

The Nexus

Volume VI

Summer 2016



Our Mission: To provide highly skilled personnel, specialized equipment and facilities as requested by Law Enforcement Agencies and Community Based Organizations in response to a changing drug threat.



THE COLONEL'S CORNER



THANK YOU, simply put, I would like to take this time to say "thank you" to each and every one of you who dedicate your time and service to the critical missions of the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. FY16 has been an *INCREIBLE* year with the following *ACCOMPLISHMENTS* to name a few:

*Over 40 million dollars worth in narcotics seized

*3.8 million dollars in Non-Drug assets seized

*79 weapons taken off the streets

*275 Arrested criminals

*30 Prescription Drop Boxes installed

*Civil Operators supported 88 Community Based Organiza-

tions (CBO); 29 more than FY15

*15 newly created CBOs for FY16

*COs attended and participated in 130 community events throughout the year; examples include: Red Ribbon Week, NARCAN Training, Prevention Day Rally, Family Support Forums, and Annual CO NE Co Conference

Reflecting back, I am amazed how much the program has grown as demonstrated by our largest budget in history, totaling nearly 14 million dollars; nearly double our average assigned allocation. What other things have changed? When I started 13.5 years ago, we didn't have Civil Operations, Warrant Officers (WO), Counter Threat finance (CTF), Linguists nor a dedicated Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU). Not to mention, I

was probably using a "flip" phone!

Currently, we are in the middle of a heroin, fentanyl, and prescription drug epidemic that is claiming thousands upon thousands of lives every year. Every day, someone dies because of this pandemic. What does that mean for us?

CHANGE; it is natural to fear change. Fear of the unknown, lack of competence or understanding, connected to the "old way", low trust, not being consulted, change to routines or the "status quo" are all valid reasons to fear change. We as a team need to be flexible enough to adapt and overcome the challenges of change in order to move forward and improve. I would like to offer a few quotes to support our venture into the changing times:

"Even if you stumble, you're still moving forward" and "By changing nothing, nothing changes" -Tony Robbins

"Your life doesn't get better by chance, it gets better by change" -Jim Rohn

"I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I cannot accept not trying" -Michael Jordan

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable individual persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man" -George Bernard Shaw

Our **CHALLENGE** for FY17 is to "adapt and overcome" and think outside the box. What major initiative will you do for the next fiscal year to fight the current drug problems poisoning our fellow citizens and to make the NYNG CDTF a better cohesive unit, as well as, the predominate program in the nation?!

~Lt Col Nicholas Dean

Right: The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force FY16 members stand at 'parade rest' for a Task force photograph on 1 September before being released to travel 'home'. This marked the end of the annual conference held at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid, NY. COL Robert A. Mitchell, Director of NYNG J-3 Operations was on hand to pose with Lt Col Dean, CSM Freyn, and the NYNG CDTF.



THE CSM'S: LISTEN UP!**Greetings NY Counterdrug!**

I would like to thank everyone for your hard work and dedication in making FY16 a

great year. There were a lot of great storyboards from both the analysts and the civil operators. I know there are a lot of other good things taking place behind the scenes that doesn't always make it to a storyboard. We are now supporting CBOs and LEAs that we've never worked with in the past. Your efforts are truly taking our program to another level. I ask that you continue to seek out opportunities to not only improve yourselves, but the program as

well. Let's make FY17 an even better year.

I would like to welcome Colonel Cleveland to the Counterdrug family. For those that are not aware, Colonel Cleveland is coming on board sometime in the first quarter to become the new CDC.

We are losing a few members in the next few months due to upcoming operations / deployments: MSgt Baker, SrA Berger, SSgt Chester, SSgt Ledger, TSgt Myers, TSgt Morales, SGT

Palmer, TSgt Perkins and MSgt Robelotto. We wish you all the best of luck.

Additionally, a few members have left the program to pursue other opportunities. I would like to thank SPC Eckert, SPC Herrick, SSG Johnson, CPT Hersey, and CPT Moeller for everything and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

Stay safe and keep up the great work!



-CSM Joseph Freyn



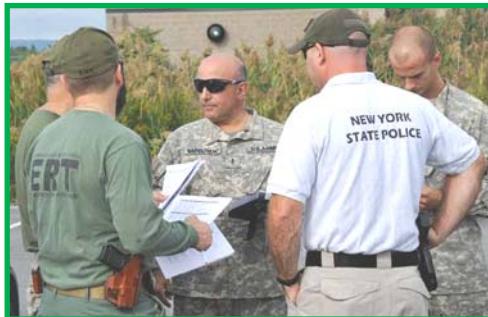
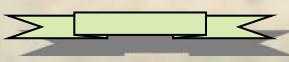
Security & Support / LUH 72a Lakota

With the FY 16 Eradication season coming to a close, the NYNG CD Rotary Aviation has conducted 42 flights while providing Marijuana Reconnaissance and Eradication support by flying over 120 LUH-72 and UH-60 flight hours combined. To date, Rotary Wing Aviation support to LEAs has been in the following counties: Cattaraugus, Allegheny, Columbia, Rensselaer, Montgomery, Washington, and Warren.

Greene and Fulton Counties are to be eradicated in the next coming weeks. So far, a total of 1567

plants (including 209 plants scattered randomly in ONE field!) and 10 pounds of processed Marijuana have been seized culminating in over \$3 Million dollars in assets. Other eradication flights being conducted in Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties by the Vermont CD Aviation unit are currently being conducted as well. In addition, NYNG CD has conducted 10 RC-26B Fixed Wing missions in support of local LEAs so far this year.

~CW2 Phillip Napolitano



Above: CW2 Philip Napolitano and ILT Devis Ceci confer with officers from different law enforcement agencies at the beginning of a marijuana eradication mission that took place in NY's Washington County on September 20th.



Above: A New York Army National Guard UH-72a Lakota Helicopter takes off from Army Aviation Support Facility #3 at State HQ in Latham, NY. The mission was to scout for illegal marijuana growing fields of New York's north country and to train the on-board Sheriff on how to spot the plants from above. This sortie involved a collaboration with LEAs from Warren County (the county just north of Saratoga County).



Above: Law Enforcement Officers take photographs of Marijuana plants planted in a residential backyard's garden before cutting them down on September 20th.



Above: Marijuana plants scattered throughout a field in Washington County.

Below: A bald eagle is perched high above Round Lake on a beautiful September afternoon.



Background Photo: A NY ANG UH-72a sits in front of AASF #3's hanger as Army Aviation crew-chefs prepare it for take off on August 4th. The Lakota was used in support of the Warren County Sheriff's office's eradication of marijuana in the fields and backyards of that particular county.



Right: A NY ANG UH-60 takes off from AASF #3 on its way to Saratoga County for a marijuana spotting mission on August 3rd. It was also used as a marijuana recognition training mission for three NYNG CDTF members.



Left: CW2 Phil Napolitano is the NYNG CDTF's chief Uh-60 Blackhawk pilot and liaison between the CDTF Aviation's Security and Support Unit and LEAs.

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami

CDU: Mini-Zs and LEAs

July 18, Representatives from all the regions' Counter Drug Detection Units congregated at CDTF HQ for instructions on how to use the highly anticipated Mini-Z scanner.

The MINI Z handheld X-ray system is a compact, single-sided imager that can be used to scan objects in hard-to-reach areas, allowing for the effective screening of a wide variety of items such as suspicious bags, walls, furniture, small boats, aircraft, vehicle tires, and car interiors.

Using AS&E's signature "Z Backscatter" technology, the MINI Z system produces a real-time image of the scan target, highlighting organic materials that transmission X-ray systems can miss, such as explosives, currency, and drugs.



Above: CDTF CDC Lt Col Dean and CDU members are briefed on the newly arrived Mini-Z Scanner.



Above: SMSgt Michael Decker and MSgt Christopher Bauer scan the closed door on the training vehicle.



Above Left: Instructor Paul Freitas shows CDU members the specifics on how to use the Mini-Z Scanner.



Above Right: CDU members demonstrate the "scan-through-a-wall" capabilities of the Mini-Z Scanner.



Above Left to Right: SMSgt McCarthy and Bauer scan a counter to gain experience with the Mini-Z.



The HQ CDU team assisting the Cattaraugus County Department of Probation and Correctional Services with a demo / mission on 22 June 2016.



Above: MSgt Jason Robelotto scans a mounted tire during the Mini-Z training on 18 July.

ing system can be found at the DEA Albany location.

Aside from the Mini-Z, the CDU teams are still extremely busy with their schedules, meeting with LEAs and correctional facilities to acquaint

them with, the ever growing in popularity, Itemiser 3 Enhanced. The "drug sniffing" device has breathed new life into the CDU program and its professional crews make sure it stays active, available, and relevant.

~TSgt Stephen J Girolami

Change of Authority: Welcoming a NEW State Command Chief!

July 25th, Change of Authority Ceremony at State Headquarters for the outgoing and incoming State Command Chief Master Sergeants Richard King and Amy Giaquinto. The ceremony was presided over by the NY State's Adjutant General, Major General Anthony German. TAG German offered endearing words for both chiefs followed by words of encouragement on their next assignments. Command Chief Richard King relinquishes authority to move on as the top ranking Airman in the North American Aerospace Defense Command's Continental U.S. Region and 1st Air Force.

The 109th Airlift Wing's Command Chief Amy Giaquinto has many years experience as a Chief Master Sergeant and was selected as Chief King's replacement. Chief Giaquinto brings with her a wealth of knowledge and will continue to bring honor and dignity to the position.

Counterdrug personnel were on hand for the service as well as partaking in the ceremony. First Sergeant (MSgt) Lynette Tangredi (CDTF HQ) was available to assist in the commemoration.

On behalf of the Counterdrug Task Force, we extend our congratulations to both CCM Sgt Richard King and CCM Sgt Amy Giaquinto for a job well done and good luck with your new assignments.



Above: Adjutant General of New York State, Major General Anthony German speaks on behalf of CCMsgs Richard King and Amy Giaquinto at the Change of Authority ceremony at State HQ in Latham, NY on July 25th.

Right: The official photograph of the new State Command Chief Master Sergeant Amy Giaquinto.

Left: CDTF Civil Op's NCOIC, ISG, MSgt Lynette Tangredi, was on hand to help facilitate the Change of Authority ceremony.



Above: MSgt Lynette Tangredi hands the state guide-on to newly appointed State Command Chief Giaquinto during the Change of Authority ceremony after CCM Sgt Richard King relinquished it to State AG, MG Anthony German.



Below: SrA Joshua Spezzie, MSgt Marlene "Boots" Frankovic, and SSG Sean Chester of CDTF HQ were just a few of the NYNG CDTF personnel that showed their support for both CCMsgs.



Above: ISG, MSgt Sully Baker of North East Region and SSG James Peck of CDTF HQ, bow their heads during the chaplain's blessing at the Change of Authority ceremony. They joined the fore-mentioned CDTF members SSG Chester, SrA Spezzie, and MSgt Frankovic as a representation of the Counterdrug Task Force.

-TSgt Stephen J Girolami

News Around the Regions

Prescription Medication Drop Box Program

Drop box unveilings are still taking place across the state including at Stratton Air National Guard Base on July 11th, the Adjutant General, Major General Anthony German, Brigadier Generals Shields, Center and LaClaire, State Command Sargent Major Piwowarski, and the 109th AW's Vice Commander and Command Chief, Col. Alan Ross and CCMSgt Amy Giaquinto were all on hand to celebrate the new drop box arrival, along with Counterdrug's CDC, Lt Col Nicholas Dean and 109th AW Security Forces' Commander, Major Furmanski.

The new drop box will be located in the foyer of the Security Forces building (#26) so Stratton's employees may find it easy to drop their unwanted prescription drugs.

The program is being reported as having a wonderful success from its inception. In some cases, the drop box has been said to be "stuffed" beyond capacity in a night. The news of this is confirmation that the program is working and that the communities are willing to do something positive for their own good and environment.



Above: TAG Maj Gen German begins to unveil the Stratton ANGB Prescription Medication Drop Box as Brigadier Generals: Center, Shields, and LaClaire, Col Ross (109th Airlift Wing's Vice Commander), NYNG CDTF's CDC; Lt Col Dean, Maj William Furmanski (109th Airlift Wing's SFS Commander), and CCMSgt Amy Giaquinto watch on. The drop box will be permanently positioned in the SFS building's

The success of the program has spread widely across the state from the City, to the North Country, to the Falls.

Where ever one pops up, awareness is generated and the media / news follows up with the positive effect and affect the boxes bring to communities and of the CDTF's involvement with the individual cities or towns.



Above: Col Alan Ross, Vice Commander of the 109th Air Lift Wing, congratulates TSgt Mike Crouse for a job well done.

Left: CDC Lt Col Dean stands with TSgt Mike Crouse and the 109th Airlift Wing's Security Forces leadership: Commander, Maj William Furmanski and Superintendent, CMSgt Joshua Walters. The Medication Drop Box will be locked and permanently stationed in the Security Forces' building's foyer.



Above: Maj Gen Anthony German gives NYNG CDTF's CDC, Lt Col Nicholas Dean, a congratulatory hand shake with TSgt Mike Crouse standing by.

Below: TSgt Michael Crouse of CDTF HQ proudly uses the drop box on 12 July at Stratton ANGB. TSgt Crouse has been detrimental to the success of the Drop Box Program.



News Around the Regions

Prescription Medication Drop Box Program Continued...

Several more cities and towns joined the ever-growing number of communities that have recognized the benefits the Medication Drop Box Program will have on their neighborhoods.

To name a few NY cities: Amsterdam, Horseheads, and Elmira, all received their drop boxes and put them to use right away.

The purpose of the drop boxes was touched upon again to city and town officials about their dual role of keeping unwanted and or unneeded drugs out of medicine cabinets in local homes as well as keeping those said drugs out of the ecosystem from citizens flushing them into city sewers.



Left: SPC Emily Herrick and SSG Jeramy Baldwin stand with Horseheads, NY's Police Chief, Thomas Stickler, Mayor Louise McIntosh, and Trinity of Chemung County's representatives, Janet LaRue and Christine Nightingale, on 14 July, as they surround the Drop Box that was unveiled a few days before.

Below: Trinity of Chemung County's reps, J. LaRue and C. Nightingale, were back, in Elmira, NY, with Police Chief Joseph Kane to unveil the Drop Box that was set up there. Chief Kane spoke to the local media as CDTF PAO, TSgt Stephen Girolami, was on hand to represent the NYNG CDTF.



Montgomery County to get \$284K from casino licensing fees

Ossenfort: Money may go toward projects

By EMILY DREW
Recorder News Staff

Montgomery and Fulton counties will receive \$284,000 in licensing fees from the Rivers Casino & Resort's new slot machine facility in Schenectady to help aid local governments.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced the money will be used to spur economic and tourism development in the region.

The money will come in the form of license fees from newly licensed slot machine facilities.

Montgomery County Executive David A. Ossenfort said he will be

“very pleased” to see the funds.

“Going back through the news, we knew both the licensing fee as well as the amount of money that would be shared among the counties,” Ossenfort said.

“This was part of the original negotiations when the state made the decision to change the laws, as well as the fact that the state will be giving the money to the counties,” he said.

“I think it’s great that the counties are going to receive some money,” he said.

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News Around the Region

From Army Recruit to Criminal Analyst to Attorney General's Office; Hard Work Pays Off

Maria (Romeo) Johnson—

In Feb 2008, PFC Maria Romeo joined the ranks of the NYNG CDTF as a Criminal Analyst with the North East Region. During the summers of the next following years, PFC Romeo became qualified in the “Stay on Track” program and assisted with the DDR (Drug Demand Reduction) team of Counterdrug. She subsequently taught in schools and camps the horrors of drugs and peer pressure to younger people to make them aware of the choices they had.

In January of 2011, Maria Romeo took leave from CD for a year when she deployed to the Helmand Province, Afghanistan (the “Stan” as she and her cohorts called it). When she arrived to her duty station, CSM Joe Fryne was the 1SG and he was tasked to assign someone to assist in regional DEA missions. With

her background and experience in the CDTF, the 1SG had found his woman for the

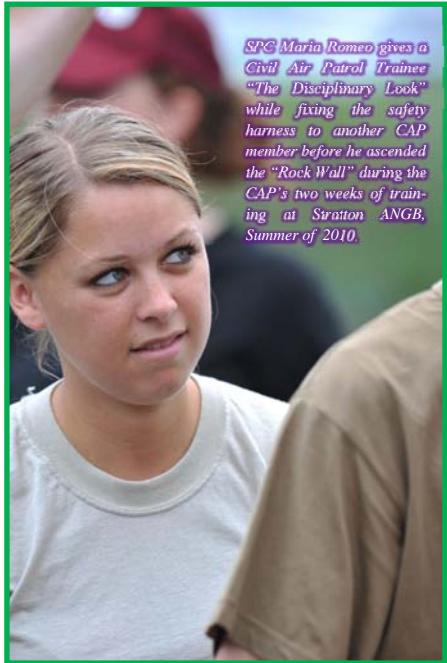


Above: Then PFC Romeo, observes team building exercises during one of her many summers helping with the, now defunct, Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program in 2009.

job. Romeo found her new assignment very familiar, and ironic, coming from her CD job back home to Afghanistan (where 93% of the world’s opium is produced), only to go right back into a

“counterdrug” roll. During her service in the Helmand Province, now SGT Romeo earned the Army Meritorious Service Medal for gathering and consolidating intelligence that lead DEA agents to a small village resulting in the largest narcotics bust in DEA history for that region to date.

The following January, SGT Romeo returned home and resumed her job with Counterdrug but this time around she was designated as the analyst who would work directly with the Attorney General’s Office’s Organized Crime Task Force in Albany (OCTF). Once there, she quickly established herself as a hands-on, self-starting, no-nonsense kind of soldier with a sense of humor to boot! The OCTF loved her! Romeo promptly made connections and established relations with many colleagues and Department heads as well as maintained an extensive list of contacts throughout the state, who in turn, witnessed her abilities and drive that made her the soldier is. The now SSG Maria Johnson’s (married October 2015 to Matthew Johnson, owner of M Johnson



contracting) tireless, hard work and dedication and the connections and impressions she’s made have paid off. This past August, the OCTF had a position open up and asked SSG Johnson if she wanted to earn her badge and work for them directly! They new her, they loved her work ethic, she



Locked and loaded; flying to another area of operation (AO) as part of a joint task force in a CH47 Chinook double rotor helicopter somewhere over “The Stan”, 2011.



Above: Then SPC Romeo, poses for a photograph after receiving an award for her diligent work with the NYNG CDTF during the annual conference of 2010. Among the recipients are past members TSG Tara Martin, Capt Jason Zeliph, and still present CDTF member, SSG Lorrie Cartier.

News Around the Region

Hard Work Pays Off Continued...



Left and Above: SGT Maria (Romeo) Johnson during her desert days. 2011-2012

knew the job, they wanted to offer her the job before anyone else. SSG Johnson jumped at the opportunity to steer her career into a new direction and said yes.

As of September 8th, SSG Maria Johnson hung up her Army Combat Uniform until her next drill weekend. She will still drill with her guard unit in Syracuse, the 27 BDE "Orion". Her chain of command will remain the same save one minor detail, she no longer has to check into Counterdrug for clearance or guidance.

So, its business as usual for Maria Johnson and she is happy with her decisions. "I have no regrets", explains Johnson, "Counterdrug was a fun time, 'very' good to me, and it taught me lessons I use every day in my new job." SSG Johnson continues to say, "I thought I'd do twenty years here after falling into it. But I've worked hard for where I am now, you work

hard, opportunity will present itself . I fell into Counterdrug, then into Narcotics, and now into becoming a 'cop', where else will this take me I have no idea, but I'm up for any challenge that comes my way." She also exclaimed, "I'm super



pumped to get a car too!"

SSG Johnson will attend the Police Academy in Schenectady, NY this January, leaving her husband and their German shepherd 'Yager' home to fend for themselves as she works towards earning her badge. By the spring, she should be back in the office doing what she does best, gathering and consolidating intelligence and busting bad guy druggies!

Good luck SSG Maria Johnson, the CD program will miss you but, like Col Natale, we know you're not too far away.



SSG Johnson about to take a luge ride at the Luge Training Complex in Lake Placid, NY. Late August, 2016



FUN with Friends: SSG Johnson making sure to take time and unwind after working hours with friends and colleagues.

Left: Riding the cart (2010) with TSgt Tara Martin as Capt Jason Zeliph and SSG Joshua Stickles provide the propulsion.

Above and Right: Laughing with MSG Sean Markham (2010) and SSG Joanna Teczynska (2016).



Soon-to-be Officer Maria Johnson sits at her desk in the Organized Crime Task Force's office in downtown Albany, NY, September 2016

-TSgt Stephen J Girolami



Above: Annual CDTF Conference, 2016, SSG Johnson just received an award for her job excellence as a NE Criminal Analyst. CSM Joseph Freyn was the presenter.

News Around the Regions

The NYNG CDTF Annual Conference

NEW YORK National Guard Counterdrug Task Force's (NYNG CDTF) annual conference has come and gone, another one for the history books. But for the members of Fiscal Year '16, it will be hard to forget. Memories like the first night in Lake Placid where almost the entire Task Force showed up to the local Legion Post (to the delight of its staff and regular patrons) for some laughs, music, brews, and comradery. There were breweries to visit, boating on Lake Placid, shopping on the strip, visiting the US Olympic Luge Training Center, and who can forget the barbecue / picnic that saw sun and heat, to a cool down with a torrential down pour. Awards were handed out to personnel who went above and beyond, classes and updates were given (that people fought to stay awake in), *and!*, to the chagrin of everyone, that loud Italian guy taking everybody's picture.

This year was a very good year for the NYNG CDTF. It has been established that NY's CDTF is so successful and efficient that its regarded as one of the premier Task Forces in the nation. With the stats that were mentioned on the first page by CDTF's CDC, Lt Col

Nicholas Dean, it would be hard pressed to compare.

What makes the NYNG CDTF stand out? Three words can describe: *Leadership, loyalty, and perseverance.* The foresight it's leadership has towards its ultimate goal and towards each of the TF's individual groups' unique mission. Leadership has the ability to guide with just enough authority to get their goal across and the faith that the mission will be carried out with haste, intelligence, and professionalism without having to micro-manage.

The **Counterdrug Detection Unit (CDU)** has been brought up from the depths of obscurity with just the sole mission of scanning confiscated vehicles with the Rapiscan GaRDS Mobile vehicle to a well organized and effective team that now, has much more to offer Local Enforcement Agencies (LEA) with equipment like the *Itemiser 3 Enhanced, Sabre 4000*, and the old but reliable, *Digital Video Scope Camera*. The CDU has been able to rewrite its mission with the proper training and gumption. Two new items the CDU acquired and have to offer LEAs has launched their effectiveness into the stratosphere! The *Mini-Z* and *Cellbrite* machines

have helped the CDU solidify its job security and status among LEAs and within Counterdrug itself. The Mini-Z with its "Superman-esque" attribute by scanning for organic contraband through walls, tires, or even car doors, and the personal, smart device reading Cellbrite have become ever-so-present in the CDU's day to day missions. The Itemiser, with abilities to scan for the slightest trace of narcotics or explosive materials has become a "god-send" in the eyes of Probation Officers state-wide. To think this asset was once wasting away, collecting dust as a paperweight in a cage at CDTF HQ. The proper "foresight" has breathed new life into the CDU.

NY CD's **Civil Operations (CO)** personnel have been setting the standard across the board. With multiple NY CO members being recognized as one of the "Top Ten" Civil Operators in the nation consistently, its hard to ignore NY's contribution to the "War on Drugs" in the United States. The CO cadre have been able to open the 'eyes' of John Q. Public and its Anti-drug Coalitions to the horrors of drugs and the ever-growing pandemic of heroine and fentanyl infiltration

ing their communities. The CO staff are so forthcoming and lending, that coalitions are now able to run meetings and inform their neighborhoods themselves from the knowledge and guidance provided to them.

Criminal Analysts (CA) have helped LEAs brake the drug traffic chains across the State for years now. With acquired information and analysis shared with LEAs, plus seizures valuing in the multi-million dollars range, the CA officers cemented their worth and position as one of the most effective teams in the country.

The **Aviation** unit has also made its mark. With highly trained Army pilots, the unit has churned out report after report of illegally grown marijuana plants spotted on the ground to LEAs. Even though the NYNG CDTF lost its RC-26 aircraft from Syracuse, NY, doesn't mean that the State must do without. The RC-26 is still a viable option to offer LEAs when called upon, just adding to the NYNG CDTF's capabilities.

None of this would be accomplished without perseverance.

So, this year's conference touched upon the success of its members and recognized

News Around the Regions

Conference continued...

the individuals for their hard work and diligence. It was also utilized to hold trainings as one cohesive unit to keep teams current and up to date with pertinent information. All for one, one for all! The loyalty the TF's members have shown to one another individually and to the TF as a whole is a major factor in NY's success. The loyalty they exhibit has been recognized by other States as well. When states like Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Michigan (to name a few) sought guidance to improve their programs, they turned to NY for its experience and professionalism with their questions. The loyalty NY has for the program and its willingness to share its knowledge has made its mark. NY's personnel are steadfast in the belief that they are making a difference in the "War" and work with vigor to eradicate the materials poisoning our state and country and will educate anyone willing to join the fight.

Looking forward, the NYNG CDTF will continue to challenge itself to push harder, drive further, and fly higher than any other Counterdrug program in the nation. ~*TSGt Stephen J Girolami*

Right: CPT P. Diaz receives a salute from SSG R. Hill after receiving an award at the end of the FY'16 NYNG CDTF annual conference.



Right & Below: SSG J. Gauthier has a medal pinned on his chest by his daughter Brinley (age 3) and NE OIC, MAJ M. McLaughlin.



Below: SSG B. Connerly shakes the hand of J-3 OIC, CPT J. Moeller as she accepts her award.



Below and to the Bottom: SSG J. Tczynska poses with CSM J. Freyn and Col R. Mitchell to display her awards to include: Criminal Analyst of the Year for NYC Region, NY State, and the NE Region of the US!!

Above: MSgt M. Goldman shakes the hand of NE OIC, MAJ M. McLaughlin after receiving an award.



Below: SSG W. Patino looks at the certificate being handed to him by NYC OIC, MAJ W. Murphy.



Right: SSG M. Fantuzzo stands with CSM J. Freyn after receiving the Certificate of Recognition for his hard work during NYNG CDTF FY'16.



Above & Top: MSgt J. Ramirez and SSG M. Johnson show their plaques after receiving them for NE Region Civil Operator and NE Region Criminal Analyst of the Year: respectively



Above Left & Right: SSG J. Chernogorec & SrA J. Speziale pose with Col R. Mitchell after receiving their Minuteman statuettes for Western Region Civil Operator and HQ Service Member of the Year; respectively.

News Around the Regions

Conference Images.



Above: TSgt S. Perkins of HQ does a handstand in the foyer of the Crown Plaza Hotel. Capt A. Rinaldi laughs as he looks on. Actually, he was giving his lecture when this image was captured.



Right: Lt Col N. Dean and MAJ W. Murphy confer as the conference begins.



Left: Members of the NYNG CDTF huddle around for an early morning "Pow Wow" before heading into the conference room.



Right: TSgt P. Carroll, SSG H. Nguyen, & SSG E. Joy partake in a "stoagie" during the conference's picnic.



Above: SGT H. Davenport socializes at the annual picnic held in Lake Placid, NY.



Above: SSgt C. Cantone prepares to slide down the ice on a luge at the "Luge Training Complex" in Lake Placid area.



Left: SPC M. Polishuk in motion to throw a football to SSG R. Adepegbu.



Above: The sign outside the "Luge Training Complex"



Left: ISG S. Butcher sliding back down the ice after the luge was accidentally pulled from underneath him.

Oh, Funny Times!



Above Center: The members who participated in the luge run that was headed up by ISG S. Butcher. Included are: Carroll, Palacios, Landers, Tzecyska, Watt, Cantone, Nguyen, Usami, Johnson, Espinal, Haynes, Frankovic, Butcher, Aquino, and Girolami.



Surrounding: SSG J. Watt, MSgt L Tangredi, and SGT B. Smead talking with fellow Task Force members during the "Get Together".



News Around the Regions

Conference Images. Continued...



Left: SSGs K. Taylor & J. Peck work the grills as SMSgt P. Lamiak and SSG S. Chester lend helping hands.

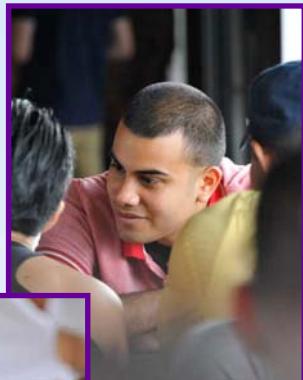


Right: WO A. Pedroza looks on as Task Force members talk during the picnic.

Further Right: SSgt P. Palacios smiles during a conversation with other Task Force personnel.



Below: SSgt L. Giron listens to a story being told by fellow NYC Region staff.



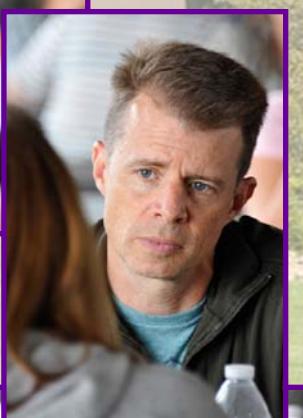
Right: SSG R. Adepegba catches a football thrown by SPC M. Polishuk, after the consumption of mass quantities.



Below: A friendly game of "Cups" took place between Team 1: Stefanik, Frankovic, and Haas, and Team 2: Kane, Myers, and Gurewitch. The victors were Team 1.



Left, Below and Bottom: SFC J. Herrera, SGT M. Hinman and SPC J. Jimenez look on and converse with their colleagues during the picnic on Wednesday, 31 August.



Above: MSG L. Pugh relaxing near the grills with other CDTF members.



Above: SSG D. Reed catches the photographers lens while talking to fellow NYC Region cadre.

Left: SGT J. Borst sips a beverage while listening to another Task Force member.



News Around the Regions

Veterans Count; RUN THE RIDGE 2016, State Trooper, and New Members to the CDTF

8 July, TSgt Michael Crouse and his daughter Lila, participated in the 5th Annual Mud Run, "Run The Ridge 2016" at Maple Ski Ridge to raise funds and awareness for Easter Seals' program, "Veterans Count". Easter Seals sponsors Vets Count, which is a charity for military veterans and their families. TSgt Crouse is a current board member of the Vets Count charity.

The 5K race featured challenging obstacles including water, fire and of course mud, with plenty of crawling, climbing, jumping and running! The course is designed with the assistance of local Military personal. The run is meant to be fun and to give participants a challenge for a good cause.

Veterans Count was conceived in 2007 when Easter Seals sought to bring a comprehensive, emergency aid to veterans and their families whose quality

of life was significantly impacted by deployment to war zones. Easter Seals' (founded in 1919) programs and services provide innovative solutions that enhance the lives of people with disabilities and other special needs, while heightening community awareness and acceptance.

If you would like to become a part of "Veterans Count", contact TSgt Mike Crouse at michael.p.crouse.mil@mail.mil for more information.



TSgt Michael Crouse, of CDTF HQ, and his daughter, Lila, participated in the Veterans Count "Run the Ridge" event on 8 July in Schenectady, NY.



CPT Joseph Moeller, on his way to become a NY State Police Officer.

Congratulations

are in store for CPT Joseph Moeller, CDTF HQ J3 OIC! He has been accepted as a New York State Police trainee and in few short months, he will be a New York State Trooper. CPT Moeller's will start the academy on the evening of October 23rd, 2016. He will be there for six months as he trains the rigorous course so he can fulfil a dream of serving and protecting NY State residence. "My wife, Nichole," CPT Moeller explains, "is very

excited for me, FOR US, in this new career journey."

CPT Moeller would like to thank COL Natali, Lt Col Dean, MAJ Murphy, CSM Freyn and all of the members of CDTF. "It has been a privilege working in this outstanding unit," says CPT Moeller, "I would also like to thank my wife Nichole for all of her support over the years."

Good Luck Sir! We hate to lose you but we know you'll make a fine Police Officer.



FOUR Babies and a Wedding!

NYC Region has two new members!

Avery Quinn Pedroza was born on Saturday, 9 July at 0802 hrs. She graced this world weighing in at 5lbs 10oz and 19" long. Mommy and baby are doing fine.

TSgt Holly Niro gave birth to Arabella Andrea Courtney on 22



Introducing Arabella A. Courtney!

May. She weighed 6lbs 11oz and was 19.5 inches long.

Please give your congratulations to Warrant Officer Alberto Pedroza and TSgt Holly Niro on their new families' additions, and welcome to the Counterdrug family to both of them.

Speaking of two new members, there are two new additions in HQ as well. Please welcome TSgt

Kristen (Roberts) Blias' TWIN boys, Logan Maurice and Aiden Michael Blias who were born on 29 July. Aiden, was born at 1345 hrs and weighed 6lbs 8oz and is twin, Logan, weighed 6lbs 15oz and was born at 1444 hrs. Both boys were 20 inches long. When asked how they are, Mom Kristen says, "they don't do anything except eat, sleep, cry and poop!"

Please congratulate TSgt Kristen Blias when you see her, for her twin boys and

for one other reason...

...on Friday, 14 October, she married her fiancé and twins' father, Austin Blias at the Franklin Plaza in Downtown Troy, NY.



Introducing, Avery Quinn Pedroza!



Introducing Logan M. and Aiden M. Blias!

**CONGRATULATIONS
to Everyone!!!**



Above Right: Kristen, with her newly-wed husband, Austin Blias on their wedding day, 14 Oct. 2016

News Around the Regions

JRTC: Joint Readiness Training Center

JRTC- The mission of the Joint Readiness Training Center (Airborne) is to train Soldiers and grow leaders to deploy, fight, and win. Assigned units prepare, deploy, sustain, and redeploy trained and ready forces. The Center acts as a power projection platform to mobilize, validate, deploy, and redeploy active, National Guard, and Army Reserve forces.

The JRTC is the Army's premier combat training center. It is one of the Army's three "Dirt" Combat Training Centers (CTC) resourced to train infantry brigade task forces and their subordinate elements in the Joint Contemporary Operational Environment. As such, the Center conducts tough, realistic, multi-echelon, joint and combined arms training to train leaders to deal with complex situations; to create flexible, skilled Soldiers; and develop highly proficient, cohesive units capable of conducting operations across the full spectrum of conflict. The JRTC is focused on improving unit readiness by providing highly realistic, stressful, joint and combined arms training across the full spectrum of conflict (existing and future).

With great emphasis on realism, the JRTC provides rotational units (BLUDEFOR) with the opportunity to conduct joint operations which emphasize contingency force missions. Training rotations are focused on the Contemporary

Operational Environment (COE) and Counterinsurgency (COIN) operations. JRTC training scenarios are based on each participating organization's mission essential tasks list and many of the exercises are mission rehearsals for actual operations the organization is scheduled to conduct.



Above: NYNG E Co 427BSB Humm-Vs stand ready as soldiers wait for orders to move out. *Notice the wild horses grazing in the background, they were very numerous on Ft Polk's expansive training area. *



Below: Troops don their masks during an exercise when a "gas, gas, gas" signal was given. US Army, CH-47 Chinook helicopters approaching waiting units, to perform Air Assault (sling-load) missions in the background. UH-60 Blackhawks were also on hand to transport ground personnel. *



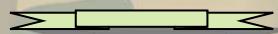
JRTC scenarios allow complete integration of Air Force and other military services, as well as host-nation and civilian role players. The exercise scenarios replicates many of the unique situations and challenges a unit may face to include host national officials and citizens, insurgents and terrorists, news media coverage, and non-governmental organizations.

Observer / Controllers (O/C) help make JRTC training effective. The O/Cs have a duty to the training unit and the Army to observe unit performance, control engagements and operations, teach doctrine, coach to improve unit performance, monitor safety and conduct professional After Action Reviews (AARs). O/Cs are required to have successfully performed the duties of their counterpart. They constantly strive

for personal and professional development, and are well versed in current operational doctrine and tactics, techniques and procedures. **

Counterdrug's contribution to this year's JRTC left the Task Force's numbers cut in half for a few weeks this past summer. The members that were left behind stepped up the pace to meet the demand but were up for the challenge.

TAG, MG German, BG Shields, and CSM Piwowarski made a trip down to Ft Polk to meet and show support to members of the New York National Guard that endured the ordeal and realistic training. The members who were engaged in training at JRTC were privy to an excellent experience that they'll not soon forget.



** All photos courtesy of CPL Andrew Long of NYNG CDTF HQ. CPL Long was just one of the soldiers from the CDTF that participated in the JRTC training this past summer. The complete list of members is as follows:

Western region:	NYC Region:
CPT Diaz	MAJ Murphy
WO Reed	1LT Saxby
SSG Braun	1SG Butcher
SSG Chernogorec	SFC Aquino
SSG Hamrick	SFC Herrera
SSG Hill	SSG Keenan
SSG Misner	SSG Reed
SSG Sincbaugh	SSG Tczynska
SGT Andrade	SSG You
SGT Borst	SGT Espinal
SGT Gurewitch	SGT Fisher
SGT Hoerner	SGT Davenport
SPC Zaleski	SGT Duranpaez
	SGT Mitchell
	SGT Ponce
	SGT Simone
	SPC Cassidy
	SPC Picardio
	SPC Polishuk
NE Region:	
CSM Freyn	
SFC Capellini	
SSG Johnson	
SSG Joy	
SGT Haas	
SGT Landers	
SGT Lyons	
SPC Deroziere	
SPC Reynolds	
SPC Waters	
SGT White	
HQ:	
CPT Moeller	
2LT Hagan	
SSG Peck	
SGT Vanderwerken	
SPC Long	



Above: An up-armored Humm-V sits idly as soldiers prepare to load it up with gear and munitions. *

-TSgt Stephen J Girolami

**Main article from GlobalSecurity.org

SARC Page

Capt Ashley Fitzgibbon is the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for New York State. Her office is located at the Joint Force Head Quarters in Latham, NY and she can be reached at any time, day or night, rain (snow) or shine, with the phone number listed below.

If you need help, do not hesitate to call. She will be your voice!



New York National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - NY
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
24 / 7 Sexual Assault Helpline
518.339.7586

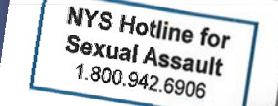




Anonymous
support for sexual assault survivors in the military.
safehelpline.org | 877-995-5247



JFHQ SARC
Capt Ashley FitzGibbon
(518)786-4733



NYS Hotline for
Sexual Assault
1.800.942.6906



SARC 24/7
Cell Phone Number
518.925.6108



VA 24/7
Cell Phone Number
518.935.8606

UNRESTRICTED REPORTING
Allows a service member who was sexually assaulted to report the assault and receive support, advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling...

with a law enforcement investigation and Command involvement.

RESTRICTED REPORTING
Allows a service member who was sexually assaulted to **confidentially** report the assault and receive support, advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling...

without a law enforcement investigation or Command involvement.

EITHER WAY - FIRST TALK WITH YOUR SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM!

**DoD Safe Helpline 877.995.5247 / safehelpline.org
24 / 7 Secure. Worldwide. Confidential**

And Finally...to Keep You in the Know!

Position Swaps within the Task Force

J1/J8 OIC - Lt. Kupinski

J3 OIC - MAJ McLoughlin

J3 NCOIC - CSM Wells

J4 NCOIC - SMSgt Latniak

Compliance - 1SG Mansman

NE Region Commander - Capt Rinaldi

NE Region NCOIC - SMSgt Decker



Taking over as the NCOIC of the **J-4** is SMSgt Peter Latniak. He replaces 1LT Alisa Kupinski.



Taking over as the OIC of the **J-1/J-8** is 1LT Alisa Kupinski. She replaces Capt Adam Rinaldi.



Taking over as the OIC of the **NE Region** is Capt Adam Rinaldi. He replaces MAJ Matthew McLoughlin.

Taking over as the OIC of the **J-3** is MAJ Matthew McLoughlin. He replaces CPT Joseph Moeller.



SMSgt Mike Decker replaces 1SG Chris Mansman as the NCOIC of NE Region as he remains the NCOIC of the DOC.



1SG Christopher Mansman replaces SGM Roland Wells as the NCIOC of **Compliance** as CSM Wells takes over for MSGt Jason Babiarz as NCOIC of the **J-3**. MSGt Babiarz has transferred over to NE Region DEA office.



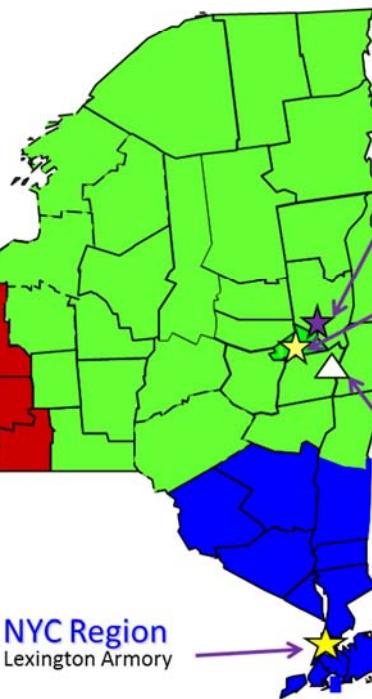
CPT Joseph Moeller has been replaced due to his career change to become a NYS Trooper.

J3-CD HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES



Western Region

Connecticut Street Armory



Headquarters
Stratton ANGB

Northeast Region
AFRC, Glenville



LUH-72 Operations
AASF#3, Latham

NYC Region
Lexington Armory

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Aviation / LUH 72 - CW2 Phillip Napolitano 518-786-4385 (Scotia) phillip.j.napolitano.mil@mail.mil	CDU - MSgt Jason Robelotto 518-857-2394 (Scotia) jason.s.robelotto.mil@mail.mil