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109th Airlift Wing

109th AW on standby in New Zealand for Antarctica missions

Nationalguard.mil, By Tech. Sgt. Jamie Spaulding | New York National Guard | Nov. 19, 2020:

SCOTIA, N.Y. – The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing will not be flying to Antarctica this year to provide logistics support to the National Science Foundation's U.S. Antarctic Program.

For 32 years, the 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, has supported National Science Foundation research in Antarctica by flying people, supplies and equipment around the continent.

The mission was part of Operation Deep Freeze, the Department of Defense's annual support to U.S. Antarctic operations.
Instead this year, the wing will deploy three LC-130s and three aircrews and a maintenance team – a total of 31 Airmen – to Christchurch, New Zealand, where they will be on standby for contingency missions that require flying to Antarctica.

The three Skibirds leave Scotia on Nov. 23. It takes roughly a week to fly from upstate New York to New Zealand.

The change in mission is because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Science Foundation is minimizing the number of people who set foot on the continent during the 2020-21 season as part of a commitment by the United States and other nations to prevent the introduction of the COVID-19 virus to Antarctica.

Traditionally the 109th Airlift Wing has flown six to seven LC-130 ski-equipped aircraft and around 250 people to McMurdo Station, the National Science Foundation facility on the continent that serves as the hub for U.S. research activities.

McMurdo Station is 2,415 miles from New Zealand, roughly five hours of flying time.

"Despite the complications of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 109th Airlift Wing will continue its support of the National Science Foundation," said Col. Cristian Sander, the wing's vice commander. "Personnel and aircraft will operate during the timeframe when only ski-equipped aircraft may operate within Antarctica while adhering to all international and Centers for Disease Control guidelines."

Sander will be in command of the deployed aircraft and personnel.

The 109th Airlift Wing flies the largest aircraft in the world that are equipped to land on ice and snow. This ability makes the 109th Airlift Wing an indispensable partner to the National Science Foundation in the Arctic and Antarctic activities.

During the 2019-20 season, crews completed more than 150 missions within Antarctica by flying 2,100 researchers and support staff, 2.8 million pounds of cargo and 1.8 million pounds of fuel to research stations across the continent.

The 109th Airlift Wing has been supporting the National Science Foundation's Antarctic research since 1988. Since 1999, the unit has been the sole provider of polar airlift to the National Science Foundation and U.S. Antarctic research efforts.


N.Y. Senior Airman graduates from jungle warfare school

Nationalguard.mil, By Eric Durr | New York National Guard | Nov. 19, 2020:

MANAUS, Brazil – When Senior Airman Caleb Lapinel showed up at Brazil’s Jungle Warfare Training School in September, he met special forces soldiers from Spain, Egypt and Indonesia; paratroopers from Paraguay; amphibious infantrymen from Nigeria, and a Kaibil special operator from Guatemala whose motto is: “If I advance follow me, if I stop urge me on, if I retreat, kill me."

“I was worried about that in the beginning,” Lapinel said.
“I said, ‘Wow. I am surrounded by this bunch of paratroopers and special forces; the best of the best from their countries,’” he recalled.

He, on the other hand, is an intelligence analyst for the New York Air National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing, which specializes in flying to Antarctica and Greenland.

He was also at least five years younger than the rest of the class.

But seven weeks later, Caleb Lapinel not only graduated from the demanding course but was one of the two students singled out for awards. He was recognized for being the man who was always ready to help somebody else.

“That was awesome. I was not expecting that at all,” Lapinel said. “I got the flag that we always carried around during the course.”

Each year Brazil’s Jungle Warfare Center, known as CIGS for its name in Portuguese – Centro de Instrução de Guerra na Selva – hosts a class for non-Brazilians. Founded in 1964, CIGS is now considered the world’s premier jungle training center.

Because the New York National Guard has a State Partnership Program relationship with Brazil’s military, Brazil invites New York Guard members to the school in Manaus, the capital of Amazonas state.

In 2019, Army Guard Staff Sgt. Thomas Carpenter, a 38-year-old infantryman and Ranger School graduate, finished the jungle training course. This year it was the 22-year-old Lapinel. He made it through the Air Force Survival, Resistance, Escape and Evasion course, and he’s in good shape, but he conceded he knew more about making PowerPoint slides than infantry tactics.

He bought a copy of the Ranger Handbook to cram and turned to Carpenter for tips.

Despite Lapinel’s lack of infantry experience, New York Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Denny Richardson said he was confident he would do well.

“The first time I met Airman Lapinel, I was impressed by his professionalism and ability to perform under pressure without hesitation,” Richardson said. “This young man is comfortable being uncomfortable.”

And there was plenty of uncomfortable in the Amazon jungle, Lapinel said. He learned to avoid snakes, eat bugs, and get used to being wet.

The international course, which is taught in English, is divided into four parts.

The first week is the mobilization week. Students prove their fitness and get their gear ready for the jungle.

The fitness test requires treading water for 10 minutes wearing a uniform and carrying a rifle; swimming 400 meters in 15 minutes; running five miles in boots in 40 minutes; climbing a 20-foot rope using only hands, and covering 12 kilometers with a 35-pound load in less than three hours.

The students also waterproof all their gear. That’s essential because when they were not moving through a wet jungle, they were swimming in a silt-laden river, Lapinel said.

The key was to buy PVC dry bags used for kayaking and load gear into those bags. The bags are rolled tight with air inside. Stashed inside a rucksack, they provide buoyancy in the water, Lapinel explained.

The first session of instruction focused on surviving in the jungle. The students learned how to navigate, what the dangers are in the jungle and, most importantly, what to eat.

The coconut grub, for example, is the larvae of the red palm weevil, which burrows into coconuts but is very edible. Lapinel learned how to dig them out of coconuts and chow down.

“The hardest part is mental,” Lapinel said. “Once you are chewing, it is not too bad.”
At the end of that phase, the class was dropped into the jungle to set up camp and survive three days on whatever they could scrounge.

“You do everything you can – build a shelter, collect water, make a fire – early on while you still have energy, and then you just try to survive,” Lapinel said.

On the last day, the Indonesian special forces soldier caught a snake.

“We boiled it up and split it 10 ways. It was the best and the only snake I ever had,” Lapinel recalled.

Then the soldiers learned techniques for moving and fighting in the jungle. A key element in that training was using rivers and water to infiltrate, he said.

The soldiers made rafts out of their gear and swam down rivers. It was important to wear clothing that dried quickly – he swapped his Air Force uniform for a Brazilian uniform designed to shed water – and also to keep their Brazilian issue Imbel A2 rifle clean, Lapinel said.

“The rivers we were swimming in ... they have a lot of sediment,” Lapinel said. “There is just a ton of it. We were constantly cleaning sand and dirt and dust out of the weapon, and then to keep them from rusting, we used massive amounts of WD-40 and covered it in gun oil.”

The 3.5-kilometer swim down the Puraquequara River (an Amazon tributary) with their gear and all 10 students in formation was the toughest thing they had to do, he said.

“We started at maybe midnight or 10 p.m. and we just swam for four or five hours in the middle of the night,” Lapinel said. “Two fish actually jumped and smacked me in the face during the swim. But we were so fatigued that nobody was caring.”

The Brazilian instructors accompanying them in boats shined flashlights along the riverbank and the students would see the eyes of black caimans - crocodilian reptiles similar to alligators – staring at them, he said.

The final phase put everything together in a series of patrols and tactical exercises.

Lapinel had no experience in patrol tactics, but the other students did, and shared.

“I was lucky enough to have a lot of people around me who were able to give me the advice I needed,” he said.

“We all helped each other out,” he added. “If I needed help on shooting or had a question on tactics, they helped me. If they needed help carrying the radio or something, I could help them.”

Lapinel’s turn to lead came during a mission to set up an ambush. The team infiltrated the target zone and surprised the simulated enemy force.

He also got plenty of experience carrying the team radio during a two-day, 20-kilometer patrol, he said.

At the end of the training, the students received the CIGS jaguar badge. They also had the right to buy their own Brazilian version of the bowie knife with a jaguar-headed handle made for the jungle warfare center.

“It really is so cool,” Lapinel said of the knife. “There is just so much mystic surrounding it and so much culture.”

Along with being a personal victory, Lapinel’s success at the course helped build the relationship between the U.S. and Brazilian militaries, said Lt. Col. Rob Santamaria, the Army section chief at the U.S. Embassy in Brazil.

“Senior Airman Lapinel’s graduation continues to strengthen the U.S. military’s relationship with the Brazilian Military and reinforces the commitment that the New York National Guard has to the state partnership with Brazil,” Santamaria said.
“I am extremely proud of Lapinel’s accomplishment. His feat continues to demonstrate the high return on investment that the defense partnership with Brazil has to offer in terms of unique training opportunities for our U.S. military.”


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Air National Guard, Nov. 19, 2020:
Nov 20, 2020

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27th Brigade

Target Practice( From DOD photo gallery)

Defense.gov, Nov. 15, 2020 ::

Army 2nd Lt. Lasheema Rose aims an M4 carbine during individual weapons qualification at Fort Drum, N.Y., Nov. 7, 2020.

(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Avery Schneider)

https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002534845/

42nd Infantry Division

150 New Yorkers from the 42nd Infantry Division home after deploying in March

Brewster Hamlet Hub, Nov 18, 2020 ::

One hundred and fifty New York Army National Guard Soldiers who deployed to the Middle East in March are returning to New York after outprocessing at Fort Hood, Texas.

The Soldiers departed Fort Hood this morning and will arrive back at airports across New York this afternoon and evening. They spent two weeks in quarantine at Fort Hood to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and complete demobilization.

Sixty Soldiers are flying back to New York City, forty are heading for Albany, and the rest are going to Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. The Soldiers are traveling as individuals, a process known as "single ticket," and return on different flights and will arrive at different times to be met by family members.

The Soldiers took COVID-19 tests before leaving Fort Hood. They will quarantine for three days and get COVID-19 tests to comply with New York's pandemic travel regulations.
The troops are the first of 670 members of the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters who have been serving in the Middle East in support of the Army's Operation Spartan Shield.

The division, headquartered in Troy, New York provided the command structure for the 10,000 men and women of Task Force Spartan; the U.S. Army forces serving in the region under the control of United States Central Command.

The 42nd Division formally turns over responsibility for task force command to the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas Army National Guard on November 19.

The Soldiers are departing the Middle East and traveling to Fort Hood and then returning to New York. Unfortunately the majority of the Soldiers are not expected to be home before Thanksgiving.

Another 140 Soldiers arrived at Fort Hood on Nov. 13 to begin the outprocessing and quarantine process. The remainder of the troops will leave Kuwait at the end of the week. It is expected that all the Soldiers will be home in New York in early December.

Soldiers who test positive for COVID-19 will remain at Fort Hood until they are no longer infectious.

The bulk of the Soldiers live in New York's Capitol Region, while a large number call New York City home. But the unit's Soldiers live in communities across the state.

Maj. Gen. Steven Ferrari, the division commander, credited the support of family and friends back home for playing an important role in the success of his Soldiers.

"Without your support and sacrifices, Soldiers would not be able to conduct their assigned responsibilities and stay focused on the mission at hand. Your overwhelming generosity and support was unbelievable," Ferrari said.

Task Force Spartan supported training and exercises in Kuwait, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia. 42nd Infantry Division personnel also conducted operations in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan.

An armored brigade combat team, an engineer brigade, a field artillery brigade, an explosive ordnance disposal battalion and two Army aviation task forces reported to Ferrari.

"Looking back at the division's deployment it's been a challenging and rewarding experience to be here during this historic period supporting the U.S. Central Command area of responsibly during a global pandemic," Ferrari said.

Along with overseeing combat operations, the division headquarters served as the Central Command's primary focus for preventing COVID-19 from degrading Soldier readiness.
"Two weeks after arriving in theater the global pandemic hit us and our division became the Joint Operations Information Center for everything related to COVID-19 in eight different countries across the Middle East," said 42nd Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Cush.

The headquarters Soldiers set up a COVID-19 emergency response cell that provided information about the pandemic and medical responses to U.S. forces across the region.

"This is something we never trained for but each and every Soldier took ownership of this mission and performed magnificently," Cush added.

The division also oversaw numerous training exercises with partner and host nation militaries as part of the effort to deter regional aggression and strengthen relationships.

Training exercises between countries varied from testing command-post capabilities to side-by-side maneuvers. During one of these exercises, the 42nd Infantry Division deployed its mobile command post from Kuwait to Jordan within a few hours.

"What made this mission great were simply the people; the people we met and the relationships built will never be forgotten," Ferrari said.


New York National Guard Soldiers return from Middle East

Army.mil, Nov 19, 2020:

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Soldiers who test positive for COVID-19 will remain at Fort Hood until they are no longer infectious.
The bulk of the Soldiers live in New York's Capital Region, while a large number call New York City home. But the unit's Soldiers live in communities across the state.

Maj. Gen. Steven Ferrari, the division commander, credited the support of family and friends back home for playing an important role in the success of his Soldiers.

"Without your support and sacrifices, Soldiers would not be able to conduct their assigned responsibilities and stay focused on the mission at hand. Your overwhelming generosity and support was unbelievable," Ferrari said.

Task Force Spartan supported training and exercises in Kuwait, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia. 42nd Infantry Division personnel also conducted operations in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan.

An armored brigade combat team, an engineer brigade, a field artillery brigade, an explosive ordnance disposal battalion and two Army aviation task forces reported to Ferrari.

"Looking back at the division's deployment it's been a challenging and rewarding experience to be here during this historic period supporting the U.S. Central Command area of responsibly during a global pandemic," Ferrari said.

Along with overseeing combat operations, the division headquarters served as the Central Command's primary focus for preventing COVID-19 from degrading Soldier readiness.

"Two weeks after arriving in theater the global pandemic hit us and our division became the Joint Operations Information Center for everything
related to COVID-19 in eight different countries across the Middle East," said 42nd Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Cush.

The headquarters Soldiers set up a COVID-19 emergency response cell that provided information about the pandemic and medical responses to U.S. forces across the region.

"This is something we never trained for but each and every Soldier took ownership of this mission and performed magnificently," Cush added.

The division also oversaw numerous training exercises with partner and host nation militaries as part of the effort to deter regional aggression and strengthen relationships.

Training exercises between countries varied from testing command-post capabilities to side-by-side maneuvers. During one of these exercises, the 42nd Infantry Division deployed its mobile command post from Kuwait to Jordan within a few hours.

"What made this mission great were simply the people; the people we met and the relationships built will never be forgotten," Ferrari said.

https://www.army.mil/article/241004/new_york_national_guard_soldiers_return_from_middle_east

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**Airmen and Soldiers**

**Promotions for local New York Army National Guard members**

The Evening Tribune, Nov. 18, 2020 ::

LATHAM — Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announces the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.
Haley Landries from Hornell, and assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company received a promotion to the rank of private on August 11, 2020.

Caleb Dailey from Alfred Station, and assigned to the A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) received a promotion to the rank of private first class on August 28, 2020.

Paiton Golish from Wellsville, and assigned to the 827th Engineer Company received a promotion to the rank of private first class on September 27, 2020.

Eian Ratliff from Bath, and assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company received a promotion to the rank of private first class on August 13, 2020.

Phillip Smith from Dansville, and assigned to the Company A, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry received a promotion to the rank of private on September 3, 2020.

Ethan Liddick from Centerville, and assigned to the C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) received a promotion to the rank of specialist on August 30, 2020.

Lily Blauvelt from Cuba, and assigned to the Company C, 427th Brigade Support Battalion received a promotion to the rank of private first class on September 17, 2020.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential.

These promotions additionally recognize the best qualified Soldiers and attract and retain the highest caliber Citizen Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit www.dmna.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com


New York Army National Guard announces promotions

The Observer, Nov. 17, 2020 ::

Major General Ray Shields, adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.
Kaleb Johnson from Westfield, assigned to the 152nd Engineer Company, received a promotion to the rank of private first class.

Colmari Garcia-Rodriguez from Dunkirk, assigned to the Company C, 427th Support Battalion, received a promotion to the rank of private first class.

Kevin Moralesroldan from Dunkirk, assigned to the Company D, 427th Support Battalion, received a promotion to the rank of sergeant.

Melanie Rodriguez from Fredonia, assigned to the 442nd Military Police Company, received a promotion to the rank of sergeant.

Abbey Beebe from Brocton, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, received a promotion to the rank of specialist.


New York Army National Guard announces promotions

Observer, Nov. 17, 2020 ::

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

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New York Army National Guard promotions

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Ryan Nosko from Fulton, and assigned to the Company D (Military Intelligence), 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion received a promotion to the rank of private on Aug. 14.

Jarred Sprague from Altmar, and assigned to the A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) received a promotion to the rank of private on Aug. 25.

Clifton Warter from Cato, and assigned to the Headquarters and Support Company, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion received a promotion to the rank of private on Sept. 25.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential.

These promotions additionally recognize the best qualified Soldiers and attract and retain the highest caliber citizen soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit www.dmna.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com

Brewster National Guard Soldier Receives New Rank, New Responsibilities

Brewster Hamlet hub, Nov. 13, 2020 ::
Nov 20, 2020
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.

**Rocco Vigliotti from Brewster, N.Y.**, and assigned to the 107th Military Police Company received a promotion to the rank of specialist on October 18, 2020.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential.

These promotions additionally recognize the best qualified Soldiers and attract and retain the highest caliber Citizen Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit [www.dmna.ny.gov](http://www.dmna.ny.gov) or [www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com)

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.


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**Notable Names**

Monroe County Post, NOv., 18, 2020 ::
Nov 20, 2020

**New York Guard recognizes Rochester soldier**

Spc. Vincenzo Carciofolo, of Rochester, recently received the Operations Support Medal from the New York Guard as a member of the 10th Area Command.

The New York Guard is a force of 500 uniformed volunteers, organized as a military unit, who augment the New York National Guard during state emergencies.

About half of the volunteers are former members of the active duty military or National Guard. Previous military membership is not a requirement for New York Guard service.


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River Hospital welcomes new inpatient and emergency services medical director

NYN 360, Nov. 18, 2020 ::
Nov 20, 2020

ALEXANDRIA BAY — Through a partnership with Delphi Healthcare, River Hospital recently welcomed Dr. Aaron Campbell to its medical staff as Inpatient and Emergency Services Medical Director.

Dr. Campbell earned his medical degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Prior to pursuing his medical degree, Dr. Campbell practiced as a Physician Assistant for 12 years in West Virginia. Before joining the River Hospital team, Dr. Campbell was employed as a Hospitalist in Oneonta through Bassett Health System.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Campbell to River Hospital,” said Amanda Rydberg RPA-C, River Hospital associate medical director, in a statement. “His extensive experience working in both inpatient and emergency department settings will be a wonderful asset to support our services.”

Dr. Campbell is an active member of the New York Army National Guard and recently returned from a deployment in the Middle East. He lives locally with his wife, Kimberly, and the couple has two adult children.

In a statement, Dr. Campbell expressed his excitement at joining River Hospital and said he is looking forward to working to assure medical excellence in Alexandria Bay and the surrounding communities.

For more information on the inpatient or emergency services offered at River Hospital, visit riverhospital.org.


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Service Notes: NY Army National Guard lists promotions

Batavia Daily News, Nov 15, 2020 ::

LATHAM, NY (11/03/2020)-- Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the promotion of members of the New York
Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Robert Espinal from Brockport, N.Y., and assigned to the Company C, 427th Brigade Support Battalion received a promotion to the rank of private first class on Sept. 3.

Nathan Griffin from Le Roy, N.Y., and assigned to the Company A, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry received a promotion to the rank of private first class on Sept. 30.

Zachary Krawczyk from Perry, N.Y., and assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company received a promotion to the rank of private on Aug. 20.

Nickolas Richardson from Holley, N.Y., and assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company received a promotion to the rank of private first class on Sept. 13.

Corey Ruddock from Attica, N.Y., and assigned to the Operations Company, 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters received a promotion to the rank of specialist on Aug. 10.

Andrew Schafer from Barker, N.Y., and assigned to the Company B (Combat Engineer), 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion received a promotion to the rank of private first class on Sept. 12.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential.

https://www.thedailynewsonline.com/lifestyles/milestones/service-notes-ny-army-national-guard-lists-promotions/article_833b34ae-69f1-5a9c-833a-ac6d225333d2.html

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Civil Support Teams

New York Guard's 2nd CST conducts disaster response training

Army.mil, Nov. 16, 2020 ::

ROTTERDAM, N.Y. – More than 20 Airmen and Soldiers from the New York National Guard’s 2nd Civil Support Team (CST) deployed to an abandoned office building to search for a simulated blister agent lab during training on Nov. 10.

Based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, New York, the team is responsible for finding and mitigating weapons of mass destruction across upstate New York. Keeping
training as realistic as possible, an 81,000-square-foot facility owned by the Galesi Group hosted the scenario awaiting the team.

“We try not to do the same venue every time, but it’s nice when we come to this venue, we can just go to another part of the building,” said Air Force Maj. Ron McCarthy, the 2nd CST medical operations officer and incident commander for the training.

The training scenario was built around an individual whose parent died due to COVID-19, causing him to seek revenge at the general public, McCarthy explained.

He planned to target participants in a local 5k run by putting chemical agents into hand sanitizer.

The details of the training scenario help build realism for the team and help guide their actions for site searches, McCarthy said.

A series of events in the scenario led authorities to the industrial park where the suspect worked, resulting in a search of his office.

“This is definitely necessary with all of the different things going on in the world right now,” said Army Staff Sgt. Natasia Cooper, the administrative noncommissioned officer (NCO) and decontamination NCO for the 2nd CST. “To be trained up and prepared, knowledgeable and ready to go if something were to actually happen.”

The training scenario starts for the team when a first responder finds a possible weapon of mass destruction or a lab setup. It is at this point the civil support team is contacted through state emergency management channels.

Once on-site, the team sets up a decontamination area to treat any injured or contaminated people or equipment. A two-person survey team in HAZMAT suits with breathing equipment then enters the building. They check every room for levels of hazardous materials and photograph every room, physically marking each room as they go.

When they find hazardous materials, they can test it on the spot. They collect samples and take them to the CST’s mobile lab for further analysis on location to assist first responders.

“If it was a real-world situation, being that we train this way, going into it there shouldn’t be any additional nerves or worrying about your ability to actually do your job and do it well,” Cooper said.

Officials in most counties across New York are aware of the 2nd CST’s abilities to deal with such scenarios, McCarthy said.

“Some are very aware of us; some of never heard of us,” McCarthy said. “I’ve been doing this since 2009, and we’ve been all over New York State, reaching out to different counties. We’ve touched every part of this state.”
As a result of this outreach, the team has a presence at many of New York’s biggest and most popular events, McCarthy said.

“It’s obviously been working because our missions have grown throughout the state,” McCarthy said. “People requesting us for standby missions. We don’t just do response; we do standby also.”

The Nov. 10 training was one of many events that will lead up to a certification event in 2021, McCarthy said.

“We’re hitting all of our time hacks, moving with a purpose,” Cooper said. “Practicing and getting the reps in, and everyone is doing an awesome job.”


New York Guard's 2nd CST conducts disaster response training

NationalGuard.mil, Nov. 16, 2020:

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Biden promises federal government will pay for National Guard coronavirus work: 'That should be paid for'

The Hill, Nov. 19, 2020:

It costs a lot of money and governors need that paid for," Biden told Politico after a meeting Thursday with a bipartisan group of governors. "The fact is that this is a national emergency - that's what [Federal Emergency Management Agency] FEMA is supposed to deal with. Our view is that should be done.

"When it comes to deploying the National Guard for COVID relief, that should be paid for," Biden added.

Throughout the pandemic, National Guard soldiers and airmen have helped run testing sites, staff hospitals, conduct contact tracing and assist in other efforts to combat the spread of the virus.

According to Politico, the Trump administration's current authorization of approximately 20,000 Guard members expires on Dec. 31, although more than 20 states have already requested an extension.

This comes as the country experiences a rapid surge in cases, with experts saying a vaccine will likely not be available for wide distribution to the general public until well into 2021.

In the past week, the U.S. has had an average of more than 162,000 new COVID-19 cases per day, a 77 percent increase from just two weeks prior, according to The New York Times coronavirus database.

"Everybody can see where we are on the calendar, and the virus is not cooperating," John Goheen, the spokesperson for the National Guard Association, which represents the military branch in Washington, D.C., told Politico.
"The Guard has been a go-to force for many, many governors," he added. "And there is now more testing to be done, more Guard members being sent into prisons and nursing homes, and the need is only going to increase as winter approaches."

Maj. Gen. Matt Quinn, the head of the National Guard in Montana and the president of the Adjutants General Association, told Politico that a gap in funding between the December expiration to Biden's inauguration could "have a significant negative impact on the states."

During a virtual address following his meeting with governors, Biden said he would provide additional funding for the National Guard, and also signaled the possibility of a nationwide mask mandate.

Biden also vowed that he would not implement a nationwide shutdown as part of his planned responses to the pandemic.

"I'm not going to shut down the economy, period. I'm going to shut down the virus," Biden said. "I'll say it again. No national shutdown."

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/biden-promises-federal-government-will-pay-for-national-guard-coronavirus-work-that-should-be-paid-for/ar-BB1bbAU1?fbclid=IwAR3dl4tm4-5m1t-FYODt5TZYEobE1MmxzQoL94cSsVyGE1U6Msp8P-AFGe0&ocid=uxbndlbng

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New York Army National Guard

Army National Guard Soldiers help bring new museum to life

Army.mil, Nov. 13, 2020 ::

(Note: Story was updated after the museum opened, republished, and highlighted on the Army website.)
LATHAM, N.Y. – When the National Museum of the United States Army opened its doors to the public on Veterans Day, six New York Army National Guard Soldiers took special pride in the role they played in the museum.

The six men were the models for six of 63 life-size Soldier figures that will bring exhibits in the museum to life.

The figures of the six New York Army National Guard Soldiers – Maj. Robert Freed, from Central Valley; Maj. James Kim, a chaplain from Malta; Maj. Kevin Vilardo, from Saratoga Springs; 1st Lt. Sam Gerdt, from Watertown; Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Morrison, from Forest Hills, and Sgt. 1st Class Nick Archibald, from Tonawanda – populate two exhibits from two eras.

Construction of the $200 million museum began in the fall of 2016. On Nov. 11, the museum held a virtual ceremony to celebrate its opening. (You may view the ceremony here.)

The National Museum of the United States Army, open to the public at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, is the first and only museum to tell the 245-year history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775.

The six New York Soldiers served as models for the figures in 2018. While Studio EIS, a Brooklyn company that specializes in making museum exhibit figures, would normally hire actors to serve as models, the museum wanted to use real American Soldiers for their project.

"Having real Soldiers gives the figures a level of authenticity to the scene," Paul Morando, the chief of exhibits for the museum, explained at the time.

"They know where their hands should be on the weapons. They know how far apart their feet should be when they are standing. They know how to carry their equipment," he said.

Figures based on Vilardo, Gerdt, and Archibald are in an exhibit that depicts Soldiers clambering down the side of a ship to land in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

The figure modeled by Archibald is climbing down a cargo net slung over the side of a ship into a 36-foot-long landing craft known as a "Higgins boat."

The boats took their name from Andrew Higgins, a Louisiana boat-builder who designed the plywood-sided boats, which delivered Soldiers directly to the beach.

Vilardo was the model for a combat photographer. His figure is in the back of the boat taking pictures of the action.

Gerdt modeled a Soldier standing in the boat gazing toward the beach, thinking about what is to come.
The landing craft is so big that it, and three other macro artifacts, were positioned in the museum in 2017. The building was then constructed around those artifacts.

Kim, Morrison and Freed modeled figures in an Afghanistan combat tableau. They portray Soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment on patrol in 2014. Each Soldier depicts a different responsibility on a typical combat mission.

The figure based on Morrison is holding an M4 and scanning for the enemy.

Freed modeled a platoon leader talking on the radio.

Kim was the model for a Soldier operating a remote control for a MARCbot, which is used to inspect objects that might be improvised explosive devices.

The process of turning a Soldier into a life-size figure started by posing the Soldier in the position called for in the tableau and taking lots of photos.

This allows the artists to observe and record how the person looks. Next, a model of the individual's face is made. A special silicone-based material is used for the cast. The model's nostrils are kept clear so the subject can breathe.

The Soldiers were told what their character was supposed to be doing and thinking and asked to make the appropriate facial gestures.

The Soldiers were recruited for their look and, in some cases, their ethnic background.

The museum needed Soldiers who were leaner than the 21st-century norm to portray World War II GIs. Museum officials also wanted Asian American and African American Soldiers for the Afghanistan exhibit, which is why Kim and Morrison were approached.

Next, the artists sculpted the sections molded from the Soldier into a complete figure and painted precise details on the face and skin, crafting it to humanistic and historical perfection.

Being a part of the National Museum of the United States Army is an honor, the six Soldiers said.

While their names won't be acknowledged on the exhibits, it will be great to know they are part of telling the Army story, they all agreed.

Freed said he was looking forward to visiting the museum. But because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he doesn't anticipate going until the spring or summer.

Admission to the museum is free, but visitors will have to acquire tickets online and attend at specified times to prevent crowding, according to museum officials.
Vilardo, who has a 9-year-old daughter, said she was pretty excited when he showed her photographs of him being turned into an exhibit figure.

"I told her it would be just like 'Night at the Museum,' he said, referring to the Ben Stiller movie about museum exhibits coming to life, "and that we could go visit anytime."


Watervliet resident reenlists at Kuwait historic landmark

Troy Record Nov, 14, 2020 ::
Nov 20, 2020

KUWAIT — New York Army National Guard Sgt. Becca Meerwarth, a Watervliet resident, who is currently deployed to Kuwait, reenlisted for another term of service in front of a Kuwait national landmark during a recent ceremony.

Meerwarth, along with Staff Sgt. Jared Forst, a Baldwinsville resident, were reenlisted by Col. Sean Flynn, the chief of staff of the 42nd Infantry Division in front of the Martyr's Museum in Al Qurain, Kuwait.

The two work for Flynn in the division's command group and reenlisted for six more years in the Army National Guard.

What is now a museum was the site for a battle between Kuwaiti resistance forces and the Iraqi Army on February 24, 1991, during the Persian Gulf War.

A group of Kuwait students were preparing to support American and other forces preparing to liberate Kuwait when Iraqi troops attacked. After a ten-hour battle, only seven of the 19 Kuwaiti's survived.

"I learned a lot during this deployment about my job," Meerwarth said.

"I was able to do a lot, including getting my combat patch," Meerwarth explained.

Meerwarth took part in a Mobile Command Post Operation in the Kingdom of Jordan, which is designated as a combat zone, doing her job with the support of only two other Soldiers from the Command Group.

During the ceremony, Meerwarth was also awarded an Army Commendation Medal in recognition of her excellent work during the deployment.
She also received a general officer's challenge coin, an unofficial thanks for good work, from Brig. Gen. Thomas Spencer, the 42nd Infantry Division's Deputy Commander for Support.

"Every section needs a Sgt. Meerwarth," Spencer said.

"She is approachable, which is good, and this coin is a small sign of our appreciation of you," Spencer added.

Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division deployed to Kuwait and the Middle East in March to assume the role of providing command and control for the Task Force Spartan, the Army's 10,000-Soldier component in the Middle East.

They are expected to return to New York later this month.


Double mission for National Grid and the National Guard

For most of us, balancing one job with family life is enough of a juggle. But 31-year-old Kyle Metzler from Syracuse, New York, has two essential roles – at National Grid as a Senior Data Analyst and as a Captain in the National Guard.

This National Veterans’ Day, Kyle is looking forward to spending the federal holiday with his wife Carrie and their two children – Ada, five, and Thomas, three – on a well-earned break and attending a parade together.

Recognising sacrifices

“It’s an important holiday, when we recognize all the sacrifices the military makes for the general populace,” he says with conviction. “There are 1.3 million people in the US armed forces, but that’s only half a percent of the population. We bear a heavy responsibility and a lot of sacrifices have been made, especially in the past 20 years.”

Kyle enrolled in the National Guard after graduating magna cum laude with a BS in business administration and management. “My uncle and grandfathers had both been in the military,” he explains. “I wanted adventure, but I also wanted a regular civilian job and to not have to move often.”
Nearly 10 years later, Kyle’s ‘regular civilian job’ is as a senior data analyst within the electric third-party attachments team; whereby telephone companies, internet providers and municipalities attach to our electric infrastructure. He’s worked at the company for over three years, starting in finance within the business services department.

And within the National Guard, Kyle is a military intelligence company commander, leading a team of 118 intelligence professionals. At least one weekend every month Kyle is away from his young family on training exercises, to ensure his unit is ready to be deployed in times of crisis.

In times of crisis

One such crisis was in April and May of this year, when COVID-19 first hit New York. Kyle had to take leave from our company to work around the clock leading a team of 80 New York National Guardsmen in preparing and delivering essential test kits and PPE, and the grim ‘decedent mission’ – transporting the dead from their homes.

This mission came just five months after Kyle returned home having been deployed to East Africa to fight the remains of ISIS and the local terrorist fundamentalist group Al Shabaab. “We assisted the local people in keeping safe from the bad guys,” he says simply. In fact, Kyle was in charge of four intelligence-gathering teams in four different locations in Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti.

“That combat deployment was both a high and low point for me”, says Kyle. “Seeing the tangible benefits of what my team and I were doing, but also being away from my family for 12 months and missing them.”

Kyle had to take long-term military leave during that year of active duty, returning in October 2019 to his desk job. He is full of praise for the company. “I came back to the same job I’d had before and I was even allowed to accrue vacation time,” he says.

“At work I’m not in a supervisory role, which makes a nice contrast from being a company commander of 118 people. But there are lots of very transferable skills taught in the military that work in an office environment, particularly having to learn very quickly when thrown into a new situation.

“It also works the other way – in my work I have to build and keep good relations with a lot of internal and external stakeholders, and that diplomacy is a very transferable skill set for my army career.

“I’m grateful to work in a company that understands my military deployments are non-voluntary and still supports me in my career.”

Read more about how we helped power healthcare in New York.
We also work with veterans through the US Troops to Energy Jobs programme. This is designed to help veterans make the transition from military service to a second career working within the energy industry.


**In the military: National Guard soldier promoted**

Glens Falls Post Star, Nov. 17, 2020 ::

LATHAM — Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announced the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Clinton Green of Corinth, assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters, received a promotion to the rank of major on Sept. 2.


**Veterans**

Sources say outgoing Democratic Rep. Max Rose is mulling run for NYC mayor

Yahoo.com, Nov., 18, 2020 ::

Rep. Max Rose, D-N.Y., is considering a quick return to politics after losing his House seat this month. Rose has begun laying the groundwork for a potential mayoral campaign in New York City, according to three different sources.

A Democratic fundraiser said Rose has started making calls soliciting donors to back a potential mayoral bid. Two other sources familiar with the situation confirmed Rose has been having initial conversations to drum up support.

“He’s talked to people about it,” one high-profile New York City political operative said.
All three sources requested anonymity to discuss Rose’s private maneuvering. Rose did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The congressman, who was elected as part of the “blue wave” that swept Congress in 2018, has earned a reputation as one of the more moderate Democrats in the House. Rose’s district, which includes Staten Island and parts of south Brooklyn, is a uniquely red stretch of solidly blue New York City.

Apart from a two-year period, the area was represented by Republicans from 1993 until Rose’s election. Staten Island is also the only one of New York City’s five boroughs that voted Republican in the past two presidential races. After Rose’s defeat, the district will once again be represented by a Republican, Rep.-elect Nicole Malliotakis.

Republican then-New York state Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis in the borough of Staten Island on Oct. 8. (Kathy Willens/AP)

Then-New York state Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis in the borough of Staten Island on Oct. 8. (Kathy Willens/AP)

Rose’s status as a relative moderate makes him an interesting potential entry in a crowded field of mayoral candidates vying to replace term-limited Mayor Bill de Blasio in next year’s election. As of now, there are more than 10 candidates in the race, including Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, City Comptroller Scott Stringer, former HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, frequent MSNBC contributor Maya Wiley and ex-Citigroup executive Raymond McGuire, who is being backed by Valerie Jarrett, one of Barack Obama’s top aides.

Rose also has a compelling personal story. The 33-year-old is an Afghanistan veteran who was wounded in combat and has received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He continues to serve in the National Guard.

Rose has a master’s degree from the London School of Economics and a lengthy résumé that includes stints working for a nonprofit health care organization and with the late Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson, who earned a reputation as a progressive criminal justice reformer during his more than two years in office before his untimely death from cancer in 2016.

During his time in Congress, Rose has been a vocal critic of de Blasio, a progressive who has become a divisive figure in the city amid criticisms of his handling of rising violent crime rates and the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to the behind-the-scenes maneuvering in support of a possible mayoral campaign, Rose has weighed in on mayoral issues publicly in recent days.
On Nov. 3, as the returns were coming in and the numbers were beginning to look bad for Rose, he delivered what the local political newspaper City and State described as an “unusual” election night speech that did not focus on the results. In that address, he defended his decision to march with Black Lives Matter activists during the nationwide protests this summer.

Then-Rep. Max Rose with his wife, Leigh, and son, Miles, at a Black Lives Matter protest on Staten Island in June. (@MaxRose4NY via Twitter)

Rose with his wife, Leigh, and son, Miles, at a Black Lives Matter protest on Staten Island in June. (@MaxRose4NY via Twitter)

“If we are going to unite this country, then we must listen when a community is hurting,” Rose said in that speech. “Black parents worry a chance encounter could end with their baby boy or girl never coming home. And, yes, the wife or husband of a police officer feels their heart leave their chest every time a tour starts, scared the love of their life may never walk back through the door.”

While Rose’s support for Black Lives Matter has been widely cited as a key factor in his defeat, his decision to back the movement would likely play differently in a citywide race. Indeed, his election night speech drew praise from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., one of the most prominent progressives in the country, who posted a tweet urging her more than 10 million followers to watch a video of his remarks.

“Max Rose has been a great colleague & friend, despite all our differences,” Ocasio-Cortez wrote. “He was relentlessly attacked for attending a community event after the murder of George Floyd. Max used his election night speech to bravely declare why it was the right thing to do. Watch it.”

Rose ultimately conceded on Nov. 12. Two days later, he fired off a tweet at de Blasio, suggesting that the current mayor’s handling of school openings and closures during the pandemic was “a failure of leadership and imagination.”

Criticism of de Blasio was a key part of Rose’s House campaign, including a memorable ad in which the congressman simply stated, “Bill de Blasio is the worst mayor in the history of New York City.” Rose’s prior television ads could be a crucial asset in the crowded mayoral race.

New Yorkers will elect a new mayor next November. The Democratic primary is set to take place in June, and with the coronavirus pandemic seemingly set to disrupt normal life for several more months, candidates may have a difficult time holding traditional events to introduce themselves to voters.

Rose’s race against Malliotakis attracted an influx of millions of dollars of national cash that helped him fund television ads that aired citywide. Multiple sources suggested those TV spots likely helped make him a known quantity in the city.
“Max would be interesting,” one local Democratic strategist said. “After running that many
ads, his name ID must be nuts.”

https://news.yahoo.com/max-rose-considering-mayoral-campaign-nyc-193511355.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAANgeSgUckPzh5uz9jLGY9KOzJWnZ2wTYLYZ755jCkV04YNITRX6mLYkW-ZuG_V-Q-LEsvW1F3Jm29uEKpGAcv4n74R2r5tedwdm-UrPXsjiNbaNOD96B0CEWtTUC9KcxBwJyr2Drpt9FYxMxAOXmtsZCPTEFaUZaERTNcT0fF

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