Governor Leads Efforts to Stop Force Cuts

Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
Guard Times Staff

ALBANY – New York State's Commander-in-Chief is leading the charge to alter several Pentagon-proposed force structure cuts to the New York Army National Guard, and delay others until the Department of Defense agrees to add new units as replacements. Some of the cuts were scheduled to hit as early as this fall.

In the face of strong objections from Governor George E. Pataki and the NY congressional delegation, Pentagon officials amended a plan for an early round of force reductions in the Army National Guard that would have cut five units with 450 personnel slots in NY over the next four years. Now only two of the original five are still on the cut list, and two will be converted to new units. State leaders are optimistic about future developments following this initial success.

Instead of being eliminated this fall, the Headquarters Detachment 206th Corps Support Battalion in Brooklyn is now scheduled for conversion to become a headquarters of a petroleum battalion. The 105th Military Police Company in Buffalo and Rochester will be left intact. The 369th Corps Support Battalion from Manhattan will be converted to a water battalion instead of being cut. The 4th Finance Detachment and the 107th Support Group still remain on the list for inactivation, but state leaders are hopeful that in the end they will be saved or converted. Ironically, the 107th descends from the unit that gave the National Guard its name.

The Governor met with NY representatives in February where he discussed the Pentagon plan and asked for their help in turning the situation around. In March, all of NY's 33-member congressional delegation communicated a unified message to Pentagon leaders - "no more cuts for NY."

"During the past decade, NY has experienced a disproportionate share of the national downsizing with our Army National Guard being cut by 44 percent while many other states have remained unchanged or have increased in strength," wrote NY senators and representatives.

"This downsizing has left NY's Guard at historically low levels, with proportionately fewer soldiers than other larger states, at a time when the state's need for the Guard has increased dramatically," they said.

"In comparison to other states, NY's assigned Army National Guard strength is below the national per capita percentage in relation to the population," said Brig. Gen. Bill Martin, Deputy Adjutant General. "We are 20-30 percent below the average authorized strength among states, and last year we led the nation in state active duty for emergencies. Instead of cutting units from NY, more should be added," he said.

In a separate letter to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau last September, Governor Pataki challenged the proposed cuts and pointed to the rejuvenated readiness of the New York Army National Guard and numerous achievements during recent state emergencies and federal deployments. He spoke about guardHELP and NY's overall rebound in strength and readiness in recent years. He characterized the proposed cuts as threats to the safety and security of NY residents and that NY has already endured more cuts than any other state during the 1985-95 period.

"The proposed cutbacks are contrary to all we have achieved and continue to achieve," wrote the Governor. "The elimination of these cuts is critical if the New York Army National Guard is to continue to achieve an optimum state of readiness and obtain the troop strength required to meet the needs of NY's citizens and the needs of our nation."

The proposed cuts stem from the most recent Quadrennial Defense Review proposals which recommend a future cut of about 25,000 to Army National Guard ranks nationwide early in the next millennium. In previous letters to President Clinton and the Department of Defense, Governor Pataki has said that such recommendations are counter to plans for the Homeland Defense strategy, which recognizes transnational threats impacting within the nation's boundaries as the primary threat in the Post-Cold War era.

The National Guard is the only force that is prepared and postured to meet this threat, said Pataki. He suggested that if cuts to the Guard were ultimately going to be needed, then the Department of Defense should look elsewhere to downsize units.

See Congressional Letter to the Pentagon on Page 5
Guard Notes

Governor forms Honor Guard Detachments

ALBANY – The State Commander-in-Chief has announced a plan to form a special National Guard ceremonial detachment to honor guard support for veterans’ funerals. The first team will stand up by 4 July in the capital region with two others in Southern and Western regions following in the fall.

Veterans of the WWII and Korean War era are dying at a rapid rate as they approach the end of normal life expectancy for males age 70 and over. As a result, all military branches are being overwhelmed by requests for funeral honor guard details. Veterans are authorized this support, pending the availability of military personnel. Presently, National Guard personnel must leave their civilian jobs to support funerals and are not authorized to perform in a federally paid status. This is a national dilemma and the Pentagon and the Congress have been struggling to come up with a way to meet the demand with an already overextended military.

In an effort to help provide appropriate support to the state’s veterans, Governor George Pataki has ordered the formation of a 12-member state active duty detachment. This unit will be modeled after the Army’s famous “Old Guard” 3rd Infantry Regiment, which guards the Tomb of the Unknowns and supports funerals at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. The NY detachment will be comprised of three teams of four enlisted personnel, who will be hand picked, trained and equipped to conduct military ceremonies. The Division of Military and Naval Affairs Military Support Directorate will oversee the program. The capital region team is being formed in time to help support funerals at the new Saratoga National Cemetery scheduled to open on July 9. Once ready, each team will serve as another source of military support for veterans’ funerals alongside other military organizations. Additional personnel can augment a funeral detail as possible and available.

DVA to Conduct National Health Survey

WASHINGTON, DC – The Department of Veterans Affairs will soon be notifying identified Gulf War Veterans and their families about Phase III Physical Examinations. Veterans’ Affairs will conduct veterans and families directly to ask for their participation. The federal privacy act prohibits the release of the veteran’s names to Guard headquarters, but state headquarters is anxious to help any National Guard member contacted by the DVA regarding these physicals. The State Surgeon’s Office in Latham is asking that any member of the Guard, who is contacted by the DVA, call the office immediately at (518) 786-4655/4837. The State Surgeon’s Office will assist Guard members complete administrative requirements associated with the examination process. Please be prepared to provide a copy of any DVA letter directing you to report for a physical examination.

NY Passes Logistics Inspection

LATHAM – The New York Army National Guard earned “thumbs up” ratings during a recent logistics inspection conducted by National Guard Bureau. The Command Logistics Review Team – Expanded came to NY April 6-12 to examine the state’s logistics support practices. The inspection included analysis of the entire system including unit and installation-level supply and maintenance, property book accountability, measurement and diagnostic equipment management, food service and other areas. The inspection team was comprised of AFR logistics personnel with civilian and military augmentation from the Army’s Material Command. The inspection was conducted at selected units, maintenance and aviation facilities and at state headquarters.

When it was over, NY earned praise from the inspectors for improved readiness and overall compliance with logistics regulations and procedures. A detailed report will be issued to state headquarters, which will be used to help NY further improve an already good program of logistical support to soldiers and units.

Army Updates Pamphlet on Unprofessional Relationships

THE PENTAGON -- Due to a recent policy change, the Department of the Army is revising DA Pam 600-35 to reflect updates covering unprofessional relationships and fraternization.

A series of training slides and a draft revision is already available for use by commanders and these are available of the Army homepage at www.odcsper.army.mil. Commanders may find the examples contained in these materials helpful as they continue to educate soldiers on the Army policy. Just remember that the pamphlet revision is still only a draft at this time.

TAG Talk

Membership in Professional Organizations Helps NY

By Maj. Gen. Jack Fenimore
The Adjutant General

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, sent a message to all Adjutant Generals regarding National Guard membership in professional organizations last January. These include the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and other organizations like the Military Police Association and Society of Military Engineers.

In his message, Gen. Davis correctly described professional organizations as important advocates for Guard members and valuable contributors to the development of our personnel and to national defense. These organizations, he said, serve a vital role in contributing to public understanding of the Guard’s national and international defense role and as the primary reserve force of the nation. In his words, these organizations “provide a robust First Amendment voice for the expression of our concerns regarding policy decisions, the ‘people’ issues confronting our soldiers and airmen and the future direction of the National Guard.”

If you are concerned about the future of our force, if you want to do something constructive and meaningful, and if you are really serious about your role as a National Guard member, then it would be a really good idea for you to join.

General Davis feels that citizens deserve to hear an independent voice in the policy debates regarding national defense. These organizations help represent that independent voice.

General Davis went on to mention how he personally was “enriched” by his membership in several organizations over the years.

He stressed, however, that membership in these organizations by National Guard members must remain voluntary and result from a personal decision to join. In accordance with the guidance and provisions in Department of Defense Regulation 5500.7-R, known as the Joint Ethics Regulation, membership and support to such organizations must never result from actual or perceived coercion.

There was a time in New York when membership in these organizations was made virtually mandatory, by pressure either real or implied, through the officer chain of command. Those days are over. Unfortunately, membership in the Militia Association of New York (MANY) and NGAUS has dropped off considerably since we implemented the Joint Ethics Regulation. It was especially noticeable in the Army National Guard. Reduced membership levels in MANY and NGAUS in recent times has left New York in an awkward bargaining position as we continue to negotiate with the National Guard Bureau regarding force structure issues.

It is pretty hard to convince defense planners as to our commitment to preserve the structure we have now, let alone seek additional units and modernization in the future when we lag behind other states in our professional organization membership.

When I am asked by National Guard officers and NCOs about membership in MANY, EANGUS and NGAUS, I usually respond by simply saying “I think it is a good idea,” so as not to come across in the wrong way. If it would be helpful to those who are considering joining any of these, but haven’t done so yet, I could add the following thought. If you are concerned about the future of our force, if you want to do something constructive and meaningful, and if you are really serious about your role as a National Guard member, then it would be a really good idea for you to join. After all, it is your force, too. You have a stake in it!

I do believe that higher membership levels in MANY and EANYNG will help us forestall future cuts. They, too support our efforts to obtain increased investment in our force, from both the state and federal government, so that we can better do the job citizens want from us. Like Gen. Davis, I have been personally enriched by my membership in MANY, NGAUS and other professional organizations over the years. I would urge every member of our force to take the time to learn more about the benefits these organizations provide and give appropriate consideration to becoming a member. We will be a better force if you do.
Obituary

Major General (Ret)
Louis Duckett

ROSEDALE - The funeral for Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Louis Duckett was held on Friday, March 12, 1999, at St. Clare's Roman Catholic Church in Rosedale. Duckett died on Sunday, March 7.

Duckett spent more than 30 years in the New York Army National Guard.

He was born in Chicago and was raised in Jamaica, West Indies. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1948, rose through the ranks, and was appointed a second lieutenant on September 14, 1952. Over the next twenty-seven years, Duckett held a variety of assignments culminating with appointments as the Assistant Division Commander (Support) for the 42nd Infantry Division, Commander of the 42nd Infantry Division Support Command, and Commander of the 369th Transportation Battalion.

Many Guard leaders, both officers and enlisted, past and present attended the funeral. These included the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. John H. Fenimore, V; former Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Lawrence P. Flynn, and former commander of the New York Army National Guard, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Nathaniel James, and many others.

An Honor Guard from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a Color Guard from the 107th Corps Support Group and pallbearers from the 369th Corps Support Battalion supported the ceremony.

Compiled By Sgt. 1st Class George Rouch, HQ 369th Corps Support Battalion

Corrections

The last sentence of the center-spread article in the previous issue of Guard Times, "Troops Assault Buffalo's Snow-filled Streets During Operation Digout '99" was accidentally cut off due to an over looked computer error.

The last two sentences are: McNeil said the joint service aspect of the operation presented a challenge, in that different branches have different acronyms and different reporting systems. But, he said, the emergency and sense of urgency made everyone bond and work as a team."

Also, the name of the commander of the 206th Corps Support Battalion was misspelled on Page 3. The correct spelling is Lt. Col. Frank Ombres. We regret the errors.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William S. Cohen
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

March 19, 1999

Dear Secretary Cohen:

We have learned that the National Guard Bureau intends to close additional National Guard commands in New York. We are very concerned about these plans and believe that any such action could imperil the safety of the citizens of our state.

During the past decade, New York has experienced a disproportionate share of the national downsizing, with our Army National Guard being cut by 44 percent while many other states have remained unchanged or have increased in strength. This downsizing has left New York's Guard at historically low levels, with proportionately fewer soldiers than other larger states, at a time when the State's need for the Guard has increased dramatically. In the last year alone, over 60,000 man-days were utilized in state emergency duty, and FEMA States of Emergency in the past three years have exceeded all other states.

Further, we expect our dependency on the New York National Guard to increase significantly in the years ahead. Geographic, climatic, and demographic factors will continue to make New York increasingly vulnerable to natural, man made and technological disasters, as well as the rising potential of emerging threats such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. You are correct in stating that "the front lines are no longer overseas," for they are within our own state.

As you know, over the last four years the Guard has successfully solved its problems and excelled at its missions. New York has enacted its own education benefit for Guard members and vaulted from worst to first in the nation in strength management. As you noted, "In 1995, New York was pondering a sad set of circumstances and a grim future... today's picture is much brighter. Thanks to bold measures such as the establishment of the National Guard Tuition Incentive Program, 'GuardHELP,' the aggressive search for relevant missions, and the judicious use of the Guard in emergency operations, troop strength is growing, esprit de corps is high, and lasting and meaningful improvements are being forged in hundreds of local communities."

At this point, further cuts cannot occur without having serious detrimental effect on the readiness of New York's National Guard. The decision to eliminate five units in New York, including the 369th, the unit which is the Guard's most prestigious minority command, and the 107th unit that gave the Guard its very name, is not exclusively the result of proportional Department of Defense downsizing. It is rather, the choice of the National Guard Bureau to continue to take from a state that can no longer give without receiving adequate and appropriate replacement units. The Quadrennial Defense Review dictates that certain type units should be eliminated; it does not mean the National Guard Bureau is prevented from applying these reductions prudently or fairly. These force structure cuts must be implemented with concern for real-world needs of the state.

We realize how difficult it would be to immediately return New York to a force structure allocation commensurate with that of other large states. However, given the vulnerability of our state, what can and must be done now is to stop further reductions in New York and place a priority on assigning new missions and failing commands from other states to New York State.

It is now time for the National Guard Bureau to take effective, reasonable, appropriate, and decisive action to ensure that New York's exigent readiness requirements are met.

We look forward to your response in this matter.

Sincerely,
Army Guard Gets New Chief of Staff

Experienced Field Commander Gets the Tap for State Headquarters Role

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
Guard Times Staff

LATHAM — The re-established New York Army National Guard headquarters has a new full-time Chief of Staff, and as the saying goes, he got the job "the old fashioned way — he earned it."

On March 1st, Colonel Paul Duttge left his 38-month assignment as the Commander of the Rainbow Division’s Buffalo-based Third Brigade headquarters to take over as the Army Guard’s senior ranking full-time in Latham. In January, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs reorganized, creating a separate Army Guard headquarters from the previous consolidation within DMNA directorates. The reorganization established an Army military personnel directorate, training and readiness directorate, logistics management, aviation safety and recruiting and retention directorates. To oversee the directors, the new position of NYARNG Chief of Staff was created, a position located within the Office of the Adjutant General, but separate from the DMNA staff.

"We selected Paul Duttge for the job because he is, without question, the most experienced and most successful field commander we have," said Brig. Gen. Bill Martin. "What he accomplished with the Third Brigade during his tenure was nothing short of remarkable. He is definitely the right soldier for this job," said Martin.

According to Martin, Duttge’s selection resulted largely because of Third Brigade’s success in improving readiness, operations and training achievements and performance during state emergencies. These improvements came during times of fiscal austerity and followed several major reorganizations and restructuring of units, which further contributed to pre-existing turmoil within the force. Martin credits Duttge’s outstanding leadership in the face of these conditions for much of that success.

Reinventing Third Brigade

"We went about establishing a command climate that fostered soldier development and encouraged the troops to want to stay in our units," said Duttge, looking back on his Third Brigade leadership philosophy. To fulfill that concept was a challenge all by itself, because there were few resources available to tackle significant readiness mandates and training a heavy brigade is resource intensive. The brigade is comprised of a brigade headquarters company, two M1 tank battalions and a mechanized infantry battalion. The brigade is supported by two additional units, the 1st Battalion 258th Field Artillery and the 342nd Forward Support Battalion.

Readiness issues for the brigade included improving the skills of the M1 tankers, converting the 69th Battalion from its structure as an air defense unit to becoming mechanized infantry, and improving staff proficiency.

"Overall, we relied on retention efforts to help us improve personnel readiness. We did this by linking quality training to soldier satisfaction," said Duttge. "We focused on training the soldiers to do what they originally joined to do — be a soldier. In fact, we deliberately steered toward those training events that were challenging and rewarding," he said. According to Duttge, he questioned any proposed training that didn’t have a retention benefit. Training innovation resulted out of necessity.

Soon, the brigade’s attrition rate fell to 13 percent, five percent lower than National Guard Bureau goals, and overall strength began to rise. The 69th Infantry Battalion came from the cellar to become one of the strongest units in the 42nd Infantry Division. That’s a real success story. One of the battalion’s companies is doing a rotation at the National Training Center this July," said Duttge. "The battalion has come a long way in a short period of time."

There were successes in training as well. "Even after we had finished the conversion to the M1 tank, we continued to have problems achieving tank gunnery qualifications. So, we developed an outstanding relationship with the Armor School at Fort Knox, and with the cooperation of the New York Air National Guard, we began flying our troops by C-130 for drill weekends to Fort Knox for training. This went very well. Today, our armor battalions, the 101st Cavalry and the 127th Armor, have achieved superior results in gunnery and maneuver. The bonus for us was that we became well known within the Fort Knox armor community. Back in 1997, they knew we were serious about training and concluded we were ready for a new challenge. That’s how we got invited to do STOWEX last year," said Duttge.

'High-Tech,' High Visibility Training

During the 1997 training year, Third Brigade leaders demonstrated superior tactical skills during battalion and brigade-level exercises as part of the Army’s “Warfighter” training. This battle command simulation training focuses on leaders and their skills in synchronizing all of the battlefield operating systems. Third Brigade earned a strong reputation for tactical competency – a difficult thing to achieve during normal National Guard weekend training. Fort Knox trainers invited New York’s Third Brigade to be the first in the nation to participate in a unique training event as part of the Army Force XXI training program.

During a 15-day Annual Training period at Fort Knox from late February to early March 1998, a task force of the 101st Cavalry participated in a training exercise at the Army’s Synthetic Theater of War Exercise (STOWEX) was a first of its kind event that electronically linked a reinforced combined arms battalion task force with its logistical support during computer simulated battle. The goal was to test the Army’s growing computer simulation training techniques. Force XXI training managers were anxious to test their latest concepts using a capable maneuver force and chose NY’s Third Brigade for the task.

STOWEX was a tremendous success and earned the Third Brigade high praise from senior Army leaders, including Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis Reimer, who greeted the NYers as they emerged from their M1 and Bradley Fighting Vehicle simulators.

"The STOWEX experience elevated the tactical abilities of our commanders and troops and further solidified our relationship with the Army at Fort Knox," said Duttge. "A couple of months later, we were asked to make a presentation during the Armor Conference at Fort Knox regarding STOWEX and readiness. That was a clear signal to us that we had made a positive impact," he said.

The continuous record of achievement helped improve the brigade’s credibility. High visibility exercises like Warfighter and STOWEX, and the improved readiness ratings within the brigade were measures of success. According to Martin, selecting Duttge as Chief of Staff was a reward for that success and an acknowledged need for more of the same skillful leadership at state headquarters.

A Separate Army Guard Headquarters

The primary focus of the Army Guard headquarters is to focus on the readiness of the force, said Duttge. "Readiness today is a huge piece," he said. "And, a separate Army command allows us to focus on Army Guard readiness issues. The biggest challenge is to obtain enough resources through defense channels and get them to the commanders when they need them. The National Guard Bureau has high regard for New York. We make regular visits to the Bureau to ensure NY is current on all issues," he said.

Duttge said that current conditions within the National Guard community are unstable and it is difficult to read too far in the future. Frequent self-analysis is normal. "We continually ask ourselves: ‘How do we measure success? How do we know we are doing the right thing in the best possible way with the resources available?’ That answer ultimately rests in the readiness levels of units," he said.

Duttge feels that the current inadequate funding level for full-time positions at the unit level is the worst he has ever seen. Today, NY’s required funding levels from National Guard Bureau range between 40 to 70 percent of requirements, depending upon the unit and major command. These lower-than-required levels are established according to the level of mobilization priority assigned to a specific unit.

Continued on Page 5. See "Duttge."
Duttge
Continued from Page 4.

"This is a national problem shared by just about every state," said Duttge, who said that it is hard for any unit to meet readiness standards without adequate support. "The only way to mitigate against the situation is to prioritize. We identify what must be done, and do those things that directly impact on soldier retention. Other tasks become lesser priorities," he said.

"Our stated number one goal is to maintain our force structure, and if possible, selectively gain more. New York has gone through a turbulent decade plagued by force losses. It's appropriate for us to look back, and analyze how well we fared overall given the national scene. We need to evaluate past decisions and learn from them. More importantly, we need to look forward and develop our plans for the future. Where do we want to be as a force 5 to 10 years from now? We are developing a strategic plan supported by sound and effective personnel policies that will support our force," said Duttge.

Looking Forward

According to Duttge, the state headquarters staffs have become energized to carry out the commanding general's vision. Staff members will be going out into the field more frequently to see and learn more. Staying in touch with the field and tapping leaders at every level for innovative problem solving approaches is critical to the further evolution of the Army National Guard.

"The situation is dynamic and always changing. We need to stay in touch and see the challenges faced by our leaders first hand. The soldier in the field will soon realize that state headquarters will be out there, where they are, and often," said Duttge.

Duttge said the state headquarters is targeting several problems, which have surfaced over the last few years. According to him, the approach to solving them won't be business as usual.

"We have to improve our school utilization record," said Duttge, who pointed out that NY has regularly been under utilizing available military school training seats by almost 36 percent annually. "This means that soldiers who could have gone to required training lost the opportunity and the readiness of the force has failed to improve by that margin.

"We are going to fix that and fix it immediately. That under utilization is something we simply cannot afford as it impacts both readiness and retention," he said.

Issues regarding drill attendance, strength maintenance, soldier accountability, professional development and the enlisted personnel management system are all areas of command attention. Duttge indicated that performance indicators in these areas are measures of success, or lack of success, for commanders and senior NCOs alike.

"Respective leaders need to embrace the concept of commander's business and NCO business and ensure these basic principles are properly carried out. Units that perform these principles correctly are successful. We will reward success, not failure," said Duttge.

The Army National Guard's new Chief of Staff is optimistic for the future because of the people who comprise his force.

"The quality of our soldiers is superior," said Duttge.

"We have smart and aggressive men and women who want to do the right thing all the time, and I am continually impressed by them. A lot of hard work by leaders and troops has been done and our force continues to improve. We must keep our focus on strength maintenance and readiness and perform those tasks linked to those priorities. I am grateful to our senior leaders who selected me, and to the troops in the field for all that they have done. This is a fresh opportunity to make a contribution to our collective future and improve the quality of life for our soldiers," he said.

Guard Helps Rochester Dig-out from Winter's Last Strike

By Capt. Lou Martinez
HQ 27th Infantry Brigade

ROCHESTER — A fast moving storm dumped two feet of snow in a 24-hour period late in February and buried the City of Rochester and outlying areas overnight. Another 18 inches fell in a matter of 12 hours after a brief lull. When it was all over Rochester was under three and a half feet of snow.

The State Commander in Chief declared a state emergency and ordered the National Guard into action for the second time in 1999. "I have ordered all state assistance available to help our friends and neighbors in the affected parts of the state," said Governor George Pataki. "We will do everything possible to help them recover from this brutal storm," he said.

Task Force 142 led by Maj. Chris Holliday of the Rochester-based 1st Battalion 142nd Aviation sprung into action. Everyone pulled together to get the job done. "National Guardsmen show their dedication when they put their problems aside to help their neighbors in need," said Holliday.

The operation began with about 35 troops and 20 vehicles but within days grew to more than 135 soldiers and nearly 70 pieces of equipment. Members of the 1st Battalion 108th Infantry, the 427th Support Battalion, 827th Engineer Company, Headquarters Company 27th Infantry Brigade, along with members of the 152nd and 204th Engineer Battalions joined the aviators in the clean up effort.

During the first days of the operation the Guard used humvees to help the State Police rescue stranded motorist from the NYS Thruway and Interstate 490 and 390. Guard members performed numerous emergency transport missions including the delivery of doctors and nurses to area hospitals because the snow-clogged roads were impenetrable by anything except military tactical vehicles. These missions helped hospitals get through many staff shift changes.

The snow also prevented the sick from getting the medical care they needed. Soldiers driving four-wheel drive ambulances helped get patients to hospitals and deliver emergency supplies. "Troops in humvees cut through towering drifts to deliver 'Meals on Wheels' to elderly and needy shut-ins."

"Once again the National Guard is ready to support and defend the people of this state," said Governor Pataki. "We are responding with Guard emergency rescue and transport equipment to assist those stranded by this storm," he said. The Guard received many emergency requests directly from people in need, as well as responding to the county-identified missions through the normal emergency support channels. "National Guard equipment played a significant role in this operation. Our response was immediate and Monroe County maximized the use of the Guard," said Maj. Phil Pugliese, a state headquarters officer assigned to Combined Support Maintenance Shop A.

Guard engineers from Buffalo called upon their recent snow-clearing experience back in January to guide their work in Rochester. Engineers from Buffalo, Niagara

Top photo, A front end loader clears snow from a Rochester Street. Middle photo, Maj. Phil Pugliese supervises troops inside the Monroe County Emergency Operation Center. Bottom photo, a hemmets wrecker is used to extract a civilian truck from the side of the road on Interstate 90. Photos by Staff Sgt. Dean Welch.

Falls and Binghamton worked as a team around the clock and staffed six teams working in different locations to help city and county crews clear the streets. Each team consisted of ten soldiers operating a plow, pay loader and three dump trucks.

Snow removal was a 24-hour operation. The troops were challenged to clear roads before additional snow added to accumulation, increasing the level of difficulty and delaying the clear passage of emergency services traffic. Three teams worked 12-hour days, picking up snow and dumping it into the Genesee River.

This is déjà vu. I spent six days (in January) helping folks in Buffalo," said Spc. Willie Johnson of the 152nd Engineer Battalion. "I feel good helping out. This is one of the reasons I joined the Guard."
Riverside GuardHELP Phase II

Engineers Help Community Spur Urban Renewal

GuardHELP Project Clears the Way for New Affordable Housing in Long Island

By Scott Sandman
Guard Times Staff

BAY SHORE – As part of Governor Pataki's ongoing GuardHELP community support initiative, New York National Guard engineers helped give a Long Island neighborhood a much-needed facelift this Spring, clearing the path toward economic redevelopment in the ocean side community.

Using 20-ton dump trucks and related support vehicles, Members of the 204th Engineer Battalion hauled away tons of demolition debris from the Smith Avenue neighborhood in the Suffolk County hamlet of Bay Shore. For years, this area had been a notorious haven for drug activity, and its crumbling long-neglected houses were not just an ugly blight on the community, they posed a real threat to children and made easy targets for arsonists.

"The Guard has been a valuable and popular asset..."

Guard members, working with civilian demolition crews, completed necessary training requirements while providing invaluable assistance to the local community. The mission, completed during March and April, not only helped rid the area of dangerous, crumbling buildings, many of which had been condemned, it cleared the way for a major economic redevelopment initiative.

The site will eventually see the construction of South Wind Village, an affordable housing development initiated by the Long Island Housing Partnership and the Town of Islip. According to local officials, the new housing and the families who will live there will help reinvigorate the downtown section of Bay Shore, say officials.

"The Guard's contributions to this project will be visible for years to come," said Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Jack Fenimore. "For the people who eventually call South Wind Village Home, and for the residents of Bayshore who will see their downtown revived, the work of these dedicated soldiers will not soon be forgotten."

Jim Morgo, president of the Long Island Housing Partnership, said of the Guard "During peacetime [the New York National Guard] contribute their services to projects with a public purpose. In this case, it's the clean up of the debris which was once a drug infested area."

"The Guard has been a valuable and popular asset. The entire Long Island Housing Partnership, its Directors, Officers and members, appreciate [the Guard’s] efforts as do the Town of Islip and the people of Bayshore," said Morgo.

Morgo said that securing the help of the Guard was a major stepping stone toward the completion of the project, which has been in the planning stages since 1992. The Guard’s contribution allowed 44 parcels to be cleared, land which will be used to create 78 affordable housing units designed to bring working families into the area.

Company Commanders Course Held

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
Guard Times Staff

ALBANY – "This is all about your development as leaders and our future," said Brig. Gen. William Martin, the Deputy Adjutant General, as he kicked off the recent Company Commanders Course in Albany late in March with a "vision" briefing about the Guard of the 21st Century.

Twenty-six serving company commanders from across the state spent an intensive two days receiving presentations and discussing all areas of command, including leadership, personnel, training and logistics. Guest presenters included the commanding general of the New York Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Michael Van Patten, State Command Sergeant Major Don Brawley, and many others.

"This was really a test of the curriculum," said Lt. Col. Charles Phillips, the Senior Army Adviser. "For that reason we wanted all the attendees to be serving company commanders. At the end, they were able to provide great feedback on what the course needs to focus on for future commanders."

The training is designed to improve officers' abilities to lead units and to better serve the communities in which they are based. Participating lieutenants and captains lead units which range in size from 30 to almost 100 soldiers from the various types of organizations including infantry, armor, artillery, aviation, maintenance, engineer and others. This course is a prototype for future training designed specifically to prepare young officers for command. Being a commander is the primary role of an officer and often the most challenging experience of an officer's career.

Phillips indicated that there was strong support from throughout the Army National Guard for the course. He expects the next one to be held in October. "This represents a serious commitment to leader development. There seems to be widespread agreement that we need to recognize the challenges commanders are facing and do what we can to set them up for success," he said.

More than ever before, the New York National Guard is being called upon to respond to state emergencies, overseas deployments and to provide non-emergency support to the community. National Guard companies are the kinds of units most often committed. These missions challenge leaders' abilities to ensure their units are ready and able to respond effectively. Many participants and instructors for this course were veterans of state emergencies, federal activations and community support projects. One presenter, Capt. Ira Promisel, commanded the 133rd Maintenance Company from 1996 to 1998 and led his unit during a 270-day deployment to Europe as part of the NATO Peacekeeping mission to Bosnia.

"The national military strategy is comprised of three components: Shape, Respond and Prepare," said Martin. "We have created this course to help our leaders understand these concepts as an integral part of the national military strategy and prepare them for the dynamics of both today and tomorrow," he said. "The Department of Defense's evolving Homeland Defense concept places heavy emphasis on the National Guard and New York has been on the cutting edge of this from the beginning. The guardHELP Program, launched last year by Governor George Pataki, is designed to move the Guard ahead in readiness and in our ability to bring to our customers here in New York the kinds of support needed today."

During the Cold War, the threat was overseas, but Martin said that has changed. "We have threats impacting right here at home, including a variety of societalills, the growing threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and natural disasters as well. We are positioned to respond to these threats and we are training our future leaders accordingly," said Martin, adding that Guard leaders must have the skills needed to effectively support the Governor and local leaders in the face of a variety of threats.

A Saturday evening dinner at the Ramada featured Wilton Town Supervisor Roy McDonald as guest speaker. McDonald served in Vietnam as an artillery forward observer and currently serves as a county supervisor and vice president and public finance investment banker for Paine Webber's Municipal Security Group. He spoke about the community support role of the National Guard and the kinds of help local officials often seek from the Guard.
By Sgt. Raymond Drumsta
138th MPAD

SULA RIVER VALLEY, HONDURAS—Altitude extremes, unfamiliar terrain and vultures were among the challenges faced by New York Army National Guard flight crews during deployments to Honduras from January to May.

More than 70 members and three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters of the 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation, based in Latham and Ronkonkoma deployed to Honduras in rotations ranging from two weeks to five months in length. The troops were there to support Operation New Horizons ‘99 and Hurricane Mitch recovery efforts.

New Horizons is a US military engineer and medical exercise to promote stability in Central America. Active duty and reserve units from the Army and Air Force went to build roads, bridges, schools and clinics and provide medical services to civilians in remote areas.

Helicopter support was essential to mission success and was the only way to reach certain locations thanks to hurricane damage to roads and bridges. The 142nd helped move personnel, equipment and supplies and evacuate the sick and injured. This often meant flying over Santa Maria Mountains with altitudes reaching 9000 feet. Unique weather conditions surround the peaks and valleys, making flying dangerous and unpredictable. Strong winds blow against one side of a mountain, then wash over like a wave, thus creating raking, swirling patterns on the opposite side. Pilots are challenged to safely maneuver through the turbulence.

This would be an unnerving experience if it weren’t for the training the pilots previously received at the High Altitude Training Center in Eagle, Colorado, said Chief Warrant Officer Joe Weiser. “The school is an eye-opener. It teaches pilots on what to expect regarding turbulence, how to evaluate wind conditions, how not to exceed the aircraft’s limitations and how to manage the helicopters power for best fuel economy,” he said.

Weiser added that flying in windy conditions requires more power and fuel.

The aircrews used a performance-planning card, similar to risk assessment matrix, to factor air temperature, altitude and aircraft data to plan each mission. US Southern Command guidance and Honduran regulations added to the planning burden and safety considerations by requiring flight plans be filed 24-hours in advance. “In the states we can plan a mission in an hour or two,” said Weiser. “Here, it takes a full day or more.” Pilots are required to transmit their location to Honduran flight controllers every 15 minutes while airborne.

“Even in the US, you talk to one fighter controller who is with you for the entire mission. Here you talk to several different air traffic controllers and you are very busy,” said Weiser.

Task that keeps pilots “busy” is looking out for high-flying vultures. These “buzzards,” with wings measuring 2 to 3 feet, can fly as high as 3,000 feet and become obstacles in the sky. “The buzzards are a real problem,” said Weiser. “They are denser here than I’ve ever seen anywhere before.” They are a real danger because they can fly into rotor blades or crash into the cockpit and can cause quite a bit of damage due to their weight. “If we hit one, we have to land right away,” said Weiser.

Navigation wasn’t easy either. Terrain features recorded on maps have been altered, even washed away by Hurricane Mitch. “Navigating here forced us to use all of our skills,” said Weiser, who added the deployment was great experience.

The Blackhawk performed well in the warm climate. “Hot weather expands hydraulic seals so they fit snugly and leak less,” said Staff Sgt. Sean Healy, technical inspector with the 142nd. Healy said the Blackhawk’s frequent leaks back in Albany’s cold late winter weather but had none in Honduras.

The aircrews had confidence in their aircraft, and have come to like the UH-60 better than the UH-1 “Huey” the Blackhawk replaced. “It’s more powerful, faster and more stable,” said Weiser. “In addition, it has got two engines, two generators and three hydraulic systems. It gives you a very good feeling that nothing’s going to break,” he said.

145th Pulls Training in Germany

Guard Times Staff

KAISERLUTERN, GERMANY—More than 120 members of the Bronx-based 145th Maintenance Company deployed to Germany for Annual Training this Spring, earning praise from their host Army command and gaining confidence in their military skills.

The mission was to deploy to Germany in March for 15 days and provide general maintenance support to the US Army based at the Kaiserlautern Industrial Center, a vital logistics center supporting US forces in Europe. Maintenance support included general automotive and truck vehicle maintenance, electronic general support maintenance and repair parts supply operations. Much of the work rendered helped support the ongoing Operation Joint Guard—the NATO Peacekeeping mission to Bosnia and Task Force Able Sentry.

The troops flew in increments aboard a civilian airline from JFK Airport in Queens. The staggered arrival times in Germany delayed the start of effective training until all personnel were present. Upon arrival, the troops were in processed and briefed on the center’s facilities and other pertinent information. They lived in a Army barracks and dined at a local mess hall, where ten cooks who came with the unit performed training.

The unit conducted physical training three times a week, and platoons and sections conducted runs during the evenings. This training was often done with the host unit, and one member of the 145th, Spc. Jose’ Morales, earned the host command’s “commander’s coin” for leading the training. Morales, a professional boxer in civilian life always stays in top physical condition.

The 145th provided much needed support to the center. Teams were disbursed among several facilities to augment the existing staff. The supply platoon palletized parts and supplies for shipment, filled orders for subordinate maintenance organizations and loaded packages for transport. Mechanics disassembled several humvee engines, and tested and inspected others. The fuel and electric repair shop rebuilt vehicle starters, clutches and transmissions. Other troops rebuilt vehicle components, ran diagnostic tests, performed scheduled maintenance services and completed various other tasks.

“Overall, the training received by the mechanics was very good,” said Capt. Patricia Caputo, the unit commander, who indicated that not every soldier got to practice their MOS because there was not enough work for them. Weiders did a lot of eating but little welding.

An incident during the return trip was a highlight of the tour for some members of the 145th. About an hour into the return flight, a civilian collapsed following signs of distress. Sergeant 1st Class Andrew Indelicato and Spc. Morales kept to assist. Morales, a trained and experienced respiratory technician recognized the woman’s symptoms and used the aircraft’s new automated external defibrillator to restore her pulse and stabilize her condition. Morales informed the flight crew that the patient’s condition was serious and she would not make it all the way to New York without emergency medical treatment.

Following standard emergency procedures, the pilot dumped fuel over the English Channel and landed at Heathrow International Airport near London, where the patient was evacuated to a local hospital for treatment. The Long Island woman recovered.

Editor’s Note: Information contained in this article was provided by the 145th Maintenance Company, and Capt. Robert Giordano contributed to the story.
107th Completes Northern Watch Deployment

By Capt. Linda Blaszak
107th Air Refueling Wing

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION--Members of the 107th Air Refueling Wing, New York Air National Guard completed a short-notice deployment to Turkey this Spring to support Operation Northern Watch—the enforcement of the No-Fly Zone over Northern Iraq.

More than 100 members of the Niagara Falls-based unit were called to active duty in mid April. They deployed with four KC-135 tankers for a 30-day mission to provide air-refueling support to allied fighters patrolling the No-Fly Zone.

Only a portion of the troops stayed for the entire tour, while others were replaced by other members after two weeks. This was the first such deployment for the unit to the Gulf region.

"Whenever and wherever they are needed, the New York Air National Guard is ready to support and defend the people of New York State and the interests of their nation," said state Commander-in-Chief, Governor George E. Pataki in a news release announcing the activation. "New Yorkers across the state can be proud that the federal military command authority has entrusted our neighbors from Niagara Falls with this critically important mission."

"Whenever and wherever they are needed, the New York Air National Guard is ready to support and defend the people of New York State and the interests of their nation"

The 107th was the lead unit in a refueling team, which also included members of the 157th Air Refueling Wing from the New Hampshire Air National Guard.

Wing commander, Colonel James Kwiatkowski, said he is proud of the job his unit has done. "The men and women of the 107th have done a great job over the past month supporting our actions in Northern Iraq. They are all true patriots in every sense of the word. I appreciate their support and also the support of their families and civilian employers. These are the people who allow our great organization of citizen airmen to exist. My sincere thanks to them all," he said.

"It went very well," said Lt. Col. Thomas Litz, wing logistics. "Once we were there and got set up, things fell into place and we accomplished our mission effectively."

"We went in to backfill some units called out for the other crisis in Kosovo," said Litz, who explained that the call for the 107th came at short notice. Support missions for federal operations are normally performed on a rotation basis among the 19 air refueling units in the Air National Guard, Litz explained. "There's always the possibility we could go back within a year," he said.

The unit flew six missions a day, each lasting three to six hours, from the Incirlik Airbase in Turkey. At no time did the unit have to fly in Iraqi air space. Aerial refueling was done outside the zone. Daily temperatures in Turkey averaged in the mid-90 degrees.

Refuelers First to Use New Navigation System in Northern Watch

By Staff Sgt. Cindy York
107th Air Refueling Wing

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, TURKEY - The 107th Air Refueling Wing, New York Air National Guard is the first unit with the Pacer CRAG system to deploy to Operation Northern Watch and use the new system in that theater.

Pacer CRAG stands for Compass Radar and Global Positioning System, and enables aircraft to be flown with a crew of three instead of four. There is no need for a navigator, so the crew consists of two pilots and a boom operator.

Leading Edge Technology

Under the new system, the pilots rely on an electronic map, moving-stick map display and color weather radar to substitute for the services normally provided by a navigator. The system also includes a threat collision avoidance system, which is used for formation flying.

There are only five units in the Air Force presently using the Pacer CRAG technology and the 107th was the first unit to convert to it one year ago. Pacer CRAG technology allows units to perform missions with fewer personnel, an important concern given operational tempo and downsized force levels.

With only 48 hours notice, the 107th deployed and arrived in Turkey for its Northern Watch mission. Due to time gap between the previous unit's departure and the arrival of the 107th, the unit needed to compose new operational procedures for the mission.

"There was a learning curve, but we were fully operational within 24 hours," said Col. George Waskosky, who led the Air Guard team in Turkey. Apparently, the learning curve didn't last long, because the 107th achieved a 100 percent mission success rate, transferring 5 million pounds of gas since its arrival in mid April.

Waskosky attributed the success in part to help provided by the 157th Air Refueling Wing from Pease Air National Guard Base in Portsmouth, NH. The 157th added three crews and three aircraft to the four crews and four aircraft, which came with the 107th.

Waskosky said deployments are not new to the 107th, and unit members seem to enjoy them. "Every quarter we have some type of overseas deployment. Anytime a unit deploys, it provides a positive impact on unit morale," he said.

"We are proud to have been able to respond to and meet the needs of the active-duty force," Waskosky said. "We have a history of doing things really well," Waskosky said.
106th PJs in Mid-Atlantic Rescues

Team Rescue Today Staff
106th Air Rescue Wing

WESTHAMPTON BEACH - Rescue personnel from the Long Island-based 106th Air Rescue Wing, New York Air National Guard completed two separate missions in April, chalking up saves 277 and 278 since 1975.

On the first mission, four para-rescue men (PJs) parachuted into the sea near a Cyprian container ship about 300 miles south of Bermuda, to come to the aid of ship's captain after he appeared to have suffered a stroke. The jump was performed on April 4 at 4:30 AM.

It was feared that the 48-year old male captain of the “Duric Shield” was experiencing a brain aneurysm, but he was stabilized soon after the evacuation according to team leader, Senior Master Sgt. Tim Malloy.

The mission began when the PJs flew to the scene aboard a US Coast Guard C-130 Hercules aircraft from Elizabeth City, NC. They parachuted into the ocean, climbed onto the 600-foot ship and performed emergency medical treatment. The team of PJs included Senior Master Sgt. Malloy, Staff Sgts. Jeffery Baker and John Hopkins, and Tech. Sgt. Scott Yelley. This was Yelley’s first night rescue jump. An HH-60J Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Elizabeth City arrived on scene, hoisted the patient from the deck and flew him to Bermuda for hospitalization.

“"This was an excellent example of teamwork," said Col. Bobby Brittain, 106th wing commander. The Coast Guard Rescue Center in Greece received the initial rescue call from the vessel. The request was forwarded to the Coast Guard Atlantic Area Command in Portsmouth, VA, and then the call went to the New York Air National Guard’s 106th Air Rescue Wing.

One week later, another civilian sailor ran into a medical emergency in the same area of the Atlantic. A Turkish sailor, age 31 was in the grip of an acute appendicitis and required immediate evacuation from his freighter sailing 300 miles south of Bermuda. Another team of PJs from the 106th was flown to the scene by the same Coast Guard air crew. The PJ team included Tech. Sgts. Mike Heron and Joe Ross and Staff Sgt. Ken Smith. The three traditional Guard members are civilian law enforcement professionals. Hewson is a Suffolk County policeman, Ross is a Massachusetts State Policeman from Boston and Smith is a New York City policeman from Queens. According to Hewson, rescue operations out over the Atlantic “is carrying 911 to a different level.”

The team jumped into the sea at 10:00 pm. Smith’s primary chute failed and he had to use his reserve. Hewson lost his helmet when his chute deployed. Ross followed the strobe light on Hewson’s helmet into the dark sea and thus the team was dispersed as much as 300 yards from the inflatable Zodiac raft dropped into the seas for the PJs’ use. In addition, waves exceeded 15 feet and contributed to a harrowing night swim to the Zodiac in the open ocean. Despite the difficulties, the team succeeded in getting to the raft and speeding to the ship, which upon taking on the Guardsman, headed for port in Bermuda. Once aboard, the PJs found their patient in great pain, and they immediately went to work to stabilize him for the remainder of the voyage to Bermuda. By late the next day, the patient was in a Bermuda hospital where emergency surgery was performed. The PJs returned to their Long Island base by noon the next day.

Air Rescue Wing Returns to the Gulf

By Tech. Sgt. J.C. Platto
106th Air Rescue Wing

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, TURKEY - The New York Air National Guard’s 106th Air Rescue Wing was called back to the Persian Gulf, yet again, to help support Operation Southern Watch – the enforcement of the No-Fly Zone over Southern Iraq.

Nearly 100 members of the Long Island-based unit were activated in May and deployed to Turkey to link up with other Air Force units to help patrol the UN designated No-Fly Zones. The 106th provided crews and support personnel for rescue teams if search and rescue operations became necessary. The 106th’s mission is to rescue downed crews. The deployment closely followed a scheduled rotation of 150 unit members to the same region in March and April to help coalition forces patrol the Southern No-Fly Zone. That coalition operation was interrupted by the NATO Operation Allied Force over Kosovo, and resulted in a shift of forces from the Persian Gulf theater to the Balkans. This set the stage for the 106th’s activation in May to help support Operation Northern Watch over Iraq by back-filling for units serving in the Balkans.

With a $14,000 bounty on their heads, pilots from the US and Great Britain face an increased risk of being shot down by the forces of Saddam Hussein. The threat of being captured and then dragged through the streets of Baghdad must weigh heavily on the minds of each coalition fighter pilot as they patrol and occasionally take on ground targets in the No-Fly Zone.

“Due to the additional activity worldwide, the President has determined that assistance from the Air National Guard is needed," said wing commander Col. Bobby Brittain, in reference to the military operations over Kosovo, dubbed Operation Allied Force.

“Our personnel are fully qualified and ready to serve," he said.

This is not the first time the 106th has performed this mission. The unit deployed back in 1992 and again in 1996 to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to provide Combat Search and Recovery support.

"These kinds of operations seem to characterize our culture and it takes the total capabilities of our total Air Force to respond – the active, the Air Guard and the Reserve," said Maj. Gen. James Sherrard, Chief of the Air Force Reserve. "The Guard and Reserve are models of the role of the citizen soldier. They can handle the most diverse missions. That is why we call them at a moments notice," he said.
Airman Runs Marathon for Young Leukemia Victim

By Staff Sgt. Trish Heikkila
105th Airlift Wing

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, NEWBURGH — When Tech. Sgt. Tracy Hornbeck, a full time C-5 avionics and guidance technician with the 105th Airlift Wing, began running to lose weight, he didn’t know he’d be able to combine his new exercise program with the chance to help someone else.

In the few years that he’s been running, Hornbeck has lost 45 pounds, but he’s also gained a very special five-year-old friend, Charlie Bennett. Charlie, who lives with his parents in Cornwall, was diagnosed with leukemia at age two-and-a-half. Leukemia is a disease where white blood cells are produced in excessive amounts and are unable to work properly in fighting off infections.

In June, Hornbeck ran a full marathon—26.2 miles—in Alaska, sponsored by the Leukemia Society. He ran for Charlie and raised over $2,000 for the society’s research and support programs. “There are tangible benefits to running…you lose weight and stay healthy, but now I’m also helping someone else,” he said.

“Running is simple, that’s why I chose it. You don’t need any equipment. At first I didn’t think I’d be able to do it, it seemed daunting,” he said.

Hornbeck said a nice spring day got him off his NordicTrak and onto the road. “It was nice out and I was tired of being on the machine. I thought I’d go for a run. I ran 20 minutes in one direction and 20 back. I didn’t know what the distance was and went and clocked it in my car, it was about four miles. I couldn’t believe it.” Hornbeck enjoyed the physical exercise so much that he began increasing his distance and entering in local races. He said he was reading a magazine when he noticed an advertisement for the Leukemia Society’s “Team in Training.”

“Team in Training” is an endurance-training program that provides runners and other athletes with professional coaching, camaraderie, and travel and accommodations for major marathons. Each participant trains in honor of a local leukemia patient. Hornbeck joined the program and was linked to young Charlie Bennett.

Charlie’s mother, Betty, is a phlebotomist at Hudson Valley Hospital in Peekskill, N.Y. She said she had a pretty good idea of what Charlie had after noticing his symptoms of fatigue, weight loss, easy bruising and others.

“I had enough knowledge to know how serious it was,” she said. “It was devastating to find out. The doctor was very positive though, and that helped somewhat, but it was still tough. The first six months after his diagnosis were hard, he went through intensive chemotherapy treatments two and three times a week. By the end of the six weeks it was down to once a week, now it’s once a month until the end of this year.” Betty said she and her husband, Ed, remain very positive about their son’s future.

As a single parent of a precocious seven-year-old son, MacKenzie, Hornbeck could empathize with the Bennetts when they learned of Charlie’s condition. “When we met the Bennetts, Mack and Charlie ran off to his room and away from the room and played ‘Star Wars’ stuff. Charlie really didn’t talk much about it, he and Mack was too busy fighting the ‘alien war’. I know what it’s like to have a sick kid and to think about him having a life threatening disease, just seems mind boggling. It’s incongruous. Seeing a kid going through chemotherapy doesn’t match our image of what we think a little kid should be doing.

“Before Mack was born, I thought having a child was going to be hard. It seems like a lot of responsibility is being thrust onto you. At 2 a.m. you want to sleep, but if at 2 a.m. you have a child who’s sick and needs you, you have to be there.

Hornbeck contemplated running the 26.2 miles with an easy-going, yet determined attitude. “Some people get really into it and track everything from what they wear to what they eat the night before. I’m kind of going by ‘feel.’ This is a new thing for me,” he said. Hornbeck isn’t a sit-on-the-sidelines type of a person, active by nature, the former rock climber also enjoys hiking, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities.

He attributes his determination, half-jokingly, to the “family genes.” His father, Richard, was a lieutenant colonel and B-47 bomber pilot who lived through two mid-air collisions and an accident that broke his back. “The doctors said he’d never walk again,” Hornbeck said. “But he did. He fully recovered and went back to flying. He set the example for me. Do whatever you want to do, just do it the best you can.

He wasn’t a ‘Great Santini,’ domineering kind of person, he was encouraging and supportive.”

Hornbeck’s father died several years ago after a battle with Lou Gehrig’s disease, also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. It is a rare, progressively degenerative disease affecting the spinal cord. It usually begins in middle age and is characterized by increasing spreading of muscular weakness. Hornbeck, who was very close with his father, was hard hit. “He was my hero,” he said.

Also very much an influence is his mother, Connie, an accomplished bow-hunter who decided to take up hang gliding at age 50. “She has been very, very supportive of this,” Hornbeck said. “She watches MacKenzie for me while I’m on out on my runs and she has even started to do some walking around the track herself.”

Hornbeck said running brings a certain peace to his life. “It brings you into the moment. You have to be there, focused, paying attention to what you’re doing. You can’t be worrying about stuff at work or things in the news. This focus carries over into other areas of my life and helps keep me in contact with the things that are most important to me.”

Charlie doesn’t talk much about being sick. He’s too busy being a kid. During a recent visit to Hornbeck’s shop, the five-year-old scurried from item to item faster than a pinball, asking questions every step of the way.

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And tested, the improved system will produce high-resolution images from space.

“Distortions in the atmosphere make a star appear to twinkle and cause space images to appear hazy,” said 1st Lt. John Busque, from the Air Force Research Lab. “This system compensates for the distortion and takes away the twinkle effect and objects become sharper. More than 20 perfectly aligned optics will take a large light beam and shrink both its focal length and beam size to a tighter and more precise beam of light,” said Busque.

“The entire telescope system with all of its sensors will be thoroughly tested next summer,” said Maj. Joe Bishop, the Directed Energy Directorate’s Program Manager. “When the tests are done, we will be fully operational.”

By Sandra Carol
Kirkland Air Force Base Research Laboratory

MAUI, HAWAII — The New York Air National Guard’s 105th Airlift Wing delivered a fragile $40 million adaptive optics system to Hawaii in April, that is being used to upgrade an advanced telescope system’s ability to get high quality images from space.

The adaptive optics system was designed and fabricated at the Danbury, CT-based Raytheon Optical Systems Corporation and filled two 18-wheel tractor-trailers. The 120,000 pounds of cargo and vehicles were loaded and strapped down inside a C-5A Galaxy at Stewart Air National Guard Base and flown halfway around the world to the Air Force Laboratory’s Maui Space Surveillance Complex.

The complex is atop a 10,000-foot mountain and features the Advanced Electro-Optical System telescope. The telescope has a 3.67-meter diameter primary reflection mirror and is the largest in the Department of Defense. The adaptive optics system is being installed in a special vibration-free, thermally controlled room 60-feet below the telescope. Light will pass from the telescope down a long thermally controlled tube to the adaptive optics bench for processing. Once installed and tested, the improved system will produce high-resolution images from space.

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Aviators Demonstrate
Guard 'copter Capabilities

By Scott Sandman
Guard Times Staff

SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND — On May 22nd, National Guard aviators from Army Aviation Support Facility #1 and the 106th Air Rescue Wing gave over 100 firefighters, chiefs and emergency response coordinators from across Suffolk County a demonstration of their aircrafts' capabilities in fighting brush and forest fires.

"Governor Pataki, our Commander in Chief, wants us to constantly pursue new ways to support and defend the people of New York State. Developing and improving our water bucket fire fighting capabilities is one more way we can creatively use our military resources to serve the people of our state during peacetime," said Col. Frank Intini, commander of AASF#1 and the Guard's foremost authority on air-ground firefighting support.

"This exercise was an opportunity to familiarize local fire department officials not only with our capabilities, but with the protocols of obtaining National Guard air support during a fire emergency. Obviously, time is critical in a fire emergency. Our goal was to train our potential customers on how to assess whether National Guard air support is suitable to a particular fire situation, and how to navigate the appropriate chain of command to secure the support as quickly as possible," said Intini.

Billed as Air-Ground Firefighting Awareness Training Day and Field Demonstration, the event was coordinated by the Central Pine Barrens Wildfire Task Force, a coalition of federal and state agencies, including the Guard, local fire departments, local governments, and various other public safety and environmental organizations.

The morning session, which began at 0800 at the 106th's facility at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton, included classroom instruction and discussion by representatives of the Suffolk County Fire Academy, New York State Forest Rangers, and the National Guard. Topics discussed included responsibilities of fire services in air-ground operations, and wild fire helicopter indications, use and limitations.

Col. Intini capped off the morning forum with discussion that included lessons learned from the 1995 Central Pine Barrens Fire that ravaged much of eastern Long Island. While AASF#1 bucket-equipped helicopter crews were instrumental in eventually containing that blaze, the flames were so intense they actually jumped the four-lane Sunrise Highway. Fanned by Atlantic Ocean breezes, the wildfires charred hundreds of acres of the preserve, including areas abutting the perimeter of the 106th's Gabreski Airport facility. Four years later, extensive fire damage is still plainly visible in the immediate vicinity of the base.

"Many, if not most of the firefighters participating in today's exercises were directly involved in the '95 wildfires," said Intini. "That response taught our aviation crews a great deal about these type of operations - it's where we really cut our teeth. It was literally trial by fire."

Following the classroom work it was out to the flight line. Aviators from the 106th and AASF#1 provided firefighters with hands-on static displays and tours of their respective HH-60 Pavehawk and UH-60 Blackhawk aircraft, and a close up look at the 660-gallon "Bambi Buckets" used in air-ground firefighting.

Pros at Work

For many of the civilian participants, the highlight of the day was the afternoon session, when the Army and Air Guard crews were put through their paces. Drawing water from a nearby lake, the "purple" team of Army and Air Guard aircraft was guided to a small tract of land within the Pine Barrens' Samoff Preserve. Directed from the ground by radio, the choppers delivered their payloads with pinpoint accuracy, making several passes at various altitudes and airspeeds.

"Wow, that's a lot of water," observed one firefighter as he witnessed 5,000 pounds of water crashing through the forest canopy. "That could really help contain a widespread forest fire."

For the Air Guard crew, the water bucket exercise was their first. Nevertheless, they drew praise from their slightly more experienced Army Guard counterparts.

"There's no question that these guys are pros. This kind of thing is really outside the box, where their mission is concerned, but they picked it up really quickly. It was great to fly with the Air Guard, and we're looking forward to doing it again," said AASF#1's Chief Warrant Officer Jim Beauman.

"While our federal air rescue responsibilities keep us very busy, that doesn't mean we can't support our community any way we can," said Col. Bobby Britton, Commander of the 106th Air Rescue Wing.

"Whether its working with local youth, or providing firefighting support, we welcome all opportunities to serve our neighbors in Suffolk County. We appreciate the opportunity to work with our Army Guard counterparts from Ronkonkoma and hope to do so again," said Britton.

The entire exercise was covered by a team from New York City's FOX 5 News. The FOX news crew, which included a helicopter that provided aerial shots of the Guard choppers both picking up and deploying the water, filed a three minute feature story on the event which aired on May 29th.

Since their 5-day mission fighting the 1995 wildfires, the AASF#1 team has been in frequent contact with the California Army National Guard. The California Guard, because of the many widespread brush and forest fires in that state, has become the leading military experts in providing aerial firefighting support.

Working with DEC Forest Ranger Capt. Robert Conklin and various local firefighting officials, Col. Intini has used California's experiences to help develop an Interagency Military Helicopter Program. While developed specifically by and for Suffolk County agencies, the protocols established in the program will eventually become a boilerplate for fire support in the vicinities of Rochester's AASF#2 and AASF#3 near Albany.

During the same week earlier this spring, AASF#1 air crews were instrumental in containing and helping to extinguish forest fires at Peeksill's Camp Smith, and in Rotterdam, outside of Albany.
MCMURDO STATION, ANTARCTICA—It's morning in Antarctica. The mid-summer temperature at this lonely outpost on the bottom of the world hovers around 20 degrees and breath hangs in the air. On the volcanic cinder and dust-covered streets that cut through McMurdo Station, the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) base of operations for the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP), an assortment of mostly red and orange vehicles moves slowly, some shuffling workers and cargo between austere buildings, some heaving the 40 minutes down to the Williams Field Ski Runway and the Air National Guard’s LC-130s (ski-equipped C-130s) that, this February with the completion of naval operations in Antarctica, became the only aircraft of their kind in the world.

Behind the buildings of McMurdo are the solid white, ice-covered expanse of the Ross Sea and the distant snow-covered peaks are a barrier to the unprepared. But the geography is not the only barrier. The other is cold...lethal cold. Here, summer temperatures can drop to 50 degrees below zero. The world’s lowest temperature was recorded in Antarctica at minus 128.6 degrees. And storms whipping winds up to 200 miles-an-hour can freeze-dry a creature in minutes.

Few have ventured here. Even fewer have conquered. That is, until the intrepid airman of the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force and now the New York Air National Guard opened up the continent to NSF-sponsored scientific researchers, making possible the discovery of answers to questions about the history and future of our planet and our universe that researchers even a decade ago would probably have thought unattainable.

For the NSF, there is a belief that answers to the earth’s past and its future may be locked in Antarctica’s trillions of tons of ancient ice. The continent holds 90 percent of the planet’s ice and 70 percent of its fresh water. If even a modest fraction of that mass were to melt within a couple of decades, sea levels would rise several feet, causing an inevitable catastrophe on the earth’s coasts.

Throughout the 1970s and 80s, the 109th made its way the nearly seven hours from upstate New York to Greenland during the summer months. Each rotation lasted a week. In that time, missions beginning at the former U.S. Sondrestrom Air Base (now the civilian Greenlandic airport that serves the 109th’s summer base of operations) and Thule Air Base (the U.S. Air Force’s Space Command installation in the north of Greenland), would carry personnel, life-giving supplies including food and fuel, and later, construction materials as the radar sites needed to be moved due to the stress of the ice sheet’s shifting. This need for military support of the radar installations lasted until the mid 1980s.

In 1978, the NSF, seeking support for polar ice-coring climactic research and other research being conducted on the Greenland ice sheet, first approached the 109th to discuss potential cooperation. From the standpoint of the researchers, the same capabilities for support which fueled the defense radar installations, could easily meet their requirements to move scientists and logistics personnel, research equipment and items essential for survival in extreme temperatures, temperatures which could frequently drop to below minus 50 degrees.

But just how did unit members, who began their airlift operations flying in support of the Berlin airlift and shuttling supplies to the steamy jungles of Southeast Asia, feel about their new Arctic responsibilities? Many members, who by virtue of the Guard’s mission stability were on those first flights to the center of the Greenland ice sheet, remember performing their first landing on skis in 1975, even now.

Chief Master Sgt. Mike Christiano, now head of the flight engineer’s section, recalls the sensation of leaving the austere beauty of Sondrestrom Air Base and passing into a cold, forbidding environment that offered no natural landmarks, only whiteness. For him, the year of his first flight was 1980. "It really took my breath away. You would leave 'Sondy' (Sondrestrom), going toward the ice cap over green and then pass over the glacial edge onto a sheet of white as far as you could see. Heading out to DYE 2 (a radar installation which ceased operations in the mid 1980s), you would see only occasional pools of beautiful blue water sitting on top of the ice surface.

"But what really took my breath away," he said, "was watching the crew coordination necessary for landing. The navigator would be constantly talking to the pilot, guiding him to the site. The co-pilot was talking to the pilot. The engineer was constantly monitoring the systems and the loadmasters would be up in the windows, helping the front-end crew trying to pick out the skiway. It was truly amazing," Christiano stated.
In 1988, the NSF, pleased with the assistance they were receiving in the north, invited the 109th to make the long trip south to augment the U.S. Navy's specialized Antarctic flying unit, VXE-6, in missions which supported the USAP's scientific research program.

In the early years, the 109th's flying in Antarctica was relatively limited, consisting of only two aircraft and a flying unit, VXE-6, in missions which supported the USAP, the total deployment time to Antarctica each season lasts longer, in some cases up to more than ten weeks, with most members varying the length of their stay in Antarctica with a brief rotation back home.

Several members of the 109th were even selected to make-up the initial staff of Air National Guard Detachment 13, a group of six ANG operations, maintenance and administrative specialists who live permanently in Christchurch, NZ and provide assistance to Department of Defense agencies working in support of the USAP.

Many AGRs were hired from the 109th's traditional Guard force because of their experience. But nearly as many came from outside the unit, intrigued by the chance to operate in perhaps the most extreme flying environment on earth.

One pilot hired full-time, Maj. Joel Mayron, came to the unit after three years in the U.S. Navy flying for VXE-6 in Antarctica, he couldn't bear the thought of leaving the ice and snow. In the Guard, he will have an opportunity to complete his career still flying "Ski-Herco."

"Polar flying gets in your blood," began Mayron. "Before the 109th, I couldn't have imagined a career at the poles. I am glad to be here. I know polar flying. I feel valuable because I have this skill. When I get down to Antarctica or now up to Greenland, I feel like I am coming home," he said.

Another polar veteran of eight years, Maj. Dave Koltermann, a pilot who came to the guard after leaving a special operations background in the active duty Air Force, expressed a similar love for flying on ice. "The flying is fantastic," he remarked. "The camaraderie among crews is second to none and supporting science is really worthwhile. I feel special that we are contributing to the international scientific community," he said.

And what of the maintenance personnel? How does it feel to work in temperatures so cold that hydraulic fluid begins to freeze and fingers cannot be uncovered for more than a few seconds for safety reasons? Here, the sense of pride typical of the aircrew members is echoed. "Our people and the support they have given are great," said Chief Master Sgt. Joe Wagschall, one of several maintenance chiefs sporting more than two decades of operating in polar environments. "My guys work as a team. When they are here, everybody works together. It gives them ownership. In the end, we succeed because we are the 109th," he said.

Working for the maintenance chiefs is a highly-trained maintenance organization with varying degrees of experience operating in polar settings. Many are new to the organization, attracted by the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of legendary polar explorers like Admunsen, Scott and Byrd and to be part of a mission that is unique in the world. I left the active duty from Eglin AFB to come home," stated Master Sgt. Phil Cassimore, a full-time aircraft power generation shop chief hired to support the USAP. "I live about an hour from the base and saw the story about the unit's new mission on the news. Before then, I never knew the 109th existed. Now I am proud to be part of this organization that is contributing to the NSF mission. We spend a lot of time away from home. But our mission is important and our people are happy to do it," he stated.

Another newcomer, Senior Airman Ron Jemmett, expressed similar sentiments. "I have seen seals, whales and penguins. It's really interesting and great knowing that out of everyone in the world, you are one out of a small percentage of people who will ever see Antarctica."

Only a few days after the return of its first few airplanes from Antarctica, the unit was on the road again in their first deployment of the season to Greenland. In the next few months until August, the 109th will be busy up north supporting one of the most aggressive science seasons in years and then back to Antarctica. The temperatures will be cold...very cold. But as Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Stoddard, life support superintendent and one who in his job spends more time out in the weather than virtually anyone says, "the environment puts you at peace."

How did the 109th do in the first season following its take-over of the on-continent airlift support of the internationally high profile USAP? According to Erick Chiang, polar research support section head for the NSF, "Many of us in polar programs have worked in both the northern and southern hemispheres and have admired the work of the 109th on the polar ice caps. The 109th, following this first year as the Department of Defense's executive agent for Antarctic flight support, has demonstrated that our faith in their capabilities has been well-founded. This will be critical during the next five years as the USAP works to rebuild the Admunsen-Scott station at the South Pole."

For nearly a generation, the defense community shared the 109th's pride in its ability as the unit helped keep North America safe during the Cold War. And now, these polar specialists are helping to answer the questions that will virtually assure the understanding and protection of our environment for all time.

"We come from many backgrounds," stated Wing Commander Col. Graham Pritchard, who by virtue of his previous tenure as a member of the Alaskan Air Command is recognized as the most veteran ski C-130 pilot on earth. "Regardless of their individual backgrounds, the men and women of this unit are proud to be doing what they are doing. It has been my privilege to help bring the best of the 109th Airlift Wing and the Air National Guard to this mission. And, from experience I can say without hesitation, nobody could do it better...nobody," he concluded.
A Partnership for Mission Support

New York Guard teams up with Army Guard Command for Contingency Training

By Col. Alan Pogorzelski
HQ New York Guard

VALHALLA – Members of the New York Guard’s 56th Brigade joined with the staff of the New York Army National Guard’s Headquarters 53rd Troop Command for joint training in contingency operations this Spring.

“I commend you, for all you have done to make this project a success,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Van Patten, New York Army National Guard commanding general, to the combined Army Guard and state Guard team at the Troop Command Emergency Operations Center at the State Armory in Valhalla.

The exercise involved representatives of all of Troop Command’s subordinate units. Personnel assembled at each subordinate unit headquarters and communicated and coordinated the Troop Command headquarters and performed normal staff functions as they would during a real emergency. Planning the exercise had gone on for months and a practice exercise conducted earlier in the year. The exercise was comprised of two key components: Briefings were provided by port managers and sealift command staff officers regarding the command’s area of responsibility. Briefings were provided by port managers and sealift command staff officers regarding the command’s area of responsibility. Briefings were provided by port managers and sealift command staff officers regarding the command’s area of responsibility.

The exercise helped train and was used to evaluate the reservists’ abilities to operate an area-of-responsibility sealift command office, including command and administrative functions and crisis action procedures supporting contingency operations.

Captain James A. Barnett, Jr., commanding officer of Sealift Command Northern Persian Gulf 105, from Pitts­ burgh, was the exercise coordinator. From the left is Staff Sgt. Anthony Bertorelli, Sgt. John Kane, and USNS Watson. The port tours were followed by a command post exercise held in Bahrain. The exercise helped train and was used to evaluate the reservists’ abilities to operate an area-of-responsibility sealift command office, including command and administrative functions and crisis action procedures supporting contingency operations.

Preparing the participants with practical support capabilities for future Southwest Asia assignments. It also assisted in training the reserve units for quick integration with the active duty force for peacetime support operations, as well as potential contingency operations.

Commander Helen Dunn of Sealift Command Southwest Asia 108, from Pitts­ burgh, PA, and exercise officer in charge, noted that the training goals of preparing the participants for mobiliza­tion were achieved. Participants gained a detailed knowledge of port infrastructure and force protection require­ ments, in addition to establishing relationships with American Embassy, port management, and various US Military component staffs and other sealift command customers and partners,” said Barnett. The command post exercise phase of the two week training also included instruction in command duty officer responsibilities. This training equipped the participants with practical support capabilities for future Southwest Asia assignments. It also assisted in training the reserve units for quick integration with the active duty force for peacetime support operations, as well as potential contingency operations.

Commander Helen Dunn of Sealift Command Southwest Asia, Executive Officer Lt. Sherry Crissman, Marine Transportation Specialist Linda Harman and the entire Southwest Asia sealift command staff were credited for providing “outstanding exercise support.” Participants included Capt. Lawrence P. Kirwan and Cdr. Scott C. Gibney from sealift command Northern Persian Gulf 102. Bronx; Capt. James Niles and Cdr. Paul Premitt, from Southern Persian Gulf 101, Quincy, MA; and, Capt. Lawrence Cliffford and Cdr. A.D. Banksdale, from Southwest Asia 108, Tampa FL. Lt. Cdr. Jean Vite of Northern Persian Gulf 105, Pitts­ burgh, was the exercise coordinator.

New York Guard to Conduct Legal Training

CAMP SMITH – The New York Guard will conduct free legal training for members of New York State’s military forces who are attorneys during its upcoming Annual Training at Camp Smith September 30 and October 1. The training is creditable toward the state’s bi-annual legal training requirement for licensed attorneys.

The New York Guard instructors are practicing legal professionals and include judges, attorneys and counselors in both public and private practice. This service should save lawyers from $300-500 they would normally have to expend in annual continuing education costs.

Courses include: Commercial Real Estate Litigation; Trusts and Estates, Guardianship, Supplemental Needs Trusts and Reverse Mortgages; Ethics Considerations from the Disciplinary Committee Perspective, Legal Malpractice, contempt and Attorney/Client Privilege and Skills for Trial Attorneys.

New York Guard Appoints Air Division Commander
By Col. Alan Pogorzelski
HQ New York Guard
LATHAM — In a brief ceremony held at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters in April, Col. Karl Doll, former 109th operations group commander (now retired), was promoted to brigadier general and appointed as the first commander of the newly-established New York Guard-Air Division.

Created in January 1998, the New York Guard-Air Division is a statewide volunteer organization. Like its long-established army cousin, the New York Guard, the air division provides additional, as-needed support to New York's military forces.

Currently, it operates from New York Air National Guard headquarters in Latham but plans are already under way for future growth.

“We plan to establish an air division unit at each Air National Guard Base in New York State as well as one attached with the State Emergency Management Office,” Gen. Doll explained. “Now with my appointment, we will be moving ahead with our plans.”

By Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
Guard Times Staff

GLENS FALLS — The newest New York National Guard Corps of Cadets Program came on line in late May, following an inaugural graduation ceremony at the Glens Falls armory.

More than 80 teens marched onto the drill floor to the cheers of more than 100 family members and friends to begin the ceremony marking their graduation from a 6-week “basic training” period. The ceremony was patterned after those used to stand up new military units.

With help from volunteer National Guard cadre, cadre officers led the formation’s march inside. Many cadets were clad in new gray uniforms. The first cadet commander, a young woman, runs track at the nearby Hudson Falls High School.

This is the largest start-up group of cadets for a new corps in the 8-year history of the Guard’s Corps of Cadets program. Back in March, a record 300 teens and parents crowded the armory during an information night, where families learned about the program and what it would take for their son or daughter to join.

The New York National Guard has been successfully running its cadet program since 1991. This program helps keep kids in school, out of trouble and on the road to becoming responsible adults. Along the way, the teens have fun, experience adventure, learn about discipline, leadership and responsibility. The program is for young men and women aged 12 to 17. To be a member, young people must remain in school, stay drug free and not be in trouble with the law. The program is free. Volunteer National Guard cadre serve as role models and provide supervision. Many of the Guard members are young men and women attending college while they serve.

Glens Falls Launches New Cadet Corps
By Master Sgt. Jeannine M. Mannarino
138th MPAD

COLONIE — Last December, officials from the Albany County Town of Colonie approached the New York National Guard Counterdrug Program for help in combating drug use by reclaiming a historic, but long neglected parcel of land along the Hudson River.

The town’s historic Schuyler Flatts which runs along the river just north of Albany, has been plagued with midnight dumping and has become the site for drug trafficking and underage drinking parties. Now the town wanted to reclaim the area, but it needed help to do it.

In the 1630’s, the Van Rensselaers family established a farm on the site, as part of the Dutch Colony of Rensselaerswyck. The Dutche West India Company earmarked the land as an independent site from the nearby trade establishment at Fort Orange (where Albany now sits). The area has long been the site of archeological research into prehistoric Native American tribes.

Schuyler Flatts was named for the wealthy and powerful Schuyler family. Philip Pietsen Schuyler, General Philip Johannes Schuyler’s great-grandfather, arrived in “New Netherland” around 1650, and purchased the Flatts from the Van Rensselaers in 1672. This is where the Schuyler family made their home until 1910.

Over the years, the area fell into neglect and ultimately has degenerated into an area for illegal dumping and criminal activity.

The long-standing problem can be illustrated by the reactions and comments of local art students, who came to the site in March for a class project. Shaker High School student Katie O’Connor was amazed to find out “how out of control the area was.”

“When we first came here all there was to paint was broken glass, beer bottles, grocery carts, and refrigerators that were dumped here,” said 10th grade student Charles Rapp.

The students discovered a tree house that was covered with racial slurs, obscenities, swastikas and other graffiti. The area had become a haven for under-age drinking and drug use. The archeological landmark had been transformed into a cul-de-sac for illegal activities and dumping.

The Counterdrug Program looked into the situation and determined that it could offer help in the form of an engineer project, similar to previous efforts in Schenectady and other communities, that would restore the area and help make it easier to patrol by local police. The removal of garbage by the town was an essential objective to restore safe conditions for appropriate recreational use. The Guard brought personnel and equipment to the site and began thinning the heavy brush and cutting up the fallen trees and branches and exposing the many piles of garbage and debris for easier removal.

Once the partnership for a joint project was struck between the Guard and the town, several area youth organizations also decided to join the effort. Young members of the Village of Menands Cub Scout Pack 101 and Colonie’s Youth Court helped pick up and gather tons of litter and other refuse. Colonie’s Department of Public Works, area businesses, and other civic organizations also joined in, and provided donated labor and heavy equipment to haul out trash and chip the many branches and limbs that were trimmed by the Guard members. By the end of May, the natural beauty of the landscape was no longer marred by garbage and visitors were starting to return.

“The Flatts provide a great wealth of data for research and educational development regarding the history of this area,” said Paul Russell, Colonie’s Environmental Conservation Specialist. “It’s just amazing to see the transformation that’s taken place over the past few months. Changing this drug infested site into place where people can safely come and enjoy the natural beauty, is area accomplishment,” he said.

Russell is pleased to see Susan Stuarts High School art class returning to practice landscape painting. “That’s the real payoff,” he said, noting the public acknowledgment of progress. “If it wasn’t for the Guard we would never have gotten this far,” he said.

“The National Guard not only plays an important role in national defense and responding to natural disasters, but they have also found a way to help our communities,” said Mary Brizzell Colonie’s Town Supervisor. “We are grateful for the help.”

“The Town hopes to transform this 40-acre site into a recreational and cultural park with barrier free accessibility,” said Russell.
MANY Holds Annual Conference

Guard Times Staff

GLENS FALLS — The Militia Association of New York or MANY held its annual conference in May at the beautiful and historic Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls. The Lake George region in the Adirondack Mountains was selected for the many available recreational activities available.

On Saturday an inaugural awards breakfast was held. It was open to MANY members, spouses and guests, and featured keynote remarks from Col. Dave McGinnis from the National Guard Association of the United States.

Presentations by state and national military leaders were conducted throughout the morning. The afternoon was cleared for recreational activities in the area from shopping, touring local historic sites and more.

Saturday evening, MANY attendees enjoyed a dinner cruise on Lake George on board the Lac du Saint Sacrament, a regal formation to the field practitioners.

GLENS FALLS — The Militia Association of New York or MANY held its annual conference in May April in Albany.

LATHAM — The New York Army National Guard Times Staff

The conference concluded Sunday morning following the MANY Business Session. The hotel was chosen as the site for next year’s conference as well.

According to Maj. Kathy Brooks, MANY President, the design for this year’s conference was developed using all of the best practices of past conferences while incorporating successful ideas from other associations.

“Due to popular demand, MANY’s Executive Committee has changed the design of the annual conference to include business but emphasize fun and value,” said Brooks.

“Our bottom-line objective is to give our members a world-class event and the chance to network with fellow officers and military leaders to the highest levels of government,” she said.


RAID Element Deploys for Stand-Up Training

Guard Times Staff

STRAWTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE — New York’s newest Guard unit kicked off January in MOPP IV (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) at the live-agent areas at Fort McClellan, GA’s Chemical Defense Training Facility. The Alabama training included simulation of the possible “extreme” environmental conditions under which the 2nd Military Support Detachment (Rapid Assessment/Initial Detection) could operate during a “Weapons of Mass Destruction” incident.

It also set the unit on its way to Department of Defense validation, as the military’s primary emergency resource for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, following a terrorist attack — or a hazardous materials (HazMat) accident.

The 2nd Military Support Detachment (RAID) is one of 10 such units established last year across the country. These units are expected to be the “tip of the spear” for the emerging WMD threat. All began 1999 by starting a six-month “institutional training” phase. The institutional phase, during which the Guard members will acquire or refresh core common skills, includes intense training at all the major, chemical-biological Emergency First Responder centers in the United States.

The objective is full qualification and validation for nuclear, bacteriological, chemical or radiological incidents by January 2000.

That challenge allowed the 2nd MSD (RAID) to attract personnel from all branches of the Armed Forces, active and reserve component. Some even took off stripes to join, and several past up on lucrative civilian careers as well. Most took their oaths as members of the New York Army or Air National Guard around New Year’s Day 1999.

Many went almost directly from the enlistment ceremonies to full protective gear in the live-agent area. The McClellan facility is unique, and allowed the members to practice live nerve agent training, detection and reconnaissance missions. The Guard members also practiced full decontamination procedures, rather intensely, since live agents were present.

RAID members also trained on the Federal Response Plan, conventional HazMat operations, the Incident Command System used by the civilian Emergency Response agencies they’ll assist, and participated in a field training exercise wearing Level-A personal protective gear.

New York’s RAID team commander, Maj. Robert Domenici, was assigned as Incident Commander, coordinating a structure that consisted of actual Emergency Management System personnel, FBI agents, local police officers, and military support personnel from around the country. The scenario required the team to plan and conduct reconnaissance and detection missions for the possibility of live agents in a subway system, apartment building and a medical clinic (where residents had come suf

Members of the 2nd MSD (RAID) recently completed the National Fire Protection Association’s “Hazmat Incident Management Course.” NFPA instructors from Florida, Fire Chiefs Wayne Yoder (standing right) and John Tomaszewski (left) presented the two week course at the unit’s home at Stratton Air National Guard Base. Albany Fire Department Captains William R. Davis, Jr. (seated right) and L. Eric Harrington(left) joined the RAID commander, Maj. Robert Domenici (seated right) and other team members, as part of the unit’s mission to export their expertise to civilian emergency responders. The course was the second RAID training piece which drew Capital District first responders as participants. The unit also recently participated in a major Hazmat exercise with the Schenectady Hazmat team. Photo by Walt Wheeler.

The first day dealt primarily with the role of the state headquarters in supporting the new Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection Element and the Guard role under possible Weapons of Mass Destruction scenarios, as part of Homeland Defense.

On Saturday, Col. Steven Lloyd from the National Guard Bureau’s Surgeon’s Office presented the national perspective on the Army’s vision for the medical force and information on the Department of Defense Anthrax Vaccination Inoculation Program.

The unit’s motto “Fortune Favors the Bold,” guided the troops during their training. “The 2nd MSD (RAID) has accepted the challenge of emerging WMD threats head on,” said Domenici.

“It has and will lead the National Guard into the 21st Century as a relevant and ready force for the new millennium.”


Medical Conference Held

Guard Times Staff

LATHAM — The New York Army National Guard Army Medical Detachment team is held its third Annual State Surgeon’s Conference 23-25 April in Albany.

More than 60 medical professionals assigned to the state headquarters medical section and various commands throughout the state attended. These include doctors, dentists, physician’s assistants, nurses and other support personnel.

The purpose of the conference was to disseminate the latest medical information to the field practitioners. The state surgeon, Col. Walter Rivera, Chief of Surgery at the Albany Veterans Administration Hospital, and Deputy State Surgeon Col. Deborah Wheeling, Army Nurse Corps and civilian nurse administrator led the conference.

The conference tip off came from the Army Guard Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael Van Patten. Additional presentations came from Col. Paul Dutlie, Army Guard Chief of Staff, Ken Curley, the Director of the state headquarters Military Support office and Command Sgt. Major Don Bravely, state command sergeant major.

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Signal Troops Train at 'High Tech' Site

By James Joseph
Res Component Development Division
Tobyhanna Army Depot

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, PA - The High Tech Regional Training Site at the Tobyhanna Army Depot continues to support reserve component Annual Training from April through October, including 150 members of the New York Army National Guard.

Troops from the National Guard and Army reserve train on a variety of equipment at Tobyhanna, and learn to perform many different tasks on some of the Army's latest electronic gear through tailored training programs. For example, they learn to use, align and troubleshoot radio systems like the Single Channel Air and Ground Radio System (SINCgars). Tobyhanna's staff instructors are knowledgeable and experienced.

Members of Companies B and C, 230th Signal Battalion, from Yorkers and Orangeburg, were among the first to complete training on their assigned Multi-channel Communication System at locations throughout the base. The system is comprised of the AN/TRC 173, 174, 175 radio systems and the 138 Small Extension Node Switch. The troops task is to set up all the radio systems and link all five sites by line-of-sight antennas and fiber optic cables.

"The MCS is basically a communications relay station between combat units, such as artillery and infantry, and their headquarters," said Capt. Kim Ferrier, the commander of Company C. "We have radio, microwave, telephone and even voice tele­gram capability. Signal units like ours are the 'AT&T' of the Army," she said.

"The equipment can also be used if a city or region has a communications breakdown. We can provide links through a commercial telephone switch to fire, rescue, police and community leadership such as the governor," she added.

The troops take great care in setting up the antennas so they face one another precisely. Faulty signals result from improperly aligned antennas. The troops need to complete a site set up in three hours.

"The equipment allows us to monitor and diagnose failed links and to automatically re-route messages if necessary," said 1st Sgt. Ramiro Gomez. "The main telephone switch alone can handle 2,500 lines."

"Tobyhanna is an exceptional training facility," said Staff Sgt. Edward Hickman. "We are very pleased with the support from the depot's staff."

'Cav' Prep for Gunnery Test

Simulation Devices Lead to Weekend Training Success

By Staff Sgt. Tom O'Buckley
HQ 1st Battalion 101st Cavalry
FORT DIX, NJ - Every year, National Guard tank crews must complete gunnery qualification. The training begins and continues during weekend drills, and culminates at Annual Training with a live-fire gunnery qualification table on a full-scale range, with timed and scored main gun and machinegun engagements.

Tank Table IV is the first step in tank crew qualification and is performed during a weekend drill. The purpose is to test the crew on basic gunnery skills. The exercise can be "fired" with full sized ammunition, sub-caliber devices like a .50 caliber device mounted in the gun tube, or conducted "dry" with a "Thru-Sight" video system or with laser training like the Multiple Laser Engagement System, frequently used during tactical field exercises.

Company A of the 101st Cavalry, from Staten Island, performed this training at Fort Dix, N.J. in March. The unit used the AIMTEST 50 caliber in-bore device. The impact area at Fort Dix ranges are not large enough to support full sized armor piercing ammunition fired by tanks, so the sub-caliber device was substituted in order to give the entire crew a chance to practice loading, aiming and firing the tank's weapons.

Key to any successful range experience is the process of drawing equipment from a post's Unit Training Equipment Site. Alpha Company sent four soldiers to the NJ National Guard UTES on the Tuesday prior to the weekend of training, to inspect the vehicles that were going to be borrowed for training. The 101st keeps all of its tanks at Fort Drum. Any items found on the NJ vehicles that would render the tank non-mission-capable were repaired or a replacement vehicle was provided.

An advance team of six soldiers arrived at Fort Dix on Friday morning, to draw the vehicles, sign for the use of a range and barracks for the troops to sleep in. The previously inspected vehicles were ready, except one.

The range was a little less than perfect -- no required bore-sight or zero panels were present, but all else was operational. As the tanks were brought to the range, laser safety lenses were removed and the in-bore devices were fitted inside the breech of the M68A1 cannon.

Risk assessments were developed and posted and a tally sheet of each crew's firing results were readied. The main body of the company arrived at the barracks Friday evening at 2100 hours, and bedded down in order to get an early start on shooting the next morning.

The range became active with crews bore-sighting at 0700 hours on Saturday. Bore-sighting is the process of precisely aligning the tank's optics with the gun tube and machineguns at a target with a known range in order to get accurate hits. Due to the lack of bore-sight and zero panels, the crews substituted the range fan indicator panels for their required 1200-meter panel, and zeroed their weapons by firing at a sand berm at a 750-meter distance. The bore-sighting and zeroing process was briefly interrupted by two AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters that landed on the range to bore-sight their own weapons for training. Firing began at 1100 hours and continued until well past 2330 hours that night. All of the crews got a chance to fire at least once, and crews that needed a second run to qualify, did so. Turn-in of vehicles and equipment the next day went as planned, and the main body moved back to Home Station at 1400 hours on Sunday.

The next big training step is completion of Tank Table V, the machine gun qualification course. That will be done on the next drill. After that, Alpha Company tank crews will still need plenty of practice on the Conduct Of Fire Trainer and Abrams Full-crew Interactive Simulation Trainer at the armory, prior to the big event at Fort Drum in July. That is when the tankers of Headquarters Company and companies A and D will put everything together for Tank Table VIII -- the Crew Qualification course.

NY Tankers 'Fire Up'
Fort Knox and Fort Drum!
All in the Next Issue of Guard Times.
Liebner, George J. 0-8 HQ NYG 6
Mangieri, Robert 0-3 88th BDE 5
Dean, Guy 0-6 HQ NYG 5
Cohen, Peggy 0-2 88th BDE 5
Goodman, James E-8 105th ARW
Hemorrh, Lawrence E-5 4th BDE 5
Mangieri, Robert 0-3 88th BDE 5
McCallen, Jay E-8 105th ARW
McCauley, Jeremiah E-8 4th BDE 5
Nestel, Victor E-8 4th BDE 5
Polas, Ronald 0-3 88th BDE 1
Witt, Sidney E-6 105th ARW
Van Splinter, Robert E-9 105th BDE 5
New York Guard Recruiting Medals - 1998 Awards List

Other Awards

April 26-27: New Guard Days at the New York State Fair, Roosevelt Island.
May 2: 174th FW Combat Match Winners Announced
May 9: 174th FW Combat Match Awards
May 16: 174th FW Combat Match Awards
May 23: 174th FW Combat Match Awards
May 30: 174th FW Combat Match Awards

New Rank, New Man
By Lt. Col. Mike Waters

HANCOCK FIELD, SYRACUSE - The 174th Fighter Wing has a new top NCO on base. Theodore Mosely of Auburn was promoted to the rank of Command Chief Master Sergeant, the first ever for the Syracuse-based unit.

The Air Force recently established this rank to more closely align its enlisted structure with those of the other armed forces branches.

The new command chief master sergeant is a full-time member of the unit and began his career in 1979 as a communications/navigation maintenance technician. He reached the top of the regular enlisted ranks in 1993 when he was one of only nine individuals in the over 1000-member air wing to be selected for the rank of chief master sergeant. Mosely deployed twice with the 174th - during the Persian Gulf War and to Turkey to support Operation Northern Watch over Northern Iraq.

When the Air Force announced the creation of the new rank, Mosely was among five candidates for promotion. "The chief is a real professional. He knows the job and has superb personnel skills. His sincere interest in people convinced me he was the best person for the position," said wing commander Col. Robert Knauf, who selected Mosely.

In his new role, Mosely will serve as the commander's direct liaison with the enlisted force of the 174th Fighter Wing. "I hope, through good communication, to keep Col. Knauf well informed at all times on the workings and the morale of the more than 950 enlisted members of this great unit," said Mosely.

Combat Match Winners Announced

CAMP SMITH, PEECOSKILL - The winners of April's 20th Annual Adjutant General Combat Matches were announced in May.

Nearly 350 competitors, including almost 20 guests from out of state National Guard units, vied for marksman- ship honors in rifle, pistol and machinegun competition. It was the largest turn out on record.

Precison Combat Rifle
1st Place SPC Daly HHC 2-108th INF 216
2nd Place SSGT Reinhard 174th FW 214
3rd Place SGT Scott H&S Co 204th Engr 211

Excellence in Competition
1st Place SPC Daily HHC 2-108th INF 248
2nd Place SGT Lathop 174th FW 245
3rd Place SPC Lange Co B 1-69th INF 145

Individual Grand Aggregate
1st Place SGT Ruggiero, C. 174th FW 145
2nd Place CPT Rizzo 105th AGS 150
3rd Place SRA Dominguez 1-105th AGS 149

Light Machinegun Individual Aggregate
1st Place SGT Guglielmo 174th FW 110
2nd Place SGT Mchale 174th FW 105
3rd Place SGT Ceccarelli 174th FW 102

Heavy Machinegun Individual Aggregate
1st Place SFC Ceccarelli 174th FW 150
2nd Place SFC Guglielmo 174th FW 145
3rd Place SFC Mchale 174th FW 142

174th Fighter Wing
Family Program Volunteer Basic Training Workshop Held

By Pat Bradt
State Family Program Office

SYRACUSE—"Welcome everyone to our first State Family Program Volunteer Training Workshop," said Warrant Officer Vicky Tillman, State Family Program Coordinator to the combined group of Guard family and service members, who gathered in Syracuse to talk about family support.

The workshop was held at the 27th Brigade's Syracuse headquarters late in April. Former brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Brian Winter and the present commander, Col. Robert Schnurr helped kick the event off, by extending the invitation for the "much needed" and requested workshop on the fundamentals of the National Guard Family Program and unit Family Support Groups.

The response to the workshop was overwhelming. Nearly 60 volunteers and military members from the three major Army Guard commands, and five Air Guard bases came. The wife of the Adjutant General, Barbara Fenimore, was among the attendees. Carol Pritchard, wife of the 109th Airlift Wing commander, the commander of the 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation, Lt. Col. Michael Sweeney and his wife Ann, Maj. Richard Cote and his wife Lisa from the 1st Battalion 156th Field Artillery, and Assistant Personnel Officer for the Headquarters 42nd Infantry Division, Maj. Kristin Davis were also there.

Topics covered included "Guard 101" presented by Command Sergeant Major Don Brawley from state headquarters, who familiarized family members with Guard structure, ranks and military acronyms. His counterpart from the Air Guard, Senior Master Sergeant Robert Smolen spoke on New York's five Air Guard bases, their missions, structures, ranks and acronyms.

Chaplains Lt. Col. Richard Bower, from the 27th and Chaplain Doug Perry of the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry were guest speakers. Both chaplains had deployed for almost 9 months of duty in Croatia and Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Guard/Forge. They spoke of their experiences and of the relationships developed with the Family Program Office during their long deployments and of the role chaplains can and should have with unit family support groups.

Veteran Family Program instructors Allyson Cox and Harrison Stultz from the Maine National Guard were on hand to help lead the workshop. Their instruction on "Personality Profiles" (True Colors) are frequently requested by the Family Program Office expressed gratitude to the commander of the 27th Brigade for hosting and supporting the conference. Warrant Officer Tillman also thanked many volunteers and military members like Debbie Van Pelt, who prepared lodging and meals, and Monica Waskosky, who made handbooks. "Our Family Program Advisory Team made this workshop rewarding and successful for all," said Tillman.

Claudette Whitmore, Transition Manager, Navy Family Service Center, Saratoga Springs, made a presentation on the "Emotional Cycles of Deployment," as she has done in the past to both Army and Air National Guard Family Support Groups. Her background as a Navy spouse and manager of the Transition Program is helpful to Guard family members. She helped explain the emotional cycles the military member, spouse, and even children experience during times of parental separations.

Les Radford, Assistant Director of the State Emergency Management, spoke on Disaster Preparedness, and the Guard's role during state emergencies. Radford's presentation was timely given recent winter storms. He explained his agency's role and offered information on personal emergency preparations, and on how individuals and families can support the community.

The Family Program Office expressed gratitude to the commander of the 27th Brigade for hosting and supporting the conference. Warrant Officer Tillman also thanked many volunteers and military members like Debbie Van Pelt, who organized lodging and meals, and Monica Waskosky, who made handbooks. "Our Family Program Advisory Team made this workshop rewarding and successful for all," said Tillman.

From the Editor

This special issue of Guard Times is the largest edition ever produced and covers the period 1 March through 31 May, 1999. This is the first issue to feature digital photos and other computer design enhancements, that in the long run will help us to produce better and more timely issues.

Unfortunately, this issue was produced almost two months late, and unforeseen funding issues prevented the run will help us to produce better and more timely issues.

May, 1999. This is the first issue to feature digital photos made this workshop rewarding and successful for all," said Tillman.

Lt. Col. Paul Fanning