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Military Museum

“From New York to the Nuclear Navy” Opens June 29 at State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs: Exhibit Tracks the History of the Nuclear Navy In New York

Saratoga Today, June 27,2024:

SARATOGA SPRINGS — A new exhibit at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs highlights the history of the U.S. Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and the contributions to the advancement of the program made in New York.

The exhibit provides an immersive experience that includes over 60 artifacts from across the program, kids activities and QR codes that provide a portal to films, presentations and websites with additional information.

Titled “From New York to the Nuclear Navy,” the exhibition was developed in a collaboration between the Naval Nuclear Laboratory, Naval Reactors, the USS Nautilus Museum in Groton, Connecticut and the New York State Military Museum.

To celebrate the opening of the exhibit to the public there will be ice cream, a brass band, activities for children, and representatives from the U.S. Navy and Naval Nuclear Laboratory personnel on hand from 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Saturday June 29.

Founded in 1948 by Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) has total responsibility for all aspects of the Navy’s nuclear propulsion, including research, design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance, and ultimate disposition of naval nuclear propulsion plants. The program’s responsibility includes all related facilities, radiological controls, environmental safety, and health matters, as well as selection, training and assignment of personnel.

Since the very beginning, New York State has played an important role in the program; from the first contract signed in 1946 with General Electric in Schenectady to design and develop prototype nuclear propulsion systems to today and the advanced design work performed at the Knolls Laboratory in Niskayuna and the nuclear operator training occurring at the Kenneth A. Kesselring Site in West Milton.

The exhibit will include over sixty artifacts highlighting the history of the program and celebrating the contributions of the Naval Nuclear Laboratory sites, including the keel plate from the Hortonsphere at the Kenneth A. Kesselring Site and a 3D printed model of a submarine’s nuclear propulsion system.

The museum, maintained by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, is open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is free.

For more information on the Museum visit: <https://museum.dmna.ny.gov>

<https://saratogatodaynewspaper.com/home/item/22282-from-new-york-to-the-nuclear-navy-opens-june-29-at-state-military-museum-in-saratoga-springs-exhibit-tracks-the-history-of-the-nuclear-navy-in-new-york>

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New York Air National Guard

Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers to headline New York State's Fourth of July Celebration at Empire State Plaza

Spotlight News, June 27, 2024:

Let Freedom Ring and the Mandolin Rain

ALBANY — May it only be his piano raining over the Empire State Plaza as Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers headline the state's 48th Independence Day celebration on Thursday, July 4.

The July 4 event promises to be an unforgettable experience, kicking off at 5 p.m. with attractions including a naturalization ceremony and a flyover by the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing.

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy expressed her excitement about the upcoming celebration, highlighting the longstanding partnership with Price Chopper/Market 32 in bringing together communities across the Capital District.

"The Plaza is a wonderful place to gather with family and friends on Independence Day," Moy said. She added that the event is considered the cornerstone of the area's Fourth of July festivities, promising an evening filled with music, food, and a dazzling fireworks display. "We invite everyone to join us for a night of family-friendly activities, a naturalization ceremony, and a special performance by Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers."

Blaine Bringhurst, President of Price Chopper/Market 32, shared his enthusiasm for the event, emphasizing the company's pride in presenting the spectacular fireworks display.

"We're thrilled to continue our tradition of celebrating our nation's independence," Bringhurst stated. "It's a time to come together with loved ones, enjoy great music and food, and honor those who have served."

Bruce Hornsby, a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Williamsburg, VA, has had a storied career, first gaining widespread recognition in the mid-1980s as the frontman of Bruce Hornsby and the Range. The band's debut album, "The Way It Is," featured the eponymous hit single that topped the American music charts. The album's success was bolstered by other hits like "Mandolin Rain" and "Every Little Kiss."

He has since established himself through an eclectic musical style, seamlessly blending rock, jazz, bluegrass, and classical elements. His piano proficiency and distinctive, narrative songwriting have earned him critical acclaim and a devoted fan base. His ability to cross genre boundaries has kept his sound fresh and innovative throughout his career.

A hallmark of Hornsby's career is his extensive collaboration with other artists. From 1988 to 1995, he frequently performed and recorded with the Grateful Dead, contributing his keyboard skills and unique musical perspective to the band. He has also collaborated with a diverse array of musicians, including Bonnie Raitt, Bob Dylan, Don Henley, and many others. These collaborations highlight his versatility and influence across different music genres.

Hornsby's contributions to music have been recognized with several prestigious awards. He won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1987 and has received multiple Grammy nominations throughout his career.

The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, is renowned for its unique and critical mission capabilities. Specializing in polar operations, the 109th Airlift Wing is the only unit in the world equipped with ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules aircraft, enabling them to perform airlift missions in extreme arctic and antarctic environments.

The air unit primarily supports scientific research by providing essential airlift support to the National Science Foundation's research activities in Antarctica and Greenland. Their missions include transporting personnel, supplies, and equipment to and from remote polar locations, where conventional aircraft cannot operate due to harsh weather and terrain conditions.

Its fleet of LC-130 Hercules aircraft is specially modified with skis for landing on snow and ice, a feature that allows them to access otherwise inaccessible areas. These aircraft are crucial for ensuring the continuity of scientific operations in some of the most challenging environments on Earth.

For more information, visit empirestateplaza.ny.gov, follow @EmpireStatePlaza on Facebook, and @Plazaevents on Instagram, or call (518) 474-4759.

<https://spotlightnews.com/thespot/music/2024/06/27/bruce-hornsby-the-noisemakers-to-headline-new-york-states-fourth-of-july-celebration-at-empire-state-plaza/>

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Guardsman named National Capital Region Air Defender of the Year

Rome Sentinel, June 26, 2024 :

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND — A New York Air National Guard Airman who lives in Alexandria, Virginia, has been named the National Capital Region Air Defender of the Year by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance.

Master Sgt. Kendrick O. Wilburn, the noncommissioned officer in charge of capabilities and requirements for the 223rd Air Defense Squadron, received the award recently during a ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Wilburn was one of 20 Air Force and Army personnel recognized at the ceremony by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, a non-profit organization that advocates for the development and deployment of missile defenses for the United States and its allies.

The 223rd is a component of the New York Air National Guard's Eastern Air Defense Sector and the 224th Air Defense Group, based in Rome. The Eastern Air Defense Sector, known as EADS, is part of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and is responsible for the air defense of the United States east of the Mississippi.

EADS is also responsible for the defense of the National Capital Region.

The 224th Air Defense Group is a wing equivalent command which provides the airmen to conduct the mission.

"Being named the best air defender in the Washington, D.C. area is a remarkable accomplishment, and I congratulate Master Sgt. Wilburn on this achievement," said Col. Jennifer L. King, 224th Air Defense Group commander.

"The 223rd Air Defense Squadron plays a critical role in the National Capital Region's air defense and it is extremely gratifying to have an outside organization recognize Master Sgt. Wilburn's contributions to that mission," King said.

Wilburn earned the award for his leadership, technical expertise and organizational abilities. Among the accomplishments noted by the alliance were orchestrating Air Combat Command and Air Forces Northern technical conferences, establishing operational and maintenance priorities for a new \$16 million camera and surveillance system, and leading 23 tests and developmental events.

Wilburn's instructional skills were also noteworthy. He trained and certified 95 Army National Guard soldiers for deployment and organized fitness and mental health initiatives.

The 224th Air Defense Group has several squadrons and detachments. The 224th ADS, the 224th Support Squadron, the 224th Security Forces Squadron and a Royal Canadian Air Force detachment serve in Rome. Two geographically separated units, the 223rd ADS and the National Capital Region Coordination Center detachment, serve in the Washington, D.C. area.

For more information about the New York Air National Guard, visit www.dmna.ny.gov. For more information on the Eastern Air Defense Sector and the 224th Air Defense Group, visit www.eads.ang.af.mil.

https://www.romesentinel.com/news/state-and-nation/guardsman-named-national-capital-region-air-defender-of-the-year/article_dab86bf0-32f6-11ef-8eb2-6bc840171a0a.html

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Colonel takes command of 224th Air Defense Group

Rome Sentinel, June 26, 2024 :

ROME — Col. Jennifer L. King is the new commander of the 224th Air Defense Group in Rome.

King, of Prospect, took command from Col. Steven H. Rathmell, who is retiring after 30 years of service. The ceremony took place recently at the Eastern Air Defense Sector on the Griffiss Business and Technology Park.

Brig. Gen. Michael W. Bank, the New York Air National Guard commander, was the ceremony's presiding officer.

The 224th Air Defense Group is comprised of the 224th Air Defense Squadron, 224th Support Squadron, and the 224th Security Forces Squadron located in Rome, and Detachment 1 and Detachment 2 that serve in the Washington, D.C. area. The 224th ADG provides the forces to conduct the EADS' mission.

King joined the Air Force in 2003. After completing air battle manager training at Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) in Florida, she served with the 965th Air Control Squadron at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, where she was an air weapons officer, air surveillance officer, flight scheduler, and surveillance flight commander. In 2009, King

returned to Tyndall AFB as a member of the 325th Air Control Squadron, where she was an instructor air battle manager, and operations training officer.

King joined the New York Air National Guard in 2011 and was assigned to EADS where she has served as an air weapons officer, senior director, mission crew commander, flight commander, operations director and joint interface control officer. As the JCCO, King worked in the Air Force Command and Control Requirements Office, where she managed advanced sensor integration, integrated fire control, and joint combat identification projects.

Prior to taking command of the ADG, King was the 224th Air Defense Squadron commander.

https://www.romesentinel.com/news/rome-eastern-air-defense-sector-224th-air-defense-group-commander-eads/article_3722e41a-3315-11ef-8426-b74f25e835cb.html

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106th Rescue Wing gets its first Jolly Green helicopter

Stars and Stripes, June 23, 2024 ::

A new era has begun for the 106th Rescue Wing: The HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopter has arrived.

The Wing accepted its first Jolly Green landed last week at the Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., the base said in a news release. It is the first step in the transition from the HH-60G Pave Hawk, according to Col. Shawn Fitzgerald, the 106th Rescue Wing commander.

“We are very excited all around, and I am so happy to be a part of it and see it happen,” Fitzgerald said.

The crew that delivered the aircraft from Moody Air Force Base in Georgia included two HH-60W instructor pilots, a special missions aviator and two HH-60 crew chiefs from the 106th Rescue Wing.

Maintainers from the 106th have already begun their qualifications training, and the first two air crew members are currently at training receiving their qualifications, said Lt. Col. Matthew Forbes, the 101st Rescue Squadron commander.

The next-generation Jolly Green II, based on the HH-60M Black Hawk frame, comes with a larger fuel capacity for longer range and better threat detection and

countermeasures, according to the Air Force. It can carry two pilots, two gunners, two paramedics and two litters; the fuselage can be mounted on either side with .50-caliber and 7.62 mm machine guns, according to a September 2021 report on the Air Force Technology website.

The aircraft is also equipped with over-the-horizon tactical data receivers that enable the helicopter to receive near real-time mission and threat update information, enhancing mission effectiveness.

The Air Force announced the Pave Hawk's retirement in 2010 and began development of the Jolly Green II in June 2014 with a \$1.2 billion contract to Sikorsky and Lockheed Martin, according to Air Force Technology.

The Air Force began phasing out the Pave Hawks in 2022, and the Jolly Green II made its first operational flight that September when one flew a patient from Valdosta, Ga., to Tampa, Fla.

The name Jolly Green II pays homage to the Sikorsky HH-3E, nicknamed the "Jolly Green Giant" due to its size and color, which set the precedent for current Air Force combat rescue crews, according to the service.

The 106th Rescue Wing is home to a special warfare squadron with pararescuemen and combat rescue officers, specializing in rescue and recovery, and deploys for domestic and overseas operations.

https://www.stripes.com/branches/air_force/2024-06-23/106th-rescue-wing-jolly-green-14273463.html

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106th Rescue Wing Receives New Search and Rescue Helicopter

Nationalguard.mil, by Senior Airman Sarah McKernan, 106th Rescue Wing June 24, 2024 ::

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. - The 106th Rescue Wing's first HH-60W Jolly Green II search and rescue helicopter touched down at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base June 20.

Col. Shawn Fitzgerald, the 106th Rescue Wing commander, said the arrival of the new helicopter marks the beginning of a new era as the 106th transitions from the HH-60G Pave Hawk to the latest rescue helicopter.

Lt. Col. Matthew Forbes, the 101st Rescue Squadron commander, said the current “Golf” models have served the wing since 1990.

“We are very excited all around and I am so happy to be a part of it and see it happen,” Fitzgerald said.

The crew that ferried the aircraft from Moody Air Force Base in Georgia to Gabreski included two HH-60W instructor pilots, a special missions aviator, and two HH-60 crew chiefs from the 106th Rescue Wing.

Master Sgt. Jordan Butler, an HH-60 crew chief, said the 106th crew chiefs met with their maintenance counterparts at Moody and thoroughly checked the aircraft before heading to Gabreski.

“It’s awesome being a part of the team to bring our first ‘Whiskey’ home; knowing that it’s the first of a new era for the wing is exciting,” said Butler. “It’s difficult to go from something that you’ve worked on for 12 years, but a lot of the aircraft is similar, so learning the subtleties and nuances is going to be challenging, but I’m excited to begin the transition.”

According to Forbes, maintainers from the 106th have already begun their qualifications training, with the first two aircrew members receiving their qualifications.

“I’m excited to have the opportunity to work on the new airframe,” said Senior Airman Ryan Brandon, an HH-60 crew chief. “I’m looking forward to the upcoming challenges as we learn to work and maintain these aircraft.”

Forbes said the HH-60W features improved turn performance, increased hover-at-altitude capabilities, larger cabin space, and an internal fuel system.

“From a pilot’s perspective, the biggest difference is the avionics package,” said Forbes.

“You’re going from a federated cockpit to a fully integrated cockpit. There are a lot of upgrades that make us more survivable in major combat operations,” he said.

According to the Lockheed Martin website, the upgraded HH-60W avionics suite includes an integrated mission system with fully integrated cockpit and cabin displays. Weapons are mounted externally for increased cabin space and cabin and cockpit armor is improved.

With over-the-horizon tactical data receivers, the aircraft receives near real-time mission and threat update information.

“It’s an exciting time to be at the unit and get to see and work with the newest available combat search and rescue helicopter,” Forbes said.

The 106th will fully transition to the new model by June 2025, when the base receives its sixth HH-60W.

The 106th Rescue Wing, based at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, operates and maintains the HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft and the HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopter. The 106th Rescue Wing is home to a special warfare squadron with pararescuemen and combat rescue officers, specializing in rescue and recovery, and deploys for domestic and overseas operations.

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article-View/Article/3814491/106th-rescue-wing-receives-new-search-and-rescue-helicopter/>

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New York Army National Guard

Duty Calls:Army birthday celebration turns into awards ceremony

Times Union, June 23, 2024 ::

A 249th Army birthday celebration turned into an awards ceremony for two Capital Region residents.

Col. Richard Goldenberg of Schuylerville, an Iraq War veteran, received a Legion of Merit Medal and a New York State Conspicuous Service Medal in recognition of his 36 years of exemplary military service before retirement.

Retired Army 1st Sgt. Raymond Manley of Malta, a highly decorated Vietnam War veteran, received a newly created New York State Vietnam War Commemorative Medal.

Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, state adjutant general, presented the medals during a ceremony at the Army birthday celebration at New York National Guard Headquarters in Latham on June 14.

Goldenberg, 59, and a Pvt. Charles Adams, 18, of Spencerport, Monroe County, who hasn't been to basic training yet, teamed up to mark the Army's 249th year by using a cavalry saber to cut the Army birthday cake. The Association of the United States Army donated the saber.

After Adams graduates from Spencerport High School he'll report for Basic Combat Training in August. After graduation from Advanced Individual Training he will be assigned to the New York Army National Guard's Company E, 427th Support Battalion. Adams, as the youngest soldier present, represents the future of the Army, and Goldenberg, one of the oldest soldiers in the room, represents the history and traditions of the Army, according to Eric Durr, spokesman for the state Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Shields praised Goldenberg and Manley for their service and Adams for his decision to join the Army National Guard.

"Today we are recognizing service to our state and nation dating from the Vietnam War to the present," Shields said during the ceremony. "Private. Adams represents our future."

This year's Army birthday observation was unusual because it included the recognition of a long time New York National Guard civilian employee for his service during the Vietnam War, and Goldenberg's retirement ceremony, said Durr.

The state Legislature recently enacted legislation to honor New York's Vietnam War veterans with this new commemorative medal, which was created and is being distributed to eligible veterans by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Manley, a retired Army National Guard first sergeant and National Guard civilian employee, was a draftee who served in Vietnam as an Army Spec. 5 crew chief on board UH-1 Huey helicopters. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross with the V device for valor and an Air Medal with the valor device for rescuing two aircrews that had been forced down by enemy action. He earned those medals while under heavy enemy fire.

After Goldenberg enlisted in the Army in 1986 he served as an Army aviator in the 7th Infantry and 10th Mountain Division's, before transferring to the Army National Guard in 1998. He was commissioned in 1988 as an aviation officer through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Northeastern University in Boston.

While assigned to the 75th Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division he served as an aeroscout platoon leader, flight operations officer, assistant operations officer, personnel officer, and reconnaissance troop commander. While assigned to the 10th Mountain Division he served as the force modernization officer for the fielding of the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters.

In January 1998, Goldenberg became the 42nd Infantry Division's public affairs officer. In that role, and as a full-time employee in the New York National Guard public affairs office, he coordinated press coverage for ice storms, snowstorms, and the New York National Guard response to the World Trade Center. In 2004 he

deployed to Iraq as the public affairs officer for Task Force Liberty, a 23,000- soldier force in four Iraqi provinces.

As the New York National Guard Public Affairs officer, he also has been part of the response to Superstorm Sandy in 2012, Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, and the pandemic in 2020-22. During that response, he served as the public affairs officer for the dual status commander in New York City.

Goldenberg has also earned a Bronze Star, a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, a Humanitarian Service Medal, a New York State Defense of Liberty Medal with World Trade Center Device, a New York State Physical Fitness Excellence Ribbon, an Army Aviator Badge, a Parachutist Badge and an Air Assault Badge.

New unit

New York Army National Guard has a new 195-soldier unit based at the Kingston Armory, Kingston. The 42nd Infantry Division's new 42nd Division Artillery is a headquarters that controls the artillery fire missions of the division's 54 artillery pieces and supporting rockets and missiles.

Col. Marc Lindeman commands the 42nd Division Artillery soldiers. The division is headquartered in Troy and has units across New York and would also command National Guard units from across the northeast during wartime. The Division Artillery is a headquarters whose mission is to coordinate the fire of all artillery units assigned to an Army division.

One of the division's several artillery battalions is the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery in New York state. Lindemann previously commanded that battalion.

Revolutionary War veterans sign

A ceremony to commemorate a sign honoring veterans of the Revolutionary War at Grenell Cemetery on Grenell Road, Milton, will be held by the town of Milton's 250th Revolutionary War Committee at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 29. The color guard of the Saratoga Battle Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will execute a musket fire salute. They'll be wearing Revolutionary War uniforms.

For more information contact Naval Militia Maj. Michael Golden at mgolden1775@gmail.com

Sons of the American Revolution are descendants of heroes. They honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country, according to Gordon.

News of your soldiers and units can be sent to Duty Calls, Terry Brown, Times Union, Box 15000, Albany, NY 12212 or by e-mail at brownt@timesunion.com.

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/army-birthday-celebration-turns-awards-ceremony-19525497.php>

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New York Army Guard Medics Train to Become PAs and Officers

NationalGuard.mil, and Army.mil, June 25, 2024 :

WEST POINT, N.Y. - Two New York Army Guard medics are now officers and physician assistants after completing an intensive 29-month program run by the Army's Medical Center of Excellence at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

First Lts. Adrian Smith and John Gamalski also earned master's degrees through the Interservice Physician Assistants Program (IPAP) following a year of clinical work in New York, including rotations at West Point's Keller Army Community Hospital.

The "very demanding course" turns military medical personnel into world-class PAs, the shorthand for physician assistants, according to Lt. Col. Luis Garcia, the New York Army National Guard's deputy state surgeon.

He said getting Soldiers through the course is a win for New York because it is tough to recruit qualified PAs and a win for the Soldiers because PAs are in demand across the medical industry.

Enrolling experienced Soldiers to become PAs, rather than recruiting civilians, means that the new PAs already understand the military and Army medicine, he said.

The two took their oaths as officers during a special June 7 ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy, presided over by Maj. Gen. Michel Natali, the New York National Guard's assistant adjutant general, Army.

Garcia said PAs fill a critical role in Army medical care. They are the primary medical provider at the battalion level and at forward aid stations in combat. They lead medical platoons and detachments and care for Soldiers and their families in garrison environments.

Smith and Gamalski were great candidates for the IPAP school, Garcia said.

"Both of them were medics with extensive experience and they have experience with the battlefield and how to treat those patients," Garcia said.

Smith and Gamalski said that becoming a PA was a goal they had set for themselves.

Gamalski served six years in the 75th Ranger Regiment and six years in the New York Army Guard's Medical Readiness Detachment.

"I worked under a lot of phenomenal medical leaders," he said.

Smith, who has served for 19 years as a medic, said "life happened," and while working as a police officer and an EMT, he never had the chance to reach that goal.

On the latest of his four deployments as a member of the 466th Area Medical Company, though, then Sgt. 1st Class Smith, said he decided he would enroll in the military PA course.

"And so, I did, and I got accepted and here I am," he said.

Getting into the Army PA program is not easy.

Applicants must have 60 credits of college courses in subjects ranging from chemistry to English to human anatomy and Algebra. They need a minimum of 3.0 grades in science and an overall average of 2.5.

Applicants also must score well on the SAT and the PA-CAT or Physician's Assistant College Aptitude Test.

Getting accepted means diving into four quarters of academic work at "Fort Sam."

"It's kind of like freshman through senior if you will," Gamalski said.

"You are tested on everything from microbiology, biochemistry, and anatomy and physiology," he said.

Students study cardiology, emergency medicine, nephrology, urology, "and all your 'ologies,'" Gamalski said.

"I would describe it like drinking water through a fire hose," Smith said. "We're constantly learning medicine and being tested on it."

The second phase of the school involves 52 weeks of clinical work at an Army hospital.

This brought Smith and Gamalski to Keller. That part of the course wrapped up in June.

"It was a great experience, a great education," Smith said. "It was life-changing."

Smith will work in a medical/surgical intensive care unit in Charlotte, North Carolina, and then drive to Binghamton to drill with the 204th Engineer Battalion.

Gamalski, assigned to the 466th Area Medical Company in Queensbury, said his next goal is to become a flight surgeon.

Then, he wants to work for a busy hospital.

"I want to continue that drink from the fire hose of mentality of learning medicine, doing medicine, so I can do better for the Guard and be better prepared for Guard deployments."

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/News-Features/Article/3816107/new-york-army-guard-medics-train-to-become-pas-and-officers/>

https://www.army.mil/article/277537/new_york_army_guard_medics_train_to_become_pas_and_officers

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East Hanover's Abidan Gomez Gets Promoted to National Guard's Rank of Sergeant

Tapinto Towns, East Hanover.com, June 25, 2024 :

EAST HANOVER, NJ - Abidan Gomez from East Hanover, who is currently assigned to the Company B, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, received a promotion on May 14, 2024 to the rank of sergeant. Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announced the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard. Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state's executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York's Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard. For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit www.dmna.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/east-hanover-slash-florham-park/sections/government/articles/east-hanover-s-abidan-gomez-gets-promoted-to-national-guard-s-rank-of-sergeant>

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Canton man earns promotion in New York Army National Guard

North Country Now, June 26, 2024 :

A Canton man was recently promoted in the New York Army National Guard.

Parker Hornung, assigned to the Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, received a promotion May 2 to the rank of sergeant.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

<https://www.northcountrynow.com/stories/canton-man-earns-promotion-in-new-york-army-national-guard,248261>

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Hastings National Guard soldier promoted

Oswego County News Now, June 26, 2024:

LATHAM — Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Braden Hunter from Hastings, assigned to the Company C (Air Ambulance), 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment, received a promotion recently to the rank of specialist.

https://www.oswegocountynewsnow.com/news/hastings-national-guard-soldier-promoted/article_760f93e2-3330-11ef-9fea-2f99b72167a1.html

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New York Army National Guard promotions

The Bradford Era, June 26, 2024 :

LATHAM, N.Y. — Major General Ray Shields, adjutant general for New York, announced the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Morgan Golish from Genesee, Pa., assigned to Headquarters and Support Company, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, received a promotion May 9 to the rank of sergeant.

Shawn Labadie from Bradford, Pa., assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company, received a promotion May 16 to the rank of staff sergeant.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers who serve the state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions toward retirement programs similar to a 401(k). For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit dmna.ny.gov or 1800goguard.com

https://www.bradfordera.com/news/new-york-army-national-guard-promotions/article_a61db090-33d1-11ef-9a6f-030c53f148e6.html

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Retired NY Army Guardsman Honored for 2004 Iraq Actions

NationalGuard.mil, June 28, 2024:

LATHAM, N.Y. - A retired New York Army National Guard Soldier was recognized for his heroic actions 20 years ago in Iraq during a ceremony at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs headquarters June 27.

Master Sgt. Luis Barsallo, who retired in 2021, received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device from Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York.

The V device designates the award is for valor. When awarded for heroism in combat, the Bronze Star is the nation's fourth-highest military decoration for valor.

The award recognizes Barsallo's actions in April and May 2004 when his unit, the New York Army National Guard's C Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, was in Samarra, Iraq, as part of the 1st Infantry Division.

The April action, recorded by the Army as the Battle of Easter Sunday, resulted in the death of Pvt. 1st Class Nathan Brown from South Glens Falls when C Company's 2nd platoon was ambushed.

Several members of the platoon were severely injured but survived thanks to Barsallo's actions, Shields said.

"Luis saved lives by staying calm and directing fires on enemy positions," Shields said.

He went back to the ambush zone to reposition a five-ton truck so the machine gun could fire on the enemy and evacuation vehicles could get to the wounded Soldiers, Shields added.

"He put himself in immediate and direct harm's way to save his fellow Soldiers," Shields said. "Luis was determined that others would not die that night."

Shields said a Bronze Star for heroism is rare but well-deserved in this case.

Barsallo should have received it earlier, but the New York battalion was attached to an active Army brigade and the original paperwork got lost, said Maj. Katie Schin, executive officer of the New York National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

She and some other administrative experts decided to find the documents and resubmit the award. Schin said the most difficult part was finding the officers who would have signed the awards form back in 2004.

"It actually feels great to get this award," Barsallo said. "Because of the group of people I had in Iraq, it's because of them that I got this."

Barsallo said the people he served with in the Active Army and Army Guard helped him become a better leader and bring the eight squad members home.

In 2004, the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, was deployed to north central Iraq as part of the Army's 1st Infantry Division. The battalion's C Company was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, which was responsible for the city of Samarra.

On April 11, 2004, insurgents with IEDs and rocket-propelled grenades ambushed Barsallo's platoon and killed Brown.

According to Army records, Barsallo quickly deployed his squad to respond to the attack. Barsallo left his covered position to drive a 5-ton truck out of the kill zone and position it to provide suppressive fire on the enemy, allowing the evacuation of six badly injured Soldiers.

Barsallo then led his squad to assault enemy positions until a quick reaction force arrived to take over the fight.

NBC News Anchor Tom Brokaw interviewed some of these Soldiers after they returned from Iraq and featured them in a special report called “Tom Brokaw Reports: To War and Back” in 2005.

According to Army records, the second incident occurred May 29 while Barsallo’s squad was attached to A Company of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, at a blocking position. The squad came under fire from enemy small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

Exposing himself to enemy fire, Barsallo ran to a machine gun position, took charge of the machine gun crew and directed fire at the enemy, killing two insurgents and forcing the rest to withdraw.

“Barsallo’s strong leadership, unmatched personal courage, and strong situational awareness successfully eliminated the enemy, allowing for the successful completion of the A Co mission,” the citation says.

Barsallo retired from the New York Army National Guard in May 2020 after 29 years of service — eight in the active Army and 21 in the New York Army National Guard.

He works as a health care navigator for the Albany Housing Coalition, which provides housing services to veterans.

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/News-Features/Article/3820681/retired-ny-army-guardsman-honored-for-2004-iraq-actions/>

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