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Air National Guard, Published October 02, 2019:

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Nationalguard.mil, By Master Sgt. Jaclyn Lyons, New York National Guard, Oct. 2, 2019

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Air Guardsman faces charges in the death of 2 children, mother:
NY: Air Force Times, October 3, 2019

New York man previously indicted in girlfriend's death now charged in death of two toddlers:
Fox News, October 3, 2019

Staten Island man faces charges in the death of 2 children, mother:
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New Regulation Opens Up Opportunities for Air Guard Airmen to Commission as Officers:
Military Spot, October 3, 2019

NYC Man Faces Charges in the Death of 2 Children, Mother:
Associated Press, October 3, 2019

Guard News Rule change lets more Airmen become officers:
Nationalguard.mil, By Airman 1st Class Kevin Donaldson | New York National Guard | Oct. 2, 2019:

Staten Island Dad Accused of Killing Girlfriend, Drowning 2 Sons Before Lighting House on Fire Wore Their Faces to Court: Report:
NBC New York, Oct 2, 2019:

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Schumer pushes for installation of filtration system at New Windsor Recreation Pond:
Mid Hudson News, October 2, 2019:

Newburgh frustrated by water-filter project delays:
Times Herald Record, Sept. 1, 2019

Daily Uploader

107th Attack Wing

NY Air Guard members recall Vietnam battles at reunion

The group – now the New York Air National Guard's 107th Attack Wing – deployed its 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron to Tuy Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam, in 1968 and 1969 to fly close air support, reconnaissance, patrols and other missions. Fifty years after their deployment, the Airmen gathered to share their experiences of the war.

"What you got to do, you got to do. We just went," said Paul Sorci, a sergeant assigned to the armaments shop. "Though I was married and had a 7-month-old son."

The squadron left for Vietnam in June 1968, reinforcing the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing. It participated in some of the largest campaigns of the war, including the Tet Offensive and the siege of Khe Sanh.

"It was a long trip," Sorci recalled, about the journey to Vietnam.

"We left here about midnight, flew all night to California as the sun was coming up," said James Goetz, who was a sergeant assigned to the armaments shop. "The sun didn't go down again until we landed in Vietnam."

Crossing the international dateline and not knowing what day it was, the first impression of Vietnam was a stark comparison to life in Niagara Falls, the men said.

It was hot, Goetz and Sorci said, and the first order of business was finding a place to sleep.

"One year is what they said," said Sorci, describing how long they would be in country.

"There were always rumors they were going to send us home in three months," said Goetz.

On the ground in Vietnam, members of the 136th got straight to work and began flying missions.

Ed Jackson, a Lockport Army veteran who fought in the war at the same time the 136th was there, was invited to the reunion to share a point of view the Airmen haven't often heard.

He had seen the 136th in action from the ground. Jackson was drafted into the Army in 1968 and found himself in Vietnam the month before the 136th arrived.

"I landed in Vietnam six months to the day I was inducted," he said.

He was a Specialist 5 assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, the day the Guard pilots of the 136th Fighter Squadron helped his unit out. "It was kind of just a normal day for us," Jackson recalled.
"We were out on a patrol and all of a sudden we got ambushed," he said. "We were pinned down pretty bad and we called for artillery support, which was the normal first thing you called for but it wasn't helping much at all."

Jackson said the next thing to do was to call for air support.

"They came in and dropped their ordnance and they were no more than 10 yards away from me when they dropped their cluster bombs," said Jackson. "When they dropped we were down on the ground and leaves were shaking and everything else."

That air support made the difference, as most of the firefights in the area subsided and Jackson's unit was able to sweep the area.

He recalled that his unit ended the day with three killed in action and six wounded, which could have been worse had it not been for the fighters he would see again later that night.

"Back at our night defensive position, they flew in at treetop level and they did kind of a victory roll," said Jackson. "When they came back around they came in inverted and I remember seeing on tail, the 107th."

As it happened Jackson explained, the 136th went into action that day early enough into their deployment that their F-100 Super Sabres had not yet been painted with camouflage colors and new tail markings and therefore still had the 107th identifiers on their tails.

Later on, the aircraft would simply say "SG," one of many identifiers used in Vietnam to denote what base an aircraft was stationed at in country.

Jackson remembered the activation and deployment of the 107th made news.

. He said he never would have imagined running into members of the unit in Vietnam. When he heard about the reunion, he wanted to say thank you for that day five decades ago.

"That was a long year," Sorci said about the time in Vietnam.

"We had to turn around airplanes and we only had so much time to do it," said Goetz. "There was always somebody yelling 'faster, faster,' but we fell into a routine."

Each fighter squadron in Vietnam had to keep planes on alert, the veterans said. This meant that at all times aircraft had to be ready to fly.

"We worked all night," said Goetz. "Every squadron had to take a chance and have two alert birds ready 24 hours; if we got the call we knew someone was in trouble."

Sorci and Goetz said leaving behind families was the toughest part of the deployment, despite continuous threats, like a mortar attack on their base.
One night, that abstract danger got real, they remembered. A massive mortar attack destroyed C-130s and F-100s and injured Airmen.

"That was kind of a bad night," Sorci said. "Yeah, we didn't have any fun that night. We thought it was something else," Goetz added.

"They called Tuy Hoa the safest base in Vietnam. Not anymore."

The year in Vietnam would earn the Guard members numerous awards: three Purple Hearts, one Distinguished Flying Cross and 43 Air Medals, along with one posthumous New York State Medal of Valor, the highest award in the New York National Guard, to Capt. Joseph L'Hullier.

L'Hullier was killed in action July 25, 1968, when his F-100 took damage while dive-bombing in the area of Chu Lai. He was found within 30 minutes, but died before he could be hospitalized. L'Hullier became the first New York National Guardsman killed in action since World War II, and the first for the 107th.

"It's like losing one of the family," said Goetz. "Everybody's a brother."

With 30 days left in country, Sorci said they started counting down the days.

"In this case, they got us out of there on time," said Sorci.

At the end of May 1969, the squadron started making its way back to Niagara Falls. On June 11, it was released from federal active duty and returned to New York State control. "We landed and the town of Niagara Falls had a band there for us," said Goetz.

"All of our family was there. They played songs for us. We got more than probably a lot of other people got."

"We came home on a C-141 Starliner, which was an adventure in itself," added Sorci. "Just the feeling of being home though and seeing your family. It's not like today where you have cellphones and can call home."

"My kids didn't know who I was," said Goetz. "My wife didn't know who I was," he joked.

Goetz, who was in the New York Air National Guard from 1964 to 1970, and Sorci, who was in from 1964 to 1969, were glad they did their part in the war.


Despite the passing of time, they still have a soft spot for the F-100s that served them so well in Vietnam and saw service from 1954 to 1979.
"Loved it!" said Sorci. "I'd probably still say it's the greatest plane we ever had. Durable, fast, pilots loved it and it carried quite a payload."

Fifty years later, the 107th now flies the MQ-9, a remotely piloted aircraft the unit started flying in 2015.
At the reunion, it is seeing familiar faces for the first time in decades that is the highlight of the night.
"It sure is different," said Sorci.

"We were basically kids back then, 20 or 21 years old." "If I'm with anybody, I'm glad it's with him," Goetz said of Sorci. "I hope we have more of these," said Sorci.

https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1978859/ny-air-guard-members-reca/

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109th Airlift Wing

NY Air Guard, Brazil partner on Antarctic flying

Air National Guard, Published October 02, 2019::

SCOTIA, N.Y. -- Six Airmen from the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard, traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 14-21, 2019, as part of the New York National Guard's new state partnership with the Brazilian armed forces.

The pilots and maintenance personnel visited their counterparts in the Brazilian Air Force's 1st Squadron of the 1st Transport Group at Galeao Air Base in Rio and talked about Antarctic flying operations.

Just as the 109th AW specializes in supporting American science operations at McMurdo Station in Antarctica, the Airmen of Brazil's 1st Squadron support the Brazilian research station in Antarctica's South Shetland Islands.

“We went to do an overview of each other's missions; finding the similarities and differences in the rules and regulations that govern us and to share flying techniques in the harsh Antarctic environment,” said Master Sgt. Chris Collins, a flight engineer assigned to the 109th AW.

The most significant difference between the two units is that the Brazilian Air Force operates between South America and Antarctica while the 109th AW works mainly within Antarctica, flying to different locations throughout the continent from McMurdo Station.
But, Collins explained, the missions all deal with the same difficulties forecasting weather and responding to complete as many missions as possible. "Aircrew are the same all over the world," said Lt. Col. Seth Barrows, a navigator at the 109th AW.

"We all experience the same types of pressures to get the job done. We learned there are differences in our rules and how we operate, but overall we face the same challenges, and it was interesting to find those similarities."

The National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program pairs states with a partner country's armed forces or equivalent to create a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

The New York National Guard has had a state partnership relationship with the South African National Defense Forces since 2003.

The partnership between the New York National Guard and the Brazilian armed forces began in March 2019 during a ceremony at the U.S.S. Intrepid Museum in New York City.

The Rio meeting was the first exchange between the 109th AW and the Brazilians. The hope is to collaborate more to keep learning from each other.

https://www.ang.af.mil/Media/Article-Display/Article/1977915/ny-air-guard-brazil-partner-on-antarctic-flying/

NY Air Guard, Brazil partner on Antarctic flying

Nationalguard.mil, By Master Sgt. Jaclyn Lyons, New York National Guard, Oct. 2, 2019:

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. SCOTIA, N.Y. -- Six Airmen from the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard, traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 14-21, 2019, as part of the New York National Guard's new state partnership with the Brazilian armed forces.

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27th Brigade

NY Army National Guard cooks shooting for top Army Guard prize

Army.mil, September 30, 2019::

NEW YORK - Ten New York Army National Guard cooks assigned to F Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion will be competing to be the best food service team in the Army National Guard in March.

The Fox Company culinary specialists, who usually feed the 450 members of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, won the regional Army National Guard Food Service Phillip A. Connelly competition this summer.
The contest recognizes excellence in Army cooks. The food service section was evaluated on July 26, 2019, during the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team annual training at Fort Drum.

A team of evaluators went through the section paperwork, and also assessed their performance in preparing and serving a meal in the field in a tactical feeding scenario.

That assessment was compared with those of other Army Guard food service sections in the region and the F Company culinary specialists came out on top, explained Chief Warrant Officer Three Nakia Dukes, the food program manager for the New York Army National Guard.

"It is very difficult to make it to the Department of the Army level," Dukes said. "In some cases, there can be a difference of one point between the winner and runner-up for the regional level competition," he said. "Every point matters."

Staff Sgt. Eli Solis, the F Company food service manager, credits the regional win to an emphasis on basic kitchen skills, hard work by the cooks, and support from the rest of the company.

The section currently only has 10 of its 16 assigned Soldiers and without the loan of additional personnel to help serve as kitchen helpers, a security force, and extra drivers, and mechanics, his Soldiers would not have been able to compete, Solis explained.

In addition to being six cooks understrength, the food service section is also made up mostly of newly assigned Soldiers.

"Most of them are college students. We have a few working on bachelor's degrees and a few with master's degrees," Solis said.

He's a chef in civilian life and the only member of the culinary team with outside experience in the food service industry, Solis added. The outside experience Solis brings has made a real difference to the professionalism of the section, said Spec. Erica Bishop, culinary specialists in Fox Company for the last five years.

"He has taught us a lot about cooking techniques and I think that really helps on working smoothly together," she said. The team also works well together because they use constructive criticism to improve, Bishop added.

Now Solis's the foodservice Soldiers, who drill at the New York State Armory in Jamaica, Queens, will compete against three other Army Guard culinary sections: from the 195th Forward Support Company in Nebraska; Headquarters Company of the 429th Support Battalion in Virginia; and Headquarters Detachment of the 109th Medical Battalion in Iowa.

Army Reserve cooks and active Army cooks will also compete to be the best in their components.
The winners will be recognized at the annual convention of the National Restaurant Association, which sponsors the event. Individual Soldiers in the winning unit will be able to go for a week of training at the Culinary Institute of America as well as earning bragging rights.

"We are all very excited about it and we are really thrilled at being able to represent New York in this competition," said Sgt. David Selman.

Bishop agreed that making it to the final step in the competition was pretty exciting.

"It makes us feel really good to be part of something bigger and to represent all the culinary specialists in the New York Army National Guard," she said.

"But we're also feeling a little bit of pressure because we are not done yet," Solis cautioned. "We want to do better. We want to win the national Connelly food service competition."

"We're not going to take our foot off the gas. We're going to keep going," Selman said.

Because so many of his cooks are straight out of training and have no outside professional food experience, Solis said he and his three NCOs focus on teaching the basics: cooking from raw ingredients, knife skills, and following recipes.

Solis--the food service manager for the last four years--said he also focuses on teamwork. During their July 26 evaluation the Containerized Kitchen's oven didn't work as it should have, he said.

"We came up with a solution, worked together, moving from one station to the next to make sure nobody was falling behind schedule and were able to put a great meal out on time," Solis said.

Having an expert watch while you do your job is the hardest part of the Connelly competition, Solis said.

"In the beginning, it was really rough because the troops were afraid they would make a mistake," he explained. "After a while, they forgot somebody was watching and they just concentrated on the mission."

The Army-level competitions require that the evaluation be done in January, February or March 2020.

A team of evaluators from the Army Quartermaster School and the National Restaurant Association will watch the process as the mess section feeds Soldiers in the field.

They will also be looking carefully at the food service section's ordering and logistics process and checking documentation, Dukes said.
The Fox Company cooks have asked to be evaluated on March 7, 2020, at the New York National Guard's Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill, N.Y.

They picked the date because the worst of the New York winter weather should be over by then, Solis said.

To get ready for this level of competition, the cooks will conduct some retraining on basic skills like following recipes and menus. But a major emphasis will be on paperwork, he said.

"We know that cooking is only half the battle. So we'll dedicate most of our preparation training time to ensure that our food service documents and equipment maintenance are properly recorded," Solis emphasized.

Another key issue will be making sure the containerized kitchen, which includes generators, water, refrigerators, and an oven, is in top working order, Selman said.

The team will be focusing on preventative maintenance for their kitchen, which can feed up to 800 troops at each meal, he said.

Being part of the Connelly competition is great, Selman said, but the thing he likes best about being an Army cook is knowing that what you do helps every Soldier in the unit. "I know most of the Soldiers in my entire battalion on a first name basis because they come through our kitchen," he said.

Those relationships make the culinary section want to be the best, Selman said.

"We have a saying in our section, Solis said, 'Never send any food out to the troops that you, yourself, won't eat.'"

https://www.army.mil/article/227840/ny_army_national_guard_cooks_shooting_for_top_army_guard_prize

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**Airmen and Soldiers**

**National Guard promotes local soldiers**

*Daily Messenger, Sept. 29, 2019:*

**Oct 04, 2019**

The New York Army National Guard recently promoted Rylee North, of Clifton Springs; Megan Perryman, of Manchester; and Kaiden Moore, of Palmyra, to the ranks of private. Moore serves with the 105th Military Police Company. North and Perryman are assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company. Army National Guard promotions are based on overall
In the Military: National Guard soldiers promoted

Post Star, Sep 28, 2019::
Oct 04, 2019

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

- Kurt Dachtler of Wilton, assigned to the 206th Military Police Company, received a promotion to the rank of private first class;
- Omar Henry of Glens Falls, assigned to the 466th Medical Company Area Support, received a promotion to the rank of private first class;
- Camille Valenza of Queensbury, assigned to the Battery A, 1-258th Field Artillery, received a promotion to the rank of second lieutenant;
- Nathaniel Cross of Queensbury, assigned to the Company B, 2-108th Infantry, received a promotion to the rank of Sergeant;
- Barry Linendoll of Cambridge, assigned to the Company C, 2-108th Infantry, received a promotion to the rank of private;
- Joseph Holt of South Glens Falls, assigned to the Company D, 3-142nd Aviation, received a promotion to the rank of private; and
- Wesley Merkley of Hudson Falls, assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters, received a promotion to the rank of staff sergeant.
- Jared Nix of Fort Edward, assigned to the 1427th Transportation Company, received a promotion to the rank of private first class;
- Trish Cormier of South Glens Falls, assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters, received a promotion to the rank of sergeant first class;
- Dustin Johnson of Fort Edward, assigned to the Company B, 2-108th Infantry, received a promotion to the rank of specialist;
- Jacob Nix of Granville, assigned to the Company C, 2-108th Infantry, received a promotion to the rank of private first class; and
- Robert Rouse of Queensbury, assigned to the 1427th Transportation Company, received a promotion to the rank of sergeant first class.
Pocono Service Corner

Pocono Record, Oct. 1, 2019::
Oct 04, 2019

National Guard soldier receives new rank Maj. Gen. 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. Michael McNally from East Stroudsburg, and assigned to the Company C, 1-69th Infantry received a promotion to the rank of private. 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.


DUTY CALLS: Three soldiers receive two medals upon retirement

Times Union, September 29, 2019::
Oct 04, 2019

Two New York Army National Guard officers and a noncommissioned officer have each received two medals during their retirement testimonies for their exemplary service.

Colonel James Freehart of Troy, a veteran of the Afghan War and the invasion of Grenada in 1983, has received a Legion of Merit Medal and a New York State Conspicuous Service Medal in recognition of his 38-year career in the active Army and the New York Army National Guard.

Lieutenant Col. Christopher Ciccone of Rensselaer, a veteran of the war in Iraq, received a Legion of Merit and a New York State Conspicuous Service Medal in recognition of his 33 years of military duty.

Sergeant Maj. Daniel Brunner of Saratoga Springs, a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, received a Meritorious Service Medal and a New York State Conspicuous Service Medal to help mark his 22 years of Marine and New York Army National Guard duty.
Freehart, who commanded the 204th Engineer Battalion and 153rd Troop Command, served in Afghanistan in 2008 with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Freehart enlisted in the Army in 1981 as a UH-1 helicopter repairman. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division in 1982.

He also served in South Korea from 1985 to 1986. He joined the New York Army National Guard in 1987 as a member of the 42nd Aviation Battalion.

He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an infantry officer in June 1989 and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry. He has worked full time at New York National Guard headquarters serving as an environmental analyst and environmental branch chief before finally becoming the information technology director.

While serving as commander of the 204th Engineer Battalion, he led the battalion's response to Hurricanes Lee and Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Freehart is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

He earned an associate's degree from Hudson Valley Community College and a bachelor's in environmental engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has earned numerous other recognitions, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medals, a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, an Aviation Badge, and a Senior Parachutists Badge.

Ciccone's career with the National Guard began in 1986 when he enlisted as a combat signal soldier.

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation New York's Officer Candidate School at the Empire State Military Academy in 1990.

He has held many staff and leadership positions in the New York National Guard, including commander of 2nd Battalion, 106th Regiment of the Regional Training Institute at Camp Smith, senior intelligence officer of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, analysis control element chief for the 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, commander for the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters Company, and executive officer for Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 69th Air Defense Artillery.

His most recent assignment was as a deputy director at the Joint Force Headquarters. Ciccone is also a graduate of the Army War College and the Command and General Staff College.

He also earned a master's degree in curriculum development and a bachelor of science in geology from the University at Albany.
He has earned a Bronze Star, five Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, and four Army Reserve Component Achievement Medals. As a civilian, he is an earth science teacher at Columbia High School in East Greenbush.

Brunner enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 1997 and served as a basic school weapons instructor, machine gun team leader and squad leader.

In April 2002 he joined the New York Army National Guard. In 2006 Brunner deployed with the 4th Personnel Services Detachment to Iraq and in 2013 he deployed to Afghanistan with the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

He is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy and the Jungle Warfare Training Course.

He has also earned an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Achievement Medal, Army Driver and Mechanic Badge, Navy Achievement Medal, and Army and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals. Send-off for veterans Individuals and organizations are welcome to help thank and send off 89 World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans, as well as their guardians, at 4:30 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 5, in the baggage area at the Albany International Airport in Colonie before they board a Southwest flight for a free one-day excursion to visit war monuments and historic sites in Washington, D.C.

A welcome back ceremony is planned for 10:30 p.m.


Military News

The Daily Star Oct. 3, 2019:

Col. Carlton Cleveland of Oneonta, assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters, retired from the New York Army National Guard last month after 29 years of military service. Cleveland joined the military in May 1990.

In a media release about the retirement of Cleveland and others, Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, Adjutant General for the State of New York said, “A full military career is a major achievement in the lives of our citizen soldiers and their families. I congratulate our soldiers, their loved ones and their employers on this milestone of more than 20 years of service. We may recruit individual soldiers into our Army National Guard, but I know full well that it takes the support of a family to make this a career.”
Shields also extended his best wishes for the success of the New York retirees as they begin new chapters in their lives.

U.S. Air Force Airman William S. Bankston graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Bankston is the son of Kara G. Hillicoss of Middleburgh.

He is a June graduate of Middleburgh Central School. Six area members of the New York Army National Guard were recently promoted in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership potential.

- According to a media release, promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability and development potential.

- Matthew McMullen of Cherry Valley, assigned to the 1156th Engineer Company, received a promotion to the rank of private first class.
- Nathan Barker of New Berlin, assigned to the 152nd Engineer Support Company, received a promotion to the rank of private.
- Adam Wagner of Masonville, assigned to the 827th Engineer Company, received a promotion to the rank of private.
- Robert Lyons of Cobleskill, assigned to the Company B, Recruiting and Retention, received a promotion to the rank of Staff Sgt.
- Zhane Smith of Delhi, assigned to the Company D, 3-142nd, Aviation, received a promotion to the rank of private.
- Brian Stegen of Richfield Springs, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-108th Infantry, received a promotion to the rank of Sgt.


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Local soldiers re-enlist with National Guard

Daily Messenger, October 2, 2019 ::

Staff Sgts. Timothy Brugger, of Hilton, and Jennifer Meyer, of Rochester, recently re-enlisted to continue service with the New York Army National Guard. Both serve with the Headquarters and Service Company, 642nd Support Battalion. The New York National Guard is the executive agency responsible to the governor for managing military forces comprised of nearly 20,000 members of the state Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Naval Militia and Guard.


Ruffule re-enlists for continued service in Army National Guard

Observer- Dispatch October 3, 2019 ::

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general, announces the recent re-enlistment of Carli Ruffule in recognition of her continuing commitment to serve community, state and nation as part of the Army National Guard. Specialist Ruffule, of Frankfort, re-enlisted to continue service with the 206th Military Police Company.


Counter Drug Task Force

Edgewater Ex-Con Nabbed By Federal-State Strike Force Admits Laundering $850,000 In Drug Money

Daily Voice, October 1, 2019::

An ex-con living in Edgewater admitted in federal court Tuesday that he laundered more than $850,000 in drug money.
Bobbie L. Henderson III, 36, was living in the St. Moritz high-rise off Gorge Road when, federal authorities said, he “conspired with others to launder the proceeds of narcotics distribution, with the intent to promote the distribution of narcotics.”

U.S. District Judge Stanley R. Chesler scheduled sentencing for Jan. 8, 2020 after Henderson pleaded guilty Wednesday in Newark to conspiracy as part of an agreement with federal prosecutors.

Henderson five years ago was charged in Pennsylvania with fighting with police who took him into custody after he crashed his car in the middle of a highway and left it there.

Carpenito cited work on the investigation by the New York Strike Force, a crime-fighting unit comprised of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies supported by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) and the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

The principal mission of the OCDETF program, he said, is to “identify, disrupt and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking, weapons trafficking and money laundering organizations, and those primarily responsible for the nation’s illegal drug supply.”

The Strike Force is housed at the DEA’s New York Division and includes agents and officers of the DEA, the ATF, the Secret Service, the IRS, the U.S. Marshals Service, federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Homeland Security Investigations, Customs and Border Protection, the Coast Guard, the NYPD, New York State Police, the New York National Guard, the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision and the Clarkstown Police Department and Port Washington police departments.

The plea was secured by Assistant U.S. Attorney Francesca Liquori of Carpenito’s Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force.


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**Emergency Response**

**Letter: Ground Zero heroes still lack critical care**

Buffalo News, October 1, 2019:

We recently observed the 18th anniversary of the most horrific terrorist attack in our nation’s history. It was a somber day, filled with ceremonies to remember the victims and the first responders, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11. Tragically, the health effects of toxins in the air at Ground Zero have continued taking the lives of these heroes almost two decades later. There have been victories in the fight for the care of our first responders, but
unfortunately, a group of brave men and women from Western New York seem to have been forgotten. Members of the New York National Guard were called to duty in the wake of this unspeakable tragedy, and now many of them are unaware of the benefits they are entitled to. A friend of mine is one of these soldiers. He was deployed to New York City and years later was diagnosed with cancer related to his time spent at Ground Zero. Luckily, he is alive today after treatment, but had he known about the World Trade Center Health Program, he could have received early screenings for cancer. We will never forget the events of that fateful day, and we must do everything we can to ensure all first responders are receiving the care they are entitled to and deserve. Not one more life should be lost due to this tragedy. Assemblyman Pat Burke

Naval Militia

MILITARY NEWS IN THE MID-HUDSON VALLEY: Sept. 29, 2019

Daily Freeman, Sept. 29, 2019::

Warren Smith, a Rhinebeck resident, and retired Navy Reserve officer, was promoted to rear admiral in the New York Naval Militia in ceremonies on Sept. 9 in Latham, N.Y. A rear admiral is a one-star admiral. Smith, an architect and a principal of his own firm, Warrant Temple Smith Architects, LLC, currently serves as the deputy commander of the 2,500- member Naval Militia. He is slated to take command of the force in October. The New York Naval Militia is comprised mainly of members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve who also volunteer to serve on New York state missions when called. They put the training they've gained in the federal service to work for the state. A small number of Naval Militia members are retired members of the services, like Smith, or have never served in the naval service. Naval Militia members respond to weather emergencies and to state security concerns.
The Naval Militia also maintains a fleet of ten patrol boats. Smith was commissioned in the Navy in March 1981 and served on active duty until July 1985.

He served on board the USS Towers, a destroyer; and the USS Yorktown, a guided missile cruiser.

As a Navy Reserve officer, Smith took on a variety of assignments. They include joint public affairs operations officer for the United States Atlantic Command and a Joint Staff Planner for Area Air Defense Commander Atlantic.

Smith, who is a surface warfare officer, joined the New York Naval Militia in 2004 and retired from the Navy Reserve in 2007. As a member of the New York Naval Militia, he also served as commander for the Naval Militia Northern Command.

- Ian Heal, of New Paltz, a member of the New York Army National Guard, was promoted to the rank of private first class. Heal is assigned to the Division Signal Company, 42nd Infantry Division. Graduated


Airmen completed an intensive eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. O'Brien is the daughter of Dawn Merrill of Highland and Thomas O'Brien of Newburgh.


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New York Air National Guard

Air Guardsman faces charges in the death of 2 children, mother

NY: Air Force Times, October 3, 2019 :

A New York City man now faces charges in the deaths of his two children and their mother. Shane Walker pleaded not guilty on Wednesday. He was initially indicted in the June death of Alla Ausheva.

An updated indictment was issued after an autopsy determined that 2-year-old Ivan and 3-year-old Elia Walker were drowned. Ausheva served with the Air National Guard. The
Russian immigrant became an American citizen at a 2012 White House ceremony. Walker also was a Guardsman.

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New York man previously indicted in girlfriend's death now charged in death of two toddlers

Fox News, October 3, 2019 :

The New York City man charged with killing his girlfriend in June after he allegedly found her home with his two murdered children has now been charged with their deaths as well.

Shane Walker, 36, pleaded not guilty Wednesday in the deaths of his two children, 2-year-old Ivan and 3-year-old Elia, after an autopsy report revealed that they were drowned. He was initially indicted in the death of his girlfriend Alla Ausheva after she and their two children were found dead in their Staten Island home in June.

Ausheva, who was reportedly stabbed, was found face-down on a bed with face and head trauma. The children were found lifeless in the bathtub. According to the indictment, Walker allegedly told detectives at the time that he confronted and strangled Ausheva after finding their children dead in the bathtub.

Ausheva, a member of the Air National Guard, was born in Russia, but in 2012 was sworn in as a U.S. citizen at the White House after winning a green card lottery the year before. Walker was also a guardsman.

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Staten Island man faces charges in the death of 2 children, mother

WPIX, 11 , October 3, 2019 :

ARROCHAR, Staten Island — A New York City man now faces charges in the June deaths of his two children and their mother. Shane Walker pleaded not guilty to the charges on Wednesday. He was initially indicted in the June death of Alla Ausheva. An updated indictment was issued after an autopsy determined that 2-year-old Ivan and 3-year-old Elia Walker were drowned. According to a court document, Walker told detectives that he confronted and strangled Ausheva after finding their children lifeless in the bathtub. She also was stabbed in the incident. Ausheva served with the Army and Air National Guard. The
New Regulation Opens Up Opportunities for Air Guard Airmen to Commission as Officers

OCTOBER 3, 2019 – More enlisted Airmen now have a chance to become officers in the Air National Guard.

The regulation which set the maximum age for non-rated officers commissioning opportunities at 39 years old, has been replaced by a new requirement that allows Airmen to become officers if they can serve for at least 10 years before hitting their mandatory retirement date.

Rated officers include pilots, navigators, air battle managers, and remotely piloted aircraft pilots. Non-rated officers represent all other officer positions except for health care officers and chaplains.

Their commissioning requirements are different, according to New York Air National Guard Master Sgt. Matthew A. Repp, the recruiting and retention manager for the 106th Rescue Wing at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, N.Y.

The Air Guard has approximately 105,000 members, both enlisted and officers in the United States and its territories.

Officers represent about 17% of the 105,000 personnel, according to the 2016 Total Force Military Demographics.

The Air Guard has seven and six percent fewer officers, respectively, than the Air Force Reserve and the active-duty Air Force, Repp said.

Officers comprise 24 percent of the Air Force Reserve and 23 percent of Active Duty Airmen. This difference means there can be opportunities for enlisted members to commission as officers in the Air Guard, explained Repp.

According to the National Guard Bureau the Air Guard represents 21% of the total Air Force and provides almost 50% of the Air Force’s tactical airlift support, combat communications functions, aeromedical evacuations, and aerial refueling.

The Air Guard generally attracts more experienced civilians, Airmen from active-duty, and service members from other branches explained 2nd Lt. Patrick S. White, 106th logistics officer.
“To overcome the challenges of the future, the Air Guard needs enlisted members who are leaders to take their problem-solving abilities to the next level and serve as officers,” White said.

Many enlisted members who had commissioned executed their jobs with excellence when someone identified them as a qualified candidate for commissioning, explained White. While commissioning may not be the right move for everyone, there are several reasons why enlisted Airman wanted to commission.

“I commissioned because I wanted to effect change, invest in the development of my team so that my they could effectively execute the mission,” said 1st Lt. Julie C. Kurdi, 106th aircraft maintenance officer.

According to White, he commissioned based on the recommendation of people who observed his leadership potential.

“I chose to pursue a commission because I wanted to inspire change for the team that I would lead,” commented 1st Lt. Damina E. Townes, an officer with the 106th Sustainment Services flight. Officer selection in the Air Guard starts with the announcement of a vacant position. The officer selection process is quite rigorous, and only the most capable candidates are chosen, according to Repp.

“Qualified applicants must satisfactorily complete a medical physical, qualify for a security clearance, obtain a passing score on the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test, meet Air Force fitness standards, have a bachelor’s degree, pass an interview board, get letters of recommendation and attend the Total Force Officer Training if selected.

The selected individual must also be able to serve for at least 10 years,” Repp said.

The most recent change to the Air Guard non-rated officer selection process is the age requirement. According to the Air Force Instruction, eligible members can apply for commission if they can serve for at least 10 years.

One of the most challenging hurdles enlisted members must overcome to become an officer is passing the officer qualifying test, explained White.

“I studied four days a week, an hour each day, for five months and hired a tutor as needed to prepare for the officer qualifying test,” White said. “Generally, this test can only be taken twice. Therefore, candidates need to take their time and do the work necessary to pass.”

If an applicant can meet the requirements and their package is accepted, the next step is meeting with the selection board for an interview. If the candidate is selected for commissioning, there still lies one more level of approval outside of the wing level.
Once NGB gives the final approval of the selected officer package, candidates are scheduled to attend officer training, which is eight weeks long at Maxell Air Force Base in Alabama. Upon the successful completion of officer training, newly commissioned officers must attend a technical school, to learn their job and then complete on-the-job training.

The Air Guard will need new officers that can overcome the challenges of the future and lead the organization to mission success, explained Major Edward S. Boughal, 106th director of staff and a combat rescue officer.

“Effective officers will be able to lead people with humility, make good decisions quickly, and speak truth to power,” Boughal said. For more information on officer positions and qualification, visit www.goang.com.

Story by Airman 1st Class Kevin Donaldson New York National Guard

NYC Man Faces Charges in the Death of 2 Children, Mother

Associated Press, October 3, 2019 :

A New York City man now faces charges in the deaths of his two children and their mother. Shane Walker pleaded not guilty on Wednesday. He was initially indicted in the June death of Alla Ausheva. An updated indictment was issued after an autopsy determined that 2-year-old Ivan and 3-year-old Elia Walker were drowned. Ausheva served with the Army and Air National Guard. The Russian immigrant became an American citizen at a 2012 White House ceremony. Walker also was a guardsman. The Staten Island Advance reports that about a dozen National Guard members in camouflage uniforms attended the hearing. According to a court document, Walker told detectives that he confronted and strangled Ausheva after finding the children lifeless in the bathtub. She also was stabbed. Walker’s lawyer had no comment. https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-york/articles/2019-10-03/nyc-man-faces-charges-in-the-death-of-2-children-mother

Guard News Rule change lets more Airmen become officers

Nationalguard.mil, By Airman 1st Class Kevin Donaldson | New York National Guard | Oct. 2, 2019 ::
WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. – OCTOBER 3, 2019 – More enlisted Airmen now have a chance to become officers in the Air National Guard.

The regulation which set the maximum age for non-rated officers commissioning opportunities at 39 years old, has been replaced by a new requirement that allows Airmen to become officers if they can serve for at least 10 years before hitting their mandatory retirement date.

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Staten Island Dad Accused of Killing Girlfriend, Drowning 2 Sons Before Lighting House on Fire Wore Their Faces to Court: Report

NBC New York, Oct 2, 2019::

The Staten Island father accused of killing his wife and their two sons earlier this year pleaded not guilty on Wednesday as more disturbing details in the case was unveiled.

The previously sealed indictment allege that Shane Walker, 36, stabbed Alla Ausheva twice in her neck before he strangled her to death on June 21.

Walker also allegedly drowned his two sons, 3-year-old Elia and 2-year-old Ivan, before setting the home on Palisade Street in Arrochar on fire.

Walker, a member of the U.S. Air National Guard, wore his sons and Ausheva's faces and names on his white button downs to court as onlookers stared in disbelief, The Staten Island Advance reported. Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon said Walker is now charged with multiple counts of murder, manslaughter, arson, aggravated criminal contempt, criminal contempt, and criminal possession of a weapon.

He is also charged with multiple counts of assault for a separate incident in which he allegedly caused physical injury to NYPD officers while being transported to a court arraignment.

Walker reportedly was being transported from a police precinct June 24 to the Staten Island Court for his arraignment when he slammed a detective against the rear door of the vehicle several times, prosecutors say.

Walker also allegedly headbutted an NYPD lieutenant when the lieutenant tried to restrain him. Both officers were injured, according to prosecutors. Defense lawyer Eric Nelson pleaded not guilty on Walker's behalf, SILive reported, but he did not provide other comments.

Walker previously denied drowning his two sons, according to the paper's report, but admitted to strangling Ausheva and setting the Staten Island home ablaze. After he filled the home with smoke, law enforcement found

Walker walking along the Verrazzano Bridge and took him into custody. Ausheva, 37, was also a U.S. military member who moved to the city from Russia -- and became an American citizen during a 2012 ceremony at the White House.
According to The New York Times, Ausheva had an order of protection against Walker but it was no longer in effect. Her death culminates a true American dream story that ended, perhaps, before she was able to fully realize it.

Ausheva moved to Queens from St. Petersburg in 2011 and soon joined the New York Army National Guard. In 2014, she transferred to the Air National Guard. She was serving full time on active duty with a homeland security force based at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, according to a military spokeswoman.


PFOA Issue

Schumer pushes for installation of filtration system at New Windsor Recreation Pond

Mid Hudson News, October 2, 2019::

WASHINGTON – Months after a filtration system was supposed to be installed at Recreation Pond in New Windsor to filter out PFAS, final approval by all parties involved has yet to be secured and US Senator Charles Schumer, who has been working on the arrangement, is furious. The senator was told it would take three to six months to install the system, but it is approaching 10 months with nothing in sight. “Today I’m saying enough is enough. I am demanding that the Air Force, Air National Guard and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey work double-time to get these contracts signed and construction underway,” he said. “Anything otherwise would be a dereliction of duty because restoring clean drinking water to Newburgh cannot afford to be put off any longer.” The PFAS has been leaking into Rec Pond from the Stewart Airport Air National Guard Base as the result of previous use of firefighting foam that contained PFAS. It has been over three years since the chemical was discovered in Washington Lake, the city’s reservoir. Since then, it has been shut off and the city has been securing its water from the New York City Catskill Aqueduct. https://midhudsonnews.com/2019/10/02/schumer-pushes-for-installation-of-filtration-system-at-new-windsor-recreation-pond/

Newburgh frustrated by water-filter project delays

Times Herald Record, Sept. 1. 2019:
STEWART AIRPORT — Construction of the Department of Defense’s $2.4 million water filter at Recreation Pond should have been finished by now. It hasn’t even started, though.

In April, the DoD announced the project would be completed by the end of summer. Plans called for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an agency under the DoD, to build a granulated activated carbon and resin filtration system at Recreation Pond.

The filter would prevent further contamination at Washington Lake by treating runoff at the Stewart Air National Guard Base. The runoff overflows from the pond into Silver Stream and on to Washington Lake. In 2016, studies found that Washington Lake, the City of Newburgh’s primary water source, was contaminated with toxic PFOS chemicals that emanated from firefighting foam used at the base.

The city stopped drawing water from the lake in May 2016. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey were at an impasse for months over a Right of Entry agreement for the USACE to access Recreation Pond on airport property. U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer had to step in to broker an agreement between the two agencies, according to a news release from his office.

Afterward, when he asked for an updated timeline, Schumer was told two other bureaucratic items - a Tenant Alteration Agreement and a Dam Safety Plan - were further delaying the project. Schumer on Tuesday demanded that the Air Force, Air National Guard and Port Authority work “double-time” to wrap up the paperwork so construction can begin.

Even after all approvals are in place, it will take nine weeks to build and test the filtration system.

“I’m extremely frustrated,” Schumer told the Times Herald-Record. “But forget me, it’s about the people of Newburgh who are frustrated.”

Newburgh Mayor Torrance Harvey said he is constantly reminded of the human cost of the contamination through weekly texts, emails, phone calls and letters to his office from residents asking what is being done to address blood-test results, health-care reimbursements and rebates for purchasing the dirty water years ago.

“I’m tired of being nice and I’m tired of being polite,” Harvey said, frustrated by news of project delays. “I’m starting to get upset because the people are upset. It’s not fair the federal government wants to drag its feet on these matters. ... We’re talking about contamination that the DoD is responsible for.”

Harvey is grateful for Schumer’s support, he said, and action taken thus far by the state to provide free blood tests and money for Newburgh to draw water from New York City’s Catskill Aqueduct.

“They (federal government) have done nothing, at this point, except to have a bunch of meetings, and I’m sick of meetings,” Harvey said, noting there is another meeting with
federal officials in a week. “When are you going to do something instead of putting lip service to everything? The federal government needs to do something.”