 1890s; a World War 1 German grenade launcher, including the crate it came in, tools and two training rounds; and identity disks for Civil War Soldier George Allison.

The museum holds 920,213 digitized records,

photographs, books, and articles, many of which are available through the museum's website.

These include:

- 92,306 photographs
- 822,431 records
- 3,030 books and articles
- 2,212 digitized video and audio veterans' oral histories and
- 234 pieces of sheet music.

During 2024, there were 1.948 million visits to the museum's website, and 621,00 visits to the museum YouTube Channel. There were 499,000 subscriptions to the museum's YouTube Channel.

The museum's oral history YouTube site had 608,200 views during 2024 and 15,805 subscribers.

From January through September, museum staff packed and moved 1,200 historical objects housed at the Lexington Avenue Armory in Manhattan to a storage space at the Saranac Lake Armory. The historic Manhattan Armory will be rehabilitated for the next three years.

The items moved included uniforms, historical weapons, headgear, footwear, furniture, art, trophies, and plaques.

This year, two Civil War flags were conserved thanks to private funding, and 11 historic flags were rotated into the flag exhibit in the New York State Capitol.

The museum also opened a temporary exhibit about the nuclear Navy, tied into Saratoga Spring's role as a military town hosting U.S. Navy nuclear reactor training in nearby Ballston Spa.



An M1887 cork helmet for a National Guard Soldier of the 22nd Regiment, circa 1890s, features a helmet plate for the regimental insignia and headdress for ornamentation, highlighting the influence of the Franco-Prussian War. These helmets were reportedly hated by Soldiers but were used throughout the final decades of the 19th century.



The National Colors of the Civil War 111th NY Volunteers was restored in 2024 as part of the New York State Military Museum Flag Conservancy.

The 111th New York Volunteers organized at Auburn, New York, in the summer of 1862 with recruits from Cayuga and Wayne counties.

The regiment initially served at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (later West Virginia), where the unit surrendered along with the entire garrison in September 1862.

The troops were confined until paroled and exchanged three months later in December 1862. The 111th New York Volunteers rejoined the Union Army in June 1863 and redeemed themselves during the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1863, where the regiment suffered nearly 250 casualties.

From Gettysburg until the war's end, the 111th New York Volunteers served honorably with the II Corps in nearly two dozen battles in Virginia including at the Wilderness and Spottsylvania during the 1864 Overland Campaign and at the fall of Petersburg during the decisive 1865 Appomattox Campaign.

The regiment eventually mustered out on June 3, 1865, near Alexandria, Virginia, with well over 200 killed or mortally wounded.

It is not known when the 111th New York Volunteers received this national color. Pieced together in red, white, and blue silk, the flag includes 35 gold colored, painted stars in a double elliptical pattern in a rectangular-shaped blue canton, a design attributed to those flags distributed by the Schuylkill Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

At some point in time, the 111th New York Volunteers added their unit designation in white paint in the canton and added battle honors in blue and white paint in the stripes to recognize the unit's service from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1863, through Ream's Station, Virginia, August 1864.

The Regimental Colors of the Civil War 130th NY Volunteers, a blue silk flag with painted arms of the United States, was restored in 2024 as part of the New York State Military Museum Flag Conservancy.

The 130th New York Volunteer Regiment mustered into service in Portage, New York, in September 1862.

Led by Colonel Alfred Gibbs, its baptism of fire came in January 1863 at the Battle of Deserted House or Kelly's Store near Suffolk, Virginia.

At the onset of the battle, Gibbs argued with his commander, General Corcoran, over the disposition of troops and Corcoran placed him under arrest.

According to the history of the regiment recorded in the "History of Wyoming County," prepared shortly after the war:

"During the battle, Col. Gibbs ventured to expostulate with Corcoran against his disposition of troops and suggested that the infantry should be posted on the flanks of the artillery where they would escape the raking fire, and where they could repel an assault upon it.

"For his temerity, he was put under arrest by Corcoran, and his sword was taken from him. But the wisdom of his suggestion was soon demonstrated. Corcoran's own brigade broke in confusion and disorder and began a precipitate retreat. He was himself obliged to leave the field in the effort to rally them."

As recorded, Gibbs was indeed proved correct. Corcoran's own brigade broke and ran under heavy artillery fire. While Corcoran left the field to reorganize his brigade, three regiments decided to charge the Confederates on their own initiative.

Though under arrest and without a horse or gun, Gibbs grabbed the regimental flag and led the charge and the 130th New York Infantry pushed the Confederates back through the adjacent woods.

"Whoever was there can ever forget that scene when the brave Colonel Gibbs, under arrest, swordless and horseless, seized the colors and bore them, like the hero he was, in front of the regiment throughout the whole of that charge. For various reasons, he had not heretofore been popular with all his men, but from that hour his kingdom in the regiment was established, and every man in his command was now willing to die for him."



The New York National Guard supports the families of Soldiers and Airmen through the Family Program Office.

National Guard families face the same stresses that families of active duty military personnel deal with, such as overseas deployment and training missions. They also face unique challenges like missed weekends and state active duty emergencies.

Unlike active Army families, Guard families are spread out across the state because the Army Guard operates in 44 locations, not just one post like Fort Drum.

Army National Guard commanders rely on volunteer-run Family Readiness Groups to support families. These volunteers and local commanders are backed by professional staff who can offer advice and help local groups build partnerships with the Red Cross or other agencies.

There are 15 professional Military and Family Readiness Specialists, based at 10 armories, working for the Army National Guard across New York.

The Air National Guard, located at five bases and the Eastern Air Defense Sector, is supported by six family readiness program specialists. Sixteen specialists work at Joint Force Headquarters to coordinate these efforts.

The total staff is made up of four Soldiers, 19 federal civilians, and 14 federal contractors.

The professional staff at headquarters supports the following program areas:

- The Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention (R3SP) Program which provides training and resources to assist Soldiers and family members in developing skills needed to deal with stress.
- The Army Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program provides deploying and returning soldiers and their families with a robust support network of information and services available from county, state, federal, and private outreach organizations upon their return home.

In 2024, the Family Programs office conducted nine Virtual Yellow Ribbon events, three of which were Hybrid events consisting of an in-person portion, for 1,112 Soldiers and their families. The virtual programs allow



Family members of the 105th Airlift Wing welcome home loved ones at Stewart Air National Guard Base April 1, 2024, following a unit three-month deployment.

participants to attend via Zoom call from their homes without traveling. The in-person events, conducted as part of three post-deployment events, allowed Soldiers and families to meet in person with program providers.

- The New York National Guard Child and Youth Program exists to provide military children and youth with valuable opportunities for networking and skill development.

In 2024, Family Programs conducted over 40 events/programs with a combined participation of 2,678 young people. One program for young people whose parents were deployed was also held in conjunction with the Yellow Ribbon events.

- Transition Assistance Advisors, who built a state network of support with Veterans Affairs and community organizations for service members,



There are 14 Family Resource Centers located throughout New York, staffed by Military and Family Readiness Specialists who offer information and referrals.



The 106th Rescue Wing celebrates Family Day at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., September 7, 2024.

Veterans, and their families to access in their community.

- Personal Financial Counselors help Soldiers and Airmen and their families manage finances, resolve financial problems, and reach short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals, such as getting an education, buying a home, and planning for retirement.
- The Family Benefits program informs Guard families on how they can access facilities used by active-duty military families.

- The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, commonly known as DEERS, which verifies family member status and provides them with a Department of Defense identification card.
- The Family Programs office also works with the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program to help Army and Air Guard members and their employers deal with conflicts arising from part-time military service.



Family members of the 105th Airlift Wing welcome home loved ones at Stewart Air National Guard Base April 1, 2024, following a unit three-month deployment.

Military Chaplains provide religious, spiritual, and emotional support to Soldiers and Airmen and their families.

Chaplains are responsible for tending to the spiritual and moral well-being of Soldiers and Airmen and their families. They perform religious rites, conduct worship services, provide confidential counseling, and advise commanders on the religious and spiritual needs and morale of their troops. They serve everybody no matter what their beliefs are.

The Army's Chaplains Corps was founded in 1775 when the Continental Congress authorized a chaplain for each regiment of the Continental Army. Prior to that the colonial militias, the ancestors of the National Guard, had chaplains that marched with the men.

Air National Guard chaplains are members of the Air Force Chaplains Corps, which was formed in 1949.

One of the most famous Army chaplains, Father (Major) Francis Duffy, was a New York Army National Guardsman who served with the 69th Infantry Regiment in World War I. He is memorialized with a statue in New York City's Times Square.

The New York Army National Guard chaplain's corps consists of 19 chaplains and 27 religious affairs specialists.

The New York Air National Guard has 16 chaplains and 18 religious affairs Airmen.

The religious affairs specialists and Airmen are enlisted personnel who assist the chaplain in his or

her duties, provides clerical support, and are also trained to assist in the counseling function.

Chaplains assigned to Army National Guard battalions, brigades, and division, and Air National Guard air wings, are there to share military life with Soldiers and Airmen.

There are chaplains in both the Army and Air Guard representing Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths.

During 2024, the chaplain's corps mobilized five Religious Support Teams consisting of 10 Army and New York Guard chaplains, as well as enlisted religious affairs specialist in support of the up to 2,200 personnel involved in the Asylum Seeker Resource Support mission.

Chaplains have also been part of the State Part-



New York Army National Guard Chaplain (Col.) Douglas Brock, the State Chaplain for New York National Guard, poses with Zambian Chaplain (Capt.) P. Kopakopa during a meeting of African and American chaplains in Lusaka, Zambia, on April 8, 2024.



New York Army National Guard Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Scholes is pinned with his new field grade rank by his children as his commander, Col. Patrick Clare, commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, looks on during his promotion ceremony at Camp Smith, N.Y., July 20, 2024.



The 1940 Hollywood film "The Fighting 69th" features Pat O'Brien in the role of the famous Father Duffy, the regimental chaplain of the 69th Infantry during World War I.



Chaplains of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team perform a baptism for a unit Soldier at Camp Smith, N.Y., October 12, 2024.



New York Army National Guard Chaplain (Capt.) Alex Oommen with the 104th Military Police Battalion delivers the invocation during the 442nd Military Police Company change of command ceremony, Farmingdale, N.Y., Oct. 20, 2024.

nership Program, taking part in meetings with the chaplains of African nations to exchange ideas and best practices.

During 2024, New York Army National Guard chaplains conducted the following:

- Counseling Sessions: 474
- Worship Services: 46 with 174 attendees
- Religious classes: 41
- Moral leadership classes: 1
- Military funerals: 6
- Memorial Ceremonies: 11
- Invocation & Benedictions at Official Events: 10
- Hospital visits: 6
- Weddings: 1
- Religious Rites: 2
- Spiritual Readiness programs: 28
- Building Strong and Ready Teams: 3 Couple Events, 3 Individual Events
- Counseling Sessions: 103
- Worship Services: 4
- Strong Bonds marriage enhancement events: 1 Family Event, 1 Couple Events, 1 Singles Events
- Religious Rites: 18
- Funerals: 0
- Invocations for Official Events: 11
- Hospital Visitation: 1

The New York Air National Guard chaplains conducted the following:

