

Emergency Response

[About 24 states say they'll send National Guard troops to DC for vote certification and inauguration:](#)

Associated Press, November 4, 2024

New York Air National Guard

['Wild: Why The US Air Force LC-130 Takes Off With Rockets & Lands On Skis:](#)

Simple Flying.com, November 4, 2024

[New Commander of 106th Rescue Wing Embraces Challenges on the Horizon:](#)

27 East.com, November

[New helicopters added at 106th Rescue Wing :](#)

Suffolk Times, Nov., 6, 2024

[Stewart Air National Guard Base Fire Department leadership issued safety violations by state \(Video\):](#)

NewsChannel 12, November 4, 2024

New York Army National Guard

[NATO allies team up with 10th Mountain Division, National Guard for Warfighter Exercise:](#)

Army.mil, October 23, 2024

[National Guard Soldiers Train for Middle East Mission:](#)

NationalGuard.mil, and Army.mil, By Lt. Col. Jean Kratzer, Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division, November 7, 2024

[Palm Harbor man promoted to major general:](#)

Suncoast News, November 6, 2024

New York Guard

[Cornwall's Lecce honored by State for military service:](#)

Hudson Valley Times, Nov. 7, 2024

New York National Guard

[Trump's Pentagon overhaul: 8 policy changes he's expected to make:](#)

Politico, Nov. 6, 2024

[Commentary: Military service deserves our respect, not disparagement:](#)

Times Union, Nov. 4, 2024 :

Emergency Response

About 24 states say they'll send National Guard troops to DC for vote certification and inauguration

Associated Press, November 4, 2024:

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than two dozen states have indicated they would be willing to send National Guard troops to Washington if requested in the weeks following the presidential election and in the runup to the inauguration, Guard officials said Monday.

The District of Columbia has not yet made any formal requests for Guard troops, but officials across the government have been preparing for the possibility that the U.S. Capitol could once again be rocked by violence around the certification of the election by Congress on Jan. 6 and the inauguration two weeks later.

About 25,000 Guard troops from around the country flooded into Washington in the days after the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, riot, when thousands of supporters of then-President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol in an effort to prevent Congress from certifying Joe Biden's win.

The troops, along with local and federal law enforcement, locked down the city for the inauguration, securing the Capitol, monuments, Metro entrances and the perimeter of the central part of the city.

Speaking to reporters Monday, Col. Jean Paul Laurenceau, chief of future operations for the National Guard Bureau, said it is not yet clear how many Guard troops will be needed or requested this year. He said it will depend on what the District of Columbia wants, but he noted that the National Guard Bureau and the states are leaning forward in anticipation of a request for assistance.

When polls close in battleground states on Election Day

"We're here to support D.C. with sustainment, lodging, transportation — anything they need to prepare for this mission," he said.

Other officials have said it also will depend on intelligence reports assessing the potential threats to the city and the transition of power.

Fueling concerns about possible violence are Trump's claims — without proof — that cheating is already underway in the election. At rally after rally, he has told supporters that the only way he can lose is if Democrats cheat, and he has repeatedly refused to say whether he will accept the results regardless of the outcome.

Guard members have historically provided support for presidential inaugurations, going back to the one for President George Washington.

But the 2021 event involved an enormous response due to the riot on Jan. 6, which forced lawmakers to flee the Capitol, delaying the certification of the presidential vote for hours. In the days afterward, Guard forces poured into the city by the busload.

In 2021, a few states declined to send troops, also worried about violence within their own borders and capitals.

Defense officials said Monday that 10 states have activated state Guard members to assist for the election — primarily doing cybersecurity missions. The total number of troops is about 125.

In addition, nine states and the District of Columbia have put a total of about 120 Guard troops on standby, ready to deploy if needed on Tuesday or in the following days — also mostly for cyber missions and some security.

Those states are Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. Officials said those numbers could change on Election Day as states reassess their needs.

<https://apnews.com/article/election-2024-national-guard-troops-inauguration-7e7d48f45273106867f4d420f64a20a9>

[Return to top](#)

New York Air National Guard

'Wild: Why The US Air Force LC-130 Takes Off With Rockets & Lands On Skis

Simple Flying.com, November 4, 2024:

The C-130 Hercules family of tactical airlifters is the versatile workhorse of the United States military (along with many of the United States' allied militaries). The tactical airlifter is frequently the backbone of United States Air Force airborne logistics operations. The C-130 will continue to be a cornerstone for many years as older Hercules are replaced by the new Super Hercules. The Hercules is capable of many hat-tricks, including rocket-assisted take-offs.

The ubiquitous C-130 Hercules

Over the years, the C-130 has been used for various missions—from the AC-130J Ghost Rider gunship to the electronic warfare EC-130 Compass Call. Thousands of C-

130 Hercules aircraft have been produced. While it was originally designed as a troop, MEDEVAC, and cargo transport aircraft, it has found many other roles.

C-130 Hercules is used for weather reconnaissance, aerial refueling, maritime patrol, scientific research support, search and rescue, airborne assault, and more. They operate in the harshest of climates, from the baking deserts to the frozen poles.

It has been tested on and off aircraft carriers, and it is routinely fitted with skis and flown to the world's polar regions. Taking off in snow adds a large amount of resistance, and the aircraft often needs a helping hand to get airborne.

The C-130 is still serving the USAF after 69 years. A major reason for this longevity is the plane's amazing versatility.

The novel idea of rocket-assisted take off

Strapping rocket pods to aircraft to provide them with extra thrust to take off in a hurry (and even perform very short landings) is nothing new. The Soviets experimented with the idea in the 1920s, while the British and Germans experimented with it in World War II.

Aerojet 15-KS-1000 jet-Assisted-Take-Off units:

Number produced:Approx. 256,000

Thrust:1,000 lbs

Duration:15 seconds

Type:PROPULSION-Rocket Engines

Dimensions:2 feet 9 1/2 inches × 11 inches

Weight:60 lbs

Jet-assisted takeoff (JATO) or rocket-assisted takeoff (RATO) helps overloaded aircraft get airborne by adding extra thrust from small rockets.

The JATO units used by the US Air Force at the Aerojet 15-KS-1000 Jet-Assisted-Take-Off pods. Aerojet produced around 250,000 of these rockets. However, they have long been out of production, and the Air Force is running out of them. These fire for 15 seconds, each providing the aircraft an extra 1,000 pounds of thrust.

"Shown here is a smokeless Aerojet 15-KS-1000 Jet-Assisted-Take-Off (JATO) unit used to boost military and commercial aircraft. The motor produced 1,000 pounds of thrust for 15 seconds. Multiple units were used to lift bombers during the Korean

War. Approximately 256,000 of these motors were produced." National Air And Space Museum

Plan to land a Hercules in an Iranian stadium

In 1980, the US intended to use C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with rocket engines as part of Operational Credible Sport (an operation to rescue hostages taken by Iran following the revolution there). The rockets would have given the C-130s very short take-off and landing capabilities. The plan was to land the Hercules and then take off again from inside a stadium in the city of Tehran (located across the street from the US embassy).

Lockheed had planned to use 58 rocket pods on the C-130. One set would face forward to slow down the plane, another set would point down to decrease the descent rate, and a third set would

The plan was canceled after an accident when too many of the forward-facing rockets were fired while landing a test aircraft. This reduced its airspeed to near zero and caused the aircraft to crash land. While another aircraft was ready for the Iranian operation, the mission was canceled as the hostages were released through diplomacy.

How Does the C-130 Hercules Adapt To Various US Military Mission Types?

We've previously discussed the versatility of the C-130. Now we discuss *how* it adapts and demonstrates its versatility so readily.

Rarely used today

While the rocket pods are eye-catching and awe-inspiring, they have become less and less needed over time as engines have improved and become more powerful (as with the Super Hercules). However, there are still some instances where they are useful - such as ski-equipped Hercules operating from the snow (especially when operating in sticky snow).

As Real Engineering says, "Rocket-assisted take-offs were something that was incredibly useful for these older C-130s."

Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules:

Capacity:92 passengers or 64 airborne troops

Max take-off weight:155,000 lbs

Powerplant4 × Rolls-Royce AE 2100D3 turboprop engines

Max speed:417 mph

Cruise speed:400 mph

The older Hercules only had four blades on each propeller; this was later increased to six blades and finally to eight. Today, the Super Hercules comes with high-performance propellers and modern turboprop engines (meaning the Super Hercules rarely needs a helping hand). More powerful engines tend to have more and wider propellers. The change in performance primarily comes from a change in materials. The modern C-130 blades are also made of carbon fiber

NY Air National Guard's LC-130 Skibirds

Aerojet 15-KS-1000 Jet-Assisted-Take-Off pods are attached below and behind the wings of the LC-130 Skibirds in sets of four on both sides (for a total of 8 pods). The LC-130 is a ski-equipped variant in service with the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard. It is used in the Arctic and Antarctic. All LC-130 aircraft are operated by the NY Air National Guard and are based at the Air National Guard's facility at Schenectady County Airport. The 109th operates 10 LC-130s (seven of which are LC-130H-2s and three are LC-130H-3s)

The rocket pods were originally designed to be jettisonable, but this led to several accidents with the pod detaching from the aircraft during take-off. Mounting provisions have now been changed to that they are no longer released in the air.

<https://simpleflying.com/usaf-lc-130-take-off-rockets-land-skis/>

[Return to top](#)

New Commander of 106th Rescue Wing Embraces Challenges on the Horizon

27 East.com, November :

For the better part of the last 20 years, the United States has been the unipolar power on the world stage, doing essentially whatever it has wanted to do without any serious competition or challenge from another country.

Anyone who pays attention to the news and world politics knows that has changed, drastically, recently, with the rise in power and capability of countries like China, Russia and Iran.

That shifting dynamic has meant the United States military has had to proactively take steps to ensure it can continue to protect itself and its citizens, analyzing new ways of operating and training to prepare for the future.

It will require effort and coordination in all branches of the military, at all levels, and will be the primary focus for Colonel Jeffery Cannet, as he steps into a new role as commander of the Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, stationed at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach.

Cannet, 50, a Mastic Beach resident and graduate of William Floyd High School, officially took command of the 106th at the Air National Guard Base on Friday, November 1. The afternoon included a change-of-command ceremony in which the guidon, or flag, of the 106th Rescue Wing was transferred from the former commander, Colonel Shawn Fitzgerald of Cutchogue, to Cannet by Major General Michael Bank — the commander of the New York Air National Guard, who was the presiding officer for the ceremony — signifying the transfer of authority and responsibility for the wing's 1,000 airmen and its search and recovery mission. Cannet served as the 106th Operations Group commander before his promotion.

Fitzgerald retired after 28 years of service in both the Army and Air Force.

Cannet brings plenty of experience to his new role and a deep familiarity with and love for the 106th Rescue Wing. After spending eight years on active duty with the Air Force, he came over to the Air National Guard in 2000, and has been part of the 106th for more than 22 years. Most of his time in the wing has been spent in the operations group, mainly with the 102nd Rescue Squadron.

He said he has always admired Fitzgerald, and jumped at the chance to replace him when Fitzgerald announced his retirement.

"This wing is amazing," he said. "I've seen all the great things we can do and where we're going as an organization, and I wanted to be part of that."

In his new role, Cannet will be part of the military and Air Force's larger effort to facilitate the changes necessary in light of the emergence of world powers like China, Russia and Iran. Cannet likened this period in time to the Cold War, and explained how the Air Force and, by extension, the Air National Guard have a big role to play.

"One of the things that makes us dominant as a military is that we generally have air superiority," he said. "We've had the luxury of establishing dominance in the skies, and if we can control the skies, our ground forces can control the surface."

With a bigger challenge to that dominance from other nations in recent years, it has become incumbent on the military to ensure it can maintain that control, Cannet said.

"We have to find new, innovative ways to employ our force," he said, which involves planning for how to operate if and when the country goes to war. "It's really challenging us to rethink how we're going to go to war, how do we want to deploy."

Cannet said that higher-ups in the Air Force are still in the process of disseminating those newer ways of operating on down the chain of command, but when it comes to his unit of command, he said he expects that they will reconstitute into a deployable combat wing, which would represent a significant change in the way it is structured, making it more akin to an active duty Air Force unit. He said that guiding the rescue wing through what he termed a “massive overhaul” will likely be his biggest challenge in his new role.

That’s fine with Cannet, who, over the course of his career, has not shied away from a challenge. In 2017, Cannet piloted the rescue wing’s HC-130 aircraft on a trip roughly 1,700 miles out in the North Atlantic Ocean to locate the Slovenian freight ship Tamar. An explosion had occurred in the ship’s boiler room, leaving two sailors dead and two other badly injured and in need of immediate medical attention. Upon locating the ship, seven of the wing’s pararescue men and combat rescue officers jumped into the ocean, in the dark, clambered aboard the ship, and saved the lives of the two sailors. Once on board, the officers had to set up a full trauma room on board and employ advanced medical techniques to keep them alive for the next 36 hours, before a ship was able to arrive with a helicopter and take them to safety.

Cannet explained that the mission was high-risk, stretching the fuel capacity of the aircraft to its max. The ship was essentially in “no-man’s land,” Cannet said, meaning the 106th was the only unit that could even attempt the mission. He said when they first received the call, they were unsure if it would be possible to pull it off. He spoke about the planning and execution of the mission and what it meant to him and the rest of the unit.

“It was like looking for a needle in a haystack and it had to be done right the first time,” he said of the mission and the challenges it presented.

Cannet spoke about the big lesson he took away from being the mission commander on that harrowing rescue.

“If you empower people to do great things, they will accomplish great things,” he said. “If you lay the foundation, when the big, hard tasks come along, they will step up.

“I was very proud to be part of that one,” he continued, speaking about what pulling off a high risk mission does for the unit. “It’s a real shot in the arm. It’s what we live for, it’s what we do.”

He said that several of the men involved in the rescue that day have gotten periodic updates on the sailors they rescued, tracking them on social media.

“Those guys are living their best lives,” Cannet said. “They’re making the most of their second chance at life.”

Cannet received the Slovenian Medal for Merit from the Slovenian government for that mission.

Cannet is excited to keep doing the kind of work that will ensure the rescue unit is always prepared and ready for whatever comes its way, even in the face of big seismic shifts in the way the military will operate in this country and abroad. The key to it all, he said, comes down to the people in his command.

“If you have the right people, and you care for those people and develop and empower them, they’ll get it done every time,” he said. “We have some major changes coming, but we 100 percent have the people who can get this done. It’s going to be fun watching them excel and adapt.

“You won’t find better people in any other unit in the world,” he added.

<https://www.27east.com/southampton-press/new-commander-of-106th-rescue-wing-embraces-challenges-on-the-horizon-2305270/>

[Return to top](#)

New helicopters added at 106th Rescue Wing

Suffolk Times, Nov., 6, 2024 :

The 106th Rescue Wing held a conversion ceremony at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach recently to commemorate its transition to a fleet of brand new Pave Hawk helicopters. The ceremony celebrated the official conversion to the HH-60W Jolly Green II.

The 106th Rescue Wing is a unit of the New York Air National Guard. The primary mission of these helicopters is to conduct combat search and rescue operations to recover downed aircrew or other personnel in conflict zones. But the aircrafts are also essential to other operations, including civil search and rescue, emergency aeromedical evacuation, disaster relief, international aid and NASA space shuttle support. The new choppers join the recently added HC-130J Combat Kings, large cargo and transport planes already in use, making the 106th one of the Air National Guard’s most modern units.

During the ceremony the wing leadership honored Tech. Sgt. Michael Tessar, a West Islip resident, naming him the first dedicated crew chief for the HH-60Ws.

“As advancements in military aircraft technology continue, so too will the skills of myself and my fellow maintainers and aircrew,” Tech. Sgt. Tessar said. “It’s an exciting time to be a part of the Air National Guard, especially within the 106th, where

we are at the forefront of these innovations and ready to meet all challenges that lie ahead.”

[New helicopters added at 106th Rescue Wing - The Suffolk Times](#)

[Return to top](#)

Stewart Air National Guard Base Fire Department leadership issued safety violations by state (Video)

NewsChannel 12, November 4, 2024:

News 12 has obtained a violation notice by the New York State Department of Labor showing the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs was issued four serious citations in October for failing to properly train members.

Firefighters at Stewart Air National Guard Base are known to be called to duty throughout the tri-state area, but what the public may not know - until now - is that leadership has allegedly been cutting corners.

News 12 has obtained a violation notice by the New York State Department of Labor showing the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs was issued four serious citations in October for failing to properly train members.

The state found firefighters were given safety gear they weren't trained to use and that an inexperienced member was driving a fire truck when he got into an accident during a mutual aid call in the City of Newburgh last May. The Department of Labor also found members aren't getting initial or routine training that's required to be qualified for the job, putting firefighters at risk for "injury or death."

News 12 interviewed a Stewart ANGB Fire Department retiree about the violations. He asked to be kept anonymous for fear of retaliation by state officials.

"This is not a new problem. It's been happening throughout the years with many different managers mismanaging the program," says the retiree. "Management refuses to keep up the training and safety standards and threaten firefighters to close down the program if they don't tow the line and do whatever they're told."

News 12 reached out to the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs. A representative acknowledges the violations and says one has been fixed and the others will be resolved by mid-January.

The CSEA represents firefighters on base. Union President Jessica Ladlee says training is "vital to employee safety" and that she's confident the issues will be fixed.

<https://westchester.news12.com/stewart-air-national-guard-base-fire-department-leadership-issued-safety-violations-by-state>

[Return to top](#)

New York Army National Guard

NATO allies team up with 10th Mountain Division, National Guard for Warfighter Exercise

Army.mil, October 23, 2024:

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — “One team, one fight,” has been a mantra heard across the U.S. Army for years, which places an emphasis on the importance of partnerships and interoperability. During Warfighter Exercise 25-01, this statement spanned beyond the limits of internal teams and units throughout the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), headquartered at Fort Drum, New York and included NATO allies, as well as incorporated the 10th Mountain Division (LI) Main Command-Post Operational Detachment which is aligned to the New York National Guard.

WFX 25-01, conducted Oct. 9-18, 2024, at training areas across Fort Drum, validated the ability for the different countries and units to integrate and work together to complete mission sets within the exercise, which used real-life experience in a simulated environment.

“A warfighter exercise is focused on evaluating Army units’ ability to conduct large scale combat operations,” said Col. Michael P. Tumlin, 10th Mountain Division Artillery brigade commander. “The exercise is conducted in a simulated environment and is designed to stress Army corps and divisions ability to conduct combat operations against a peer adversary in a multi-domain operational environment.”

NATO Allies team up with 10th Mountain Division, National Guard to execute Warfighter Exercise at Fort Drum

Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division (LI) provided security, transportation, medical and life support to sustain the fight for the main and tactical command posts during the set-up, execution and recovery phases of the exercise.

“While the 10th Mountain Division (LI) is preparing for a Warfighter exercise, this division and our Soldiers are focused on war fighting,” Tumlin said. “This exercise is essential to train ourselves to fight and win in large-scale combat.”

Together, the NATO allies, 10th Mountain Division (LI), and MCP-OD tested their ability to conduct large scale combat operations with a focus on being able to quickly

break down, move and set-up division command elements to perform efficiently and effectively, without losing capabilities while reducing the potential of being detected.

The exercise trained Soldiers at all levels and put their skills to the test.

10th Mountain Division Conducts Warfighter 25-01

“When we deploy forward for an event like this, everyone gets to do what their job would be in combat,” said Lt. Col. Aaron Childers, the 10th Mountain Division (LI) chief of operations. “Regardless of what we do in our day-to-day jobs, this is a chance to do what the Army expects us to do if we were going to go fight and win somewhere overseas.”

The MCP-OD has a mission that focusses on augmenting active-duty division and corps staffs with Reserve or National Guard personnel, who brought not only the knowledge and skills from wearing a uniform, but also contributed to the exercise using experience and capabilities from their civilian careers.

“We are fortunate to have National Guard Soldiers integrated into our team. They are performing a wide variety of roles across our division staff,” said Tumlin. “Together, Active Duty and National Guard Soldiers, are focused on planning, preparing, executing and assessing operations to ensure the 10th Mountain Division (LI) is ready to fight tonight and win!”

10th Mountain Division Conducts Warfighter 25-01

The exercise provided an opportunity for Soldiers of all backgrounds to work with other countries and components of the U.S. Army to enhance skillsets and widen each participants knowledge base, seamlessly integrating while sharing lessons learned from past experiences.

“We’ve been welcomed into the division headquarters and every time I see the people in my section, it’s like reuniting and being a part of a group or like a family,” said Master Sgt. Steven B. Seidenstein, a senior enlisted member of the protection cell of the MCP-OD. “It’s a really positive experience and I’m really enjoying the opportunity to serve in this capacity.”

As 10th Mountain Division (LI) continues to build a team of teams, with NATO allies and the National Guard, it is postured for success for an upcoming war fighter exercise in January 2025 and a division in the dirt rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Johnson, Louisiana, where the division will see this exercise come to life.

“The 10th Mountain Division (LI) has a proud legacy of excellence in all we do,” Tumlin said. “This mindset was forged at our inception during World War II, as the

US Army's only elite Alpine unit, and is the most deployed division since 9/11. With that in mind, it is critical to deliberately prepare for our upcoming WFX in January."

One team, one fight! Climb to Glory!

https://www.army.mil/article/280792/nato_allies_team_up_with_10th_mountain_division_on_national_guard_for_warfighter_exercise

[Return to top](#)

National Guard Soldiers Train for Middle East Mission

NationalGuard.mil, and Army.mil, By Lt. Col. Jean Kratzer, Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division, November 7, 2024 :

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. - One hundred and fifty National Guard Soldiers from five states trained together at Fort Leavenworth Oct. 28-31 to prepare for the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters Middle East deployment next summer.

To train up for their stint serving as the headquarters for Task Force Spartan, the Army's 10,000-Soldier force in the region, the Guard Soldiers will be going through a division "Warfighter" training rotation.

The Soldiers, mainly officers and senior noncommissioned officers, came from New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Mississippi, and Ohio.

The 42nd Infantry Division's headquarters is part of the New York National Guard but has elements from the Northeast.

The week-long stint at Fort Leavenworth, the home of the Army's Command and General Staff College, covered the academic portion of that training.

Col. Andrew Couchman, the division's operations officer, said key officers and NCOs from the division's brigades went through the Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) to ensure they were up on the Army's latest warfighting doctrine.

He said the training enabled the Army's senior commanders to develop relevant expeditionary mission command instincts and skills.

Many of the division's Soldiers spent years of their careers fighting insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. Couchman said the Army is refocusing on facing large-scale combat with a conventional enemy.

MCTP's role in warfighters and command post exercises is to help shape the training to ensure the division's leaders meet their training objectives at a higher readiness level for the upcoming deployment.

Maj. Gen. Jack James, the 42nd Infantry Division's commander, praised the officers and noncommissioned officers for their hard work.

"First and foremost, I want to commend the team on such impressive efforts and acknowledge the great learning tools they have utilized this week," he said. "I am so impressed by every one of you; the team-building and positive relationships are growing amongst the staff."

The training prepared the division Soldiers for upcoming command post exercises and the final Warfighter exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

These exercises will include setting up communication systems, establishing three command posts, and ensuring mission command systems function and Soldiers know how to use them.

Command Sgt. Maj. Arnold Reyes, the division command sergeant major, said he was impressed by how everybody worked together at Leavenworth.

"This week during the academics, I watched everyone grow as a team, and I want to thank you for that; you are a winning team," he said.

Since 2017, the division headquarters has participated in division-level Warfighters, several command post exercises and multiple staff training exercises.

The 42nd Infantry Division is one of eight National Guard divisions and one of 18 U.S. Army divisions that provide fully manned, equipped, trained and expertly led units prepared to deploy and conduct unified land operations for combatant commanders.

In 2005, the division headquarters and support section deployed almost 4,500 Soldiers to Iraq, where the division commanded active Army and National Guard brigades north of Baghdad as part of Task Force Liberty.

In 2020, the division headquarters deployed to Kuwait, Jordan, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support Operation Spartan Shield, a 10,000-Soldier force from the Army, Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve. The 42nd Infantry Division headquarters provided command and control for the troops.

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article-View/Article/3959757/national-guard-soldiers-train-for-middle-east-mission/>

https://www.army.mil/article/281192/national_guard_soldiers_train_for_middle_east_mission
[Return to top](#)

Palm Harbor man promoted to major general

Suncoast News, November 6, 2024 :

PEEKSKILL, N.Y. — Jack James, a Palm Harbor resident, was promoted to the two-star rank of Major General in the New York Army National Guard during an Oct. 19 ceremony at Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill, N.Y.

James, a 1992 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, has been named the new commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, one of eight divisions in the Army National Guard.

The 42nd Infantry Division consists of 5,400 soldiers in the New York Army National Guard and 10,000 soldiers from other state National Guards. The division is headquartered in Troy, N.Y., near Albany.

James formerly served as the commander of the New York Army National Guard's 53rd Troop Command. He turned over command of that unit to Brig. Gen. Isabel Rivera Smith prior to his promotion ceremony.

James is an Army aviator who has served in several leadership and staff positions during his career.

https://www.suncoastnews.com/news/around-town-pinellas-news-briefs/article_112b0118-9a2e-11ef-8928-33ba809acc4b.html

[Return to top](#)

New York Guard

Cornwall's Lecce honored by State for military service

Hudson Valley Times, Nov. 7, 2024 :

On Saturday, Oct. 26, Cornwall's Felicia Lecce made her way to Fort Hamilton, in Brooklyn, for the annual Military Forces Ball, a joint military event, at which she

received a New York State Medal for Meritorious Service. It's the third highest award presented to New York's service members.

She was told prior to the event that she might be getting an award – but was surprised at what it was. Lecce was one of two people to receive the honor; Capt. John Boyce, someone she has known for a short while, also received it. “He’s a great guy,” she said.

She also was presented with her official certificate of retirement from the New York Guard. She retired as a lieutenant colonel.

She’s a Brooklyn native (but lived in Cornwall most of her life, “since first grade,” she recalls) who served in the U.S. Army for seven years (1977-1984) before being medically retired, and then served another 22 years volunteering with the New York Guard, for a total of 29 years in uniform. She was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a health systems specialist after her Army service. She retired from that job in April 2015.

She is glad to have served.

“My commitment is to our veterans, our military members, active and reserve, and their families,” Lecce’s Linked In profile reads. “My greatest love is for my family and those we serve. It was my privilege to serve in the VA and the New York Guard.”

Lecce is a member of Cornwall American Legion Post 353 in Cornwall, the Caste Point chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Military Forces Ball is typically held at West Point in December, she said, but was early this year.

<https://www.timeshudsonvalley.com/stories/cornwalls-lecce-honored-by-state-for-military-service,148204>

[Return to top](#)

New York National Guard

Trump’s Pentagon overhaul: 8 policy changes he’s expected to make

Politico, Nov. 6, 2024 :

Joe Biden’s first days in the Oval Office were spent undoing a number of Donald Trump’s most divisive changes at the Pentagon. Now, President-elect Trump is ready to do the same.

The full extent of Trump's plans for the Pentagon are not entirely clear after the former president defeated Vice President Kamala Harris. But he's likely to begin the process of reversing some of the policies Republicans have been gunning for — and reinstating some of his own from four years ago.

Trump's opponents are foremost concerned that he will politicize the military and use it domestically against his political opponents. Should he follow through on his rhetoric, that could spark a fight over reining in his authorities to deploy troops on U.S. shores.

Trump may quickly win applause from defense hawks and social conservatives by reinstating his administration's more restrictive policies on transgender people serving the military and scrapping initiatives aimed at helping troops access abortion.

He's expected to revive his proposal to change the paint scheme on the new Air Force One that is slated to be delivered during his term, as POLITICO first reported. And Trump is likely to revisit a decision on which state will host the headquarters for the U.S. Space Command, which he and Biden differed on.

Here's a rundown of the policies and issues Trump is most likely to change upon returning to the White House:

Troops on the homefront

Trump critics, and even some former officials who worked in his administration, are warning that the former president would wield the military for his own political gain after he called for the military to be used against "the enemy from within" the United States.

Indeed, Trump contemplated using the Insurrection Act to deploy active-duty troops against protesters late in his term. And if he continues his rhetoric, there will likely be attempts to reexamine the Insurrection Act and Posse Comitatus Act to rein in Trump's authority to use the military domestically.

Top lawmakers, such as Senate Armed Services Chair Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), have floated possible legislation. But efforts to limit Trump are unlikely to gain steam without Republican support.

Abortion travel policy

A Trump Pentagon is likely to roll back a Biden-era policy that allows troops to obtain leave and be reimbursed for the cost of traveling to seek abortions and other reproductive care. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin rolled out the policy in 2022 after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade's* national abortion protections. Biden administration officials reasoned that, with many women serving in states where

abortion care is now significantly limited or banned, facilitating access to abortion and other reproductive care helps maintain readiness.

But the policy sparked uproar among Republicans, who accused Biden of politicizing the military and skirting longstanding limits on federal funding for abortion — though the Justice Department advised the policy is legal.

Conservatives have pushed to block the policy in annual defense spending and policy bills, but haven't succeeded amid Democratic opposition. With Trump headed back to the White House, GOP lawmakers will count on him to simply end the policy.

Transgender troops and diversity efforts

Within a week of taking office, Biden signed an executive order repealing Trump's ban on transgender people serving openly in the military. Trump will likely restore the ban.

Transgender personnel began serving openly in the military in 2016 under an order from the Obama administration. But Trump announced in 2017 that he would reimpose the ban, angering LGBTQ advocates and Democrats.

"The United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military," Trump said in a post. "Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail."

Trump's ban prohibited transgender service members from serving in their identified gender and ordered the discharge of anyone diagnosed with gender dysphoria — severe anxiety some transgender people feel when their bodies don't align with their gender — while in uniform. The move set off a flurry of lawsuits against the administration and any repeat is expected to do the same.

Conservatives in the House are fond of blasting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at the Pentagon as distracting from its core mission — and under a Trump presidency, they're likely to be curbed or ended entirely.

In 2020, Trump signed an executive order extending a ban on race- and sex-based discrimination training to the military, federal contractors, and grant recipients. This expanded an White House Office of Management and Budget memo directing federal agencies to cancel programs on topics such as "white privilege" and "critical race theory," which attributes racial inequality to systemic power structures.

Trump agreed when asked at a rally in October whether he would create a task force to monitor what an audience member called "woke generals."

Confederate base names

Trump also recently cracked the door to reversing efforts to remove the names of Confederate leaders from military bases, which was pushed through over his objections in the final days of his first term.

On a campaign stop in North Carolina in October, Trump said he would restore Fort Liberty's original name, Fort Bragg, sparking a backlash from lawmakers in both parties who say they would fight back if he followed through as president. Trump said that renaming the base, which previously honored Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg was "rewriting history" and he pledged to reverse it.

Nine Army bases that previously honored Confederate leaders were renamed under a process established by Congress, which they passed in 2021 over Trump's veto. It's unclear if Trump would try to expand his push to the other renamed installations.

Though he'd face opposition from lawmakers if he follows through, Trump could still make good on the pledge. That's because the executive branch, through the Defense Department and the military services, controls the naming of bases.

Troops in Europe

Trump may also look to move U.S. troops around Europe, or pull them entirely. Trump pushed to move 12,000 troops out of Germany in 2020, repositioning roughly half of them around the continent and bringing the other half back to the U.S. But that proposal was rebuffed by Congress.

Still, Trump hasn't let up in his complaints that certain NATO allies don't spend enough on their own defense, and could use U.S. troops as leverage to extract more concessions.

But there's also bipartisan support for ratcheting up U.S. presence in Eastern Europe, where American troops can better train with countries that are concerned about Russian aggression. Many of those countries spend larger percentages of their GDP on defense, which could be an attractive option for Trump.

Space Command headquarters

Trump is expected to send U.S. Space Command to Alabama, which is where he wanted it before President Joe Biden reversed course and decided to keep it in Colorado.

The command, which is responsible for managing military space assets and satellite defense, was re-established in 2019, prompting the search for a permanent location. Near the end of Trump's term, the Pentagon announced it would move to Alabama's Redstone Arsenal, a decision Trump later claimed he personally influenced.

The yearslong dispute has drawn in members of Colorado and Alabama congressional delegations from both parties, with the states accusing the other and both administrations of playing politics by rewarding a state that voted for them in 2020.

Alabama lawmakers have been counting on a Trump win to realize his original decision to move Space Command from its temporary headquarters in Colorado Springs to Huntsville.

“Trump’s gonna be there. He’s going to enforce what the secretary of the Air Force said under his administration and the secretary of the Air Force said under Biden’s administration,” House Armed Services Chair Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) predicted last year. “That is, Huntsville won the competition ... and that’s where it should be and that’s where he’s going to build it.”

It’s been a grinding fight for both states, so expect the Coloradans to raise hell.

“The cement is hardening on Space Command in Colorado, that’s all I can say,” Rep. Jason Crow (D-Colo.) said in an interview. “It is at full operational capability and moving it would be pretty disastrous for our national security mission, so we’ve been moving forward.”

Space National Guard

Trump in August separately pledged to create a Space National Guard, a proposal favored by Guard leaders and officials from a handful of states to provide part-time personnel to the Space Force. It’s a move the Biden administration opposes as needlessly expensive and bureaucratic.

Congress would need to approve the reorganization, which would shift units that perform space missions that are now part of the Air National Guard. Biden’s Pentagon has proposed simply transferring space units from the Air Guard to the Space Force without creating a new branch of the National Guard, a move officials argue is the cheapest and least bureaucratic way to align space personnel.

Lawmakers, however, are split on how to proceed. The House has previously endorsed creating a Space National Guard while the Senate has sided with the Biden administration. Trump could shift the debate in favor of a new Space Guard, in the same way his support for a Space Force helped create the newest branch of the military during his first term.

Air Force One colors

Trump will also get another crack at changing the color scheme of the next Air Force One, a proposal that Biden reversed but that the former president would likely redo if he returns to the White House.

Trump pushed to change the colors of the Boeing-made planes to his preferred red, white and dark blue, similar to the pattern on his private plane.

After POLITICO first reported in 2022 that Trump's preferred design would contribute to excessive temperatures and require expensive modifications to cool components, Biden scrapped the plans, reverting to the traditional light blue and white design

This year, a former senior Trump White House official predicted the former president would "absolutely" change it back.

There's still time for Trump to order a change in the paint scheme to the two Boeing 747-8s that the Air Force is set to receive in 2026 and 2027, but doing so could incur even more costs and delays to a program that is already over budget and past schedule.

Due to the fixed-price contract, Boeing would eat the extra cost. The firm signed a \$3.9 billion contract in 2018 for two new presidential aircraft as Trump personally got involved to push down the price. The program is already more than \$2 billion over budget.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/11/06/trump-pentagon-defense-abortion-policy-00187836>

[Return to top](#)

Commentary: Military service deserves our respect, not disparagement

Times Union, Nov. 4, 2024 ::

Note: this column mentions the New York National Guard. The author was Gov. George Pataki's Chief of Staff

People who choose to serve put the needs of others ahead of their own needs and safety. Honoring their sacrifice is part of America's identity.

By Bill Howard

As the 2024 presidential election season concludes, and at a time when the fires of war and conflict are raging throughout the world, I've been thinking of a lunch I had 16 years ago.

I was dining with a former adjutant general of New York state, who also served as the wartime commanding general of the 42nd Infantry Division of the New York Army National Guard. In my public career, I had worked with the general and helped

coordinate military operations, both foreign and domestic. I was impressed with the general's dedication to his troops, and to the service of the state and nation during difficult times.

I brought a friend from my new job to the lunch, and we all sat together, discussing the challenges we had faced, tragedies we had suffered and the satisfaction we had felt from a job well done. We touched on the response to 9/11, the National Guard deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, and the response to various floods and snowstorms. When lunch was over and I was walking back to the car, my friend stopped and said, "I've never been part of anything like that. I've never been around people who talked so much about helping people."

That innocent comment has stuck with me for years: the observation that the military, at least the citizen-soldiers of the New York National Guard, are there to help.

It is for this reason that I have struggled to understand the disparaging comments about the men and women of the military repeatedly made, on record and by attribution, by former President Donald Trump.

At other times in history, military service and sacrifice were honored and revered by American presidents. Abraham Lincoln referred to a soldier's sacrifice as "the last full measure of devotion." Like those few who have been recognized with the Congressional Medal of Honor for their service – a medal that President Trump has derided – service in the military is fundamentally about sacrifice. It is about providing service to the whole – to our people and our nation, over self, or over self-preserving interests.

That is, in essence, the piece that is missing from President Trump's understanding of the world and the military: the impulse to value the needs of others over your own.

The men and women of the American military are a special breed. While others go through their daily lives, it is the men and women of the military who put their daily concerns aside and serve. Often that service is uneventful and routine; other times it is lifesaving and essential. Sometimes it involves giving as much as you can, in service of war or disaster relief. Sometimes it involves giving everything you have, and results in death or disability. Those who serve accept those risks; most of us do not. We benefit from the selfless service of others. To those who do serve, we owe respect, and we should expect that from our political and government leaders as well.

Perhaps President Trump simply does not understand the notion of sacrifice and cannot accept the idea that someone would give of themselves in the interest of others. There is no transactional value. There is no photo op moment in standing before those who have lost arms or legs or who have been disfigured. Their tales of sacrifice can be inspiring, but their reality can be ugly. Sacrifice can mean death, or it can mean hideous wounds and disability that wreck body and mind. It can be easy to

turn away if you cannot comprehend it. It can be easy to dismiss such things if you cannot imagine them personally and understand why soldiers accept these risks as part of their burden of service.

“I’ve never been part of anything like that. I’ve never been around people who talked so much about helping people.” That’s what she said, and that is what it is all about. Service, dedication, and the risk that in achieving those things, one might lose everything.

November is a time to remember veterans, a time to recall Lincoln’s Gettysburg speech back in 1863, and a time to make your voice heard at the ballot box. It is a time to honor the legacy of our great nation, cherish democracy and rededicate ourselves to those serving it.

Bill Howard lives in Delmar.

<https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/commentary-military-service-deserves-respect-19882648.php>

[Return to top](#)
