

Comforting Our Wounded, page 8



Airpower Maintained, page 11



PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #3071  
Syracuse, NY

# Guard TIMES

Serving The New York Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia, New York Guard and families

<http://www.dnna.state.ny.us>

Volume 13 , Number 1

January-February 2005

## Rainbow 'Stretches' into Iraq

42nd Infantry Division takes command of Multinational Division, North Central, Iraq



Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Multinational Corps Iraq commander passes the Rainbow flag to Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, 42nd Infantry Division commander, during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Feb. 14. This marks the first time the Rainbow colors have been unfurled in a combat theater since World War II. See story on page three. Photo courtesy of 42nd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty Dispatch.

## GUARD NOTES

### Bank of America says DoD travelcard personal information lost, alerts card holders

About 900,000 Defense Department employees may be affected by Bank of America's loss and the possible compromise of government travel card information, Pentagon officials said Feb. 25.

Bank of America officials have sent letters to affected employees.

Secret Service agents are conducting the investigation, with help from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

Officials said that although there has been no evidence of criminal activity, release of details on the circumstances of the loss could jeopardize the investigation.

The information that may have been compromised includes names, Social Security numbers, addresses and account numbers. Officials notified DoD Jan. 19.

"The bank is notifying cardholders of the situation," says BoA officials. "Cardholders may request that the bank cancel the card and reissue a card to them."

Bank of America has a hotline: (800) 493-8444.

Cardholders who notice irregularities in accounts should call Bank of America at the number on the back of their cards.

### Website Links Public to Troops

The Department of Defense launched a nationwide program, "America Supports You," and a new Website to showcase the many activities taking place across the nation in support of the troops.

The Website, which highlights organizations and individuals coordinating local and national support efforts, has logged nearly a million hits since its inception.

Individual citizens, businesses, schools, veterans groups and others have visited the site, [www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil](http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil), to register their activities, send a message to the troops and identify programs of support in their own communities.

### Camp Offers Hoops for Troops

MVP Basketball Camp, White Plains, a nonprofit organization, is offering a free week during their summer 2005 camp session to children or siblings of deployed troops. If you have a child between the ages of 7-16 who loves basketball, please contact MVP at (914) 946-1231. Space is limited and registration is first come, first served.

### Pentagon, Senate Seek to double G.I. Survivors' Benefit

Pentagon leaders and Capitol Hill legislators want to increase the current available combined government death benefit for families of fallen servicemembers by about \$250,000.

If enacted, the proposed change essentially would double the \$262,000 now available to families of servicemembers killed in wartime operations.

DoD and Senate proposals would increase the death gratuity payment to \$100,000 and boost maximum Service Group Life Insurance coverage to \$400,000. The Pentagon would pay the premiums for the extra \$150,000 in SGLI coverage when participating servicemembers are deployed in a combat zone. A plan under discussion, if approved by Congress and the President, would be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, the day Operation Enduring Freedom began in Afghanistan.

### New Civilian Personnel Rules Published

Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management officials have published the regulations that will govern how the new National Security Personnel System will operate. The proposed regulations appeared in the Federal Register in mid-February.

The public comment period ended March 16. Officials will then confer with the various federal employee unions. The first 60,000 people under the NSPS are scheduled to transfer to the system in July, at their current salaries.

General-schedule workers will stop being GS-designated employees and will transfer to pay bands. It will be a year before the first decisions are made on performance-based pay raises.

## Naval Militia Continues Growth as Joint Force Asset



By Rear Adm. Robert A. Rosen  
Commander, New York Naval Militia

**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Latham**—Over the past eight years since I have commanded the New York Naval Militia (NYNM), the naval militia team has been able to mold the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve, and our volunteer forces into a first-rate military National Guard type entity in addition to supporting their Reserve training.

We have molded our operations, regulations and procedures to conform not only to National Guard requirements but, also, to the Reserve forces as well. Although we are a federally recognized military organization, under Title 10, U.S. Code, we successfully arranged for Memoranda of Understanding with the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, which reaffirms our close, mutual support and working relationships, focused on training, preparation and response. We are also successful in modifying State law to permit Coast Guard reservists to participate in the NYNM.

Many outstanding persons with extensive military and civilian credentials have joined our ranks over the years. I am particularly proud of the inquiries received from states that now look to reestablish naval militia-type programs. We are pleased to have made a contribution to our homeland national defense in this regard.

One of our significant achievements is obtaining high speed, state-of-the-art patrol boats. The State has provided six patrol boats built to Navy and Coast Guard governmental specifications, which are now patrolling our waterways. These boats, ranging in size from 22 to 44 feet, and the people who man them, have made an outstanding contribution to the defense and security of the state's vital waterways, and facilities in close proximity, throughout the state. We have established a new command called the New York State Military Emergency Boat Service (NYSMEBS). At present, one hundred NYSMEBS volunteers are organized into various crews for each boat.

I am very proud of the close working relationship and full integration with other state forces including the Army National Guard, Air National Guard and State Guard.

As a component military force, and a part of N.Y.'s Division of Military and Naval Affairs, the NYNM is an integral part of all responses requested by the Governor or Adjutant General. Our orders, like the orders of other state military forces, come through the office of the Adjutant General or, in time of emergency, the Joint Operations Center (JOC). We have trained and certified naval militia personnel who are part of the JOC.

We support the activation of our members when they are called into federal service, have done so on many occasions. We enjoy, now more than ever, a close working relationship with the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, and we form a seamless force. We have tried to be an exemplary model of what a citizen/sailor/soldier should be.

The NYNM has a wide variety of skills and capabilities, which embrace not only military abilities, but the civilian skills that members in the Reserve forces have. We run drills between our regional commands, throughout the year, to insure our responses and communications are ready and in excellent shape.

The NYNM made lifesaving and vital contributions when called into action during snow and ice storms, TWA 800, 9/11 and a number of other state emergencies. We have performed tens of thousands of man-days, on my watch, responding to state emergencies

---

**"With good leadership, understanding and appreciation, I am confident the future is bright for the Naval Militia."**

—Rear Adm. Robert Rosen  
Commander, New York Naval Militia

---



# Rainbow Stretches Into Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta  
42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

**TIKRIT, Iraq**—In a ceremony honoring a job well done and welcoming the new, the 42nd Infantry Division assumed responsibility of Coalition efforts in Multinational Division - North Central, Iraq, Feb. 14.

In the ceremony, the torch was passed from Maj. Gen. John R. S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division commander, to Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, 42nd ID commander, signifying an official transfer of authority.

"Soldiers of Task Force Danger have done everything humanly possible to support the Iraqi people in establishing a new and better life, to include shedding blood for the Iraqi patriots," General Taluto said.

Soldiers from the 1st ID have made great strides during their tenure in Iraq, General Batiste said.

"Our successes over the past year have been achieved in partnership with the people of Iraq," General Batiste said. "We have worked together to empower Iraqi Security Forces to defeat the insurgency and have conducted operations to kill or capture the enemy."

Results of the 1st ID efforts are evident in many facets of the Iraqi communities. Improvements include, but are not limited to, improved quality of life, new jobs and hope given to people who were oppressed for decades by the former regime, General Batiste said.

"Together we have built the foundation of a new beginning by developing relationships based on trust and confidence—by changing people's attitudes," General Batiste said. "Together, we have given the people the freedom to make their own choices about their leaders and how their country will be governed."

"I feel we have completed our mission here and set the 42nd up for success," said Staff Sgt. Deondre L. Long, 1st ID division plans noncommissioned officer in charge.

The Rainbow Division will continue to build upon the blocks already laid by its predecessors. General Taluto said Task Force Liberty would honor U.S. commitments to work with the Iraqis to strengthen freedom and establish a representative Government in Iraq.

"Soldiers of Task Force Liberty are inspired and ready to take up a position alongside Iraqi citizens in the cause for freedom," General Taluto said. "Our pledge is to continue the march toward a free and peaceful Iraq."

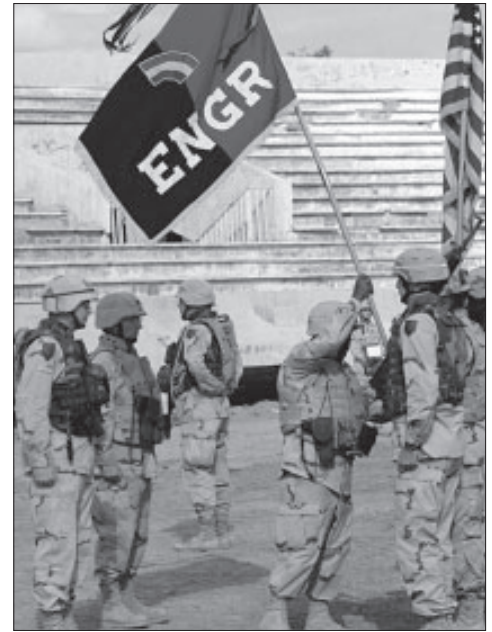
More than 22,000 soldiers under the command of the 42nd ID will support Multinational Division-North Central Iraq.

## Division Headquarters Brings Training Advantage of Adjusted Deployment Date

The main body of the 42nd ID, the command and control element of Task Force Liberty, left Fort Drum and Fort Dix for Kuwait and their final destination—Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom III—in January.

The mobilization of the Rainbow Division provides a foundation on which the Army can build a combat task force for operations in Iraq. Division Soldiers will provide the command and control, logistics and operational base for combat brigades to succeed in their Iraq mission.

The combat force, known as Task Force Liberty, includes the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, Ga., and 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Fort Benning, Ga. The Idaho National Guard's 116th Brigade Combat Team and the Tennessee Army National



42nd Infantry Division Engineers assume responsibility for Area of Operations Danger at the Transfer of Authority Ceremony, Tikrit, Iraq Feb. 3. Photo by Sgt. Blake Kent

Guard's 278th Regimental Combat Team complete the force.

Approximately 2,000 Soldiers departed in the first two weeks of January. Many of these Soldiers have been training for Operation Iraqi Freedom since May of 2004.

Gathered from Army units across 24 states and the American Samoa, these 21st Century Soldiers embody

See RAINBOW, page 4

## Rainbow Families Blend for Support Campaign

By 2nd Lt. Amy Fires  
Guard Times Staff

**TROY**—Valentine's Day is a day that Americans remember their loved ones. This year, New York's Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) were no exception when they joined in support of their Soldiers overseas.

The 42nd Infantry Division FRG and 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion FRG anxiously waited in February's frigid morning air at the front of Glenmore Road Armory, Troy, Feb. 14, for the arrival of a tractor-trailer loaded with donated goods from the "Support Our Troops" campaign.

Since last November, a group of state and federal lawmakers from Western New York joined local



A Family Readiness Group member sorts donated items.

veterans in a campaign to collect donations from their counties for New York's deployed Soldiers.

Senator George H. Winner, Jr., 53rd District, one of the organizers of the campaign was present and commented, "It's just been an incredible effort and a real show of the American spirit in our region."

The donations arrived from

Western New York via a long distance trucking company from Arkport, a small community located near Hornell. The Company President volunteered her truck's services at the beginning of the campaign. The company collected donations from 15 American Legion Posts and Veterans of Foreign Wars in Steuben County, which served as regional collection centers.

Senate Majority Leader Joseph

**"it...gives the families and friends a purpose and opportunity to meet and support one another."**

—Mrs. Heffner  
42ID Family Readiness Group

Bruno, whose district consists of Rensselaer County, where the armory is located, spoke at the hand-over and exchange of donations,



42nd Infantry Division and 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion Family Readiness Group volunteers sort items donated through the 'Support Our Troops' campaign. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petione.

complementing the many volunteers who played a part in getting so many supplies ready for the troops, the goodwill of the FRGs and the never-ending support of friends and family of those Soldiers who are stationed in theater.

Mrs. Heffner of the 42nd ID FRG said, "we can't say enough about

the support from the home front. Not only does receiving of these care packages serve as a morale booster for N.Y.'s deployed Soldiers, it also gives the families and friends of these Soldiers a purpose and opportunity to meet and support one another," on Valentine's Day. □

Rainbow, from page 3

the division's proud World War I heritage, summed up by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's historic comparison, from which the division takes its name: "The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to another."

As forward elements of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters established forward command posts in Kuwait to control the deployment of thousands of Soldiers into theater, the remaining headquarters Soldiers focused on "conducting post-validation training to better prepare our Soldiers not immediately deploying to do their mission," said Taluto.

The division's advance party deployed in early November, and elements of Task Force Liberty deployed to Kuwait throughout November and December. As subordinate units continued to flow into Iraq to assume their mission, the theater commander, Gen. John Abizaid, adjusted the division headquarter's original November 2004 deployment to January 2005.

"The combatant commander did not want to realign forces at the critical time of the Iraqi elections," said Operation's Chief of Plans, Lt. Col. Michael Hamlet.

"The troops in theater have been there a while. They've developed relationships with the Iraqi people and leaders. They know the nuances of the situation," Hamlet said. "Why would we swap out troops at that critical juncture? Although this adjustment was frustrating to not

only the Soldiers, but their families as well, the time allowed Soldiers at all levels to focus clearly on the mission, and fully prepare for it."

So, while some Rainbow Soldiers went forward into Kuwait and Iraq, those that remained behind in the U.S. went forward with additional training, including the Middle Eastern Orientation Course, language classes and insurgency operations seminars.

"If you took a typing class and learned to type, then never touched a typewriter, your skill would degrade," said Hamlet. He added that cultural awareness is critical to the mission.

"In general, Americans are not overly-familiar with Arab culture, history, language or the Islamic faith," Hamlet commented. "These courses are designed to give degrees of knowledge in those areas."

The courses teach that the vast majority of Iraqis are not hostile to the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Hamlet.

"The key to our success will be our professionalism and the culturally appropriate ways with which we conduct ourselves," he said.

"The importance of that conduct is, as we execute our mission, we do so in a way that does not create more problems by violating customs and norms," he said. "It is probably some of the most important training we've conducted because it relates directly to our mission's center of gravity—the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people." □



42nd Infantry Division Soldiers board an aircraft for Kuwait and Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Approximately 2,000 division Soldiers departed in the first two weeks of January. Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta.

## IED...three letters with explosive impact

### Improvised Explosives Challenge Soldiers

By Karen Bradshaw  
1st Army Public Affairs Office

**FORT GILLEM, Ga.**—The Improvised Explosive Device or IED is the single biggest problem for our troops and convoys in Iraq. Priority one for 1st Army is to train all deploying Soldiers how to detect, deter, prevent, defeat and respond to IEDs.

To that end, 1st Army Commander Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré and his IED Tiger Team hosted 51 expert trainers from the eastern half of the United States at 1st Army headquarters to collaborate on the best IED training techniques.

Honoré said that the purpose of the conference was to share ideas on how to train Soldiers to adapt to the enemy. "We aren't here to standardize training at this conference," he said. "We are here to enhance and improve what we are already doing. Remember this...the enemy has no standards. The enemy isn't reading a book but is adjusting how he attacks on a daily



A triggering device, recovered by members of the Iraqi National Guard, the Iraqi Police and the U.S. Army, found where an IED struck a convoy in November 2004. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lee Harshman.

basis. We must think like that."

First Army trainers teach Soldiers to expect an IED attack 24 hours a day and that anytime is a good time for an IED strike and how IED training has become vitally important for Soldiers deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Soldiers will train at their mobilization stations under theater immersion, an Iraqi-like environment where they are jolted by the noise and explosions of simulated attacks at all times of the day and night. With the lessons taught by the trainers using these conditions, Soldiers will be better prepared," said Capt. Sheree Green, operations training officer.

For Honoré, this is serious business and he believes the label "improvised" is somewhat misleading.

"The word 'improvised' implies that amateurs are throwing these bombs together and haphazardly using them against us," Honoré said. "That is not what we are dealing with. They are more like 'Precision' Explosive Devices. They are precisely placed, precisely timed and precisely

designed to cause casualties. The enemy may not use space age technology, but make no mistake, he knows what he is doing."

Methods used by the enemy to detonate an IED can be a simple command detonated device that is hard wired or remote controlled by such common electronic gear as pagers or cell phones. Easily disguised, IEDs can be placed anywhere and are a low-cost method for the maximum yield.

Honoré assembled his IED Tiger Team last year to provide a dynamic resource for 1st Army's trainers.

"Because the enemy's tactics are changing

on a daily basis, the Tiger Team's focus is to push the latest information down to the trainers at the mobilization stations," said Sgt. First Class Gregory L. Williams Sr., training NCO.

"Our IED Tiger Team is key to keeping the training focus current and based on what is happening in theater," said Lt. Col. Sam Tello, 1st Army Chief of Training.

"Our Soldiers must learn to see first, understand first and act first," Honoré said. "Their actions must become intuitive. It could save their lives and those of their comrades." □



Trainers from 1st Army converged at the Fort Gillem headquarters to collaborate on their best IED training techniques. IED events are embedded into all training that each deploying Soldier receives. Soldiers must be tested numerous times until their responses become intuitive. Photo by Karen Bradshaw.



# Brig. Gen. Julia J. Cleckley Retires after 30 Years Service

By Guard Times Staff

**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER, Arlington, Va.**—The Army National Guard's first black female line officer to rise to the rank of brigadier general retired Sept. 30, 2004, after 30 years of military service.

Brig. Gen. Julia J. Cleckley retired serving as Assistant to

the Director of the Army, Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, since July 2002. As the Special Assistant for Human Resource Readiness, she was responsible for human resource programs and policies that affected the Army National Guard and it's more than 350,000 citizen Soldiers.

Brig. Gen. Cleckley began her career right after high school by joining the Women's Army Corps (WAC). She went on

to earn her bachelor's degree in psychology and education from Hunter College, in New York City, and a master's degree in human resource management from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, Calif. She was also selected for the United States Army War College where she received a Senior Service fellowship to study at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, Mass.

In 1976, she joined the New York Army National Guard and earned her commission as second lieutenant in the Adjutant General's Corps with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in New York City.

Throughout her 30 years of military service, General Cleckley has established herself as a "first" female officer. Prior to becoming a brigadier general, she was the first black female to be promoted to the rank of colonel in the Army National Guard's Active Reserve program. Her other pioneering achievements at National Guard Bureau include the first black female branch chief, the first black female to be assigned as a division chief and first black female to serve on the Army National Guard Director's Special Staff as Chief, Human Resources Office.

General Cleckley's numerous awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

She is also the recipient of several public honors to include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award, Hunter College Hall of Fame Inductee and a member of the California Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction.

General Cleckley currently resides in the Northern Virginia area. She is widowed and has two daughters, Helene and Ellen Cleckley. □



Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., awards Brig. Gen. Julia J. Cleckley the Conspicuous Service Medal during her retirement ceremony on Sept. 30, 2004 at Army National Guard Readiness Center, Arlington, Va. Courtesy photo.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Returns from Iraq

Soldiers ran aviation maintenance operations for Army's 3rd Corps

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Amy Fires  
Guard Times Staff

**ROCHESTER**—Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Intermediate Maintenance (AVIM) returned home from Operation Iraqi Freedom in January to be greeted by fresh fallen snow and a gathering of excited family members and friends at the unit's home base, Army Aviation Support Facility II at Rochester International Airport.

Anticipation had been building among the hundreds of enthusiastic spouses, parents, children and other relatives and friends as they anxiously waited for the bus carrying their Soldiers to arrive from Fort Drum.

The Soldiers arrived at Fort Drum the previous week and completed out-processing from active duty before being released to travel home.

The unit was mobilized last year and, on Valentine's Day 2004, began what would become 10 productive months of "boots-on-the-ground" in Iraq.

The Soldiers were praised for an "outstanding job well done," from Col. Anthony Riscica, State Headquarters, who came to represent the Adjutant General and formerly receive the unit back to state control from federal active duty.

The crowd was delighted by the short remarks that recognized the service and the sacrifices of both the Soldiers and their families.

Lt. Col. Michael Bobeck, battalion commander, credited the team efforts by Soldiers, families and the command for the success of the mission and the safe return of the unit. He saluted his troops for the quality of their service and said, "they always did their jobs well."

In Iraq, the 142<sup>nd</sup> was part of the Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps and was assigned to oversee aviation maintenance operations. The AVIM was once an attack aviation battalion that converted to a maintenance battalion



Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Intermediate Maintenance are greeted by family members and friends at a January homecoming ceremony in Rochester. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone.

headquarters.

For this mission, the AVIM supervised two subordinate aviation maintenance companies from other states—one National Guard and one Army Reserve—that repaired, maintained and tested the full range of Army helicopters used in theater.

"They maintained," Colonel Bobeck said, "all the aircraft in theater."

There were about 600 Soldiers in the Battalion, including Soldiers from South Carolina, Texas and North Carolina."

The AVIM Soldiers spent nearly a year together in the field. □

# Three Soldiers Killed in Iraq Patrols

By Capt. Kathy Sweeney  
Guard Times Staff

**LATHAM**—The state mourned the loss of three New York National Guard Soldiers in January who died supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. All three Soldiers served with the "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>" 1st Battalion, 69th Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division.

## Bloomington Soldier falls from Improvised Explosive Device

Hundreds of New Yorkers gathered in Sullivan County, Jan. 15, to pay their last respects to Spc. Kenneth G. Vonronn, 20, Bloomington, who died from injuries sustained while on patrol in Iraq.

Specialist Vonronn was one of seven Soldiers killed when an improvised explosive device struck his Bradley fighting vehicle while on patrol, Jan. 6.

He was assigned to the Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, six fellow Soldiers, from the 256<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, La., were killed by the same blast.

Spc. Vonronn was promoted,



**Sgt. Kenneth Vonronn**  
Age 20,  
Bloomington  
KIA Jan. 6, 2005  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
69<sup>th</sup> Infantry

posthumously, to the rank of Sergeant.

Governor George E. Pataki honored the sergeant saying, "Sergeant Vonronn put his life on the line to save others and to tend to those Soldiers who were injured in battle. His first concern was not for himself, but for his fellow Soldiers in need of care and assistance."

Sergeant Vonronn served as a combat medic.

Linda Pierson, a close family friend, stated "Ken took CPR with me in high school and was planning on taking advanced lifesaving when he joined the Army to become a medic. His goal was to become a pediatrician."

Kira Vonronn, his widow, gave the eulogy. She started by saying, "We are here today, not to mourn Kenney, but to celebrate the life that he had. Kenney truly did love his job and his Soldiers that were under his watchful eye. Many times, Kenney would stop a phone conversation to help a fellow Soldier who had a medical problem. Kenney would want everyone in this room to remember that he loved his country and the job that he did for this great land."

In closing, Mrs. Vonronn wanted everyone to remember her husband in a positive way, because "he was an amazing individual with many wonderful qualities."



**Spc. Alain Kamolvathin**  
Age 21, Blairstown,  
N.J.  
KIA Jan. 16, 2005  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
69<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Sergeant Vonronn was laid to rest at Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery with full military honors.

The Veteran Corps and the American Legion paid tribute during viewing hours. Tom Fitzsimmons, Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, stated that Sergeant Vonronn will "be forever remembered and enshrined in our armory." Both organizations rendered a final salute to Sergeant Vonronn following their respective tributes.

Sergeant Vonronn is survived by his wife, Kira, 20, his parents, Debra and Remen and his three sisters, Samantha, 17, Courtney, 13, and Gina, 13.

## Humvee accident claims two 'Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>' Soldiers

Two "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>" Soldiers died from injuries in a Humvee accident in Iraq Jan. 16, one month after receiving Purple Heart Medals for injuries sustained from a roadside bomb.

Spc. Alain L. Kamolvathin, Blairstown, N.J., was killed instantly, while Pfc. Francis C. Obaji, Queens Village, succumbed to his injuries at the 86<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, Baghdad, one day later.

Specialist Kamolvathin, 21, enlisted in the Army National Guard to honor a promise he



**Pfc. Francis Obaji**  
Age 21, Queens  
Village  
KIA Jan. 17, 2005  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
69<sup>th</sup> Infantry

made to his dying mother four years ago. "He promised he'd turn his life around," said cousin, Brian Kaiser.

Specialist Kamolvathin's mother died of a long-term illness in 2000 and his father died of a heart attack in 2003. His sister Sidney, 12, now must deal with the loss of her entire immediate family within the last five years.

"Everything he did was geared toward getting custody of Sidney," added Kaiser.

Private First Class Obaji, 21, was a Nigerian immigrant whose father brought the family to the United States in 1994. At Arlington National Cemetery, Va., mourners learned how the 9/11 terrorist attacks motivated him to alter his life's plan. He was just about to board the Staten Island Ferry when the planes hit the Twin Towers; the death and destruction he viewed on his long walk home forever changed him. He joined the N.Y. Army National Guard shortly thereafter.

"He wanted to give back to the country he so loved," said Kingsley Obaji, his uncle. His father, Cyril Obaji, mentioned that he died knowing he made a difference.

"They knew at last freedom will prevail over there and democracy will reign," said

See PATROLS, page 10



Soldiers of the Arlington National Cemetery Firing Party conduct a rifle volley Jan. 28 at the funeral service of N.Y. National Guard Soldier, Pfc. Francis Obaji. Private First Class Obaji was buried with full military honors. Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith

## Soldier's Actions Awarded

New York Soldier earns Bronze Star Medal, 'V' Device

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**CAMP AL TAHREER, BAGHDAD, IRAQ**—Sgt. David Bernal puts heart and soul into his job as a civilian police officer in Staten Island, New York, and his work ethics are mirrored as a Soldier fighting the war on terror.

Bernal is the recipient of the 256th Brigade Combat Team's first Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device. This particular award is reserved for Soldiers who exemplify valor and courage beyond compare.

Sergeant Bernal is a member of Company D, 101st Cavalry, but the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment is lucky to have him attached for the deployment. On a fateful night in December, as families across America were warm and cozy in their homes enjoying the holiday season, Bernal and his fellow Soldiers were in a fight for their lives.

"We went back into the kill zone and used our vehicles to push the others out of the road and before long all of the vehicles were disabled," Bernal remembered. "We

See BRONZE STAR, page 7



Sgt. David Bernal receives the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device. Photo by Spc. Erin Robicheaux



# 'Hometown Heroes' Awarded Purple Heart Medals

By 2nd Lt. Amy Fires  
Guard Times Staff

**LATHAM**—Governor George E. Pataki, the Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Thomas Maguire, Jr., and other local dignitaries were on hand, here, Feb. 7 to award three Capital Region Soldiers the military's oldest award: the Purple Heart Medal.

Sgt. Kenneth Comstock, Queensbury, a member of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment was wounded when an enemy roadside explosive was used to attack the patrol vehicle he was driving in.

Sgt. Robert Hemsing, Jr., Glens Falls, also of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment was wounded from shrapnel when insurgents attacked his convoy with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire.

Staff Sgt. Robert Griffin, Albany, backfilled into the Buffalo-based 105th Military Police Company, was wounded when enemy roadside explosives were used to attack his patrol vehicle.

These Soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart Medal during a ceremony filled with family and friends.

Governor Pataki told the audience and Soldiers, "there is an unbroken line of men and women who are called to duty, and everyone is a hero that puts on the

uniform."

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Van Pelt reminded everyone that, "these Soldiers are hometown heroes."

As of the ceremony, there were more than 3,500 New York Soldiers overseas, 5,000 called to active duty, and, as the Governor continued, "every time freedom has been threatened we have seen the line unbroken of those who defend our freedoms across the state and nation."

The solemn ceremony included a New York State Senate proclamation, introduced during a State Senate session by Senator Joseph Bruno, State Senate Majority Leader, and bestowed to Sergeant Comstock by State Senator Betty Little, Queensbury.

Not only was a proclamation on behalf of the State Senate given to Sergeant Comstock, in addition, during a legislative session at the Capitol, a resolution for all three Purple Heart Medal recipients was rendered. The Soldiers' valor, honor and heroism was showcased by the State Senate, which included a salute by the entire Legislative body.

In the resolution, New York Senate says "The residents of New York State cannot soon forget their courage and recognition as those who serve in the military."

The Purple Heart Medal is the first American award made available to



Governor George E. Pataki shakes hands with Sgt. Ken Comstock along with Sgt. Robert Hemsing, left, and Staff Sgt. Robert Griffin. Photo courtesy of Governor's office.

Soldiers.

The Purple Heart Medal is awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and, posthumously, to next-of-kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

Gen. George Washington awarded the first Purple Heart Medal to a 2nd Continental Army Soldier for bravery in defeating the British in Long Island.

The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, as Sergeant Comstock proudly mentioned, "were the ones who did all the work" while deployed in Samarra, Iraq. They were "stationed with tankers whose tanks couldn't get into the city, thus leaving the work to them."

Sergeant Comstock casually mentioned the card games he enjoyed and his three day rest and relaxation in Qatar, which he experienced before the attack.

Sergeant Comstock said he will be medically discharged from the National Guard but still plans on keeping in touch with the friends he has made. His best

**"The residents of New York State cannot soon forget their courage and recognition..."**

—New York State Senate Resolution to Purple Heart Medal recipients, 2005

friend, who was a combat medic attached to his unit and stationed with him, played a large part in assisting him after the attack, with whom, he says, he will always remain friends.

Sergeant Griffin says he is thankful to be home and enjoying his growing family and getting back to work at the Albany County Correctional Facility. He said that while he enjoyed all of the friendships made, he is also glad for the people he encountered from other countries. He met them all while working with the multinational forces, and he won't forget the experience. □



Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., speaks during the Purple Heart Medal Ceremony Feb. 7. Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith

**Bronze Star**, from page 6

jumped out of them and did individual movements into a berm about 500 meters away and held the fight there."

He said that it was an average patrol, their third since arriving into Baghdad, and they were still doing ride-alongs with the 10th Mountain Division. They were in an area where a unit had previously been hit during the day with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and small arms fire. They had four vehicles and as they made a turn onto Route Avalanche, he had a clear view of what happened next.

"I was in the last vehicle so I could see everything," he said. "We (the vehicles in the front) started receiving RPGs and small arms fire from another direction."

Bernal recalled that when those vehicles tried to move away a tractor trailer came in and blocked the rest of the vehicles off. When that happened the convoy started to get hit from the other direction.

Someone came over the radio and gave alternate directions to Bernal and his crew, but when they were reunited with the front half of the convoy they only had two vehicles. The problem was that the vehicles on either side of the ambush assumed the same thing, and thought that each other was in each other's line of fire.

Bernal turned back. When he arrived on the scene the other two trucks were inoperable and the Soldiers started to receive heavy weapons fire.

"We used our trucks to move the others out of the kill zone," Bernal said, "but before long all of the vehicles were disabled."

That's when the 256th Soldiers took to the ground and began pounding the earth to find cover in a berm. He said that they sat there for a couple of hours and eventually either the enemy ran out of ammunition or they just couldn't proceed any further. After that the Soldiers just waited for recovery assets.

When asked of what was running through his mind through

all of this, Bernal smiled slyly as he recalled that all he could think of were his buddies' lives.

"They all owe me money," he said smiling. "It's kind of hard to get cash around here sometimes."

It wasn't long before Bernal and the rest of the survivors of the event were right back out doing their duty.

He said that three days later they all decided together that it would be best to get right back into the saddle, and he said that if they sat back and dwelled on it the easier it would be to start asking, "Why am I here?"

"We drove past the area, stopped, and took a look around to the check the enemy positions out (from that night). They were well fortified."

Bernal said that no matter what happens from here on out, he has full confidence in his fellow Soldiers and in the lessons that they've all learned.

"If it's one thing that the military has taught me, it's that if you're on the other side of our ambush, you usually don't make it out." □

# Small Town Comforts Wounded Soldiers

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
Guard Times Staff

**LATHAM**—Take a small-town firehouse, add colored thread and fabric, pour in various amounts of love and caring, mix thoroughly with a strong sense of community and country and you have what might be the warmest recipe to comfort wounded Soldiers.

To recognize New York's wounded Soldiers, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Alplaus Fire Company, Alplaus, crafted 26 lap-size quilts for the New York Army National Guard.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert



A woman from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Alplaus Fire Company sews a quilt for a wounded Soldier in tribute to their service and sacrifice. Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith.

VanPelt, who holds NYARNG's highest rank for enlistees, received some of the quilts Jan. 30, a sunny, winter Sunday, at a meeting above Alplaus' brick, four-stall fire-engine room.

"It just took off," said Elizabeth Burke, program co-chair, speaking of their "Quilts for Wounded Soldiers" program.

More than 20 ladies volunteered each stitch of time. They started the program November 2004, hand-making the fleece and traditional

cotton quilts in assembly line fashion. But each quilt is personalized and one of a kind.

We write a personal letter, thanking Soldiers for their service, Burke said, adding that the materials were either donated by the community or bought through the ladies auxiliary.

"The squares for the cotton quilts were sewn together by an 87-year-old woman," said Mrs. Burke.

Their efforts are all worth it, said the ladies, who "hope to give a smile of comfort to a wounded Soldier."

"It has brought a smile to all their faces," said VanPelt.

The Ladies Auxiliary first contacted VanPelt when organizing the project. At that time, NYARNG's wounded Soldiers were at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Whenever someone went to visit (the wounded), I ensured they had quilts for them, said VanPelt. He said that the quilts also go to wounded Soldiers now at Brooks

Army Medical Center and Fort Hood Army Hospital, Texas; the quilts are distributed with the help of Capt. Mike Dunn, a NYARNG liaison officer looking after the needs of NYARNG Soldiers deployed to the Texas posts.

The idea that a small community like Alplaus would generate such far reaching interest and caring seems surprising, considering Alplaus has no Soldiers of its own serving in Iraq.



A woman from the Ladies Auxiliary works on a quilt for a wounded Soldier.

outdoor art, patched yellow, brown and red cotton quilts with patriotic and traditional designs, all with handwritten tags identifying their intent and origin: "To an American Hero, from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Alplaus Fire Company."

"The auxiliary is very perceptive with the designs they incorporate," said VanPelt. He explained that most of the quilts have either a sports theme or contain "a whole lot of red, white and blue."

"You can't go wrong with that formula," said VanPelt. "They're all top quality but, even if they weren't, the Soldiers see the love that went into producing these, just for them."

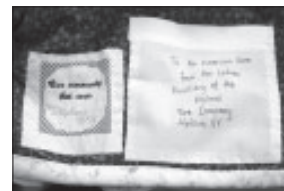
Mrs. Burke said the quilting would continue, "as long as there is a need." But she admitted that hope also rests on peace, that another quilt will never have to be given to another wounded Soldier.

"The wounded Soldiers are happy to be recognized for their sacrifice," said VanPelt, "but if I never had another Soldier that I needed to give a quilt to, I'd be one happy man." □



Spc. Daniel Swift, right, 69th Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division displays a quilt received from the Auxiliary with Command Sgt. Maj. Robert VanPelt.

"Alplaus is a caring and sharing community," said one auxiliary member at the Jan. 30 meeting. Surrounding her was a colorful collection of quilts in the making: blue and green fleece quilts with



All lap quilts have handwritten tags identifying their intent and origin.



The Ladies Auxiliary of the Alplaus Fire Company display their lap quilts for wounded Soldiers with Command Sgt. Maj. Robert VanPelt, far right.

## NEADS Sergeant Outstanding Honor Guard Manager

From Lt. Col. Kacey Blaney  
Executive Officer/Public Affairs Officer,  
Northeast Air Defense Sector

**ROME**—Honor Guards bring honor and tribute to those who served their country, including the 16 million veterans who served our nation in World War II, of which roughly four million "greatest generation" veterans remain. Each veteran deserves the best we have to offer, and the Northeast Air Defense Sector's Tech. Sgt. Thomas Whiteman brings the best to them.

Whiteman was named the N.Y. National Guard's Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year for his work as NEADS Honor Guard coordinator.

Sergeant Whiteman coordinated more than 50 funeral details last year, representing

more than 1,000 volunteer man-hours.

"Tech. Sgt. Whiteman certainly stands out in the crowd," NEADS Commander, Col. Robert K. Marr, remarked, alluding not only to Whiteman's six-foot, seven-inch frame but the stellar reputation he builds for the NEADS Honor Guard throughout Central New York. "He has worked extremely hard to train and equip members of NEADS' Honor Guard, and he certainly deserves this recognition," said Colonel Marr. "We're very proud of him."

"This should really be a team award," said Sergeant Whiteman, "I'm just the coordinator, I do the behind-the-scenes work. Without the rest of the team, who perform the details, I wouldn't have been considered."

When asked why he's a member of the

Honor Guard, he simply stated that "it's the right thing to do to pay final respects to the brave men and women who have served before me."

Sergeant Whiteman will now compete this Spring at the Air National Guard level against honor guard nominees from all 50 states. □

EDITOR'S NOTE: New York National Guard traditional Soldiers and Airmen provide military honors for honorably discharged veterans throughout New York State through Army National Guard offices and Air National Guard air wings. To join a military honors team or to receive information, contact Donald Roy, Program Director at 518-786-4906, e-mail donald.roy@ny.ngb.army.mil or online, at [www.dnna.ny.us/honor/index.html](http://www.dnna.ny.us/honor/index.html).



Tech. Sgt. Thomas Whiteman. File Photo.



# Stratton Airmen Organize Rigger's Airdrop Course

By Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
Guard Times Staff

**SCOTIA**—A group of Airmen organized at the Stratton Air National Guard Base recently to push thousands of pounds of gear and equipment off the back of a C-130, and it might have made quite a drop, but they never got off the ground. They were too focused on "important" stuff: straps, skid-boards, parachutes and the "unquestionable certainty" of their career field: Aerial Port.

As long as Airmen, Soldiers and scientists depend on aerial ports for airdrops, there's no time for distraction. "I will be sure always" is a common statement among them; so, don't mistake their work for an elementary school "egg drop."

"You want everyone to grasp that frame of mind," said Staff Sgt. Jermia White, aerial port delivery trainer, Pope Air Force Base, N.C. "This is a key part of our training."

The 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Aerial Port Flight hosted an airdrop qualification course from Jan. 18 to Jan. 28 to fulfill Air Force and Air National Guard aerial delivery qualifications.

With the "Fabrication of Aerial Delivery Loads Course"—more commonly called the "Rigger Course"—instructors Sergeant White and Staff Sgt. Seth Abel from the

3rd Aerial Port Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., arrived here to teach 20 Airmen the ups and downs of aerial delivery.

We teach these classes whenever they are needed, said Sergeant Abel.

The Aerial Port Airmen explained that, in the past, the Rigger course was held through the Army's Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Va., but classes for Air Force personnel have been limited—Pope Air Force Base, N.C., has begun offering training, but, with the limited number of seats a waiting list for students exists, making attendance difficult.

Sergeants Abel and White are teaching the course for Air Mobility Command until Headquarters, Air Education and Training Command is up and running with an additional course.

We needed our personnel qualified to support our Greenland and Antarctica airdrop requirements, said Staff Sgt. Rick Cowsert, aerial port journeyman.

When a course was managed here, additional units were invited to attend. Airmen from the 166<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Delaware, 152<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, Nevada, 165<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Georgia, 139<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Montana and the 182<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, Illinois arrived to train with the aerial port flight.

"We filled 10 seats and they made up 10 other seats," said Sergeant Cowsert.



Aerial Port Airmen rig a container delivery system for airdrop at a January qualification course held on Stratton Air National Guard Base. Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith.

**"Without airdrops the National Science Foundation could not accomplish some of their research at remote sites."**

—Staff Sgt. Rick Cowsert  
Aerial Port Journeyman, 109AW

Attending from N.Y.'s 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing were Staff Sgt. Mike Byerwalters, Staff Sgt. Michael Eldred, Tech Sgt. Scott Helmer, Staff Sgt. Donald Masse, Staff Sgt. Kyle Partlow, Master Sgt. Chris Rowe, Senior Airman Shawn Rulison, Senior Airman Leonard Smith, Tech Sgt. Chris Wood and Staff Sgt. Kelly Yerg. All Airmen receive full credit for the course, which is a subsection of the Aerial Port career field.

"Usually, it's...unilateral training for airdrop qualifications, but the 109<sup>th</sup> has a unique mission with its real-world work performed," said Sergeant Able, who commented that the class consisted of all Air National Guard students.

"They have been pretty good and are grasping the information well," he said.

Normally, one instructor holds a course for a maximum of 14 Airmen. Here, the instructors say the 20 to two Airmen/instructor ratio allows for increased individual critique and training, an additional instructor also helps accomplish the training in less than 10 days, with what is normally a longer course.

Sergeant Abel says their main focus is teaching everything by regulation. Airmen learn the basics including proper name and identification of equipment, how airdrops are performed and where information can be found in specific manuals. Then, the course shifts to hands-on training including packing/inspecting parachutes and rigging cargo.

The G-12 parachute is the most common parachute used for C-130, low-velocity airdrops, said Sergeant White, who explained that Airmen jump into an all-encompassing sub-course on the parachute including packing, inspecting and repairing minor damage.

Airmen additionally rig container delivery systems for airdrop; the systems are an interlocking mix of cargo and pilot parachutes, actuators, cables, straps, slings, ties, honeycomb-shaped impact cardboard and metal skid-boards. Everything must be packed to perfection for the system to work properly.

We build them and point out the common mistakes found in the field, said Sergeant Abel. "It's all building blocks stacked throughout the process."

For the aerial port flight, these building blocks heighten their real world capabilities at the North and South poles. With four qualified Airmen in the aerial delivery section previously covering airdrops, the Flight was limited. Now, the Flight will more than triple its airdrop ability.

"Without airdrops the National Science Foundation could not accomplish some of their research at remote sites," said Sergeant Cowsert.

The Airmen will feel confident when they go back to their units because they know the processes and fundamentals of aerial delivery, says Sergeant Abel. □



Airmen and instructors review air cargo prepared for airdrop.



A cargo-parachute release assembly.



Master Sgt. Brad Addison. File photo.

## Air Guard Recruiter Sets Benchmark

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony L. Bucci  
174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

**SYRACUSE**—A New York Air National Guard Recruiter from the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing created a new continuity guide. The guide has been adopted by the Air Force Education Training Command for future training of all Air National Guard recruiters.

Master Sgt. Brad Addison of the 174 FW Recruiting Office condensed a continuity guide for utilizing the Air Force Recruiting Information Support System (AFRISS). The guide better illustrates the procedures

needed to navigate through the system.

"I am not at all surprised by Sergeant Addison's creation of a continuity guide for the AFRISS program," said Col. Harvey Vanwie, 174FW Mission Support Group Commander.

Sergeant Addison volunteered to be given the new continuity guide to serve as a test person for the ANG as an additional task. "It took me a four months to learn this continuity guide inside and out. I wanted to feel comfortable operating AFRISS without using the guide," said Sergeant Addison.

The continuity guide proved to be cumbersome, not as user-friendly as it could be, this is when Sergeant Addison decided to do something about it.

"I just decided there had to be an easier way to do it," said Sergeant Addison. "If someone who was not a recruiter and had never been exposed to the AFRISS program could navigate through this system with

only the help of the continuity guide I created then I knew it would be an effective tool," said Sergeant Addison. However, it was more than an effective tool for using AFRISS—it changed the way recruiters were taught at the ANG Recruiter Course located at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"We built the recruiter's course around the continuity guide modified by Sergeant Addison, in addition to giving each graduating recruiter a copy to take back to their unit," said Master Sgt. Mynor Castillo, ANG Recruiter Course Instructor. I have seen many continuity guides that were developed to assist in using the AFRISS program, but none were as user-friendly and concise as Sergeant Addison's version, said Sergeant Castillo.

"For him to take time out of his schedule and go above and beyond his job description is a testament to his dedication to the recruiting field and the Guard." □

## 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Airman Earns Citizen-Soldier Award

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony L. Bucci  
Public Affairs Officer, 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing

**SYRACUSE**—Master Sgt. John "Jack" Baxter, a computer-switching specialist with the 152nd Air Operations Group (AOG) at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, here, was awarded the Colonel Gouverneur Morris Citizen Soldier award for 2004.

Sergeant Baxter received the award based on his technical expertise, selfless dedication to duty and his commitment to his community.

"It was a total surprise for me, an honor," said Sergeant Baxter. "I did not expect it at all."

Sergeant Baxter was born and raised in Central Square and now lives in Hastings. His military career began in 1968, with the Air Force, as a ground radio technician stationed at Stewart Air Force Base (AFB), Newburgh, and later at Altus AFB, Okla., where he received an honorable discharge in 1972. He separated from the military and began his civilian career with Bell Atlantic. In 1985, he joined the 108<sup>th</sup> Tactical Control Squadron (TCS) at Hancock Field, Syracuse, as a wide-band communications specialist, ending his 13-year break in service. He spent approximately nine years with the TCS.

The squadron evolved into the 152<sup>nd</sup> AOG, which Sgt. Baxter has been a member of since 1994. His specialty with the 152<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group included computer, network,

switching and cryptographic systems. This experience now enables him to solve diverse problems that most people can't. His military training offered him many opportunities to learn and sharpen his skills, but his civilian career additionally aids immeasurably to his expertise troubleshooting communications problems.

"Master Sgt. Jack Baxter is simply the finest senior noncommissioned officer with whom one could wish to serve," said Maj. Steve McDaniel, 152<sup>nd</sup> AOG Deputy Director of Communications. "His technical expertise, loyalty and ability to work with superiors, peers, and subordinates are unmatched. He is a quiet but firm leader, and, despite the fact that his knowledge could command high salaries in the private sector, he has remained with our unit accepting one temporary tour after another rather than leaving the organization."

Sergeant Baxter retired from Bell Atlantic after 32 years of service as a special services repairman; he then spent two years as a transmission engineer for the, now defunct, Telergy Corporation. At Bell Atlantic he spent the first five years of his career as a home telephone repairman, he then transitioned into the radio department and eventually special services, which dealt with a myriad of communications applications.

"They knew, when they sent me on a job, I got it fixed right the first time," said Sergeant Baxter.

Although he kept quite busy between his military and

civilian career, he still found time to pursue other interests within his community that included his love of singing.

Sergeant Baxter has been involved with the Master's Touch Chorale, a Christian singing group, for more than seven years. His group has released a compact disc with various inspirational songs, one song in particular is entitled, "A Prayer for our Time," which they performed at the White House on December 2002 for a 9/11 memorial service. His singing career began, alongside his wife, in the church choir.

It was an unexpected event that led him to this singing group.

"The church I was attending did away with their choir, so, I began to look for other singing opportunities," said Sergeant Baxter, who added that the group's performance at the White House went so well that they were asked to perform again last December.

Sergeant Baxter is a dedicated professional who never shies away from a challenge, whether it is creating a zoned public address system or installing a new control system for utilizing multiple visual aides simultaneously during mission briefings.

In addition to his technical skills he has continually demonstrated his leadership ability in assuming positions of increased responsibilities, which are normally carried out by commissioned officers.

The hardest thing to do is give someone else the work when I want to do it myself, said Sergeant Baxter. □

### Patrols, from page 6

his uncle. "He was one of thousands of men and women who collectively made a difference in Iraq. There is no doubt in my mind."

Private First Class Obaji applied for citizenship approximately three years ago and was posthumously declared a United States Citizen.

Specialist Kamolvathin's wake and funeral were held at local Richmond Hill funeral home, and his interment was held at Long Island National Cemetery.

Private First Class Obaji's wake and funeral were held at St. Gabriel's

Episcopal Church, Hollis, and his interment was at Arlington National Cemetery, Va.

Both Soldiers earned the Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, Army Service Ribbon and New York State Conspicuous Service Medal. Private first class Obaji was additionally awarded the Bronze Star Medal. □



Master Sgt. John "Jack" Baxter, 152nd Air Operations Group. Courtesy photo.



# 105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Airmen Provide top-notch C-5 Support in Georgia, Spain

By Staff Sgt. Ann-Marie Santa  
105th Public Affairs Office

**NEWBURGH**—The gutted C-5 sat in an overseas hangar while a crew worked to replace insulation blankets, apply new surface paint and make other necessary repairs. It took six weeks to finish; right on time, under budget.

Whether it's maintaining C-5s overseas or refurbishing them here, members of the 105th Maintenance Group (MXG), 105th Airlift Wing work tirelessly in support of the mission.

"We completed a refurbishment on a C-5 in Georgia last year," said 1st Lt. Thomas

Albrecht, MXG Aircraft Maintenance Officer. "The planes have been in use so much since 9/11 that we fell behind on the refurb. We needed to find an alternate way of getting it done," he said.

During a refurbishment, all the "old stuff" such as insulation blankets, anti-skid surfacing, seats and surface paint are replaced, Albrecht explained.

The refurbishment was accomplished with programmed depot maintenance (PDM), where aircraft structures are analyzed, upgrades are installed and mainframes are repaired.

The C-5 was, essentially, being stripped bare, so, it was an ideal time to perform the



A 105th Airlift Wing C-5, aircraft 9008, undergoes a complete refurbishment and Programmed Depot Maintenance (PDM) in Georgia. The project was completed in six weeks and 105th Maintainers saved the Air Force over \$100,000. Courtesy photo.

refurbishment, said Albrecht. "Technicians from Lockheed took everything apart, but the 'refurb,' in conjunction with PDM, was done by our maintainers. We saved the National Guard Bureau more than \$100,000."

Though the project experienced some setbacks, such as MXG members traveling to Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, to make modules, Albrecht boasted that the refurbishment was completed within the estimated six-week time-frame.

Members of the MXG haven't been limited to C-5 make-overs here. Their most recent mission to Morón Air Base, Spain, had them repairing as many as 15 to 20 U.S.-bound C-5s every day, says Chief Master

Sgt. Isaias Mavila, MXG accessories element chief.

There, MXG crews in Morón had five hours to complete repairs and inspect, load and fuel each aircraft, said Albrecht. Despite the 12-hour shifts, scorching temperatures, being away from their families and the pressure of getting aircraft off the ground in five hours, the MXG pulled together and were able to reduce the time each aircraft spent on station.

"When you deploy together, you form a bond...work better as a team because you depend on each other," Mavila said. "What's more...just about everybody had issues to contend with while away, but there was very little complaining." □



C-5s on the flightline in Spain. Photo by 1st Lt. Thomas Albrecht.

## Aircrews Fly Humanitarian Relief to Tsunami Victims

By Staff Sgt. John Gassler  
105th Public Affairs Office

**NEWBURGH**—An underwater earthquake in the Indian Ocean Dec. 26 generated a cataclysmic tsunami that wreaked havoc along the coastlines of 11 different countries in Southeast Asia. More than 150,000 people lost their lives and millions more were left homeless.

With a proven 20-year track record of providing unrivaled humanitarian airlift support in New York and around the world, 105th aircrews from Stewart Air National Guard Base were once again called upon to aid worldwide relief efforts overseas.

"Whether it's flying generators to upstate New York, like we did in 1998 during the ice storms, or whether it's sending food and medical supplies to hurricane stricken towns in Florida, we're

ready to do our part when needed," said Brig. Gen. Dana B. Demand, 105th Airlift Wing commander. "Despite our continued support of 'Operation Iraqi Freedom,' our participation in Southeast Asia proves once again the men and women of the 105th can rise to any challenge."

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, which monitors earthquakes worldwide, the epicenter of the 9.0 magnitude earthquake was under the Indian Ocean near the west coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Jolted by a massive, sudden shift of the Earth's tectonic plates, a vast amount of water was displaced by the shockwaves. Moving at speeds up to 500 m.p.h. it has been calculated that waves up to 30-feet high completely demolished property from Africa to Thailand.

Stewart aircrews were

dispatched Dec. 31, 2004 to help airlift critically needed supplies from Kadena AFB in Japan to places like Sri Lanka and Thailand.

C-5 Aircraft Commander, Maj. Patrick Lasella, who flew a two-week mission in support of "Operation Unified Assistance" said humanitarian airlift missions are highly rewarding, and his crew was extremely motivated to get the job done.

We flew everything from all-terrain forklifts to Navy dive teams into the region. All of us were honored to have played a key role in such a critical time of need, said Major Lasella.

Aside from food, water and medical supplies, Stewart aircrews were responsible for transporting critically needed CH-46 (mini-Chinook) helicopters during the early stages of the operation. Stewart aircrews further airlifted much needed

water purification systems into the region.

The last Stewart C-5 returned home on Jan. 24. Airmen flew a total of 35 sorties, transported 553 military and civilian passengers

and airlifted more than 1.8 million pounds of cargo. In the words of Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire Jr., Adjutant General, "New York State's National Guard answered the call to duty." □



Airmen load an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter into a 105th Airlift Wing C-5 during tsunami relief efforts. Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis.

**Naval Militia**, from page 2

and public service activities. The largest numbers of personnel we have activated were some 800 persons in response to 9/11. Please keep in mind that we have more than 4,500 NYNM members, so, we have vast, untapped resources. Ninety-five percent of our members are acting drilling reservists, and a large part of our response is always by our very experienced volunteer veteran cores that assist us with planning, administration and on-the-ground supervision, as required.

When activated, the NYNM forces are integrated into the appropriate command and, thereafter, are controlled by the commander of that force, usually an Army or Air Guard general officer. By and large, it works well.

New York State has many retired flag or general officers from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. It's important to continue to involve this vast resource of knowledge and experience in NYNM activities, policies and future plans, receiving their vital guidance and assistance in aligning our force with active duty counterparts. Accordingly, on Oct. 24, 2002, we established the Retired Flag Officers' Advisory Council, which, today, involves some 16 flag officers. The Council makes recommendations, assists with policy reviews, helps solve problems that arise and gives valuable guidance. This is a good model that every state should follow.

I am proud of the people with whom I am privileged to serve, NYNM members who perform important, daily missions. The state has recognized our contribution by including NYNM members in scholarship programs, pay, when called to active duty, state license plate fees, that waive bridge, highway and tunnel passes when on duty and many awards, laws and encouragements. Together, over the years, this support exceeds more than \$5,000,000. There are additional benefits as well, including the Josephthal Awards, named after NYNM's first Paymaster, and the Rear Adm. Czesak Management Excellence Award, named after NYNM's oldest member. All awards are to outstanding NYNM members and given with a cash award and plaque.

Our Staff Judge Advocate General, Rear Adm. J. Robert Lunney is a past president of the Naval Reserve Association. We continue to actively operate many chapters in New York, which do important work and have annual "Mess Night" ceremonial events. We encourage support for the association and its activities, and we have a significant membership.

I see an important, contributory, relevant and extensive future for the NYNM and, indeed, for the entire NYNM program or its equivalent naval guard-type forces throughout the country. It's an idea whose time has returned.

It's important that all of our military forces are used—trained volunteers, assets and capabilities—in response to the needs of homeland defense as well as local emergencies. Each state has Naval Reservists and Marine Corps Reservists; many states have Coast Guard Reservists as well. Each state has trained young, able, experienced and eager veteran volunteers who are anxious to come to the aid of their state and neighbors in time of need. These vast resources provide another "insurance policy" to each governor, each adjutant general and the country. They should not be cast away or overlooked. Also, the NYNM's unique skills or complementary skills are vital to the joint protection of life and property.

These days, when our resources are stretched, our budgets tight and we are fighting new wars and experiencing terrorists' threats, we must be certain that we use every tool in our command. Also, it's important to tie the Reserve Forces closely to local accomplishments and community appreciation and support. I believe strongly that the states should provide additional resources in support of the

Reserve Forces. Every state needs a naval militia or naval guard; every state has assets and every state deserves one as a vital component of homeland defense.

If we have learned anything, we have learned the lesson of joining together, working to be a "purple-suited military nation." This knot must be tight, even tighter I feel. Therefore, with good leadership, understanding and appreciation, I am confident that the future is bright for the naval militia concept to blossom and strengthen in the years ahead and to spread to all states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. One of the best legacies, I feel, is helping to create,

energize and shape a formidable, qualified military force in New York State that is relevant and able to respond to its emergencies and needs when called by the Governor or Adjutant General. Being ready, prepared, equipped and trained is essential to save lives and property when needed. Being able to integrate into activities with other state military forces is, indeed, a major contribution for all of our years of work. For that, I am grateful to my shipmates.

My family and I consider it a privilege having been afforded the opportunity to serve in the military forces of the United States of America. □



**Learning about Naval Militias and their potential in Maryland's state military force.** Maryland Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, is "welcomed aboard" the lobby of Joint Forces Headquarters, Latham, with his support staff on Feb. 4 by New York Naval Militia Commander, Rear Adm. Robert A. Rosen, Deputy Commander for Operations, Brig. Gen. Robert Wolf and Administrator, Kevin Ettrich. Photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Petibone

# New York Naval Militia Street Naming

At the intersection of Water Street and Fulton Street, near the South Street Seaport, NYC

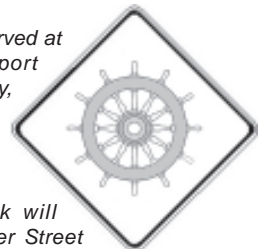
**Sunday, April 10**



RSVP by Monday, April 4, to Vivian at (516) 333-2000 ext. 130 or via E-mail to rar@rosenmgmt.com.

Military: Service Dress Uniform  
Civilian: Casual Attire

Refreshments will be served at the South Street Seaport Museum, Melville Gallery, 213 Water Street commencing at 10:15 a.m. prior to the event.



The City of New York will additionally name Water Street between Fulton and John Street, Manhattan, NYC as 'New York Naval Militia Place.'

This remarkable event honors our Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, veterans and volunteers who have been, and are, associated with the New York State Naval Militia, a component force to the New York Division of Military and Naval Affairs.



# Combat Lifesavers Save Lives, Bring Transformation

By Maj. Jeffrey J. Lape  
2-108<sup>th</sup> Infantry

**LATHAM**—Conditions on the battlefield bring a need for the combat lifesaver now and in future Army operations.

Battlefield constraints limit the ability of health care specialists to provide immediate, far forward care; therefore, the combat lifesaver provides needed, initial care to combat casualties.

The combat lifesaver is a nonmedical Soldier trained to give emergency care. He does not replace the health care specialist. Each squad, crew, team or equivalent-sized element should have at least one combat lifesaver to provide care to members of their team. Combat lifesavers assist the health care specialist in providing forward care and preparing casualties for evacuation.

The U.S. Army has entered the new millennium with a greatly enhanced and redefined health care specialist. The modern medic embodies the traditional combined with a mandate for enhanced medical competency.

However, factors influencing casualty care include enemy fire, medical equipment limitations and widely varied evacuation times. The combat lifesaver is a bridge between the aid training given to all Soldiers during basic training and the health care specialist.

During the train-up for Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry qualified 246 soldiers as combat lifesavers with 40 more qualified in Iraq. During the operational phase of OIF II many battle related casualties were initially evaluated and treated by combat lifesavers. Combat lifesavers save lives! □



A Combat Lifesaver from the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry aiding an Iraqi civilian. Courtesy photo.

## Combat Medics Undergo Transition

Master Sgt. Chris Deso  
New York Army Guard Medical Command

**LATHAM**—One of the biggest questions in the New York Army National Guard today concerns the transitioning of the Army Combat Medic.

The questions that arise include: what is meant by transition, how does a Soldier go about it, and what happens afterwards?

Effective Oct. 31, 2001, all medical specialists and practical nurses have been reclassified as transitioning health care specialists. By Oct. 1, 2009, all health care specialists are required to meet criteria required to drop their transitioning designator, which means they need to achieve one of three approved strategies:

### STRATEGY I

Soldiers who are sergeant first class promotable or above (effective on, or before, Oct. 1, 2001) are grandfathered and will have the designator removed; no additional training is needed.

### STRATEGY II

Soldiers who obtain, and maintain National Registry Emergency Medical Technician, Intermediate or National Registry Medical Technician Paramedic certification will satisfy transition requirements.

### STRATEGY III

Soldiers who obtain and maintain a current National Registry Emergency Medical Technician Basic certification plus one of two certifications: valid Basic Trauma Life Support for advanced providers or valid Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support for advanced provider's and one of the following four courses / licenses:

1. Current state Licensed Practical Nurse / Licensed Vocational Nurse
2. Graduate of the AC BNCOC medical track
3. Graduate of the RC BNCOC medical track after Oct. 1, 1996
4. Completion of the Trauma AIMS course

Once transition is complete, all Soldiers are required to participate in the semiannual Combat Medic Skills Validation Test, which comprises eight tables testing

different medical skills and is administered and recorded by the Soldier's unit. The training and testing manual is available electronically or can be ordered through medical command.

All transitioned Soldiers additionally require 72 hours of continuing education, also conducted and recorded by their units.

Once the soldier is transitioned and has their EMT National Certification, it is his or her responsibility to remain current.

Medical Soldiers, who have met any of the transition requirements, either through the military or civilian organizations, must forward all documentation to the medical command for review.

The transition process can take two years of drill weekends and annual training, and it's recommended that medics start searching the Army Training Requirements and Resource System at [www.atrrs.army.mil](http://www.atrrs.army.mil) for schools, or contact Medical Command. Transition levels are offered through ATRRS, and units are advised to start enrolling their Soldiers.

Questions can be forwarded to Master Sgt. Chris Deso, chief medical noncommissioned officer, Medical Command via e-mail at [christopher.deso@ny.ngb.army.mil](mailto:christopher.deso@ny.ngb.army.mil). □



Combat medics in Iraq. Courtesy photo.

## TRICARE Dental Program Available

**LATHAM**—National Guard Members and their families are eligible for the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP), the same comprehensive, worldwide dental program that was previously available only to active duty family members. The TDP is voluntary. Sponsors must have at least 12 months remaining on his or her service commitment for eligibility.

Any reservist who is on a tour of active duty that is greater than 30 days receives the same entitlements as an active duty member. This includes the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) and reservists on active duty for special work or for training.

The TDP limits the amount that can be paid for each guardmember's dental services: annual maximum, \$1,200 per-member per-contract year (Feb. 1 to Jan. 31) for all services excluding orthodontics; lifetime orthodontic maximum, \$1,500 per-eligible member (age restrictions apply); diagnostic services provided for orthodontic purposes are not applied towards the \$1,500 lifetime orthodontic maximum.

Enrollment is for a minimum of 12 months and can be completed by calling 1-888-622-2256 to request an enrollment form. Forms are also available online. All new enrollees must submit a payment equal to their portion of one month's premium with the TDP enrollment application.

More information on the TDP, a copy of the TDP Benefits Booklet, is available on their website at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com). □

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**

BURKE JOHN HARRIS, 53 HQ LIAISON FWD  
GIM HENRY, HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN  
MACDONALD ROBERT B, 42 IN CTR REAR CP OP FWD 2  
SPRENGER MATTHEW P, NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE

**MAJOR**

BROWN DELROY ANTHONY, MEDICAL COMMAND  
CHODNICKI JOSEPH AMBROSE, NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ  
LOONAN JOHN FRANCIS, NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE  
VANAKEN JAY WILLIAM, HHC 1-105TH INF  
WERNIS ELIZABETH ANN, CO C (-) 342D FWD SPT BN  
WILLIAMSON ANDRE PIERRE, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)

**CAPTAIN**

FURNIA BRIAN THOMAS, HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV  
OBRIEN DENNIS MICHAEL JR., HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY  
OBRIEN SEAN DOUGLAS, NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE  
WALLEY MICHAEL BRUCE, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN

**FIRST LIEUTENANT**

GRAVES REYNOLD VANN, 138TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET  
KRISHNAN ANEAL, 27TH SPT CTR (CORPS RAOC)  
LIONA BRIAN HAROLD, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
MANCINI JOHN, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
MCCALL GERALD WILDEN, HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY  
MONFORT BRIAN EARL, DET 1 105 MP CO  
ROLFE SCOTT MATTHEW, 108 IN BN 02 HHC REAR NY

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE**

HOUCK TIMOTHY ROGER, DET 20 OPER SPT ALFT CMD

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR**

BROWNING STEVEN JACK, CO B 3-142D AVIATION  
FOLEY PATRICK C, 249TH MED CO AIR AMBULANCE (-)  
KANG MARTIN, CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
ROSE DAVID MICHAEL, 249TH MED CO AIR AMBULANCE

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE**

THOMPSON JAMES, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
TURNER SCOTT EVERETT, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)

**MASTERSERGEANT**

COBA ALVARO D, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP

GARDNER JACK D JR, COD 1-127TH ARMOR  
GINTHER RICHARD M, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
HOWLEY MICHAEL OLIVER, CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
MATHIS JESSE, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
PHILLIPS DAVID PAUL, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
STROZEWSKI ROBERT J, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
THIBERT JAMES EDWARD, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT

**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS**

AYALA JOHNNY, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
COLONRODRIGUEZ IVAN, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
DARNELL GARY L, HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID (M)  
HUGHES CHRISTOPHER GERRARD, HHD 342D FWD SPT BN  
KLAASSEN JAY DEAN, CO B 152D ENGINEER BN  
MAYNARD MARC LOUIS, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
MELTZ JAMES MICHAEL, TROOP E 101ST CAVALRY  
MENDEZ JAIME JR., HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)  
MICKENS ALLEN E, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
MOORE CHARLES T, NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ  
MYRUSKI PAUL J, 42D INFANTRY DIV BAND (-)  
PADILLA VICTOR MANUEL, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
PETIBONE STEVEN BLAINE, JOINT FORCE HQ  
PONCE EDGAR ALEX, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
ROBINSON MARC KENNETH, 204TH ENGINEER DET  
SCHWARTZ RICHARD FREDERICK, HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY  
VANBUSKIRK MICHAEL LYNN, CO A 1-127TH ARMOR  
VASQUEZ JACQUELINE MAUREEN, HHC 27TH AREA SG  
WIMBERLY ERIC A, HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN

**STAFF SERGEANT**

ACOSTA RAMON, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
AIELLO MAURICE, EN HHD HHD BDE FWD 3  
ALLIE ASMAT, 37TH FINANCE DET  
BEBEN TIMOTHY ALBERT, CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
BIERON PAUL JOSEPH, 145 OD CO MAINT FWD  
BONNER ERNEST, 1569 TC CO MED TRK FWD  
BOONE RICKY D, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
BRAMMER DOLAN PAUL JR., CO A 3-142D AVIATION  
CHALKER JOHN WILLIAM, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
CHILDERS DONALD LYNN, HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
COOK DAVID PATRICK, 0152 EN BN HHC DET 1  
COOLBAUGH BRUCE EDWARD, 222D MILITARY POLICE CO  
COOLEY YVONNE ELLEN, 2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB)  
DIAZORTIZ CARLOS W, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
EBERHARDT ANDREW, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO

FOY RICHARD JR, HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
GARDNER GARY N, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
GOUTREMOUT CHRISTOPHER L, 427TH MAINT CO (DS)  
GRANA MICHAEL J, HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY  
GROW KRISTOPHER M, HHC 27TH AREA SG  
HAGGETT CHARLES EDWIN III, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
HARGE FRED III, HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
HARPER PETER JOHN, HHC 152D ENGINEER BN  
HENDERSON JOHN JEFFREY, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
HOLLINGER DEBORAH KAY, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
HUDSON JAMES EARL, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
HUNT JESSE O, CO C 1-69TH INF (M)  
JONES RUDOLPH E JR, HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
LIVERGOOD AARON MICHAEL, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
LLOYD THEODORE HAROLD, 258 FA BN 01 BTRY C REAR  
LONG BARBARA ANN, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
MARTIN GREGORY ALAN, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
MARTINEZ JEFFREY RIOS, 42 INFANTRY DIVISION DET  
MCFADDEN DANIEL JOHN, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
MITHU JAGGAN, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
MUNNO FRANCO, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
NEGRON HECTOR M, CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
OBRIEN CHRISTOPHER JUSTIN, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
OROSZ ALLEN JUDE, CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
PADGETT JAMES EDBERT JR, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
PRESLEY RAYMOND III, HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE  
QUINONES KATHERINE, 2ND BN 106TH REG (RTB)  
RACHO JOYCE WONG, HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN  
RAMOS CATHERINE ANNE, CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
RIVERA GABINO JR, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
SANCHEZ MANUEL, CO C(-) 638 SPT BN  
SINGH BUDHRAM, 145 OD CO MAINT FWD  
SOTO ANTONIO, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
STHILL MARCONI C, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
SUME PIERRE EDSON, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
TRAVERS DAVID WAYNE, NYARNG ELEMENT JTFHQ  
VANDUSKY ROBERT, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
VIRUET JOSE V, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
WALESKI JAMES EARL, 2427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
WALLACE DANIEL ALBERTO, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
WALTERS CARL A, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
WEIR JERRY ALAN, 258 FA BN 01 BTRY C REAR NY  
WENTZEL DAVID JOHN, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
WINDLEY TRACEY TERRANCE, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)

**SERGEANT**

ABBATE ANTHONY NICHOLAS, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
ALLSOP JEREMY JORDAN, CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
BAER THERESA ANN, HQ 531ST TRP CMD  
BAGROWSKI STANLEY JOE, HHC 3/142 AVN FWD 5  
BAILEY CHARLES EVERETT, DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF (M)  
BAUCH TIMOTHY D, 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
BEHNKE JOSEPH C, RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
BELLUCCI MICHAEL ANTHONY, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
BERARDINELLI RICHARD MICHAEL, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
BOBERG JUSTIN JAMES, HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR  
BOKSA KYLE JEFFREY, 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
BROWN KENNETH NICHOLAS, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
BUINISKIS JENNIFER LYNNE, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
BUSH CARL ALLEN III, 222D MILITARY POLICE CO  
CALDERON WILSON, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
CAMACHO ALEXIS VICENTE, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
CAPUTI DAVID SAMUEL, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
CARLL DANIEL WESLEY, DET 1 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
CARR MATTHEW MICHAEL, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
CARTIER LORRIE L, NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ  
CASE STEPHEN ADDISON, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
CHMURA DOUGLAS JOHN, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
CLARK SETH RICHARD, HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
COLON ANGEL L JR, 249TH MED CO AIR AMBULANCE (-)  
CONCEPCION RAFAEL, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
CUMBERBATCH RICHARD A, HHD 27TH FINANCE BN  
DECARE JAMES M JR, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
DEFTEREOS CHRISTOS C, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
DENNIS JOHN NORMAN III, HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
DIMANCHE ERMETS, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
DUBOIS ALAN JAMES, 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
DUERR KENNETH WILLIAM, HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE



Volunteers from the 4th Personnel Service Battalion receive a donation Jan. 20 at the Adjutant General's Affairs Golf Tournament in 2004. Photo by Staff Sgt. [Name obscured]

Personnel Service Battalion Family Day was raised at the Annual Division [Name obscured]



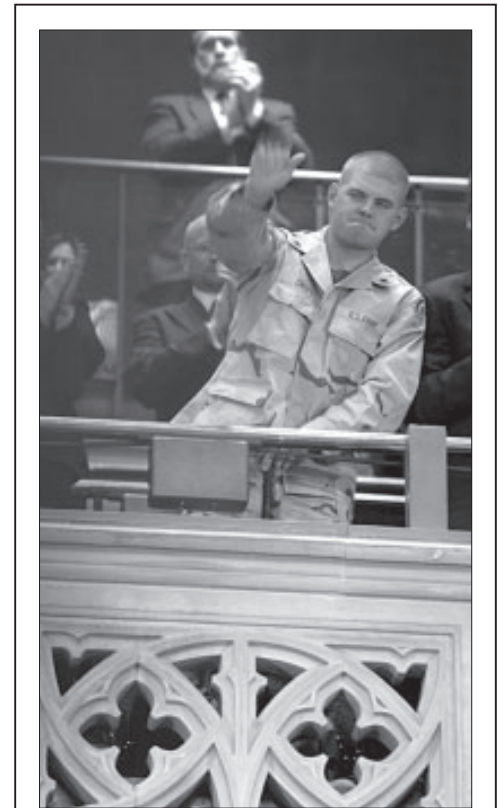
EDMAN WINONA ANN, HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
 FERNANDEZ JULIO CESAR JR, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 FINNIE BARBARA M, HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV  
 FIRESTONE ANDREW NATHAN, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 FLICK KATRINA ELISABETH, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
 FORD RICHARD EUGENE, CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 FORTNER DOUGLAS LYMAN, CO B 1-127TH ARMOR  
 FRANCIS RUPERT, 1569 TC CO MED TRK FWD  
 FRANCISCO BRIAN KEITH, 427TH MAINTENANCE CO (DS)  
 GANSER GREGORY ALFRED, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 GARCIA DANIEL ALBERTO JR, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 GARCIA JOSE RAMIRO, DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF (M)  
 GARCIA MARLON NIGEL, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 GARLAND PATRICK E JR, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
 GAWRONSKI TIMOTHY EDWARD, 827 EN CO SEP IN FWD  
 GEMBALA PETER RICHARD, HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
 GIAMMELLA LOUIS EDWARD, 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO D  
 GINNANE KEVIN MICHAEL, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
 GOMEZ LUIS ALBERTO, RECRUITING RETENTION CMD  
 GONZALEZ EDWIN, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 GONZALEZ MARCOS ROLANDO, DET 1 442 MP CO  
 GRACE KIMCOE ULANDA, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 GRAVES JAMES EARL, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 GROSSO GIACOMO, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 GROSSO MICHELLE ANNE, DET 1 442 MP CO  
 GUZMANESTEVZ DANNY D, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
 HAND PENNY LYNETTE, 2427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 HARTMAN DAVID WAYNE, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
 HARTMAN DEAN TIMOTHY, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
 HEINS SHAYE H, NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ  
 HELSDON ADAM RICHARD, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 HEMSING ROBERT C JR, 108 IN BN 02 HHC REAR NY  
 HERNANDEZ CHARLES A JR, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 HERNANDEZ EDWIN, 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO C  
 HIRALDO EDDY ANTONIO, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 HOUSE CYNTHIA JEAN, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
 HUGHES WAYNE A, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
 JENNEJOHN CHRIS, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 JIMENEZ HUGH HENRY, DET 1 442 MP CO  
 JOHNSON ERIC RONALD, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 JOHNSON RICHARD DAVID, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 JONES RICHARD CHARLES, HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
 KAIER JUSTIN PAUL, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
 KELLY BRANDY PATRICIA T, 37TH FINANCE DET  
 KHAN NAIIEEM AHMAD, RECRUITING AND RET CMD  
 KINSELLA NIALL, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
 KRMEC THOMAS JR, 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMOR REAR NY  
 LAPORTE EDWIN CHARLES, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 LATORRE MIGUEL ANGEL, 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
 LAWRIE STEVEN PATRICK, CO B 1-127TH ARMOR  
 LAZAR ADORIAN, 69 IN BN 01 HHC REAR  
 LEWIS THOMAS ANDREW, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 LIANG SI CHUAN, DET 2 CO B 638 SPT BN  
 LONG JEREMY, 105TH MP CO  
 LORCA MIGUEL ANTONIO, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 LOU DION ZIANG, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 MACK SCOTT CORBIN, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
 MANN CHARLES WALTER, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
 MARTIN JAMES IRVING, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
 MATIAS MICHAEL MARTIN, 1569 TC CO MED TRK FWD  
 MATVIIV RUSLAN, 442D MILITARY POLICE CO  
 MCMURRAY JEREMIAH LEE, 204 EN BN CO A FWD2  
 MEEHAN JAMES MICHAEL, DET 1 442 MP CO  
 MILLER THOMAS KLENG, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 MINER JACOB ANDREW, HHC (-) 1-108TH INF  
 MISNER WILLIAM DAVID, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 MUNZERT DANIEL WILLIAM, DET 1 105 MP CO  
 OKUN CHRISTOPHER MARTIN, DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF (M)  
 OLANDER LOUIS NASH, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 OLDENBURG RONALD, RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 ORTIZ HERBERT, COMPANY C(-) 638 DASB FWD  
 PADILLA RYAN CHRISTIAN, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 PALMER BRYANT KEITH, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
 PASQUINOGRACO EVA MARIA, HHD 104TH MP BN  
 PECK CORY WILLIAM, CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 PHILLIPS MATTHEW, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 PINEDA DAVID, 37TH FINANCE DET  
 POLK KIMBERLY TATJANA, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 FLAGUBIR BEJAL, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO

REDRICK JOSEPH, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 RIVERA ANGEL, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
 RIVERA CARLOS JOSUE, 719 TRANS CO (MDM TRK CGO)  
 ROBINSON EVEMARIE, RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 ROCQUE ERIC RAYMOD, HHC 3/142 AVN FWD 5  
 ROLLINS CECIL CHARLES, 145 OD CO MAINT FWD  
 ROSEN MICHAEL ANDREW, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
 SANTOS NICHOLE, DET 1 442 MP CO  
 SCHMITT GREGORY THEODORE, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 SCHREINER SEAN THOMAS, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
 SEYMOUR JAMIE W, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
 SHANNON ISAAC JR, DET 1 442 MP CO  
 SHERRICK DAVID DRYER, 642 MI BN CO C REAR  
 SLOW CHRISTOPHER JAMES, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 SMITH CRAIG BURTON, HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
 SMITH JOSHUA PHILIP, 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
 SMITH LAURA JOYCE, HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE  
 SMITH LUIS ALBERTO, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
 SOMERS JEREMY DUAIN, 145 OD CO MAINT FWD  
 SOSNICKI JANET LYNN, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 SOZIO MICHAEL GERARD, HHC AVN BDE 42 IN DIV  
 STACKHOUSE GAVIN G, 108 IN BN 01 ANTIARMOR REAR NY  
 TAYLOR OBN KITSON, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 THID ANDREAS PETER, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 TURBUCIO KELY, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 TIPPETT BRIAN EDWARD, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
 TORRES JOHAN A, RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD  
 TUFFOUR ALLAN AFRIFA, 133 OD CO MAINT NONDIV DS  
 VELEZ ROBERTO A, 204 EN BN CO A FWD2  
 VOGT JOHN THOMAS, COMPANY C(-) 638 DASB FWD  
 WILKOSZ KENNETH ALLEN, HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID  
 WOODING JILL RENEE, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
 ZAPOROWSKI ETHAN P, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK

#### SPECIALIST

ALLEN JAMES PATRICK, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 ANDREWS JAMES SCOTT, HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE  
 AZZALINA ASHLEY N, 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
 BELL JAN MARIEANN, 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
 BERDOE SIMONE PATRICE, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 BERKMAN KEVIN MICHAEL, CO A(-) 427TH SPT BN  
 BERRY GARVIN ORLANDO, DET 1 133RD MAINT CO  
 BOWDEN WAYNE DOUGLAS, 145TH MAINTENANCE CO  
 BURGESS WESLEY C, 108 IN BN 01 CO A DETI REAR NY  
 CARTER JASMINE SHAMEC, HHC 642D MI BATTALION  
 CHAN MANKIT N, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 CHAPMAN WILLIAM CHARLES, HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION  
 CORNIER RICHARD JAMES, 69 IN BN 01 CO A REAR  
 COWLEY TAMRA RASHELLE, 206 CS HHD CSB FWD  
 DELEONARD KEM JACQUES, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 DOOKRAN DURGESH, 145 OD CO MAINT DS REAR  
 DOWNS MICHAEL ALLEN, HHC 1-105TH INF  
 FERNANDEZ JOHN JASON, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 FORMUS PAUL JERRY, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 FRANCO CARLOS ALBERTO, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 FUNNELL JOHN RAYMOND, DET 1 CO A 204 ENGR BN  
 GALARZA JOSE RAMON, CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 GIBSON DARRYL, CO B(-) 642D SUPPORT BN  
 GORCZYCA LOUIS KIRK, DET 1 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
 GREEN AMANDA LEIGH, CO C (-) 342D FWD SPT BN  
 GRITMAN KENNETH JOHN, 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
 GROTH KEVIN MICHAEL, 249 MD CO AIR AMBL REAR, NY  
 HENRIQUEZ STEVE, DET 1 107TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
 HOLDER KERRY TYRONE, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 HOUCK EDWARD JOHN, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 JOHNSON CHRISTOPHER ISAIAH, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 JOY BRIAN DAVID, 108 IN BN 01 CO B FWD 2  
 KAIRUPAN ALEXANNIE D, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 KIMMEL REBECCA MARIE, 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
 KISSOON DEREK, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 KNOX RUSSELL BRANDON, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 LIPINSKY ADAM DANIEL, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 LOWERY JAYSON MICHAEL, CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 LUAN GAO MING, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 LUOMA JAMES E II, HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN  
 MACK ERIN MARY, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 MANNARA RICHARD ANGELO, TROOP E 101ST CAVALRY

MARCINIAK TIMOTHY LYMAN, 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
 MARISCAL GERALD ANTHONY, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 MARTIN MATTHEW JAMES, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
 MARTINEZ IVAN ORLANDO, DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN  
 MCELROY NICHOLAS JAY, 108 IN BN 02 AASLT CO C  
 MCLAREN RICHARD WARREN JR, CO B (-) 204 ENGR BN  
 MEJIA GUSTAVO ANDRES, 7TH FINANCE DET  
 MIRANDA JOSE ANTONIO JR, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 MOERMAN MICHAEL J, 1427TH TRANS CO MEDIUM TRUCK  
 MORALES HEALY ABRIL BLOSSOM, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 MORAN JAMES LEANDER, DET 2 CO B 638 SPT BN  
 MORTILLARO FRANK, CO C(-) 638 SPT BN  
 MROWKA MARCIN, 1569 TC CO MED TRK FWD  
 MUNASSAR MOHAMED, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 MURPHY JASON ROBERT, 0152 EN BN HHC DET 1  
 NEHRKORN ERIK ALAN, DET 1 199TH ARMY BAND  
 NEWCOMB DONALD TOBIAS JR, CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 OLSEN TIMOTHY JOHN, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 POLLARD JONATHAN D, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 PRIVITERA ADAM JOHN, HHC (-) 1-108TH INF  
 QUIJANO MICHAEL ANTHONY, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 QUINONES DIVINE, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 QUINTANA DEREK FELIX, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 RACINE JASON BRYAN, 206 CS HHD CSB FWD  
 RAMIREZ JOVANNY, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 RANDAZZO MICHAEL JAMES, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
 RAPHAEL JACQUES, CO C 1-105 INF  
 RICE SEAN PATRICK, 108 IN BN 01 AASLT D CO FWD  
 RIVERA CARLOS JR, HSC 642D SUPPORT BN  
 RIVERA NOVALES LUIS ANGEL, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 ROBLES CRYSTAL LEE, 206 CS HHD CSB FWD  
 ROGERS ERIC LAQUAN, 133 OD CO MAINT REAR NY  
 ROSARIO STEVEN JOHN, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)



**State of the State VIP**, Spc. Daniel Swift, 1st Battalion, 69th Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division stands in recognition at Governor George E. Pataki's State of the State address at the New York State Capitol Jan. 5. Governor Pataki said Swift, and his fellow members of the New York National Guard, provide a "tremendous service to our state and nation." Photo courtesy of Governor's office.

SANCHEZ IVETTE, CO C(-) 638 SPT BN  
 SANTIAGO HERIBERTO ELIEZER, 4TH FINANCE DET  
 SCANLON ADAM JOSEPH, DET 1 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
 SCHEUER MELISSA E, 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
 SCHUSS CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL, CO C (-) 1-108TH INF  
 SCOTT OWEN KEITH, CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 SHAPPY JOSHUA AARON, HHC 1-105TH INF  
 SIMMONS JASON PATRICK, CO C 3-142D AVIATION  
 SMITH MISTY NICKEYA, DET 1 442 MP CO  
 SMOAK ALBERT B JR, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 SOLOMINSKY DMITRY, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 SPENCER WILLIAM MICHAEL, 642 CS BN HSC REAR  
 SPEROS EVERITT PHILLIP, CO E 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 SULLIVAN BRENDAN PATRICK, CO C 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 TAMBURELLO TIMOTHY, 138TH MPAD  
 TASAKOVIC ERIC F, DET 1 107TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
 TERBILCOX DAVID E, CO C (-) 1-108TH INF  
 THOMAS PHILIP MICHAEL, CO B 1-69TH INFANTRY(M)  
 TIERNAN STEPHANIE JOY, 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
 VARGAS GOANERGIS, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 VOELGER LAWRENCE P, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 WILSON NICHOLAS ERIC, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 WINSTEL JORDAN JOSEPH, CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 ZARIAN VAROOSH, HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE

**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS**

ALICEA JONATHAN LUIS, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 ALLBRIGHT ANDREW R, DET 1 CO G 137TH AVIATION  
 ALVAREZ GRACIELA AGNES, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 AMEYAW MERCY NMN, HHD 342D FWD SPT BN  
 ANDUIJAR JOEL EDWIN, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 BENNETT ANN MARIE, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 BERNARD MICHAEL STEPHEN, DET 1 CO A 1 BN 105 INF  
 BESSONG AUSTIN ENOW, 827TH ENGR CO  
 BRAMAN KYLE WARD, DET 1 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
 BRICE ANTOINETTE D, HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP  
 CASTELLI VENESSA , 249 MD CO AIR AMBL REAR.NY  
 CLARY BRANDON MICHAEL, CO C (-) 1-108TH INF  
 COLVIN RICHARD WILLIS III, HHC (-) 1-108TH INF  
 DALEY JASON MICHAEL, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 DANTES YVON WENER, DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN  
 DAVIS NORMA ELIZABETH, 145 OD CO MAINT FWD  
 DUMAS JOSEPH ST CLAIR, 204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT  
 ESTEY KRYSTAL, DET 2 CO B 638 SPT BN  
 FIELDS MICHELLE RENEE, CO A 342D FWD SPT BN  
 FRANCO CHRISTIAN ANDRES, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 GALE MATTHEW RICHARD, CO C (-) 1-108TH INF  
 GREGG WALTER DERRICK, HHC 42 IN DIV(-)  
 GRICE GREGORY SCOTT, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 GUZMAN HOOVERNEY A, 1569 TC CO MED TRK FWD  
 HAIRE THOMAS ROBERT, HHD 104TH MP BN  
 HARPER EUGENE GEORGE, 427TH MAINTENANCE CO (DS)  
 HARRIS CASEY AARON, HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR  
 HARVIN CINDY ANN, 369 CS HHD CORPS SPT REAR NY  
 HELM KAGAN MAURICE CHARLES, CO C 1-105 INF  
 HILL KEVIN LLOYD, DET 1 107TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
 KALVAITIS AIDAS, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 KEENEY MICHELLE LORAINNE, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 LEFEVRE ERNST REGINALD JR, CO C 1-105 INF  
 LENNON CHRISTINA, CO C(-) 638 SPT BN  
 LUTHER JUSTIN MICHAEL, HHC (-) 1-108TH INF  
 MARTIN JAMELL MITCHELL, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY C 155 SP  
 MARTINEZ MARCO ANTONIO, CO C 1-105 INF  
 MERCADO VIVIAN, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 MILLER MURVEN KAOPHUS, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 NEWTON KIWAN NEIL, HHD 206 CORPS SPT BN  
 OCHOA EDGAR YOVANI, HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)  
 PEREZ CARLOS JOSE II, 258 FA BN 1 BTRY B 155 SP  
 PEREZ NELSON, DET 1 CO G 137TH AVIATION  
 PRICE KELLY ANNE, 42 HHC HVY DIV REAR  
 QUINONES PEDRO D III, 427TH MAINTENANCE CO (DS)  
 RAVANES FRANZ, CO C 1-69TH INF (M)  
 REBERON CARLOS JOEL, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 REGOLINO ANTHONY ROCCO, CO C 1-105 INF  
 RICHARDSON WESLEY L, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 ROBERTS JAMAL NETFAN, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 ROBINSON THOMAS WILLIAM, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 RODRIGUEZ EFRAIN, CO C 1-105 INF  
 SMITH EBONY CHRISTINA, DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN

STEVENS TREVOR SAMUEL, CO A(-) 427TH SPT BN  
 STLOUIS ANTONIO T, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 SWAIN LATOYA MARY, HHD 342D FWD SPT BN  
 SWARTZ FREDERICK JOSEPH, CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 TOSCANO AGEA KIWANDA, HHD 342D FWD SPT BN  
 ULYSSE VLADIMIR, 145 OD CO MAINT DS REAR  
 VANSLUYTMAN ELVIS R, CO E 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 WHITEHURST SHAUN TOMMY, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 WITKOWSKI WALTER, 69 IN BN 01 CO A REAR  
 WONG YUEN HUNG, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 YATES JASON ANTHONY, CO C 1-105 INF  
 ZERVOS DAMIEN JOHN, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)

**PRIVATE 2**

ARACENA GILBERTO JOSE, 69 IN BN 01 HHC REAR  
 BADILLO ROQUE EMANUEL, HHC 1-105TH INF  
 BALANDIS DUANE MARK, CO C (-) 1-108TH INF  
 BARRETT WILLIAM PATRICK, HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR  
 BARTLETTKING JERRY GENE, DET 1 CO A 1 BN 105 INF  
 BLONCOURT JOSEPH LUIS, CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)  
 BOHARDY BRIAN EUGENE, DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN  
 BORSODY JOSHUA LEWIS, DET 1 HHC 1-108TH INF  
 COLLINS ERIN MARIE, CO A(-) 427TH SPT BN  
 COLON ERIK JOEL, DET 1 133RD MAINT CO  
 COMBES DARRYLL JOSEPH, DET 2 CO C 1-108TH INF  
 CORDICE EWAN, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 COURTRIGHT CHANTEL MARIE, DET 1 HHC 27TH IN BDE  
 DELATORRES CARLOS RANDU, CO D 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 DORCE WILNER, DET 1 133RD MAINT CO  
 DORN AARON JACOB, DET 1 HHC 1-108TH INF  
 DOTSON RASHEEN DANYAA, DET 1 133RD MAINT CO  
 FRENCH JASON ANDREW, 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
 FROST BRIAN ERIC, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 GADDIS MELISSA AMANDA, 466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SPT  
 GALL ORIN NKOSI JR, 7TH FINANCE DET  
 GAUTHIER JUSTIN RYAN, CO A (-) 1 BN 105 INF  
 GENTILE THEODORE WILLIAM JR, CO C 1-69TH INF (M)  
 GOLDEN THEODORE FRANCIS, CO A 101ST SIGNAL BN  
 GOMEZ MELVIN A, 204TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT  
 GONZALES DANIEL MICHAEL, HHC 1-105TH INF

GONZALEZ FERNANDEZ M, HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID (M)  
 GRAY LEAH LYNNNEE, 42 HHC HVY DIV REAR  
 GUERRA MARCO WILLIAM, 133 OD CO MAINT REAR NY  
 HAMILTON JAMES CHRISTIAN, DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN  
 HARRISON JESSICA RENE, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 HENNEL BRIAN DOUGLAS, HHC 1-105TH INF  
 HISERT JAMES FREDERICK, CO C (-) 1-108TH INF  
 HONEYWELL DAVID JEFFREY, CO B 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 HOTALING DANIEL ROBERT EDWA, 42 IN CTR REAR  
 INGA JAVIER FERNANDO, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 INGERSOLL NICOLE M, 1427TH TRANS CO MED TRUCK  
 JORGE HAYDEE CELESTE, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 KENNEDY RICHARD KEITH JR, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 KODRA ADAM TODD, HHC 1-105TH INF  
 LAKE EDWARD ROBERT, HHC (-) 1-108TH INF  
 LAUER CONRAD ARTHUR, 108 IN BN 01 CO A DET 1 REAR  
 LEBRON ELVIS NICOLAS, CO C 1-105 INF  
 LEMORE CHRISTOPHER HERSCHAL, 204TH ENGINEER DET  
 LLAUGER LORRAINE, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 LONGO CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL, CO A 1-101ST CAVALRY  
 MAYNARD CHAD ISSAC, CO C (-) 204TH ENGR BN  
 MERRICK JONATHAN ALBRT, CO B 1-108TH INF  
 MOORE TIMOTHY JOHN, 105TH MP CO  
 MUNIZ ELIZABETH, DET 1 133RD MAINT CO  
 NADEAU TRAVIS DOUGLAS, CO A (-) 1 BN 105 INF  
 NUZI MARSEN, CO C 1-105 INF  
 PALMATEER MARK CHARLES, 108 IN BN 02 CO A DET 1  
 PEREZ DERRICK ANTHONY, 102D MAINTENANCE CO  
 RIOS HERNANDO, 69 IN BN 01 HHC REAR  
 ROSALES EDGAR HERNAN, 1569 TC CO MED TRK FWD  
 SCHOEHEIT MATTHEW DOUGLAS, 427TH MAINT CO (DS)  
 SIMPSON DOREEN CLAIRE, 133 OD CO MAINT REAR NY  
 SMIETANA STEPHEN MICHAEL, 427TH MAINT CO (DS)  
 SPARKS CARRIE REASHELL, 427TH MAINTENANCE CO (DS)  
 STJUSTE RICHARD PIERRE, 69 IN BN 01 HHC REAR  
 VASQUEZ JANINE E, 107TH MILITARY POLICE CO  
 VELEZ ANTHONY JR, CO C 1-105 INF  
 WATSON MARLANA STARR, H & S CO 204 ENGR BN  
 WILLIAMS MATTHEW JOHN, 427TH MAINT CO (DS)

# 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Armed Forces Military Ball

*Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of  
The End of World War II*

The 25th Annual Military Ball will be held for all members and friends of the Armed Forces.

Help us honor our Military & Veterans who sacrifice so much for our defense and safety.

**All Ranks, Branches, Active, Inactive,  
Veteran and Retired are Welcome!**

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.milball.us](http://www.milball.us)

Proceeds from the Ball will go to:  
**Veterans Care**  
the supporting agency for the Fisher House

Please complete form below, detach and return with check payable to: Military Ball Committee, Box #471, Slingerlands, NY 12159. **RSVP NLT APR. 29**

**Date:** Saturday, May 7, 2005  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave Ext., Albany, N.Y.  
**Dress:** Dress Uniform preferred, if possible  
**Price:** \$25 per person  
**Dinner:** Choice of Sirloin of Beef, Boneless Chicken or Stuffed Sole  
**Dancing:** Dance to live music after dinner

Name: _____	Number in Party: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> #BEEF
Home Address: _____	List Guests: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> #CHICKEN
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> #FISH
Phone: _____		
Branch/Unit: _____ Group you wish to sit with: _____		
E-mail Address: _____		





**CO D 1-105 INF**  
SFC CONTOMPASIS NICHOLAS HARRY

**CO E 1-69TH INFANTRY (M)**  
SPC BARRATT KWAME HILLARY

**DET 1 105 MP CO**  
SSG FROHLICH RICHARD ARNOLD

**DET 1 107TH MILITARY POLICE CO**  
SSG OVERSTREET LLOYD N

**DET 1 442 MP CO**  
SGT MORALES FRANK  
SPC RODRIGUEZ DAVID

**DET 1 CO C 1-108TH INF**  
SPC BENNETT ROBERT EARL

**DET 1 CO C 204TH EN BN**  
SGT DUNCAN GREGORY ALLEN  
SPC MARMO GERARD PASCHAL

**DET 1 CO C 342D FWD SPT BN**  
SPC DEER DIAMANTE  
SSG JAQUEZ BERNARDA JOSEFINA

**DET 1 CO G 137TH AVIATION**  
SSG BOBECK JOHN CHARLES  
SGT LINKE ERIC SIEGFRIED

**DET 1 HHB 42 DIVARTY**  
SPC KENDRICK DANIEL JAMES

**DET 1 HHC 1-108TH INF**  
SPC JONES GLEN LEROY

**DET 1 HHC 1-69TH INF (M)**  
SPC KREBS DANIEL EDWARD

**DET 1 HHC 107TH SUPPORT GROUP**  
SPC CORDERO LINO  
SSG SOTO JAIME LORENZO

**DET 2 HHC 27TH IN BDE**  
SGT BROCK GEORGE DAVIS

**H & S CO 204 ENGR BN**  
SGT BABCOCK DAVID JAMES  
SPC BURKEE JAMES MICHAEL  
SPC EMERY NORMAN DEAN  
SSG NOBLE VICKI LYNN

**HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY**  
SSG JONES RUDOLPH EDWARD JR

**HHC (-) 1-108TH INF**  
SSG MARSHALL ROBERT FRED  
SPC STARRATT ANDREW JAMES

**HHC (-) 1-127TH ARMOR**  
SGT BLACK KEVIN LYLE  
SSG FEGER DENNIS R  
SPC LUCAS BRIAN THOMASLYAL  
SPC REDDECLIFF JASON THOMAS  
SPC RODRIGUEZVILLANUEVA EDGAR R  
SPC STERZINGER DONALD C  
SPC SWANSON GLENN STEVEN  
SGT WILLARD CHRISTOPHER G

**HHC (-) 27TH IN BDE**  
SGT DAVENPORT STEVEN WRIGHT  
SPC POWELL RONALD CORDELL  
SFC SAYWARD ROY CARL JR  
SPC STELLAKIS KATRINA MARIE  
SFC WHITE JOHN EDWARD

**HHC 1-101ST CAVALRY**  
SGT ANDERSEN JOHN RICHARD  
SPC CANDELARIO MICHAEL ANGELO  
MSG DECKER MARK

**HHC 1-105TH INF**  
SPC BADILLO WILBERT  
SPC FEIDEN FRANK ALLEN  
SFC THERRIEN JOHN MARTIN

**HHC 101ST SIGNAL BN**  
SPC POPA ALEXANDRU

**HHC 27TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP**  
SGT DECARE JAMES MICHAEL JR  
SFC MEADOR EDDY THOMAS

**HHC 3RD BDE 42ND ID (M)**  
SPC CAREY MELISSA ANN  
SFC DARNELL GARY L  
SGT TORRES ELIZABETH

**HHC 42 IN DIV(-)**  
SGT BURCKHARD RANDY ALAN  
SGT LORCA MIGUEL ANTONIO  
SGT MORATH JASON MICHAEL  
SGT TALUTO JASON JOHN  
SGT WALCZAK MICHAEL ANTHONY

**HHC(-) 1-69 INF (M)**  
SPC DEJESUS RANDOLPH  
SGT LEIGH GODFREY RONALD  
SFC NIEVES EDGAR ANIBAL

**HHC(-) 3-142D AVIATION**  
SSG HOWARD ALICIA  
SPC WILLIAMS KENNETH JAMES

**HHD 104TH MILITARY POLICE BN**  
SGT KANE PATRICK KELLEY  
SGT VANVLEET WALTER ALBERT

**HHD 27TH FINANCE BN**  
SGT CUMBERBATCH RICHARD  
SFC WEST ZETHA A

**HHD 342D FWD SPT BN**  
SPC STRIDIRON KENT

**HHD 369TH CORPS SPT BN**  
SFC MAHARAJ YOGINDRA  
MSG RIVERA PEDRO C

**HHD 369TH WATER SUPPLY BN**  
PFC RIVERA JOSE L  
SPC SCHRAM CHRISTOPHER BRIAN  
SGT SCHWENDLER JOSEPH RICHARD

**HHD ENGINEER BDE 42 ID**  
SGT HOUSE CYNTHIA JEAN

**HQS 106TH REGIMENT (RTI)**  
SFC LANE CHARLES ARTHUR

**NY DET 36 MED DET FWD 204**  
SFC BOWMAN MICHAEL JAMES

**NYARNG ELEMENT JOINT FORCE HQ**  
SFC BYRON DAVID E  
SGT JOHNSON MATTHEW III  
SSG MARTINEZ WILLIAM R  
SFC MOORE CHARLES TREMAIN  
SSG MUSTICO JOHN MICHAEL  
MSG RYAN KEVIN W  
MSG SUSZKO MICHAEL C  
SPC WILLIAMS ADAM MARSHALL  
SPC WINNE AMBERLEE ANN  
SGT YIP ERIK WAH

**RECRUITING AND RETENTION CMD**  
SSG FAJARDOGUEVARA ALLAN ENRIQU  
SSG MCDUGALL THEODORE E III

**TROOP E 101ST CAVALRY**  
SGT ASHLEY GARY EDWARD  
SPC DELOACH ROBERT TYREL  
SGT GALLAGHER ROSS ANDREW  
SSG HERNANDEZ FRANKIE  
SGT PAPPENHEIM BRIAN JAMES  
PV2 PECHLER THOMAS GERALD  
PFC RYAN ROBERT M JR  
SGT TOLENOA MARK TULENSRU

Air Guard Promotions



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**  
JACKSLAND, ELAINE, 139 AEROMED EVAC SQ

**MAJOR**  
ARNOLD, MICHAEL A, 174 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
RATHMELL, STEVEN H, NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ

**CAPTAIN**  
BROWN, LAWRENCE E, 174 MEDICAL GP  
COUSINEAU, STEVEN A, 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
DAVY, KELLY M, 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
HICKS, JOSHUA P, 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
KIBLAN, DANIEL, 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
WOLFFORT, WESLEY F, 105 MEDICAL GP

**1<sup>ST</sup> LIEUTENANT**  
ENGLISH, BRENDAN T, 106 STUDENT FT  
MADIGAN, DANIEL G, 106 OPERATIONS SUPPORT FT  
PRESTON, MATTHEW O, 106 STUDENT FT  
SUMWALT, KEITH A, 106 RESCUE WG

**2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT**  
NIETZEL, LEE H, 174 OPERATIONS SUPPORT FT  
PENNY, STEPHEN W, 106 STUDENT FT

**CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT**  
CRONIN, CORNELIUS A, 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
SCHABLE, MARK R, 109 AERIAL PORT FT  
VAN WIE, JUDY L, 174 FIGHTER WG

ents, Lt. G  
ditionary  
p. 5 cerem  
hanistan a  
ce Ribbon  
zara.

eneral, Maj. Ge  
schak, along v  
se, Scotia. The  
were addition  
and Armed For



**SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT**

COUPART, PATRICK M, 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 ELLIS, MARTIN E, 106 MEDICAL GP  
 MARSH, STEVE J, 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 SCHAFFER, SCOTT E, 174 OPERATIONS SUPPORT FT

**MASTER SERGEANT**

AGUILAR, MILDRED, 106 RESCUE WG  
 BARRINGTON, TIMOTHY J, 174 MAINTENANCE GP  
 ETHERIDGE, ROBERT W, 106 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 FISHER, DENNIS R, 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 FONG, JOHN C JR, 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 GASIEWICZ, ANDREW J, 107 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 KIRCHNER, BRETT L, 105 COMMUNICATIONS FT  
 LEWANDOWSKI, MARK A, 107 MAINTENANCE OPS FT  
 NAPPA, SCOT E, 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 OBROCHTA, THOMAS A, 136 AIR REFUELING SQ  
 PEEK, MICHAEL D, 109 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 PORTER, JOHN R JR, 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 SALZANO, FRANK M, 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 TORRES, ELCIAN R JR, 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 TRASKY, DAVID A, 109 COMMUNICATIONS FT

**TECHNICAL SERGEANT**

BAKER, JAMES W, 139 AEROMED EVAC SQ  
 CAMPBELL, TAMMY M, 139 AEROMED EVAC SQ  
 CZECHOWICZ, PAUL J, 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 DERROCHES, DAVID, 105 MAINTENANCE OPS FT  
 DOBRANSKY, ALAN P, 174 SERVICES FT  
 DURANTINI, STEVEN M, 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 DWYER, GERALD A, 174 SERVICES FT  
 ERIOLE, KEITH F, 109 SERVICES FT  
 ERWIN, CATHERINE E, 109 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 FAAS, DAVID T, 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 HALLMARK, JAMES L JR, 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 HOOSOCK, ANN M, 174 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 JACKSON, DARREN M, 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 KRUZINSKI, MICHAEL P JR, 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 MARTINEZ, RAFAEL A, 105 MEDICAL GP  
 MCMAHON, SEAN, 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 MOORE, CRAIG E, 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 MOYA, GLADYS T, 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 PEDERSEN, DOUGLAS H, 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 REX, DENVER M, 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 SHEERAN, ANDREA L, 109 SERVICES FT  
 SMITH, ROBERT J, 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 STUART, PAULINA, 105 AIRLIFT WG  
 TAYLOR, JUSTIN C, 139 AIRLIFT SQ  
 VENDITTI, MATTHEW J, 107 MAINTENANCE SQ

**STAFF SERGEANT**

ADANZA, ALIZA S, 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 ALLEN, III WALTER L, 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 BLACKBURN, JOANNA M, 107 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 BORAWSKI, BRIAN H, 137 AIRLIFT SQ  
 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 NANCE SQ  
 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 NENANCE SQ  
 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 NENANCE SQ  
 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 NENANCE SQ  
 CES FT  
 RIAL PORT FT  
 RVICES FT  
 RCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 URITY FORCES SQ  
 7 SERVICES FT  
 Q  
 9 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 SERVICES FT  
 ON SUPPORT FT  
 LIFT WG  
 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 THEAST AIR DEF SQ  
 ISTICS READINES SQ

# Rainbow purifies water for OIF troops

Story by Pfc. Adam Phelps  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE COBRA, Iraq**—New York Army National Guard Soldiers provide purified water daily to Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Cobra, Sadiyah, Iraq.

The priority for Soldiers from 50<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, is to make sure troopers coming in from a long day's work have clean water.

"Our mission is to provide water to the dining facility, showers and anywhere else that may need it," said Spc. James Spasoff, one of the Soldiers who purifies the water.

To make well-water ready for use it must be chlorinated, he said.

"We pull water out of a well and put it into a tank, and then we purify it," said Specialist Spasoff. "After the water is purified, we send it to the bag (water containment system) where we have the water chlorinated."

"Soldiers would get sick without treated water. If it doesn't have the right (amount of) chlorine in it, it won't kill bacteria," he added. "Soldiers could get diarrhea, and that wouldn't be a pretty sight."

Purifying water is rewarding, Spasoff said.

"We're not in the field like the rest of the cavalry," he said. "It feels good to know when they come back the water situation is one thing they don't have to worry about. They can brush their teeth, shower and shave and not have to worry about a shortage. It's all taken care of."

One trooper said he thought the Soldiers, who purify the water, were definitely on top of their job.

"They run everyday to get water to everyone," said Sgt. David Roach, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 278<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team. "It's not potable but we still need it for a lot of things."

We're out here busting down (tank) tracks, and it keeps the flames down from the blow torch. They keep us with hot showers every night. They also keep the sanitation stations up so we can keep our hands sanitized, keeping us from getting sick."

Each day, the Soldiers pump from 27,000 to 32,000 gallons from the well. □



Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division, 50th Main Support Battalion start a generator to purify well water for Forward Operating Base Cobra, Iraq. Photo by Pfc. Adam Phelps.

LEWIS, MICHAEL M, 109 MEDICAL GP  
 LIQUORI, MARTIN AUSTIN, 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 MARTIN, NICOLE R, 107 AIR REFUELING WG  
 MAY, MICHELLE T, 107 MISSION SUPPORT GP  
 NICHOLSON, JAMES A JR, 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 NORDLUND, JASON V, 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 ORTH, ALLISON M, 174 FIGHTER WG  
 PASTOR, JIMMY, 101 RESCUE SQ  
 ROACH, DAVID L, 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 RODGERS, ANDREW J, 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 ROGERS, JOSHUA J, 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 RUTKOWSKI, CHRISTINA M, 107 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 SALISBURY, JOSHUA A, 109 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 STEARNS, ANDREW L, 109 MISSION SUPPORT FT  
 WEEKS, MICHAEL G, 105 AERIAL PORT SQ  
 WOOD, CHRISTOPHER N, 109 LOGISTICS READINES SQ

**SENIOR AIRMAN**

BELLRENG, NOAH L, 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 DAVISON, STACEY L, 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 DITRO, JASON F, 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 DONOHUE, MATTHEW PETER, 174 FIGHTER WG  
 DOTY, COLEEN M, 106 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 FREDERICK, JENNY, 105 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 GUILLIANI, ALEXIS AUGUSTO, 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 HURTLEY, DOLINA J, 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 LABARR, ADAM C, 174 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 LANG, SHAUN M, 105 COMMUNICATIONS FT  
 LI, TIM B, 106 COMMUNICATIONS FT  
 LIMBAL, YVAN S, 107 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 MENGE, CHRISTOPHER P, 109 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 PAULDINE, MARK A, NEAD SCTY FORC FT  
 PELLAND, MATTHEW SCOTT, 174 FIGHTER WG  
 REBOTE, NENA E, 137 AIRLIFT SQ

REEVES, TRACI R, NORTHEAST AIR DEF SQ  
 SAYERS, KELLY A, 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 SKINNER, DAVID N, 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 TORRES, MIGUEL A JR, 109 SECURITY FORCES SQ  
 TRUDEAU, TODD MICHAEL, 174 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 TULIP, SLADE W II, 109 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 URQUHART, JEREMY R, 106 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 VANWINKLE, JOHN J, 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 VASILAKOS, ANGELA M, 109 COMMUNICATIONS FT  
 ZILLIOX, KRISTIN L, 107 SERVICES FT

**AIRMAN FIRST CLASS**

BAUER, COURTNEY C, 107 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 CELLIO, RENEE M, 105 LOGISTICS READINES SQ  
 CORNER, JEREMY M, 107 STUDENT FT  
 FRANCOIS, MAKENZY, 105 CIVIL ENGINEER SQ  
 GEREZ, MARCELLO ALBERTO, 174 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 GORDON, ALEXANDER M, 109 STUDENT FT  
 JOSOPERSAUD, SHARON, 105 SERVICES FT  
 LANCE, JAMES E III, 109 STUDENT FT  
 MCDONALD, BREEANA E, 174 STUDENT FT  
 MCGRATH, JOLI M, 174 STUDENT FT  
 MCMULLEN, GREGORY M, 109 STUDENT FT  
 MINOR, CHRISTOPHER A, 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 STOLWORTHY, CHRIS J, 106 STUDENT FT  
 TAUBER, KENNETH M, 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 TORRES DIAZ, CHRISTIAN, 105 MAINTENANCE SQ  
 UPDIKE, CHRISTOPHER J, 174 STUDENT FT  
 WALSH, PETER C, 105 AIRCRAFT MAINT SQ  
 WEIR, SHANNON T, 105 STUDENT FT  
 WIGDORSKI, BRIAN M, 107 STUDENT FT

**AIRMAN BASIC**

SCHEER, MARCUS F, 105 STUDENT FT

# 'Harlem Hellfighters' Return from Iraq

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Amy Fires  
Guard Times Staff

**HARLEM**—Elation, excitement and honor were just a few of the emotions that accompanied the return of the "Harlem Hellfighters" in January.

A welcome home ceremony for the 369<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion here formally marked a return from federal authority to state authority Jan. 28.

Family members, relatives and friends welcomed the Battalion home from a 12-month active-duty tour, including more than 10 months in Iraq.

The unit was activated in December 2003 and deployed with Soldiers from across the State. They conducted pre-deployment training at Fort Dix, N.J., for eight weeks before embarking to Kuwait and moving on to Iraq by March 2004. The Battalion served there as a logistical, headquarters battalion, which acted as a springboard for supplies and soldiers deploying into Northern Iraq.

The "Harlem Hellfighters" transported tons of gallons of fuel as part of their logistical and supply mission, an important caveat, noted by Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Irving Donaldson.

For 10 months boots-on-the-ground, the Soldiers earned 11 Bronze Star Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals and 36 Army Commendation Medals for the Battalion.

Leaving their homes in Buffalo, Westchester and New York City, Battalion Soldiers joined the 300<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group, 13<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Command at Camp Anaconda. The Command was the only joint-service and multicomponent command in southern Iraq consisting of Air Force, active-duty Army, Army Reserves and Army National Guard. The Battalion provided command support to 20 field units during their deployment. In addition, the Battalion operated the Convoy Support Center (CSC), Camp Cedar 2, located in Sadr, Iraq, and provided a Detachment to CSC Scania, also in Sadr.

Before closing the ceremony, Colonel Donaldson reiterated that the Battalion was able to successfully complete their mission and handed out personal awards to Soldiers for their "professionalism and warrior spirit."

Their strong bonds with family, veterans and local neighbors, who came out to give thanks, manifests the bravery and hard work of the "Harlem Hellfighters." A community, strengthened by its Soldiers, was evident here. Their job, well done, can be credited to each Soldier's professionalism and determination to accomplish the mission and return home safe. □



The Bronze Star Medal was awarded to 11 Harlem Hellfighters, at a Jan. 28 welcome home ceremony in Harlem, including Maj. Henry Gim.  
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone.



369<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion "Harlem Hellfighters" at their homecoming ceremony in Harlem Jan. 28.

## About Guard Times

The *Guard Times* is published bimonthly using federal funds authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the New York Army and Air National Guard Public Affairs Office. Views which appear in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

The *Guard Times* has a circulation of 25,000 and is distributed free to members of the New York State Militia Force and employees of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Governor George E. Pataki, Commander in Chief  
Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., Adjutant General  
Kent Kisselbrack, Director of Public Affairs  
Lt. Col. Paul A. Fanning, NYARNG, Editor  
Staff Sgt. Mike R. Smith, NYANG, Assistant Editor

Articles, photos and letters are welcome. Please provide article submissions on a computer disk with a hard print out and a name and telephone number for a point of contact. We prefer stories saved in Microsoft Word or ASCII text. Submission deadlines are February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15 and December 15. Send submissions to:

**Guard Times**  
**DMNA-MNPA**  
330 Old Niskayuna Road  
Latham, New York 12110-2224  
(518) 786-4581 FAX (518) 786-4649  
or  
michael.smith@ny.ngb.army.mil

## Guard Times Address Changes

Changed your address recently?

Is the *Guard Times* still coming to an old address? If so, it may be time to check with your unit administrator. Chances are, the old address is still listed at the unit.

Computerized shipping labels are produced for *Guard Times* at state headquarters from the electronic data base. This information is updated through periodic submissions from the field. The unit, SIDPERS, the Personnel Services Branch and military pay all need to have a document supplied by the soldier to change the home address.

Before writing us at the *Guard Times* about your address change, start with your unit. It takes about two months before the change hits the system, but, guess what! The *Guard Times* comes out every two months. So if you have verified the unit has the correct information and the *Guard Times* still came to the old address, be patient. The next issue should come to the new address.

Reminder. It is the Soldier's responsibility to submit address changes in a prompt manner.

## Complimentary or Back Issues

Complimentary or back issues of the *Guard Times* are available. Contact us at the address above.