105th Airlift Wing

City firefighters battle Newburgh blaze:
Midhudson News, October 21, 2019:

Troops from Fort Drum deployed in search for 20-year-old West Point cadet who vanished days ago with rifle:
Stars & Stripes, October 22, 2019:

109th Airlift Wing

109th Airlift Wing to support science missions in Antarctica:

Schenectady County finishes $10 million in airport work: Taxiway between Stratton Air National Guard Base and county airport improved:
The Daily Gazette, October 21, 2019:

NY Air National Guard to launch mission to Antarctica:
Associated Press, October 25, 2019

27th Brigade

N.Y. Army Guard welcomes first female Armor officer:
Connecting Vets.com, October 15, 2019

42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

Manufacturing Day to Educate High School Students About Future Careers: Fun-filled educational event will feature a helicopter landing on campus:
RPI News, October 24, 2019

53rd Troop Command

Medics train for lifesaving with Army Guard medevac aircrews:
Nationalguard.mil, By Sgt. Matthew Gunther| New York National Guard | Oct. 22, 2019:

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Army.mil, By Sgt. Matthew Gunther, New York National Guard October 22, 2019:

Airmen and Soldiers

Local Army National Guard soldiers promoted:
The Evening Tribune, October 22, 2019:

Ballston Lake National Guard soldier retires from Military Service:
Saratogian, October, 24,2019

Cazenovia man retires from National Guard:
Oneida Daily Dispatch, October 21, 2019:
**State Department honors NY Guard Soldier for Iraq service:**
Army.mil, October 18, 2019:

**National Guard promotes local soldiers:**
MNP NOW, October 20, 2019

**Military Notes: Cayuga County National Guard members reenlist, promoted:**
Auburn Citizen, Oct 19, 2019:

**State Department honors NY Guard Soldier for Iraq service:**
nationalguard.mil, Oct. 18, 2019:

**Community News for Oct. 23, 2019:**
Observer-Dispatch, October 23, 2019:

**Eastern Air Defense Sector**

**Oneida Airman earns Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal:**
Oneida Daily Dispatch, October 23, 2019:

**Emergency Response**

**24th CST Story:**
WNBC, October 22, 2019:

**Employer Support**

**Liz Bishop honored with the "Seven Seals Award" at NYS Assembly:**
CBS 6, October 23, 2019:

**Veterans**

**Does the GOP stand a chance in NY19 without Molinaro? Latest FEC filings reveal a weak Republican primary field of 2020 challengers to Antonio Delgado.**
The rivernewsroom.com., October 24, 2019

**Military Entrance Processing Station celebrates 50 years at Fort Hamilton:**
Brooklyn Reporter, October 22, 2019:

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**105th Airlift Wing**

**City firefighters battle Newburgh blaze**

Midhudson News, October 21, 2019::

NEWBURGH – Several area fire departments assisted Newburgh city firefighters Saturday evening as flames shot out of the top floor of a 3 ½ story resident at 88 Farrington Street.
One resident of the house escaped as firefighting personnel arrived.

The two-alarm blaze brought out firefighters from West Point, New York Air National Guard, and Cronomer Valley. Middle Hope and Orange Lake were on standby at the city public safety building.

The cause is under investigation and there were no reports of injuries.

https://midhudsonnews.com/2019/10/21/city-firefighters-battle-newburgh-blaze/

Troops from Fort Drum deployed in search for 20-year-old West Point cadet who vanished days ago with rifle

Stars & Stripes, October 22, 2019 ::

WASHINGTON — West Point Cadet Kade Kurita was scheduled Friday to participate in a military skills competition. But the 20-year-old from Gardena, Calif., never showed up, according to U.S. Military Academy officials.

With Kurita now missing for five days with his M4 rifle, approximately 130 military police from Fort Drum, N.Y., deployed Tuesday to the academy to assist in the search for the cadet, according to academy officials.

“There has been no cell phone or financial activity in over 72 hours,” said Col. Cecil Marson, garrison commander at West Point. “This leads us to believe that he is still in the vicinity of West Point.”

Officials also said they do not believe the Class of 2021 cadet has ammunition for the rifle.

“There is no indication Kurita poses a threat to the public,” according to an academy news release. “But he may be a danger to himself.”

West Point’s massive property sprawls 16,000 acres. The ground search force of soldiers from the 23rd Military Police Company, law enforcement and dogs has covered about 6,000 acres so far, but poor weather has hampered aviation efforts, according to academy officials.

Military helicopters from the 2nd Aviation Detachment out of Stewart Air National Guard Base in New York and New York State Police drones and helicopters using cameras and infrared are also searching for the missing cadet.

New York State Police dive teams have been using sonar to help search in the Hudson River along with lakes and ponds at West Point.
"We will continue to search with all means possible, on and off West Point. Safely locating the cadet remains our focus and number one priority," Lt. Gen. Darryl Williams, superintendent of the academy, said in a statement.

West Point is operating under normal conditions with increased law enforcement activity.


109th Airlift Wing

109th Airlift Wing to support science missions in Antarctica

Naitonalguard.mil, By Master Sgt. Jaclyn Lyons | New York National Guard | Oct. 24, 2019:

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, SCOTIA, N.Y – The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing launches its 32nd year of support of U.S. Antarctic Program research Oct. 28, when the first of five LC-130 "Skibird" aircraft depart on the weeklong trip to the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Station.

The 109th Airlift Wing flies the largest ski-equipped aircraft in the world, which are capable of landing on ice or snow and transport people, equipment and supplies to stations across the continent. The National Science Foundation manages the Antarctic Program.

The 109th Airlift Wing provides support to the Antarctic Program as part of Operation Deep Freeze. The military's Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica employs sealift and airlift to deliver supplies and personnel to Antarctica.

During the 2019-2020 support season, which runs through February 2020 for the 109th Airlift Wing, about 500 Airmen are expected to deploy. Some 120 of them will be "on the ice" at any one time. The wing anticipates conducting 160 missions, included logistical support for research in West Antarctica. Scientists are studying ice loss in glaciers in that section of the continent.

"The 2019-2020 Operation Deep Freeze season marks the 60th anniversary of the Antarctic treaty and the 32nd year that the 109th has supported this mission," said Col. Michele Kilgore, 109th Airlift Wing commander. "Operating in extreme weather is no easy task. Our 109th Airlift Wing Airmen are experts and continually rise to complete the mission in the most efficient and safest way."

During the 2018-2019 season, 109th Airmen completed 242 missions within Antarctica.
The 109th Airlift Wing transported 2,100 researchers and support staff plus about 2.8 million pounds of cargo and 1.8 million pounds of fuel to research stations across the continent.

During the 2018-2019 support season, scientists launched the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration in West Antarctica. This is a project to research one of the most unstable glaciers in Antarctica. Supporting this project required a significant logistics effort by the Airmen of the 109th.

The unique capabilities of the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft make it the only one of its kind in the U.S. military able to land on snow and ice. A foundational mission of the 109th Airlift Wing is to provide airlift within Antarctica, flying to various remote locations from McMurdo Station.

Crews will transport scientists, fuel, medical supplies and more throughout the season. Maintenance personnel will also endure harsh conditions while working outside with limited facilities to keep the aircraft ready.


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Schenectady County finishes $10 million in airport work: Taxiway between Stratton Air National Guard Base and county airport improved

The Daily Gazette, October 21, 2019 ::

GLENVILLE -- Schenectady County recently completed $10 million in improvements at the County Airport in Glenville, including new lighting on the airport's longest runway and reconstruction and widening of a principle taxiway.

The work included resurfacing and replacing lighting on Runway 4-22, which is 7,000 feet long. The 2,200 taxiway that was reconstructed and widened connects the airport to the Stratton Air National Guard Base, where a fleet of C-130 equipped for polar landings is based. The construction work was done by Callanan Industries.

The airport is used by the National Guard and for general private aviation. "The airport continues to be an important transportation and economic development asset for Schenectady County and we welcome the opportunity reinvest in this facility," said County Legislature Chairman Anthony Jasenski, D-Rotterdam.

The Federal Aviation Administration paid about $7.4 million of the cost, and the Department of Defense contributed about $1.8 million. New York state and the county each paid about 4 percent, or about $400,000.
NY Air National Guard to launch mission to Antarctica

Associated Press, October 25, 2019:

SCOTIA, N.Y. (AP) — THE New York Air National Guard is launching a support mission to Antarctica for a 32nd year.

Members of the 109th Airlift Wing leave Monday for a weeklong trip to the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Station. Five LC-130 "Skibird" aircraft will depart from the Stratton Air National Guard Base near Schenectady.

The military helps deliver supplies and personnel to Antarctica. The wing expects to conduct 160 missions, included logistical support for research. Scientists are studying ice loss in glaciers on the continent.

About 500 airmen are expected to deploy through February.

N.Y. Army Guard welcomes first female Armor officer

Connecting Vets.com, October 15, 2019:

LATHAM, N.Y., (Oct. 15, 2019) – Army 2nd. Lt. Jessica Reed has made history by becoming the New York Army National Guard’s first female armor officer after graduating from the Armor Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, on June 4, 2019.

Reed, who is from Salamanca, is assigned to Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment in Jamestown, and is training to become a platoon leader. That position will see her commanding upwards of 25 Soldiers plus assigned Humvee vehicles.
One of the first tasks once back from armor school was two weeks of annual training at Fort Drum, her first time doing field exercises with bravo troop.

“It was a great experience,” said Reed. “I was thankful to be back in time to go so I could spend time with my guys and see how they work as a team and learn from each of them what their jobs and what each one entailed.”

Those two weeks of field training included reconnaissance training, getting hands-on with various weapons systems and training on dismounted operations.

"2nd Lt. Reeds work has so far been nothing short of outstanding," said Capt. Jeffrey Phillips, commander of bravo troop. "She is an intelligent junior officer with a strong desire to learn her profession and improves each and every month."

It all started when she enlisted in August of 2017, and Reed explained that she focused on being an officer after having considered the idea of joining the Army National Guard for several years. After the required interview process, she shipped out to basic training and then to Officer Candidate School.

“I went in with the intention of kind of shopping around, I didn’t even know that officer was something that I could do,” said Reed.

Capt. Jared Kausner, the officer strength manager that Reed worked with during the process, was able to explain first-hand what it is like to be an armor officer and what the benefits are.

“A lot of it was just hearing him talk about how he loved what he did, so he kind of sold that to me,” said Reed. “Hearing how excited he was about it was more what I was looking for, something drastically different from what I do in everyday life.”

“She immediately impressed me as someone who had officer potential,” said Kausner. “She had come prepared for the interview, displayed maturity, asked thought out questions and displayed an air of confidence.”

Kausner explained to Reed that the 101st Cavalry had leadership positions for armor officers and once she did more research on her own, Reed came back asking to branch armor.

“Based on her leadership traits and potential, I knew she would do well as an armor officer,” said Kausner. “All Army branches are now open to women to serve, in New York this opens up opportunities in 14 infantry and cavalry units.

“The Army has a ‘leaders first’ policy in which these units must have at least two female officers or non-commissioned officers present before female enlisted Soldiers may be assigned. Having leaders such as Reed filling these spots will help us open the door towards bringing more women into infantry and cavalry roles.”
Reed explained that she was more excited than nervous at the idea of doing something that females had previously not been allowed to do in the Army. The excitement was also shared by many of her family and friends who were happy to see her go after such an opportunity, she added.

“Some of my friends and family were a little nervous which is understandable,” said Reed. “But a lot of them were very, very excited, especially my dad. It was better received than I was expecting.”

After basic training, Reed graduated from Officer Candidate School in July of 2018. She drilled with bravo troop for a few months to observe the day to day operations of the unit before being sent to armor school in January of 2019.

“It was amazing, it was probably the most fun I’ve ever had,” said Reed. “The biggest learning curve though is you go down there and you don’t know anything about the concept of tanks, but it was amazing to go in not knowing anything and seeing week by week how much you are learning, so it was certainly very difficult but very fun.”

January also marked three years since the Army opened up to females the fields of armor, field artillery, infantry and special operations jobs for the first time. Going into 2019, more than 1,000 females were already serving in these fields across the Army, according to the Army’s deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Asked if women are treated differently, Reed said no.

“People are going to think that. I could see where people were getting, maybe nervous, with having females coming in but I didn’t experience anything like that. People always get nervous when there is a change,” she said.

As a new armor officer, Reed began the process of learning to be a platoon leader by shadowing another lieutenant in bravo troop. This allowed her to learn unit operations, tasks, responsibilities and logistics that will come with the position, a routine that Reed said she is adapting to easily.

"While at annual training she shadowed another platoon leader during situational training exercise lanes to gain a better understanding of the cavalry mission,” said Phillips, “and also was the officer-in-charge of the M240 machine gun and Improved Target Acquisition System range during squadron gunnery.”

Now at age 34, Reed said that the Army National Guard is going to be her career, with no intentions of leaving armor.

“I don’t think I’ll ever leave the armor branch,” said Reed. “It’s amazing. With we can do, it’s an exciting branch to be part of.”
Making further accomplishments, the unit held a “spur ride” where Soldiers set out to complete a series of cavalry related tasks in order to get their silver spurs. After successful completion, the Soldier is inducted into the Order of the Spur and are authorized to wear their spurs at all cavalry functions.

"Lt. Reed volunteers to assist for almost every training event either within the squadron or outside of drill," said Phillips. "She was selected to attend the 2-101 cavalry spur ride which she completed and also attended the Small Arms Weapons Expert course at Fort Drum in September as the officer-in-charge for the range."

Looking back on her decision to join, Reed said she hadn’t considered the fact that she was making history for New York Army National Guard when she joined. Instead, she saw herself doing something she liked to do.

“I didn’t look at it like that,” said Reed. “I definitely think it’s amazing, I definitely think for other women out there that you can do anything you want. I look at it as I’m just another person doing my job and I love my job.”

Reed said that she is looking forward to more training and becoming more involved with bravo troop, training which will keep her and her Soldiers ready for combat should they ever be needed.

“It’s what we signed up for,” said Reed. “We are here to make a difference.”


Return to top

42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

Manufacturing Day to Educate High School Students About Future Careers: Fun-filled educational event will feature a helicopter landing on campus

RPI News, October 24, 2019:

Manufacturing Day to Educate High School Students About Future Careers:  Fun-filled educational event will feature a helicopter landing on campus

TROY, N.Y. — Manufacturing — the physical creation of products — touches nearly every aspect of our lives, from the phones in our hands and the cars that we drive, to the renewable energy that will power our world and the next generation of biopharmaceuticals.
On Friday, October 25, high school students from across the Capital Region will have an opportunity to tour the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute campus and learn about the pioneering and advanced manufacturing technologies and research that will enable the creation of faster computers, increasingly powerful wind turbines, more precise medication, and innovations that haven’t even been thought of yet. Events, which begin at 8:45 a.m., are open to reporters.

“When people think of manufacturing, they often think of the auto, clothing, and appliance industries, and they aren’t wrong, but modern manufacturing is also much more than that,” said Shekhar Garde, the dean of the School of Engineering at Rensselaer. “It encompasses every area that will be critical to the future of humanity, from medicine, to food, to renewable energy.”

Manufacturing Day at Rensselaer will bring alumni in the manufacturing field back to campus for a “Champions of Manufacturing” panel discussion. Their experiences with GE Renewable Energy, Lockheed Martin, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, and Simmons will give students a deeper understanding of the diverse career paths within the manufacturing arena.

“There’s a very nice synergy between industry and academia here at Rensselaer,” said Sam Chiappone, the director of manufacturing innovation at Rensselaer. “Industry partners recognize the valuable problem-solving skills our students gain here and are happy to contribute to their education. In turn, our students graduate well-equipped to become leaders and innovators who engineer new manufacturing technologies and design and implement advanced manufacturing systems to meet the demand of today’s industry.”

One of the highlights of the day — weather permitting — will be the landing of a Black Hawk helicopter by the New York National Guard on the ‘86 Field in the middle of campus at 9:50 a.m. Not only will students learn about the manufacturing that goes into building an aircraft of that size and complexity, but also they will have an opportunity to see the impressive helicopter technologies up close.

“Opportunities like this, for high school students to see firsthand how a career in engineering can have a global impact, are vitally important,” said Elizabeth Herkenham, the education outreach director for the School of Engineering. “Days like this can introduce possibilities students didn’t know were out there.”

Rensselaer’s Eighth Annual National Manufacturing Day has been made possible by the generous contributions of premier sponsors Chief Executives Network for Manufacturing of the Capital Region Inc. (CEN) <Caution-https://www.cenmfg.org/> , a not-for-profit member organization comprised of more than 45 small and medium-sized manufacturing business in the Capital Region, and The Center for Economic Growth (CEG) <Caution-http://www.ceg.org/> , a professional economic and business development engine serving as the primary point of contact for businesses interested in growing in, or moving to, New York’s Capital Region.
In-kind support from many other partner organizations was also critical in the execution of this event, including: Snap-on, Sandvik, HFO Allendale, Sikorsky - a Lockheed Martin Company, GE Renewable Energy, Regeneron, Simmons, New York National Guard, City of Troy, and Rensselaer’s Manufacturing Innovation Learning Lab.

https://news.rpi.edu/content/2019/10/24/manufacturing-day-educate-high-school-students-about-future-careers

53rd Troop Command

Medics train for lifesaving with Army Guard medevac aircrews

Nationalguard.mil, By Sgt. Matthew Gunther| New York National Guard | Oct. 22, 2019:

QUEENSBUERY, N.Y. – More than 30 New York Army National Guard Soldiers of 466th Area Medical Company, with support from C Company, 171st General Support Aviation Battalion, practiced evacuating patients to prepare for deployment to Iraq next year.

Soldiers loaded patients on stretchers on and off UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, using portable radio equipment including an OE-254 antenna to request a nine-line medevac request, and familiarized themselves with the aircraft.

The 466th Area Medical Company will deploy to Iraq in 2020, and this training was intended to prepare them for operations in theater, said Maj. Jason Cossey, the company commander.

The company has more than three dozen combat medic specialists, commonly referred to by Soldiers by their military occupational specialty code, “68 Whiskey.” These medics provide emergency medical treatment, limited primary care and health protection and evacuation from a Soldier’s point of injury or illness to treatment at a facility.

“Our goal is to incorporate 68 Whiskey sustainment training with practice loading and unloading patients in a real-world environment, in preparation for our pending deployment,” Cossey said.

The significance of the training is apparent, stressed Sgt. Felix Cruz, a medical team leader.

Army medicine relies heavily on rapid medical evacuation from the battlefield to treatment facilities. Nearly two decades of combat experience overseas has validated the lifesaving efforts of rapid medical evacuation.

“Medics and aviation go hand in hand,” Cruz said. “For many of these Soldiers, this is their first time touching a Black Hawk, and they are gearing up for their first deployment. So this
training will be invaluable for them moving forward, and if we make it fun, hopefully it will ignite a fire in them to work hard and learn more.”

The training is also to build unit cohesion, said Pvt. Paige Dixon, who was attending only her second drill with the unit as it trained at Floyd Bennet Memorial Airport in Queensbury Oct. 20.

“Doing this with the people we are deploying with is extremely important,” Dixon said. “Building teamwork skills and a workflow will be valuable downrange.”

https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1994611/medics-train-for-lifesavi/

Medics train for lifesaving with Army Guard medevac aircrews

Army.mil, By Sgt. Matthew Gunther, New York National Guard October 22, 2019::

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https://www.army.mil/article/228783/medics_train_for_lifesaving_with_army_guard_medevac_aircrews

**Airmen and Soldiers**

**Local Army National Guard soldiers promoted**

The Evening Tribune, October 22, 2019 ::

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.

Johnathan West from Belfast and assigned to the 152nd Engineer Support Company received a promotion to the rank of Private First Class.

Austin Strickland from Hornell and assigned to the Company A, 642nd Support Battalion received a promotion to the rank of Private.

Fiona Brown from Andover and assigned to the Company A, 642nd Support Battalion received a promotion to the rank of Private.

Trevor Purscell from Nunda and assigned to the 222nd Military Police Company received a promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

Hailey Derick from Avoca and assigned to the 827th Engineer Company received a promotion to the rank of Private.

Ethan Liddick from Fillmore and assigned to the Troop C, 2-101 Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) received a promotion to the rank of Private First Class.
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.

Reenlistments

Shields also announced the recent reenlistment of members of the State National Guar.

Sergeant First Class Shane Stevens from Arkport reenlisted to continue service with the 222nd Military Police Company.

Sergeant Thomas Brown from Hornell reenlisted to continue service with the 827th Engineer Company.

Private Cole Baldwin from Amity reenlisted to continue service with the Company A, 642nd Support Battalion.

“It’s great to see Soldiers staying in the Army and continuing to serve their State and Nation in the New York Army National Guard,” Shields said. “The most important Army asset we have is the individual Soldier. The dedication, skills, and leadership traits they bring to our community and their employers are invaluable.”

“By choosing to stay in the Army National Guard they directly contribute to our nation’s security and to the governor’s ability to respond to disasters, all while building a bright future for their family through the Guard’s retirement, education, and health insurance programs,” Shields said.

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


Return to top

Ballston Lake National Guard soldier retires from Military Service

Saratogian, October, 24, 2019:
BALLSTON LAKE, N.Y. — Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, recently announced the retirement of a local New York Army National Guard member, marking their end of service to community, state and nation as part of the Army National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel James Dalpe from Ballston Lake, assigned to the Headquarters and Support Company, 42nd Infantry Division retired from the New York Army National Guard last month after 39 years of military service.

Dalpe first entered the military in July 1980.

"A full military career is a major achievement in the lives of our Citizen Soldiers and their families," Shields said in a press release. "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," he said. "On behalf of our force, I extend my best wishes for their success of our retirees as they begin new chapters in their lives."


Cazenovia man retires from National Guard

Oneida Daily Dispatch, October 21, 2019 ::

LATHAM, N.Y. — A Cazenovia man recently retired for the New York Army National Guard after 23 years of military service.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Pinckney from Cazenovia, N.Y. and assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team retired from the New York Army National Guard last month after some 23 years of military service.

Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announced the recent retirement of members of the New York Army National Guard, marking their end of service to community, state and nation as part of the Army National Guard.

Pinckney first entered the military in March of 1996.

"A full military career is a major achievement in the lives of our Citizen Soldiers and their families," Shields said. "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," he said.

"On behalf of our force, I extend my best wishes for their success of our retirees as they begin new chapters in their lives."

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


State Department honors NY Guard Soldier for Iraq service

Army.mil, October 18, 2019:

WASHINGTON - New York Army National Guard Sgt. Jhon Ortiz has received the State Department's Meritorious Honor Award for outstanding performance while deployed in Iraq.

Ortiz, a Corona, N.Y. resident, was recognized Sept. 5 for working with Diplomatic Security Service, a branch of the State Department that protects U.S. officials at bases, embassies and consulates abroad.

During his nine-month deployment in 2018, Ortiz helped receive, store and transport equipment and facilitated the movement of personnel in and out of Baghdad.

"I was in charge of security, transportation, and lodging of U.S. military and government officials visiting Iraq," Ortiz said. "I handled officials ranging from congressmen and women to the highest levels of leadership in the U.S. military and NATO."

Ortiz was deployed as part of the 10th Mountain Division Mobile Command Post Operational Detachment, a National Guard element that trains to deploy with the 10th Mountain Division Headquarters for staff augmentation.

Faced with increasing hostilities by Iranian-backed militias, the Basra consulate was closed in October 2018, requiring the evacuation of all personnel and the securing of equipment.
"I was located in the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center, which was the only base that was close enough and had the capability of storing, housing and transporting all of the Basra consulate's people and equipment," Ortiz said.

New York Army National Guard Col. Michael Bice, who deployed as the base commander for garrison operations at the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center, picked Ortiz for the mission.

"I knew that he was the one that could be counted on to get the job done. He was self-motivated, smart and well respected by the State Department," Bice explained.

Ortiz devised a system to store the massive amounts of cargo and equipment coming into Baghdad from the Basra location.

"There were more than 200 trucks coming in during the span of two or three weeks," Ortiz said, "all carrying containers that had just about half a ton of equipment in them, and all of them were being driven by local Iraqi contractors."

"Screening and security were a main concern because we did not know who among those local people was sympathetic to hostile groups. Luckily, we did not have any incidents," he said.

The movement of State Department equipment and personnel required a tremendous amount of expertise to support the State Department regional security team, Bice said.

"Ortiz and his team were able to track and account for 58 flights ... comprised of 114 vehicles and over 662,333 pounds of materials with all personnel," Bice said.

The State Department Meritorious Honor Award is not given lightly, said Phillip Smith, a member of the State Department regional security team who nominated Ortiz for the award.

"He earned it," Smith added.

"Receiving the Meritorious Honor Award was a great motivational boost and an honor. There are so just so many people who get nominated for this award every year," Ortiz said. "It reminded me that the work that people do for the United States does not go unnoticed."

Michael Evanoff, State Department assistant secretary for diplomatic security, presented Ortiz with the award and plaque that read, in part, "For exceptional devotion to duty, enthusiasm and exemplary conduct during the period of Oct. 3 to 18, due to the evacuation of Consulate Basra."

Ortiz, a Middle Eastern Studies major at Dartmouth College, expects to graduate in the fall of 2020 and pursue his master's in international relations. He is also a cadet in the Reserve Officer Training Corps and will commission as a lieutenant upon graduation.
"Listening to the stories of the other awardees reinforced my interest in working in the foreign service in the future," Ortiz said.

"It's pretty rare for someone in the armed services to receive a State Department award," said Susan Redwine, director of the Dartmouth ROTC program. Ortiz quietly sets a high bar for other cadets who have received military commissions, she said.

"When John came back to finish his degree here, he didn't talk about Iraq all that much, because he is a soft-spoken guy," Redwine said, "but he does assert himself in a quiet, confident way, and we are proud of him."

[Link to article](https://www.army.mil/article/228672/state_department_honors_ny_guard_soldier_for_iraq_service)

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**National Guard promotes local soldiers**

**MNP NOW, October 20, 2019:**

The New York Army National Guard recently promoted Garett Vogel, of Clifton Springs; Vincent Hughes, of Geneva; Michael Hoffman, of Macedon; and Eliott English and Joseph Decker, of Shortsville.

Decker and Vogel each were promoted to the rank of specialist. Decker serves with the Company E, 3-126th Aviation. Vogel is assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion.

English, who is assigned to the 152nd Engineer Support Company, was promoted to private first class.

Hoffman was promoted to master sergeant and serves with the Company A, 2-108th Infantry.

Hughes serves with the Combat Engineer Company B, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion and was promoted to the rank of private.

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

[Link to article](https://www.mpnnow.com/news/20191020/service-notes)
Military Notes: Cayuga County National Guard members reenlist, promoted

Auburn Citizen, Oct 19, 2019::

LATHAM — Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent reenlistment of members of the state National Guard in recognition of their continuing commitment to serve community, state and nation as part of the Army National Guard:

• Sgt. Amanda Gallow, from Locke, reenlisted to continue service with the 827th Engineer Company.

• 1st Sgt. Edward Briggs, from Weedsport, reenlisted to continue service with the Forward Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion.

• Staff Sgt. Patrick Baker, from Auburn, reenlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

Additionally, Shields announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership:

• Richard Hyde, from Auburn, and assigned to the Company B (Maintenance), 427th Brigade Support Battalion, received a promotion to the rank of specialist.


State Department honors NY Guard Soldier for Iraq service

nationalguard.mil, Oct. 18, 2019::

WASHINGTON – New York Army National Guard Sgt. Jhon Ortiz has received the State Department's Meritorious Honor Award for outstanding performance while deployed in Iraq.

Ortiz, a Corona, N.Y. resident, was recognized Sept. 5 for working with Diplomatic Security Service, a branch of the State Department that protects U.S. officials at bases, embassies and consulates abroad.
During his nine-month deployment in 2018, Ortiz helped receive, store and transport equipment and facilitated the movement of personnel in and out of Baghdad.

"I was in charge of security, transportation, and lodging of U.S. military and government officials visiting Iraq," Ortiz said. "I handled officials ranging from congressmen and women to the highest levels of leadership in the U.S. military and NATO."

Ortiz was deployed as part of the 10th Mountain Division Mobile Command Post Operational Detachment, a National Guard element that trains to deploy with the 10th Mountain Division Headquarters for staff augmentation.

Faced with increasing hostilities by Iranian-backed militias, the Basra consulate was closed in October 2018, requiring the evacuation of all personnel and the securing of equipment.

"I was located in the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center, which was the only base that was close enough and had the capability of storing, housing and transporting all of the Basra consulate's people and equipment," Ortiz said.

New York Army National Guard Col. Michael Bice, who deployed as the base commander for garrison operations at the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center, picked Ortiz for the mission.

"I knew that he was the one that could be counted on to get the job done. He was self-motivated, smart and well respected by the State Department," Bice explained.

Ortiz devised a system to store the massive amounts of cargo and equipment coming into Baghdad from the Basra location.

"There were more than 200 trucks coming in during the span of two or three weeks," Ortiz said, "all carrying containers that had just about half a ton of equipment in them, and all of them were being driven by local Iraqi contractors."

"Screening and security were a main concern because we did not know who among those local people was sympathetic to hostile groups. Luckily, we did not have any incidents," he said.

The movement of State Department equipment and personnel required a tremendous amount of expertise to support the State Department regional security team, Bice said.

"Ortiz and his team were able to track and account for 58 flights ... comprised of 114 vehicles and over 662,333 pounds of materials with all personnel," Bice said.

The State Department Meritorious Honor Award is not given lightly, said Phillip Smith, a member of the State Department regional security team who nominated Ortiz for the award.

"He earned it," Smith added.
"Receiving the Meritorious Honor Award was a great motivational boost and an honor. There are so just so many people who get nominated for this award every year," Ortiz said. "It reminded me that the work that people do for the United States does not go unnoticed."

Michael Evanoff, State Department assistant secretary for diplomatic security, presented Ortiz with the award and plaque that read, in part, "For exceptional devotion to duty, enthusiasm and exemplary conduct during the period of Oct. 3 to 18, due to the evacuation of Consulate Basra."

Ortiz, a Middle Eastern Studies major at Dartmouth College, expects to graduate in the fall of 2020 and pursue his master's in international relations. He is also a cadet in the Reserve Officer Training Corps and will commission as a lieutenant upon graduation.

"Listening to the stories of the other awardees reinforced my interest in working in the foreign service in the future," Ortiz said.

"It's pretty rare for someone in the armed services to receive a State Department award," said Susan Redwine, director of the Dartmouth ROTC program. Ortiz quietly sets a high bar for other cadets who have received military commissions, she said.

"When John came back to finish his degree here, he didn't talk about Iraq all that much, because he is a soft-spoken guy," Redwine said, "but he does assert himself in a quiet, confident way, and we are proud of him."


Community News for Oct. 23, 2019

Observer-Dispatch, October 23, 2019 ::

New York Army National Guard soldier re-enlistments announced Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general, announces the recent re-enlistment of the following local members of the state National Guard in recognition of their continuing commitment to serve community, state and nation as part of the Army National Guard.

• Staff Sgt. Tobby Dain from Herkimer re-enlisted to continue service with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

• Sgt. Dana Tompkins from Rome re-enlisted to continue service with the Forward Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion.
• Specialist Jermar Hymes from Utica re-enlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-108th Infantry.

• Specialist Kyle Hoffman from Utica re-enlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-108th Infantry.


Return to top

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Eastern Air Defense Sector

Oneida Airman earns Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Oneida Daily Dispatch, October 23, 2019:

Latham, N.Y. — An Oneida resident recently received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.


The 224th ADG's Honor Guard program manager, Carson demonstrated extraordinary dedication and initiative in planning, organizing and leading more than 50 Honor Guard details in the last 18 months. These details included flag presentations at large, public events and providing final honors at nearly 30 funerals for local veterans.

The 224th ADG is composed of the 224th Air Defense Squadron and 224th Support Squadron, located in Rome, and Detachment 1 and Detachment 2 that serve in the Washington, D.C. area. The 224th ADG provides the forces to conduct the Eastern Air Defense Sector's (EADS) mission. Part of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the Sector is responsible for the air defense of the eastern U.S.


Return to top
VIDEO TRANSCRIPT-- WNBC 10/22/2019 05:46:02 PM: ...>> it's training they hope they never have to use. in the middle of the brock lynn warehouse the national guard and other law enforcement officers preparing for an attack that uses weapons of mass destruction. the threat isn't real. as news 4's marc santia shows us being ready for it is necessary to keep us safe. >> concrete barriers, steal doors, endless rows of boxes, these women and men looking for needles in a haystack. in this training mission, weapons of mass destruction in a cavernous brooklyn warehouse. the civil support team of the new york national guard on call around the clock ready to help. >> be able to protect the country from terrorism or anything that threatens our national security.

every member on this team of 22 with a specific role. our job is basically to assess, assist, and advise. >> hunting down chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear devices. >> we're trained to be able to identify unknown hazards in all hazard environments. >> once they have the suspicious item, it's tape to this truck. this truck is really a mobile laboratory. >> we put that in here. what i'll do is i'll go in from this side. i can open another door inside the glove box, completely self-contained, and start to manipulate the sample from >> the science and findings made there. in this mobile lab shared with law enforcement. >> the thing you're going to do in here will save hundreds of lives with the work you're doing starting here in the glove box. >> the team's response area stretching hundreds of miles. >> everything within our area of responsibility which extends up to the indian point nuclear reactor, suffolk county. >> ready to deploy for any mission within 90 minutes. >> we're constantly going out, constantly training, finding ourselves and our tactics to keep up and keep ahead of our enemies. >> in brooklyn, marc santia, news 4, new york. >>> well, a sweet moment during a serious protest in lebanon has gone viral. ...


Employer Support

Liz Bishop honored with the "Seven Seals Award" at NYS Assembly

CBS 6, October 23, 2019:

ALBANY, NY (WRGB) Congratulations to our CBS6 colleague, Liz Bishop.
Tuesday, at the Capitol, Liz was honored with the "Seven Seals Award" from the "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve."

This is a Department of Defense program that recognizes employees and employers that support and value their military members.

Liz has reported extensively on the National Guard, and the Reserve.

Liz was also awarded proclamations from both the New York and the New York State Assembly for this wonderful honor.

So incredibly grateful for these honors, And so proud of our courageous and self-sacrificing military men and women. Thank you @NYSenatorJordan for taking time out of your busy schedule to honor me.


Veterans

Does the GOP stand a chance in NY19 without Molinaro?:Latest FEC filings reveal a weak Republican primary field of 2020 challengers to Antonio Delgado.

The rivernewsroom.com, October 24, 2019:

At this point in the 2018 election cycle, progressive energy was coursing through New York’s 19th Congressional District. Democrats had a crowded primary field of seven candidates — with one more, Erin Collier, yet to enter the fray—who had raised a collective $3.1 million.

Antonio Delgado, the eventual winner, had raised just over $1 million, more than twice as much as the vulnerable Republican incumbent, John Faso, who had raised $424,000. That was an early warning sign that Faso, who lost to Delgado, was in deep trouble.

Fast forward to today. Delgado is a Democrat who got elected by just five points in a very favorable year for Democrats. The 19th district, which covers the Hudson Valley and parts of the Catskills and the Capital region, voted for Donald Trump by seven points in 2016 and may very well vote for him again in 2020. And yet, despite his vulnerability on paper, the strong opposition that Faso faced as an incumbent two years ago hasn’t materialized for Delgado thus far.
There are currently just three Republicans running to challenge Delgado: former New York National Guard Adjutant General Anthony German, fashion designer Ola Hawatmeh, and non-profit director Mike Roth. As of the latest FEC filings, none has even come close to even matching the lowest tier of fundraising in the 2018 Democratic primary.

German, who is essentially the frontrunner and has received a sizeable donation from Faso, doesn’t have much of an operation to speak of at the moment. He raised just under $50,000 —half of what Beals raised in the third quarter of 2017.

A deeper dive into German’s itemized receipts reveals that even what little he has raised doesn’t reflect much grassroots support. Nearly 70 percent of his total fundraising ($34,600) has come from donations of more than $1,000. Just eight percent comes from donations of less than $500, while 16 percent comes from PACs.

Moreover, most of the money German has raised doesn’t even come from donors in the 19th district. Fifty-four percent of his receipts ($26,900) so far have come from outside the district, with nearly a third coming from outside the state.

Hawatmeh, meanwhile, has raised about $5,500, while Roth hasn’t reported any fundraising so far. Compare that to Delgado, well known for his fundraising prowess, who has raised an eye-popping $632,000 this quarter. That brings him to a total of $2,063,000 raised this cycle, with $1,525,000 cash on hand.

The non-financial aspects of German’s campaign don’t look much better. He is mostly unknown in the district and has just 21 Twitter followers and 146 likes on Facebooks — fewer than fringe candidate Mike Roth. (Delgado, by comparison, has 13,600 Facebook likes.)

While German will undoubtedly ramp up his fundraising and campaigning in the coming months, this sluggish start, especially compared to what the Democrats did as opposition in 2018, paints a bleak picture for Republicans going forward. This begs the question: Is there anyone better? The answer, unequivocally, is yes.

On a local level, the Hudson Valley, the Catskills, and the Capital Region have plenty of Republican politicians who could potentially make the race competitive. One problem, however, is that nobody is jumping at the opportunity to take on Delgado, who is seen as generally strong and well-liked in the district.

Some potential Republican candidates for the district include State Senator Sue Serino, Rensselaer County executive Steven McLaughlin, and Dutchess County executive and 2018 Republican gubernatorial nominee Marc Molinaro. Molinaro is seen by Republicans in the district as their best chance at taking back the seat in 2020.

While Molinaro lost the governor’s race to Andrew Cuomo in an expected landslide, he beat Cuomo in the 19th district by 10 points, 51.4 percent to 41.5 percent, even as the district went for Delgado by five points.
Molinaro, who began his political career as the 19-year-old mayor of Tivoli, is also well liked in Dutchess County—one of the largest and more Democratic counties of the district—where he won re-election by a landslide in 2017 and is widely expected to win again this November. That would go a long way toward Molinaro mounting a challenge to Delgado, who also hails from Dutchess County.

However, Molinaro—who has said he is focused on his re-election race—would likely have difficulty explaining to voters why he pivoted straight from campaigning for reelection to seeking higher office. Ultimately, he would have to hope that voters would forgive his hunger for higher office, as was the case with Sean Maloney in the 18th district.

But that’s if Molinaro runs, and it’s a big if. The same goes for Serino and McLaughlin. At the moment, Anthony German is what the Republicans have to work with.

Unfortunately for them, this race seems to mirror the 2018 race in the 18th district. In that contest, Maloney defeated mostly unknown New York State Trooper Lieutenant Colonel James O’Donnell by 11 points, despite anger over Maloney’s decision to run for New York Attorney General earlier that year.

The signs aren’t pointing towards success for Hudson Valley Republicans. If a stronger and more energized challenge to Delgado doesn’t materialize, the party may very well opt to shift resources towards taking down vulnerable Representatives Anthony Brindisi or Max Rose, instead of propping up token opposition to Delgado.


Military Entrance Processing Station celebrates 50 years at Fort Hamilton

Brooklyn Reporter, October 22, 2019:

BAY RIDGE — Fort Hamilton Army Base in Bay Ridge celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Military Entrance Processing Station, which processes applicants for all branches of the military and covers New York City, Long Island, Westchester County and parts of New Jersey. It’s the second largest military entrance processing station in the country, after Los Angeles.

The anniversary celebration took place on Friday, Oct. 18 at the processing station, hosted by Lt. Col. Patricia Jones-Johnson, MEPS commander. It was a chance for soldiers, veterans and
community members to pay tribute to all those who have entered the service through the MEPS during its 50 years at Fort Hamilton.

Jones-Johnson welcomed all the returning soldiers who had passed through MEPS, the first step in creating soldiers, airmen, sailors, Marines and members of the Coast Guard. She offered a brief history of the program which originated in New York in 1886 at 39 Whitehall in Manhattan.

During that era, it was known as the “Induction Center.” After a bomb blast inside the building in 1969, the then “Whitehall Examining Entrance and Station” was moved to Fort Hamilton and renamed the New York MEPS. It’s one of a network of 65 MEPS located nationwide and in Puerto Rico.

The Military Entrance Processing Station plays a vital role in providing a qualified, effective and able-bodied all-volunteer force and its mission is to strengthen the world’s military by evaluating and processing military service applicants. “We’re the first ones people see when they come into the service,” said Jones-Johnson.

“The New York MEPS has been the foundation of leaders such great leaders as New York’s own former President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congressman and Army National Guard Officer Max Rose,” she added.

“Nine years ago I had the honor and privilege of standing at the Brooklyn MEPS to be sworn into the United States Army. And just six months ago, I again had the privilege of standing there to swear in a new group of soldiers to begin their service,” Rose told this paper.

“Each time I’m back, I’m reminded of the incredible work MEPS does bringing together people who have so many differences but share a commitment to this country and deeply held patriotism,” added Rose.

According Jones-Johnson, the processing station has enlisted hundreds of thousands of men and women into the armed forces. The New York processing station annually conducts an average of over 9,600 physicals, 9,000 medical inspections, 14,500 aptitude tests, 13,000 special tests and 7,000 enlistment contracts.

It also ships approximately 6,900 individuals to basic training and conducts some portion of processing with over 16,000 applicants annually.

A highlight of the ceremony was when Jones-Johnson gave the Oath of Enlistment to five new applicants, one from each branch of service.


Return to top