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Serving the New York Army and Air National Guard, Naval Militia, New York Guard and Families

FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Dedicated Soldiers, Airmen Make Our Force Strong

As I write to you the first time I want to let you all know what an incredible honor it is to be chosen by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to lead the men and women of the New York Army and Air National Guard.

It is a privilege to lead the 16,000 members of the New York National Guard — as well as those serving with the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

I want to thank Major General Patrick Murphy for his dedicated leadership of the New York Army and Air National Guard. The mark of a true leader is leaving an organization in better shape than when you took over. General Murphy leaves our force today better equipped, better manned, and better trained than we were six years ago. He leaves the New York National Guard with forces that are well respected wherever they serve. General Murphy has served our Soldiers and Airman admirably.

We will continue to face budget constraints and training shortfalls, however your leaders continue to work hard to solve these problems and ensure that our forces are ready and all of our service members attain their professional goals.

Major General Murphy's core principles were to take care of our Soldiers and Airmen, ensure they are trained, take care of our families, equip our force with the right equipment, and provide safe and functional facilities. His core principles remain my core principles.

Major General Murphy also emphasized that the New York Army and Air National Guard— and our state defense forces too— are organizations built around standards and discipline.

Standards and discipline will remain a constant. Setting standards to be met, and exerting self-discipline to meet those standards, as well as the discipline of our unit leaders, makes this military force effective.

I expect all of our military members to do the right thing. The Army and Air Force have integrity as one of their core values. I expect each one of us to emulate that core value in all of our actions.

We will continue to deploy Army and Air Guard forces around the world when required. We will deploy anywhere in New York to handle all types of emergencies. We will deploy Soldiers and Airmen in Joint Task Force Empire Shield to help our agency partners ensuring security in New York City.

It is what the New York National Guard is counted on to do for the citizens of our great State.

I've had an Air Force and Air National Guard career that's spanned 33+ years. It is only because of the dedicated Airman and Soldiers that I have worked alongside of every day that has allowed me this unbelievable position of leading our nation's best military force. Our Soldiers and Airman in the New York National Guard are second to none. You have proved yourself time and time again. I will do the best that I can to ensure all of you are trained and equipped to enable you to do your job. That your families are taken care of and that you can have safe facilities to work in. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I possibly can.gt

Maj. Gen. Anthony German

YOUNGSTOWN — Troops of the New York Army National Guard's 101st Cavalry, charge from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at the Youngstown Local Training Area here on Feb. 20. The helicopter and aircrew are assigned to the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade. The training was part of the Soldiers' preparation for the Joint Readiness Training Center this summer (see stories on pages 16 and 18). Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell, 107th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard.

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ROUND LAKE — A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crew attaches a collapsible 560-gallon water bucket, used in fire fighting, here on May 5. The aircrews, based in Latham N.Y., conducted annual fire-fighting training at the lake. The Soldiers are part of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade. Photo by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

FRONT COVER: Spc. Dylan Lunde, a team chief with the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, reacts to indirect fire during the stress shoot event of the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site on April 21. Photo by Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment.
BACK COVER: Airmen with the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing prepare ski-way grooming equipment for loading onto a LC-130 aircraft at Little Cornwallis Island, Nunavut, Canada, on April 13, in support of Canada's annual Operation Nunalivut. Photo by Airman 1st Class Jamie Spaulding, 109th Airlift Wing.

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Guard Soldier-Civilian Police Officer Saves a Life

Story by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Inf. Div.

EAST PATCHOGUE — Protecting and treating people is all part of Arnold Reyes' life of public service, whether he's serving as a Suffolk County Police Officer, or as command sergeant major in the New York Army National Guard.

So Dec. 19 — when he and others literally brought Kathleen Manganello, a 72-year old retired librarian, back to life here — was just another day for Reyes.

"I guess it's just ingrained...helping people," he reflected.

But for Manganello's family, Reyes is much more.

He's an "amazing superhero," her son, Andrew said during a news conference in which Reyes was reunited with Manganello and her family.

An Iraq veteran who served in Baghdad in 2004 and 2005, Reyes' life of public service also includes 16 years in the Suffolk County Police Department and about 28 years in the Army infantry. Now the command sergeant major of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, the Selden, New York, resident has served most of his Army career in the New York Army National Guard.

As a Soldier, police officer and volunteer firefighter, Reyes has racked up an array of medical qualifications, including combat lifesaver and emergency medical technician. For the last three years, he's been a member of the police department's Medical Crisis Action Team, which responds to emergency incidents like active shooters and barricaded subjects.

But, Reyes stressed, his infantry training and civilian training work hand-in-hand -- whether he's serving as a Soldier, police officer or firefighter.

"My tactical sense is infantry," he said. "I run things with a tactical mind set. I analyze before I react."

That mind set was probably at work at around 3:20 a.m. on Dec. 19. Firefighters of the North Patchogue Fire Department Ambulance responded to the report of a woman who had no pulse and was unresponsive, according to the Suffolk County Police Department.

In addition to performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the woman, the firefighters administered multiple shocks with an automated external defibrillator, police officials said. Reyes, meanwhile, had heard the call on the radio and was on his way to the scene, which was in the bedroom of her house.

"I volunteered to go," Reyes recalled. "I wound up running the call. When I walked in, the fire department was already working on her."

Manganello's family was also in the room, watching the firefighters work, Reyes said. In addition to having no pulse, the woman wasn't breathing, and the firefighters had already shocked her three times without success, he said.

The firefighters briefed him on the situation, and Reyes offered to help.

But they were facing a medical conundrum: a massive injection of epinephrine — commonly known as adrenaline — could restart the woman's heart, but she didn't have a pulse to pump the lifesaving medication to her heart, Reyes explained.

Her veins were also likely collapsed, so administering adrenaline intravenously (IV) was useless, he added.

"I knew right then it was going to be a difficult IV stick," Reyes said. "I wasn't going to waste my time with an IV."

Reyes also knew that they'd have to go to the bone — literally. So he reached for a last-ditch medical intervention known as an intraosseous needle.

Actually a drill, the device allows emergency medical responders to penetrate bone and administer medication via the bone marrow, so it can circulate through the body, Reyes explained.

"You actually drill it right into the bone," he said.

Picking a spot on Manganello's leg below her kneecap, Reyes proceeded to drill into her tibia and administer the adrenaline.

Adrenaline was now on its way to the woman's heart, but Reyes' own adrenaline hadn't risen at all during the incident.

"I'm usually pretty calm," he explained.

Reyes' even demeanor and medical intervention paid off. Within three minutes Manganello's breathing and pulse had resumed, and he and the firefighters took her to the intensive-care unit at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center, Reyes said.

Manganello has been discharged from the hospital and is continuing to recover, Reyes said. He's checked up on her from time to time, and she and her family are very grateful to him, he added.

"I'm very close with the family now," Reyes said.

Reyes said that saving the woman's life was a team effort. He also enjoys the teamwork and camaraderie of the Army, and "being part of something greater than myself." gt

Arnold Reyes on the job with the Suffolk County Police Department. Also the command sergeant major of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, Reyes and others helped bring a woman back to life in December 2015.

Doc's Deployments Teach Medical Lessons

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

COOPERSTOWN — Ebola and malaria aren't diseases doctors working in the hometown of the Baseball Hall of Fame expect to deal with.

But Dr. William LeCates, a kidney specialist and medical director of Bassett Healthcare Center here, has experience with these diseases, as well as battlefield medicine, as a result of his other career as Lt. Col. William LeCates, a New York Army National Guard doctor.

Seven years as a military doctor — including six months in Liberia in 2015, and two three-month tours in Afghanistan — have made him a better physician overall, LeCates said.

"It is difficult for me to be absent from my civilian work, but I come home again with a better appreciation for my own civilian role," LeCates said.

LeCates has worked for Bassett Healthcare Network since 2003.

Since 2009 he's also been a member of the New York Army National Guard.

"The Guard was a perfect fit for me," he said. "I knew we could have our home, we could stay in our home, Debbie (his wife) and my kids could be secure and fixed in our schools and the community and I could carry out my military duties."

His first deployment in 2010 was with the Iowa National Guard's 334th Brigade Support Battalion at Camp Blackhorse in Pul-e-Charkhi, Afghanistan.

His second deployment was in the New Kabul Compound — an American military facility in the heart of Afghanistan's capital city — in 2013.

LeCates' most recent deployment was a six-month non-combat mission to the West African country of Liberia, with a 14-member detachment from the Michigan Army National Guard.

The Michigan National Guard Soldiers were in Liberia as part of Operation Onward Liberty, a mission to train and mentor the Armed Forces of Liberia.

Those Michigan Army Guard Soldiers needed a doctor—both to keep them healthy and work with Liberians military doctors — so LeCates volunteered for a six-month deployment, filling two three-month reserve physician deployment slots.

Lt. Col. William LeCates poses with Capt. Joseph Kowo, deputy commander of the Armed Forces of Liberia Medical Command, during his 2015 deployment. LeCates deployed to Liberia for six months as part of the training and mentoring mission. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. William LeCates.

"We lived and traveled with the Liberians. Wherever they traveled, we traveled," he said. "They were always gracious hosts, but some of the areas were very rural. It was really hands on."

As a doctor, the deployment offered a remarkable opportunity to see medicine at both the macro and micro level, as the country dealt with the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak that hit the country in 2014, LeCates said.

"The country is small enough, and the cities are close enough, that in a single day I could be in a Liberian clinic looking at young kids that are getting malaria, and in the evening I could be working at the Ministry of Health and helping to understand their Ebola response efforts," LeCates said.

"In Liberia the medical experience, the diseases and diagnoses I saw, are ones I will never see in the United States,' he added.

Overall, his military experience has been a tremendous benefit to his work as a doctor at Bassett Healthcare, a place he chose for his career because he gets to perform complicated, challenging medicine in a small-town setting, LeCates said.

"I think military leadership training is the best type of leadership training available," he said. "I am fortunate in my civilian job to have an opportunity for a medical administrative role here at the hospital, and that training in mentoring and motivating helps."

He and other Reserve component medical people are proud of the part they play in taking care of American service members.

"I think it is a strength of the military medical system that many of the deploying physicians are Reserve and Guard," LeCates said. "They bring skills learned at home to benefit the Soldiers." **gt**

New York Soldier Teaches Marital Arts World-Wide

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Patricia Austin, 27th IBCT

ROCHESTER — When he's not wearing his military uniform and training as a cavalry scout, or working as a bouncer at his other civilian job, New York Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Christopher Manns is teaching Kali — a Filipino martial art — all over the world.

Sgt. Christopher Mann teaches a student Kali, a Filipino martial arts form.

Manns, a member of Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, based in Geneva, N.Y., got started with the martial art that puts emphasis on using weapons to protect the individual — nearly 20 years ago.

"I saw an advertisement in the phone book; I called the number, spoke to the instructor and started training about four hours a day," said Manns, a resident of Rochester, N.Y. and a veteran of deployments to Afghanistan in 2008 and 2012.

Manns' instructor was Douglas Marcaida, an Air Force veteran who started teaching Kali as a hobby after getting out of the military.

"I started teaching about 20 students at my home," said Marcaida, who refers to Kali as his passion. "I told Chris to come over to my place and took a few other students and we just started training."

Kali, which is also known as Arnis or Eskrima, is the national sport of the Philippines and emphasizes the use of hand weapons such as bamboo sticks, daggers and machetes.

While it is known as a Filipino form of martial arts, very little else is known about its history because the general population of people who practiced it were poor and uneducated; therefore its origins went mostly undocumented.

Soon Marcaida's passion for Kali and his techniques started getting notices in the martial arts world, through both social media and his students, many of whom were police officers and service members like Manns.

"I always had a philosophy that it's not just what you do, it's who you do it with and what you do with it," said Marcaida, a father of three.

Marcaida took his Kali techniques and started modernizing the moves to fit the needs of police agencies and other organizations looking for specialized training. He recruited some of his students, like Manns, a veteran of 10 years in the Army National Guard, to help him teach those skills.

That sent Manns traveling.

"We've trained our military, foreign militaries, law enforcement agencies; we customize the style based on the needs of the organization. I personally have travelled to the Philippines, Italy and Canada — as well as multiple states," Manns said.

"Where we go, and however long we stay depends on what organization is requesting us," he added.

While he hasn't been asked to provide formal training by the New York Army National Guard, Manns said he does take his skills with Kali to his unit.

"Sometimes when we have downtime at drill, I'll take my team aside and start teaching them Kali," said Manns. "It's another tool, another way for me to help my guys develop as a team."

That sense of camaraderie is one of the things that brings Joshua Caputo, a veteran of the 101st Airborne all the way from Missouri.

"I traveled 15 hours to train with them," said Caputo, a former infantryman and father of two.

"When you return from the battlefield everything changes," he said. "They tell us not to be so militaristic, but nobody tells you how. Training with Chris and Doug helps me transition and it gives me that sense of belonging that I miss from being in the Army, from being deployed. It calms the inner savage."

"This is a brotherhood," said Marcaida. "It's not about fighting each other, it's about making sure that you can protect yourself and your fellow brother. That's why we teach, it's what we're all about." gt

106th Airman is Air Guard Photographer of the Year

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

WESTHAMPTON BEACH — The Air National Guard has named New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Christopher Muncy Military Photographer of the Year.

Muncy — a New York City resident, 106th Rescue Wing (RW) member, and freelance photojournalist — also received two-first place photography awards in the nationwide Air National Guard media competition in February.

Muncy's military photographs have appeared in military and civilian publications and on the Air Force, National Guard, and Department of Defense websites.

This isn't the first time Muncy has been recognized for his photography skills. In 2014, he took two first place awards in the 2014 Air National Guard media competition and a third place finish in the Air Force-wide competition. He also took first place in National Geographic's "Full Story" competition in 2012 and in the U.S. Air Force Instagram Top Shots of 2014 competition.

The Military Photographer of the Year award requires the submission of five photographs showing a broad range of topics.

He took first place in the categories of pictorial and feature photography.

Muncy's feature photograph (right) depicts Tech. Sgt. Paul Clementi, a

106th RW Security Forces Squadron member, firing an M4 carbine on a snowy day of training in 2015.

A Syracuse-area native, Muncy graduated from Jamesville Dewitt High School in 1999. He joined the Air Force in 2003, and served as an Air Force Reserve personnel technician before becoming a public affairs specialist in 2009. gt

Troop Goes All-in on Army Motivation and Discipline

Story and photo by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

EAST SETAUKET — On April 15, 2014, East Setauket resident Declan Fabrizio became Pvt. Declan Fabrizio in the New York Army National Guard.

Just two days later, Fabrizio earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Gold Badge — and he's been excelling in his military career ever since, said his recruiter, Sgt. 1st Class Carl Bush.

Pvt. Declan Fabrizio

"He's super-motivated and he's accomplished a lot," Bush said. "He pushes real hard. He is already taking the initiative to lead during the RST (recruit sustainment training) weekends. He is one of those guys we count on to get stuff done. As a private that is pretty cool to see."

He joined the Army National Guard because he wants to go to college, Fabrizio said.

He wants a military career but he figured he should get his college education first, Fabrizio explained. When his recruiter explained that he could serve in the Army National Guard, kick starting his military career, while attending school at SUNY Cortland, he figured that was the way to go, he said.

Currently he's enrolled in Army Reserve Officers Training Corps while also serving as a member of the National Guard.

Since enlisting two years ago, the 19-year old says he is even more convinced he made the right decision.

He attended basic training, under the split training concept, and thought the training was great.

"I really did enjoy basic training, being able to wake up every morning and play army," he said. "You get the discipline. I feel better in my chest and my head is on straight."

When he got back from basic, Fabrizio embraced everything that the Army National Guard has to offer new Soldiers, Bush said.

He leads physical training during RST drills and helps new Soldiers who need to improve their physical fitness. He also participated in an Army National Guard team in the Commando Cup, a nine-mile long, three-man team obstacle race.

Though he's programmed to attend advanced individual training as an infantryman this summer, he'll likely become a contracted ROTC cadet instead, and attend college on an ROTC scholarship with the promise of a commission as a second lieutenant when he graduates.

His sister attends West Point, and he also wants to lead as an officer, Fabrizio said.

Although he might be leaving the Army National Guard soon, Fabrizio said he credits his experience as a member with setting him up for success in college and in life.

"I take a look at my friends and I see that they are all still in party mode," Fabrizio said. "I have taken control of my life. The National Guard helped me." gt

Maj. Gen. German Takes Reins as TAG

LATHAM — Maj. Gen. Anthony German took over as the 53rd Adjutant General of New York during a change-of-command ceremony at the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) here on April 7. German assumed adjutant general duties from Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, who was the 52nd adjutant general.

UPPER LEFT: As Murphy looks on, New York State Lt. Gov. Kathleen C. Hochul hands the DMNA colors to German during the ceremony, making him the 53rd Adjutant General of the New York National Guard.

UPPER RIGHT: German speaks after assuming adjutant general duties.

BOTTOM: Murphy waves goodbye after relinquishing his adjutant general duties. Photos by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta.

165 Years of the St. Pat's Parade for 'Fighting 69th'

NEW YORK — The New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry ("Fighting 69th") led the country's largest St. Patrick's Day parade for the 165th time here on March 17. The unit then held a change-of-command ceremony at its Lexington Avenue Armory, and recognized Soldiers for their long and faithful service to the unit. Photos by Sgt. Alexander Rector, 27th Infantry Brigade.

Facelift of Harlem Hellfighters' Home Wins Prize

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

NEW YORK — One piece of the $52 million modernization of the home of the New York Army National Guard's historic Harlem Hell Fighters is being honored with New York City's premier award for historic preservation in construction projects.

The Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award, presented annually by the New York Landmarks Conservancy, "is not quite the Emmys or the Oscars but in that community it is a very big deal," said Leonard Sherman, an associate with STV, an architectural and engineering design firm.

Sherman was the architect for the $2.2 million project to restore the main entrance façade along the Fifth Avenue side of the 83-year-old Art Deco-style Fifth Avenue Armory, also known as the Harlem Armory.

The project involved replacing 300 pieces of decorative terra cotta on the building's face and reinforcing the parapet wall's underpinnings. The most noticeable work involved replacing two five-foot high Art Deco eagles on the entrance tower's corners.

The Moses award recognizes projects that demonstrate excellence in the restoration, preservation, or adaptive use of historic buildings.

The armory was built for the 369th Infantry Regiment in two parts: a medieval-style drill hall finished in 1924, and the Art Deco administrative and office complex completed in 1933. The 369th was an African-American New York National Guard regiment that won fame by fighting for the French Army in World War I.

The massive building now houses the 369th Sustainment Brigade headquarters and its associated units.

Work on the armory began early in 2015. The goal is to move units back into the upgraded building in early 2017, according to Col. Scott Cleaveland, the New York National Guard's construction and facilities management officer.

Along with upgrading the overall building interior and heating and ventilation system, the project includes installing a modern, state-of-art data/communication system and modern audio and visual equipment in some classrooms and administrative spaces.

The most visible evidence of the armory upgrade is the refurbishing of the armory's front entrance, which towers over the river.

The building was made a New York City landmark in 1985 and placed on the New York State and National Registers of historic places in 1994, so maintaining the building's appearance was critical for the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Sherman said that STV, which provides engineering, architectural, planning and environmental and construction management services across the U.S. and Canada, has extensive experience in ensuring historic New York City buildings look the same when upgrade and renovation work is done. The firm looks for architectural drawings, construction records, and photographs for information on the structure and the original plan, he explained.

In the case of the Harlem Armory, STV found reproductions of some of the original drawings and elevations, but no detailed information about the structure behind the building's façade, Sherman said.

Based on information garnered from the drawings and the firm's familiarity with buildings constructed in the 1930s, STV made some conservative assumptions about the type of structure concealed behind the parapet wall, he explained. Unfortunately, when the workmen opened up the facade, they found solid, unreinforced brick masonry, supported by several corroded steel beams, not the steel framing as expected, he added.

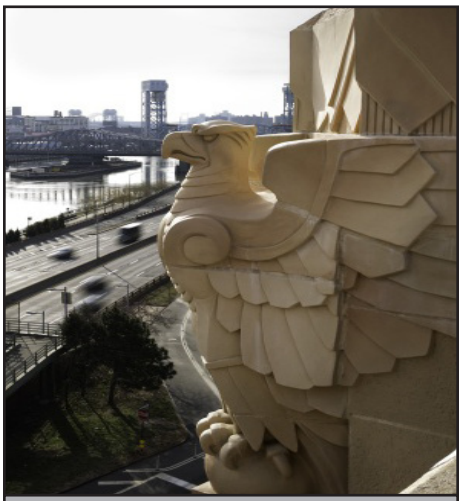
So they had to change plans on the fly, and came up with a solution that resulted in reinforcing and repairing existing salvageable steel frames, introducing new steel framing and allowing for the introduction of waterproofing, he said.

"We believe that we have created a solution here that will prevent future water infiltration damage," Sherman said.

The company also found that a coating, which had been put on the terra cotta details of the building to prevent water from penetrating, had instead locked moisture in, damaging the architectural details, Sherman said.

The most impressive terra cotta details on the 5th Avenue side of the armory are the massive Art Deco federal eagles. Each consists of 13 large pieces of terra cotta.

The coating couldn't be removed without damaging the protective glaze on the terra cotta pieces, so they had to be completely replaced, Sherman said.



A new Art Deco-style federal eagle adorns the Harlem Armory entrance. Photo by Chris Cooper, courtesy STV Inc.

Crafting replacement eagles and all other terra cotta fell to Boston Valley Terra Cotta in Orchard Park, N.Y., which has manufactured ceramic products for over a century. For the Harlem Armory eagles, they had to replicate the specific texture and glaze, said Patricia Herby, the firm's sales and marketing coordinator.

"It is really a balancing act between recreating the pieces so they are going to be viable for hundreds of years as well as preserving the history and the craft, the original look of the pieces," Herby explained.

Using two original eageles as guides, the firm's craftsmen reproduced all 13 pieces of each eagle, she said.

The glaze on the eagles also took research and extra work, Herby said. The final effect of the glaze is that of a burnish on the eagles, she added.

Planning for the 5th Avenue façade restoration began in September 2012 and construction finished on Jan. 2, 2015.

The next phase of the façade refurbishment will take place in 2018, Cleaveland said. That work will bring the 142nd Street and 143rd Street sides of the armory up to the same standard as the 5th Avenue side, he added. gt

Soldiers from the Provost Guard of the 23rd Regiment of the New York National Guard (left) with their Indian motorcycle in Pharr, Texas during the 1916 deployment to the Mexico-Texas Border. The motorcycles were used to send messages quickly. The 2nd Field Artillery Regiment Band (right) gets ready to move out during a review.

Mexican Border Duty Prepped NY Troops for WWI

Story by Eric Durr, Guard Times Staff

Before they went "over there" to France in World War I, 17,000 New York National Guard troops went to the Mexico-Texas border to prevent Mexican incursions across the border.

That mobilization in 1916 was the first time National Guard troops were federalized as part of the Army.

Their months on the border, according to Maj. Gen. John O 'Ryan, the New York commander, taught the officers and men how to soldier, and paved the way for their success in World War I

The New Yorkers wound up in Texas because Mexico had been in crisis since 1910. The United States picked sides in the internal struggle and Mexican revolutionary commander Pancho Villa wasn't on the side backed by President Woodrow Wilson.

Villa's forces, seeking revenge attacked Columbus, New Mexico on March 9, 1916, killing eight 13th Cavalry Soldiers and 10 civilians. Villa's forces lost 60 in the attack.

A U.S. Army cavalry division pushed into Mexico to punish Villa, which resulted in skirmishes with Mexican Army troops, while cross border raids continued. On June 16, Wilson called up the entire 105,000-man National Guard of the United States to guard the border.

In 1916 the New York National Guard was the country's most sophisticated Guard organization — to inlcude an air force in the form of the 1st Aero Company based in Mineola, N.Y. New York National Guard officers were experimenting with the use of motorcycles and armored cars on the battlefield in the 1st New York Armored Motor Battery. O'Ryan, the New York Division commander, was the first National Guard officer to graduate from the Army War College.

New York provided a 17,733 man division.

As the largest and best trained Guard organization, the New York Division, renamed the 6th Division, was sent where the commander on the border, Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, thought the threat of incursions was greatest.

"The New Yorkers all by themselves could put a sizeable dent in the Mexican Army," according to Charles H. Harris and Louis R. Sadler, authors of the book *The Great Call-Up: The Guard, the Border, and the Mexican Revolution.*

As the regiments arrived on the border in July, the men went into camps in the towns of McAllen, Parr, and Mission. The camp at McAllen held 10,000 Soldiers, and 3,500 horses and mules. Sixty-five cavalrymen in a provisional troop began patrolling the border on July 11.

Over the next few months, the Soldiers settled into a routine that would be familiar to Soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan almost 100 years later.

O'Ryan issued Order 7, which banned drinking and consorting with prostitutes. He later credited this order with preventing incidents between his Soldiers and local residents.

But there were sometimes incidents among the Guardsmen.

On August 11, for example, 69th Infantry Soldiers brawled with 2nd Infantry troops. "The 69th loved to fight. If they couldn't fight Mexicans they took on whoever was handy," *The Great Callup* says.

Soldiers took turns watching the border, training and reading a paper called "The Rio Grande Rattler".

Soldiers could read about the horse show sponsored by the 1st Cavalry Regiment, the Thanksgiving dance of "Oriental Splendor" held by the 74th Infantry, or the fact that Maj. Cornelius Vanderbilt took command of the 222nd Engineers. This news was sandwiched in between ads for Grape-nuts Cereal and a bath with unlimited hot water, soap and a towel for 25 cents at the McAllen Hotel.

But sometimes the fun turned deadly. On August 26, 12th Regiment troops went swimming in an irrigation canal. When they men climbed out and got dressed, they saw that one uniform remained. Sgt. Arthur Lockwood had gotten stuck in the mud and drowned.

To get his men in shape, O 'Ryan sent them hiking across the desert and to the rifle range.

Two months after the last troops returned home, the United States declared war on the Germany and the New York National Guardsmen were back in uniform.

"The New York Division went into the World War composed largely of disciplined and seasoned Soldiers," O'Ryan wrote later. So substantially was this attributable to the long service on the Mexican border, that it may truly be said that the border service was a prepatory course of training for the participation in the World War." gt

Army Guard Promotions

Sergeant Promoted to Staff Sergeant

AJAMU ZALIKA	JFHQ-NY
ARTHUR ANDREW	DET 1 CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY
BECKFORD CRYSTAL	4TH FINANCE DET
BOYEA JARRID	222D MILITARY POLICE CO
CARPENTER THOMAS	CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY
CARPENTER MICHAEL	CO A 1-69TH INFANTRY
CLYMO JAMES	1108TH ORDNANCE CO EOD
DOYLEY NATHANIEL	CO E 3-142D AVIATION
GROSS STEVEN	1156TH ENGR CO VERTICAL
KLATT TODD	DET 1 HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE BCT
MAY DEVIN	222D MILITARY POLICE CO
MELENDEZ MATTHEW	HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
RUBINO JOSEPH	CO B 3-142D AVIATION
STUDER DEREK	206TH MILITARY POLICE CO
TERI GASPAR	107TH MP CO
WORNER JESSICA	MEDICAL COMMAND

Staff Sergeant Promoted to Sergeant 1st Class

GUCKIAN MELISSA	HQS 106TH REGIMENT
HUMPHREY SCOTT	CO B 101ST SIGNAL BN
KING KYLE	CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY
MALONEY JOSEPH	HSC 642D SUPPORT BN
MARTINSEN DAVID	JFHQ-NY
WITKOWSKI WALTER	CO A RECRUITNG & RET

Sergeant 1st Class Promoted to Master Sergeant

ALLEN DANIEL	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
ANDERSON SCOTT	27TH INF (BCT)
BEHNKE JOSEPH	CO A RECRUITNG & RETENTION
KYLE SCOTT	HQS 106TH REGIMENT
PUGH LAMONT	HQS 106TH REGIMENT
SPRINGER JASON	53D DIGITAL LIAISON DETACH
SUCHOMEL BRIAN	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
WARNER TAREK	JFHQ-NY

Master Sergeant Promoted to First Sergeant

MARTILOTTA JACK	HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 3

ECHEVARRIA RAUL	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
FANCHER KELLY	JFHQ-NY

Newly Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant

CALLIORAS NICHOLAS	CO E (FSC INF) 427TH BSB
ELVIN MATTHEW	HHC 102ND MILITARY POLICE BN
HAYES BERNARD	1569th TRANS CO
MCKAY CHRISTOPHER	CO B (MAINT) 427TH BSB
PARDO MANUEL	1156TH ENGR CO VERTICAL
RAMIREZ MIGUEL	133RD QUARTERMASTER SP CO

2nd Lieutenant Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

BARNES ROBERT	1108TH ORDNANCE CO EOD
BOYLE COLIN	107TH MP CO
BRUINOOGE MICHAEL	HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
CARTWRIGHT DAVID	CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY
CECI DEVIS	CO A 3-142D AVIATION
DECAPRIO JAMES	HHB 1-258TH FIELD ARTILLERY
DRUMMOND FITZGERALD	CO B 3-142D AVIATION
FARQUHARSON RICARDO	107TH MP CO
GENDRUE SHAUN	CO A (DISTRO) 427TH BSB
GEORGE ANURAJ	OPNS CO 42ND ID
GRAHAM DANIEL	CO C 1-69TH INFANTRY
HEWITT JOHN	CO C 642D SUPPORT BN
HO ELISSA	187th SIG CO
HUH JOHN	187th SIG CO
KNABB TYLER	CO A 3-142D AVIATION
LEGERE BRYAN	OPNS CO 42ND ID
LEMEN WILLIAM	CO A 2-108TH INFANTRY
MANDWELLE JORDAN	466TH MEDICAL CO AREA SUPPORT
MCKERNON CHRISTIAN	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
MEDINA JORGE	442D MP CO REAR DETACHMENT
MICHEL JAMES	TROOP A 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
MILLERICK ROBERT	BATTERY B 1-258TH FA
MORRIS ERIN	152ND ENGINEER SUPPORT CO
NALBACH TYLER	CO C (MED) 427TH BSB
PETERS DOUGLAS	1156TH ENGR CO VERTICAL
PRAIRIE ARIEL	HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
RUEGGER EMILY	827TH ENGR CO HORIZ
SCHIRTZ BLAKELY	TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
SCORSESE GIACOMO	HHC 1-69TH INFANTRY
SCOTT NEYSIA	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
THOMPSON JACOB	TROOP C 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
TILLEY AARON	HHC 2-108TH INFANTRY
WEBBER JASON	CO D 2-108TH INFANTRY
WRIGHTSON STEPHEN	CO C 2-108TH INFANTRY

First Lieutenant Promoted to Captain

ARANA ROBINSON	HHC 3-142D AVIATION
ARGUELLO DANIEL	HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
DENNER NICOLAS	HSC 204 EN
KALAFUT CHRISTINE	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
LAUN MATTHEW	HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
PEREZ JOSE	HHC COMBAT AVN BDE 42D IN DIV
REPICKY TIMOTHY	HHD 501ST ORDNANCE BN EOD
ROBERTS WESLEY	HHT 2-101 CAV (RSTA)
SCHNEIDER AVERY	27TH INF (BCT)
SCHULTZ CHRISTOPHER	OPNS CO 42ND ID
UDELL LUKE	A CO(ENG)BSTB 27TH IN BDE(BCT)
WALLACE CHRISTOPHER	OPNS CO 42ND ID
WEHLING STEVEN	27TH INF (BCT)
WENZEL PAUL	HQ 53D TRP CMD

Captain Promoted to Major

COUTS JUSTIN	HHC BSTB 27TH IN BDE
FISH PETER	HHC 3-142D AVIATION
KIM JAMES	HHC 369TH SUST BDE
LEWIS JAMES	24TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM
MARKE SAFET	HQ 27TH FINANCE MGMT BN
MILLER EDWARD	MEDICAL COMMAND
SHAKNOVSKY THOMAS	CO C (MED) 427TH BSB
STECKMEISTER GERALD	JFHQ-NY
STETZKO MARK	DET 1 OPS CO 42ND ID
WILLIAMS RAYMOND	OPNS CO 42ND ID

Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

BAUER DAVID	JFHQ-NY
INSETTA JOHN	JFHQ-NY

Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel

CLEAVELAND DENNIS	CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE
COURTNEY LISA	JFHQ-NY

Air Guard Promotions

Staff Sergeant Promoted to Technical Sergeant

ALLNUT, JOSEPH	174 ATTACK WING
BERG, BRIAN	109 AIRLIFT WING
BISHOP, RICHARD	174 ATTACK WING
BLACKSTONE, FRANK	106 RESCUE WING
BOHIGIAN, MATTHEW	109 AIRLIFT WING
CARKNER, JUSTIN	109 AIRLIFT WING
COYNE, ERIC	106 RESCUE WING
DARGAN, LYDEL	105 AIRLIFT WING
DRZEWIECKI, JOHN	109 AIRLIFT WING
EBERHART, HEATHER	107 AIRLIFT WING
FOUNTAIN, JOHN	109 AIRLIFT WING
FRANK, ANDREW	105 AIRLIFT WING
GEE, CHRISTOPHER	106 RESCUE WING
GIOIA, PETER	105 AIRLIFT WING
GOMEZ, WALTON	105 AIRLIFT WING
GUARRASI, BRANDON	106 RESCUE WING
HAFFNER, DAVID	105 AIRLIFT WING
HAGGINS, CHARLES	174 ATTACK WING
HAYES, JEFFREY	109 AIRLIFT WING
JACQUES, JEFFREY	174 ATTACK WING
KENNEDY, FRANK	109 AIRLIFT WING
LABUNSKI, KIMBERLY	109 AIRLIFT WING
MAINZ, IMMANUEL	105 AIRLIFT WING
MANG, GARETT	107 AIRLIFT WING
MARQUEZ, ROBERT	105 AIRLIFT WING
MARTINEZ, FLAVIO	105 AIRLIFT WING
MARTINI, KENNETH	105 AIRLIFT WING
MAYER, BETHANY	105 AIRLIFT WING
MCROBBIE, MICHAEL	174 ATTACK WING
MUHA, AARON	109 AIRLIFT WING
NG, KEN	106 RESCUE WING
NOWACKI, PATRICK	109 AIRLIFT WING
OLEARY, SEAN	106 RESCUE WING
PAVELSKI, DUSTIN	174 ATTACK WING
PENFIELD, JACOB	174 ATTACK WING
PYLINSKI, BRENTON	174 ATTACK WING
RICHTER, JAMIE	109 AIRLIFT WING
SKINNER, CHARLES	107 AIRLIFT WING
SMITH, LINDA	109 AIRLIFT WING
STAATS, ROGER	105 AIRLIFT WING
STRINGFELLOW, JOSHUA	106 RESCUE WING
TANDY, MICHAEL	106 RESCUE WING
VANAUKEN, ROBERT	109 AIRLIFT WING
VERGARA, ROBERT	106 RESCUE WING
WEATHERSTON, RONALD	107 AIRLIFT WING
WINTERS, ADAM	109 AIRLIFT WING

Technical Sergeant Promoted to Master Sergeant

ALTMAN, JOSHUA	174 ATTACK WING
BAISLEY, MATTHEW	109 AIRLIFT WING
BEHANY, KATY	109 AIRLIFT WING
BONILLADIAZ, CARLOS	109 AIRLIFT WING
CARTY, SEAN	109 AIRLIFT WING
CASTELLANE, THERESA	105 AIRLIFT WING
CHEFF, LEONARD	107 AIRLIFT WING
CLEMENTI, PAUL	106 RESCUE WING
DAPARMA, ANDRE	105 AIRLIFT WING
ENGLISH, NEWTON	174 ATTACK WING
FARRUGIA, MATTHEW	105 AIRLIFT WING
FIGUEROA, LUIS	105 AIRLIFT WING
FLEISCHMAN, ADAM	105 AIRLIFT WING
GAGNE, ADAM	174 ATTACK WING
HALL, RICHARD	109 AIRLIFT WING
IANNO, CHRISTOPHER	106 RESCUE WING
JETER, ROMAN	105 AIRLIFT WING
KELLY, PAUL	106 RESCUE WING
KLINE, MARSHALL	109 AIRLIFT WING
LANDERWAY, DARREN	ANGRC
LANSLEY, DEAN	HQ NEW YORK ANG
LEE, MICHAEL	109 AIRLIFT WING
LINDNER, JOHN	105 AIRLIFT WING
MARTIN, NICOLE	107 AIRLIFT WING
NILES, MICHAEL	174 ATTACK WING
OGBURN, BENJAMIN	109 AIRLIFT WING
PACENZA, MICHAEL E	105 AIRLIFT WING
PASTORELLO, SARA	105 AIRLIFT WING
PETERS, CHRISTOPHER	107 AIRLIFT WING
RAVESI, JOSEPH	105 AIRLIFT WING
STERNER, MATTHEW	105 AIRLIFT WING
SWIDERSKI, MARK	109 AIRLIFT WING
TAYLOR, VINH	105 AIRLIFT WING
VAZQUEZ, SAMMY	107 AIRLIFT WING
WARD, JAMES WILLIAM	107 AIRLIFT WING
WILLIAMS, RAYMOND	174 ATTACK WING
WINNIE, MATTHEW	109 AIRLIFT WING
YURKO, ROGER	109 AIRLIFT WING

Master Sergeant Promoted to Senior Master Sergeant

BEALL, JESSICA	106 RESCUE WING
CARMODY, KIMBERLY	HQ NEW YORK ANG
DUFFY, CHRISTOPHER	174 ATTACK WING
KNOWLTON, SHAWN	105 AIRLIFT WING
LAZZARI, MICHAEL	109 AIRLIFT WING
MACAULAY, SIOBHAN	109 AIRLIFT WING
MURPHY, ERICA	106 RESCUE WING
NOON, CHRISTINA	106 RESCUE WING
REYNOLDS, BRIAN	105 AIRLIFT WING
VALLSDELOSREYES, FRANK	109 AIRLIFT WING

2nd Lieutenant Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

AJIBULU, ADETOKUNBO	109 AIRLIFT WING
BARNES, STEPHANIE	174 ATTACK WING
BEERS, DANIEL S	105 AIRLIFT WING
BHATT, MRUGANK DILIP	106 RESCUE WING
BLAND, CHARLES V	105 AIRLIFT WING
BURNS, TABATHA	106 RESCUE WING
COTTER, MATTHEW	109 AIRLIFT WING
GIOLITTI, JONATHAN	105 AIRLIFT WING
GOMES, GREGORY	105 AIRLIFT WING
IBBS, BRIAN	105 AIRLIFT WING
JENSEN, ANDREA	109 AIRLIFT WING
LEE, JAMES	106 RESCUE WING

1st Lieutenant Promoted to Captain

MOYER, JENNIFER	174 ATTACK WING
RULISON, SHAWN	109 AIRLIFT WING

Captain Promoted to Major

BAUER, TIMOTHY J	105 AIRLIFT WING
CULLEN, SHAUN RYAN	106 RESCUE WING
HAYNES, JAMES IAN	174 ATTACK WING
LEGAULT, RICHARD	109 AIRLIFT WING

Major Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

DEAN, NICHOLAS	109 AIRLIFT WING
LEWIS, JOHN	105 AIRLIFT WING
REDMAN, SEAN	HQ NEW YORK ANG
WHEELER, LINDA	105 AIRLIFT WING

Lieutenant Colonel Promoted to Colonel

GRIMSLEY, TODD	HQ NEW YORK ANG
KILGORE, MICHELE	174 ATTACK WING
QUIGLEY, PAUL	174 ATTACK WING

Colonel Promoted to Brigadier General

LABARGE, TIMOTHY	105 AIRLIFT WING
OWENS, THOMAS	HQ NEW YORK ANG

Chinook on Roof: Troops Execute Delicate Maneuver

Story by Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

FORT DRUM — Staff Sgt. Jeff Lentz did something new in his Army National Guard aviation career on March 5 — he helped land a CH-47F Chinook helicopter on a building.

"It was pretty exciting," said Lentz, a flight engineer assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation. "It's always cool to do something new. It kind of shows the versatility of the aircraft and the mission that we can do too."

It is also about "supporting the customer" — in this case, Air National Guard joint terminal air controllers (JTACs,) from the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron — and inserting them into a mock village here, Lentz said.

The CH-47 company, which comes under the control of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, has trained regularly in air insertion techniques with the 274th JTACS.

"The big thing is weight and size, the weight that the building can support and the size," Lentz said. After verifying the safety, the landing comes down to the crew's comfort level and experience, he said.

During Saturday's landing, Lentz lay on top of the Chinook's rear ramp and peered under the aircraft to physically watch its rear landing gear touch down. At the same time, the left and right door gunners looked out of their respective sides, and the two pilots kept an eye on things up front while maneuvering the aircraft.

As a flight engineer, Lentz said that he'd never landed on a building before, but had assisted in landings in confined areas. Those situations are all about clear, concise communication among the crew members, he added.

"They were making calls, and then I was on the ramp," Lentz said. "All five of us were basically talking in a certain way that's super fast to communicate with and super easy to understand with air crew coordination, making sure that the helicopter is basically on the center of the building and it was safe to bring it down."

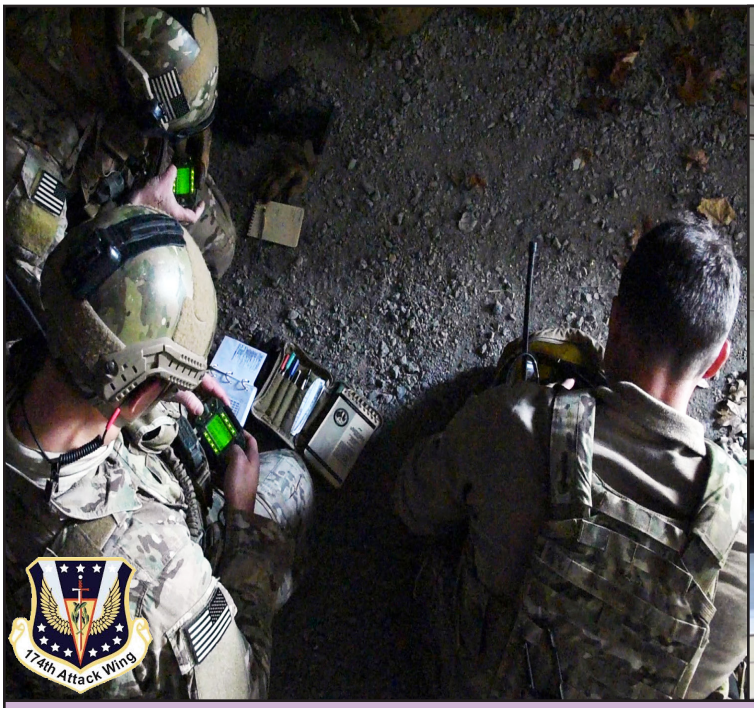
The crew did not want to completely land on the building and put all of the aircraft's weight on it, so it landed with only the rear gear and kept the front in the air.

A key part of the process is communicating in a certain way and making sure that the same word means the same thing every time, Lentz said.

"Any time you land on something small, it takes multiple people, lots of information input into the cockpit, for them to be able to do what they've got to do," he said.

"Once you can do it right and you have the faith in your other crew members and your own experience and you can rely on their experience, you can do what we did today," Lentz said.**gt**

An Airman from the 274th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) participates in close-air support (CAS) training at Fort Drum, N.Y.'s urban-training site on March 5. The training enhances their ability to identify a target and neutralize a threat. The 274th's mission is to advise U.S. Army commanders on how to best utilize U.S. assets for CAS. Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Miller, 174th Attack Wing, New York Air National Guard.



LEFT: Airmen from the 274th ASOS participate in CAS training at Fort Drum's urban-training site on March 5. RIGHT: 274th ASOS members disembark a CH-47F Chinook helicopter, flown by the New York Army National Guard's Company B, 3rd Battalion 126th Aviation, onto a rooftop at Fort Drum's urban-training site during joint training on March 5. The CH-47F Chinook aircrew supported the joint terminal attack controllers of the 274th ASOS in an air-insertion exercise in an urban environment. Photos by Master Sgt. Eric Miller, 174th Attack Wing, New York Air National Guard.

Citizen Preparedness Corps Passes 100K Goal

ALBANY — As part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Citizens Preparedness Corps (CPC), New York National Guard troops and others have trained over 100,000 New Yorkers how to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters or emergencies. The troops passed the milestone at a CPC training event they led at the Times Union Center here on March 21. Launched in 2014, CPC training provides people with information to better respond to any type of disaster. The troops, along with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and the American Red Cross, provide training courses every week.

LEFT: Emergency Response experts from the New York State Office of Fire Prevention, the National Weather Service, and the New York State Emergency Management office join New York National Guard Lt. Justin Kupinski, (foreground) and Staff Sgt. Patricia Austin to field questions at the March 21 event

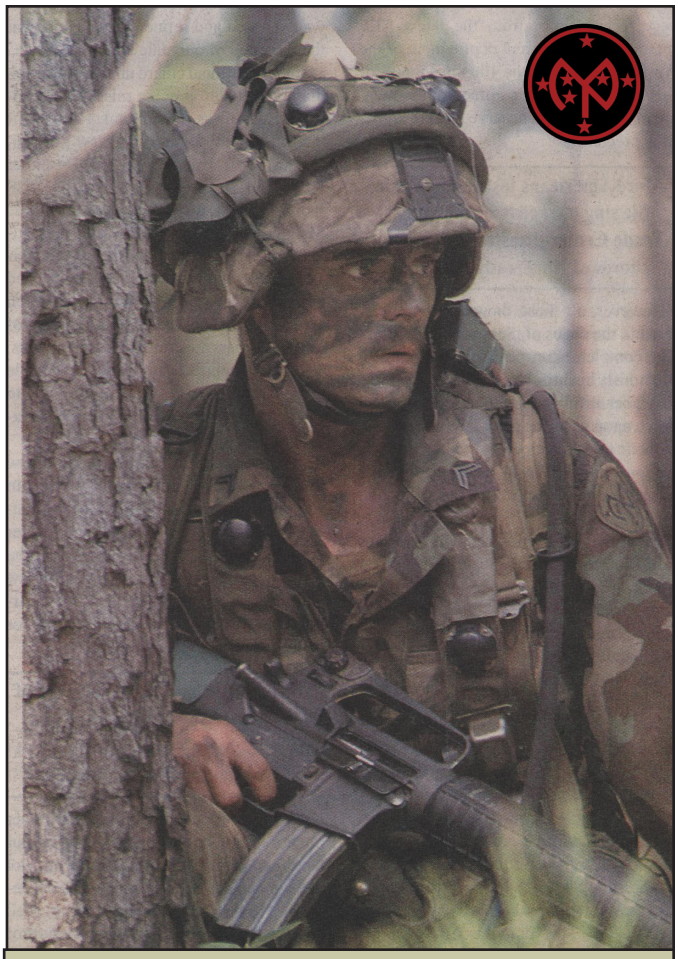
RIGHT: New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen hand out "go bags" filled with basic emergency supplies to residents who attended the March 21 event. Photos by Eric Durr.

Vets Say: Get Ready, Get Set for JRTC

Story Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Inf. Div.

Heat. Humidity. Plants. Animals. OPFOR and ops tempo...those are the key things that New York Army National Guard combat veterans remember about their time at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana over a decade ago.

Lt. Col. Michael Murphy, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Ciampolillo, Sgt. 1st Class Justin Westfall and Sgt. Robert Edmonds were members of the New York Army National Guard's 27th Brigade when it trained at JRTC in 2001. The unit, now designated the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), is heading there again for war-fighting exercises, and the veterans praised JRTC but dispensed warnings and advice.



A 27th Brigade Soldier scans for OPFOR at JRTC during the brigade's 2001 tour there. New York Army National Guard file photo.

"Everything down there is either going to sting you, prick you or give you a rash," said 27th IBCT Command Sgt. Maj. Tom Ciampolillo, a Glenville, N.Y. resident. "It's the deep south, it's totally different."

But those challenges are all part of JRTC, which is designed to bend or break units and individual troops in order to reveal their weak points, Ciampolillo stressed. It'll test everyone's ability to do their jobs, and all the troops will leave JRTC better and smarter, he emphasized.

"They're going to get world-class training," he said. "Whatever they came in the Army to do, they're going to do it at JRTC."

"This is a more intense (annual training)," said Edmonds, a supply sergeant with Joint Force Headquarters, and Scotia, N.Y. resident.

That training begins this July, when the troops fly to Fort Polk and soon after, head into the training area, known as "the box."

Once in the box it's game on. The operations tempo (ops tempo) spikes, and troops confront the opposing force (OPFOR).

Weapon systems, Soldiers and vehicles will be equipped with the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES). When fired with blank munitions, MILES-equipped weapon systems send laser signals at MILES-equipped personnel and vehicles, setting off alarms that indicate a hit or near-miss and simulate battle losses.

Logistics is also exercised in real time, creating demands for combat leader decisions, tactical planning, and management of both personnel and re-supply.

The ops tempo is going to be much higher because we're moving from a counter-insurgency fight to a Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE), Ciampolillo said. We're preparing to fight enemies who have nearly the same capabilities as us, he explained. So troops who've deployed to places like Iraq or Afghanistan — might be used to living on bases — will find themselves living in the field for a long time, he explained.

"We're going back to how we fought before the war on terror," Ciampolillo said.

Westfall said he'll never forget "stepping off the plane and hitting a wall of humidity."

"One thing that shocks you is the Louisiana heat and humidity," said Westfall, a Valatie, N.Y. resident. He recalled that it was the first time they were issued camelbacks, which he described as "lifesavers for all of us."

There were many heat casualties, Murphy and Edmonds remembered. It's hard to work for more than 15 or 20 minutes without finding a way to cool off, Murphy said.

"The humidity is something I've never experienced before or since," said Murphy, of East Greenbush, N.Y. "I think (the brigade) had hundreds of heat casualties before we even got to the field. I saw three people drop unconscious in the first 96 hours there." The first time he experienced air conditioning following the exercise is when he got on the plane to go home, he added.

Louisiana's heat and humidity are worse than anything they experienced when they deployed to Kuwait and Iraq, the Soldiers said. The first week of the rotation is the hardest, because personnel will be acclimatizing to the new environment, said Edmonds, who advised planning for rest breaks and using battle buddies.

"Watch each other," Edmonds said. "Overseas is a dry heat. This is a wet heat. It goes right through you. You get exhausted quickly. It's hot over there, but it's not humid. Humidity can kill you. You feel like you can't breathe."

Troops should get used to hydrating frequently, and maintaining their physical fitness, Campolillo said. Murphy, Westfall and Edmonds agreed.

"Start hydrating a month in advance," West-

fall said. "It's the worst heat I've ever been in. And you have all that gear on. It's no joke."

Personnel should also be prepared for Louisiana's plants and animals, Edmonds and Westfall said. Ciampolillo remembered spiders and alligators, while Edmonds recalled fire ants — and once, finding a black widow spider in a foxhole he was about to occupy.

"I was like, 'I'm not getting in there right now,'" he joked.

Something bit one of his fellow Soldiers on the lip as he was sleeping on a vehicle, Westfall recalled.

"It swelled up pretty bad," he said. "There's some nasty stuff down there."

Some of that nasty stuff includes poison ivy. About 10 of his fellow Soldiers suffered rashes from exposure to it, Edmonds said.

"Know your plants, especially poison ivy," he said. "There's a lot of it out in the field."

Bring baby wipes, talcum powder, bug spray, and stick to a personal-hygiene routine, which can prevent other rashes due to perspiration, Edmonds advised.

"That's important, because you'll be sweating a lot," he said. "Try to get more than you need. Once you're in the box, you can't leave."

The smart, aggressive OPFOR at JRTC made for a high ops tempo and other challenges, the Soldiers said.

The OPFOR ambushed them with small-arms as soon as they entered the box and took out a platoon sergeant, Westfall recalled. But things like that teach Soldiers how to evacuate casualties and to step up — and into — leadership roles.

Once, while he was driving in a Humvee with just a gunner, an OPFOR helicopter came in low over the treetops, attacked them, and set off the gunner's MILES.

"It took out the gunner, and I was by myself in the Humvee," Westfall said. "At one point there were four people left in the platoon. It teaches you to carry out missions with limited resources."

As a supply sergeant, Edmonds was tasked with replenishing the troops and defending his unit's tactical operation center, which the OPFOR repeatedly attacked and tried to infiltrate. Encountering the OPFOR and mock firefights "gets your blood going," he said.

"(The OPFOR) were pretty good," Edmonds said. "They're going to get you. They're going to tire you out. They're going to break you. That's all they do is play OPFOR down there."

A 27th Brigade Soldier uses a radio at JRTC during the brigade's 2001 tour there. New York Army National Guard file photo.

The repeated attacks added a tremendous amount of realism and reinforced the troops' tactical mindset, Murphy said.

"The OPFOR was clearly superior in their understanding of the terrain," he said. "They were hard to beat."

Fort Polk's permanent OPFOR is very good, experienced and knowledgeable, Ciampolillo said.

"That's all they do," he said. "Anything a visiting unit can throw at them they've probably seen a dozen times. They know the battlefield. You're fighting in their backyard."

Operations went on around the clock, according to Edmonds and Westfall. He often felt sleep-deprived, Westfall said.

"You learn to do things while you're very tired," he said.

The high ops tempo probably affected other parts of the operation, Edmonds said. It was sometimes hard to find the troops to re-supply them with ice, water and other items, he added.

"They were always on the move," he said.

Less than a month after the brigade's return from JRTC, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon, killing thousands of people. America declared war on terror, and the four Soldiers were among the many troops who served in Iraq and Kuwait.

His time at JRTC prepared him physcially and mentally for Iraq — and that mental toughness still sustains him, Edmonds said. The lessons of JRTC, such as learning to drive and maintain a Humvee, carried over into his Iraq deployment, Westfall said.

"That's where I really got to know the Humvee," he said. "It's your lifeline, especially in Iraq. When you're thrown into the box for three weeks, you live and breathe it."

His JRTC experience also paid off in Iraq when he had to fill in for his truck commander, who went on leave.

"(JRTC) really gives you the 'next man up' situation. You have to know what the mission is and what the scenario is and keep things moving forward."

Along with giving command staffs experience in moving troops across the country and into a battle, JRTC challenges troops physically and mentally in one of the most difficult environments there is, teaching them that the environment is always a factor to be overcome.

"This is the premier training event for the Army," Ciampolillo said. "Not everyone gets selected to go."

Westfall feels lucky to have gone to JRTC, and counts it as one of his career highlights.

"If you have a chance to go, take it," he said. "It sucks while you're there, but after the fact, you get a lot out of it." **gt**

Aviators Help Infantry, Medics Prep for JRTC

Story by Capt. Jean Marie Kratzer and Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade

Months ahead of their major exercise this summer, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) troops worked with Army National Guard aviators to smooth the air-ground interface at training events in Youngstown and Oriskany.

The events in Feburary and March, which involved two aviation units, allowed 27th IBCT cavalry troops, infantry and medics to practice key tasks before their culminating training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana in July (see related story, see page 16.)

"As we're moving to JRTC and heading towards a ready year for mobilization, it's important to have this sort of training," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hare, the training NCO of the 27th IBCT's Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry.

On Feb. 20, aircrews from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation teamed up with Troop C Soldiers to hone their aerial insertion and extraction skills at the Youngstown Training Area. The cavalry troops also practiced breaking contact with an enemy force and extracting by helicopter, said 1st Lt. Ian Merritt, the C Troop executive officer.

Because there are new Soldiers in Troop C, it helps to get everyone out to the training area to get them into a tactical mindset, Merritt said. The training isn't difficult, but it is a good way to ease back into tactical events and get everyone motivated and on track for JRTC, he added.

"We have a lot of new guys in the unit, so it's good for unit cohesion to start working with them," said Spc. Erik O'Grady, a C Troop rifleman. "It's good to get the practice in now, especially with the younger guys to know what we're doing when we get (to JRTC)."

That practice included boarding the aircraft, exiting the aircraft and forming proper security, and knowing the proper posture while waiting for it to arrive, he explained.

That practice began right after the aircrew landed the CH-47 Chinook helicopter. With the engines off, Flight Engineer Sgt. Mike Landauer showed the Soldiers how to board and exit the aircraft, which is called "cold-load" training.

The cold-load exercise builds Soldiers' muscle memory by allowing them to practice slow, deliberate movements to prepare for a fast-paced, real-life scenario, Landauer said.

Then the pilots turned on the engines so Landauer could conduct "hot load" training — raising and lowering the aircraft's ramp to give the cavalrymen the feel of boarding and exiting the aircraft in a real-life situation. Then teams of cavalrymen conducted extraction and insertion exercises by boarding the helicopter, taking a brief flight, then landing and exiting the aircraft.

"They had a lot of new guys, and it was good for them to get familiarized with the aircraft, especially for the guys that have never been on one or been around one," Landauer said. "Especially if they have you going overseas, you're going to be flying in a Chinook a lot. Everybody moves stuff with Chinooks."

For Warrant Officer Erik Bagdonavicius, a Chinook pilot, the training was about landing safely in a confined area, and developing proficiency conducting extractions and insertions. The flight-planning focused on dealing with windy conditions and soggy ground, he explained.

"For the winds, you want to always land into the wind because if you don't, you can get into unsafe conditions that could put the aircraft and the crew at risk," he said. "For the wetness, we don't want the aircraft to sink too low into the mud because we have antennas underneath that could get broken." It was the first time Bagdonavicius landed a helicopter at the Youngstown Training Area. Since one may not know the hazards of a new area, the key is to survey the area before touching down to identify the conditions, he said.

"Every time you go into a new landing zone, you want to do a little bit of recon," he said. "All small areas are kind of the same."

Practicing to Evacuate Casualties

Less than a month later, 27th IBCT troops teamed up with aviators for a mass-casualty exercise (MASSCAL) and other training at the New York State Preparedness Readiness Center in Oriskany. The event involved Soldiers of the C Company and Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry and F Company, 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion.

Along with helping the infantry unit practice evaluating, treating and evacuating a large number of casualties, the MASSCAL exercise tested the aircrews' ability to treat and transport casualties on board their UH-60 Black Hawk air-ambulance helicopters, and honed their ability to lower and hoist combat medics on and off the battlefield — without landing.

"Army medical evacuation helicopters are used for combat support and we are here to support the infantry by re-supplying medical equipment, casualty care evacuations and provide advance trauma care in flight," explained, Staff Sgt. Charles Gabriel, a West Monroe, resident and one of the Company F flight medics.

That's why Pvt. Alexis Nasta, one of the 40 combat medics who participated, found herself 200 feet in the air, dangling from an air ambulance helicopter. When aircrews can't find a place to land, they hoist medics and their patients, explained Capt. Gary Clark, Headquarters Company commander.

"(Nasta) should have first-hand knowledge on how to hoist the patients," explained Capt. Gary Clark, Headquarters Company commander.

It was Nasta's first drill weekend after completing basic and advanced training.

"It was an amazing, awesome experience and it was my first time ever aboard a helicopter," said Nasta.

The aviators also led Soldiers through cold load and hot load training, and the infantry troops practiced battle drills.

"This experience is in preparation for our rotation at JRTC, and also gives us the experience to become a fully combat ready unit, Clark said. "I have 222 Soldiers in the company and we need to maintain a level of proficiency." gt

Realistic Challenges for Best Warrior Competition

Story and photos by Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

CORTLANDT MANOR — A land navigation course that kicked off in the pre-dawn darkness, and more smoke and explosions during the stress shoot event were among the challenges facing nine New York Army National Guard Soldiers competing in the state's Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith Training Site here April 20 to 24.

"This year our goal was to add realism to the event," said Master Sgt. Jeffery Colling, the non-commissioned officer (NCO) in charge of the event. "We wanted the Soldiers to feel a real sense of competition from task-to-task and day-to-day."

"The first day is a real butt-kicker," said New York State Command Sgt. Major David Piwowarski. We kick-off at 0500 and end at 1930."

The goal, Piwowarski said, is to live up to that section of the Army creed that says: "I am an American Soldier, I will never quit."

"I am happy to say that none of these Soldiers quit," Piwowarski said.

At the end of the four days Spc. Qian Han, a Soldier from the 1156th Engineer Company and Staff Sgt. Garrett Cummings, from the 106th Regional Training Institute, were the top enlisted Soldier and top NCO, respectively.

Colling said that the added realism and heightened levels of competition will not only benefit the Soldiers, but also their units when they return.

"Some National Guard units only get this level of training and exposure to these tasks during their two-week Annual Training periods," he said. "Now these Soldiers can share their knowledge and experience with their units throughout the year."

The Soldiers competing to be the best junior enlisted Soldier and NCO in the New York Army National Guard also had a chance to earn the German Military Proficiency Badge. This is the second year that the two events have been run together.

The changes were made based on feedback from past competitors, Colling said. Some of the most notable changes were the added artillery simulators, smoke grenades, and live fire with a 249B Squad Assault Weapon during the stress shoot event.

The stress shoot incorporates marksmanship with battlefield tasks like dragging a casualty, carrying water jugs, firing the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, and engaging a target with the M9 pistol while wearing a protective mask.

"The explosions and smoke made it very challenging," said Staff Sgt. Artem Feldman, a competitor from the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery. "This event and the competition has been a great experience so far."

The Best Warrior competition is designed to challenge Soldiers physically and mentally, Piwowarski said.

Physical challenges included a 12 kilometer road march with a 35 pound pack, a 1000 meter run, and a shuttle run. Mental challenges included Soldier tasks, an appearance before an NCO board, and written knowledge tests.

Sometimes the tests were hard to see, Piwowarski said.

In one task the Soldiers were issued a radio to use to send and receive a message. The serial number of the radio issued was different than the serial number on the hand receipt, he said. The idea was to see if the Soldiers checked the hand receipt against the radio.

Nobody did, he said.

The German Proficiency Badge is a military decoration of the Bundeswehr, the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, which is awarded in gold, silver or bronze and includes eight physically demanding events.

Three events mirror the German army's standard physical fitness test with increased qualification standards including 11 ten-meter sprints, a timed flexed arm hang, and a 1,000 meter run. The remaining five events — a 100-meter swim in uniform, first aid, Nuclear Biological Chemical pistol qualifications and a weighted road march — are designed to test Soldiers' military skills and training.

This year, four of the nine competitors were women."We've seen more and more females competing," said Sgt 1st Class James Shear, Colling's assistant. "This is great not only for the competition but for the National Guard as well."

The top two New York Soldiers go on to compete for the Northeast Region Best Warrior titles at the Connecticut National Guard's Camp Niantic.

Soldiers who win there will compete against other Army Guard Soldiers to decide who will ultimately compete against representatives of the Active Army and the United States Army Reserve. **gt**

LEFT: Spc. Qian Han marches toward the finish line during the 12-kilometer road march event. CENTER: Staff Sgt. Chres Ayube, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, starts the 100-meter swim event. RIGHT: Sgt. Samantha J. Antolik, 153rd Troop Command, disassembles an M2 machine gun, a graded warrior task during the competition.

EOD Experts Help Civilian Cops Prepare for IED Threats

Story and photos by Sgt. Michael Davis, 138th Public Affairs Detachment

CAIRO — "Move, move, move!" was shouted. Then, "go, go, go!" was echoed in response.

Then four police officers dressed in green jumpsuits and body armor — watched by bomb disposal experts from the New York Army National Guard — moved deftly among scattered debris and burned-out cars.

Keeping an eye out for trip-wires and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the cops finally stood motionless against a cold, steel wall, waiting for the Guard Soldiers to tell them if they had been "killed" by an IED the military explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) experts placed on the course.

The Feb. 2 exercise was the culminating event of two days of training in which Soldiers from the 1108th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) taught 20 members of the Columbia-Greene County Shared Services Response Team how to spot and avoid IEDs at the 911 Call Center.

The training, which was a combination of classroom instruction and field scenarios, involved identifying IEDs and disarming them, tactical movements and room and building clearing, as well as familiarization with military and civilian equipment.

This was the first time the Shared Services Response Team conducted explosives training with the New York Army National Guard's 1108th. The unit is based in Glenville, N.Y.

"Learning how each organization operates and how to work together during training is a huge benefit when we're called to respond during live situations," said Sgt. 1st Class John Gallo III, a recruiting and retention noncommissioned officer who helped with the training.

"There is no way to duplicate what the Army National Guard can do for and with us," said Sean McCulloch, a Greenville, N.Y. resident and Marine veteran who is one of three team leaders of the Columbia-Greene Shared Response Services Team.

Formed just six years ago, the Columbia-Greene response team is a combined specialized force that responds to high-profile crimes and emergencies such as drug raids, hostage situations and manhunts.

To be selected for the team, highly-skilled police officers from Columbia and Greene Counties and the city of Hudson compete in physical fitness tests, weapons qualifications, close-quarters combat scenarios and — finally — an in-person board.

McCulloch, who has 13 years of law-enforcement experience, said he valued the joint training opportunities and deployment experiences the Army National Guard brings to domestic operations.

"We know the terror that is overseas could happen here at any time," he said. "We need to be able to learn before loss of life; to keep us and the community safe."

Michael Madison, a resident of Hudson, N.Y. who has served as the medic for the response team for the past year, is no stranger to the benefit of civilian and military cross-training.

While serving as both a full-time civilian paramedic and the response team's medic, he's also an Army National Guard sergeant with 18 years of service, an Afghanistan veteran, and is currently a medic in the 42nd Infantry Division's Headquarters Battalion.

"My deployment experience allows me to bring real-world experience to our training here at home," Madison said. "We get to share and learn different techniques that can save lives,"

This joint training didn't only benefit the Shared Services Response Team, it also gave the 1108th EOD an opportunity to learn and hone their craft as well, said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Blackie, a member of the 1108th from Lansing, Michigan.

"They're the assault to target experts," Blackie said. "And we're the bomb disposal experts."

After the training concluded, participants shared how well it went, how much they learned from each other, and how much more could be gained from subsequent trainings.

"It's not a question of if, but when, this type of training is going to happen again," McCulloch said.gt

LEFT: Staff Sgt. Evan Putman, of the 1108th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, wears a bomb disposal suit during a two-day joint training exercise with the Columbia-Greene County Shared Services Response Team. RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Jeremy Blackie, 1108th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, discusses the components and mechanics of IEDs during the joint training exercise.

Lawyers Land at Saratoga Battlefield for History Lesson

Story and photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg, Joint Force Headquarters

STILLWATER — A detachment of Army lawyers, and the Soldiers who support them, air-landed at the site of a Revolutionary War battle at the Saratoga National Historic Park here on March 12, ready for the demands of a road march and military history lessons.

The 18 Judge Advocate General Corps members included company-grade officers and enlisted Soldiers from across New York Army National Guard's commands, and members of the U.S. Army Reserve's 7th Legal Operations Detachment.

As part of their training, aviation Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation flew the legal Soldiers to the park in UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. They dropped the troops right at the site of Gen. John Burgoyne's British headquarters during the Saratoga battles of September and October 1777.

The troops completed a partial march through six miles of the battlefield, visiting British and American lines to discuss the battles, the units, the leaders and the legal implications of the battle.

"The number one training objective is to provide a historical context for the value of Judge Advocates in the Operational Law Setting," explained Maj. Nestor Berge, a Joint Force Headquarters attorney adviser. "The Law of Armed Conflict tie-in will come from our discussion of the Convention Army's actions post-cessation of hostilities."

The Convention Army, as it came to be known, refers to the 5,900 troops surrendered by Burgoyne following the American victory.

Burgoyne's expedition was a thrust south from Canada, intending to capture Albany and link up with other British forces that would attack north from New York City, in effect severing the New England colonies from the rest of the newly-declared independent states.

The plan for the three-pronged attack stalled when Burgoyne encountered difficult terrain, and increasing resistance from the Continental Army and local militias in his approach from Fort Ticonderoga to Albany.

The other two attacks failed to link up with Burgoyne's force at Albany. One was defeated at Oriskany, N.Y., and the other in the Hudson River Highlands near West Point. Burgoyne surrendered his force in October 1777.

Saratoga Battlefield historian and retired Park Ranger Larry Arnold discusses the importance of terrain for the Battle of Freeman's Farm to Soldiers of the Judge Advocate General Corps from the New York Army National Guard and Army Reserve's 7th Legal Operations Detachment.

Many historians consider the Battle of Saratoga the Revolutionary War's turning point, bringing recognition of the newly-formed United States and the support of the French military into the war.

Former park rangers Patrick Niles and Larry Arnold led the group and provided historical context for the battle, with extensive knowledge of the terrain, tactics and troops of that 1777 battlefield.

"This is really quite different for me," Arnold said during the march between battlefield visitor stations. "I'm much more accustomed to the historical context for today's Soldiers through the eyes of an infantryman, talking about terrain, weapons or tactics. But this group and their focus on legal issues reminds me that the Saratoga battlefield really has so many more stories to tell."

The ruck march through the battlefield included discussion of the legal issues facing the forces of 1777. In addition to the legal issues for the laws of land warfare and military discipline of 18th Century armies, the very surrender of Burgoyne's estimated 6,000 troops was controversial for the legal details in the Articles of Convention. Burgoyne specifically kept the term 'surrender' out of the negotiation.

The Articles of Convention provided for the return of British prisoners back to Europe with a pledge not to participate in the Revolutionary War any further. Gen. Horatio Gates, Continental Army forces commander in northern New York, agreed to the matter to conclude the battle, but Gen. George Washington rejected this point.

The redeployed British forces would simply be replaced by other units, and keeping them as prisoners of war would contribute to the new United States' negotiating power and provide parity for the treatment of American prisoners under British control, Washington argued.

The Continental Congress agreed, and refused to allow the British and German mercenary troops to be released.

Instead, the 5,900 British and German troops of the "Convention Army" were marched to Virginia, and then to Pennsylvania before being released at the war's end in 1783. More than 2,000 prisoners escaped and faded into the countryside, becoming Americans, while others died of fever and other diseases.

"Saratoga offers a chance to connect with a site where American Forces were victorious but naivety and dereliction led to being outmaneuvered on post-conflict actions by the forces defeated in battle," Berge explained.

Burgoyne's judge advocate was part of the negotiations that lead to the very generous Articles of Convention, whereas Gates' judge advocate, who was only a second lieutenant, wasn't part of the negotiations.

"Beyond the history, this is really just fun," said Staff Sgt. Corey Lehman, of the 7th Legal Operations Detachment. "Any time we can get out for training is a good opportunity."**gt**

Troops Maintain Construction Skills at Camp Smith

Story by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Inf. Div.

CORTLANDT MANOR — It looks like an empty building, but it's full of training value for Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 1156th Engineer Company.

That's because the troops are using Building 95 here at Camp Smith, the New York National Guard's training site in the Hudson Valley, to practice their construction jobs. During their weekend drill assemblies since January, the Soldiers have been building walls — complete with electrical wiring and plumbing fixtures — inside Building 95, according to Capt. John Scott, 1156th Engineer Company commander.

"It offers us a defined location we can use every drill," said Scott, who resides in East Greenbush, New York. "It fits right into our skill sets."

The enhanced training should also set the troops for success during their upcoming deployment to Kuwait, he added.

About 45 Soldiers have been doing work in Building 95, which solves a problem the company was facing — lack of training areas, he explained.

As a vertical engineer unit, the chief mission of the 1156th Engineer Company is building structures. Army engineers learn carpentry, wiring and plumbing at similar facilities based at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Scott said.

But Fort Leonard Wood is far away from New York, and without something local to build, the troops had no place to keep their construction skills sharp, Scott said. So Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Quijano, the company construction warrant officer and resident of Staten Island, New York, brought the issue to Maj. Chad J. Clark, the Camp Smith facilities engineer.

When he heard about the problem, he recalled that Building 95 was empty, said Clark, a Chester, New York, resident who is also operations officer for the 204th Engineer Battalion, the 1156th's higher headquarters.

"It's just an empty building with a concrete floor," Clark said. "It really wasn't being used a whole lot." Camp Smith staff discussed the idea and decided to allow the engineers to use the building, he added.

"They basically gave us a building to use as a training structure," Scott said. "It kind of mirrors the training sets available at Fort Leonard Wood," he said.

Building 95 may help with retention as well, Scott said, recalling how many engineer troops site lack of training as their reasons for not re-enlisting.

"Being able to offer this to the troops is a big plus," he said.

When the engineers finish the walls, wiring and plumbing fixtures, they'll de-construct the project so training can begin again, he said.

"At that point we can tear it all down and start over," he explained.

While they're able to recover about 80 percent of their building materials, some things can't be re-used, he said.

"Nails are a case in point," Scott said. "In some cases, lighting fixtures and wiring can be re-used."

The 1156th is scheduled to deploy to Kuwait this fall, and will be conducting some of its pre-deployment training at Camp Smith. Some of the training will take place at Camp Smith's urban-assault course and hand grenade range — facilities that Soldiers of the 1156th helped build, Clark noted."We're using what we're building," Scott said.gt

Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 1156th Engineer Company practice their skills by constructing walls — complete with wiring and plumbing fixtures — in Building 95 on March 3. Photo courtesy of 1156th Engineer Company.

Trio of 109th Airmen Help Clean Up the South Pole

Story by Tech. Sgt. Katherine Schmidt, 109th Airlift Wing

AMUNDSEN-SCOTT STATION, ANTARCTICA — Three members of the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing called the National Science Foundation's (NSF) station home for about two weeks in January as they tackled a new mission.

Flying their unit's LC-130 Hercules transport "Ski Birds," wing Airmen have been transporting cargo and people around Antarctica for 28 years as part of Operation Deep Freeze, the military's logistical support for the NSF-managed U.S. Antarctic Program.

This year, Tech. Sgts. Justin Carkner, Caleb Brumleve and Adam Myers were handpicked to build and inspect pallets of excess and obsolete materials. The team's task was part of the South Pole Retrograde Initiative, the mission to remove unneeded equipment from the South Pole.

The three Airmen were given a goal of building 70 pallets in 12 days. They built 73 pallets in 11 days.

Carkner is assigned to the 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Air Transportation Operations section, the section that received the tasking, and has deployed to McMurdo Station as a joint inspector in previous years.

Brumleve, who works with the 109th LRS fuels section, and Myers, who is a firefighter with the 109th Fire Department, were brought on the team as augmentees — neither had ever built a pallet or been to Antarctica.

"The first pallet we built was used as a training aid," Carkner said.

Carkner trained Brumleve and Myers, along with two civilians who helped out as needed. The team took the first few days to get acclimated to the process of completing the job and the harsh environment. Not only are the temperatures well below zero, the station sits at over 9,000 feet above sea level.

"After the first day of work we all said the same thing…the most simple of tasks seemed difficult," Carkner said. "Just by netting the cargo our arms hurt. We chalked it up to not getting the oxygen we normally get, so the recovery isn't the same.

But once they had their process streamlined and each team member had their own task, their productivity went from seven pallets built per day to 10. On Day 11, the team headed back to McMurdo.

Pallets of excess and obsolete materials are placed in position outside the National Science Foundation's Amundsen-Scott Station at the South Pole in January. Courtesy photo.

The team went to the South Pole toward the end of the season, in late January, to have the outgoing "retrocargo" ready to be airlifted at the beginning of next season. The gear will be airlifted out to McMurdo and eventually shipped away.

"The pallets will sit on the snow berm over the winter, and when the season starts, they'll start pulling out the cargo we built this year, and it will be a continuous cycle," Carkner said.

The new mission is a tremendous opportunity for the 109th to show its value to the U.S. Antarctic Program, Brumleve said.

"When I first joined, what attracted me to this base was the missions that we do," he said. Unfortunately the career field that I held, we don't have a hand in it. This is a great opportunity to get a chance to be part of it."

Carkner and Myers said this is a great way to build on the unit's relationship with the NSF and the people working at the Pole.

"It helps the people at the South Pole Station get to know us," Carkner said. "Having a military presence living among the 150 to 200 people who live at the station, this was an eye opener for them. We're not just there anymore flying people and supplies. Now there's a military presence working among them every day."

Leaders within the 109th Mission Support Group said the team did an outstanding job at completing this first mission.

"Our team on the ground surpassed all expectations. The lessons learned from this successful first trip will form the groundwork to plan for future seasons of this multiyear effort," said Lt. Col. Tammy Street, 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. "I'm proud of our team's hard work in the harsh Antarctic climate, their flexibility, and their outstanding results."

The wing completed its 28th season of Antarctic operations in February. Along with transporting 3,900 people and 5.2 million pounds of supplies to Antarctica stations, the wing also also flew 18 missions with the IcePod, an imaging system that allows scientists to measure the depth of the Antarctic ice sheet and produce three dimensional models of the sea floor beneath. gt

Maj. Matthew Sala taxis in an LC-130 aircraft on the ski-way at Little Cornwallis Island, Nunavut, Canada, on April 13, 2016, in support of Canada's annual Operation Nunalivut. Sala was part of the eight-person team from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing that prepared the ski-way for LC-130 operations.

NY Airmen Support Canadian Forces' Exercise

Story and photo by Airmen 1st Class jamie Spaulding, 109th Airlift Wing

LITTLE CORNWALLIS ISLAND, NUNAVIT CANADA — Eight Airmen of the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing spent two weeks carving a snow and ice "ski-way" on this uninhabited High Arctic Island so ski-equipped LC-130s could transport supplies in support of the Canadian Forces Operation Nunalivut, 2016.

Beginning on April 4, the American Airmen braved temperatures that averaged -47 degree Fahrenheit, to prepare a snow runway, or ski-way for the LC-130s.

After the mile-long skiway was marked with flags, the Airmen used snowmobiles to drag specialized groomers — similar to those used to prepare a snowmobile trail — along the route. Working two snowmobiles at a time, the groomers worked from the center outward in a circular motion to keep the ski-way clear.

The eight Airmen who were part of the team were among 50 109th Airmen who participated in Canada's Operation Nunalivut; a three-week joint exercise conducted annually among U.S., Canadian and Danish forces in the Canadian Arctic.

This is the third year the New York Airmen, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, New York, have participated in the Canadian military exercise.

Six Airmen from the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base also took part in the exercise.

A C-17 flew equipment the 109th team required to Resolute Bay.

"It was a great opportunity for us to work with the 109th," said Capt. Timothy Bauer, the aircraft commander. "In addition our crew was able to gain experience in landing on semi prepared runway operations this far north."

The ski-way construction team completed the ski-way construction in a matter of days.

The first LC-130 landed on April 13.

The 109th flew six missions to the camp, hauling 47,500 pounds of cargo and nearly 60 passengers. In support of the entire exercise, including deployment and redeployment, the 109th flew 11 missions and hauled a total of 91,700 pounds of cargo.

"What we do is an extremely big asset to other entities up in the North, both foreign and domestic," said Maj. Matthew Sala.

This is the third year Sala has been part of the ski-way construction team for this exercise.

"By partaking in these exercises, we hope to show those other agencies that we're out there because people have no idea the 109th can do what we do. And every year, time and time again, I get introduced to these people are like 'Wow, we had no idea that the New York Air National Guard had the capability of doing this,'" Sala said.

Along with Little Cornwallis Island, the remainder of the group of Airmen, consisting of aircrew and maintainers, operated out of Resolute Bay, Canada, and Thule Air Base, Greenland, with two LC-130s.

"Our support for Operation Nunalivut allows us to demonstrate our full range of polar expeditionary airlift capabilities in a joint U.S. and Canadian environment," said Col. Shawn Clouthier, the 109th Airlift Wing commander. "I'm proud of our Airmen for the great work they are doing in showcasing our unique mission all over the world."

The Canadians have ski-equipped Twin Otter aircraft that don't have the lift capacity or range the 109th LC-130s have.

The LC-130s are able to provide up to 9,000 pounds of cargo per flight as opposed to 1,200 pounds the Canadians' Twin Otters can carry.

The LC-130 is able to transport in one trip what the Twin Otters would need 10 flights to move.

Operation Nunalivut is a sovereignty operation conducted annually since 2007 in Canada's North.

Nunalivut means "land that is ours" in the Inuktitut language of the eastern Inuit people who live in the region.gt

105th Air Wing Member Made Honorary OSI Agent

Story by Master Sgt. Sara Pastorello, 105th Airlift Wing

STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, NEWBURGH, NY — The Air Force Office of Special Investigations has honored a New York Air National Guardsman from the 105th Airlift Wing who distinguished himself following a deadly suicide bombing attack in Afghanistan.

Tech Sgt. Flavio Martinez, a New York resident and a member of the Airlift Wing's 105th Base Defense Squadron, was recognized for the actions he took to care for the wounded and secure the area following the attack outside Bagram Airfield on Dec. 21, 2015.

Martinez and two other Air Force security forces Airmen, have been made honorary Special Investigations agents in recognition of their actions that day. The attack killed six Airmen, including two New York Air National Guard Airmen.

"In a time of chaos, uncertainty, and terror, they immediately ensured the safety of other teammates, cared for the wounded and protected the dignity of our fallen," according to the Office of Special Investigations.

Martinez will receive an official badge and credentials in a formal presentation from Brig. Gen. Keith Givens, commander of the Office of Special Investigations and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher J. VanBurger, 15th Air Force Office of Special Investigations Command Chief, the agency said.

Martinez is deployed at Bagram Airfield.

The six Airmen, including 105th Base Defense Squadron members Staff Sgt. Louis M. Bonacasa and Tech Sgt. Joseph G. Lemm, were killed when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle attacked their patrol. The other four Airmen killed were Office of Special Investigations agents.

Lemm and Bonacasa were credited with moving to prevent the attack and saving the lives of other Airmen on the mission. They were awarded the Bronze Star with V device posthumously.

Martinez along with Master Sgt. Aaron Frederick and Staff Sgt Bradley Mock, both with the Air Force's 824th Base Defense Squadron, reacted "heroically" following the attack, according to the Office of Special Investigations.

Martinez, joined the New York Air National Guard in 2009. Prior to that he served in the Navy from 2000 to 2004 on board the USS Enterprise and USS Nimitz.

He has deployed twice before with the 105th Base Defense Squadron and is currently on full time duty as the squadron's flight chief.

In his civilian life he works for the Westchester County Department of Corrections.

Martinez holds a Bachelor of Science in General Accounting from Mercy College and is currently working on a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership.

He and his wife Yadira have two daughters.gt

Lt. Col. Michael Mentavlos, from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, recognizes Tech. Sgt. Flavio Martinez as an honorary special agent at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. Courtesy photo.

LaBarge Promoted to Brigadier General

NEWBURGH — Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Guagenti, 105th Airlift Wing Honor Guard, unfurls the brigadier general's flag before newly-pomoted Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge during his promotion ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base here on April 2.

LaBarge, a graduate of St. Lawrence University in Canton, joined the Air Force in 1983 and was commissioned through the Officer Training School program.

LaBarge is a command pilot with experience flying the T-37, T-38, and LC-130. He's flown combat and combat support missions in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as polar-airlift missions in support of Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica.

LeBarge is serving as New York Air National Guard chief of staff. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Sara Pastorello, 105th Airlift Wing.

NY Air National Guard Change-of-Commands

SYRACUSE — Col. Greg A. Semmel (right) hands the 174th Attack Wing colors to Maj. Gen. Anthony P. German, thereby relinquishing his command of the wing to Col. Michael R. Smith in a change-of-command ceremony at Hancock Field here on April 3. German became adjutant general of New York on April 7 (see page 8). Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy M. Call, 174th Attack Wing.

NEWBURGH — Maj. Gen. Anthony German (right), hands the 105th Airlift Wing colors to Col. Howard Wagner, thereby making Wagner wing commander in a change-of-command ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base here on May 15. Wagner assumed command of the wing from Timothy LaBarge, who was promoted to brigadier general on April 2 (see page 25). Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lee Guagenti, 105th Airlift Wing.

WESTHAMPTON BEACH — Maj. Gen. Anthony German (left) hands the 106th Rescue Wing colors to Col. Michael Bank, thereby making Bank wing commander in a change-of-command ceremony at Francis S. Gabreski Airport here on April 2. Bank assumed command of the wing from Thomas Owens (right) who was promoted to brigadier general at the same event and has become New York Air National Guard assistant adjutant general for air. Courtesy photo.

Air National Guard 2015 Honorees

Soldier Honored for Saving Child's Life

Story by Spc. Zach Perkins, New York Guard

NEW YORK — Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams honored Master Sgt. Frederick Manney, 88th Brigade, New York Guard, for saving the life of a choking baby this past winter.

Manney, who also serves as a sergeant in the Sea Gate Police Department, was declared a "Hero of the Month" for March 2016 by the borough president's office, along with fellow police officers Vinny Giardiello, Joseph Pascone, Nuchem Schwartz, and Thomas Schulz, and Cadet Elijah Santos.

On Jan. 25, Manney responded to a call that a baby in Sea Gate was having trouble breathing, according to a press release from the borough president's office, When he arrived, five-month-old Mikaela Tatarkina was completely unresponsive.

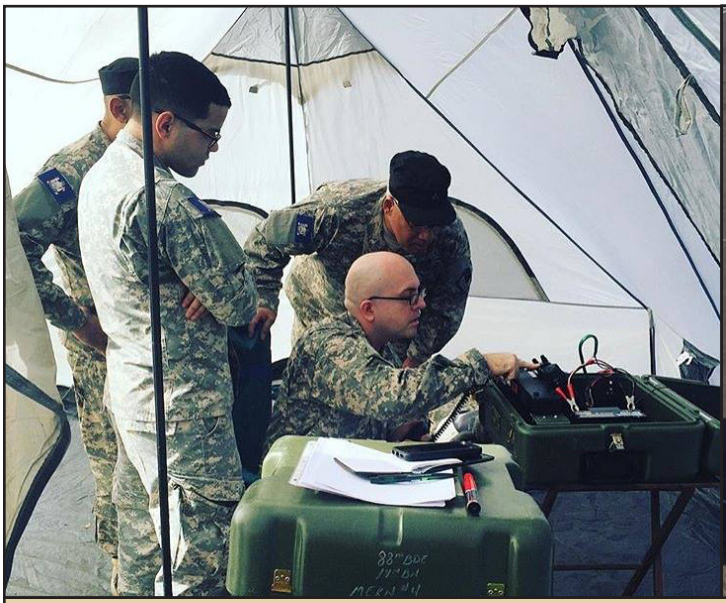
Manney administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), called an ambulance, and then continued to perform CPR. Based on training he received in the Army, Manney placed an ice pack under Mikaela, which helped to revive her.

Giardiello, Pascone, Schwartz, Schulz and Santos, cleared Neptune Avenue for the ambulance and retrieved all the food and medication that the baby had recently consumed in order to perform tests at the hospital. Tatarkina arrived safely at the hospital and has since recovered.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams congratulates Master Sgt. Frederick Manney (far left) and other officers after his office named them "Heroes of the Month." Photo courtesy of Brooklyn Borough President's Office.

"The work of the Sea Gate Police Department to save the life of Mikaela personifies public service," Adams said. "These individuals used all of their training to answer the call of duty and to prevent a tragedy. As a veteran of the New York City Police Department I know that life and death often times depends on whether the members of a team have the ability to work with each other under very difficult circumstances. These police officers demonstrated that skill." gt

NY Guard Conducts Communications Exercise



GARDEN CITY — New York Guard members conduct a communication exercise here in February. During the exercise, New York Guard Military Emergency Response Network (MERN) teams were able to make contact with other New York Guard MERN teams at Camp Smith Training Site in Cortland Manor, N.Y. Courtesy photos.

New York State Naval Militia Upgrades Systems

Story by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, 42nd Inf. Div.

LEEDS — Leveraging opportunity and lessons learned, the New York State Naval Militia has multiplied its mobile command post's capabilities and improved its ability to communicate and coordinate with New York National Guard units during state emergencies.

Militia members and other personnel tested the command post's radios and computers systems here on March 10 and 16. The militia is the naval component of the New York State defense forces and can be mobilized for state-active duty, as was the case during Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

The command post is built into a 16-foot trailer that the militia acquired in 2009, according to Cmdr. Donald McKnight, who leads the militia's Military Emergency Boat Service. The upgraded command post is now equipped with a large-screen computerized map that displays real-time information on boat traffic in whatever New York state waterway the militia is operating in.

To complement the marine radio in their command post, militia members also installed a dual-band VHF radio that operates on first-responder frequencies; a citizens band radio that enables the command post to communicate with militia trucks; and a high-frequency radio that enables the command post to communicate over the Military Emergency Radio Network (MERN) to New York Army National Guard and New York Guard units.

In addition to its great range, the high-frequency radio can communicate over and around hilly territory like the area around Camp Smith Training Site in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.

"It's like a ham radio," he said. "You can talk around the world, in theory."

Militia members pinpointed radio communication issues during Hurricane Sandy, McKnight recalled. The range of the marine radios aboard their boats and mobile command post is limited, and during the hurricane, militia members operating at Camp Smith couldn't communicate by radio with members based at Floyd Bennett field in Brooklyn, he explained.

"We just didn't have systems working right," McKnight said.

Chief Petty Officer Bob Morisseau of the New York State Naval Militia (NYSNM) tests a newly-installed computerized automatic identification system aboard the NYSNM's upgraded mobile command post at the New York Army National Guard armory on March 10. Photo courtesy of NYSNM.

What's more, many boats, including pleasure craft, are equipped with marine radios, he explained. That meant that militia members couldn't communicate securely, and had to contend with all the other marine radio traffic, he said.

"That's the radio that every boater has," he said. These problems got them thinking about a more advanced command post, he added.

Then in 2013 and 2014, they acquired some trucks from New York National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield, McKnight recounted. The trucks, as it turned out, were equipped with dual-band VHF radios that operated on emergency-responder frequencies, he said.

"We basically went out and scrounged the radios from the trucks and put them on the boats," McKnight said.

The improvements will also give the militia greater flexibility during their Rapid Gunwale event, an emergency-response exercise that's scheduled for June, he said. The exercise scenario calls for militia members to respond to a simulated oil spill in the Hudson River, McKnight said.

The militia will be coordinating with the Coast Guard during the exercise, while the militia's boat handlers will be out on the water, working with several law-enforcement agency boats and crews to form a safety and security zone around the mock oil spill, he said. This keeps civilian boaters safe by preventing them from straying into the oil spill, he explained.

That's where members' boating skills come into play, he stressed. The exercise will also test the militia's ability to mobilize, and command and control their personnel — to include moving two of their boats to launch sites, he added.

While their boat handlers are skilled, towing their large boats and trailers down two-lane country roads and through small towns with narrow intersections may be a bigger challenge, he said.

"People don't have appreciation for towing a boat," he said. "It takes practice."

But with the improved command post, the militia is now better prepared for the exercise and state emergencies, McKnight said.

"It's still a work in progress," he said. "But we've come a long way to improve the command post," he said.gt

Chaplain: Communication Strengthens Relationships

Commentary by Maj. Scott R. Ehler, Chaplain, Joint Force Headquarters

Growing up I was heavily involved in the drama programs in my high school and college. After college...not so much. I was in a Christmas production at my church a few times, but other than that, I left drama behind. At least I thought I did.

Enter the world of relationships. Maybe drama is too strong a word to use here, but when dealing with emotions, it is a roller coaster. We all deal with relationships in one way or another. Spouses, significant others, children, co-workers, family members, the in-laws, the person that makes the donuts and coffee, neighbors...the list is never-ending.

The dynamics of relationships are extremely varied. I think back to the relationship I had with my parents as a kid, and compare it to the one I have now. There is a huge difference. When I was a child the relationship was immature, It was centered on me, and if I didn't get my way I acted out.

The relationship now is mature, the communication is better. It is a two-way road. Relationships must mature or they will stagnate and in all probability, cease.

The majority of relationship issues I deal with are concerned with dating and marriage. The majority of these are communication-based problems. It doesn't seem to matter what the issue the couple brings in to the office, inevitably it seems to boil down to communication.

The problem with communication is that many individuals think that it is speaking. It is the words that I use. It is the verbal portrayal of the thoughts that I have in my head. This is typically where I get in trouble. When I communicate with my wife, she typically gets the highlights of the picture I have in my mind, then I get upset with her when she doesn't understand what I am telling her.

Communication is one part speaking and two parts listening. Did you hear that? My mother used to tell me that God gave us two ears and only one mouth for a reason. Most people, myself included, have a tendency to be thinking of what I am going to say next instead of listening to what my wife is saying. So where do we go to learn the art of communicating with our loved ones? Where do we go to learn to effectively problem-solve with our loved ones?

The New York Army National Guard Chaplain Corps hosts up to eight Strong Bonds events each year throughout the state. At these events you and your spouse can learn what effective communication looks like. You can learn how to strengthen your marriage. You can spend a weekend away at a beautiful location. It's not a weekend retreat of marital counseling. It's a weekend of relationship-building in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. If you have any questions I would encourage you to get a hold of me at scott.r.ehler.mil@mail.mil. Looking forward to seeing you there!

DMNA Employees Turn Out for Awareness Event

COLONIE, N.Y. — About 100 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians assigned to the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) took part in a Sexual Assault Month Run/Walk at The Crossings of Colonie Park here on April 22.
LEFT: Members of the New York National Guard's legal affairs office pose after the event.
RIGHT: DMNA employees pose for a photo after the event. Photos by Tech Sgt. Stephen Girolami, NY State Counter Drug Task Force.

Safety: Motorcycle Riders Require Special Gear

By Sgt. 1st Class Daniel P. McCoy, Safety Specialist

Here in New York, we don't have the pleasure of riding our motorcycles year round. It's important to not only prepare your motorcycle after its hibernation, but to familiarize yourself with your motorcycle and hone your abilities by practicing Motorcycle Refresher Exercises.

Refresher Exercises available at: https://safety.army.mil/povmotorcyclesafety/MOTORCYCLE/Training/MCRefresher/tabid/2303/Default.aspx

Practice Defensive Driving Techniques

1. Always be in full control of your motorcycle – be able to position your bike where you want, when you want.
2. Remain constantly aware of your immediate environment.
3. Anticipate what's going to happen on the road ahead – predict behaviors of drivers.
4. When your basic riding skills are second nature, you're free to concentrate on your surroundings and other important factors.

Visibility

1. Remember that motorists aren't looking for you.
2. Clearly communicate your presence and intentions.
3. Be conspicuous: bright clothing, light-colored helmet, reflective material.
4. Keep your headlight on at all times.
5. Use your turn signals when changing lanes.
6. Glance over your shoulder to check your blind spot before changing lanes.
7. SEEing – Search, Evaluate, Execute
8. Scan 360 degrees. Keep your eyes moving.
9. Scan the area ahead that it will take you 12 seconds to reach.
10. Concentrate on cars, trucks and pedestrians.
11. Look for problem spots: shaded wet or icy spots on the pavement, debris, potholes, gravel.
12. Be extra alert at intersections, on side streets, near driveways and in parking lots.
13. Be in control before and in curves.

Gathering Visual Information

1. Your central vision focuses on traffic, estimates distance and notices specific details on the road.
2. Peripheral vision helps you detect items to the sides. It is critical during emergencies for early warnings of animals or children running in front of you, or a car swerving into your lane.
3. Be systematic. Prioritize the hazards. Don't let your eyes focus for too long on unimportant objects.
4. Following Distance
5. On good roads in ideal conditions, a minimum two-second space cushion between you and the vehicle in front of you gives you enough time to respond to sudden stops.
6. Increase the distance in rain, fog and darkness.

Lane Positioning

1. Separate your motorcycle from other vehicles. You will see emerging traffic problems more quickly and clearly, and thus have more time and space to respond.
2. The best lane position constantly changes depending on traffic conditions. Factors that affect your choice:
   - Increasing your ability to see and be seen.
   - Avoiding other motorists' blind spots.
   - Setting up for and negotiating curves.
   - Avoiding surface hazards and windblast.
   - Communicating your intentions.
   - Providing escape routes.
3. The best place to be is usually near the left portion of your lane. You are most visible and have a cushion to respond to encroachment by drivers.
4. The center of the lane at busy intersections can be slippery from oil drips.
5. Use the left part of the lane when getting ready to pass on the left.
6. Avoid the left track when riding in the lane to the right of a large truck, because you are less visible to the truck driver and more exposed to windblast.
7. Don't ride in another vehicle's blind spot.

DMNA-NY Motorcycle Safety http://dmna.ny.gov/arng/safety/safety.php?id=cycle

U.S Army Combat Readiness Center https://safety.army.mil/

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