



THE STATE GUARD SENTINEL

SPRING 2008

NEW YORK GUARD

VOLUME 1, NO.3



NY GUARD & NY NATIONAL GUARD: ONE TEAM



OPERATION CIVIL SUPPORT / Randall's Island 3 MAY 08 Photos by SSG Dave Konig

FULLY TRAINED – READY TO RESPOND



COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Major General Michael Van Patten, Commander, NY Guard

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column was taken from MG Van Patten's address to the troops at the Commander's Conference.

HERE ARE MY COMMAND PRIORITIES:

RECRUITING & RETENTION – We need a lot more soldiers. I'm not going to sugarcoat it – I want more troops. I have set a standard of 20% increase in troop numbers – that means recruiting AND retention! I particularly want to see an increase in our lower ranks – our privates, privates first class, specialists, and sergeants. These are our most valuable assets – troops on the ground who will get the job done.

EVERYONE IS A RECRUITER! Tell everyone about your service to your state and country – be proud and spread the word. Recruit more troops who are like you – people you can count on to show up and work hard when we get the call.

MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL TRAINING – We've got something to prove this year. There will be training for everyone in the NY Guard this year – newly enlisted, veteran NCOs, officers – everyone. The TAG will be there to

observe— I want to show him a full show of force. Leaders – get your troops to AT in July!

REALISTIC MISSIONS –We are here to serve our state and our country in time of war, and that means putting our training to use. We are now completely integrated into the National Guard CERFP mission. Our MERN teams are fully trained and ready to respond in a state emergency. Our SAR program is vital and strong. Our engineers provide an incredible service to the state's military bases.

DMNA SUPPORT – When MG Taluto asked me to come out of retirement to command the NY Guard, I told him I wasn't interested in taking the job unless I could have the full support of the DMNA to transform the NY Guard into the best trained, most mission-capable State Defense Force in the nation. We raised the standards, you met the challenge, and we now have that DMNA support. The TAG has set the tone. He values the NY Guard, and continues to rely on us to respond as needed.

We now have a NY Guard line item in the state's budget. We've got funding, and we're using it for good purpose. For starters, we've issued full cold weather gear to our engineers, our SAR team, and our CERFP team.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RECRUITING – Our Public Affairs

team is working closely with the DMNA Public Affairs personnel to get our story out. We are no longer the state's best-kept secret. Work with our Public Affairs Office, and remember to always use the chain of command.

Our recruiting and retention officers have brought new energy to their mission, and have greatly streamlined the recruitment process. But they can't do the job alone – we are ALL recruiters!

MILITARY APPEARANCE – The first thing anyone notices about any soldier is their appearance. When I stand before my troops, I am impressed at how you have responded to my order to raise our standards of military bearing. Keep it up! At Annual Training in July, I want the Army to look at us and say, "The NY Guard is STRAC!*". Be proud of your uniform and all that it represents. When we put on the uniform, it's not just our "work clothes" – we are representing every soldier who sacrificed before us. We respect the uniform.

We are a professional military component. We meet our height / weight requirements, we keep our hair short, our boots shined, our uniform crisp. I'm looking forward to a GREAT Annual Training in July – with ALL my fellow NY Guard troops.

* STRAC: Strategic, Tough, Ready Around the Clock

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S REPORT

By CSM Robert Mariani, Command Sergeant Major, NY Guard



WE NEED MORE TROOPS now that we have the missions we have always wanted. Currently our authorized troop strength for enlisted personnel is 1700-

we have a lot of room for growth, and we need a lot more enlisted troops. Our Commanding General has worked hard with the TAG to secure real-world Homeland Defense missions for the New York Guard. We've all got to work hard now to increase the ranks to meet those missions.

“Everyone Is a Recruiter” is not just a slogan – it’s a fact, and it’s the key to success. If every one of us brings in just one new soldier we will double the size of the NY Guard. The more troops we have, the more missions the state will assign to us. Support from the DMNA, combined with the high tempo of operations and the level of professionalism of NY Guard personnel, has never been higher

during any time of my career. NOW is the time to capitalize on this momentum. It’s been a few years since 9/11, but the need for a strong Homeland Defense in our state is just as great as ever.

The Commanding General has challenged us to increase the New York Guard’s troop strength by 20% this year. The future of the NY Guard is in the enlisted ranks. I want all my hard charging NCOs and dedicated enlisted troops to lead the way and meet – and exceed – the 2008 recruiting challenge. Let’s go troops, and get our friends, neighbors, and co-workers to serve proudly alongside us in our NEW, Fully Trained and Ready to Respond NY Guard.

NEW YORK GUARD PHOTOS ARE NOW POSTED ON: www.newyorkguard.org

The NY Guard Public Affairs Office now posts all training photos online. Check the site for frequent updates. Hundreds of photos of the NY Guard in action! Go to the website, log in, click on the “PAO Photos” link to www.slopedigital.com.

Current albums posted:

Headquarters Drills * Valhalla Memorial Dedication
HQ Commandant Change of Command
2008 SNCOC * 2008 BNCOC * AUG 2007 AT Graduates
White Plains National Guard Reintegration Mission
CW5 Milton Long & Faithful Service Award Ceremony
Operation Civil Support...more to come

Note: All photos unedited.



Combat Photographer Eddie Adams (1933-2004)
Covered 13 wars for several news outlets.

CERFP / WMD DECONTAMINATION

RANDALL'S ISLAND 3 MAY 08 * OPERATION CIVIL SUPPORT NY GUARD AUGMENTS 2/108TH NY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

By SSG Dave Konig, HHD, NYG



FDNY RESPOND TO SIMULATED BUS ATTACK
Photo By CPT George Lambov, HHD



**SSG FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ, 88TH BDE & ARMY
CERFP TROOPS DEPLOY** photo by SSG Konig, HHD

Fifty two soldiers from the NY Guard CERFP team mobilized and deployed from throughout the state 2 – 4 MAY to augment Charlie Co, 2nd/108th Infantry, NY Army National Guard for Operation Civil Support – the largest New York CERFP drill in history. Hundreds of Army National Guard and Air National Guard CERFP and CST (Civil Support Team) troops joined forces with the personnel from the FDNY to respond to simulated urban chemical attack. The training took

place at the FDNY's 27 acre Fire Academy Training Site on Randall's Island in unseasonably cold weather.

The NY Guard once again provided the continuity of experience for the CERFP mission. Of the 52 NY Guard troops, fully half were "CERFP Veterans", trained and qualified with CERFP for at least two years. Many of the NY Guard troops have been with CERFP since it's inception in the summer of '03.

Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran SGT Raymond Fiederer, 2/108th, NYARNG summed up the relationship between the NY Guard and his National Guard troops; "Just like when we trained together at Ft Drum, up in Albany, and at Camp Smith, it's great when the country's best National Guard unit works with the country's best state guard unit. And today, we both get to work with the country's finest Fire Department."

THEY SERVED: (Alphabetical by unit)

88th BRIGADE: SGT Natanya Aberra, PV2 Jorge Abreu, SFC Basim Ali, SFC Mauro Bacolo, SPC John Berger, SPC Arthur Berkovitz, PV2 Cresencia Burgos, SGT Cynthia Chamble, CPT Scott Clise, PV2 Daniel Colon, PFC Christian Cotto, PFC Joseph Cruz, SPC Rene Cruzata, SPC Alex Delgado, SGT Edgardo Diaz, SGT Thomas Ferguson, SGT Wilfredo Ferran, PFC Nick Francis, SPC Gavin Monahecita, SGT Rodney Harper, SSG Francisco Hernandez, SGT Trevor Hinds, SPC Lissette Marchi, SGT Jose Martinez, SPC Raul Martinez, CPT Thomas O'Brien, SPC Luis Ojeda, SGT Crystal Passarotti, 1LT John Passarotti, SSG David Perez, PFC Rafael Puentes, SGT Renfis Ruiz, SGT Juan Rondon, SGT Jesus Sanchez, SGT Ed Santiago, SSG Anthony Spennato, SSG Angel Torres, PV2 Adam Treadway
56th BRIGADE: SFC Mark Copeletti, SSG Bruce Dunn, SPC Jeffrey Locke, PV2 Joseph Ranallo, SGT Joseph Villabol
10th BRIGADE: SSG Robert Hensel, SFC Marcus Lohre, SPC Timothy Olah
14th BRIGADE: CPT Thomas Vingrove
HQ: 1LT Francis Bonesteel, SGM Antonio Sirvent
12th RTI: SFC Linda Brandt, SFC Emil Mejia, SPC Edward Noriega

88th BRIGADE / NEW YORK CITY

ST. PATRICK'S DAY – NY GUARD MARCHES PROUDLY WITH FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY, NYARNG

PHOTOS BY SFC Fred Manney, 88th BDE



Fifty-five troops from the 88th marched up 5th Avenue in New York City's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, along with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, NYARNG, 17 MAR 08.

The NY Guard troops were blessed by the Archbishop of New York as they marched past St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Photos courtesy of SFC Fred Manney and SSG Anthony Spennato



65th BRIGADE / WESTERN NEW YORK

AGRICULTURAL TERRORISM TRAINING

65th BDE Public Affairs Staff

CPT Mary P. Stepanian, S4 with the 65th Brigade and an Animal Health Inspector with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, recently completed Homeland Security Training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), located in Anniston, Alabama. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation.

CPT Stepanian successfully completed the WMD Basic Agricultural Emergency Response Training course, a 32-hour overview of agro-terrorism. The course focuses on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive (CBRNE) hazards, relative to their impact on the agricultural community.

The course culminates with a scenario-oriented, task-driven, hands-on practical exercise involving a response to a hazardous event in an agricultural setting.



Personnel decon at a simulated agricultural terrorism attack

NY GUARD & NY AIR NATIONAL GUARD GET SMART



65th BRIGADE SOLDIERS SET UP A TRIAGE TENT / photo by CPT Stepanian

By CPT Mary Stepanian, 65th Brigade

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 74th Regiment, 65th Brigade deployed on 3 MAY for a National Disaster Medical System drill, assisting the NY Air National Guard (NYANG) and the Western NY Specialized Medical Assistance Team (SMART). The Mass Casualty Incident drill was held at the Buffalo VA Hospital at the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport in Cheektowaga, NY.

The NYANG brought in a C-130 with "patients" (NYANG soldiers) from Stratton Air Base. "Patients" had to be off loaded, triaged and transported to area hospitals with available beds. The 65th Brigade assisted with set up of the patient reception area in the Airport Fire Dept. Station. 65th Brigade soldiers off-loaded supplies from the SMART trailers and set up a supply tent.

LTC Dennis Uminski organized two teams of litter bearers. After the aircraft landed, the 65th Brigade soldiers were given the all clear to approach. LTC Mark Brunell, NYANG instructed the NY Guard soldiers on C-130 patient off-loading procedure: wounds facing the aisles, feet first onto the aircraft, head first off the aircraft. Patients can be stacked five high in the aircraft. The litter teams transported patients from the C-130 to the medical trailers and the Fire Dept. triage area. This was repeated until all the patients were off the aircraft.

56th BRIGADE / MID HUDSON

NY GUARD INSTRUCTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD RECRUITS

By SGT Christopher Ferraro, HHD, 56th BDE

New York Air National Guard at Stewart Air Base.



MAJ Bob Coulombe, 105th ASB, 56th BDE instructs NY Air National Guard recruits. Photo by CPT Paul Clayton, HHD, 56th BD

In March 2008, the 56th Brigade, NYG was asked to assist and augment the 105th Air Wing, NY Air National Guard (NYANG) at Stewart Air Base. The 56th Brigade has been assigned several augmentation missions. Volunteer cadre from the 56th BDE, NY Guard are now teaching new recruits in the 105th Airlift Wing of the

Stewart ANG base commander, invited COL Mike Hodges, commander of the 56th BDE to Stewart to attend the General's Commander's Conference. COL Hodges briefed the General on the capabilities of the 56th. COL Hodges stated "We had a great afternoon as we set up an alliance between the 105th Air Wing of the New York National Guard and the 56th Brigade...we will be working very closely with the Air National Guard."

In addition to instructing the Student Flight course, the 56th Brigade is tasked with assisting the 105th in preparations for its Operational Readiness Training and Evaluation Inspection this summer. NY Guard troops were also tasked with assisting the 105th in the NYANG Recruiting office, and Food Services. Legal officers from the 5th Civil Affairs RGT, 56th BDE, NY Guard worked with Family Services and with the Operational Readiness teams that are preparing for inspection. NY Guard soldiers helped serve more than 1400 meals to NYANG personnel during the day-long operation.

The initial 105th NYANG – 56th BDE, integrated mission was deemed a success. MAJ Bob Coulombe (who brings his prior military experience in the US Air Force to his NY Guard mission) was enthusiastic about the 56th Brigade's role assisting the Air National Guard: "All in all we worked hard, met great people, and above all, [we] helped mightily in augmenting the mission of the base."

WESTCHESTER AREA STUDY COMPLETED

By SGT Chris Ferraro, HHD, 56th BDE

This spring, the 5th Civil Affairs RGT, 56th BDE, completed a detailed area study of Westchester County, creating a highly valuable document for the 56th to use in any emergency scenario. Brigade commander COL Mike Hodges ordered that the area study be conducted, and include vital information on transportation routes, terrain and emergency services for the entire county.

After exhaustive research the team produced an updated electronic

document that encompasses the geography, history, local governments, public safety, population demographics, transportation, police and emergency response capabilities and contacts.

The Area Study gives the command staff of the 56th an invaluable resource for any area emergency. COL Hodges stressed the importance for maintaining operational security with the area study: "When I was commanding a detention center in Iraq

during Desert Storm such a document would have been very valuable, and marked TOP SECRET" he stated.

Over the course of the next year the 5th CA RGT will complete area studies of Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties.

**2008 ANNUAL TRAINING
JULY 13 – 19
CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE**



**BASIC INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING
ADVANCED NCO COURSE
OFFICER ORIENTATION COURSE
CERTIFICATION COURSES: SAR, COMMO, FEMA, HAZMAT**

FULL NY GUARD FIELD EXERCISE

“With our new missions, the state is counting on us. We have to show them a show of force at Annual Training this year. **MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION is mandatory. I want to see **ALL** our soldiers training hard at Camp Smith in July.”**

– MG Van Patten

ALL UNITS: SHOW OF FORCE!

**SHOW PRIDE IN YOUR GUARD
SHOW PRIDE IN YOUR UNIT
RELEVANT TRAINING FOR REAL WORLD MISSIONS**

10th BRIGADE / UPSTATE NEW YORK

HONORING OUR WAR HEROES

By MAJ David Greenwood, HHD, 10th BDE, NYG

On May 4th, members of the 10th BDE, NY Guard gathered at Graceland Cemetery in Albany for the annual dedication of the memorial there which honors service members from the Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish-American War and WWI.

The memorial, originally constructed in 1917 by members of the Ralph Palmer Camp #18 of the United Spanish War Veterans (the forerunner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars) was the site of their annual rededication until the late 1950's when the Spanish American War veterans had either died off or were too infirm to continue their noble tradition. Interred at the memorial site are 67 soldiers and sailors.

This annual service is done in conjunction with and the support of the local Sheehy-Palmer Post Veterans of Foreign War. Friends and family of the 10th BDE and VFW Post along with three Battle of the Bulge veterans were in attendance. This year, we were fortunate to have Mr. Lawrence P. Wiest, USMA Class of 1965, Captain, US Army (ret.). He served in Vietnam with the Army's Special Forces 5th Group in the IV Corps region. His speech related his days as a cadet at USMA when General Douglas MacArthur gave his

farewell address to the Corps of Cadets and of his roommate who later died in action in Vietnam. He focused on the theme that heroes need not be flamboyant but, to the contrary, are often quiet, determined individuals who go about performing their duties in spite of many obstacles. In his civilian career, Mr. Wiest attended Syracuse Law School and served as Assistant District Attorney for Albany County for 30 years. He was also a founding member of the Vietnam Veterans of America (Capital District Chapter).

The memorial itself is composed of a main concrete structure dating back to 1917. Sixty-seven white marble head stones, arranged in concentric circles, are adjacent. Included among the soldiers and sailors buried there are members of the 177th NY Volunteer Infantry (the 10th Regiment's federal designation during the Civil War) and the 1st NY Volunteer Infantry (Spanish-American War). Both of those units were formed from the 10th NY Infantry Regiment, whose colors and honors are carried by the 10th BDE NY Guard. In addition, there are veterans from other units of both wars buried there as well as veterans from the Indian Wars including U.S. Colored Troops (Buffalo Soldiers) and WW I veterans.

A unique feature of the memorial is the plaque affixed to the front which is cast from the actual hull material of the USS Maine whose destruction in Havana Harbor lead to the Spanish-American War in 1898 ("Remember the Maine!"). Further, the memorial was repaired and upgraded in 2001 by the members of the 10th BDE, as part of a *guardHELP* project.

Finally, in 2002, the 10th BDE dedicated a bronze plaque at the site, to commemorate the service of Command Sergeant Major James A. Speranza, a veteran of 52 years of military service (NYARNG, USAR and NYG) who had conceived and spearheaded the restoration project but who died before the project was completed.

The 10th Brigade has commemorated the service of its forebears each year, along with members of the Sheehy-Palmer Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars (which, itself, was an outgrowth of the United Spanish War Veterans). Each year, at the conclusion of the memorial ceremony, the VFW hosts a luncheon for all who were in attendance at their Post, located a short distance away in Albany.



EARN THE NY STATE RECRUITING MEDAL!

STRENGTHEN YOUR GUARD

RECRUIT A NEW SOLDIER TODAY FOR YOUR UNIT

NOW IS THE TIME – WE HAVE THE MISSIONS, WE HAVE THE SUPPORT – WE NEED THE BOOTS ON THE GROUND!

THE COMMANDING GENERAL HAS CHALLENGED ALL UNITS TO INCREASE THE NEW YORK GUARD BY 20% - MEET THE CHALLENGE IN 2008!

WE ARE ALL RECRUITERS

NY GUARD AND MARS: COMMO ON DEMAND

By SSG Dave Konig, HQ, NYG



other and to designated Army MARS operators.

MAJ Edward Murray, a US Army Vietnam veteran and the NY Guard point of contact for the exercise, feels that exercises like these, "give the state a valuable asset in disaster preparation. The NY Guard has several missions, and this is one of our oldest, primary missions – to support active National Guard units in times of emergency with High Frequency radio capabilities."

A massive hurricane – "Hurricane Gigi" - slams the New Jersey coast, lower Manhattan and the south shore of Long Island, leaving the region devastated with communications severely degraded. That is the nightmare scenario that the NY Guard MERN (Military Emergency Radio Network) Task Force and MARS (Military Assistance Radio System) trained for throughout the state on April 5th in a joint training exercise, "Operation Deep Freeze".

MERN operators from the NY Guard's 88th, 14th, 10th and 56th Brigades, Headquarters Detachment, and the 12th RTI, were called to respond to the mock disaster. The NY Guard MERN Task Force set up operations and tested the MERN radios by passing radio traffic to each

MAJ Murray and the net control officer in charge, CW2 Patrick Guthoff, 56th BDE, incorporated shift changes at all stations to provide the maximum amount of hands on training with the equipment in a real-world scenario. "There was a lot of cross-training built in," Major Murray explained. "We are accelerating our MERN training, so that the NY Guard can help the National Guard keep the comms going in any scenario."

The NY Guard MERN team is made up of soldiers with prior military radio comms experience, like SFC Paul White, HQ, who served as a radio operator in the US Air Force, as well as comms buffs like SFC Mark Copeletti, 56th BDE, who draw upon

their civilian HAM radio experience. The MERN mission was once a National Guard responsibility, but has been turned back over to the NY Guard in recent years.

The MARS network is made up of military and civilian operators, and exists to provide auxiliary communications for military, civil, and/or disaster officials during periods of emergency. The MARS Station at Camp Smith was set up and operated by SFC Dennis "Swamp Fox" Klincuski, 10th BDE.

PHOTO: CW2 Patrick Guthoff, 56th BDE, handles the radio. Photo by SFC Mark Copeletti, 56th BDE.

YEARN TO MERN? RADIO OPERATORS NEEDED FOR MERN MISSION! CONTACT THE G-6, MAJ MURRAY, THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND.

SEARCH AND RESCUE AWARDS TO MAJ BLY & CW2 NICKISCHER

By MAJ John Neely, NYG SAR Coordinator, 10th BDE

On April 5, 2008 the Lieutenant Colonel Gordon "Duke" Dewey Search and Rescue Award was presented to Major Robert Bly, 65th BDE NY Guard (Western NY) and CW2 Joey Nickischer, 56th BDE NY Guard (Hudson Valley). The award is presented annually at the 10th BDE Dining Out on the grounds of the Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet, NY for outstanding contribution to training, development, mentorship, leadership and operations of the NY Guard Search and Rescue Program. .

LTC Dewey retired from military service after 50 years in uniform, serving with the 82nd Airborne, U.S. Army Special Forces, Vermont State Guard and the NY Guard.

MAJ Robert Bly is assigned to the 65th Brigade in Horseheads, NY. He commands a Search and Rescue Company there. CW2 Joey Nickischer is with the 56th Brigade in Peekskill, NY. He is active in Search and Rescue Training in the Hudson Valley for his Brigade. They are both

instructors with the NY Guard SAR School.

Previous recipients of the LTC Dewey Search and Rescue Award are:

2004 – LTC Gordon Dewey, 10th

2005 – COL Donald Koch, 65th

2006 - CSM Yatram Jagroop, 65th

**2007 – MAJ Robert Bly, 65th
CW2 Joey Nickischer, 56th**

BG BARRY W. CONROY 1937 -2008

PATRIOT, VOLUNTEER, LEADER FORMER COMMANDER OF 56th BRIGADE DIES AT AGE 70

By CPT Manfred Spikereit, Chaplain, 56th Brigade

EDITOR'S NOTE:

BG Barry Conroy, a great soldier, a great patriot, and a great NYG commander, died unexpectedly on 6 FEB 2008 from complications caused by a car accident. The following is excerpted from CPT Spikereit's eulogy:

BG Barry Conroy was a unique and complex individual, who without a doubt, left a definite and lasting impression upon all who came in contact with him. During the wake, his priest spoke eloquently and glowingly about him, practically nominating him for sainthood. Although he may not have been quite ready for that, nor would he have wanted that, he remained a model of leadership and personal service to every individual and most certainly, every organization he belonged to, to the very last moment of his life;

This most definitely included his time with us in the NY Guard. My wife Mary met him several times and found him to be charming, debonair, dashing, light-hearted and a true gentleman. He seemed to have a type of 'swashbuckler' flair, which one only assumes is to be found in the movies. Everyone he met was immediately drawn to him... he had that kind of persona... that kind of way about him, which was just irresistible.

MAJ Susan Maros Victoria said of Barry Conroy that, "He was always ready to help everyone. He was my advisor, mentor and friend and I don't know what I would have done without his help along the way".

Barry was a man's man and his charisma had a profound effect on the men as well as the ladies.

According to COL. Frank Gonzalez, "Barry's eye was always on the 56th BDE, loved the men and women of his favorite unit and was never happier in the NY Guard than when he was its commander. I first met him when he was named Inspector General of the NY Guard in 2003. Although we were total opposites, when I first shook his hand, I knew instantly that we would be life long friends."



His family has a traumatic loss to deal with now and we should keep them in our prayers, asking that they find peace in their hearts. It is well known that Barry pulled no punches and rarely sugar coated anything in his communications with any and all who knew him. This includes both officers and enlisted alike. Although he had an outspoken way about him, everyone who knew him, both admired and respected him.

He treated everyone the same, had a heart as big as the great outdoors, never did stand on ceremony and never failed to see the humor in many things around him.

I remember the meetings in the Peekskill Diner with our NY Guard 'Veterans' (The 20th RGT), prior to our Tuesday night admins. When he was present, these always came 'alive'. Barry was also a very religious man and many times would come up to me in his own joking way and say,

"Chaplain, pray for me will ya.... God knows I can use all the help I can get". When the good Lord made Barry he subsequently broke the mold. So... All I can say is that, "Barry, you are better than most". God speed Barry Conroy, you will be sorely missed by one and all.

Photo by CW2 Nickischer, 56th BDE

'59 – '88 US ARMY RESERVES
'88 – '08 NY GUARD

NY GUARD CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

'97 MAR – PROMOTED TO COLONEL
'03 FEB - NYG INSPECTOR GENERAL
'03 NOV – COMMANDER, 56th BDE
'05 MAR – RETIRED
'05 MAR – BREVET PROMOTION
BRIGADIER GENERAL
'05 MAR - COMMANDER. 20th
VOLUNTEER RGT

NY STATE MEDALS

DEFENSE OF LIBERTY / WTC
LONG & FAITHFUL SERVICE
MILITARY COMMENDATION MEDAL
MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE
CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL

NY GUARD SOLDIER NOW A COMMISSIONED NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER

By NYG Public Affairs Staff

Mark Getman of Bethpage, LI, began his military career in 2002 – and already he's been a Corporal, a Spec 4, a Sergeant, a 1st Lieutenant in the NY Guard, and now a 2nd Lieutenant in the National Guard. As part of the "Class of 9/11", he was one of hundreds of New Yorkers who enlisted in the NY Guard following the World Trade Center attack. Enlisting as a Corporal E-4, he was assigned to the 14th Brigade on Long Island.

CPL Getman was promoted to SGT Getman, then went through NY Guard OCS and was commissioned 1LT Getman. After serving in the NY Guard for four years, 1LT Getman gave up his rank and enlisted in the National Guard. No one was saluting SPC Getman as he went through his Army Basic Training, then OCS all over again.

On January 16th 2008, SPC Mark H Getman accepted his Appointment (Commission) as 2nd Lieutenant in the NY Army National Guard as a Chaplain Candidate with HHC, 258th Field Artillery Battalion, located at the Jamaica (Queens) National Guard Armory.

He is currently enrolled as a Rabbinical Student at the Academy of Jewish Religion in Riverdale, NY and is expected to become ordained as a Rabbi in 2013. In July he will attend Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course at FT Jackson, SC.

In May 2007 2LT Getman completed his Basic Combat training at FT Sill, Oklahoma and, completed his Signal Support Technician Training at FT Gordon, GA in September 2007 and was assigned to Gulf Company –

427th BSB as a Signal Support Technician Specialist (25U) New York Army National Guard.

The NY Guard lost a good man, but the National Guard has gained a solid officer. Mazel tov, 2LT Getman!

FROM NY GUARD TO THE WAR: NY GUARD OFFICER VOLUNTEERS FOR AFGHANISTAN DUTY

by SSG Dave Konig, HQ, NYG

COL Thomas Finn, NY Guard, has volunteered to go back into the Army to serve in Afghanistan. The commander of the 12th Regional Training Institute, normally commutes six hours round trip from his home in Massachusetts to Camp Smith, NY to attend NY Guard drills. Thanks to the US Army's Volunteer Retiree Recall Program, Colonel Finn just increased his commute dramatically. He told his fellow NY Guard volunteers at his last NY Guard drill prior to deploying to Afghanistan, "It is an honor to serve my country again, this time in Afghanistan."

The Volunteers for Retiree Recall Program allows physically fit, experienced veterans to raise their right hand again for Army logistical and support missions. The program is open to both retired officers and NCOs in the Army, Reserves and National Guard, and NY Guard prior military retirees. It is run through Army Human Resources Command in St. Louis.

COL Finn will be put through Warrior Transition Training at Ft Jackson, South Carolina. Upon completion he will deploy to Afghanistan to commence his tour of duty.

He brings invaluable military experience to the mission. COL Finn

said, "I served thirty one years of commissioned service as an Army Infantry Officer, commanding four different Company sized units - four years active, twenty seven years Active Reserve duty in the 187th Infantry Brigade and the 94th Regional Readiness Command. When I retired from the Army in 2000 at the rank of colonel, I still wanted to serve, so I joined the Massachusetts Military Reserve (MMR) and served as the G3 there." The MMR is a volunteer State Defense Force, similar to the NY Guard. "After two years, the MMR was reorganized, and there was no mission for me. So I got in my car, drove to New York, and put my right hand up for the NY Guard. My wife thinks I'm crazy driving three hundred miles to get to my drills."

In civilian life, COL Finn works at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts. What does Mrs. Finn think of his new mission to Afghanistan? "She still thinks I'm crazy - but she understands. She knows, whether I'm volunteering for duty in the NY Guard or for the Army in Afghanistan, it is always an honor to serve."

CONDOLENCES: FATHER OF THREE NY GUARD SOLDIERS PASSES AWAY

Walter Shchur of Yonkers, NY, died 19 May, 2008 at age 84. Mr. Shchur, a prominent member of the Ukrainian community in Yonkers, was the father of three NY Guard soldiers: MSG Taras Szczur, HQ, CPT Lubomyr Shchur, 12th RTI, and CPT Sophia Havraniak 244th MC. Mr. Shchur was honored last year by the NY Guard.

Mr. Shchur served as president of the Ukrainian Youth Center in Yonkers, and was a member of the choir at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church. He is survived by his wife Emily, another son Stephen, and seven grandchildren

89th ARMY BAND / CAMP SMITH

MUSICIAN SOLDIERS SERVING IN TUNE

By Captain Douglas F. Hedwig, Commander and Bandmaster, 89th Army Band



The 89th Army Band of the NY Guard is commonly referred to as the “New York Guard Band,” because it is the only official volunteer military, militia music organization in the State of New York. The band’s mission is to assist the NY Guard with community relations, general recruitment, and troop morale. Its goals are to communicate the mission of the NY Guard and the duties it performs for the New York Homeland Defense.

The NY Guard Band serves the people of New York State in a variety of ways. It plays an active and important role in the life of the communities it serves through performances for military /governmental /civic ceremonies and events, for city and town parades in the region, as well as formal concerts at schools, and veteran’s homes and hospitals, throughout the State of New York; usually within a 70 mile radius of New York City.

These musical performances and parades are typically scheduled on weekends and, sometimes on holidays. In addition, members are expected to attend one drill/rehearsal per month (usually the third Saturday

of the month), and are highly encouraged to attend one week of training each summer. As this is a volunteer organization, members of the 89th Band receive no paid compensation for these services, although sometimes travel expenses may be reimbursed for performances outside of the regular performance areas.

Recent activities of the NY Guard Band include Memorial Day concerts at the President Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site (Hyde Park, NY), St. Patrick’s Day and Columbus Day parades in White Plains and Mahopac, performances at The United States Military Academy at West Point, and for patients and staff at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Montrose, NY. In January 2007, the New York Guard Band provided music for the Opening Ceremony of the Westchester-Putnam Council of the Boy Scouts of America sponsored, “Klondike Derby,” attended by hundreds of Boys Scouts and their leaders. In addition, the band regularly provides military and ceremonial music for the monthly NY Guard Headquarters Drills at Camp Smith, as well as for the NY Guard Commanders Conferences.

As the NY Guard Band grows, we have plans and ideas to expand and improve our activities. For instance, plans are currently under way for the NY Guard Band to record and produce a professionally recorded CD, featuring patriotic music from the time of our nation’s founding to the present, with direct connections to NY State. Also under consideration are plans for band to perform for Naturalization (Citizenship) Ceremonies. And, we are hoping to embark on annual one-week concert and parade tours of New York State during the summer, including performances at the New

York State Fair in Syracuse. These tour performances would help promote the NY Guard and help articulate its missions and accomplishments, and would simultaneously fulfill the one week Annual Training requirement for the NY Guard. Finally, we have hopes of performing for Departure and Arrival, and Change of Command Ceremonies for Active Duty National Guard and Reserve Units and Commanders who may be deployed as part of the War on Terror; whenever Active Army, National Guard, or Reserve bands based in New York State may be otherwise engaged.

PHOTO: Members of the 89th Army Band with NYPD SWAT Team, courtesy www.newyorkguardband.us





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 Submit articles (Microsoft Word) and Photos (J Peg) to SSG Konig at konigdave@aol.com through your chain of command. Deadline for the Fall 08 issue is 1 SEP 08.

READ THE GUARD TIMES
 The official magazine of the NY Armed Forces is available online:

<http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/gdtime/s/gdtimes.php>

NYG MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

We are recruiting artists, writers, photographers, videographers, for the NY Guard PAO team. Contact SSG Dave Konig konigdave@aol.com

MONTHLY SPENNATO SNAFU
Corrections to the 2nd issue of the Sentinel:

In the 1st issue of the Sentinel, SSG Anthony Spennato, 88th BDE, was mistakenly not listed with ANCOC graduates. (SSG Spennato graduated ANCOC in JAN '08). In the 2nd issue of the Sentinel, SSG Spennato's name was misspelled. It is the sincere hope of the editor that this, the 3rd issue of the Sentinel, contains no SSG Spennato – related errors.

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

Make sure all you're fully informed! Log on to www.newyorkguard.org Active soldiers of the NY Guard should update their email address from the "Update Your Personal Information" section of the website. Failing that they should email CPT Colety at: richard.colety@newyorkguard.us

RECRUIT BY E-MAIL!

Forward copies of the State Guard Sentinel to your co-workers, friends, relatives, neighbors – let them know about your service to state and country. Three clicks of the SEND button and you could be on your way to a Recruiting medal.

HOOAH TO OUR CONTRIBUTING WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS:

SGT Chris Ferraro, 56th, MAJ David Greenwood, 10th, CPT Douglas Hedwig, 89th, SFC Fred Manney, 88th, MAJ John Neely, 10th, CW2 Joey Nickischer, 56th, 1LT Don Odom, 56th, SSG Paul Rosa, 14th, SSG Anthony Spennato, 88th, CPT Manfred Spikereit, 56th, CPT Mary Stepanian, 65th

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