105th Airlift Wing

**Thruway bridge named in memory of Air Guardsman Lemm:**
Mid Hudson News, Aug. 20

**Red Arrows bring international flair to Stewart air show:**
Record, Aug 20

**Bridge in Harrison named in honor of Joseph Lemm, 'Superman' NYPD detective killed in Afghanistan:**
LoHud, Aug 16

**Stewart Airport gearing up for air show this weekend:**
Daily Freeman, Aug 23

106th Rescue Wing

**106th Rescue Wing Hero Honored For Years Of Service:**
Patch, Aug 19

42nd Infantry Division

**Hauppauge High School Choir Teacher Mark Kimes Accused of Sexually Abusing Student:**
The Legal Herald, Aug. 20

Adjutant General

**GERMAN V. DELGADO:**
Allotsego.com, Aug 21

**Three Republicans Have Filed to Challenge Antonio Delgado in 2020:**
Chronogram, Aug. 16

**EDITORIAL General German Reporting For Duty:**
Allotsego.com Aug 21

**Retired General Tony German Launches Bid For NY-19:**
WAMC, Aug 22

Airmen and Soldiers

**Military News: Aug. 22, 2019:**
The Daily Star, Aug 22

**Military achievements by local residents? week of Aug. 19 to 23:**
Syracuse.com, Aug. 22
Notable names:
Wayne Post, Aug 22

Four receive promotions from National Guard:
Rome Sentinel, Aug 20

Johnstown National Guard member promoted:
Fulton County Express, Aug 21

Two reenlist in Army National Guard:
Fulton County Express, Aug 21

Armories

EDC asks to hold off on disputed land purchase:
Post Star, Aug 21

The Abandoned Miller Air Field on Staten Island (PHOTOS):
Untapped Cities, Aug 20

Counter Drug Task Force

Lyons Falls man sentenced to prison in federal court:
NYY360, Aug 20

Joint Force Headquarters

Lamont Builds Relationship, Catches Fish With New York Governor:
CT News Junkie, Aug. 20

New York Army National Guard

The Great New York State Fair: Taking a look at the equipment used by the New York Army National Guard:
News 10, Aug. 19

New York National Guard leaders study at historic battlefield:
Army.mil, Aug 21

Military hardware on display at New York State Fair:
Oneida Daily Dispatch, Aug. 19

PFOA Issue

NYS Wants DoD To Revise Its Interim Filtration Design For Stewart ANG Base:
WAMC, Aug 20
105th Airlift Wing

Thruway bridge named in memory of Air Guardsman Lemm

Mid Hudson News, Aug. 20:

ALBANY – A bridge over the Thruway (I-287) in the Town of Harriman has been designated as the “NYPD Det. TSgt. Joseph G. Lemm Memorial Bridge” in memory of the man who was killed while serving his third tour of duty in the Middle East.

Lemm, a resident of West Harrison, was a member of the New York Air National Guard’s 105th Airlift Wing at New York Stewart International Airport.

Just before Christmas in 2015, he was killed in Afghanistan when his convoy was attacked by a suicide bomber. He had served two tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq.

Lemm was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for valor by his commanding officers for putting himself in front of the bomber to protect his fellow soldiers.

State legislation designates a bridge crossing over I-287, intersecting with Westchester Avenue in the Town of Harrison in his memory.


Red Arrows bring international flair to Stewart air show

Record, Aug 20:

STEWART AIRPORT — The Navy’s Blue Angels precision flying team will return this weekend as the headline act for what is now known as the New York International Air Show.

They also performed at the 2017 air show.

Shows will take place Saturday and Sunday at New York Stewart International Airport, with gates opening at 9 a.m. each day. Performances in the air will run from about noon to 4 p.m.

The word “international,” long a part of the airport’s name, was added to the show’s title this year “because we’re having more international performers as part of the show,” according to Chris Dirato, director of public relations.
Leading the international performers will be the Royal Air Force Red Arrows, an aerobatic team similar to the Blue Angels and the Air Force’s Thunderbirds. Show organizers were thrilled to land them for the show.

“This is the first time in over a decade that the Red Arrows have performed in North America, and this is one of a handful of air shows chosen by their team,” Dirato said. “It’s a big honor.”

The Red Arrows will be one of two featured acts below the headlining Blue Angels. The other is another Air Force act, the F-35 Lightning II Demo Team.

Dirato said this will be the F-35’s debut performing in the Northeast.

“The Air Force has never agreed to do a full capabilities demonstration before,” Dirato said.

Show attendees will get to see how the aircraft handles high-speed banking and turns, climbs and other maneuvers.

The West Point Parachute Team will open the shows with an American flag jump each day, and perform again later.

Other performers range from the Geico Skytypers, six vintage World War II planes, to daredevil pilot Mike Wiskus and his biplane.

There will also be a 50-acre static display area on the south side of the airport, offering visitors a close-up look at an A-10 Warthog capable of short takeoffs and landings on primitive airfields; a C-17 Globemaster III, the current plane of the Stewart-based Air National Guard’s 105th Airlift Wing; and a Lakota helicopter, among many other aircraft.


Return to top

Bridge in Harrison named in honor of Joseph Lemm, 'Superman' NYPD detective killed in Afghanistan

LoHud, Aug 16:

A bridge crossing over Interstate 287 in Harrison has been named the "NYPD Det. TSgt. Joseph G. Lemm Memorial Bridge" in honor of Lemm, who was deployed with the Air National Guard when he was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan in December 2015.
Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Friday signed legislation designating the bridge, which intersects with Westchester Avenue, for Lemm, who lived in West Harrison. Lemm was nicknamed the "Superman" by NYPD colleagues.

"Joseph G. Lemm honorably served his state and country both as an NYPD Detective and as a member of the U.S. Air Force," Cuomo said in a statement. "I am proud to designate this bridge in Technical Sergeant Lemm's honor to commemorate his life of public service and recognize the ultimate sacrifice he made while serving our nation in Afghanistan."

Lemm, a technical sergeant in the Air National Guard, was killed when a suicide bomber attacked his convoy. An NYPD veteran, he was serving his third tour of duty overseas, two of them in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. He was one of six Americans killed in the attack.

Lemm was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for valor by his commanding officers for protecting fellow soldiers by putting himself in front of the bomber.

"While serving our nation in Afghanistan," state Sen. Shelley Mayer said, "he and his family paid the ultimate price, and we honor his commitment and sacrifice."

Assemblyman David Buchwald said the bridge dedication will commemorate Lemm's "commitment and the strong civic bond that he had for West Harrison, the people of New York, and his country."

Born in Iowa, Lemm enlisted in the Air Force after high school and was on active duty for six years. After his discharge, he joined the Air National Guard. He earned awards including a Purple Heart.

In 2000, Lemm joined the NYPD, serving with the 48th Precinct, the Bronx Street Crime Unit and the Bronx Warrant Squad.


Return to top

Stewart Airport gearing up for air show this weekend

Daily Freeman, Aug 23:

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. – You may see military jets flying in formation in the skies above the greater Newburgh area as the US Navy Blue Angels warm up for the annual New York International Air Show at New York Stewart International Airport this Saturday and Sunday.
Pilots and crew members for the Blue Angels and the US Air Force F-35 Lighting II Demo Team were at the Air National Guard Base at Stewart on Thursday.

Air Force Captain Dojo Olson, an F-35 pilot, said those birds are the most advanced jets in the world.

“It is a fifth-generation joint strike fighter aircraft. What that means is fifth-generation you’re stealthy and all the sensors are fused together," Olson said. "So the jet is seeing everything; people are having trouble seeing you and you are absolutely King Kong out there," he said.

“All the sensors seize the information out of the airplane; it’s just a flying sensor. It’s just covered in various sensors out there and it fuses all the information together and presents it the pilot in a very logical and easy to interpret manner.”

For the first time, the Royal Air Force Red Arrows will also perform along with stunt pilots and other aerial acts. The flight line will also be loaded with static displays including various other aircraft including the New York Air National Guard’s C-17 jumbo cargo plane, which is stationed at the Stewart base.


Return to top

Bridge Over I-287 Will be Renamed in Honor of Fallen NYPD and Air Force Hero

The Examiner, Aug 22:

NYPD Detective and Air Force Technical Sergeant Joseph G. Lemm’s service to his country will be memorialized by renaming in his honor the White Plains Avenue bridge that crosses over Interstate 287 and connects White Plains Avenue and Westchester Avenue in the Town of Harrison to North Street in the City of White Plains. Legislation sponsored by State Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) and State Senator Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) to rename the bridge was signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo this past week.

Joseph G. Lemm was a 15-year NYPD veteran and Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force after having been activated from the Air Force Reserves and New York Air National Guard. He was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan in 2015 when his convoy was attacked by a suicide bomber before Christmas. Detective/Technical Sergeant Lemm was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for valor by his commanding officers for putting himself in front of the bomber to protect his comrades. NYPD Det./TSgt Lemm was serving his third tour of
duty overseas, two in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. He also worked tirelessly as a first responder during 9/11.

Everyone knew him as “Superman,” not because of his size, but for how big his heart was. He never said “no” when someone asked him for help.

“I am pleased to honor the commitment and sacrifice of NYPD Detective and Air Force Technical Sergeant Joseph G. Lemm by sponsoring legislation to rename a West Harrison bridge over I-287 in his honor,” said State Senator Mayer. “Det./TSgt. Lemm served our community and our nation in numerous ways with pride and courage. While serving in Afghanistan, Det./TSgt. Lemm paid the ultimate price. We honor his contributions and his legacy by renaming a bridge in West Harrison, where his family still resides, in his honor.”

“The legislation now signed into law honors an American hero and reminds us of his sacrifice, and that of all our men and women in uniform who are committed to protecting our freedom and security,” said Assemblyman Buchwald. “The bridge dedication will commemorate Det./Sgt. Lemm’s commitment and the strong civic bond that he had for West Harrison, the people of New York, and his country.”

Det./TSgt. Lemm’s family resides in West Harrison and he is survived by his widow, a son in elementary school, a daughter in college and mother.

His widow, Christine said, “I am so happy and excited that Joe will be honored with this tribute right in our hometown, keeping his legacy and life of service alive. His name on the bridge will spike conversations in the future about who Joe was, and remind us what service to country means.”


106th Rescue Wing

106th Rescue Wing Hero Honored For Years Of Service

Patch, Aug 19:

Lisha Jones Terry rescued two people after a plane crash by swimming out in rough waters to save them.

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NY — A hometown hero was honored Saturday for her years of dedicated service.
Lisha Jones Terry was spotlighted at a ceremony held at the Westhampton Beach Fire House and hosted by the Westhampton Free Library; the library has organized a monthly event to honor heroes in the community.

Growing up across the street from the 106th Rescue Wing, Terry said it was only natural that she'd one day wind up dedicating her life to the military.

Born in 1976, Terry attended Westhampton Beach High School, where she was captain of the track and cheerleading teams, medaling in state competitions. When it was time to graduate high school in 1995 she was visited by a Coast Guard recruiter and, on Oct. 8, 1996, Terry officially joined the U.S. Coast Guard Department of Transportation.

Upon graduating from training at Cape May in November, 1996, she was sent to St. Petersburg, FL, where she advanced to the rank of seaman first class in 1998 and soon after became a boarding team member at the Coast Guard's small boat station in St. Petersburg after completing training in California.

She loved her new post, where she performed law enforcement and search as well as rescue duties; she also participated in trainings, such as man-overboard drills and marine firefighting.

That same year, Terry received a letter of commendation from the Coast Guard for responding when a single-engine plane with a pilot and passenger crashed short of a runway. With prior lifeguard experience, Terry swam out in rough waters to the plane and successfully rescued both.

In 1998, she was presented with the opportunity to fill a crew member opening at the USCG Shinnecock Station and happily moved back home. Aside from her other duties at Shinnecock, she often took over food service duties, cooking every meal. "Cooking for all' is a theme she has carried throughout her military career, the Library release said. Also, while at Shinnecock, she volunteered for the Westhampton War Memorial Ambulance Association.

In September 1999, Terry left the Shinnecock station to enter the Health Dental Technical School where she became a dental technician. She was stationed at the Petaluma Medical Clinic Training Center, where she remained until shortly after 9/11.

Terry's active duty with the Coast Guard came to an end in 2002. Not wanting to leave a life of service, she headed back home and joined the Coast Guard Reserves at Shinnecock. However, she missed working among medical professionals and serving patients, so she sought and found an opening at the 106th Air National Guard medical clinic as a dental assistant.

"I still preferred boats over planes, but the planes started growing on me," she said.

During her time in the Air National Guard, Terry completed Airman Leadership School, trained and served in the 106th Honor Guard, was promoted to non-commissioned officer staff sergeant and then to technical sergeant, and took part in numerous trainings, including
medical training in Spangdahlem, Germany. She was also part of the base's enlistment council.

When nearing her 19th year and becoming eligible for military retirement, she decided to make a change from medical to security forces for a better chance at deployment and other opportunities.

"I did not want to retire before serving my country overseas," she said.

Terry trained and, on July 3, 2015, got her wish — she was deployed with other members to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing in Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.

Before landing on the "rock," Terry trained in Ramstein, Germany for a month. While deployed, she conducted hundreds of battle drills and served as an area supervisor. For her service, she earned the Global War on Terrorism Medal in 2016.

Also, while serving overseas, she had the opportunity to share her love of jujitsu and teach a few classes and, of course, she cooked for many people in the chapel kitchen in her rare spare time.

Following her deployment, Terry earned her associates degree in criminal justice through the U.S. Air Force.

Today, Terry is still with the 106th and continues to train. She recently attended 7-Level School at the Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. She is scheduled to be promoted to master sergeant in the near future and hopes to serve the unit as a first sergeant.

As a civilian, Terry volunteers with the VFW Post 5350 and serves on its golf committee. She is a member of the Westhampton American Legion Post 84, volunteers on the Westhampton St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and for the nonprofit Human Understanding and Growth Services.

"I'm always interested in helping in the community," she said. "I love to share my time and talents wherever I can."

In addition to her volunteerism, she is a licensed massage therapist with an urban farming business. She is a beekeeper, a mermaid and an environmentalist.

She is the mother of two children, Reed, 12 and Race, 10.

"Lisha is a dynamic lady who brings great energy and enthusiasm to everything she does. Her service to her country and community has been outstanding and she is an inspiration for us all," said Southampton Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer.

42nd Infantry Division

Hauppauge High School Choir Teacher Mark Kimes Accused of Sexually Abusing Student

The Legal Herald, Aug. 20:

A man who worked as a choir teacher for Hauppauge High School in Long Island and who also served as an Army National Guard band leader has been charged with sexually abusing a 16-year-old student at his home.

53-year-old Mark Kimes was arrested on Tuesday, August 13 and faces count of criminal sexual act in the first degree and three counts of endangering the welfare of a child.

According to Suffolk County Police, an 18-year-old man reported that Kimes had allegedly sexually abused him as a 16-year-old Hauppauge High School student. Seventh Squad detectives investigated the allegations. The former student told investigators that Kimes had provided alcohol to him and two other students on multiple occasions in 2017 and that Kimes sexually abused him after he passed out while drinking at the teacher’s home.

In an official statement, the police said that they had “determined Kimes had inappropriate contact with the teen while serving as his teacher.” The school also released a statement announcing that Kimes had been reassigned to his home and ordered to stay away from school property.

Along with serving as the Hauppauge High School choir director, Kimes is a 34-year Army veteran and serves as a chief warrant officer for the New York Army National Guard and commander of the 42nd Infantry Division Band.


Adjutant General

GERMAN V. DELGADO

Allotsego.com, Aug 21:
General’s 1st Mission: Can He Raise Enough?

Oneontan’s Run Intrigues Gibson, Faso

ONEONTA – After 36 years in the New York State National Guard, retiring Feb. 2 at adjutant general, the top commander, Tony German’s career was guided by a set of values: Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

That’s the code of the U.S. Air Force, he explained.


For now, Delgado, who has only been in office 10 months, is staying out of the fray. A statement from his office said he will continue to focus on “health care costs, expand rural broadband and support family farmers and veterans … (He) will continue to serve with accessibility, accountability and transparency.”

For German, as in any military assignments, the outcome is not assured.

On deciding to run for Congress, he contacted the Republican chairmen in the 11-county 19th District. “They were very excited about my bio,” said German. That was the upside. The downside is “nobody knows me.”

He met with the two most recent Republican incumbents: Chris Gibson, an Army colonel who served Otsego County in Congress from 2011 to 2017, and John Faso, former state Senate minority leader and 2006 gubernatorial candidate (against Democrat Eliot Spitzer), who lost to Delgado last November after a single term.

Both were encouraging, he said. Gibson told him, “Read my book.” Published in October 2017, “Rally Point” is subtitled: “Five Tasks to Unite the Country and Revitalize the American Dream.”

Gibson also connected German with his former campaign manager and webmaster, who have joined the fledgling campaign.

Before he can expect them to declare they’re backing him, “I’ve got to prove I can get support.” And that, said German, means monetary support. Last year, Faso raised $4.6 million in his reelection campaign; Delgado raised $9 million.

For that reason, German filed his papers with the state Board of Elections Wednesday, Aug. 14, 14 months before Election Day. He’s got to get started.
Already, Michael Roth, a Woodstock contractor, and Ola Hawatmeh, a fashion designer in St. Louis who recently moved back to her native Poughkeepsie. At this time in the last election cycle, six Democrats, including Delgado, had surfaced to challenge Faso.

The candidate is also aware that Marc Molinaro, who ran for governor last year and is now seeking reelection as Dutchess county executive, is also considering a challenge to Delgado.

The candidate, a youthful and energy-filled 60, was born in Germany, where his father was stationed in the Army, grew up in Roxbury, Delaware County. An avid soccer player, he was recruited to MacMurray College in Illinois but, homesick for the Catskills, soon returned to SUNY Cobleskill, where he obtained an associate degree in accounting in 1979.

He hopped on his bicycle, planning to cycle cross-country, but ran out of money in Green Bay, Wisc. Back home he prevailed upon an uncle to give him a place to live and a job – digging ditches. Providentially, the first ditch he dug was in front of the home of his future wife, Diana.

He went on to a bachelor’s in business at SUNY Oneonta in 1981, and joined Dale Gardiner’s Oneonta accounting firm. But interested in becoming a pilot, he joined the Air Force as a navigator and spent the next six years in active duty, mostly in North Carolina. “We need accountants,” he would later explain, “but the Air Force was a lot more fun.”

Leaving active duty in 1987, he shifted from the regular Air Force to the state’s Air National Guard 139th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Stratton ANGB, outside Schenectady, and his career took off, with his National Guard biography showing promotions every year or two to commander, 109th Airlift Wing, by 2006.

By 2010, he was brigadier general and New York ANG chief of staff. In 2015, he was a major general in charge of the state’s Air National Guard. A year later Governor Cuomo appointed him adjutant general, the state’s top military office.

Along the way, he underwent training at the Naval War College, MIT and Harvard, much of it in leadership skills.

His biggest political challenge came in 2013, when the National Defense Authorization Act cut all the ANG’s C-130s, which would have ended the collaboration with the National Science Foundation’s Antarctica Program, survey flights into the Arctic, and search-and-rescue missions off Long Island.

As ANG executive officer, he reached out to the state Congressional delegation, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and succeeded in stemming the cuts.

The Niagara Falls unit alone would have been cut from 1,000 airmen to zero, with a $100 million impact on the community. “It would have been a big hit for New York State,” German said.
He served under six presidents, starting with “the Reagan buildup,” then Bush I, Clinton, Bush II, Obama and Trump. As policy shifted, there was one given: “People are the same,” he said.

His approach to problem-solving? “There are 1,000 things we can disagree on. What are the things we can agree on?”

As his responsibilities grew in Albany, the German family moved to Schoharie to be closer to Stratton ANGB, but moved back to Oneonta a dozen years ago. In an open shirt, shorts and sandals, a relaxed German was interviewed at the ranch home he and Diana built in the hills outside Oneonta a decade ago.

The couple’s youngest child, Becca, 21, graduated from SUNY Oneonta this past May, is planning to marry, and the young couple aim to spend a year in New Zealand.

The couple’s three sons, Josh, now 32, Ben, 29, and Zach, 24, all followed their father into the Armed Service. They have two grandchildren.

Retiring Feb. 2 was one thing. Winding down was another. “You have to be de-programmed from being at the edge of your seat all the time,” he said. His official and personal phones had the same ring; Diana changed the remaining phone to a more soothing tone, so her husband wouldn’t jump each time it went off.

With time on his hands, he plugged into the national political conservation. “It just became very clear to me there has to be a different way,” he said.

For now, he expects his campaign to focus on three issues:

One, health care. “Everyone can agree we need health care, and it needs to be affordable,” he said. “Republican, Democrat, independent – we’ve all failed. (But), it’s an issue that can be solved.”

Two, border security, immigration, but it’s also drug smuggling, sex trafficking and more, he said. “People have to come here legally,” he said, and it’s not a challenge that can’t be met. “I’ve been to all seven continents, 60 countries. Every one we went to, we entered legally.”

Three, small business. He’s watched the decline of Upstate communities as local businesses closed down. “We have to do things to enable businesses to continue,” he said.

https://www.allotsego.com/generals-1st-mission-can-he-raise-enough/

Three Republicans Have Filed to Challenge Antonio Delgado in 2020
A look at the candidacies of Anthony German, Ola Hawatmeh, and Mike Roth.

One campaign ends and another begins. Just seven months after US Representative Antonio Delgado was sworn into office, the race to challenge him in 2020 is already underway.

Last year, nine Democratic candidates ran to unseat Republican John Faso, with seven making it to primary day. Delgado eventually won that race by five points, raising an astonishing $9 million and putting the seat in Democratic hands for the first time in nearly a decade. Now the race to take it back looks like it might be just as crowded.

So far, three Republicans have already filed to run in New York’s 19th district, which covers the Hudson Valley, the Catskills, and part of the Capital Region, though it’s possible more candidates will jump into the race in the coming months. Here’s a look at the current field of challengers.

Anthony German

The most recent entrant into the race is Anthony German, a former New York National Guard general who filed to run on Wednesday, August 14 from Oneonta.

According to the Albany Times Union, German is running because he believes “the political landscape has become [too] divisive” and that the incumbent “isn't representing the ‘values of the district’ and has ‘gravitated to the ‘extreme left’ of Congress, despite campaigning as a moderate last year.’”

German cited Delgado’s vote for the 2019 National Defense Reauthorization Act—which passed with zero votes from House Republicans, who believed that it provided insufficient Pentagon funding—as an example of a Delgado position he disagrees with.

German pointed to healthcare as an area where he would seek bipartisan compromise but said "we'll flush out the details as we move forward." German did not respond to a request for comment on this story.

Ola Hawatmeh

German joins Ola Hawatmeh, a 42-year-old fashion designer and two-time breast cancer survivor from Poughkeepsie. The daughter of Catholic Jordanian immigrations, Hawatmeh grew up in Poughkeepsie but moved to St. Louis after graduating from Marist College in 1999. She moved back to the district last month.

Hawatmeh, whose website describes her as a “philanthropic fashionista,” says she uses her platform and stature in the fashion world to empower young people, veterans, and people with disabilities by putting on fashion shows for them.
She was also the co-founder of the pro-Trump Middle Eastern Women’s Coalition, which once alleged in a press release, “President Obama created ISIS and encouraged Sharia Law throughout the Middle East.” Hawatmeh says she disavowed the statement and resigned from the organization because of it.

A fan of Fox News Host Sean Hannity and a steadfast supporter of President Trump, Hawatmeh says she supports building a wall on the Mexican border, the Trump administration’s policy of detaining children and separating families at the border, Trump’s trade tariffs, and repealing Obamacare. She diverges with Trump on climate change, which she believes is a legitimate threat to the country.

Hawatmeh says she and Delgado agree on “veterans and farmers” but that she doesn’t “see the numbers changing in the district” since his election. She added that she doesn’t think he’s “out there” enough, arguing that Delgado could be doing more for the district. “You won’t find me sitting in a loft in Rhinebeck with assistants and interns running around,” she declared, “It’ll be me out in the streets making a difference.”

Related A Conversation with Antonio Delgado: NY19's Congressman-Elect Talks about His Campaign and His Plans for Washington The Delgado campaign said in a statement "[Congressman Delgado] has held twenty-one town halls across the district, and will continue to serve with accessibility, accountability, and transparency."

Per Hawatmeh, her strategy, both in the primary and general elections, is “heart and passion,” and “being genuine.” She notes that she’s not a politician, in contrast to Delgado. She will be officially launching her campaign in September but is hosting a fundraiser at Chelsea Pier later this month.

Mike Roth

Finally, Mike Roth, who filed to run in July, is a Brooklyn College graduate and an Ellenville resident. He maintains an active presence on social media through his campaign Facebook account where he frequently posts about “evil Democrats” and “commies.” He was the organizer of an Ellenville Trump rally last month, which featured a brief altercation between a protestor and several Trump supporters.

Roth’s hard-right views are evident in his platform, which is posted to his Facebook page. Among his 16 platform points are proposals to create a separate state for upstate New York, to make saying the pledge of allegiance mandatory in schools, to make English the official language of the US, to make the use of the words “white privilege” a hate crime, and to designate Antifa as a terrorist organization.

When called for comment on this story, Mr. Roth simply stated “I don’t do interviews.”

More to Come?
Prospective candidates for the seat include State Senator Sue Serino from Dutchess and Rensselaer County Executive Steven McLaughlin. Serino and McLaughlin did not respond to requests for comment.

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, the Republican nominee for Governor last year, said “I have one focus—re-election.”

While the race remains wide open and there is no clear frontrunner, one thing is for sure: this will be a long 15 months.


Return to top

EDITORIAL General German Reporting For Duty

Allotseg.com Aug 21:

If Adjutant Gen. (ret.) Anthony P. German is elected congressman from New York State’s 19th District, you can bet we will be the only district represented by someone who has an iceberg named after him. (As commander of the state’s Air National Guard, his pilots collaborated with the National Science Foundation’s Antarctica Program.) Also, he would be the first Otsego Countian to represent us in over a century, since Republican George W. Fairchild, 1907-1919, Oneonta Herald publisher and, later, first chairman of the fledgling IBM board of directors. (As congressman, he hosted Presidents Teddy Roosevelt and Taft at his mansion, now Oneonta’s Masonic Temple. Cool.) Before him, a Republican father-son hops-growing and banking combination – two David Wilbers, also from Oneonta by way of Milford – served off and on for several terms in the second half of the 19th century.

And, of course, William Cooper, founder of Cooperstown (and The Freeman’s Journal, Hometown Ononta’s sister publication), served two terms as a Federalist, in 1795-97 and 1799-1801.

It’s past time to get our political mojo back.

That said, German, who filed papers Wednesday, Aug. 14, with the state Board of Elections, has his work cut out for him in challenging the freshman Democrat, Antonio Delgado.

To start, two other Republicans – a Woodstock contractor and an intriguing fashion designer who just moved back from St. Louis to her native Poughkeepsie – have filed. A larger question mark, German said in an interview, is last year’s gubernatorial candidate, Mark Molinaro, who plans to run once this year’s reelection as Dutchess county executive is behind him.
Further, politics is so much more freeform than the military, with its chains of command and protocols, (although, flexibility must have been the order of the day for German in deploying troops when Hurricane Irene hit Schoharie and southern Delaware counties in 2011, and when Hurricane Sandy hit Long Island and NYC the next year.) Further, German isn’t what you might imagine a general to be. He’s an engaging guy, youthful, full of energy, easy to talk to. You’ll like him. Going up the ranks from navigator to commander of all 16,000 of New York’s troops, he had to connect with people from privates to the commander-in-chief. He’ll be fine on the stump.

He reached out for advice to the 19th’s two former Republican congressman, Army Col. (ret.) Chris Gibson and John Faso, and reports getting a warm welcome. Gibson opened the door for German to hire his former campaign manager and other key staffers.

However, German said, before he can expect his predecessors’ endorsements, he has to prove he can raise the money, which is why he filed papers 14 months out. (By this time last cycle, six Democrats were running against Faso. By Election Day, Faso had raised $4.5 million; Delgado, $9 million.) Money’s important, sure, but German’s got a ready-made base, not just among current and former Guardsmen and women, but in veteran posts throughout the 19th. Locally, Len Carson, a longtime commander of the Oneonta Vets Club (and currently Common Council candidate), is one of his early supporters.

That brought to mind a secret former Oneonta mayor Sam Nader (who turned 100 in July) shared regarding his successful 1960 mayoral race: The HR office at Amphenol, where he was purchasing director, provided addresses of 1,000 co-workers living in Oneonta. Bingo! Victory.

Perhaps the largest obstacle to German’s victory is his opponent. Delgado is smart, likewise engaging, hardworking and present, visiting Otsego County – through a Town Hall, and individual visit – numerous times since his election last November.

He’s on the right committees – Ag and Small Business among them. He’s stayed out of the Impeachment debate – if and when has been his stance, but not yet. He praises the 19th District voters, 96 percent white, for supporting a black candidate, and has reached out to the whole constituency, Democrat, Republican and independent.

And, when everyone’s talking about racism, hatred, misogyny, yadda, yadda (see accompanying editorial), he’s talking about Love. Love – that’s a hard issue to beat.

German seems suited by temperament to chart a similar middle course. When an Albany Times Union reporter asked him about Delgado’s earlier hip-hop career, the general replied, “Everyone was a young man at one time. That says nothing about where you are today.” Nice!

Here’s a win-win scenario. U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand becomes Bernie Sanders’ or Joe Biden’s runningmate, Delgado is appointed to succeed her, and German slides into the 19th Congressional seat in November 2020.
A U.S. senator and congressman who know how to get from West Oneonta to Portlandville? And know the difference between Otsego, Otego, Oswego and Owego? That sounds like heaven.

Short of that, we can look forward to two engaging, energetic candidates debating the issues from the Hudson River to Unadilla Creek. Shortterm, that means getting Tony German on the ticket – when his website is launched in the next few days, donate.

https://www.allotsego.com/general-german-reporting-for-duty/

Retired General Tony German Launches Bid For NY-19

WAMC, Aug 22:

A retired two-star General wants to run for the U.S. House against first-term Democratic Congressman Antonio Delgado of New York’s 19th Congressional district. Tony German is the Former Adjutant General of the New York National Guard and spent 36 years in the military. Fellow Republican John Faso, who spent one term representing the district, declined to seek a rematch against Delgado in 2020. WAMC’s Hudson Valley Bureau Chief Allison Dunne spoke with German about why he decided to run.

Tony German is an Oneonta resident who retired in January.

German says he’s working to put together a plan for what would be his top priority.

And he says there’s a need to address border security.

German, who voted for Donald Trump in 2016, does not believe there are grounds for the president to be impeached.

German says there are policies that have benefitted the 19th District.

German says, to have a shot at the seat, he will tour the district town by town. And he’s getting an early start to gain recognition and log a lot of miles in the swing district that spans 11 counties.

In 2018, Delgado garnered around 51 percent of the vote to Faso’s about 46 percent, with a spread of some 15,000 votes.

Airmen and Soldiers

Military News: Aug. 22, 2019

The Daily Star, Aug 22:

Three area members of the New York Army National Guard were recently promoted according to an announcement made by Maj. General Ray Shields, adjutant general for the state of New York.

Aidian Ingraham of Oxford, assigned to the 827th Engineer Company, received a promotion to the rank of private first class.

Christopher Martin of Oxford, assigned to the 827th Engineer Company, received a promotion to the rank of private.

Gabriel Gerhardt of Richmondville, assigned to the Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division, received a promotion to the rank of sergeant.

https://www.thedailystar.com/community/people/military-news-aug/article_49b68238-f0f2-5f12-9cf5-9026289a0b95.html

Military achievements by local residents: week of Aug. 19 to 23

Syracuse.com, Aug. 22:

U.S. Air Force Airman Riley McEwen graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. McEwen is the son of Michelle Gossner of Fabius, and Douglas McEwen, of Gowands. He is a 2018 graduate of Fabius-Pompey High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman Jacob P. Ilacqua graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Ilacqua is the son of Matthew and Stacey Ilacqua, of Jordan. He is a 2018 graduate of Jordan-Elbridge High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman K’Paw Gay graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. He is a 2017 graduate of Corcoran High School.


U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman Alex J. Potts graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Potts earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is the son of Leonard Potts, of Churchville, N.Y., and Stephanie Hudzina of Katy, Texas, and husband of Autumn Potts of Syracuse. He is a 2012 graduate of Onondaga High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman Dylan R. Winslow graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Winslow is the son of William William and Lisa Winslow, of East Syracuse. He is a 2018 graduate of Knob Noster High School, in Mo.

U.S. Air Force Airman Roland Martin graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Martin is the son of Keith A. Martin and Jacqueline E. Keesler, of Nedrow. He is a 2018 graduate of Onondaga Central High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman Austin M. Schaffner graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Schaffner is the son of Bruce Schaffner, of Erieville and Lisa Schaffner, of Cazenovia. He is a 2017 graduate of Cazenovia High School.

U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman Sarah N. Gratien graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Gratien is the daughter of Jenni R. Gratien, of Chittenango. She is a 2018 graduate of Chittenango High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman Cason Wagner graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Wagner is the son of Tracy Wagner, of Syracuse. He is a 2016 graduate of Nottingham High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman Magdhi Hill graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. He earned distinction as an honor graduate. Hill is the son of Joan Williams, of Fayetteville. He is a 2019 graduate of Syracuse Academy U.S. Air Force Airman Nyshawn Pierce graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Pierce is the son of Lovenya Pierce, of Syracuse. He is a 2017 graduate of Henninger High School U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman Michael Kareglis graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. He is a 2016 graduate of Warrensburg Jr./Sr. High School. Kareglis earned an associate degree from Onondaga Community College Joshua Jones, of Baldwinsville, has
been promoted to technical sergeant, with the New York Air National Guard’s 224th Air Defense Group (ADG).

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general, announces the promotions of members of the New York Army National Guard: Promoted are:

Alexander Decaro, of Cayuga, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion, to the rank of Private 1st Class; Patrick McIntosh, of Auburn, with the Forward Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3; Christopher Krupa, of Cato, with the Joint Force Headquarters, to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4; Raj Tamang, of Syracuse, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-108th Infantry, to the rank of Private 1st Class; Tyrell Owen, of Brookfield, with the 207th Military Police Company, to the rank of Private; Ramel Davis, of Syracuse, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, to the rank of Private; Gordon Reynolds, of Syracuse, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 104th Military Police Battalion, to the rank of Sergeant 1st Class; Zachary Ryder, of East Syracuse, with the 222nd Military Police Company, to the rank of Specialist; Kathleen Demong, of Syracuse, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion, to the rank of Specialist; Carlos Rivera, of Syracuse, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion, to the rank of Specialist; Andrew Melnik, of Camillus, with the 222nd Military Police Company, to the rank of Spc; Jason Ebling, of Baldwinsville, with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, to the rank of Staff Sgt; Benjamin Richardson, of Oswego, with the Joint Force Headquarters, to the rank of Colonel; Nina Skinner, of Syracuse, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, to the rank of Lt; Veronica Leffew, of Chittenango, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, to the rank of Staff Sgt; Isaac Crandall, of Fulton, with the Headquarters and Service Company, 642nd Support Battalion, to the rank of Specialist; and Mathew Warren, of Manlius, with the C Troop, 2-101 Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition), to the rank of Sgt.

Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general, announced the reenlistments of members of the New York Army National Guard: Reenlisted are:

Master Sgt. Jason Shack, of Liverpool, with the 174th Attack Wing; Sgt. Kelsey Heh, of Canastota, with the Joint Force Headquarters; Sgt. 1st Class James Bucci, of Volney, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion; Sgt. Christopher Clark, of Auburn, with the 222nd Military Police Company; Spc. Richard Losee, of Liverpool, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion; Staff Sgt. Kenneth Dapson, of North Syracuse, with the Joint Force Headquarters; Staff Sgt. Nicholas Landers, of East Syracuse, with the Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division; Staff Sgt. Benjamin Stilson, of Syracuse, with the Company C, Recruiting and Retention; Spc. Melinda Farnham, of Syracuse, with the Forward Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Seib, of Baldwinsville, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion; and Sgt. Mathew Warren, of Manlius, with the C Troop, 2-101 Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition).
Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjunct general, announced the promotions of the members of the New York Guard State Defense Force, with the 10th Area Command: Promoted are:

Tina M. Bratjan-Lewis, of Cicero, to the rank of 1st Lieutenant; and Kimberly Ann Haley, of Oneida, to the rank of Warrant Officer.

Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjunct general, announced the promotions of the members of the New York Air National Guard: Promoted are:


**Return to top**

**Notable names**

**Wayne Post, Aug 22:**

National Guard promotes local soldiers

The New York Army National Guard recently promoted Ashley Appell, of Newark, and James Bowman and Tristan Giroux, of Palmyra, to new ranks.

Appell and Bowman each were promoted to the rank of sergeant. Appell is assigned to the Intelligence and Sustainment Company, 42nd Infantry Division. Bowman serves with the Company A (Distribution), 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

Giroux, who is assigned to the Company C (Medical), 427th Brigade Support Battalion, was promoted to the rank of specialist.

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


**Return to top**

**Four receive promotions from National Guard**

**Rome Sentinel, Aug 20:**


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

The promotions include the following area residents:

Rasheed Brooks, of Rome, specialist, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-108th Infantry.

Joshua Butera, of Cleveland, private first class, assigned to the 204th Engineer Detachment; Joseph Myers, of Rome, private, assigned to the Company D, 3-142nd Aviation; and William Whitmarsh, of Holland Patent, specialist, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police Battalion.

Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential. The promotions recognize the best qualified soldiers and attract and retain the highest caliber Citizen Soldiers, according to Shields’ announcement.

https://romesentinel.com/stories/four-receive-promotions-from-national-guard,81274

Johnstown National Guard member promoted

Fulton County Express, Aug 21:

LATHAM — New York Army National Guard member Lyndsey Fiore of Johnstown has received a promotion in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Fiore, assigned to the 466th Medical Company Area Support received a promotion to the rank of Private First Class.

Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, made the promotion announcement and stated promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential.

https://www.fultoncountyexpress.com/johnstown-national-guard-member-promoted/
Fulton County Express, Aug 21:

LATHAM — Two local members of the New York State Army National Guard have reenlisted.

Sergeant Lynsey Foster of Johnstown reenlisted to continue service with the 10th Mountain Division, Mobile Command Post – Operational Detachment.

Sergeant Leandra Lair of Gloversville reenlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 102nd Military Police 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,” stated Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General.


Return to top

Armories

EDC asks to hold off on disputed land purchase

Post Star, Aug 21:

QUEENSBURGY — The economic development agency hoping to buy acres of land in Queensbury from Warren County in a deal that has been questioned has asked to hold off on the purchase for at least 18 months.

EDC Warren County wants to buy 19.96 acres off Queensbury Avenue near the New York National Guard Armory, to try to market it in conjunction with other land EDC owns there. Queensbury had taken the land for back taxes, and it has sat vacant since.

The terms of the sale and purchase price of just under $32,000 prompted a Warren-Washington Counties IDA member to question it last month. On Tuesday, EDC President Ed
Bartholomew asked for an 18-month extension on the purchase so that EDC could have the property examined to determine the prospects of development. The Warren County Board of Supervisors Economic Growth & Development Committee agreed to the extension.

The lots are on Stone Quarry Road and were once part of a quarry, so the property could have extensive bedrock and wetlands that would give some would-be developers pause.

County Administrator Ryan Moore said the sale window had previously been extended, so another extension could be feasible.

He also pointed out one reason for the county to sell to EDC is that the property would be more attractive to a developer if EDC owns it, since county property sales have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Queensbury resident Travis Whitehead, an IDA member and candidate for Queensbury Town Board, questioned the sale because of the below-market price. The land is assessed for $330,000. He said a public hearing on the sale, which had not been proposed, was required.

Bartholomew agreed Tuesday that a public hearing should be held.

Bartholomew said EDC Warren County would also split the proceeds with Warren County should it be able to sell the lots at a profit, though the terms of that split had not been firmed up.

EDC Chairman Matt Fuller said the agency wasn’t planning to “sit on lots” or speculate with the property, and hoped to have it developed.


The Abandoned Miller Air Field on Staten Island (PHOTOS)

Untapped Cities, Aug 20:

In New Dorp, Staten Island, on the southeastern waterfront of the borough is a decommissioned airfield used for half a century by the U.S. Army from 1919 to 1969. Part of the Gateway National Recreation Area today, Miller Field is one of those remaining anomalies: where formal activities co-exist side by side with quasi-accessible remnants of the past. Bicycle and pedestrian paths wind around abandoned hangars, a lighthouse, and a control tower. You can get tantalizingly close to the forgotten structures, despite a chain link fence. Graffiti work inside clearly shows the ease in which explorers can jump the barriers. Grass and weeds are growing around the hangars, while geese and ducks are bathing
undisturbed in the makeshift urban ponds where seaplanes once taxied. And incredibly, on the northern area of the site, people are still living in adorable clapboard homes built for military personnel and their families.

Miller Field has the distinction of being the only Air Coast Defense station in New York City, and on the entire eastern seaboard. There were seven planned defense stations, but this was the only one actually constructed. Before its decommission, Miller Field was the last airport in New York City to have a grass runway. The land also has a very New York City, Gilded Age past. The airfield was built atop the family farm amassed by “Commodore” Cornelius Vanderbilt, who was born on the north shore of Staten Island. The farm, which also served as a horse breeding station, was later operated by his son George Washington Vanderbilt who built the Biltmore estate in Asheville, North Carolina. Washington Vanderbilt moved the 24-room home built by his father, dubbed the “white house” to the center of the farm in the early 1900s and lived there periodically until he died in 1914, according to the National Park Service.

In 1919, the U.S. government acquired the 187 acres of land for Miller Field from the Vanderbilts for $100,000 — a sum that would be nearly $1.5 million in 2018 dollars. It was named for Captain James E. Miller, the very first American aviator killed in action during World War I. Nearly a century after his death, Miller was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 2017 for his brave actions fighting off two German aircraft solo over France.

In 1921, Miller Field was ready for operation, accommodating both land and sea planes with a “concrete seaplane ramp, two grass runways, two landplane hangers, two seaplane hangers,…and three 85 foot radio masts,” as itemized on the National Park Service’s detailed history of the site. However, several of the original Vanderbilt buildings actually remained on site well into the 1930s, including the “white house” which was used as Officer’s Club, along with a stable complex, a dairy house, and an ice house/bull pen. Later, during World War II, observation towers and coastal guns were added, with the airfield becoming under the jurisdiction of Fort Wadsworth. A later archeological study found fragments of Spanish tile from the roofs of the Vanderbilt buildings and provides significant detail about the location of the Vanderbilt buildings in reference to the airfield structures.

Many military units have used Miller Field, including the Green Berets, New York National Guard, Army Reserve, Civil Air Patrol, and an Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion. One of the more historical moments at Miller Field was the testing of Admiral Byrd’s new plane, the Ford Trimotor, which he took on his first expedition to Antarctica in 1928 — an adventure chronicled in Untapped Cities writer Laurie Gwen Shapiro’s book The Stowaway: A Young Man’s Extraordinary Adventure to Antarctica. And on a more morbid note, Miller Field is where the TWA Super Constellation plane crashed after colliding with a United Airlines DC-8, which would make its way all the way to Brooklyn where it landed in Park Slope at the intersection of Sterling Place and 7th Avenue. There were no survivors from the TWA plane, and only one in Park Slope, a little boy who died a day later.

Miller Field also included housing for troops and their families, built in classic American-style architecture — clapboard houses painted in white with green window frames. Set along
a curved road lined with lampposts, the homes still evoke ideals of the American Dream. Curiously, the collection of a dozen or so homes remain part of the National Park Service site and are still inhabited. As Matt Green noted in his quest to walk every street in New York City, he was told by a resident there that the houses are only for National Park Service employees and certain other federal workers and their families. The park’s bicycle and walking paths go right by them.

Miller Field is a beautiful spot to visit on Staten Island. Head up beyond the sand dunes along the waterfront and catch a nice hidden beach. But for urban explorers, the highlights are the abandoned airplane hangars and affiliated structures. Check out more photographs from Miller Field here in the slideshow:

https://untappedcities.com/2019/08/20/the-abandoned-miller-air-field-on-staten-island-photos/

Return to top

Counter Drug Task Force

Lyons Falls man sentenced to prison in federal court

NNY360, Aug 20:

SYRACUSE — A Lyons Falls man was sentenced on drugs and arms charges in federal court.

Victor G. Ehlers, 37, will serve eight and one-third years in state prison followed by three years of supervised release, according to a news release supplied by the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Mr. Ehlers was convicted of possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and possession of firearms and ammunition by a drug user, the release said.

In April 2018, after a two-month investigation, Mr. Ehlers was arrested with two other people at 4267 Cherry St., Lyons Falls.

The State Police report on the arrest at the time said 15 grams of methamphetamine, valued at over $1,500, four grams of heroin laced with fentanyl, 177 Sudafed pills and assorted prescription pills were seized.

Also seized were two fully automatic 9 mm handguns, two semi-automatic 9 mm handguns, a revolver, five unspecified assault rifles, 11 unspecified long guns, three suppressors, loaded high-capacity magazines and more than a thousand rounds of ammunition.
Among the firearms belonging to Mr. Ehlers, according to the sentencing release, were machine guns and silencers in working order that were meant “to further his drug trafficking activities” among other purposes.

The sentencing announcement was made by U.S. Attorney Grant C. Jaquith, Ray Donovan, special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, New York Field Division, and State Police Superintendent Keith Corlett.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael D. Gadarian with assistance from Lewis County District Attorney Leanne Moser’s Office.

The investigation into this case was performed by the State Police Community Narcotics Enforcement Team, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Army National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, Lewis County Sheriff’s Department and Village of Lowville Police Department.


Joint Force Headquarters

Lamont Builds Relationship, Catches Fish With New York Governor

CT News Junkie, Aug. 20:


Lamont and Cuomo said they both caught trout and showed them off at the end of a joint press conference.

Cuomo said there are many issues both states have that would be better tackled if they could work cooperatively. From transportation to cybersecurity and marijuana, Cuomo said they want to work together on these issues.

“The marijuana issue, which is also relevant to contiguous states — what Connecticut does on marijuana is relevant to New York,” Cuomo said. “What New York does is relevant to Connecticut. So we talked about that.”

In a conference call with reporters, Lamont said he met Cuomo once at a press conference, but that’s not a good way to get to know people.
“I flew a long way to get out here in a place where you get to know each other,” Lamont said.

Lamont and Cuomo spent about two-and-a-half hours on a fishing boat.

Lamont said he has a lot to learn from Cuomo, who has been in office for eight years. Lamont has been in office for eight months.

“I had a lot to learn as we were floating around out there waiting for the trout,” Lamont said.

Lamont said the two talked about joint training exercises with the national guard along the border of the two states. Those training exercises could happen as early as the fall.

“We are much better off when we work together,” Lamont said.

Cuomo said Lamont has brought a fresh perspective to the job and is a “get to yes” person.

“It just seems like government isn’t competent or capable enough to get great things done anymore and that’s not true,” Cuomo said. “We have big problems and big problems require solutions and big solutions require partnerships so I’m looking at pursuing that with the governor.”

Lamont received a Connecticut and New York tackle box and a custom-made fishing rod engraved with his name from Cuomo.

“It is guaranteed to catch fish,” Cuomo said in handing Lamont the fishing rod.

Lamont spent his own money to charter a plane from Maine to New York.

Over the past two weeks, Lamont also met with Maine Gov. Janet Mills. Lamont said Mills came to visit him at his vacation home in North Haven, Maine.

Lamont has been trying to build relationships with governors in the region.

Last month he hosted a meeting with Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker and Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo in Willimantic. In October, Baker, Raimondo, and Lamont will get together in Providence.

https://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/20190820_lamont_builds_relationship_catches_fish_with_new_york_governor/

**Return to top**

---

**New York Army National Guard**
The Great New York State Fair: Taking a look at the equipment used by the New York Army National Guard

News 10, Aug. 19:

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (NEWS10)– The Great New York State Fair kicks off this week, August 21, and you’ll be able to see the equipment used by our brave men and women in the New York Army National Guard.

Fairgoers will be able to see a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, a cannon, an Armored Security Vehicle, and much more on display at the New York Army National Guard station on Tonawanda Street near Gate 2 of the Fairgrounds.

Soldiers will be on duty at the exhibit from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. New York Army National Guard recruiters will also be on site to talk about missions and opportunities within the National Guard.

The Great New York State Fair begins Wednesday, August 21, and runs through Labor Day, September 2 at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.


New York National Guard leaders study at historic battlefield

Army.mil and nationalguard.mil, Aug 21:

By Sgt. Andrew Valenza | New York National Guard August 16, 2019

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK, N.Y. - Future New York Army National Guard company commanders and first sergeants discussed leadership and tactical lessons learned from the 1777 Battle of Saratoga as they walked the battlefield here on Wednesday.

The 35 leaders took part in the battlefield tour, known as a staff ride, as part of the Company Commander and First Sergeant Pre-Command Course.

The training started with a helicopter ride, via UH-60 Black Hawks flown by the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, based in Latham, to a designated landing zone at the battlefield, where the Soldiers conducted their leadership training exercise.
"Saratoga is rich in history, and I'm looking forward to learning some of that history today," said Capt. Erica Moreland, the incoming commander of the 138th Public Affairs Detachment, before the trip.

"I'm hoping to learn how decisions affect the course of a battle, or even just how leadership plays a key role to units and individual Soldiers," she said.

In September and October 1777, American troops under Generals Horatio Gates and Benedict Arnold confronted a British Army invading from Canada led by Gen. John Burgoyne.

The British Army was advancing south along the Hudson River and seeking to capture Albany to split New England from the rest of the country.

In two battles -- the Battle of Freeman's Farm on Sept. 19, 1777, and the Battle of Bemis Heights on Oct. 7 -- the American forces defeated the British and forced their withdrawal north to Saratoga. When finally surrounded, Burgoyne was forced to surrender 5,900 troops on Oct. 17, 1777.

The Battle of Saratoga is considered by many historians as the turning point in the Revolutionary War, bringing recognition of the newly formed United States and the support of French military forces into the war.

The Pre-Command Course is a New York Army National Guard program to prepare officers and NCOs for the tasks and responsibilities they face in command positions as a company first sergeant or company commander.

The course is valuable in learning how to work as a command team, and listen to input from Soldiers, said Capt. Michael Tracey, the commander of Bravo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

"This pre-command course is very valuable, and I think it's really going to help a lot of Soldiers out, and bring positive change to our organization," Tracey said. "It's not a one-man thing; you're leading a team. You need to use the talents and perspectives of the people in your team, because you may have a blind spot. If you have a team, they'll help you see that blind spot and you'll form better decisions."

The Soldier's guide through the battlefield was a civilian, James Hughto, an official Saratoga Battlefield tour guide since 1996.

Hughto walked the Soldiers through the tactical movements on both sides of the battlefield and discussed why decisions made by the American and British leaders did and didn't work.

"I've been providing tours for over 20 years," Hughto said. "It's good to be able to share with these Soldiers their history…this is their lineage and it's important to remember it."
The officers and NCOs were divided into five groups and were asked to analyze battlefield actions at five key points.

Tracey was the team leader for one of the groups.

"We were given different scenarios at different points in the battle and we were given a couple of options," Tracey explained.

"'What would you do if you were the British or American general?' The way you looked at it, you wanted to keep your overall objective in mind, but in the context of what are your tactical advantages and that would help guide you into your decision making," he said.

"When I would go over the options, I wanted to try not to give my bias upfront," Tracey said. "Once people gave their perspective I would chime in with mine and we would all relate it to what we were trying to achieve and pick the one that most met that goal."

Overall, it was an excellent training opportunity, said Capt. Alix Shepard, executive officer for the New York Joint Force Headquarters Detachment.

"We're here to learn some more of the area's history and maybe see how we can apply some of that history moving forward in our careers as well," she said. "It's great that the National Guard is able to coordinate this for us today and bring us out here."

https://www.army.mil/article/225814/new_york_national_guard_leaders_study_at_historic_battlefield

Return to top

Military hardware on display at New York State Fair

Oneida Daily Dispatch, Aug. 19:

Geddes, N.Y. — A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, a 105 millimeter howitzer and an armored security vehicle used by New York Army National Guard Soldiers will all be on display at the Great New York State Fair when gates open on Aug. 21.

The equipment will be at the New York Army National Guard station on Tonawanda Street near the fair's gate two.

The UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter is the Army's standard transport helicopter. The New York Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion 142nd Aviation has flown these helicopters on combat missions in Iraq and on emergency response missions here in New York during the response to Superstorm Sandy.
The M-119 light howitzer is used by the 1st Battalion 258th Field Artillery to provide long-range fire power in support of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Finally the Armored Security Vehicle was used by New York National Guard Military Police companies conducting security missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

New York Army National Guard recruiters will also be on hand to talk about service in the Army Guard. Soldiers from Army National Guard units will be on hand to talk to the public about National Guard missions and opportunities.

Soldiers will be on duty at the exhibit each day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.


Return to top

PFOA Issue

NYS Wants DoD To Revise Its Interim Filtration Design For Stewart ANG Base

WAMC, Aug 20:

An interim filtration system at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh was supposed to be up and running by the end of the summer. The remediation effort is intended to trap PFOS-laden water. The U.S. Department of Defense had committed to the measure in December but environmental groups and state officials have concerns.

The plan was for the Army Corps of Engineers to design and implement an interim, remedial measure at a major source of PFOS contamination — outfalls at Stewart Air National Guard Base, at Recreation Pond. It’s the site of some of the highest PFOS concentrations found to date. Erica Ringewald is a spokeswoman for the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation.

“New York State DEC has asked the Department of Defense and their contractors to refine their proposed plan to treat water discharge from Recreation Pond to maximize the amount of water treated by the system and to minimize the levels in the discharge,” Ringewald says. “DEC believes that the treatment system must achieve the state’s recommended MCLs at a minimum, and should be designed to treat to the lowest possible levels of PFAS in the discharge.”

New York state is in the midst of a public comment period for recommended maximum contaminant levels, or MCLs, for three drinking water contaminants — 10 parts per trillion
each for PFOA and PFOS and 1 part per billion for 1,4-Dioxane. Ringewald says DEC wants the temporary filtration system to meet the recommended MCLs at a minimum. Ophra Wolf is a City of Newburgh resident and member of the Newburgh Clean Water Project. And though she’d like to see New York come out with MCLs for PFOA and PFOS lower than 10 parts per trillion, she does not want DoD to be able to latch onto the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s advisory level for PFOA and PFOS of 70 parts per trillion each before the state gets MCLs on the books.

“This is something the community is going to have to be very, very vocal about in order to make sure that even at the interim level the water and the work is being done to the absolute best that it can be,” Wolfe says. “The technology is there to filter the water to non-detect. That’s what they should be doing.”

A spokesperson from the Air National Guard did not respond in time for this broadcast. Wolf, who met with DEC officials on the matter earlier this summer, is concerned, like the DEC, about the Army Corps’ temporary filter’s ability to handle storm surges. The water from Rec Pond makes its way to what was the main drinking water source for the city of Newburgh — Washington Lake, where PFOS contamination was found in May 2016. Testing showed that one of the outfalls discharging storm water into Rec Pond contained 5,900 parts per trillion PFOS, nearly 85 times the U.S. EPA health advisory limit. Again, the DEC’s Ringewald.

“We continue to work closely with the Newburgh community to keep them apprised of our efforts and to ensure they continue to have clean drinking water and to address contamination related to the Stewart Air National Guard Base,” says Ringewald. “We’ve been on the ground since day one and we’re not leaving until the job is done.”

Dan Shapley is water quality program director for Riverkeeper. He says discussion about the temporary filter’s capabilities came up during a July 31 informational meeting in Newburgh hosted by Stewart Air National Guard Base to discuss establishing a Restoration Advisory Committee as it pertains to the City of Newburgh's drinking water contamination at Washington Lake.

“The point of contention is whether the standards that clean up… that filter will be held to will be the federal government’s standards, which are weak, or the state’s standards, which are stronger. We understand the Department of Environmental Conservation, our own DEC in New York, is trying to enforce a limit of non-detect on any discharge that comes out of that filter,” Shapley says. “That’s what we want to support; that’s what we want to see happen; and we’re worried that the Department of Defense won’t hold itself to that high standard.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on behalf of the Air National Guard, had allocated $2.4 million in federal funding to install a filtration system at Rec Pond.