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Armories

Off-road rescue training held

Mid-Hudson News, July 1:

CORTLANDT MANOR – The Putnam County Technical Rescue Team, a group of highly trained first responders, who assist police, fire, and EMS at incidents where lives hang in the balance and intricate rescues are needed, has concluded 10 days of training at the New York Army National Guard installation at Camp Smith teaching off-road operations to area first responders.

Joey Nickischer of Patterson, one of the lead instructors, said during the course of study, more than 200 firefighters, police officers, emergency medical service and military personnel were trained on the safe and effective operation of 4×4 UTV's over various terrain. "We started with vehicle familiarization, progressing through various traffic cone setups to build driver skills, and culminating in operation of the vehicles over the rugged terrain the Camp Smith Military Training Site offers."

Nickischer said each day began by teaching participants the basic skills of the cone course. "Next came transition to proper driving on gravel roads, dirt roads, rutted trails, rock crawling, steep slopes, water crossing and mud holes in addition to dangerous winching skills that are all critical allowing first responders to traverse difficult access terrain, in an effort to reach emergency scenes faster, safely and efficiently," he said.

"Being able to drive to remote locations can shave hours off of a grueling uphill hike while carrying heavy equipment, plus a much easier evacuation of injured persons," he said.

Nickischer gave thanks to the "cadre at Camp Smith for generously letting us train on their grounds; to Polaris Government and Defense for supplying vehicles, training staff and logistical support personnel in addition to members of the Continental Village Fire Department for coordinating the facility as well as the Pound Ridge Fire Department for carrying the torch with the training program.

Kudos also goes to the Putnam County Technical Rescue Team for supplying a lead instructor and additional equipment for the entire event; and to the hundreds of students from dozens of agencies that participated to continue their mission of saving lives."

https://midhudsonnews.com/2025/07/01/off-road-rescue-training-held/#google_vignette

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DOCCS Support

Prison strike brings unexpected boost to local economy

Adirondack Explorer: June 30

State has paid \$3.5M to North Country businesses so far during National Guard assignment to area prisons
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By James M. Odato

This winter's prolonged North Country prison strike and subsequent emergency demand for guards resulted in beneficial fallout for tourist businesses often starving for guests during the second quarter of the year.

Several North Country hotels and restaurants received a total of \$3.5 million in unanticipated extra revenues from the state since March because of the strike at area institutions. The guard walkout led to mass furloughs of correctional officers and the need for backup troops.

Hundreds of National Guard soldiers, as a result, have been lodging and eating at Adirondack Park-area businesses while on extended prison staffing assignment.

The hotels and restaurants, typically praying for guests during the slower period between ski and summer seasons, filled beds and boxed meals for the soldiers through late winter and spring with a couple of more seasons of duty ahead.

The National Guard prison mission is expected to last through April 2026, a leader of the correctional officer union said.

The biggest beneficiary in the region has been the owners of VOCO, the newest hotel in Saranac Lake, which had been struggling financially. The state has paid the hotel more than \$1.3 million for lodging troops and another \$92,000 to feed them since early April, according to data from the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

The VOCO hotel, on Lake Flower, had been named the Saranac Waterfront Lodge until it was taken over by its lenders and purchased by Branch Hospitality Group last summer. Branch also received a bonus in business at its Malone hotel, the Holiday Inn Express, from National Guard stays. It was paid a total of \$33,000 during March, just after the three-week correctional guard walk-out.

Impacts of prison strike continues to be felt

Gov. Kathy Hochul fired about 2,000 prison personnel for refusing to return to work during the unsanctioned strike. National Guard troops were called in to staff the prisons.

About 3,000 National Guard soldiers statewide, volunteers since April, are being paid their rank wages, housing stipends and special compensation of \$2,000 every two weeks to continue their work as guards. Hundreds of them are stationed at North Country prisons.

Meanwhile, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is attempting to boost recruiting. Recent recruit classes have graduated 123 and another 120 are in school now taking the eight-week course, according to Melissa Miles, who heads the Albany training academy.

Some fired prison workers are getting offered their jobs back in settlements, said Matt Keough, executive director of the New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association. He is unsure of the number of guards who will ultimately return to work.

DOCCS said it could not reveal the number of firings at North Country prisons.

However, 417 National Guard soldiers have been reporting for work at those correctional facilities in recent months and troops will continue to staff the prisons without a specific end date, said Eric Durr, a spokesman for the state.

The state budget allocates funds for about 15,000 correction officers and DOCCS is recruiting to fill approximately 4,500 openings, a DOCCS official said. The department is inviting 18-year-olds and out-of-state residents to apply.

“As a result of these recruitment efforts, DOCCS has seen a 129% increase in individuals taking the CO exam,” said Nicole March, a public information officer.

Long-term stays in North Country hotels

A total of 53 troops have stayed at the 93-room VOCO since April 8. The hotel, in Essex County, charged a higher rate than competitors in Franklin County, such as the Hotel Saranac.

The Hotel Saranac has filled about a third of its rooms with soldiers.

Since March 12, the hotel provided for 44 troops. The state paid \$388,850 for lodging and another \$62,700 for catering.

The government rate for hotels in Franklin County is \$110 daily and \$144 to \$238 a day in Essex County.

Hotel Saranac Operator Fred Roedel said the state paid for 35 rooms during the period and the business has been welcome.

Another enterprise boosted in the Adirondacks, Little Italy in Saranac Lake, served \$44,250 in pizza and other meals to troops during the period. Lately, the shop has provided 25 lunches and 55 dinners a day.

“This has been a big help to us during mud season, a slow season for the whole area,” said Manny Arrieta, Little Italy’s part-owner. The state contract for his restaurant and some of the other businesses ended June 21 and they are awaiting extensions.

<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/hotels-benefit-from-national-guard-mission-to-prisons>

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Emergency Response

Governor Hochul ramps up security across New York ahead of July 4th amid global tensions

CBS 6 Albany, July 2:

Albany, NY (WRGB) — Governor Kathy Hochul has announced heightened security measures across New York State in response to potential threats during the upcoming July 4th holiday.

Hochul said,

I have been briefed consistently over the previous few weeks on the current threat landscape given heightened tensions around the world. Our federal partners reiterated yesterday that lone wolf actors remain the greatest potential threat including during the upcoming July 4th holiday. Keeping New Yorkers safe is my top priority — especially as families gather to celebrate this holiday weekend.

New York's law enforcement personnel have already been in an increased alert posture following the recent conflict in the Middle East, but at my direction, State Police will have an increased presence at large events throughout the state, and we will be closely coordinating with local and federal law enforcement partners to ensure the safety of all involved. National Guard personnel also remain deployed at major transportation hubs, as well as at key bridges and tunnels within New York City. We are also actively monitoring social media activity and continue to be on high alert for any cyberthreats.

New Yorkers should never be intimidated by threats of violence or terror. I urge everyone to enjoy the holiday weekend with family and friends and to stay alert. If you see something, say something. You can report suspicious activity to law enforcement or call the New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline at 1-866-SAFENYS (1-866-723-3697). Your vigilance can help keep us all safe.

<https://cbs6albany.com/news/local/governor-hochul-ramps-up-security-across-new-york-ahead-of-july-4th-amid-global-tensions-cbs6-wrgb>

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For Information

Military requesting to pull 200 troops back from California protest duty

WHEC, June 30:

This story is provided for situational awareness.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top military commander in charge of troops [deployed to Los Angeles](#) to respond to protests against immigration raids has asked Defense Secretary [Pete Hegseth](#) if 200 of those forces could be returned to wildfire fighting duty, two U.S. officials told The Associated Press on Monday.

President Donald Trump [ordered the deployment](#) of about 4,000 California National Guard troops and 800 active duty Marines against the wishes of [Gov. Gavin Newsom](#) in early June to respond to a series of protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in Los Angeles.

The federal troops' domestic deployment raised multiple legal questions, including whether the administration would seek to employ emergency powers under the Insurrection Act to empower those forces to conduct law enforcement on U.S. soil, which they are not permitted to do except in rare circumstances. The Marines, however, are primarily assigned to protecting federal buildings.

The Insurrection Act has not been used. But in at least one circumstance, Marines have temporarily detained civilians in Los Angeles.

California has just entered peak wildfire season, and Newsom has warned that the Guard is now understaffed due to the Los Angeles protest deployment.

The top military commander of those troops, U.S. Northern Command head Gen. Gregory Guillot, recently submitted a request to Hegseth to return 200 of the National Guard troops back to Joint Task Force Rattlesnake, which is the California National Guard's wildfire unit, the officials said.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details not yet announced publicly.

Trump has contended that “there has been an invasion” of migrants entering the country without legal permission. At the height of the deployments some members of Congress in their [annual budget hearings](#) with the secretary questioned whether he foresaw extending the deployment nationwide, Hegseth did not provide a direct response.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Dan Caine, at the time told the lawmakers “I don't see any foreign, state-sponsored folks invading, but I'll be mindful of the fact that there have been some border issues.”

<https://www.whec.com/ap-top-news/military-requesting-to-pull-200-troops-back-from-california-protest-duty/>

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New York Air National Guard

Small Plane Crashes At New York Stewart International Airport In Orange County, New York

Hudson Valley Post, July 3:

A popular airport in the Hudson Valley was closed after first responders rushed to the scene of a plane crash.

There was high drama at New York Stewart International Airport on Wednesday.

An investigation is still underway into what caused a small plane to crash at New York Stewart International Airport.

Mark Lieb of Rockland Video was on the scene at the Orange County airport. He tells Hudson Valley Post that two people were onboard the small Piper JC3-65 aircraft.

The plane crashed just after takeoff on Wednesday, around 3:14 p.m.

The aircraft ended up hitting the ground nose-first. Emergency teams from Newburgh EMS and the Air National Guard jumped into action.

The FAA reported neither person onboard suffered any serious injuries. Emergency crews evacuated both from the aircraft, but neither needed to be hospitalized.

Information about the two on board is limited, as of this writing. [The Times Union](#) reports that the FAA confirmed the plane was registered to someone from West Palm Beach, Florida.

New York Stewart International Airport was closed for about 40 minutes on Wednesday after the crash.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation. The FAA is now investigating to figure out what sent that plane skyward, into the ground.

https://hudsonvalleypost.com/crash-closes-airport-in-hudson-valley/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral

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Private plane at Stewart International Airport crashes shortly after takeoff

Albany Times Union, July 2:

NEW WINDSOR — A private plane registered to a Florida resident “crashed nose-first” shortly after taking off from New York Stewart International Airport around 3 p.m. Wednesday, authorities said.

Emergency crews evaluated two people, but they were uninjured and did not require medical transport, according to representatives from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport.

The Piper J3C-65 is registered to a resident of West Palm Beach, Fla., according to the Federal Aviation Administration, which was investigating the cause of the crash. The single-engine aircraft seats two people.

The crash did not cause a fire. The Orange County airport closed for about 40 minutes, airport officials said.

This is a developing story. Check back later for updates.

<https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/news/article/stewart-international-airport-crash-20417583.php>

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New York Guard Trains for Disaster Response

ANG.MIL, June 26:

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. – One hundred New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the state participated in Operation Buffalo Falls, a Homeland Response Force (HRF) tabletop exercise held June 4-8 at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

The five-day event simulated a notional large-scale Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) event in Dover, Delaware. The exercise was designed to prepare Guard personnel to coordinate a multi-agency response effort in support of civil authorities following a domestic disaster.

During the scenario, HRF forces arrived after local and state first responders were overwhelmed by the incident, assuming responsibility for tasks such as casualty extraction, fatality recovery and establishing communications at the disaster site.

“Early on we were in our crawl/walk phase, and we want to get to a point where it’s automatic muscle memory,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Sanagustin, a member of the 153rd Troop Command and the acting CBRN officer for the event.

“By the end, everyone knew their role and asked the right questions. It’s only going to get smoother and faster from here,” Sanagustin said.

Throughout the exercise, participants progressed through several operational stages: initial threat assessment, deployment of response elements, establishment of communications networks and execution of simulated life-saving operations.

The tabletop format allowed units to rehearse coordination between Army and Air Guard components, identify gaps and streamline response timelines.

The Homeland Response Force mission was established by the Department of Defense in 2011, building on capabilities developed in the 1990s for CBRN and natural disaster response. Each HRF supports one of 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions and includes 574 Army and Air National Guard personnel trained in critical roles.

These include command and control; search and extraction, including locating and rescuing trapped victims; fatality search and recovery; and Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, or JISCC.

New York is part of FEMA Region II and maintains HRF units in New York and New Jersey.

“Originally there was so much response, people were literally stepping on each other’s toes,” explained 1st Lt. Steven Stevens, the JISCC officer-in-charge for the exercise and a member of the 107th Attack Wing’s Communications Flight.

“This helps create a ready, organized formation and avoids unnecessary and unexpected obstacles,” Stevens said.

Lt. Col. William Snyder, executive officer for the 153rd Troop Command, who served as the officer-in-charge for the exercise, said the event provided valuable insight into future operations.

“The training went extremely well, and the team really started to gel together as we worked through incident challenges over the course of two days,” Snyder said.

A follow-on, full-scale exercise is scheduled for August at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. It will incorporate additional personnel and mission elements, including live-action scenarios and field deployment of equipment.

“The team was actively engaged and did an outstanding job creating products that we will use in our upcoming event in August. I could not be happier with the way everyone came together, and I feel very optimistic for our success with this mission moving forward,” Snyder said.

The National Guard’s HRF mission is designed to integrate seamlessly with local, state and federal emergency response agencies. When fully activated, HRF forces contribute to a broader CBRN response network that includes nearly 20,000 service members nationwide.

<https://www.ang.af.mil/Media/Article-Display/Article/4226784/new-york-guard-trains-for-disaster-response/>

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New York Army National Guard

Norfolk man promoted in New York Army National Guard

North Country Now, July 2:

Jonathan French from Norfolk, was recently promoted in the New York Army National Guard.

French is assigned to the Company B, New York Recruiting & Retention Battalion. He received a promotion May 14, 2025 to the rank of private.

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

<https://northcountrynow.com/stories/norfolk-man-promoted-in-new-york-army-national-guard,305772>

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Service notes for June 28

Daily News Batavia, June 28:

LATHAM — Two area New York Army National Guard members have been promoted in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Ugene Harrison from Albion was promoted May 25 to Private 1st Class. He's assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company.

Thomas Dalberth from Le Roy was promoted May 30 to staff sergeant. He's assigned to the Company A, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, received a promotion May 30, 2025 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.

https://www.thedailynewsonline.com/lifestyles/service-notes-for-june-28/article_59bfa669-6f2e-4f66-8372-2cc5f2955ad9.html