



Division of Military and Naval Affairs

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



DMNA Supports State and Nation in 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul:

Governor, as the Commander in Chief of the State's military forces, I am honored to submit the Annual Report for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) for calendar year 2025. The annual report has been submitted to the Governor since 1846.

Having the privilege of submitting the 2025 Annual Report during the 250th anniversary celebrations of our Declaration of Independence is truly a distinct honor. I am happy to report that your military forces are thriving and capable of meeting every mission given by you and the federal government.

With just over 21,000 uniformed service members of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Naval Militia,

and New York Guard, combined with our state and federal civilian workforces, we approach 22,000 people focused on ensuring our military readiness to deploy to fight and win our nation's wars; while also prepared for civil support operations when needed to protect New Yorkers here at home.

During 2025 the New York National Guard and our State Defense Forces responded both overseas, and here at home.

When the corrections officers went on strike in February of 2025, DMNA rapidly deployed thousands of service members to 34 prisons statewide. In many instances, we used our significant Army airlift assets to deliver troops to remote prison sites in order to guarantee the smooth and safe functioning of the corrections system.

Following the strike, about 3,000 service members have continued to augment the Department of Corrections staff to ensure the safe operations of the corrections system. As of 31 December 2025, our service members staffed 831,782 workdays supporting the corrections system.

At the same time Joint Task Force Empire Shield has continued to ensure security in the New York City subway system, while also supporting security measures in the railway stations and airports in New York City with an average of 1,050 service members on state active duty.

Our Air Force and Army helicopter crews were there in March, when a massive wildfire broke out on the east end of Long Island. The HH-60 Pave Hawk and UH-60 Black Hawk crews dropped over 32,000 gallons of water on the fires to assist local firefighting efforts.

The 42nd Infantry Division deployed over 600 Soldiers to the Middle East where they commanded Task Force Spartan, the 10,000 Soldier Army force in the region. When Operation Epic Fury started in February 2026, Major General Jack James the Commanding General of the 42nd Infantry Division was responsible for major combat operations in theater.

The New York Air National Guard flies airlift missions around the world, while also

conducting operational MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft missions. The 109th Airlift Wing, with its unique ski-equipped LC-130 Ski Birds, continued strategic airlift missions in the polar regions which supporting the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and Greenland.

Our State Partnership Program with Sweden, the NATO alliance's newest member, expanded throughout 2025 with Swedish sailors and marines training with the Naval Militia.

At the same time, we continued our partnerships with South Africa and Brazil.

And for the fourth time since 2021, the New York Army National Guard was the best in recruiting and retention for the entire Army Guard, with a strength of just under 12,000 at the end of the year equating to 115% of authorized strength.

The New York Air National Guard, meanwhile, refined its centralized recruiting effort and was second in the nation in raw recruiting numbers, missing first place to Ohio by just four Airmen.

With your help and that of the Division of Budget and our Congressional delegation, we continue to prioritize facility improvement projects. We began work on the renovation of the historic Lexington Avenue Armory in New York City at \$123 million, and finished work on the Jamaica Armory project in Queens at \$129 million. Your



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields

support and that of the legislature has made a huge impact on our service members.

The men and women of our National Guard and State Defense Force are dedicated and professional and represent all New Yorkers.

Governor – you can be proud of the men and women of the State's Military Forces. They are great Americans and New Yorkers, willing to defend their state and nation on a minute's notice. It is the honor of my life to serve as the Adjutant General and Commander of the New York National Guard! "Always Ready, Always There".

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



New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, the adjutant general of New York, speaks at the break ground ceremony for a new lodging facility on Camp Smith Training Site, June 24, 2025.

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On December 18, 2025, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that New York City's subways crime was down by 16 percent from 2024 and ridership was up. New York National Guard members assigned to Joint Task Force-Empire Shield were part of that effort.

"My administration and I have been and will continue meeting with union leadership to resolve this situation immediately, but if it is not resolved I will send in the National Guard to secure the facilities in question. They've already been deployed and are ready to stabilize the situation."

-- Gov. Hochul address regarding the illegal corrections officer strike on Feb. 19, 2025.

FRONT COVER:

Left photo: U.S. Army Sgt. Conner Battiste, an infantryman with Charlie Company, 1 Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, Spc. Adam Aviste, a small arms and artillery repairer with Bravo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, and Sgt. 1st Class Felix Camacho, a canon crewmember with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, New York Army National Guard, participate in a 12-mile ruck march during the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., Oct 25, 2025.

Right photo: New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Signal Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division, set up radio communication devices Jan. 29, 2025, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. The communication equipment was set up as part of the division's Warfighter exercise in order to maintain unit readiness.

BACK COVER:

Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Bennett, defender in the 205th Base Defense Squadron, posts security during a tactical movement in an exercise at Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York, June 6, 2025. The 24-hour exercise was a training scenario for defenders to sharpen their skills reestablishing control and security of a simulated urban village.

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New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs

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DMNA

The New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) is the state executive agency responsible to Gov. Kathy Hochul for the administration of New York's Military Forces.

The New York Military Forces consist of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia, and the New York Guard.

Major General Ray Shields is the Adjutant General of New York who commands the state's military forces on behalf of the governor. He is both a state agency commissioner and a federally recognized general officer.

The New York Army and Air National Guard are dual state/federal entities which are reserve components of the Army and Air Force. They are equipped by the federal government, and their Soldiers and Airmen are trained to federal standards.

They are also available to the governor to carry out state missions in a state active-duty status.

The New York Army and Air National Guard had a combined strength of 17,794 at the end of 2025. The New York National Guard was the second largest National Guard force in the country after the Texas National Guard, which had a combined strength of 22,367.

A total of 2,506 New York National Guard Airmen and Soldier were in Active Guard and Reserve status as active-duty military personnel. They perform the maintenance and administrative functions which enable the part-time Soldiers and Airmen to train and carry out their duties in a timely manner.

National Guard personnel conduct their missions in three duty categories.

Soldiers and Airmen conducting normal training like weekend drills and annual training serve in "Title 32" status. This means the federal government pays salaries and costs, but the governor is the commander of National Guard troops in this status.

When called to full-time duty for the state of New York, the troops are in State Active Duty—or SAD—status and are paid for by the state and commanded by the governor.

Guardsmen performing civil support missions during a federally recognized disaster can also be in Title 32 Status instead of SAD. They are paid by the federal government for emergency response, but still commanded by the governor.

When mobilized for federal combat or domestic operations mission, National Guard personnel are in "Title 10" status and take their orders from the president of the United States.

The New York Naval Militia is a unique organization which consists of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard reservists who volunteer to perform extra duty for New York, while still discharging their federal service obligation.



Personnel assigned to New York National Guard headquarters in Latham, New York, gather on the main staircase to mark Denim Day on April 30, 2025. Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault. The event was sponsored by the state Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

The strength of the Naval Militia in 2025 was 3,046.

The New York Guard is a state defense force, authorized by federal law, with a strength of 319 volunteers at the end of 2025.

The New York National Guard can trace its history back to the 1640s when the Dutch East Indian Company created a militia called the Burgher Guard to help defend what was then the colony of New Netherlands.

New York gave the name National Guard to what used to be called the militia. In 1824 Marquise De Lafayette, a hero of the Revolutionary War, visited New York as part of a national tour. A New York militia company decided to call itself the

National Guard, because Lafayette had once led the “Garde National” in France.

By 1863 the entire New York militia was renamed as the National Guard.

Civilian state and federal employees play a key role in carrying out the mission of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

A total of 445 state employees supported the New York Military Forces.

At the end of 2025 there were 161 state employees supporting the New York Air National Guard. Seventy-four of these people served as air base security guards, while another 67 were air base firefighters. They were assigned to Stratton, Stewart and Francis F. Gabreski Air National Guard Bases.

A final 20 New York State employees served in administrative and logistics positions with the Air National Guard.

The New York Army National Guard's armories were maintained by 171 employees working across the state.

The remaining state employees--113 people-- conducted the administrative work required to support the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

This included people staffing offices at the Latham headquarters and Camp Smith Training Site, as well as personnel running the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs.

The federal civilian workforce at the end of 2025 totaled 1,135 people.

Of these, 777 were dual-status Title 32 technicians. These are civilian employees of the National Guard who, as a condition of employment, must also be members of the National Guard.

These Soldiers and Airmen are often maintenance personnel or administrative specialist who fill those positions in their units as part-time Citizen Soldiers and Airmen. They are also counted as part of the strength of the Army and Air National Guard. Another 358 federal employees fall under Title 5. These are full-time civilian employees who do not have to belong to the New York National Guard.

State dollars allocated to DMNA for the 2025 state fiscal year included \$146.2 million for operations and \$119.7 million for capital construction for the Lexington Avenue Armory renovation. Another \$427 million that was appropriated but not yet spent was reappropriated for 2025.

Federal expenditures for 2025 were just over \$148.1 million according to an unaudited estimate. This included money for salaries, construction, and local contracts and purchases.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Michel Natali, the assistant adjutant general of New York Army National Guard, passes the guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Leylan Jones during a ceremony conducted at the Joint Force Headquarters, Latham, N.Y., July 7, 2025.

The total strength of the New York Military Forces at the end of 2025 was 21,159. Strength for each component was:

- ***New York Army National Guard: 11,912***
- ***New York Air National Guard: 5,882***
 - ***New York Naval Militia: 3,046***
 - ***New York Guard: 319***

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, 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.

As adjutant general, Shields has led the New York National Guard response to Hurricanes Florence and Michael in 2018, the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022, the Asylum Seeker Support Mission in New York City from 2022 to 2025 coping with a massive influx of migrants, and the corrections officers walk-out from State Correctional Facilities in 2025.

Shields holds a bachelor's degree in history from the State University of New York, Albany; a master's 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 New York Stock Exchange welcomes New York National Guard Maj.Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York on January 5, 2026, to celebrate their service to our state and nation. To honor the occasion, Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, joined Will Goodwin, Head of Strategic Operations and Corporate Affairs, rang the Opening Bell.



New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, speaks to the audience during a groundbreaking ceremony at the Lexington Avenue Armory, New York, N.Y., Feb. 13, 2025. This 180,000-square-foot historic State Armory, also known as the 69th Regiment Armory, will be transformed into a 21st-century space tailored to meet the needs of the modern New York Army National Guard.

Manning the Force

During federal fiscal year 2025, the New York Army National Guard was tops in recruiting and retention out of all 54 state and territories.

This was the fourth year in a row for New York to earn this distinction.

Meanwhile, the New York Air National Guard was second in the nation for recruiting new Airmen during the same period.

The New York Army National Guard recruited and retained a larger percentage of Soldiers—relative to its assigned strength—than the other state Army National Guard.

At the end of federal fiscal year 2025 on Sept. 30, the New York Army National Guard had recruited 1,878 enlisted Soldiers, 32 warrant officers and 155 officers for a total of 2,065 new personnel.

The New York Army National Guard's authorized strength at the time was 10,342 Soldiers. The federal fiscal year 2025 success in recruiting to a strength of 11,192—113 percent of authorized strength—gained the New York Army National Guard recruiters accolades for the Army National Guard.

The Army National Guard assigns annual recruiting success scores based on recruiting of enlisted and officer personnel, retaining Soldiers in the ranks, and the number of Soldiers who leave each state's Army Guard.

For 2025, the New York Army Guard's score was 134.29. The next highest score was 132.73 for the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

"Recruiting and retention are central to the culture of the New York Army National Guard," said Major General Michel Natali, the New York National Guard's assistant adjutant general, Army.

Meanwhile, for fiscal year 2025, which end-

ed on Sept. 30, the New York Air National Guard recruited 671 Airmen. This was more than any other state than Ohio, which recruited 675 Airmen, for the same period.

The New York Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion consists of 224 Soldiers, led by Lt. Col. John Harder. This breaks down into 171 recruiters, 18 retention non-commissioned officers and 10 officer strength managers.

The budget for 2025 was \$5,796,459.28.

New York Army National Guard recruiters experienced continued success during the three months between the end of fiscal year 2025 and Dec. 31, 2025. Another 20 Soldiers were enlisted for a total of 1,898.

Between January 1 and December 31, 1,819 Soldiers re-enlisted, while 1,637 personnel retired or chose not to re-enlist.

During 2025, the New York Army National Guard conducted four major career days known as Guard X in conjunction with the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). The October 3, 2025, event at Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES, for example, attracted 600 juniors and seniors who

learned about opportunities in the Army National Guard.

New York Army National Guard recruiters attended county fairs across the state during the late summer and fall, with major events at the New York State Fair and the Erie County Fair. Recruiters were also on hand at the Jones Beach Air Show on Long Island over the Memorial Day weekend.

As part of an overall Air National Guard recruiting reorganization, New York Air National Guard recruiters consolidated into a single command in 2025.

Previously, each wing was responsible for its own recruiting effort.

Lt. Col. Kristen Gibson was the first New York Air National Guard recruiting commander, taking over the reins in September. There are 13 Airmen working at headquarters, along with 33 production recruiters, five flight chiefs, and five retention officers at the New York Air Guard's five wings and the Eastern Air Defense Sector.

The budget for the Air Guard recruiting effort was \$301,200 for marketing in 2025.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division renew their oaths of enlistment during a Sept. 5, 2025 ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



A high school student tries on a military vest during the 107th Attack Wing recruiting career fair, April 10, 2025 at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. This career fair gave students an opportunity to talk to Airmen about different jobs in the military.



Dr. Suzanne Smith, the president of the State University of New York at Potsdam, center left, joins Major General Michel Natali, center right, the New York Army National Guards assistant adjutant general, in cutting the ribbon at a new recruiting center at SUNY Potsdam on Monday, March 24.

Between Jan. 1 and Dec.31, 2025, the New York Air National Guard brought in 668 new Airmen, including 73 transfers, while reenlisting 879 Airmen. There were 609 Airmen who retired or did not reenlist during the year.

The New York Air National Guard recruiters worked alongside their Army counterparts at the New York State Fair, the Erie County Fair, and the Jones Beach Airshow during 2025.

The New York Air Guard also hosted a New York Air National Guard Showcase on Sept. 13 at the former Griffis Air Force Base.

Two thousand people turned out for the event to see Air National Guard aircraft up close and to speak with Airmen about their jobs.



A high school student tries out the flight simulator in the new 107th Attack Wing recruiting trailer during a career fair, April, 10, 2025 at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The new recruiting trailer was unveiled late last year.



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York (left), and a Soldier assigned to the New York Army National Guard, observe another Soldier working inside a cell block the Attica Correctional Facility in Attica, N.Y., on Feb. 22, 2025. New York National Guard service members deployed as part of a joint-force response to provide support to the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision during an illegal strike by corrections officers.

“Their response to the prison strike and the ongoing staffing shortages of the Department of Corrections was phenomenal, they endured involuntary mobilization, austere living conditions, stressful duty, unfamiliar interactions with incarcerated individuals, long days and nights, and uncertainty when the mission would end,”

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

- 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.
- Pay and benefits are determined by New York State law, and Guard members are not eligible for federal pay or benefits.

SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITY

During 2025, 12,043 members of the New York Military Forces responded to state and federal missions supporting state government, local communities and the federal government in both State Active Duty and Title 32 duty status.

These missions ranged from replacing striking correctional officers, to assisting with traffic control for the 2025 Presidential Inauguration and supporting cyber security operations for state agencies.

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs directs New York's military forces in homeland defense, homeland security, and support civil authority missions. Generally, state active duty missions take place in New York, but New York Army and Air National Guard personnel can deploy to other states in state active duty status under the terms of Emergency Management Assistance Compacts.

With federal authorization, troops can conduct these missions in Title 32 status federally financed, state controlled under Title 32 of the United States Code.

Support to the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

The largest and longest mission during 2025 was the Division of Military and Naval Affairs response to the correctional officers' strike which began on February 18 and was officially declared over by the governor on March 10.

New York Military Forces personnel replaced striking prison personnel at 42 of the 45 correctional facilities during that period. The initial mobilization on Feb. 19 was 1,479 personnel.

Over 8,200 personnel mobilized during the period of the strike, with 7,359 on duty at the peak of the mobilization on March 1.

However, as part of the governor's agreement with the corrections officer's union, New York Military

Forces troops remained on duty in the prisons to help reduce mandatory overtime for the civilian correctional officers.

The force transitioned from a mandatory mobilization to a volunteer force by April 1. State government officials committed to providing military personnel working in the prisons with a \$2,000 special duty bonus every two weeks, on top of their regular state active duty pay and allowances.

As of December 31, there were 2,939 personnel on duty as part of Tark Force Sentinel fulfilling that commitment.

With correctional officers going on strike, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs moved rapidly to put troops into the prison system to maintain order. The initial mobilization order on February 18 was for New York Army National Guard units.

The commanders of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 153rd Troop Command, and the 369th Sustainment Brigade were each assigned operational areas and units across the state.

The 153rd was responsible for Western New York prisons, while the 369th handled prisons in the Hudson Valley and the 27th Brigade supported Central New York and New York's North Country, the Adirondacks and the region along the Canadian border.

The 42nd Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade was also placed on state active duty to move people and supplies quickly across the state.

On Feb. 20, for example, three UH-60M Black Hawks picked up 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Soldiers at a baseball field in the Bronx to transport them 250 miles north to Bare Hill Correctional Facility near Malone.

By the end of the mission in April, the Army National Guard aircrews had flown over 600 hours and transported 1,050 passengers.

New York Air National Guard, New York Naval Militia, and New York Guard personnel were also placed on state active duty to meet the demands of the correctional facility staffing mission.

As the mission kicked off, conditions were austere. Soldiers were living inside the prisons, sleeping on cots in unused gyms or dorms or wherever they could find space.

As the mission progressed, efforts were made to make things better.

Starlink internet systems were obtained so that Soldiers and Airmen could have internet access to keep in touch with families, for entertainment, and to work on their academics.

The systems also made it easier for companies dispersed across the state to communicate with their higher headquarters.

Cots were replaced with mattresses and eventually Soldiers and Airmen were moved into hotels when possible. The Division of Military and Naval Affairs eventually contracted with 125 hotels and motels across the state for rooms.

Personnel were also given days off when possible.

As the mission transitioned into a volunteer mission, personnel were moved into hotels and motels and could also sleep at home when possible.

To better prepare Guardsmen for the continuing mission, the 106th Regional Training Institute teamed up with DOCCS to create a training program. The one-week course, conducted at DOCCS headquarters in Albany, at Camp Smith and at Groveland Correctional Facility, shared basic correction officer skills.

By the end of 2025, 3,126 personnel had completed this training class.

As the number of personnel on the mission drew down, the number of personnel providing mission



New York Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Jordan Brenden, assigned to the 105th Military Police Company, speaks with a Washington D.C. Metro Transit Police Officer at a metro stop in Washington D.C., Jan. 20, 2025. Approximately 8,000 National Guard service members from approximately 48 states and territories comprise JTF-DC to supported the 60th Presidential Inauguration.



From left, U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Troy Thorn, 224th Security Forces Squadron, 224th Air Defense Group, and U.S. Air Force Airman Benjamin Bachner, 205th Base Defense Squadron, 105th Airlift Wing, assigned to Joint Task Force-District of Columbia (JTF-DC), patrol a metro station in Washington D.C., Jan. 20, 2025.

command and logistical support also declined.

During 2025, a total of 9,241 New York Military Forces personnel were involved in the DOCCS support mission at some point. This breaks down into:

7,155 - New York Army National Guard Soldiers

1,466 - New York Air National Guard Airmen

484 - New York National Militia Members

116 - New York Guard Members

OPERATION ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE SUPPORT

The mission that began on September 29, 2022 to provide administrative and logistical support to shelters housing migrants to the United States that

were established in New York, Buffalo and Rochester came to an end on February 25, 2025.

Service members from all components mobilized to support at more than 152 shelter hotels and humanitarian relief centers assisting more than 89,591 migrants. More than 2,150 Soldiers, Airmen, New York Naval Militia members and New York Guard members were on duty during 2024.

When 2025 opened there were 365 personnel on the mission and the formal operation ended on 17 January. Closeout operations continued through February 25, 2025 with two people on the mission on that date.

SUPPORT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL INAGURATION

Between January 15 and January 25, 532 New

York Airmen and Soldiers were on duty in Washington D.C. to support the 60th Presidential Inauguration. The New Yorkers were part of a force of 7,445 Guard members from 48 states who worked with federal law enforcement and the District of Columbia Police.

Another 500 Soldiers were on standby in New York to deploy if required.

Four hundred and eight military police Soldiers came from the 105th, 107th, 422nd, and 222nd Military Police companies, as well as the headquarters of the 102nd MP Battalion and the 104th MP Battalion. There were 97 Airmen from the security forces of the 105th Airlift Wing, the 174th Attack Wing, the 109th Airlift Wing, the Eastern Air Defense Sector, and the 107th Attack Wing.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Michael Gadman, 106th Rescue Wing Fire Department Superintendent and Master Sgt. Joshua Lebenns, a 106th firefighter, respond to the Pine Barren Fire off Sunrise Highway on March 8, 2025. The 106th Rescue Wing was the first unit to apply water to the fire during a coordinated response that ultimately included more than 80 local fire departments, additional base fire fighting vehicles, an HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopter, two HC-130J Combat King II aircraft, Tactical Air Control Party assigned to the wing, and three New York Army National Guard UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters assigned to A Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment based out of MacArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma, N.Y., conducting aerial firefighting operations using Bambi Buckets.

The 105th Airlift Wing supplied a 12 Airman field feeding team, and the New York Army Guard sent four public affairs and communications specialists.

The 24th Civil Support Team, whose members are trained to identify dangerous chemical, biological, or radiological substances in an emergency, sent 12 Soldiers and Airmen to support their Washington, D.C. counterparts.

OPERATION EMT CERTIFICATION AND RE-CERTIFICATION

On January 21, 2025 a new Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification opportunity was opened to all New York Military Forces, the training partnered with the NYS Department of Health. The goal was to train up to 160 students across four locations throughout the NYC area from 21 January to 28 February 2025.

Students were from all military occupational skill-sets other than medical. The goal was to enhance NYS medical response capabilities and build bridges for military members to transition to civilian roles serving their communities. This training program produced 145 new NYS Basic EMTs. These personnel were immediately utilized after graduation to support state active duty as EMTs in state correctional facilities during the strike and follow up mission.

Any NYS EMT cardholder who was a member of the New York Military Forces could participate to renew their certification through an additional program that consisted of 40 hours of online training followed by 1 day of practical hands-on training at the 106th RTI CSTS. 30 service members have successfully completed their recertification this year. This program was available throughout the entire calendar year.

This was a follow-up to a COVID-19 effort to certify New York Military Forces personnel as EMTs so that they could work in nursing homes and other

health facilities across the state.

SUPPORT TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS

From 5 to 16 March 2025, NYNG service members provided support to send off and receive US Special Olympic athletes from JFK Airport. A total of 20 Soldiers and Airmen supported the sendoff and reception events.

SUPPORT TO LONG ISLAND WILDFIRES

On March 8, 2025 the New York National Guard mobilized forty Soldiers and Airmen to help combat wildfires on Long Island adjacent to Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton beach.

The 106th Rescue Wing deployed one HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopter for fire fighting, along with two C-130 J Combat King II aircraft for overhead command and control. The 3rd Battalion 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion in Ronkonkoma also deployed three UH-60Ms equipped with Bambi buckets.

The 106th HH-60W made 28 bucket drops in 5 hours, dumping approximately 14,100 gallons of water on the blaze. The three UH-60Ms made 43 bucket drops in total, with each crew flying approximately 3 hours and dropping a total of 28,380 gallons of water.

The 106th Rescue Wing also deployed four fire trucks and crews to help fight the three-mile long blaze, which was determined to have started in a backyard grill.

Aircrews remained on call and then conducted



Airmen assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard, disembark from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, New York Army National Guard, at the Dansville Municipal Airport in Dansville, N.Y., Feb. 22, 2025. The Airmen were being moved to support nearby prisons.

recovery operations before being released on March 10th.

JOINT TASK FORCE-EMPIRE SHIELD

Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTF-ES) is a component of New York State's homeland security and antiterrorism efforts, currently comprised of more than 1050 servicemembers from the New York Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and New York Naval Militia.

The task force traces its history back to the New York National Guard response in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center.

In March 2024, JTF-ES began supporting partner agencies in the New York City Subway System with overwatch and presence patrols. Since 2024, this mission has resulted in daily subway support missions at approximately 100 subway locations



Four members of Israel's Home Front Command taught New York Army National Guard engineers techniques for locating and rescuing people from destroyed buildings July 17-19 at the New York State Preparedness Training Center.

throughout New York City supported by over 250 service members.

During 2025, JTF-ES conducted over 200 airport security missions, 750 transit hub security missions, 29,800 subway security support missions, and 4,300 physical security missions.

The New York Naval Militia's Military Emergency Boat Service component of JTF-ES completed over 850 maritime patrols at three strategic locations in the New York Harbor. These patrols, conducted in close coordination with the US Coast Guard, included participation in randomized antiterrorism screening programs, enhancing the region's defense against potential threats.

JTF-ES maintained readiness for emergency response for any scenarios containing a potential impact on New York City. The task force also played a key role in facilitating distinguished visitor missions from senior leaders from the military services, National Guard Bureau, North American Aerospace Defense Command, and state partners from Israel, Brazil, and Sweden.

Collaboration with federal, state, and local law enforcement remained a cornerstone of JTF-ES's efforts. The task force participated in five Multi-Agency Super Surges/Regional Alliance Incorporating Local, State, and Federal Efforts (MASS/RAILSAFE) 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 maintained an intelligence analyst at the New York State Intelligence Center.

JTF-ES is configured to serve as the basis of a New York National Guard Joint Task Force in New York City in the event of an emergency.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - CIVIL SUPPORT TEAMS

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. The 2nd CST focuses on missions across New York and in the region while the 24th CST-WMD focuses on New York City.

These are more commonly known as the Civil Support Teams (CSTs) and are authorized 22 Army and Air Guard personnel.

CSTs are highly trained first-responder units that support civil author-

ities responding to a weapon of mass destruction incident. The CST mission is to support civil authorities during a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) 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.

To accomplish their mission, CSTs prepare by participating in both military and civilian emergency response training. CST team members complete advanced training at several Department of Defense schools, alongside other agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy.

Additionally, CSTs are equipped with high-end detection, analytical, and protective equipment, as well as satellite, secure, and cellular communications to provide connectivity with both civilian and

military forces.

Both CSTs routinely deploy to be prepared during significant events such as races at Watkins Glen or the United Nations General Assembly.

During 2025, the 2nd CST conducted 8 stand-by missions, 6 training exercises, and 8 advise and assist events. Meanwhile the 24th CST conducted 15 stand-by missions, 14 training exercises, 28 advise and assist events, and 5 Secure the cities maritime missions

HOMELAND RESPONSE FORCE

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.

During 2025, the HRF was led by the 153rd Troop Command, based in Buffalo.

Members of the HRF conducted specialized training to familiarize members with comparable civilian hazardous materials response equipment, as well as the incident command structure that enables the HRF element to seamlessly integrate with civilian first responders.



New York Air National Guardsmen with the 105th Attack Wing, assigned to the Medical Element (MEDEL) stands guard at entry control point to the footprint area, as part of a Homeland Response Forces exercise on Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Aug. 5, 2025.



Soldiers from the 24th Civil Support Team react to a simulated injury of a Soldier while conducting a search for a simulated chemical threat at the Palace Theatre in Albany on June 10, 2025. They had to demonstrate their ability to evacuate and decontaminate the Soldier.

The intent of the HRF is to augment state or local authorities by providing enhanced response, rescue, relief, and recovery capabilities that states, localities, and other federal agencies may lack in a CBRN event.

Over the course of this year, HRF units conducted a multiple phase large scale collective training event, exercising their ability to deploy and respond to a CBRN event as well as providing standby support to the 80th United Nations General Assembly.

Significant training events conducted during the year included one large scale collective training event with 550 service members, at Fort Indiantown Gap in August, a staff exercise with 71 service members in Buffalo in June, and support



A New York State Department of Environmental Conservation forest ranger flies in a New York Army National Guard UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter during a joint training exercise at Fahnestock State Park, New York, April 23, 2025. Army aviators, based out of Army Aviation Support Facility #1 in Ronkonkoma, New York, worked with the forest rangers to practice lifting water from a lake and dumping it on simulated targets for fire training.

to the UN General Assembly in September with 46 service members.

CITIZEN'S PREPAREDNESS CORPS

The New York National Guard continued to support the Citizens Preparedness Corps program, first launched in 2014.

The program educates individuals on basic skills to prepare, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. A fundamental portion of the course provides awareness about possible hazards and the actions New Yorkers can accomplish prior to an emergency.

At designated training sessions sponsored by the NYS Governor's Office, a free Disaster Preparedness Kit is given to participants to ensure each household has helpful equipment and supplies on hand.

The mission is organized into 14 teams of two people who deliver the program across the State of New York. There is a four person command team to coordinate the effort.

During 2025, the teams conducted 1,058 Citizen Preparedness events, reaching a total of 38,456 attendees in all 62 New York counties. Fifty-six events were conducted in eleven non-English languages, to include American Sign Language.

During the 338 events sponsored by the NYS Governor's Office, 17,928 disaster preparedness kits were distributed.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION MISSION ASSURANCE ASSESSMENTS DETACHMENT (CIP-MAA)

The CIP-MAA Detachment is composed of 23 New York Army National Guard Soldiers who have the skills and training to conduct assessments of critical defense assets involving transportation, defense, energy, and communications infrastructure.

In 2025, the CIP-MAA Detachment conducted 12 site assessments at locations throughout the eastern half of the United States.

The Detachment works in direct support to Headquarters, Department of the Army, Mission Assurance Program. However, under limited circumstances they have the capability to 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

DMNA provides support using three state active duty personnel 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 NY government.

In 2025, the team supported 22 cyber incident responses, 3 cyber readiness assessments, 3 rapid cyber readiness assessments, 4 statewide water treatment facility reviews in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services, and 1 critical infrastructure tabletop exercises.

CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (CIRT)

DMNA provides support using State Active Duty as a surge capacity to respond to incidents impacting the Metro New York region. NYNG CIRT will augment NYS CIRT in the event of a significant cybersecurity event impacting NY critical infrastructure. NYNG CIRT is a joint team staffed from members of the NYARNG and NYANG.

By the end of 2025 there were four service members on the team working towards Initial Operating Capability by training and equipping 8 more

Soldiers and Airmen to fill 12 positions. At the end of the year six training courses had been completed with 13 more in progress, and two members attended the Liberty Eclipse exercise.

CYBER SUPPORT TO NYS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (CITS)

DMNA partnered with New York State Information Technology Services (ITS) to integrate highly skilled cybersecurity professionals serving in the New York National Guard into New York's Security Operations Center (NYSOC) cyber defense efforts. This initiative addresses critical staffing and expertise gaps, promotes knowledge-sharing between private-sector Guardsmen and government teams, and strengthens operational collaboration between

DMNA and ITS.

These four service members support a broad range of cyber functions, including engineering, automation, cyber threat hunting, and Security Operations Center (SOC) analysis. ITS provides cybersecurity services to 27 major cities and counties, as well as numerous state agencies.

During 2025, Guardsmen resolved 693 security events across multiple agencies, cities, and counties, conducted 3 cyber threat hunts, and enhanced statewide security infrastructure by improving engineering and automation in the NYSOC.



Sean Duffy, disaster preparedness assistant, assigned to the New York State Emergency Operations Center, talks to New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned as liaison officer for the 153rd Troop Command during a tour of the operations center in Albany, N.Y. on Nov.3, 2025.

Honoring New Yorkers in 2025

During 2025, New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen provided funeral honors at the graveside services of 6,661 veterans as mandated by Federal Public Law 106-65.

The law, passed by Congress in 2000, mandates that the military provide funeral honors for any former military members who were not dishonorably discharged. The New York Army and Air National Guard, as community-based military forces, are the primary providers of these services.

The law mandates that at least two service members attend a funeral, ensure that taps is played usually with an “electronic bugle” and that a flag is provided to the family of the former service member.

Retired military members and those who die on active duty are eligible for more elaborate services which can involve up to nine honor guard members and include a rifle salute as well.

During 2025, New York Army National Guard Honor Guard teams conducted 5,051 military funeral honors.

The New York Air National Guard conducted 1,610 funeral honors services.

The New York Army National Guard maintains a centralized honor guard program with Active Duty for Operation Support and part-time personnel working in eight detachments located across New York. At the end of 2025 there were 24 full-time honor guard Soldiers and 44 part-time members.

The cost of the program in FY 2025 was \$2.5 million.

Each Soldier goes through 40 hours of training in the precise movements, folding and presenting the flag, “playing” the bugle, and receiving the casket involved in a military funeral. Soldiers also get more advanced training in how to conduct a firing party and manage the full military funerals.

The New York Air National Guard provides

services through the Air Force base honor guard program. The 106th Rescue Wing at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach; the 109th Airlift Wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia; the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse; and the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome all maintain base honor guards.

The 107th Attack Wing, which is located at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station with the Air Force Reserve's 914th Airlift Wing, provides Airmen for the base honor guard administered by the 914th.

The 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh eliminated its program in March of 2025 after the Air Force reduced honor guard funding.

Those funding cutbacks also resulted in the 109th Airlift Wing, and the 106th Rescue Wing reducing their full-time honor guard members.

At the end of 2025 there were 11 full-time New York Air National Guard honor guard members and 50 part-time honor guard members.

The 109th Airlift Wing coordinates with the honor guard team at Hanscom Air Force Base, while the 174th Attack Wing and Eastern Air Defense Sector honor guards coordinate to provide coverage with the Air Force casualty assistance center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Air National Guard honor guard members go through the same type of training that the Army provides for its honor guard teams. The Air Force also offers mobile training teams to teach Airmen the skills needed.

The number of funerals conducted annually has been declining since the program was initiated in 2001 as the number of veterans in New York has declined.

In 2000, there were 1.4 million veterans living in New York and 349,819 of them were World War II veterans, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. At

one point, 90 percent of military funerals were for World War II veterans.

As of 2023, there were 662,404 veterans in New York and just over 5,000 were World War II veterans.

The number of military funerals conducted by the New York National Guard peaked at 11,326 in 2018.



Above, New York Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Charles Gabriel, Military Forces Honor Guard, presents the folded American flag from the casket of U.S. Army Pvt. Harland Hennessey to his surviving nephew John Hennessey during funeral services with full military honors in Boonville, N.Y., Aug. 23, 2025.

Right, New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the New York Military Forces Honor Guard carry the remains of U.S. Army Pvt. Harland Hennessey during funeral services with full military honors in Boonville, N.Y., Aug. 23. Hennessey, who died as a POW in the Pacific during World War II, was initially buried overseas in a common grave and remained unidentified for more than 80 years before being identified through DNA and dental records.

In 2024, the New York Army and Air Guard conducted 8,783 military funeral services, while in 2023 military funeral honors were conducted 9,083 times. And the number in 2022 was 9,824.



During 2025, the New York Air Guard wings conducted the following funerals:

- 105th Airlift Wing (Newburgh)- 36
- 106th Rescue Wing (Westhampton Beach, Long Island) – 580
- 107th Attack Wing (* Niagara Falls)- with the 914th Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve – 380
- 109th Airlift Wing (Scotia) – 250
- 174th Attack Wing (Syracuse) – 331
- Eastern Air Defense Sector (Rome)- 33

During 2025, the New York Army National Guard conducted the following funerals from eight regional detachments.

- Latham (Albany area) – 356
- Camp Smith (Peekskill) – 366
- Harlem – 505
- Long Island – 1969
- Buffalo – 771
- Rochester – 333
- Bronx – 338
- Syracuse – 413

The Army Guard Long Island detachment and the 106th Rescue Wings do more funerals than others because of the population in the region and the existence of the Calverton National Cemetery on Long Island.



New York Army National Guard Major General Michel Natali, the assistant adjutant general, Army, presents the grandson of retired Army Guard Lt. Col. James Coyne with the American flag during military funeral at Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York on January 15, 2025. Coyne, a Vietnam War veteran, served in the New York National Guard from 1975 to 2003.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the New York Military Forces Honor Guard carry the remains of U.S. Army Pvt. Harland Hennessey funeral services with full military honors in Boonville, N.Y., Aug. 23, 2025. Hennessey, who died as a Prisoner of War in the Pacific during World War II, was buried in a common grave and remained unidentified for more than 80 years before being identified through DNA and dental records.

Counterdrug Task Force

DMNA

The New York Counterdrug Task Force provides military support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies conducting drug enforcement activities. The task force also supports community-based drug demand reduction programs across New York.

Members of the counterdrug task force put their military skills to work assisting law enforcement and community groups. The task force also provides law enforcement with specialized equipment.

New York Army National Guard Col. William Murphy is the New York National Guard counterdrug coordinator.

During 2025, the task force employed 140 Army and Air National Guard personnel.

Ninety-four members supported investigative analysis missions working with law enforcement. Twenty-one task force members supported drug demand reduction outreach efforts by assisting community groups, and 25 personnel conducted program management.

The Investigative analysts aid narcotics investigation efforts through the development of graphs, mapping, pattern analysis, research, database queries, compiling raw data, and report development.

During 2025, the task force main-

tained support and partnerships with 74 law enforcement agencies by resourcing investigative case analysts. The team also sustained relationships with County Crime Analysis Centers across the state.

The task force Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU) completed 147 missions, employing its specialized drug-detection and analysis equipment.

These include:

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

Viken Portable X-Ray device is used to detect smuggled narcotics.

Tru-Narc, a handheld narcotics analyzer that enables operators to conduct on the spot analysis of suspected drugs.

Cellebrite, a software system which speeds up data analysis.

Gemini, another brand of drug analyzer.

Grey Key, a specialized device used by law enforcement to unlock, extract, and analyze data from secured iPhone and Android devices.

MX908, a portable mass spectrometer used to identify drugs.

Through support to law enforcement agencies through 160 missions, the task force contributed to 321 cases during the federal fiscal

year 2025. This resulted in 1,313 seizures broken down into:

- \$135.1 million in illicit drugs.
- \$16.2 million in seized U.S. currency.
- \$1 million in property.

The 25 personnel focused on assisting local anti-drug efforts supported 80 community events during the year. They coordinated and assisted key community organizations.

The task force can also coordinate Army helicopter flights in support of law enforcement when required.



The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, 127 strong, gathers for their annual workshop on September 24, 2025. These dedicated Soldiers and Airmen are the backbone of the program, receiving extensive internal and external training to combat drug-related threats across the state. This photo captures the team's commitment to their vital mission.





New York Counterdrug Task Force members get hands-on with the Gemini, a cutting-edge portable device that can rapidly identify unknown substances, including narcotics, in the field. This training, held at the New York Counterdrug Headquarters on April 24, 2025, equips our team with the latest technology, combining FTIR and Raman spectroscopy to ensure the safe and swift identification of potential threats.

NY Army National Guard Facilities

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs maintains 71 New York Army National Guard facilities located across New York.

These facilities provide space to repair and store vehicles and equipment, conduct unit administration and training, and operate aircraft. They also serve as response centers during state missions and emergencies.

Many of these are legacy buildings constructed in the 19th or early 20th century and are classified as historic landmarks. The division has an obligation to ensure these buildings meet the needs of a 21st Century military, while maintaining their historic character.

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general, has made refurbishing these aging buildings a

priority, along with constructing new ones when required to carry out the mission.

Lexington Avenue Armory

The renovation of the historic 180,000 square foot Lexington Avenue Armory, built in 1904-1906, entered its second year in 2025. The \$132.8 million project will include the replacement of aging mechanical, electrical, plumbing, security, telecommunications and fire prevention systems.

The kitchen, gym, office, assembly hall classrooms, locker rooms, toilet and shower facilities, and storage spaces will all be updated.

During 2025, the bulk of the interior demolition was carried out, as was lead paint mitigation throughout the building. Exterior masonry improvements were made. Steel floor decking on

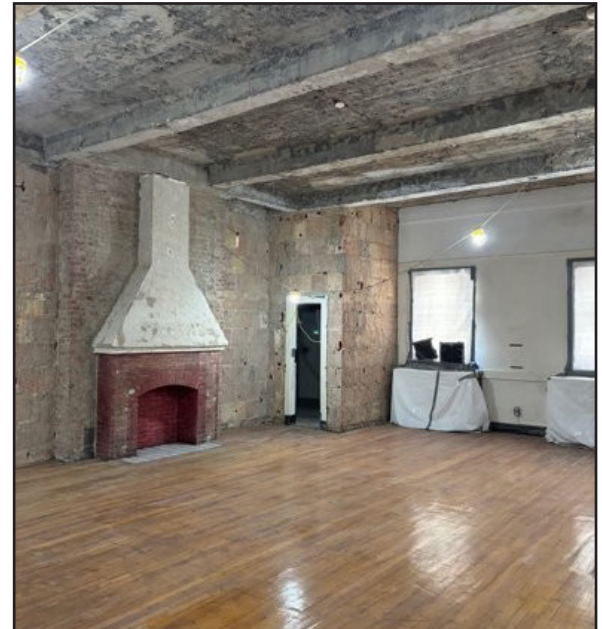
the 5th and 2nd floors was installed. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing improvements were also made on those floors.

At the end of the year the project was 28 percent complete, with the completion date set March 2028.

42nd Infantry Division Headquarters

During 2025 design work continued for a new headquarters for the 42nd Infantry Division. The state-of-the-art facility will be built in Colonie on the site of a former baseball field which was purchased from Albany County.

The facility is expected to cost at least \$120 million. The state of New York has allocated \$30 million for the project. In December of 2025, the National Defense Authorization Act included \$90



During 2025, work continued on the \$132.8 rehabilitation and renovation of the historic Lexington Avenue Armory, the home of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment. The interior of the building was cleared out so that the facility—which was constructed between 1904 and 1906—could be rebuilt for the 21st Century. Key architectural features will be preserved as part of the work.

in federal dollars for the project. The money must now be appropriated in the defense budget in federal fiscal year 2027.

Construction is expected to start in the spring of 2027 and be completed around 2030.

Whitestone Armory

Interior and exterior work continued in 2025 at this armory in Queens, with 90 percent of the latrine and locker room work done at the end of the year. Work also included new elevators, and administrative work renovations for a cost of \$4.46 million.

Exterior work began at the end of 2025, at a cost of \$6.1 million and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2027.

A third phase of the project will involve new heating and air conditioning systems and start in 2028.

New York State Military Museum Addition

During September 2025 work began on plans for a \$15 addition to the historic 1889 armory in Saratoga Springs which houses the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center.

The addition will increase the museums programming and storage space. Work on the state financed addition should begin in 2027 and be finished in July of 2028.

Lockport Armory addition and renovations

A \$6 million project to add classroom space and renovate locker, toilet, and office spaces at the Lockport Armory reached 90 percent completion by the end of 2025.

Camp Smith Training Site senior officer and NCO housing

Throughout 2025 work progressed on a \$3.8 million dollar hotel project for senior enlisted and officers at Camp Smith Training Site. At year end the foundation, utilities, all structural and roof



The outside of the Lexington Avenue Armory, which was built in the French "Beaux Arts" style between 1904 and 1906, is also being renovated as part of a \$132.8 million contract.

system were completed. The project is scheduled for completion in 2026 and is phase one of a two phase project.

Camp Smith Training Site Automated Record Firing Range

Initial work on the \$6.5 million range upgrade began in 2025 and was 20 percent complete by the end of the year.

The result will be a 300-meter multiple lane

state-of-the art range which will enable Soldiers to engage stationary and pop-up infantry targets which will replicate a range of computer-scored, combat-oriented training scenarios in both day and night engagements.

The project is expected to be completed in June 2027.

The upgrade began in 2025 and was 20 percent complete by the end of the year.



New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, and New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy, join state partners in a groundbreaking ceremony at the Lexington Avenue Armory, New York, N.Y., Feb. 13, 2025. This 180,000-square-foot historic State Armory will be transformed into a 21st-century space tailored to meet the needs of the modern New York Army National Guard.



Officials gather for a ceremonial groundbreaking on a \$3.5 million upgrade to a senior leaders housing facility at the New York National Guard's Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, on June 24, 2025. Pictured are, from left, Lt. Col. Chad Clark, design and project manager, Robert Epp, director of Facilities and Engineering for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs; Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy; Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York; and Chris Panzer, the director of Camp Smith.

"We have put a lot of money into facilities. I say it all the time, do things that Soldiers see and use. We have spent \$373 million dollars rehabbing our armories in New York City and another \$150 million throughout the rest of the state rehabbing facilities. Again, showing our Soldiers that they are infact our highest priority and that we do care about them."

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



New York National Guard leaders and New York State partners join Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, and New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy, to cut the ribbon during a ceremony at the Jamaica Armory in Queens, New York, N.Y., Feb. 13, 2025.



Col. Marc Lindemann, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, speaks to the audience during a ribbon cutting ceremony as Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, and New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy, open the Jamaica Armory in Queens, New York, N.Y., Feb. 13, 2025. This 190,000-square-foot historic State Armory for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs was rehabilitated and modernized to meet the needs of today's New York Army National Guard.

Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Army National Guard Facilities:

- 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 in Ronkonkoma, Rochester and Latham.
- 3 Combined Support Maintenance Shops.
- 2 Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team facilities at Fort Hamilton and Stratton Air National Guard Base.
- The Maneuver Area Training Equipment Storage site at Fort Drum.
- A warehouse and the individual equipment Central Issue Facility at Watervliet Arsenal.
- The New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs.
- Barracks, ranges, offices and an armory at Camp Smith Training Site.

Camp Smith Training Site

Camp Smith Training Site is a military installation of the New York Army National Guard in Cortlandt Manor near Peekskill, about 30 miles north of New York City, at the northern border of Westchester County, and consists of 1,560 acres.

Camp Smith maintains and operates six small arms ranges, to include multiple training areas, and indoor weapons training simulators that are available to military units, law enforcement agencies, government and civilian organizations. In 2025, over 5,500 Soldiers conducted weapons familiarization and qualification.

Camp Smith has served as a New York National Guard training facility

since the 1880s. Originally known as Peekskill Camp, it was renamed for New York Governor Al Smith.

During 2025, construction began on a new Automated Record Fire Range to meet the new standards for modernized individual weapons qualifications standards. This project will be completed in the summer of 2027.

Camp Smith's lodging capacity was markedly increased this year. The installation restored 250 bed spaces, complete with new mattresses and lockers, while overall billeting support remained steady at over 100,000 service members annually.

The New York Army National Guard's Medical Command is head-

quartered at Camp Smith and medical readiness weekends for units are conducted there throughout the year. During 2025, MEDCOM processed 7,600 Soldiers for periodic and mission-specific health assessments. These included medical exams for eyesight, hearing, dental, and behavioral health.

Camp Smith is a key component of the New York National Guard's Civil Support Operations and Response.

During 2025, thousands of New York National Guard servicemembers relied on Camp Smith as a base of operations supporting the response to the 2025 prison strike. Special week-long training programs staffed

by Department of Corrections and Community Supervision personnel for New York National Guard personnel working in the prisons.

Camp Smith continues to support Task Force Sentinel, the Command-and-Control element of the NYNG response force's enduring prison support mission.

During 2025, Construction began on new senior enlisted & officer quarters. Nine modern rooms with private bathrooms were added.

In a landmark energy initiative, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs entered an agreement with the New York Power Authority and Con Edison to install a 5-megawatt battery



U.S. Army Spc. Tommy Brice, an intelligence analyst with Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, and Sgt. Alexander Chamberlain, a radio and communications security repairer with Bravo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, New York Army National Guard, participate in a 12-mile ruck march during the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., Oct 25, 2025.



U.S. Army Spc. Jonathan Simmons, an unmanned aerial vehicle operator with Alpha Company, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, New York Army National Guard, participates in a 12-mile ruck march during the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., Oct 25, 2025.

storage system and extensive solar arrays, projected to halve utility bills over the 25-year term.

In Western New York, at the Youngstown Local Training Area, training throughput reached approximately 9,000 service members in 2025. The 204th Engineer Battalion enhanced the area's capabilities by completing two new loading ramps and building relocatable office facilities, directly supporting missions like the 101st Cavalry's annual Spur Ride.

Camp Smith Operations & Training

- Barracks Reset: 250 bedspaces brought back online with new mattresses and lockers.
- Engagement Skills Trainer Capacity: Doubled to 20 lanes, increasing user throughput by 27%.
- Mobilization: Supported the 104th MP Battalion's deployment to the Southwest Border.
- Civil Support: Provided direct support as NYARNG deployed over 6,000 NY National Guard members in support of the Department of Corrections Prison Strike.

Construction & Infrastructure

- New Range: Construction began on a 9-lane Automated Record Fire Range (Est. completion 2027).
- UXO Clearance: Removed over 120 pre-WWII era unexploded munitions.
- Road/Bridge Repair: Completed two projects (under \$2M each) to repair 2023 storm damage, improving access to critical infrastructure.
- New Quarters: A new Senior Enlisted & Officer Quarters adds nine rooms with private baths.
- Solar Project: Partnered for a major solar initiative to halve our utility costs via a 5 MW battery and over 27 acres of solar panels, 3 parking canopies, and 3 roof systems.
- Land Transfer: Transferred 2 acres to improve safety at the main entrance via the Route 6/202 and Annesville Circle DOT project.



U.S. Army Sgt. Joseph Parrotta, an infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard, performs a high-crawl during the Expert Physical Fitness Assessment while participating in the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., Oct 24, 2025.

106th Regional Training Institute

The 106th Infantry Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI), is the New York Army National Guard's military training entity based at Camp Smith Training Site.

The RTI was created in 2003 and assumed the lineage of the 106th Infantry Regiment which fought with the 27th Division in Europe during World War I and in the Europe during World War II as the 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 953rd Field Artillery Battalion, the 2nd Battalion, 101st Military Police, and the 186th Field Artillery Battalion. The regiment was reorganized as part of the 42nd Infantry Division in 1946.

In 2008, Soldiers from the 106th RTI deployed to Afghanistan as a Training Assistance Group working with the Afghan Army.

The RTI is commanded by Col. William B. Murphy, and the senior enlisted leader is Command Sgt. Major Adam Meyer.

During federal fiscal year 2025, the RTI training and graduated over 340 Soldiers from nine states and all three Army components.

The RTI is assigned 92 personnel, with 78 enlisted Soldiers and 14 officers.

The RTI consists of two training battalions.

The 1st Battalion, 106th Regiment, which conducts the 11B Infantryman's course, a small unmanned aircraft system course, combatives, and the Maneuver Tactics Founda-

tion Course among others.

The 2nd Battalion, 106th Regiment instructs officer candidate school, the medical specialist sustainment course, the combat lifesaver course, and the company commander and first sergeant pre-command course, among others.

Courses conducted during fiscal year 2025 were:

- A 21-day basic Infantry reclassification course that graduated 11 Soldiers.
- A 10-day small, unmanned aircraft system operator course, which certified 30 Soldiers to operate the RQ-11B Raven Small Unmanned Aircraft System.
- A 2-day small, unmanned aircraft system planner's course that trained 22 leaders on the basic skills required to plan, support, and execute operations over various terrain/climate conditions with these systems.
- A 5-day maneuver tactics foundation course for infantry and Officer Candidate School (OCS) instructors that graduated seven Soldiers.
- A 5-day hand to hand combat Level I training course and a 10-day Level II training course that graduated 37 Soldiers.
- A 10-day course for military instructors which graduated 35 Soldiers.
- A 5-day physical fitness development course aimed at helping Soldiers improve their health and fitness which graduated eight Soldiers.

- A Pre-Officer Candidate School and OCS course taught in conjunction with the Connecticut Army National Guard, which commissioned two second lieutenants.

- An 8-day medic sustainment course, which recertified 53 Soldiers.

- A 4-day government bus driver training course which certified 48 Soldiers to operate 44 -passenger buses.

- A 4-day Combat Lifesaver Course, which trains nonmedical Soldiers to provide emergency care as a

secondary mission and graduated 29 Soldiers.

- A 5-day company commander and first sergeant pre-command course, which graduated 18 Soldiers.

- A 5-day future leader course, which develops young Soldiers earmarked as future non-commissioned officers and graduated 34 Soldiers.

- A 3-day medical train the trainer course which enabled medics to teach the Combat Lifesaver Course at the unit level and graduated eight Soldiers.



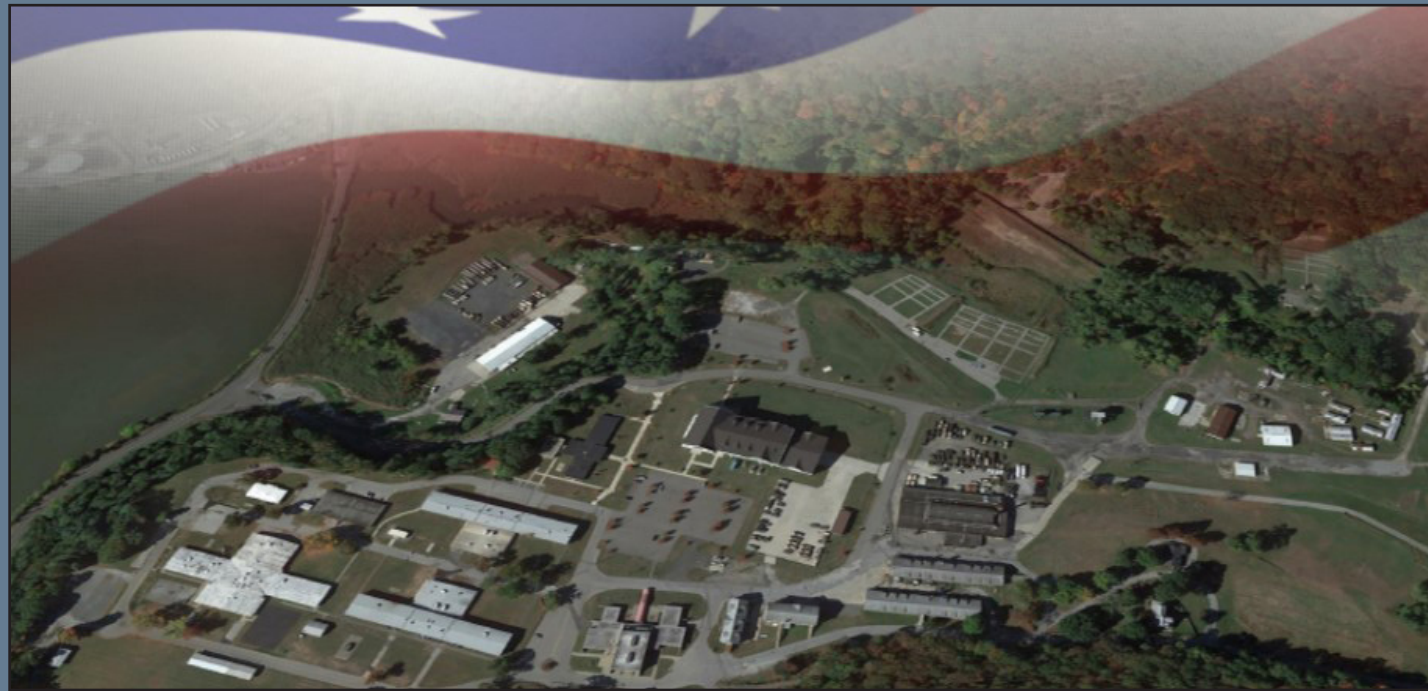
New Jersey and New York Officer Candidates conduct Situational Tactical Exercise lanes with cadets from Albania and Kosovo on April 24, 2025 . The New Jersey National Guard and Albania have been partners for over 20 years in the U.S. Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

***“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

Range Training Days		Training Area Training Use Days		Facility Training Use Days	
Army National Guard	3,829	Army National Guard	33,543	Barracks	108,106
Air National Guard	32	Air National Guard	0	Classrooms	51,686
U.S. Army Reserve	0	U.S. Army Reserve	64	Total:	159,792
U.S. Army	0	Other DoD	612	Simulator Training Days	
Law Enforcement	1,587	NY Guard	18	Army National Guard	6,912
Non-DoD	45	Non-DoD	2,710	U.S. Army Reserve	162
Other DoD	5	Law Enforcement	253	Other DoD	126
Total:	5,498	Total:	37,200	NY Guard	0
				Total:	7,200



Youngstown Training Area

Personnel Trained on Ranges		Personnel Using Training Areas	
Army National Guard	500	Army National Guard	8,947
Air National Guard	0	Air National Guard	0
Total:	500	U.S. Army Reserve	1016
		Other DoD	0
		New York Guard	440
		Total:	9,963

New York Army National Guard

DMNA



Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 430th EOD Company, part of the North Carolina Army National Guard, and the 1108th EOD Company, New York Army National Guard, conduct Explosive Ordnance Disposal under Chemical and Biological conditions in order to complete platoon validation training at Camp Dawson, W.Va., August 4, 2025.

“Central to our ability to answer the call is our people, our Soldiers, our Airmen, our civilian workforce, and their families, that support all of our efforts abroad and here at home,”

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

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 Manager 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.

With a strength of 11,912 Soldiers at the end of 2025, the New York Army National Guard is the fourth largest Army Guard component in the country.

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, who is the commander for New York's Army Guard.

The senior enlisted leader is Command Sgt. Major Leylan Jones. Chief Warrant Officer 5 William Slomo is the Command Chief Warrant Officer.

The New York Army National Guard traces its history back to the colonial militias that defended Dutch and English settlements in the 17th Century. New York militiamen fought in the French and Indian War and during the American Revolution played a key role in winning the Battle of Saratoga in 1777.

New York militiamen fought in the War of 1812, defended Washington in the opening days of the Civil War, and landed in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

The New York National Guard fought in France in World War I and in the Pacific and Europe in World War II. New York Army Guardsmen responded to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and went on to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the Global War on Terror.

The 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, earned the nickname the "Fighting 69th" when it fought as part of the famed Irish Brigade during the Civil War.

In World War I, the 369th Infantry Regiment, whose lineage lives on in the 369th Division Sustainment Brigade, was an African American unit that earned the nickname "Harlem Hellfighters" while fighting with the French Army.

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, traces its history back to a militia unit that escorted George Washington to the first presidential inauguration in 1789, while the 42nd Infantry Division became famous as the "Rainbow Division" in World War I.

At the end of 2025, the New York Army National Guard had an authorized strength of 10,342 Soldiers. The assigned strength of 11,912 put the force at 115.34 percent of authorized strength.

The New York Army National Guard consists of 10,353 enlisted Soldiers, 1,293 officers, and 266 warrant officers.

There were 862 Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers assigned to the New York Army National Guard in 2025. There were also 399 Title 32 dual-status technicians in the force. These are federal civilian employees who must also be members of the

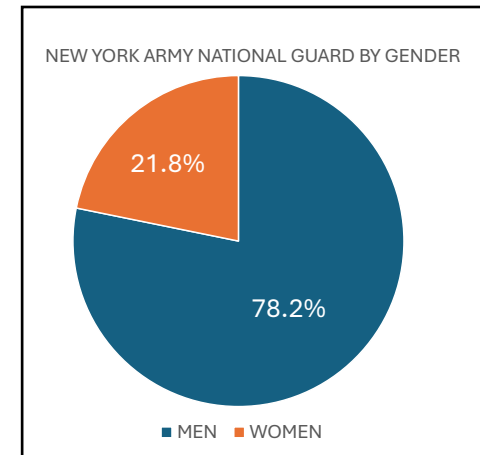
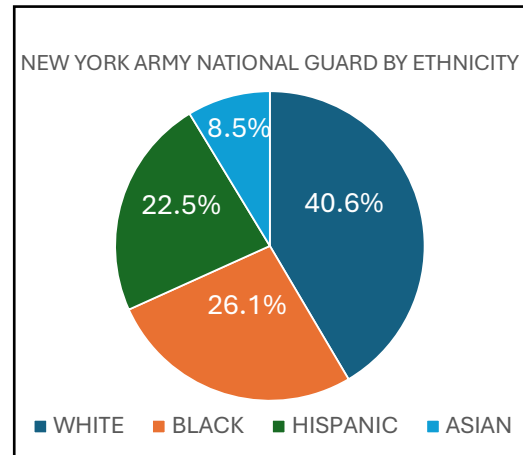
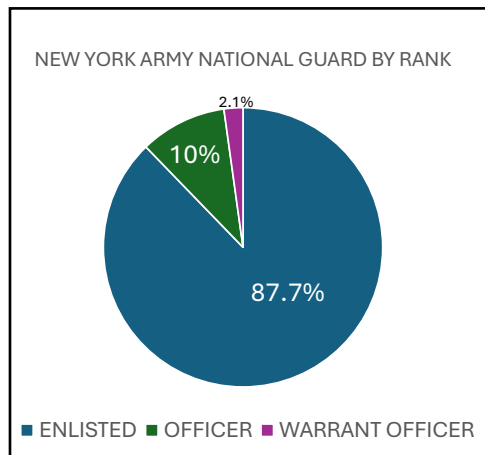
New York National Guard as a condition of employment.

The force operated 2,655 vehicles ranging from Humvees to trucks, to specialized chemical detection vehicles.

The New York Army National Guard is divided into three major components.

The two general officer commands are the 42nd Infantry Division, with an assigned strength of 5,839 in New York at the end of 2025, and the 53rd Troop Command, which had an assigned strength of 5,052 at the end of the year.

The Joint Force Headquarters accounted for the other 1,021 Soldiers. This included the 106th Regional Training Institute, the headquarters detachment at New York National Guard headquarters, and the Medical Command.



"We are on our 5th year of being the leader of strength maintenance, which transfers to the New York Air National Guard which is the largest in the country with 5,900 airmen, 5 wings and the Eastern Air Defense Sector."

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



U.S. service members in 152nd Engineer Support Company, assigned to Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, improve base infrastructure at Manda Bay, Kenya, March 26, 2025. The mission of the 152 ESC is to enhance regional stability and strengthen relationships with partner nations through various construction projects coordinated across East Africa.

42nd Infantry Division



Soldiers assigned to the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Band march through Washington, D.C. on their way to the Army's 250th Birthday Parade on June 14, 2025.

The 42nd Infantry Division is one of eight Army National Guard divisions and one of two New York Army National Guard general officer commands.

The division earned its "Rainbow Division" nick-

name during World War I when it was organized from the National Guards of 26 states to deploy to France in the fall of 1917. The division chief of staff, Douglas MacArthur, said the division would "stretch across the country like a rainbow."

The 42nd served 164 days in combat and was one of the most famous Army divisions during World War I.

At the end of 2025, the 42nd Infantry Division had



Major General Jack James Commander, 42nd Infantry Division

an assigned strength of 5,839 New York Army National Guard Soldiers. This included the Soldiers of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 42nd Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, and the 42nd Division artillery.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade, which normally comes under the control of the 53rd Troop Command, would serve as part of the 42nd Infantry Division if the division is ever mobilized as a whole.

The division has an alignment for training as a higher headquarters for the 44th Infantry Brigade in the New Jersey National Guard, the 86th Infantry Brigade (Mountain) of the Vermont National Guard, and the New Hampshire National Guard's 197th Fires Brigade.

The division is commanded by Major General Jack James, who assumed command in September 2024.

During World War II, the division fought through southern Germany, capturing the cities of Wurzburg and Munich and eventually liberating the infamous Dachau concentration camp.

In 2005, the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters commanded Task Force Liberty, a force of 20,000 Soldiers – including two active Army brigades in north central Iraq. This was the first time a National Guard division had commanded in combat since the Korean War.

The division headquarters also served as the headquarters for Task Force Spartan, the Army combat element in the Middle East in 2020.

And in 2025, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion of the 42nd Infantry Division deployed 600 Soldiers to conduct this mission once again.

The division headquarters was mobilized in June, and farewell ceremonies were held in Garden City, Long Island, Albany, and Syracuse for the over 2,400 family members.

The largest farewell was held at the Nassau County Police Academy in Garden City, Long Island, where James spoke to 240 Soldiers and over 1,000 family members.

From January 24 to February 8, the division headquarters and associated units took part in a Warfighter command post exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, to prepare for the deployment.

The computer simulation exercise tested the ability of the division staff--and assigned brigade staffs-- to coordinate a combined arms fight over hundreds of miles of terrain.

A Swedish Army contingent visited the division as part of the State Partnership Program alignment with the New York National Guard. After years of focusing on brigade-level operations, Sweden, NATO's newest partner is refocusing on large-scale division-level fights again and sought to learn from the 42nd Soldiers.

The division spent two more weeks at Fort Indiantown Gap in June, conducting post-mobilization training before deploying to Fort Hood for additional training and movement to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

In July, the 42nd Infantry Division assumed responsibility for Task Force Spartan from the 38th Infantry Division of the Indiana Army National Guard.

In September, the division headquarters marked the 42nd's 108th birthday with a two-mile run, awards ceremonies, and a reenlistment ceremony at Camp Arifjan.

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, 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.

While the bulk of the division headquarters was deployed for half of 2025, a rear detachment led by Lt. Col. Ryan Brontas, provided administrative support to the division units in New York.



New York Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Jack James, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, based in Troy, N.Y., joins with military leaders, surviving U.S. Army liberators and descendants in Dachau, Germany, on May 3, 2025 to present the colors of the three liberating divisions to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi Germany's notorious Dachau Concentration Camp.



Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division and their family members fill the Empire State Convention Center in Albany during a farewell ceremony held on June 1, 2025. Six hundred Soldiers assigned to the division headquarters are deploying to the Central Command area of operations for ten months this summer.



(left) U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Patrick Clare (right), the Deputy Commanding General of the 42nd Infantry Division and U.S. military exercise director for BRIGHT STAR 2025, shakes hands with Egyptian Army Col. Mohamed Abdelrahman (left), the Port Operations Officer in Charge, at the Alexandria Port, Egypt, Aug. 29, 2025. Multinational operations and exercises, including BRIGHT STAR

2025, enhance the ability of our collective partners to operate in a joint, high-intensity environment, thereby improving readiness, responsiveness, and interoperability. (right) Maj. Gen. Jack James Jr. (left), the commander of the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division, conducts a commander's update brief with the XVIII Airborne Corps during the division's Warfighter 25-3 exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Jan. 30, 2025.





The 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, known as the "Buffalo City Guard," is based in Western New York. The squadron photo shows personnel arranged in formation alongside their tactical vehicles, which include Humvees (HMMWVs) and various support trucks, July 19, 2025.

The 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) is a light infantry brigade and part of the 42nd Infantry Division, with an assigned strength of 3,751 Soldiers at the end of 2025.

The brigade is comprised of five battalions of the New York Army National Guard and the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment.

The brigade's New York elements, with a strength of 3,066 at the end of 2025, are located from Long Island to Jamestown. The Massachusetts battalion has units in Boston and Providence, Rhode Island.

In October 2025, the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, which had previously been a component of the 27th IBCT, was reassigned to the newly created 42nd Division Artillery, or DIVARTY.

The 27th Infantry 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. The brigade's nickname is "Orion". This is a salute to

the brigade patch, which includes the constellation Orion, a reference to the 27th Division commander in World War I, Major Gen. John F. O'Ryan.

The brigade deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 and to Kuwait in 2012, with some elements also deploying to Afghanistan.

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

The brigade's battalions are:

- The 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the "Fighting 69th", is normally headquartered at the Lexington Avenue Armory in Manhattan, but restationed to the Jamaica Armory while their home armory is being renovated. The battalion was organized by Irish immigrants in the 19th century and fought in the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and in Iraq and Afghanistan. The commander is Lt. Col. Andrew Prior.

- The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment is headquartered in Utica. The battalion's Soldiers fought in World Wars I and II and in Iraq. The commander is Major Sean Lucas.
- The 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment is headquartered in Niagara Falls within the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. 101st Cavalry Soldiers fought in World Wars I and II, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The commander is Lt. Col. Joseph Moeller.
- The 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, is headquartered in Melrose, Massachusetts. The regiment traces its history back to 1636 and its Soldiers have fought in King Phillip's War, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World Wars I and II and Iraq and Afghanistan. The commander is Lt. Col. Michael Lutkevich.
- 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion is headquartered in Buffalo. The battalion

has two engineering companies, a signal battery, and an intelligence company, which includes remotely piloted aircraft. The commander is Lt. Col. Christopher Orlando.

- The 427th Brigade Support Battalion, is headquartered in Syracuse, and is responsible for supply, maintenance, and medical support for the 27th brigade. The commander is Lt. Col. Nicholas Tommaso.

Throughout 2025, Soldiers from the 27th IBCT participated in multiple collective training events while concurrently supporting domestic and federal activations.

42nd Infantry Division Warfighter

In January and February, the 27th brigade sent 317 Soldiers to Fort Indiantown Gap to support the 42nd Infantry Division Warfighter exercise conducted before the division's deployment to the Middle East. The brigade staff deployed as part of the training audience for the exercise. Instead of a response cell, the brigade set up tactical operations headquarters and interacted with the division, thereby increasing training value.

Following the Warfighter, the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry provided pre-mobilization training support to the division's headquarters Soldiers at Fort Indiantown Gap, while also completing squad live-fire exercises and crew gunnery qualification.

Support to the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

On February 18, the 27th Brigade was mobilized as part of the New York National Guard response to the corrections officer strike in New York's prison system. Task Force Orion was responsible for overseeing 3,609 personnel from the Army Guard, Air Guard, and New York Naval Militia on duty in 26 prisons. This was the brigades' largest domestic operations mission since Operation Noble Eagle – security at airports – following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Army Birthday Parade

On June 14, 400 Soldiers from the 27th brigade, including 30 from the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry, took part in the Army Birthday Parade conducted in Washington, D.C. The brigade Soldiers represented the 42nd Infantry Division, the only National Guard division invited to participate.

There were 445 Soldiers in the 42nd Infantry Division contingent, including the 42nd Infantry Division Band and key headquarters personnel, who traveled from the division headquarters mobilization station at Fort Indiantown Gap. The soldiers arrived in Washington on June 11 and departed on June 15.

National Training Center Rotation 25-09

The brigade deployed 244 Soldiers to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California in July and August to serve as an opposing force for National Training Center Rotation 25-09.

Charlie company from the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, Bravo battery from the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, and an electronic warfare platoon from the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, "fought" against the Florida Army National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team during the brigade's

Colonel Mathew Kilgore Commander, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Col. Mathew Kilgore is an infantry officer and a 2002 graduate of the United States Military Academy who deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

He served on active duty in the 1st Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) before joining the New York Army National Guard in 2008.

Kilgore has served as a company commander and executive officer in the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, and as the commander of the 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment. He has also served as

the commander of the recruiting and retention company in New York City, the training branch chief for the New York Army National Guard and the deputy director of joint operations.

Kilgore has also served as the Chief of Staff of the 53rd Troop Command.

Kilgore is a graduate of the Army War College and the Reserve Component National Security Course as well as the Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the



Meritorious Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

combat certification exercise.

State Partnership Program Participation

In April, the brigade sent a delegation to Sweden with Major General Michel Natali, the assistant adjutant general, Army, to observe a river-crossing exercise conducted by the Swedish Lifeguard Regiment and the Gota Engineer Regiment in Dalälven, Sweden.

The 27th Brigade will partner with the Lifeguard Regiment and will take the lead in deploying Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, the 102nd MP Battalion, and the 369th Sustainment Brigade to Sweden for NATO Exercise Aurora 26.

Brigade leaders met with members of the Brazilian army to prepare for participation in exercise Southern Vanguard 25, an exercise conducted with Chile's military. Leaders of the 2nd Battalion,



U.S. Army Pfc. Jerry Remy, an infantryman with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard, performs a high-crawl during the Expert Physical Fitness Assessment while participating in the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., Oct 24, 2025.

108th Infantry, also met with Brazil's 71st Motorized Infantry Battalion to discuss future exercises.

Expert Badge Testing

In October the 27th Brigade teamed up with the 10th Mountain Brigade's 2nd Mobile Brigade Combat Team to conduct testing for the Expert Infantryman Badge, Expert Field Medical Badge, and Expert Soldier Badge at Fort Drum.

18 Soldiers competed for these highly regarded distinctions. Six Soldiers earned the Expert Infantryman Badge, three earned the Expert Field Medical Badge, and one received the Expert Soldier Badge. Three of the infantry

Soldiers received "True Blue" status by passing each of the infantryman badge tests flawlessly.

New Equipment

During 2025 the 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion was allocated three MRAP All-Terrain Vehicles (M-ATV) with a Gunners Protection Kit installed. This is a smaller version of the Mine Resistant Protected Vehicle developed for use in Afghanistan.

The brigade was also issued new and improved electronic warfare planning computers, as well as new Common Data Link Interface Module systems to link weapons to targeting information.



U.S. Army Sgt. Alexandro Dierdonne, UH-60 helicopter repairer, competes in a swimming event during the 2025 State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., April 5, 2025.



U.S. Army Spc. Kevin Campos a fire control specialist and Sgt. 1st Class Felix Camacho, both with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, run during an Expert Physical Fitness Assessment while participating in the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., Oct 24, 2025.



New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Garriss, presents an award to Spc. Christian Habecker, a cavalry scout, for winning the Best Warrior Competition in the junior enlisted category during the 2025 State Best Warrior Competition at West Point, N.Y., April 10, 2025.

The 42nd Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade is configured to deploy and command a mix of Army aviation assets in support of the 42nd Infantry Division or other Army forces. At the end of 2025, the brigade had an assigned strength of 1,127 Soldiers.

The brigade is commanded by Col. Paul Bailie, who also serves as the State Army Aviation Officer. The brigade's senior non-commissioned officer is Command Sgt. Major Dolan P. Brammer Jr.

The brigade is headquartered in Latham but is due to move to the Scotia Glenville Armed Forces Reserve Center in 2026.

The 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, and the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion are organic to the brigade. The brigade also has administrative responsibility for aviation elements that have higher headquarters in other states, but which are part of the New York Army National Guard.

The brigade traces its history back to 1947, when the New York Army National Guard consolidated L-17 artillery-spotting aircraft into a single unit on Staten Island. The brigade deployed to Iraq in 2005 as part of the 42nd Infantry Division and to Kuwait in 2013.

The brigade consists of the following elements:

The 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion 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. The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Eric Fritz.

During 2025, the battalion was awarded the Army Aviation Association of America John J. Stanko Award for Best National Guard Aviation Unit for the second year in a row.

The 642nd Aviation Support Battalion is headquartered at the Army Aviation Support Facility at Frederick Douglas Great Rochester International Airport with elements in Dunkirk, Olean, Ronkonkoma, and Brooklyn. The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Christopher Gagliardo.

The 642nd has administrative oversight of:

Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion, is an air ambulance company that operates six UH-60L Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopters.

Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion, which operates seven CH-47F Chinook heavy lift helicopters.

Also operating at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Latham are:

Detachment 2, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 224th Security and Support Battalion, which flies two UH-72 Lakota light utility helicopters. These are civilian aircraft configured to support civilian authorities.

Detachment 5, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 245th Aviation Regiment, which operates a C-12, the military configuration of the Beechcraft King Air, which transports passengers.

Operational Missions:

Support for the United States Secret Service

In January 2025, the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, and B Company, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, wrapped up a mission supporting the United States Secret Service. Two UH-60M aircraft and 15 Soldiers were on duty providing transportation and aerial security support during the 2024 election season.

Support for the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site

From February 1 to 19, two pilots assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, General Support Aviation Battalion, traveled to Kwajalein Atol, 2,300 miles west of Hawaii, to support operations at Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site. The two conducted 56 air movements of 447 passengers and logged 45.2 flight hours during the two-week support mission.

Support for the Department of Corrections and Community Services

During the New York National Guard's response to the Department of Corrections and Community Services corrections officer strike, Soldiers of the brigade transported 1,041 personnel and 148,842 pounds of cargo in support of the response mission. In one instance, UH-60 M Black Hawks touched down in New York City, loaded up mem-



Col. Paul Bailie speaks during the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade change of command ceremony at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, New York May 17th.

Colonel Paul Bailie Commander, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

bers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, and flew them to Bear Hill Correctional Facility in Malone because guards had begun walking away from their jobs.

During the period from February 18 to April, aircrew flew over 565.2 hours in support of the mission.

Support for Long Island Wildfire Suppression

On March 8, 15 Soldiers assigned to B Company, of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, responded when a massive wildfire threatened eastern Long Island, including the F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base.

The aircrews flew aerial firefighting missions, dumping 28,380 gallons of water in 43 drops on the fire. The aircraft flew a total of 7.7 hours, working in conjunction with an HH-60W search- and- rescue helicopter from the 106th Rescue Wing.

Support to Rhode Island National Guard's Leapfest Competition.

Five Soldiers from Bravo Company of the 3rd Battalion, 126th General Support Aviation Battalion supported the Rhode Island Army National Guard's annual Leapfest military parachuting competition from July 29 to August 4 in Quonset, Rhode Island. The annual event draws competitors from around the world.

The New Yorkers flew 19.4 hours and dropped 340 jumpers from a CH-47F Chinook.

TRAINING

In August, the 3-142nd conducted Annual Training at Fort Drum, NY. Soldiers conducted Aerial Gunnery Qualification Tables, along with individual weapons qualification for soldiers with the M17 pistol and M4 carbine, as well as conducting multi-ship training flights.



Soldiers of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade conducted a change of command ceremony at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, New York May 17th. During the ceremony, command was passed from Col. Jason Lefton to Col. Paul Bailie.

Col. Paul M. Bailie joined the United States Army in 1998 and received his commission from the Officer Candidate School in 2002.

He took command of the 42nd Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade in 2025 and also serves as the New York Army National Guard State Army Aviation Officer.

After completing the Aviation Officer Basic Course in 2003, Bailie held several assignments within 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion. He served as a company platoon leader, battalion personnel officer, headquarters company commander, and deployed to Iraq as the Alpha Company Commander.

After his deployment to Iraq, he held assignments in 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, in the 42nd Infantry Division as the Deputy Division Aviation Officer, and in New York Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters as the Deputy State Army Aviation Officer.

Bailie briefly served as the acting operations officer for the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade before he was selected to serve as the Executive Officer, 3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion in August 2015.

In 2018, Bailie was assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division as the Division Aviation Officer and deployed in this role in support of Operation Spartan Shield. Upon the completion of this deployment, Bailie was assigned as the aviation



brigade executive officer and full-time brigade administrative officer, until his selection and assumption of command of 3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion in 2023.

Bailie is a Master Army Aviator qualified in the UH-72 Lakota, UH-60 Blackhawk, OH-58 Kiowa, and UH-1 Iroquois. He holds certifications as an Instructor Pilot in both the UH-60 Blackhawk and UH-72 Lakota.

Bailie's military education includes a number of aviation qualification courses, the state Army Aviation Officer Course, Command and General Staff College, the Accident Investigation Course and the Army War College.

Bailie has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and a master's degree in business administration.



A New York Army National Guard UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter hovers above The Plain at the United States Military Academy at West Point on August 28, 2025 as Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) fast rope down to the ground during a capabilities demonstration for cadets.

During the training, 170 Soldiers qualified on the M4, 107 qualified on the M17, and 50 on aerial gunnery.

Throughout 2025, the 3-142nd supported the United States Military Academy's Department of Military Instruction's Vanguard program in which active-duty Soldiers train and mentor cadets.

The battalion provided airlift during air assault exercises and conducted planning with the cadets and staff, which provided training for the Guardsmen.

The 3-142nd also worked with Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to conduct Fast Rope Insertion and Extraction System exercises at West Point. Four UH-60Ms and crews participated in the training, enabling the 2-506th Infantry to become the first conventional infantry unit to certify in this skill.

Finally, the battalion took part in an August 28 demonstration with the 101st Airborne Soldiers, during which the Guard aviators working alongside air crews from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment inserted infantry troops and then howitzers as part of a simulated assault on West Point's Plain.

3-142nd Aviation

- Company A: 10 x UH-60M Black Hawks
- Company B: 10 x UH-60M Black Hawks
- Det. 2, A Co., 1-224 Avn Spt: 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

JFHQ-MNAV

- Det. 5, C Co., 2nd Battalion 245th Aviation Regiment: 1 x C-12 Huron



New York Army National Guard UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters deliver M-119 howitzers to The Plain at the United States Military Academy at West Point on August 28, 2025 during a capabilities demonstration for cadets.

The 42nd Division Artillery, or DIVARTY, is the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for the 42nd Infantry Division.

The DIVARTY establishes standards of training and certification for the division's artillery battalions and advises the division commander and brigade commanders on employment of fires.

In combat, the DIVARTY commands the division's field artillery units, fire elements task organized with the division, and is responsible for the coordination of fires for the division headquarters. The DIVARTY is able to direct all division artillery and fires assets onto one target and divide fire support among targets as required.

The DIVARTY is based in Jamaica and has a strength of 910 Soldiers. It is the higher headquarters of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, which has a strength of 706 Soldiers, bringing the New York Army National Guard strength of the DIVARTY to 1,616 personnel.

The DIVARTY has training oversight of the New Jersey National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, and the Massachusetts National Guard's 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery.

Col. Jeffery Roth is the DIVARTY commander, while the senior enlisted leader is Command Sgt. Major Jack Martilotta.

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, nicknamed the Wash-



New York Army National Guard Capt. Greg Cheung, the commander of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery regiment, checks out target sets with the battery first sergeant during a deployment to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California during July, 2025.

ington Grays, is headquartered at the Jamaica Armory in Queens. The battalion is composed of two batteries of five 105-millimeter M119A3 howitzers and one battery of six 155-millimeter M-777A2 howitzers. The battalion fought in World War II and in Iraq. The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Eric Emerling.

The 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment is headquartered in Morristown, New Jersey, and has assigned strength of 643 personnel. The battalion has two batteries of M119A3 105-millimeter howitzers and a battery of six M777A2 155-mil-

limeter howitzers. The battalion traces its history back to World War I.

The 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, is headquartered in Brockton, Massachusetts, and traces its history back to 1636. It is the oldest field artillery unit in the U.S. Army. The battalion has an assigned strength of 643 personnel and consists of two batteries of M119A3 105-millimeter howitzers and a battery of M777A2 155-millimeter howitzers.

Operations

The 42nd DIVARTY took part in the 42nd Infantry Division Warfighter

exercise in January and February 2025 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. The DIVARTY deployed its entire staff for the exercise. This provided exceptional training for the DIVARTY, while allowing the division headquarters Soldiers to work with a fully-staffed subordinate unit.

The DIVARTY took the opportunity to test the digital command and control system during the command post exercise.

New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Sixty-five members of the DIVARTY were mobilized for state active duty during the corrections officers' strike at DOCCS facilities from February to April.

Army's 250th Birthday Parade

DIVARTY Soldiers were part of the 42nd Infantry Division contingent, which took part in the Army's 250th Birthday Parade in Washington, D.C., on June 14, 2025.

Reoccupation of the Jamaica Armory

After five years, the headquarters of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery reoccupied the historic Jamaica Armory



A UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter assigned to the New York National Guard's A Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, prepares to lift an M-117 howitzer belonging to the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery during a training exercise at Fort Drum, New York on June 8, 2025.

following a \$100 million renovation of the facility. The headquarters battalion had been operating at the Harlem Armory while the Jamaica Armory was under construction.

New Equipment

During 2025, the 42nd DIVARTY was slated to acquire the Army's Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, or AFATDS. The system is the Army and Marine Corps' primary automated Command, Control, and Communications system for planning, coordinating, and executing fire support, ranging from mortars to rockets, missiles and close air support.

DIVARTY elements were also resourced for the AN/TPQ-53 Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) Radar. This system is a replacement for older counterfire radars. It is used by the U.S. Army to detect, classify, track, and locate the point of origin of enemy rockets, artillery, and mortar systems.

DIVARTY was also slated to receive the AN/TRC-238(V)4, a variant of the Terrestrial Transmission Line of Sight (TRILOS) radio. This is a modern, small-form-factor terminal providing high-capacity, multi-channel communication. It enables point-to-point and point-to-multipoint networking to connect teams using multiple bands.

Finally, DIVARTY was equipped with five M1078A2 five-ton medium tactical vehicle trucks. They are 6X6 vehicles designed with a long body for high mobility to transport cargo over rough terrain.

Colonel Jeffery Roth Commander, 42nd Division Artillery

Col. Jeffery Roth was commissioned in 2001 through the Michigan State University Army ROTC program.

He served as a platoon leader and executive officer in the Michigan Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery. He deployed with the Michigan Army Guard's 1st Battalion 125th Infantry Regiment to Egypt as part of the Multinational Force and Observers.

In 2007 he transferred to the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery. Roth served as a battery commander, battalion operations officer, battalion executive officer and in 2021 was named the commander of the 258th.

He also served as the deputy chief of fires and the chief of fires for the 42nd Infantry Division and deployed with the division to Kuwait in 2020 in support of Operation Spartan Shield. During that deployment he led the task force Emergency Operations Center responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Kuwait and Jordan.

In a state active-duty capacity, Roth serves as the commander of Joint Task Force-Empire Shield, the New York National Guard security force in New York City.

He has a long history of civil service in New York City, most recently as New York City Deputy Mayor for Operations. He is the



author of the book "Fires, Floods and Taxicabs: Taking a bite out of Big Apple Bureaucracy."

Roth is a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University and holds a Master of Public Policy and Urban Planning from the John F. Kennedy School of Government and Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. He is also a graduate of the Army War College with a Master of Strategic Studies.

His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Multinational Force and Observers Medal and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

53rd Troop Command



Swedish Army Pvt. Jesper Andersson, an infantryman, fires their M9 during the 2025 State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., April 9, 2025.

Brig. Gen. Jason Lefton Commander, 53rd Troop Command

"I am extremely proud to serve as the commanding general of the 53rd Troop Command. I will continue to lead with the Army Values, with an out-front style to get the mission done."

-- Brig. Gen. Jason Lefton,
Commander 53rd Troop Command

Brig. Gen. Jason Lefton earned his commission through the ROTC program after graduating Marion Military Institute in 1996.

Lefton joined the New York Army National Guard as an artillery officer. In 2000 he transferred to aviation and became a UH-60 pilot in the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Regiment in January of 2001.

During his career, Lefton deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of the Stabilization Force 12, as a Liaison Officer for Multi-national Division Southeast and the Task Force Battle Captain, and deployed as a staff officer to Iraq.

Lefton previously served as the New York State Army Aviation Officer from 2021 through 2025. He also served as the commander of the 42nd Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade from 2021 to June of 2025. From 2017 to 2021 he commanded the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion.

Lefton has served as a company commander, battalion executive officer, brigade executive officer, and battalion commander. During his time as a Battalion Commander for the 3rd Bat-

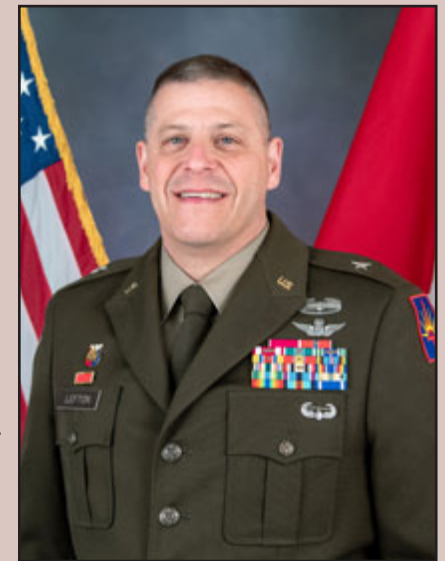
talion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Regiment, Lefton lead the Battalion to Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Irma and Maria.

Lefton holds a master's in strategic studies from the United States Army War College and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. He completed his bachelor's degree in Rhetoric and Communications at the State University of New York.

He has civilian work experience as a fully registered representative in the financial services industry. He holds a Commercial Helicopter Pilot license, a Single Engine Airplane license, and a Commercial Multi-Engine with instruments license. He is rated to fly the C12, UH-60 A/L/M helicopters, the CH-47D, the UH-72A, the UH-1, and the TH-67.

In civilian life he is the Director of Real Property and Facilities Management for the New York State Office of General Services.

Lefton's awards include



the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal for service in the former Yugoslavia, the Combat Action Badge, Master Army Aviator Badge, and Air Assault Wings.

The 53rd Troop Command is one of two general officer commands in the New York Army National Guard and is responsible for combat support and combat service support elements located across New York.

At the end of 2025 there were 5,052 Soldiers assigned to the 53rd Troop Command.

The command is headquartered at Camp Smith Training Site in Cortlandt Manor and is commanded by Brig. Gen. Jason Lefton.

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, with 16 specialized Soldiers and Airmen, is based at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn and focuses on the New York City metropolitan area.

The 2nd Civil Support Team, with 18 personnel assigned at the end of 2025, 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 in

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

Another small but unique element is the Cyber Protection Team 173, a joint New York and New Jersey unit with 32 personnel. 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 138th Public Affairs Detachment, a 10 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 138th Public Affairs Detachment Soldiers also cover New York Army National Guard activities.

The 138th Chaplain Detachment is also assigned to the 53rd Troop Command.



The 152nd Engineer Support Company, New York National Guard, poses for a group photo during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Feb. 11, 2025. The ceremony is a military tradition representing a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a mission from one unit to the next.



U.S. Army Sgt. David Amendola, a military policeman assigned to the 442nd Military Police Co., New York Army National Guard, plots landmark points during the land navigation evaluation at the 2025 State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., April 5, 2025.

Colonel William F. Snyder Commander, 153rd Troop Command

The 153rd Troop Command, headquartered at the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo, is a brigade-size element with 1,732 Soldiers assigned to military police, engineers, and other combat support and combat service support elements at the end of 2025.

The commander is Col. William F. Snyder, and the senior enlisted leader is Command Sgt. Major Morgan Cady.

The 153rd troop command's battalions are:

The 102nd Military Police Battalion, headquartered in Auburn with elements in Rochester, Hornell, Buffalo, Latham, and Utica. The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Andrew Miller.

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, is commanded by Lt. Col. Nicholas Whaley.

The battalion consists of an engineer headquarters company, two engineer construction companies (vertical and horizontal), an engineer support company (heavy equipment), an engineer forward support company, and a quarry detachment. Some companies trace their history to

World War I.

The 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), with elements in Glenville and Queensbury at the end of 2025, is commanded by Lt. Col. Kimberly McCarty.

In combat, the battalion headquarters can control three to five explosive ordnance disposal companies. 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 in the Pacific during 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.

Operations

From January to November 2025, 111 Soldiers assigned to the 206th Military Police Company, a part of the 102nd Military Police Battalion, were deployed to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, supporting Combined Joint Task Guantanamo for Operation Southern Guard, where they conducted detention operations.

The Soldiers also supported the establishment of a federal migrant detention center at the base.

Another 145 Soldiers assigned to the 152nd Engineer Support Company deployed to Djibouti, Kenya, and Somalia in support of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa from

Colonel William F. Snyder has served in the New York Army National Guard since October 1996, including seven years as an enlisted Soldier. He was commissioned in 2003 through the New York National Guard's Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps.

In civilian life, he is a high school history teacher in the Oakfield-Alabama Central School District, Oakfield, NY.

Colonel Snyder has previously served as an engineer platoon leader, 152d Engineer Battalion; company commander for Alpha Company, 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB); Training Assistance Group Engineer, 106th Regional Training Institute (RTI); S4, 27th BSTB; S3, 27th BSTB; XO, 27th BSTB; Brigade Engineer, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT); Liaison Officer, 42nd Infantry Division; Commander, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB); Deputy Commander, Joint Multi-national Training Group-Ukraine (JMTG-U); and XO, 153rd Troop Command (Brigade).

He has deployed to Afghanistan

January to November of 2025. The company, part of the 204th Engineer Battalion, completed 205 construc-



in 2008 with the 106th RTI as the Training Assistance Group Engineer, to Ukraine in 2017 with the 27th IBCT, supporting the JMTG-U mission, and again to Germany in 2022 with the 27th IBCT, supporting the JMTG-U mission.

Colonel Snyder holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies Secondary Education and a Master of Science in History from Buffalo State College, and a Master of Strategic Studies from The U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Basic Course, U.S. Army Maneuver Captain's Career Course, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

tion projects valued at over \$7.5 million during the deployment.

These projects included aid station

construction, improved operating base perimeter walls, improved operations centers, and building personnel bunkers. These projects contributed to force protection and enabled the task force to better execute missions in the region.

The company's Soldiers also responded when monsoon rains caused flooding at base facilities, using pumps to drain water and shoring up water-logged defenses.

Civil Support Missions

From 18 February to 01 April 2025, the 153rd Troop Command brigade headquarters served as the nucleus of Joint Task Force West, in response to the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's civil support response.

Joint Task Force West was assigned three subordinate battalions stationed in Western New York, with over 800 Service members, supporting eight New York State prisons within the Western hub. Additionally, two of the bridge's subordinate organic battalions were attached to Joint Task Force North with over 450 Soldiers supporting correction operations at seven New York State prisons.

Training

In June 2025, the 153rd Troop

Command (Brigade) completed second-year collective training required for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II Homeland Response Force (HRF).

The HRF is a component of the National Guard's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear enterprise. The 153rd staff was tasked to provide command and control for response missions within FEMA Region II, which encompasses New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The 102nd Military Police Battalion serves as the headquarters for the CBRN Task Force within New York's Homeland Response Force. It oversees 208 Soldiers and Airmen who conduct search and extraction, medical support, decontamination, and fatality search and recovery operations during a CBRN incident.

From 23 June through 10 July 2025, the 102d Military Police Battalion conducted annual training at Fort Drum, New York. The training focused on Army detention operations and included and observation contingent from the Swedish Defense Forces, one of three National Guard State Partnership Program countries aligned with the New York National Guard.

Swedish Defense Forces Mili-



Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 430th EOD Company, part of the North Carolina Army National Guard, and the 387th EOD Company, Massachusetts Army National Guard, conduct measurements to aid in the identification of an unexploded ordnance item during platoon validation training of the 501st Ordnance Battalion held at Camp Dawson, W. Va., August 4, 2025.

tary Police observed how the 102d Military Police battalion conducts command and control of detention operation, in support of large-scale combat operations. This partnership exchange set conditions for future bi-national Military Police combat support and detention training events in 2026 and beyond.

From 19-27 August 2025, the 204th Engineer Battalion provided a survey section of engineers to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, to survey and design infrastructure improvement construction projects, that directly support the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing's forward base of operation in the Arctic.

From 28 July through 08 August, the 501st Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) conducted the first-ever, multi-state EOD platoon validation at Camp Dawson, West Virginia. Four out-of-state EOD companies, a section of the 48th Ordnance Group (EOD) from the Arizona Army National Guard, and multiple Active-Duty Army EOD agencies and activities took part in the exercise.

The platoon validation exemplified the necessity and capability of the Army National Guard- aligned for training program, to provide technical and tactical oversight of subordinate EOD units validation requirements throughout the Army's Regionally Aligned Readiness and Moderation model.

It also facilitated the reintegration of Army EOD battalion headquarters tactical-level command and control, back into support of division and corps large-scale combat operations.

The 204th Engineer Battalion conducted its annual training at Fort Drum in June 2025, emphasizing live fire exercises and core engineer skills such as unit defense. Additionally, the Battalion Headquarters used Situational Training Lanes to effectively command their subordinate Engineer Companies. This annual training prepares the Battalion for future missions.

The 466th Medical Company conducted training at the Sustainment Training Center in Camp Dodge, Iowa, in September 2025. This training enhanced the unit's medical capabilities, strengthening its ability to support future operational requirements, not only for civil support operations but also for Large-Scale Combat Operations.

During the event, the 466th Medical Company hosted a contingent of Swedish Medical Officers who observed the unit's training for future incorporation into their own training.

The 466th Medical Company also carried out the deployment of the gas flow analyzer. This equipment aims to enhance the performance of the units' ventilators.

The 827th Engineer Company is currently assigned to the Contingency Response Force. This mission enhances key wartime capabilities for combatant commanders within designated areas of responsibility as part of the Joint Force. It also requires thorough preparation for potential crises or conflicts, supported by an approved deployment plan. The company must maintain a heightened state of readiness to fulfill this mission.

In May 2025, the 1156th Engineer Company deployed a 15-Soldier team to

assist the New York Air National Guard with interior renovations in several buildings in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland.

Additionally, the company trained with the M917A3 Dump Truck and the 40-ton Type 1 Family of All Terrain Cranes. These assets prepare the 1156th Engineer Company and the 204th Engineer Battalion for upcoming construction projects and enhance their civil support capabilities.

New Equipment

During 2025, the 204th Engineer Battalion was issued the AN/TKQ-5(v) ENFIRE (Engineer Field Reconnaissance) kit. This is a tactical instrument set designed for rapid terrain reconnaissance, data collection, and mapping. It is often used by engineers for bridge, road, and obstacle reconnaissance.



Rollin Gold, a homeland security program analyst assigned to the New York State Emergency Operations Center, talks to New York Army National Guard Soldiers assigned as liaison officer for the 153rd Troop Command during a tour of the operations center in Albany, NY on Nov. 3, 2025.



Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 153d Troop Command Brigade, 53rd Troop Command, New York Army National Guard run in the Western New York Armed Forces Day 5K alongside veterans and civilians in Buffalo, N.Y., May 17, 2025.

The 369th Division Sustainment Brigade is aligned with the 42nd Infantry Division for training but falls under the 53rd Troop Command for administrative purposes. The brigade is headquartered at the 5th Avenue Armory in Harlem.

The brigade's strength at the end of 2025 was 3,170, with units located in armories from Farmingdale to Kingston.

The brigade is commanded by Colonel Bryon Linnehan. The senior enlisted leader is Command Sgt. Major Javier Lugo.

The 369th Division Sustainment Brigade traces its history back to the 369th Infantry Regiment of World War I.

The 369th was originally organized as the 15th New York, a segregated Black New York National Guard infantry regiment based in Harlem. When the United States entered World War I the regiment was filled with African American volunteers from across the Northeast.

Initially, the men were used as stevedores unloading ships, but when the French Army asked for American reinforcements, General John J. Pershing assigned the 369th to the French.

They fought with French equipment and wore French helmets but distinguished themselves in action and 171 of their Soldiers were awarded the Croix de Guerre.

One of the regiment's commanders, Col. Benjamin O. Davis went on to become the Army's first Black general officer.

On September 25, 2025, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the descendants of the Soldiers of the 369th Infantry. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth; Air Force General Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Air Force General Steven Nordhaus, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, were in the audience when Linne-



New York Army National Guard 1st Lt. Michael Catalano, the executive officer of the 37th Finance Company, and the Disbursing Agent, disburses training funds to his cashiers at the beginning of the business day allowing them to perform transactions for the day during Exercise Diamond Saber in July at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

han spoke during the ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the Adjutant General of New York, and New York Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Leylan Jones, the state senior enlisted leader, were also present, as were several 369th Soldiers.

The 369th was also recognized as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Corps by the 2024 Quartermaster Honors Board. The honor was formally bestowed at a ceremony at Fort Gregg-Adams during Sustainment Week in May of 2025.

The brigade's battalions are:

The 369th Division Special Troops Battalion, which provides much of the manpower for the

brigade's headquarters. The battalion's new 133rd Composite Supply Company, 145th Support Maintenance Company, and the 719th Composite Truck Company were redesignated as companies A, B, and C of the 119th Division Sustainment Support Battalion with the headquarters company as part of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

B. Company, 119th DSSB, was named a runner-up for the Army National Guard's 2025 Chief of Ordnance Award for Maintenance Excellence.

The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. David Myones.

The 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, headquartered at the Yonkers Armory, provides satellite, tropospheric scatter, and terrestrial



Colonel Bryon Linnehan Commander, 369th Sustainment Brigade



U.S. Army Col. Bryon Linnehan, Commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, New York Army National Guard, addresses the audience during a Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony for the Army's World War I 369th Infantry Regiment, the "Harlem Hellfighters," in Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol, September 3, 2025, in Washington.

microwave communications support at the Army corps level and higher. The battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Darren Ketchum, traces its history back to a New York National Guard Signal Corps unit created in 1886.

On May 10, 2025, 10 of the Soldiers of the battalion's Charlie Company were awarded the Purple Heart because of injuries sustained on the Tower 22 outpost in Jordan on January 28, 2024.

The company was deployed at the location as part of Operation Spartan Shield, the U.S. Army presence in the region.

The 104th Military Police Battalion, headquartered in Kingston, includes two military police companies and the 222nd Chemical Company. The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Nicholas Paolini.

Colonel Bryon Linnehan was commissioned as a Military Police officer through ROTC in May 2001 after graduating from the Johns Hopkins University.

He is also qualified as a Logistics officer and a Military Intelligence officer.

He served on active duty with the 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; the 188th Military Police Company in South Korea, and the 1st Squadron, 8th Cavalry and the 1st Cavalry in Baghdad, Iraq and Fort Hood Texas. He deployed to Iraq twice while serving in the Active Army.

He transferred to the New York Army National Guard and served as the intelligence officer for the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, and as an intelligence officer for the 42nd Infantry Division and commander of Camp Smith Training Site's Headquarters Company.

He has served in a number of positions in the 369th Sustainment Brigade to include battalion executive officer, support operations officer, and operations officer for the 369th Special Troops Battalion. He has been the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion and served in the Joint Operations Section for Joint Force Headquarters.

He deployed to Kuwait with the 369th Sustainment Brigade in 2016.

He has served as the Homeland



Response Force full-time planner as well.

Linnehan is a graduate of Airborne School, the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Korea Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the NY Military Commendation Medal and NY Humane Service Medal.

He has also been awarded the German Military Proficiency Badge (Gold), Combat Action Badge, Army Parachutist Badge, Valorous Unit Award and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Soldiers assigned to the 222nd Chemical Company, 104th Military Police Battalion, 369th Sustainment Brigade, New York Army National Guard, set up a vehicle decontamination lane to clean for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear contaminants and high yield explosives during an exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, June 7, 2025.





Soldiers assigned to the 1501st Quartermaster Company (Field Feeding), who participated in the Veterans Food Festival hosted by the South Street Seaport Foundation in New York on May 25, 2025, sample foods prepared using MREs during a cooking class.



Staff Sgts. Leonor Jordan and David Selman, both assigned to the 1501st Quartermaster Company (Field Feeding), unload the components of an assault kitchen from the back of a Humvee while participating in the Veterans Food Festival hosted by the South Street Seaport Foundation in New York on May 25, 2025.

for a 14-month federal mission to support U.S. Border Patrol Operations in the Laredo, Texas Sector. The 104th is providing mission command for a 1,000-Soldier task force operating in the area. The seven company task forces include a maintenance company, a transportation company, an engineering company, and a forward support company.

From February 19 until April 1, the 369th's Soldiers and leaders took responsibility for operations at state prisons across the Hudson Valley as part of the New York National Guard's response to the corrections officer's strike.

The 27th Finance Battalion, comprised of four finance companies, is headquartered at the Whitestone Armory in Queens. The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Sara Mitchell.

OPERATIONS:

In January, the 104th Military Police Battalion deployed the 442nd MP Company and the 107th MP Company and headquarters battalion elements to Washington D.C., in support of the 60th Presidential Inaugural.

From the last week in January until mid-February, the 369th took part in the 42nd Infantry Division Warfighter Exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn-

sylvania. The 369th Soldiers took part in the command post exercise, while also providing real-world sustainment support to the over 1,100 Soldiers participating in the exercise.

In July, 150 Soldiers of the 27th Finance Battalion took part in a special Finance Corps exercise called Exercise Diamond Saber 2025 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. This is the Army's largest and most realistic finance training event. The two-week exercise served as the crucial culminating training event for the 14th and 37th Finance companies ahead of a planned 2026 deployment.

In October, the 104th MP Battalion and the 442nd MP Company, a total of 188 Soldiers, mobilized

New Equipment

During 2025, the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion was allocated new AN/TRC-238(V)4, a variant of the Terrestrial Transmission Line of Sight (TRILOS) radio. This is a modern, small-form-factor terminal providing high-capacity, multi-channel communication. It enables point-to-point and point-to-multipoint networking to connect teams using multiple bands.

The 369th's transportation elements also acquired new five-ton cargo trailers with drop sides.

New York Air National Guard

The New York Air National Guard, with a strength of 5,882 Airmen, five flying wings and the Eastern Air Defense Sector, is the largest Air National Guard in the United States.

The New York Air National Guard was commanded by Major General Michael Bank during 2025.

He turned over the command to Major General Gary R. Charlton II early in 2026. Charlton also serves as Assistant Adjutant General, Air.

The New York Air National Guard can trace its history back to 1911 when the New York National Guard acquired an airplane eight years after the Wright brothers first flight.

In 1915, the New York National Guard organized the 1st Aero Company. That unit went on to make the first military formation flight in the United States in 1916 when ten planes flew from Mineola to Princeton, New Jersey and returned the

next day.

The modern New York Air Guard was created in 1947 when the Air Force separated from the Army.

At the end of 2025 the New York Air National Guard operated 42 Aircraft:

- Nine C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlifters.
- Ten LC-130H "Ski Bird" Hercules tactical transports configured to land on snow or ice.
- Three C-130H Hercules tactical transports.
- Four HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft.
- Six HH-60W Jolly Green II Search and Rescue helicopters.
- Ten MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft.

The New York Air National Guard operates from six locations across the state:

The 106th Rescue Wing at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach on Long Island.

The 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

The 109th Airlift Wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, outside Schenectady.

The 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse.

The 107th Attack Wing at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls.

The Eastern Air Defense Sector/ 224th Air Defense Group in Griffiss Technology Park in Rome.

The New York Air National Guard is authorized 5,848 Airmen, and at the end of 2025 it was at 100.41 percent strength.

Of the 5,882 Airmen on the New

York Air National Guard's books at the end of 2025, there were 1,035 officers and 4,847 enlisted Airmen.

A total of 1,644 New York Air Guard members were in Active Guard and Reserve status. This means they were active-duty military personnel.

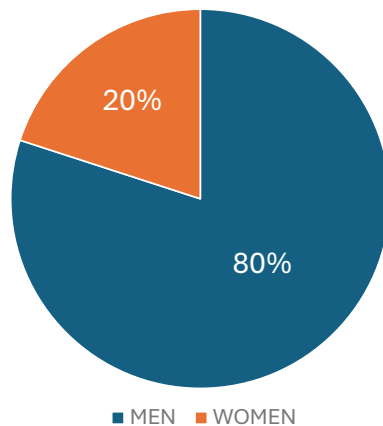
Another 378 Airmen were dual status technicians, which means they are civilian employees who are in the Air Guard as well. They are counted as traditional Airmen.

There were also 188 federal civilian employees who worked to support the New York Air National Guard.

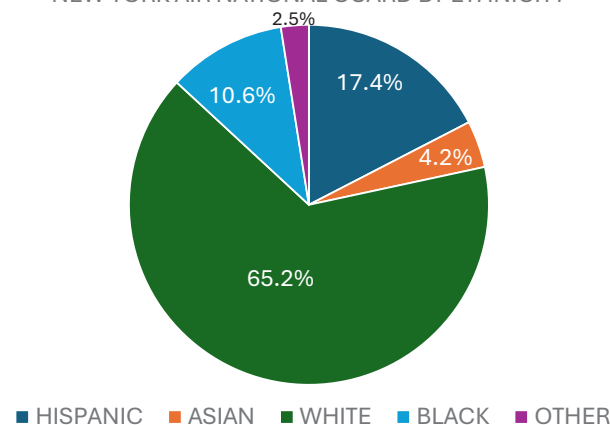
New York Air National Guardsmen deploy regularly on federal missions, ranging from support for Antarctic science to service in Air Expeditionary Wings located around the world.

During 2025, over 860 New York Air Guardsmen deployed on federal missions.

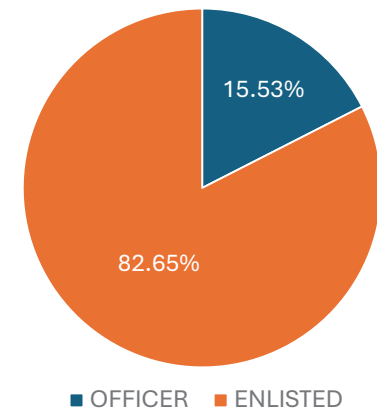
NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD BY GENDER



NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD BY ETHNICITY



NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD BY RANK



"Before I ever wore a commission I wore stripes. Those first ten years as an enlisted Airman shaped everything I believe about leadership."

-- Maj. Gen. Gary Charlton II,
Commander New York Air National Guard



Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, right, the adjutant general of New York, presents the guidon of the New York Air National Guard to Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Gary Charlton II, during promotion and change of command ceremonies held on January 9 at New York National Guard headquarters in Latham.

Major General Gary Charlton II Commander, NY Air National Guard

Major General Gary Charlton II took command of the New York Air National Guard on January 9, 2026. He replaced Major General Michael Bank who retired after 37 years of service.

Charlton, who also serves as Assistant Adjutant General, Air, enlisted in the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing in 1990 as a fuels system technician. He was commissioned in 2000 and trained as an F-16 pilot.

Charlton has deployed in support of the Persian Gulf War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has also served as the commander of the 107th Attack Wing at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and also as the commander of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

Charlton is a command pilot with more than 3,400 hours in a variety of aircraft and served as the commander of the 174th Attack Wing's 138th Attack Squadron before he took command of the 107th Attack Wing. He led the 107th Attack Wing from 2018 to 2022 and then took command of the 105th Airlift Wing from 2022 to 2024.

After leaving the 105th, he served briefly as the director of operations for the Air National



Guard Bureau's operations section, before returning to New York to the position of Assistant Adjutant General, Air.

Charlton holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Columbia College and is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College. He is a graduate of the National Security Studies Program at Syracuse University and the General and Flag Officer Seminar conducted by Harvard University.

Charlton's military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal and campaign medals for his military deployments.

The 105th Airlift Wing operates nine C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlifters from Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh. The wing shares the largest runway in the northeast with Stewart International Airport.

The 174-foot-long aircraft, which has a 55-foot-high equipment bay, can carry 102 troops, about 85 tons of cargo, three UH-60 series helicopters, or one M-1A2 Abrams tank.

The wing is part of the Air Mobility Command and routinely conducts missions around the world to support U.S. troops and operations.

At the end of 2025 the wing had an assigned strength of 1,382 personnel, broken down into 1,198 enlisted Airmen and 184 officers. The wing also includes the 213th Engineering Installation Squadron, which specializes in installing high-tech

communications equipment at locations around the world.

The wing is commanded by Brig. Gen. Ryan F. Dannemann.

During 2025, the 105th Airlift Wing flew 216 missions totaling 2,026 flying hours.

Of these 126 were local training missions, which totaled 289.7 hours.

Another 56 missions were flown in support of National Guard requirements for a total of 425.2 hours. These missions transported 2,599 personnel and 938.5 tons of cargo.

The 105th flew 34 missions assigned by Air Mobility Command. These missions totaled 1,311.1 flying hours, 2,643 personnel and moved 2.9 tons of cargo.

During 2025, 283 members of the 105th Airlift Wing were mobilized on federal missions. Two thirds of that total remained on duty at Stewart Air National Guard Base to help generate C-17 missions. The remaining Airmen deployed to the Pacific Command, Central Command, and Southern Command areas.

There were 192 people supporting Air Mobility Command operations and 91 assigned to Air Combat Command missions.

Three hundred and seven members of the 105th Airlift Wing were part of the domestic operations mission to support the Department



Members of the 105th Civil Engineer Squadron participate in the Hustler 6 Memorial Ruck March for Tech. Sgt. Joseph Lemm and Staff Sgt. Louis Bonacasa at Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York, Dec. 6, 2025.



A member of the U.S. Marine Corps has moulage applied to him while participating in a New York Army and Air National Guard joint medical training exercise at Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York, June 6, 2025. New York Guardsmen and U.S. Marines acted as casualties during a joint medical readiness training hosted by the New York Air and Army National Guards.

of Corrections and Community Supervision during the corrections officer strike and its aftermath.

During 2025 the 105th Airlift Wing established a test unit called the C-17 Combined Test Force to develop test and field technologies which will improve the performance of the C-17 across the total Air Force.

The initial idea came after the wing was asked to test a drag reduction technology known as Microvanes.

Microvanes are 4x16-inch, 3D-printed strips that look like a knife blade where are installed at the rear of a C-17.

When a dozen Microvanes are installed, they reduce both drag and fuel consumption by one percent. That one percent improvement in fuel efficiency may not sound significant, but it will save the Air Force over \$14 million annually.

With this success in mind, the 105th stood up the test force to originate and evaluate other ways to enhance the capability of the C-17, which first

Brig. Gen. Ryan Dannemann Commander, 105th Airlift Wing



105th Airlift Wing members, friends and family of Brig. Gen. Ryan Dannemann, 105th commander, listen to Brig. Gen. Gary Charlton, assistant adjutant general for the New York Air National Guard, speak at Dannemann's promotion ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York, Nov. 2, 2025. Dannemann is the first wing commander to have served his whole career at the 105th.

flew in 1991.

The wing is partnering with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency in the effort.

Other projects underway include:

Testing adaptors for a multiplex bus fault isolator used by maintenance teams.

Exploring the use of a smartphone-based medical monitoring system to be used on aeromedical evacuation missions.

Testing the Airlift/Tank Open Mission System, called ATOMS, which provides secure airborne data connectivity.

Evaluating battery-powered ground power units to determine if they can replace those traditionally run by a generator.

In June the 105th Maintenance Squadron hosted a team of Airmen from the Air Force Reserves

315th Airlift Wing which is based at Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina.

The Air Reserve Maintenance Airmen worked alongside the New Yorkers to learn from each other and help expedite maintenance on the wing's C-17s. The extra personnel enabled the wing maintenance shop to work on multiple aircraft at one time.

Finally in December, the wing marked the 10th anniversary of the deaths of two members of the 105th Security Forces Squadron: Tech. Sgt. Joseph Lemm and Staff Sgt. Louis Bonacasa. The two men, along with four other Airmen in a security force known as Hustler 6, died on Dec. 21, 2015, when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle

Brig. Gen. Ryan Dannemann was promoted to one-star general in November 2025 and has commanded the 105th Airlift Wing since January of 2024.

He is the first wing commander to have spent his entire military career serving in the 105th Airlift Wing.

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 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 support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and



Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He has been involved in humanitarian response missions that included strategic airlift of first responders and recovery operations 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, T-1, C-5A/B Galaxy and the C-17A.

attacked their patrol outside Bagram Air Base.

The wing's security force Airmen, along with other wing members, walked six miles carrying a full rucksack on Dec. 6, 2025, from the base to the National Purple Heart Hall of honor, to remember the six people killed.



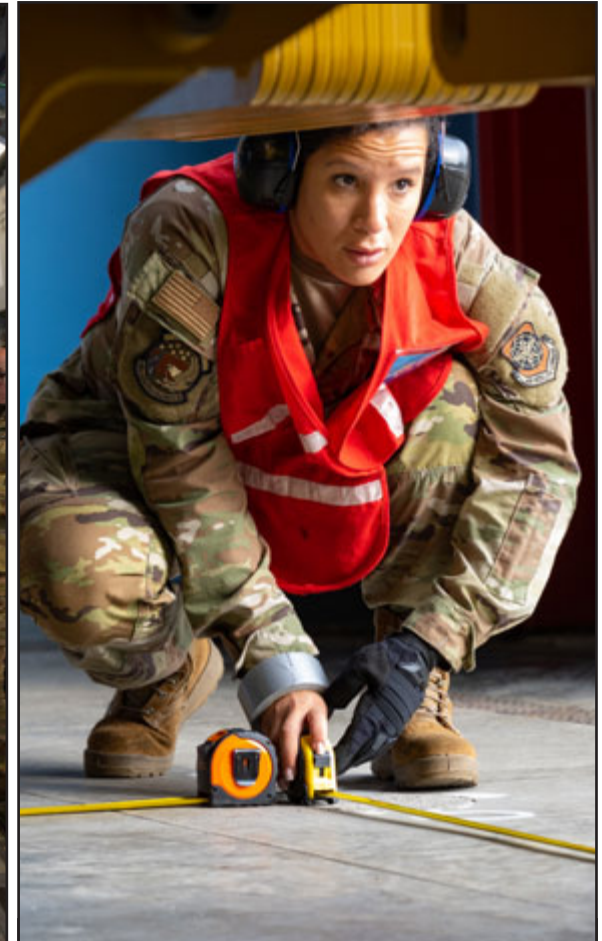
A member of the 205th Base Defense Squadron posts security in a simulated village during a training exercise at Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York, June 6, 2025. 205th BDS defenders participated in a 24-hour exercise to train on their ability to reestablish security in an urban environment.



Master Sgt. Gerard Fanizzi, 105th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, reads instructions on a computer before beginning a maintenance procedure on the C-17 Globemaster III in a hangar at Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., May 8, 2025.



Medical personnel from the New York Air National Guard's 105th and 109th Airlift Wings load "patients" into cots rigged in the cargo bay of a 105th Airlift Wing Globemaster III airlifter at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y., on June 6, 2025 during a medical evacuation training exercise. The Airmen joined Active Army and Army National Guard Soldiers in conducting a "tail-to-tail" drill in which casualties were off-loaded directly from an Army Medevac helicopter into the C-17.



An Airman in the 105th Logistics Readiness Squadron measures the length and width of a machine during the cargo deployment function of the Combat Readiness Inspection at Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., Sept. 16, 2025. The inspection is conducted every four years by Air Mobility Command's Inspector General's Office to assess a wing's mission ready status, ability to deploy personnel and equipment and preparedness for real-world scenarios Airman may encounter at home or abroad.

106th Rescue Wing

The 106th Rescue Wing is based at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, Long Island.

The wing is assigned four HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft, and six HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopters. The wing anticipates receiving a 6th HH-60W in 2026.

During 2025 the HC-130J aircraft flew 1,012.5 hours, while the HH-60W helicopters flew 1,068.3 hours.

The modified C-130 aircraft can drop pararescue Airmen into the sea or onto land to conduct operations. The aircraft is also able to refuel the HH-60W helicopters in flight which extends their range.

Those helicopters are equipped with hoists to rescue personnel without landing and with extra fuel tanks to extend their range.

At the end of 2025 the wing had an assigned strength of 1,094 Airmen—152 officers and 942 enlisted 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 and personnel recovery capabilities for U.S. and allied forces. The wing can also conduct search and rescue and recovery missions for federal civilian entities and state authorities.

The wing can also conduct helicop-

ter firefighting missions as required.

During 2025 the wing deployed 44 Airmen overseas for missions in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia and Germany.

The 106th Rescue Wing's 102nd Rescue Squadron, which flies the HC-130J, is the oldest unit in the Air National Guard. The squadron can trace its history back to the 1st Aero Company of the New York National Guard which was established in 1916. The unit eventually became the 102nd Observation Squadron assigned to the New York National Guard's 27th Division.

After World War II and the creation of the Air National Guard, the unit flew heavy bombers and medium bombers before becoming a fighter unit. Since 1975 the 106th has been a rescue wing.

The 106th also has the distinction of being the unit joined by the first woman in the Air National Guard, Lt. Col. Norma Parsons who was a flight nurse.

A critical capability of the 106th Rescue Wing are the pararescue Airmen, known as Guardian Angles, and the Combat Rescue Officers, who are trained to conduct rescue missions.

It takes three years of training in everything ranging from scuba diving to high altitude parachuting to emergency medical techniques to qualify in these specialties and join the wing's 103rd Rescue Squadron.

On March 8, a wildfire started by



Japan Air Self-Defense Force refueling technicians and maintenance Airmen assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing, New York Air National Guard, refueling an HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopter during exercise Resolute Force Pacific 2025 at Misawa Air Base, Japan, July 23, 2025.

a resident using a barbecue pit to make s'mores, roared towards Gabreski Air National Guard Base, and the 106th mobilized resources to fight the fire.

Four of the wing fire department's trucks and crews assisted local fire departments, while the wing launched an HH-60W with a "Bambi bucket", used to fight fires, to drop water from the air.

Two HC-130J Combat King II aircraft were launched to provide overhead reporting and command and control.

Three New York Army National Guard UH-60M Black Hawk helicop-

ters from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion also responded.

By the end of the day the HH-60W crew had flown 28 missions and dropped 14,000 gallons of water on the three-mile-long fire.

The fire was declared under control on March 9.

In July, the wing deployed 100 Airmen to Misawa Air Base, Japan, to support Resolute Force Pacific 2025. The exercise involved 12,000 U.S. and allied service members and 400 aircraft operating from 50 locations across 3,000 square miles.

Colonel Jeffrey Cannet Commander, 106th Rescue Wing



U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Declan Harley, a pararescueman assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing's 103rd Rescue Squadron, participates in a routine jump training on Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton, Beach, N.Y., May 2, 2025.

U.S.-Brazilian air base defense unit.

Two Hundred Airmen from 31 Air National Guard and active-duty units from across the country trained with Airmen from the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base from August 4 to 8.

The Air Guardsmen were there for Montauk Lightning II, an exercise focused on Air Force combat support services.

The large-scale exercise, led by the 106th Force Support Squadron, created a hub and spoke-style deployment environment consisting

of teams geographically separated across Southampton, Westhampton, and Riverhead.

The exercise focused on field feeding, personnel accountability, casualty collection, mortuary affairs, tent setup and casualty search and recovery operations.

On August 6, the wing hosted members of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, as the group presented an award for actor Taylor Kitsch. Kitsch had portrayed Lt. Michael Murphy, a Navy SEAL and Long Island native, in the movie *Lone Survivor*.

Murphy had received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions

The wing Airmen were there to provide search and rescue response if required.

From July 28 to August 11, 22 members of the 106th Rescue Wing deployed to Brazil to take part in Exercise Tapio 2025 as part of the New York National Guard State Partnership Program training relationship with the Brazilian military.

This team included five members of the 106th Security Forces Squadron who joined 20 members of the 174th Security Forces Squadron from the 174th Attack Wing.

The New York Air Guard members integrated with their Brazilian Air Force counterparts to form a joint

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.

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 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 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.

during the events portrayed in the film.

Kitsch received the Bob Hope Award for Excellence in Entertainment from the Honor Society. The award honors members of the entertainment industry who positively portray or support

the U.S. military. Kitsch is the 39th recipient of the award.

Kitsch was accompanied by other actors who worked on the TV Show, "Terminal List: Dark Wolf", on a USO-sponsored visit to the base.



Top left: Staff Sgt. Griffin Elzey, a pararescueman with the 106th Rescue Wing's 103rd Rescue Squadron, participates in a routine jump training on Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton, Beach, N.Y., May 2, 2025. Lower Left: 1st Lt. Bryan Vargas, HH-60W helicopter pilot, Tech Sgt. Nicholas Creedon, HH-60W crew chief, and Staff Sgt. Brandon Zenick, special missions aviator, all assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing, New York Air National Guard, sit inside an HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopter assigned to the unit's 101st Rescue Squadron, following a flight during exercise Resolute Force Pacific (REFORPAC) 2025 at Misawa Air Base, Japan, July 22, 2025. Above: U.S. Air Force loadmasters, assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, onboard an HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft, plan to pick up pararescuemen who are transporting a simulated casualty, along the coast of Long Island, N.Y., May 3, 2025.

Technical Sgt. Mohammed Faroze, HC-130J Combat King II crew chief, assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing, New York Air National Guard, cleans the lens of the optical sensor, during exercise Resolute Force Pacific (REFORPAC) 2025 at Misawa Air Base, Japan, July 18, 2025.





Base Honor Guard presents the U.S. flag alongside the NY State flag during the official start of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Stations annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony, Sept 11 2025.

Colonel Christopher H. Weisshaar

Commander, 107th Attack Wing

The 107th Attack Wing is based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station which is also the home of the Air Force Reserves 914th Air Refueling Wing.

The wing operates the General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper remotely operated aircraft. The wing has no aircraft assigned. MQ-9 aircrew and support staff conduct missions worldwide from a facility at the base using satellite networks, operating aircraft assigned to other wings.

The wing also includes two remotely located elements.

One of these is the 222nd Command and Control Squadron, headquartered in Rome with elements in Chantilly, Virginia which conducts space operations in support of the National Reconnaissance Office.

The other is the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse. The 274th ASOS provides the Joint Tactical Air Controllers—JTACs—who work with Army forces on the ground to direct air support.

The wing is commanded by Col. Christopher Weisshaar. At the end of 2025 the wing had a strength of 755 Airmen, broken down into 603 enlisted personnel and 152 officers.

The 107th Attack Wing traces its history back to the U.S. Army Air Forces 339th Bombardment Group in World War II. It was reactivated in the New York Air National Guard in 1948 as the 107th Fighter Group and was assigned to the air defense mission until the 1990s. The wing flew KC-135 refueling tankers and then C-130 Hercules airlifters until moving to the MQ-9 mission in 2017.

During 2025, the 107th Attack Wing pilots were declared fully mission capable in utilizing the MQ-9 Automatic Takeoff and Landing Capability to land and takeoff from any location. Prior to this software introduction, a dedicated

ground control system was required with a line-of-sight to the aircraft.

107th Attack Wing pilots and sensor operators used the capability to help conduct experiments on using Pacific fleet aircraft carriers as a base for MQ-9 variants during operations during 2025.

During 2025, the 222nd Command and Control Squadron conducted State Partnership Program interactions with both Swedish and Brazilian space operations experts. The 274th ASOS also worked with Brazilian counterparts during Operation Tapio in Brazil in August of 2025.

The 274th also experimented with the use of small unmanned aerial vehicles in executing the air to ground support mission.

In May, the 107th Civil Engineer Squadron took part in a week-long emergency management exercise conducted by the Puerto Rico Air National Guard at the Camp Santiago Joint Training Center in Salinas and Fort Allen in Juana Diaz.

The training focused on the emergency specialists executing their CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) mission skills in a simulated austere environment.

The 107th Medical Group sent personnel to attend the Air Guard's June 2025 Medical Readiness University at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center.

Twenty members of the wing medical group also took part in a medical Innovative Readiness Training mission in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. The Department of Defense-led effort provided free medical, dental, optometry, and veterinary services to the residents of Ellwood City with no ID, insurance, or minimum income required.

The August mission helped residents while providing training to the medical Airmen.

During 2025, the wing's recruiters were

Colonel Christopher Weisshaar is a 2003 graduate of the United States Naval Academy who joined the Air National Guard in 2013. He is a master navigator with over 4,000 flying hours.

He joined the New York Air National Guard in November 2025, serving as the commander of the 107th Operations Group, responsible for MQ-9 flight operations.

He served as a naval flight officer assigned to VP-1, a P-8A Poseidon multi-mission maritime aircraft squadron based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington state.

During that assignment he deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq supporting operations of the Air Force's 745th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron.

He was assigned to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida serving with VPU-1, and deployed to Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

In 2013 he joined the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing.

As an Air National Guard member Weisshaar has served in a number of key positions at National Guard



Bureau, including Manned Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Functional Area Manager, Deputy Director of Air National Guard Plans and Execution, and Air National Guard Deputy Director of Strategy, Design, Innovation, and Requirements at the National Guard Bureau.

Weisshaar was also assigned to the Force Design Branch Chief to the Air Force Warfighting Integration Capabilities Office at the Pentagon.

In 2022, Weisshaar was selected as a National Security Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School.

recognized for bringing in 105 new Airmen. This was the highest level reached since 2006 and earned the team the Air Force Patriot Award for recruiting success.

Staff Sgt. Vincenza K. Costanzo was named the 2025 Outstanding Airman of the Year by the New York Air National Guard in recognition of her recruiting success.

During the year, the 107th mobilized 54 Airmen to support total Air Force missions. Thirteen Airmen were deployed to Africa Command, with 10 Airmen deployed in other overseas locations including Kuwait, Qatar and Djibouti.

Here in New York, 218 wing Airmen supported state missions in 2025. There were two hundred four, 107th Airmen in support of the response to the corrections officer strike, and 12 Airmen supported the 160th Presidential Inauguration in January.

When a tour bus operated by M&Y Tour Inc. rolled over on the New York State Thruway near Pembroke on August 22, killing five of the 55 passengers, two wing Airmen went on state active duty to provide support.

During 2025, work moved forward on the \$19.4 million project to completely renovate the wing's headquarters building. The building is being completely modernized and is expected to be finished in late 2026.



Senior Airman Austin Childs (left) and Staff Sgt Shane Such assigned to the 107th Attack Wing Communications Squadron, New York Air National Guard, monitor network connectivity during Exercise Buffalo Falls in Buffalo, N.Y., June 5, 2025. The Homeland Response Force scenario tested cyber resilience and real-time communications in a joint operating environment.



Staff Sgt Andrew Mach, assigned to 107th Attack Wing Security Forces Squadron, “zero’s in” his M110A1 sniper rifle during annual heavy weapons qualification on May 20, 2025 at Fort Indiantown Gap PA. Qualification on the M110A1 sniper rifle is limited to those who demonstrate advanced marksmanship and complete the two-week Advanced Designated Marksman Course, held at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Colonel Steven Slosek Commander, 109th Airlift Wing

109th Airlift Wing

The 109th Airlift Wing flies the world's largest ski-equipped aircraft, the LC-130H version of the C-130 Hercules tactical transport.

Nicknamed the "Ski Bird" the ten aircraft operated by the wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base, can land on snow or ice in Arctic or Antarctic environments.

The Wing is commanded by Col. Steven Slosek, and at the end of 2025, the wing had a strength of 1094 Airmen. Of these Airmen, there were 332 full-time Active duty Airmen and 90 dual-status technicians assigned to the wing.

The wing's primary mission is to support National Science Foundation research in Antarctic and on the Greenland ice cap by moving people, equipment, food and fuel. The wing's aircraft regularly fly from McMurdo Station, the main U.S. base in Antarctic to the Amundson-Scott Station at the geographic south pole.

The wing's ski-equipped planes can also support military missions in the Arctic.

The wing also operates three C-130H Hercules "wheel birds" to handle conventional airlift missions.

During 2025, the wing's

Airmen flew 1,347 hours in support of operations in Greenland and Antarctica. The wing's aircraft moved 1,716 passengers, and 1,803 tons of cargo during those missions.

Wing airmen transported 80,000 gallons of fuel in Greenland and also conducted eight medical evacuation missions in Antarctica during their support seasons for both missions.

During the year, 93 wing Airmen deployed on federal missions to the Africa Command and Central Command areas of responsibility.

During a February and March exercise with the Canadian Forces called Nanook-Nunalivut, the wing made history when an LC-130H landed on Parsons Lake, a 23-square mile water body in Canada's Northwest Territory.

The wing has conducted exercises where the aircraft landed on frozen sea ice, but this was the first time the wing's airmen had created a "ski-way" on freshwater.

Freshwater ice is stronger than sea ice because of the lack of salt, which means the thousands of lakes in the Canadian Arctic could be turned into landing strips for

LC-130s.

This is especially important as warming temperatures in the Arctic can make finding frozen sea ice harder.

A total of 59 Airmen operating two LC-130s took part in the operation.

In August, the wing conducted a three-day Combat Readiness Exercise at their base. The exercise simulated the unit deploying outside the United States to conduct tactical operations in a contested environment.

A critical need for the 109th Airlift Wing is the replacement of their LC-130H aircraft with newer LC-103J models.

The fleet of 10 LC-130Hs includes three that were converted from ex-Navy LC-130Rs; the most recent are three new-build aircraft that were completed in 1995–96. Since then, the aircraft have been upgraded with eight-bladed NP-2000 propellers, as well as digital cockpit displays, new flight management

Col. Steven Slosek entered the Air Force in 2001 through Air Force ROTC at Syracuse University.

Slosek, a navigator, served in the Active Air Force from 2001 to 2008 before transferring to the New York Air National Guard and the 109th Airlift Wing.

He has served as a navigator instructor and an evaluator navigator and has logged 4,300 hours as a navigator in LC-130, C-130 and the E-8 JSTARS.

Slosek commanded the 109th Operations Group before becoming the wing commander. He has also served as the 139th Airlift Squadron Commander, Air Expeditionary Group Commander for Joint Task Forces Support Forces Antarctica, and deployed commander for Greenland operations.

He has served as LC-130 chief of tactics, chief of flight scheduling, unit deployment manager and Antarctic Plans Officer.

Slosek was also lead planner for three Joint Multinational Exercises involving Canadian, Danish and U.S. Arctic operations.



He has deployed four times to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar and once to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of the Global War On Terror.

Slosek is a graduate of a number of military schools, including the Air Command and Staff College.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, and Antarctic Service Medal.

systems, multifunction radar, and other improvements. The aircraft have also been reworked alongside other Air Force C-130Hs under the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP).

The 2026 Department of Defense Appropriations included \$29M in design funding and \$167M for the acquisition of the first new LC-130J.



North American Aerospace Defense Command CF-18 Hornets and F-16 Fighting Falcons escort a New York Air National Guard LC-130 Hercules assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing over the North Slope of Alaska, February 26, 2025. The F-16 and CF-18 exercised tracking and intercepting the LC-130 over the arctic.



An LC-130 assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard at McMurdo Station, Antarctica during the 2024-25 Operation Deep freeze support season.



An LC-130 assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard at McMurdo Station, Antarctica during the 2024-25 Operation Deep freeze support season.



Airmen from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing sharpened their skills during a Combat Readiness Exercise held Aug. 6-10 at Stratton Air National Guard Base.



A LC-130 Hercules assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing flies over Parsons Lake, Northwest Territories, Canada, March 4. The LC-130 Hercules can land on snow and ice using skis.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Anthony Arroyo, left, security forces, 109th Airlift Wing, New York National Guard, and Senior Airman John McGill, right, security forces, 824th Base Defense Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, examine a Dronebuster, a non-kinetic, handheld counter-unmanned aerial system device, during a training event as part of exercise Sage Eagle 25-4 at Fort Anderson-Pinn-Hill, Virginia, Aug. 28, 2025.

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

The MQ-9 is configured for both reconnaissance and air-to-ground attack missions using missiles and or bombs.

174th Airmen can operate MQ-9s flying on the other side of the globe from a control center at Hancock Field.

The wing is assigned 10 MQ-9s. These aircraft support a Formal Training Unit which trains pilots and sensor operators for the Total Air Force and a Formal Training Detachment which trains MQ-9 maintainers.

The aircraft and support staff can also be deployed as required.

Col Brett Batick assumed command of the 174th Attack Wing in December of 2025.

At the end of 2025 the wing had a strength of 1,089 Airmen: 226 officers and 863 enlisted Airmen.

The 174th Attack wing traces its history back to 1947 when the 138th Fighter Squadron was stood up at was Mittydale Bomber Base and equipped with World War II-era P-51 Mustang fighters.

The Syracuse Air Guardsmen put planes on strip alert during the early days of the Cold War and mobilized for the Berlin crisis in 1961 and the

Pueblo incident in 1968. In 1991 the 174th Fighter Wing was one of two Air National Guard units to fly missions during Operation Desert Storm.

In 2010 the wing became the first Air National Guard unit to operate the MQ-9 Reaper.

The wing's 138th Attack Squadron conducts operational combat missions in support of combatant commanders. During 2025 the squadron flew 235 MQ-9 sorties for 4000 flying hours.

The 108th Attack Squadron conducts training for MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators.

A total of 70 pilots and sensor operators were trained by the 108th during 2025. Those students flew 440 sorties totaling 2,000 hours as part of the training.

The Formal Training Detachment, meanwhile, conducted 37 maintenance courses in 2025. During this period, 161 U.S. students and 10 Dutch students were trained.

The 174th is also responsible for running the Adirondack Range at Fort Drum. This is the only air-to-ground gunnery range near the east coast which allows the dropping of high explosive munitions. Allowing pilots to drop high explosive and other ordnance provides realistic training that ensures aircrews are mission ready.

During 2025 the range hosted 938 sorties conducted by 21 different types of aircraft ranging from MQ-9s to strike fighters to Army helicopters.

The wing also maintains a forward operating location at Fort Drum's Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. Pilots dropping ordinance at the Adirondack range can land, refuel, rearm and have maintenance checks done, so they do not waste time flying back to their home base.

The 174th Attack Wing also includes the 152nd Air Operations Group. This unit is composed of officers and NCOs trained to plan and conduct air campaigns. Their primary mission is to integrate into the 603d Air Operations Center at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, although group Airmen have deployed to other locations as required.

The group is commanded by Col. John Meili.

During 2025 the wing deployed 56 Airmen to 13 locations in support of federal missions at home and overseas.

In April, Swedish Major Gen. Jonas Wikman, the chief of Sweden's air force visited Hancock Field to learn about MQ-9 operations. He also visited the Eastern Air Defense Sector and the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome as part of the New York National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Swedish military.

In May, fifteen 174th Airmen took part in a two-week long medical facility annual training at the U.S. Naval Support Activity in Naples, Italy.

The Airmen honed their medical skills while serving alongside U.S.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Allen Barth, a general dentist and Master Sgt. Shane Donahue, a dental assistant, both assigned to the 174th Medical Group, 174th Attack Wing, perform a dental procedure on a U.S. Navy Sailor assigned to U.S. Naval Support Activity Naples, in Naples Italy, May 14.



Participants in the 4th Annual 174th Attack Wing Runway 5K jog across the tarmac at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Aug. 2. More than 450 participants registered to complete the run, which was hosted in partnership with the Syracuse Hancock International Airport.

Navy Sailors and civilian medical providers at U.S. Naval Hospital (Naples), which provides routine and emergency medical care for U.S. service members and their dependents stationed in the Mediterranean.

In addition to providing increased patient care at USNH Naples, the Airmen conducted hands-on medical training they aren't normally able to accomplish during drill weekends.

From July 28 to August 17, 40 174th Attack Wing Airmen took part in Operation Tapio in Campo Grande,

Brazil. Along with 22 Airmen from the 106th Rescue Wing, the joint Brazilian- New York National Guard exercise focused on combat search and rescue.

The MQ-9s flown by the 174th played a key role in the exercise. They were used to conduct search operations and in the ground attack role.

From Sept. 5-8, 141 wing Airmen took part in a combat readiness exercise dubbed Adirondack Warrior at Fort Drum. The exercise tested the

Colonel Brett Batick Commander, 174th Attack Wing

Col. Brett Batick, started his military career as a Marine Corps fighter pilot after graduating from the University of Florida in 1998.

He served in the Marine Corps from 2000 to 2012, where he flew the F/A- 18 and took part in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, flying over 170 combat missions and 190 support missions. He has over 3,500 flying hours as a command pilot.

He transitioned to the Air National Guard in 2012 as an MQ-9 pilot and joined the 174th Attack Wing in 2013. He has served as the commander of the 174th Maintenance Group, the 174th Operational Support Squadron, the 138th Attack Squadron and the wing deputy commander.

He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and earned a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Vanderbilt University in 2011.

His awards include the Meritorious



Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with bronze 'R' device, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Remote Combat Effects Medal.

Airmen's ability to forward deploy, establish base operations, set up communications, and conduct operations. Forty-four Airmen were also moved to the Adirondack Range to establish a forward operating position.

In November the wing's MQ-9 air crew used a civilian flight tracking system maintained by Syracuse-based NUAIR to fly and land an MQ-9. The ability to use a system

designed to allow civilian unmanned aerial systems to fly in the national airspace, provides further operational flexibility to the MQ-9 system.

The wing had previously demonstrated the capability to land and launch MQ-9s without a ground control station with line-of-sight to the aircraft.

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

The 224th Air Defense Group (ADG) is a wing-equivalent group of the New York Air National Guard and provides the personnel who conduct the EADS mission. The group has four squadrons and one detachment in Rome. This includes a 15-member Royal Canadian Air Force element, as well as Army and Navy liaison personnel as part of the NORAD mission.

The unit's Airmen monitor airspace from a state-of-the-art tracking and command center at their facility.

Two geographically separated units operate in the Washington, D.C. area and are responsible for the defense of the National Capitol Region.

EADS is commanded by Col. Jennifer King, a Title 10 officer. The 224th ADG is commanded by Col. Joseph Miller, a New York Air National Guard officer.

The strength of the 224th and EADS is 366. This consists of 306 Active Guard and Reserve personnel, and 60 drilling status Guard Airmen, as well as 39 federal civilian employees, and 64 civilian contractors.

Operations

In March of 2025, EADS received

the U.S. Continental NORAD Region Outstanding Command and Control Unit award. Six 224th Airmen were also recognized for their accomplishments.

During 2025, EADS enforced 95 Temporary Flight Restrictions for presidential travel and National Special Security Events. These special security events included the Presidential Inauguration in January, the Army's 250th anniversary parade in Washington in June, and the 80th United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York City in October.

EADS detected, tracked, identified and evaluated 18,471 potential airborne threats, investigated 160 airborne threats, and responded to 79 tracks of interest, during 2025. These are aircraft that have the potential to threaten national or North American security.

During 2025 the 224th Airmen controlled 1,393 fighter sorties and 383 practice scrambles of fighter or rotary aircraft.

On eight occasions, EADS expanded its geographic operations and monitored all air traffic in the continental U.S., taking over from Western Air Defense Sector in Washington state.

The 224th Air Defense Squadron conducted Exercise Amalgam Eagle 25 in October with the Mexican Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force.

During the exercise, U.S., Mexican, and Canadian Air Operations

Centers and tactical sectors trained on cross-border operations in preparation for the World Cup soccer tournament. Six U.S. fighter aircraft and two refueling aircraft, four Canadian fighter aircraft, and two Mexican fighter aircraft participated.

The 224th Support Squadron delivered an advanced planning design report for a new Battle Control Center, a \$100 million military construction initiative. The report accelerated milestone completion by six months.

The 224th Security Forces Squad-

ron conducted firearms safety and suicide prevention training for 300 New York Air Guard personnel.

The security forces also trained with the Army's 1st and 3rd Battalions of 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort A.P. Hill in August as part of Exercise Sage Eagle 25-4 and participated in the certification exercise for 3rd Battalion, 75th Rangers. These demanding exercises enabled Defenders to assess and refine their tactics, techniques, and procedures against advanced threats.

The 224th Security Forces provided opposing forces and evaluators for the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Wing's Se-



Senior Airman Kyle Larsen, center, received the outstanding junior enlisted airman of the year award at the recent CONR-AFNORTH recognition ceremony. Lt. Gen. Luke Ahmann, left, the Commander, CONR-1AF (AFNORTH & AFSPACE) and Chief Master Sgt. Nate Durfee, the Command Chief of CONR-1AF (AFNORTH and AFSPACE), presented the award to Larsen. EADS Airmen and civilians received seven awards at the event.

ron conducted firearms safety and suicide prevention training for 300 New York Air Guard personnel.

The security forces also trained with

curity Forces Squadron during their annual field training exercise.

During 2025, the 224th ADG's National Capital Region Coordina-



Colonel Jennifer L. King

Commander, Eastern Air Defense Sector



New York Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome, New York prepare for their Santa Tracking on Christmas Eve as part of their North American Aerospace Defense Command mission on Dec. 19, 2025. Families can go to NORAD's "NORAD Tracks Santa" website to find out where Santa is on Christmas Eve.

tion Center Detachment in Herndon, Virginia, prosecuted 170 airborne threats within the National Capital Region's Special Flight Rules Area and Flight Restriction Zone.

The detachment also coordinated 8,700 Department of Defense

flights in the National Capital Region and supported operations for 13 flying units. The team reviewed 850 National Capital Region unmanned aircraft system waiver request and facilitated 2,300 approved operations.

Col. Jennifer L. King commands the Eastern Air Defense Sector. King formerly served as a New York Air National Guard officer in EADS and the 224th Air Defense Group before assuming command of EADS and becoming a Title 10 officer.

King joined EADS and the New York Air National Guard in 2011. From 2024 to 2026 she commanded the 224th Air Defense Group.

King graduated in 1997 from the University of Virginia with a biology degree and was commissioned in 2003 upon completion of the Air Force Officer Training School.

After completing the Undergraduate Air Battle Manager School at Tyndall AFB, Florida, King was assigned to the 965th Air Control Squadron at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, where she served as an air weapons officer, air surveillance officer, flight scheduler and surveillance flight commander.

In 2009, King was assigned as an Instructor ABM at the 325th Air Control Squadron at Tyndall AFB, where her duties included executive officer and

operations training officer.

In 2011, King joined the New York Air National Guard and was assigned to the Eastern Air Defense Sector.

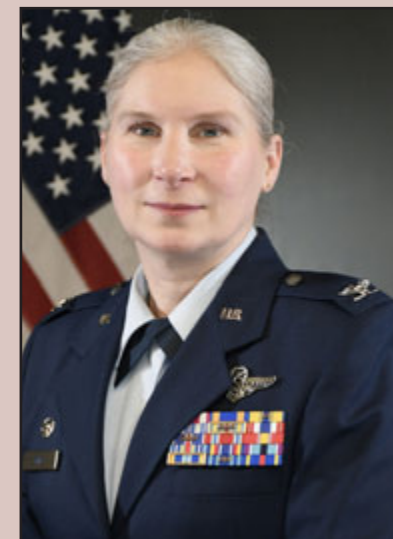
She has served as senior director, mission crew commander and flight commander.

She also served as a Joint Interface Control Officer or JICO. In her capacity as the JICO, she supported the Air Force Command and Control Requirements Office. She oversaw sophisticated projects related to advanced sensor integration, integrated fire control, and joint combat identification.

While serving as a flight commander, King directed a team of 52 operators through 76 Presidential temporary flight restrictions and 211 tactical actions.

The teams she led earned the Air National Guard's Ground-Based Battle Management Command and Control Crew of the Year award twice.

King graduated from Air Command and Staff College with outstanding distinction.



She has won the Air National Guard Air Battle Manager of the Year and the Continental U.S. NORAD Region Command and Control Warrior of the Year awards. King also received the CONR and NORAD outstanding field grade officer awards in 2021.

Her awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Combat Readiness Medal, the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border.

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

A small number of personnel, not to exceed five percent of the force, are not currently affiliated with the federal reserve components.

At the end of 2025 the New York Naval Militia had a strength of 3,046.

The New York Naval Militia traces its history back to 1889, when it was created as a naval National Guard, and is the oldest and largest of the five naval militias in the United States.

The New York Naval Militia is commanded by state Rear Admiral Mary Etta Nolan.

New York Naval Militia members serve in state active-duty status when conducting state missions or responding to state emergencies in conjunction with the New York National Guard.

The Naval Militia members crew the 11-vessel Military Emergency Boat Service which operates along New York's 800 miles of Great Lakes system coastline, Long Island's 118-miles of Atlantic coastline, New York City's 520 miles of waterfront, and the 524 miles of the state's canal system, along with the 125-mile-long Lake Champlain.

Patrol Boat 440 operates in New York Harbor and surrounding water-

ways conducting security mission as part of Joint Task Force Empire Shield and working with the Coast Guard.

The other 10 boats, which include two landing-craft vessels, are deployed across the state from spring to fall as required. They are operated in support of local law enforcement and state and federal agencies as required. During the winter months the boats are housed at the Leeds Armory in Green County.

The Naval Militia also operates a fleet of nine trucks and trailers to move the smaller patrol boats across New York. PB 440, a 44-foot Mooseboat catamaran, and PB 400, a 40-foot Metal Craft Marine Kingston search and rescue boat, are too large to trailer.

During 2025, the New York Naval Militia spent \$84,000 on state active duty pay to fund training and

exercises.

Non-personnel service spending in 2025 was \$348,287. Major expenditures during the year were for engine work on PB 400, which will cost \$43,820, and the purchase of five outboard motors at a cost of \$119,009.

During 2025, 572 New York Naval Militia members served on state active duty.

A total of 484 served on the mission to support the Department of Corrections and Community Services during the year.

Another 22 Naval Militia personnel served at Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters in support of the budget and human resources offices.

Sixty-six Naval Militia personnel were in support of

the Asylum Seeker Support mission which wound down at the beginning

of 2025.

State Partnership Program Support

The New York Naval Militia also played a role in the New York National Guard's State Partnership Program relationship with Sweden's military during 2025.

The Naval Militia hosted five Swedish marines and a Swedish naval officer from June 2 to 6 in New York City and on the Niagara River during Exercise Empire Challenge.

The Swedish marines man Sweden's 17th Amphibious Patrol Boat Company, which is responsible for coastal defense.

The Swedish delegation spent two days learning about maritime security in New York City and then observed a two day exercise on the Niagara River.

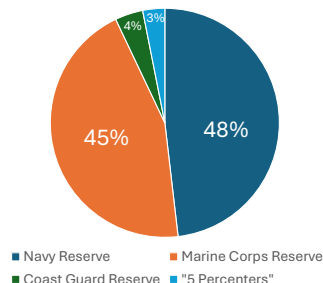
The drill's scenario involved interdicting maritime drug smuggling across the water border with Canada. The conclusion was an on-water apprehension, as well as an arrest on land, with the help of the New York State Police and the Naval Militia's new drone unit.

The Swedes witnessed a swift water rescue, a diving mission with the New York State Police dropping into the Niagara River from a helicopter. The training also included a Niagara County deputy repelling down a cliff to prepare a litter casualty for evacuation using a pulley system.

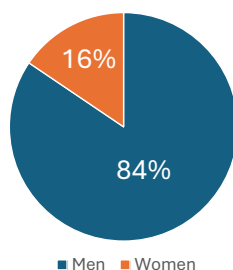


New York Naval Militia Patrol Boat 440, traveling on the East River during a State Partnership Program engagement on June 3, 2025.

NAVAL MILITIA BY COMPONENT



NAVAL MILITIA BY GENDER



In both New York and in Niagara, the Swedish marines got to try their hands at the helm of Naval Militia patrol boats; Patrol Boat 440 in New York and Landing Craft 350 on the Niagara River.

Two New York Naval Militia officers traveled to Sweden in November to observe Operation Kraken, a Swedish

coastal security exercise in Gothenburg.

Erie Canal Patrols

From April to October, 11 New York Naval Militia members in four boats spent 18 days patrolling along the Erie Canal and other parts of the canal system. The Canal Corporation was authorized to pay \$12,100 for the

2025 patrols, which was 75 percent of the pay and costs associated with the mission.

The crews were looking for hazards to navigation in the water and were also there to ensure boaters obeyed speed limits and other navigation rules.

Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Unit

In March the New York Naval Militia's Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Unit completed the process of certifying the six members to operate the Vesper ISR drone. The unmanned aircraft has a range of 27 miles and can fly for up to 50 minutes with a top speed of 45mph.

It is only 2.2 pounds, making it extremely easy to transport, and it can be launched in 90 seconds.

The drone is equipped with a low light, thermal camera with 48x zoom capability and a 3-axis stabilizing gimbal. The UAS can transmit streaming video to a distance of five miles.

Rear Admiral MaryEtta Nolan Commander, New York Naval Militia

Rear Admiral MaryEtta Nolan took command of the New York Naval Militia in November of 2025. She is the 25th commander of the Naval Militia and the first woman to lead the nation's largest state sea service.

Nolan previously served as the Chief-of-Staff of the Naval Militia.

She is a retired perioperative care nurse and a retired member of the Navy Nurse Corps Reserve. She has served in the Naval Militia since 2020.

Nolan entered the Navy in 1984 when she was awarded a direct commission as a Navy nurse.

As a reserve officer, Nolan was assigned to the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center at Sewells Point in Norfolk, Virginia as clinical operations officer. She was also a "plank owner" when the Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth (NMCP) stood up a same-day surgical program at Fort Eustis Army Reserve Center in Newport News, Virginia.

Her other duties have included:

Commanding officer of Navy Reserve Operational Health Support at NMCP, responsible for five detachments.

Director of Southern Medical Detachments Mid-Atlantic Region, managing reserve units



in Virginia and New York.

Senior Nurse Leader, Detachment Yankee, at the Naval Reserve Center Schenectady, New York.

Nolan was on active Duty in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm at NMCP.

She was also on duty in 2003 in support of Operation Noble Eagle, homeland security missions and Operation Enduring Freedom, combat operations in Afghanistan.

She served on active duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2006 and at NMCP in 2007 and 2019.

Nolan's awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.



Members of the 24th Civil Support Team load their utility terrain vehicle onto New York Naval Militia's Landing Craft 350 during training at the New York Police Departments Harbor Charlie in Brooklyn, on June 3, 2025.



New York Guard Col. John Mechmann, fires an M17 pistol during the 46th annual TAG Match at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., April 24, 2025.

The New York Guard is a state defense force authorized under Title 32 U.S. Code Section 109. Currently 20 states and Puerto Rico maintain these uniformed state only forces to augment the National Guard during state missions.

The New York Guard had a strength of 319 personnel at the end of 2025.

The commander is New York State Brigadier General Peter Riley, a retired New York Army National Guard colonel.

The New York Guard traces its history back to World War I when a state force was organized to provide security to key facilities when the New York National Guard was mobilized to fight in France.

The New York Guard was recreated during World War II and became a permanent organization during the 1950s.

The New York Guard volunteers use military ranks and wear Army uniforms with black name tapes and wear black hats with a New York flag on their shoulder to distinguish them from the Army National Guard.

New York Guard volunteers train one weekend a month and attend a week-long annual training. They are paid when they are placed on state active duty.

The New York Guard is headquartered at Camp Smith Training Site. It is organized into the 88th

Area Command, which covers New York City and Long Island, and the 56th Area Command which encompasses the rest of the state.

The New York Guard maintains the Military Emergency Radio Network, or MERN. The MERN team can deploy eight portable high-frequency radio systems to provide emergency communications when cell systems and land lines are not usable. The mobile systems adjust to the needs of the commanders, as opposed to operating out of fixed sites located in armories across the state.

During 2025, New York Guard personnel conducted five exercises involving the new systems.

OPERATIONS

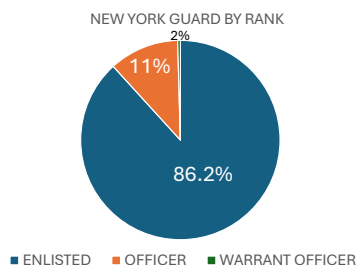
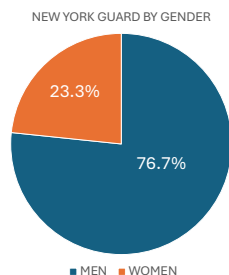
During 2025, 116 New York Guard personnel took part in the Department of Corrections and Community Services strike response mission. New York Guard volunteers were filling support roles for the National Guard members in the correctional facilities. At the end of the year, 101 volunteers were still on duty.

New York Guard members were also on duty at Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters assisting in the processing of state active-duty payrolls and reconciling expenses in the budget office.

Five MERN exercises were conducted utilizing the new mobile MERN systems purchased in 2025.

Nineteen service members participated in exercise Empire Challenge, a joint training exercise with the New York Naval Militia, from 4 to 6 June. The exercise took place at Camp Smith, Fort Niagara, Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters, and the Manor Road Armory in Staten Island. The exercise scenario was based on interoperability with state, federal and local partners.

The New York Guard conducted annual training at Camp Smith from 5 to 10 October, with a focus on



conducting initial entry training for 67 new volunteers. This was the largest New York Guard training camp conducted since World War II.

Sixteen New York Guard member conducted dining facility operations training at the United States Coast Guard's Fire Island Station during the summer in order to be prepared to conduct food service operations during annual training.

New York Guard members took part in the New York National Guard's Annual TAG Match in April, and workshops conducted by National Guard Public Affairs Officers, chaplains and the Joint

Operations Directorate during the year.

New York Guard members also took part in annual community events. On March 17 they marched in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City, and the Bronx Veterans Day Parade.

Members of the 88th Area Command commemorated the anniversary of the 1863 Battle of Fredericksburg in December at the Cavalry Cemetery in Queens. New York's 88th Regiment, a part of the famous Irish Brigade, which took heavy casualties during the fight.

On May 4, New York Guard members conducted an annual ceremony in Sleep Hollow Cemetery commemorating 40 members of the New York Guard's 1st Provisional Regiment who died of influenza while protecting the New York City water system from sabotage during World War I.

Brig. Gen. Peter Riley Commander, New York Guard

State 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.



New York Guard Col. John Mechmann, fires an M17 pistol during the 46th annual TAG Match at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., April 24, 2025.

Faces of the Force



Spc. Christian Habecker

New York Army National Guard Specialist Christian Habecker, a Houghton resident, was the top enlisted winner in the annual Best Warrior competition held in April of 2025.

Habecker, now 22, is a member of Bravo Troop of the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment and works as a powerline tree trimmer in civilian life.

The annual event brought together eight Soldiers, including two from Sweden, who competed in rigorous events designed to test their readiness, resilience and core soldiering skills.

Throughout the event, participants tackled day and night land navigation, a simulated weapons qualification course, a multi-event firing range, and a task-based round-robin covering everything from casualty care to tactical movement.

Habecker said the competition gave him a clearer sense of his limits and how far he could go beyond them.

"I came in wanting to challenge myself, and I definitely did," he said. "Winning is an honor, but just getting through the week with this group was something to be proud of."



Tech. Sgt. Franklin Angel

Tech Sgt. Franklin Angel, one of the 105th Airlift Wing's recruiters was named top recruiter in the entire Air Force in April 2025.

Angel was recognized for bringing in 80.5 Airmen during 2024, more than any other Air Force, Air Reserve or Air Guard recruiter. The ".5" was because he helped another New York Air Guard wing bring in a new Airman, so he got a half credit.

Angel also received his second Air Force Blue Suit Award which recognizes outstanding recruiters. He was the first Air Guard recruiter to get the award twice.

Angel became a recruiter in 2021, following seven years as a member of the 105th Base Defense Squadron.

He explained that after two deployments and other trips, he was ready for a change of pace that would challenge him and help him learn new skills. And he loves the recruiting job.

"We're not just supporting the Air Force as a whole, we're supporting our communities and state," Angel said.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Theodore Earley

On July 2, 2025, New York Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Theodore "Teddy" Earley saved a life.

Earley donated a kidney to New York City Fire Department Emergency Medical Services Lieutenant P.J. Acosta who was in end-stage renal disease that day.

"Mr. Earley did indeed save my life, and I am here today because of him," Acosta said.

"I said to myself, 'Teddy, this guy has dedicated 24 years of his life. If you don't try to do anything for this guy, you are not going to be able to sleep.'"

Before joining the New York Guard, Earley served in the New York Army National Guard from 2007 to 2017. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 and sustained back injuries which resulted in him leaving the Army Guard in 2017 as a sergeant.

He didn't want to give up uniformed service, so he joined the New York Guard.

He is "a thousand percent grateful" he decided to donate the kidney, Earley said.

"Just knowing that I can give back to somebody who has done that, it's very humbling," Earley said.



Lt. Col. Brian Napier

Army Guard Lt. Col. Brian Napier was a lieutenant running a road clearance platoon of re-tasked artillerymen north of Baghdad when he met Zeyad Al Mifrij in 2008.

Al Mifrij was Napier's interpreter as the two rode together on 210 missions during Napier's 15-month long Iraq deployment.

He helped Napier speak to the locals, developed intelligence that identified IEDs and saved lives, and declared he wanted join the U.S. Army.

So, when U.S. Army Reserve Pfc. Zeyad Al Mifrij graduated basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on Sept. 11, 2025, Napier made sure he was there.

"I just had to be there," said Napier, who now serves as the executive officer of the 42nd Infantry Division Artillery.

Napier wrote letters that helped Al Mifrij and his family immigrate to the United States in 2017 and remained in touch.

Eventually Al Mifrij became a Walmart store manager and finished a degree in cyber security.

He was allowed to enlist in the Army at age 45 because of his cyber security skills.



Colleen Casey

Colleen Casey, the 109th Airlift Wing's Military and Family Readiness Manager was named Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Scotia-Glenville Elks in March of 2025.

Casey was recognized for her over ten years of service to the Stratton Air National Guard Base community.

"What Mrs. Casey does for Stratton Air National Guard Base and for the service men and women and their children is truly generous. She checked every box on my list for someone who I thought deserved this award," said Travis St. Louis, the Exalted Ruler of the Scotia Glenville Elks.

"I know I am appreciated – I receive many heartfelt thanks and words of praise daily. But this is the first tangible award I have received. It's hard to explain how wonderful it feels to be recognized in person," Casey said.

Casey works closely with national, state and local agencies to stay up to date on what resources are available for service members and their families. She also assisted the Scotia Glenville Elks in an effort to provide backpacks and school supplies to service members' children.

State Partnership Program

The State Partnership Program, or SPP, is a Department of Defense Security Cooperation program, which is managed and administered by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, executed by the Geographic Combatant Commanders, and sourced by the National Guards of the states and territories.

The SPP builds capacity and capability within a partner nation's security forces while cultivating personal and professional relationships.

The New York National Guard maintains three official partnerships across three separate combatant commands. These are the South African National Defense Force with U.S. Africa Command, the Brazilian Armed Forces, with U.S. Southern Command, and the Swedish Armed Forces with U.S. European Command.

The partnership with South Africa dates to 2003, while that with Brazil was launched in 2019. The partnership between Sweden and the New York National Guard was launched in 2024.

A team of 13 New York Army and Air National Guard personnel coordinates the program. Ten are assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters led by Lt. Col. Melanie Padilla. One officer is assigned to the United States Embassies in Brazil, South Africa, and Sweden to coordinate in each nation.

During 2025, New York Army and Air National Guard personnel participated in 140 interactions and exercises through the SPP program.

In addition, the New York National Guard has a bilateral agreement with the Israeli Homefront Command that is supported by the National Guard Bureau. This focuses on lessons learned and best practices for crisis response.

In 2023, the New York National Guard also initiated a letter of intent with the Danish Arctic Command, the entity responsible for the defense of Greenland, to explore conducting training and

exchanges together.

The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, which flies the ski-equipped LC-130H aircraft, flies missions in Greenland in support of National Science Foundation research.

State Partnership Program, Sweden

2025, was the first full year of partnership between the Swedish military and the New York National Guard. There were 90 joint events in 2025 in the United States, Sweden, and with other European militaries.

The focus for 2025, centered on developing and allocating resources to ensure execution of a mutually beneficial three-year training plan.

Events during 2025 Included:

- Fifteen Army and Air National Guard personnel attended the Swedish Arctic Warfare Course at the Swedish Armed Forces Subarctic Warfare Center in Boden.
- Two members of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team attended the Arctic CBRN Warfare



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jack A. James Jr. (right), the commander of the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division, speaks with Swedish Army soldiers during the division's Warfighter 25-3 exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Jan. 31, 2025.



Swedish Army Lt. Col. Fredrik Mansson, the chief of operations for the 1st Division Headquarters, speaks with U.S. Army senior leaders from the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division during the division's Warfighter 25-3 exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Feb. 3, 2025.

Course.

- Ten New York Army National Guard Soldiers and one New York Air National Guard Airmen took part in the Swedish 1st Division Command Post Exercise from 16 to 23 September as subject matter experts.
- Ten New York Army National Guard personnel, including Major General Michel Natali, the assistant adjutant general, Army, observed a river-crossing exercise in Dalälven, Sweden in April.
- Three Airmen from the 174th Attack Wing, which operates the MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft, visited Sweden.
- Sweden sent five Soldiers to participate in the 102 Military Police Battalion's annual training.
- Sweden sent a C-130 and ten airmen for a training exchange with the 106th Rescue Wing.
- Five Swedish officers visited the 42nd Infantry Division at Fort Indiantown Gap during the division's final Warfighter command post exercise in February before deploying to Kuwait.
- Two Swedish soldiers competed in the New York Army National Guard's annual Best Warrior competition in April.
- Nine Swedish servicemembers took part in Mohawk Arrow, an exercise conducted in the Albany area by the New York National Guard's Civil Support Teams and New York State Police.
- Seven members of the Swedish Navy visited the New York Naval Militia's Empire Challenge exercise held in the Niagara River in June.
- The year's efforts culminated in a conference between the New York Army National Guard

and the Swedish Army planning staffs at Joint Force Headquarters in Latham.

State Partnership Program- Brazil

During 2025, the New York National Guard worked alongside Brazilian military personnel on exercises and engagements that were focused on cybersecurity, and space operations.

Altogether, the New York/Brazil partnership held 39 events in 2025. This level of activity highlights the value of building partner capacity and demonstrates the importance of fostering interoperability between nations.

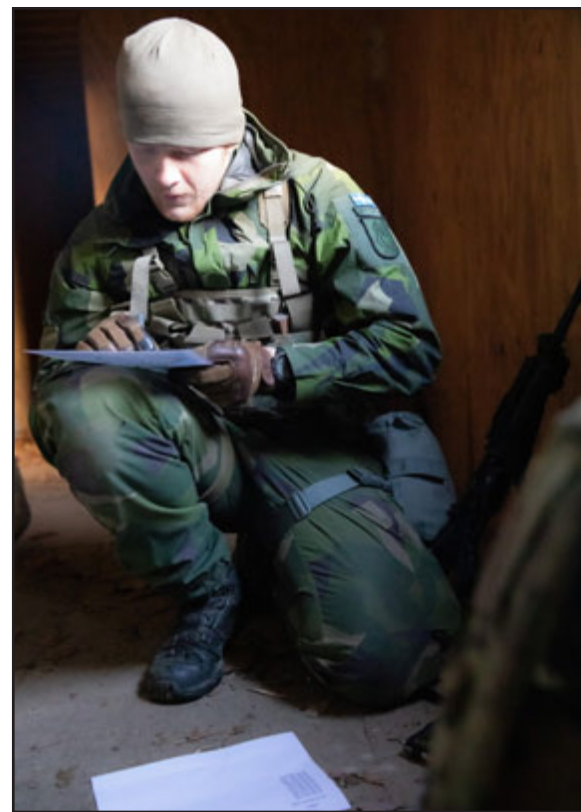
Engagements conducted in 2025 included:

- Five members of the Brazilian Armed Forces were hosted at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse by members of the 222nd Command and Control Squadron, which conducts space operations in conjunction with the National Reconnaissance Office from August 18 to 22.
- The 105th Airlift Wing, the 174th Attack Wing, and the 106th Rescue Wing sent 89 Airmen to Campo Grande Air Base, Brazil, for Exercise Tapio—an annual search and rescue exercise— from July 28 to August 11.
- A Soldier from the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, and an Airmen from the 105th Base Defense Group attended the Brazilian Jungle Warfare Training School.
- Six Cyber defense experts from the 173rd Cyber Protection Team and the 222nd Command and Control Squadron participated in a Brazilian exercise.
- The 369th Sustainment Brigade sent two Soldiers to discuss logistics with their Brazilian counterparts.

State Partnership Program -South Africa

The New York National Guard and South Africa conducted 11 shared engagements in 2025.

South Africa remains a strategic partner for the United States. By continuing to develop and execute events between the NYNG and South Africa, strategic lines of effort are reinforced, enabling force projection and operational readiness measures beneficial to both entities.



Swedish army Cpl. Drie Runnander Sim, an infantryman, plots their landmark points during the land navigation evaluation at the 2025 State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., April 5, 2025.



Swedish officers observe New York State Police Underwater Recovery Team divers exiting the water during exercise Empire Challenge 2025, June 5, 2025 on the Niagara River .

These engagements were:

- Three New York Army National Guard chaplains attended the South African Defense Force chaplains conference, which also included chaplains from other southern African military forces.
- Eighteen New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in the annual South African National Defense Force Military Skills Competition from Sept. 28 to October 4 at South Africa's Army Support Base Potchefstroom.
- Two service members from Joint Force Headquarters participated in the South African Military Academy's Exercise Trans Enduro. The exercise is focused on fitness, leadership, and esprit de corps. During the 11-day event, cadets travel across South Africa, staying in towns along the route.



Representatives pose in front of an MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft assigned to the 174th Attack Wing during a subject matter expert exchange event at Hancock Air Field, August 19 2025.



Members of the New York Naval Militia, Swedish Marines, New York Army National Guard and NYPD have a discussion prior to a training event during a State Partnership Program engagement on June 3, 2025.

Military History Museum

The New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs 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. 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.

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, newspaper clippings, and other artifacts donated by Civil War units and compiled records of all New Yorkers who served in the war.

Today, the museum has a collection of 2,323 regimental flags, 1,000 of which date back to the Civil War. Four new flags were acquired in 2025.

The collection was housed in many places before finding its current home in 2001.

During 2025, 9,421 people visited the museum, which has a staff of 35 volunteer docents to answer questions.

The museum also has an extensive online collection and presence, and during 2025, there were 2.2 million visits to the museum website, and 464,500 visits to the museum YouTube Channel.

The museum is also responsible for historical artifacts located in the New York National Guard armories across the state. Historical displays in each armory build unit morale by telling the story of the New York National Guard in each local area.

During 2025, the museum had a staff of six full time employees. Six volunteers helped organize the photographs, documents, and books held in the museum library.

The museum's holdings include 31,158 artifacts, including 700 weapons, and 2,323 battle flags. Eleven of the flags are on display at an exhibit in the state capitol, where 600 of the historic Civil War flags are stored in glass-faced display cases.

The museum library's collection of materials

includes:

- 17,673 photographs.
- 17,837 books and articles.
- 4,666 military records.
- 1,415 military oral history transcripts.
- 1.082 million military unit rosters.
- 348 pieces of sheet music.

During 2025, 493 artifacts, including four new battle flags, were donated to the museum by 56 people.

Significant donations included:

Adolf Hitler's top hat. This was donated by the family of Albany, resident Richard Marowitz. On April 30, 1945, Private Richard Marowitz, a member of the 42nd Infantry Division's 222nd Infantry Regiment, discovered this black silk top hat, while



Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, presents the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal to Courtney Burns the director of the New York State Military Museum, during a ceremony to mark Burns' retirement after 22 years of Service to the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, at the museum in Saratoga Springs, New York on Feb. 9, 2026. Burns has served as director of the museum for the last 10 years.



A metal helmet is displayed in a case after the unveiling of the newly rehabilitated Jamaica Armory opened by New York National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, the adjutant general of New York, and New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy, during a ribbon during a ceremony at the Jamaica Armory in Queens, New York, N.Y., Feb. 13, 2025.

searching through Adolf Hitler's Munich, Germany, apartment. When Marowitz saw Hitler's initials embossed inside, the young Jewish man tossed the hat to the ground and stomped it flat.

Hussar's style dress coat and Busby hat. This coat and hat, worn by New York City native Robert S. Wylie, Sr. during his pre-World War II years serving with Squadron A Cavalry, NYNG, depicts the formal uniform style worn by the elite cavalry



This marker from the French 'Le Voie de la Liberte', a route commemorating the American Army advance through France in 1944, was unveiled during a May 8, 2025 ceremony at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

unit during the late 19th and into the early 20th century.

Purple Heart painting by E. Davis. This 1939 Gouache painting depicts soldiers surrounded by the Purple Heart (center) medal, American WW I Victory (upper left) medal, and the Distinguished Service Cross (upper right). The artist presented this painting to the Military Order of the Purple Heart chapter in New Rochelle, NY.

The museum holds 910,465 digitized records, photographs, books, and articles, many of which are available via the museum website.

The virtual data collection in 2025 consisted of:

- 99,722 photographs.
- 822,431 records.
- 2,852 books and articles.
- 2,220 digitized video and audio veterans' oral histories.
- 234 digital pieces of sheet music.



New York State Military Museum Director Courtney Burns, second from left, discusses artifacts with the Marowitz family members, from left, Linda, Roberta and Larry, during the museum unveiling of a new temporary exhibit for the display of "Hitler's Hat," once worn by the Reich Chancellor prior to the Second World War.



The New York State Military Museum unveils a new temporary exhibit for the display of "Hitler's Hat," once worn by the Reich Chancellor prior to the Second World War. The hat, and other artifacts, were presented by the family of World War II veteran Richard Marowitz, who was present at the Dachau liberation with the 42nd Infantry Division and secured the Nazi clothing memorabilia the following day during his unit's capture of Munich on April 30, 1945.



During 2025, the New York State Military Museum received the donation of a Hussar's "busby" hat and coat worn by New York City resident Robert S. Wylie who served with "Squadron A" of the New York National Guard during the years between World War I and World War II.

This is the dress uniform worn by the well-off members of the socially connected New York National Guard unit.

Squadron A was organized by wealthy East Side polo players who organized themselves into the New York Hussars in the last 1880s. Eventually they were accepted into the New York National Guard as a cavalry troop and grew large enough to have three troops in the squadron.

The squadron mobilized a cavalry troop for the Spanish American War, and in World War I 796 members were mobilized as part of the 105th Machine Gun Battalion. Because so many of the men had college degrees, 609 were commissioned as officers.

In 1941, the squadron was mobilized as the 101st Cavalry a hybrid horse and mechanized cavalry unit. The horses were moved in trailers towed by trucks and then deployed close to the enemy.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor the 101st was reorganized as the 101st Cavalry Group (Mechanized) and deployed to Europe, landing in Normandy in January of 1945. The 101st was assigned to the XXIst Corps of the Seventh Army and served in front of the corps as it attacked into Germany in March, April and May of 1945.

At the end of the war the 101st captured German Field Marshall Albert Kesselring, as well as Hitler's postmaster general, and secretary of Agriculture and the Japanese ambassador to Nazi Germany.

The lineage of the 101st Cavalry is carried today by the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, the reconnaissance element of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The social side of the original Squadron A lives on the Squadron "A" Association, a New York City social club with over 600 members.



Adolph Hitler's top hat has a new home at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, New York.

The hat was "liberated" from the Nazi dictator's Munich apartment by a 19-year-old Jewish Soldier from Brooklyn in April 1945.

Eighty years later, the hat found by Private 1st Class Richard Marowitz, a regimental recon Soldier in the 42nd Infantry Division, was donated to the museum by his children, Larry, Linda and Roberta.

Hitler's hat is now displayed at the museum.

"We're thrilled that the New York State Military Museum has the exhibit," Larry Marowitz said during an April 24 ceremony. "There's a story to be told. It is history."

"We look for artifacts that tell the story of New York veterans, and this collection from the Marowitz family is a compelling narrative that we're honored to display," said Courtney Burns, the director of history for the New York National Guard.

The 42nd Infantry Division has been a part of the New York Army National Guard since 1947.

Marowitz, who died in 2014, was one of a dozen reconnaissance Soldiers who arrived at Hitler's apartment on April 30, 1945.

While looking in a bedroom closet, Marowitz discovered a box on an upper shelf. Climbing up, he found a top hat with the initials "A.H." in the hat lining.

Imagining the Nazi leader's head still inside the hat, he tossed it to the floor and stomped on it.

The war souvenir stayed with Marowitz during post-war occupation duties in Austria before returning to New York.

For the next 50 years, Hitler's hat remained at the bottom of a duffel bag in Albany. The hat became a prop for the magic tricks at children's birthday parties.

For most of their lives, the Marowitz children, didn't know of the hat's unique history.

"The hat was in the basement, with all my father's magic tricks. We had no idea it was there for all those years," explained Larry Marowitz.



Private Richard Marowitz, 22nd Infantry Regiment, with Adolf Hitler's hat, shortly after VE Day, 1945. Marowitz playfully posed with Hitler's hat atop his head and a pocket comb for mustache at Regimental Headquarters shortly after Victory over Europe Day, May 8, 1945.

The New York State Military Museum unveils a new temporary exhibit for the display of "Hitler's Hat," once worn by the Reich Chancellor prior to the Second World War. The hat, and other artifacts, were presented by the family of World War II veteran Richard Marowitz, who was present at the Dachau liberation with the 42nd Infantry Division and secured the Nazi clothing memorabilia the following day during his unit's capture of Munich on April 30, 1945. In this unit photo, Marowitz displays Hitler's Hat during occupation duties in Austria in May 1945.

Family Programs

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The New York Army National Guard supports Soldiers and their families through the Military and Family Readiness Program.

National Guard families face the same stresses as families of active-duty military personnel, including overseas deployments. They also face unique challenges, such as missed weekends and state active-duty emergencies.

Unlike active Army Families, Guard families are spread out across the state because the New York Army National Guard operates in over 40 locations, not just one like Fort Drum.

There are 11 Professional Military and Family Readiness Specialists across the state for the Army National Guard Soldiers and their families. Additionally, there are 5 Airmen & Family Readiness Managers located at the five air bases in New York.

Army National Guard commanders rely on Soldier and Family Readiness Groups to include volunteers to support the families of their units. These Soldier and Family Readiness Groups are supported by professional staff and play an integral role in facilitating information between command leadership and unit families as well as providing an opportunity for mutual support among families.

The New York Army National Guard's Military and Family Readiness Specialist plays a large role in supporting the readiness and resiliency of soldiers through Soldiers and family member assistance.

In 2025, the Military and Family Readiness Specialist:

Conducted 6,900 wellness checks to family members of deployed service members.

Conducted 1,079 networking contacts with community partners.

Worked 573 service/family member cases (issue that staff provided resources for addressing the issue and following up with the service/family member until there is a resolution).

Provided 4,702 quick pieces of information (handouts, flyers, or verbally).

Participated in 286 events (unit drill support, training, community events).

In total, there are 32 Military and Family Readiness Program personnel, comprising 13 federal civilians, 3 Soldiers, and 16 contractors.



The 106th Rescue Wing celebrated Family Day at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., September 6, 2025. The wing holds Family Day each year to express its appreciation for the support families provide to their Airmen.

These additional professional staff support the following auxiliary programs:

The Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention (R3SP) Program provides suicide prevention and substance abuse training, support, and resources to commanders and their Soldiers as well as administers the Unit Risk Inventory.

The New York Army National Guard 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 organizations prior to and following deployments.

In 2025, the program conducted eight virtual Yellow Ribbon events, one of which was multiple day hybrid event consisting of an in-person portion, for 1,204 Soldiers and their families. The virtual events allow



Children participating in series of solution based science projects during NY National Guard's Child Youth Program Summer Day Camp, Aug. 12, at New York National Guard headquarters in Latham, N.Y.

participants to attend via a Zoom call from their homes without traveling. While the in-person portion of the hybrid post-deployment event allowed Soldiers and families to meet service providers face-to-face.

The New York National Guard Child and Youth Program exists to provide military children and youth with valuable opportunities for networking and skill development, through social, emotional, and academic support based on resiliency.

In 2025, The Child and Youth Program conducted and/or participated in over 50 events with a total of 3,352 young people. The Child and Youth program distributed 180 Month of the Military Child recognition kits and 177 care packages to children and youth whose parents are serving on a deployment.

The Transition Assistance Advisor and Specialist support soldiers transition-



A New York Army National Guard Soldier assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division attends a deployment ceremony at the National Veterans Resource Center at Syracuse University, Jun. 1.

ing from military orders and deployments back to life by helping them obtain benefits and entitlements in conjunction with a network of local community organizations.

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) provides Soldiers with their military Command Access Cards or CAC cards. Additionally, the DEER office verifies dependent status, providing family members with a Department of Defense identification card.

The Military and Family Readiness Program also works closely with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program, which supports Army and Air Guard members with their civilian employers, helping to resolve conflicts and recognizing employer support arising from Soldier and Airmen's military service.

Chaplaincy

Military Chaplains provide religious, spiritual, and moral support to Soldiers, Airmen and their families throughout the New York National Guard.

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 regardless of their beliefs.

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 regiments. 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 20 chaplains and 28 religious affairs specialists.

Air National Guard chaplains are members of the Air Force Chaplains Corps.

The New York Air National Guard has 17 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, force protection, and are trained to assist in counseling function.

Army National Guard chaplains are assigned to the battalion, brigade, and division level of command. Chaplains in the Air National Guard are assigned to the air wings at their respective Air

National Guard bases. There are chaplains in both the Army and Air Guard representing Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim faiths.

During 2025, the chaplain's corps mobilized five Religious Support Teams consisting of 5 Army and Air National Guard chaplains, as well as enlisted religious affairs personnel in support of the up to 6,000+ personnel involved in the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision mission.

The Chaplain corps also supported multiple New York National Guard deployments during 2025. Chaplains and religious affairs supported missions at the US southern border and deployments in the middle east.

Jewish and Catholic chaplains deployed in support of multiple high holy days across the middle east.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Brian McNamara, 106th Rescue Wing chaplain, gives his remarks during an inaugural Day of Remembrance ceremony on Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., May 22, 2025.



New York Army National Guard Maj. Anthony Stephens, a chaplain assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, recites a benediction, during a 42nd Infantry Division deployment ceremony at the National Veterans Resource Center at Syracuse University, Jun. 1, 2025



New York Army National Guard Chaplain Maj. Robert Volk gave the invocation during the annual wreath laying ceremony marking the birthday of President Martin Van Buren in Kinderhook, N.Y., on Dec. 5, 2025.



U.S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) Dario Kogan with the 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, delivers the invocation during a ceremony in which Capt. Stephanie Fernandez, outgoing commander of the 138th Public Affairs Detachment, New York Army National Guard, relinquishes command to Capt. Danielle Dias at Camp Smith Training Site, near Peekskill, N.Y., May 18, 2025.

During 2025 Chaplains conducted the following religious support missions:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| · 429 Counseling Sessions. | · 4 Memorial Ceremonies. | · 3 Religious Rites. |
| · 42 Worship Services. | · 10 Invocations & Benedictions at Official Events. | · 35 Spiritual Readiness programs. |
| · 38 Religious classes. | · 5 Hospital visits. | · 3 couple events |
| · 4 Moral leadership classes. | · 2 Weddings. | · 2 individual events on building strong and ready teams. |
| · 3 Military funerals. | | |

