

Winter 2025

THE SENTINEL

"The Official Magazine of the New York Guard"



NY Guardsmen Pull Together

Joint Training Rules The Day



THE NEW YORK GUARD SENTINEL

Volume 1 Issue 3 Winter 2025

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This Issue's Highlights:

Table of Contents.....	2
Message from the Commanding General.....	3
AT25 Prepares Troops for Diverse Missions.....	4-8
Immersive Commo Training.....	9-11
Grand Marshall Major Tracee Y. Millard.....	12-13
Ronda Deputy Grand Marshall.....	14
Ssg. Tatsuya Hondo, NCO of the Year.....	15-16
Spc.. Jefferey Servay, Solider of the Year.....	17
56 th Company Celebrates the Holidays.....	18-19
88 th Company Celebrates the Holidays	20-21
Dining Out Hits the Spot.....	22-23
Cpt. Johnny Velez JR.....	24
Fredericksburg Commemoration.....	25-27
Chester A. Arthur: A Legacy of Logistical Excellence.....	28-29
Washington, D.C. Attack Underscores OPSEC's	30-31
47 th Annual TAG Match.....	32
US Army General Orders.....	33
Happy Holidays to Our Fellow Soldiers!.....	34
New York Guard Sponsors and Resources.....	35

About The Sentinel

The Sentinel is an internal newsletter which is published quarterly by the New York Guard Public Affairs Office. The Sentinel does not receive government funding of any type and is produced by its staff on a voluntary basis. Views which appear in this publication are not necessarily those of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs or the National Guard Bureau.

Submissions

Articles, photos and letters are welcomed and encouraged. Please provide article submissions via email saved in Microsoft Word or rich text format (rtf) along with high resolution digital (jpg) photos. Send your submissions to thesentinel1917@gmail.com

Cover Photo:

The 56th and 88th Companies engaged in joint training in preparation for possible emergencies. The training focused on triage and treatment of injured personnel.





December 22nd, 2025

New York Guard Soldiers,

As we wrap up 2025, New York Guard Soldiers continue to be an integral part of New York State Defense Forces. We all have much to be proud of. We currently have 97 Soldiers deployed on the Department of Corrections mission across New York State. It was a pleasure visiting these Soldiers working alongside the National Guard at Armories in Western and Northern New York.

This summer, Empire Challenge was a big success with our Communications Section performing superbly. Annual Training at Camp Smith this fall was very productive and safe.

In addition, New York Guard recruitment is at an all-time high. Due to high standards, we are getting high quality, motivated Soldiers. It was also great to see New York Guard Soldiers participating in civic events, parades, our Annual Ball at West Point with the Naval Militia and at year end Holiday Parties. Here's to a great 2025 and even better 2026. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you and your families.

BG Peter Riley
Commander, New York Guard

AT25 PREPARES TROOPS FOR DIVERSE MISSIONS

67 RECRUITS GRADUATE IET

Story by 1st Lt. Ed Shevlin, photos by Ssg. Mike Bilski

CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. — The New York Guard conducted Annual Training from Oct. 4–10 at Camp Smith Training Site, marking the organization’s most significant training event of the year and a milestone for incoming service members.

The week began with Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration, known as RSOI, on Oct. 2nd. That process includes accountability verification, administrative screening and operational in-processing to ensure all assigned personnel are present, properly equipped and mission-ready.

Annual Training, known throughout the force as AT, serves as the cornerstone of the New York Guard’s readiness calendar. The week-long event provides professional military education, qualifications and mission-specific instruction necessary for service members to effectively perform in civil support roles across the state.

This year’s training centered on one of the largest incoming classes in recent history. Sixty-seven recruits completed Initial Entry Training, representing a wide range of professional backgrounds, ages and civilian skill sets. Leaders said the size and diversity of the class reflect both growing interest in state defense work and the Guard’s expanding operational requirements.

“This is where we shape the future of the force,” said a senior officer. “Annual Training is not simply a requirement—it is where we build competency, confidence and cohesion.”

In addition to the IET program, five officer candidates completed the residency portion of the Basic Officer Course, bringing them closer to completing the year-long course of training. Thirteen service members also graduated from the Basic Communications Course, which prepares Soldiers to operate in emergency communications environments, including HF voice and secure digital messaging systems.

Another salient feature of AT25 was the joint training that took place between the New York Guard’s two line companies, the 56th Company and the 88th Company. These two units exist in close proximity to each other and would likely respond to an emergency together should the need arise.

One of the areas in which the two units trained together was that of triage and treatment of injured personnel, a skill that may be vitally important in the aftermath of a disaster. “It is vital to the success of the mission that our two companies train together on a regular basis. “One Team, One Fight!” is not just a motto, it is our modus operandi.” said 1st Sgt. Eric Rasmussen of the 56th Company.

Training extended beyond traditional military instruction. A retired FBI special agent, identified as Tim L., conducted a full-scale Active Shooter seminar, providing updated threat-recognition and response techniques. The briefing incorporated real-world case studies, recommended protective actions and modern law enforcement response standards.

New York Guard Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Sean Gardiner led a mandatory suicide prevention course, underscoring the topic’s growing importance across both military and civilian society. Gardiner emphasized intervention awareness, peer support, and the need for command teams to remain vigilant in identifying stress-related risk factors.

“Readiness is not only tactical—it’s mental, spiritual and emotional,” Gardiner said. “If we are to be prepared to support New York, we must first ensure our own resilience.”

AT concluded Oct. 10 with a final formation and dismissal, closing out seven consecutive days of instruction, field exercises and evaluative training.

Officials said the 2025 training cycle demonstrated operational growth, instructional modernization and a clear commitment to force readiness.

“The New York Guard is trained, prepared and ready to support the state and its citizens,” a headquarters spokesperson said. “AT 2025 proved that our members are not just showing up—they are stepping up.”



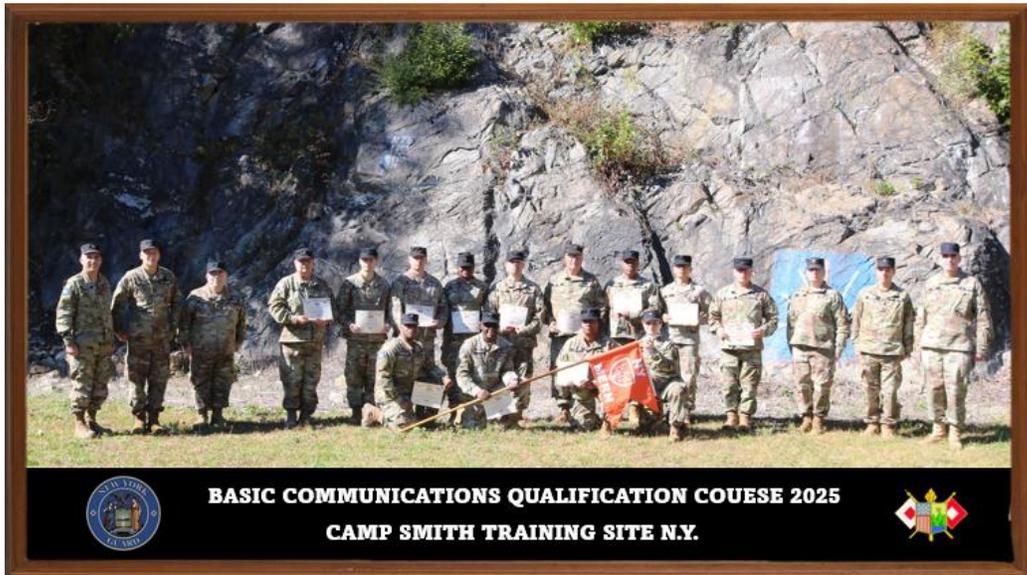
RSOI, Leadership and Physical Training



Joint Medical Training



2025 Graduates



G6/S6 Cadre Qualifies 14 in Basic Commo

By 1st Lt. Ed Shevlin and CW2 Richard Martino

CAMP SMITH, N.Y. Thirteen New York Guard soldiers successfully completed the force's annual Basic Communications Qualification (BCQ) course during a five-day training cycle earlier this month, strengthening the state defense force's readiness for civil support missions, according to an after-action report prepared by CW2 Richard J. Martino Jr. of New York Guard Headquarters G6.

The training, held Oct. 5–9 at Camp Smith Training Site's Building 508, was led by the NYG G6/S6 communications cadre and focused on high-frequency (HF) voice operations and secure digital radio messaging. The BCQ program serves as the New York Guard's foundational communications qualification and supports its Mission Essential Task List for Civil Support Operations, the state mission that tasks soldiers with assisting civil authorities during emergencies and disasters.

Course Structure and Execution

The course combined daily classroom instruction with hands-on field exercises. Soldiers from the 56th and 88th Companies received training materials by email the week before arriving at Camp Smith, enabling them to begin the intensive course with a working understanding of its core concepts.

According to the report, the early preparation contributed to a smooth training cycle, with all 13 Soldiers demonstrating the ability to absorb a large volume of material in a short period. Instruction covered HF propagation, antenna setup, power systems, signal paths, net procedures, and the principles of secure digital radio communications.

Students spent each afternoon installing, configuring, and operating HF equipment in real-time field conditions. Practical exercises included establishing communications across the New York Guard's HF network and troubleshooting radio problems under supervision from the G6/S6 cadre.

Participation in DHS SHARES Network

One of the most significant components of the course was the Soldiers' participation in a live Department of Homeland Security SHARES Northeast HF Radio Net. The SHARES program provides national-level backup communications for government agencies in emergencies when conventional systems fail.

New York Guard Soldiers successfully checked into the net and exchanged message traffic with SHARES stations in New York and New Jersey, including the New York Division of Military and Naval Affairs Joint Operations Center station, NNA2CR. Soldiers used both voice and the secure VARA HF Chat software platform to send and receive formatted messages, demonstrating real-world interoperability with federal partners.

The after-action report described student performance as "highly competent," noting that all participants were able to complete both voice and secure digital messaging tasks without difficulty. *Continued below*

Areas Identified for Improvement

Despite the course's success, the report noted that the compressed annual training schedule leaves little time for continued practice of what Martino described as a "perishable skill." The BCQ curriculum covers a large amount of technical material, and the report classified the pace as "information saturation."

Martino recommended that Soldiers follow up with their company S6 sections for refresher training and participate in additional MERNEX (Mission Essential Radio Network Exercise) events throughout the year. These ongoing exercises are required to earn the New York Guard Basic Communications Qualification Badge and to maintain operational proficiency. The report also suggested that extending the length of Annual Training in future years would improve retention and allow for more robust field scenarios, including nighttime operations, long-distance messaging drills, and more complex interoperability testing.

Emphasis on Readiness

The report closed with a reminder that communications reliability is vital to the New York Guard's civil support responsibilities. "It's all training until the day it isn't," Martino wrote. "We need to ensure we are prepared for that day."

Participants and Cadre

Soldiers completing the BCQ course were:

- ❖ Sgt. John Hertzog
- ❖ Spc. Jeffrey Servay, *CADRE trainee*
- ❖ Spc. Jean Mondestin
- ❖ Spc. Vanessa Floerke
- ❖ Spc. Tarma Wyche
- ❖ Pfc. Michael Masopust
- ❖ Spc. Eric Frederick
- ❖ Spc. Yineng Yi
- ❖ Spc. Joy Obasuyi
- ❖ Pfc. Jairo Arcila
- ❖ Pfc. Anthony Pastore
- ❖ Pfc. Sergiy Gayduk
- ❖ Pfc. Jeff Lapice
- ❖ Pfc. Roger Berrios

- ❖ CW2 Richard Martino, NYG HQ G6
- ❖ Sfc. Alexander Myagkiy, NYG HQ G6
- ❖ 2nd Lt. Brian Peck, 56th Company S6
- ❖ W01 Stanley Cohen, 56th Company S6





New York Guard Officer Serves as Grand Marshal and Keynote Speaker at Brooklyn Veterans Appreciation Day

By NYG Staff Writer.

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — On November 1, 2025, Major Tracee Y. Millard, Esq., New York Guard, Headquarters, Legal Affairs Officer, served as Grand Marshal and Keynote Speaker for the 7th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Parade and Resource Fair in Brooklyn, New York.

The annual event, hosted by New York City Community Boards 3, 8, and 16, honored veterans and servicemembers from all branches of the United States Armed Forces and highlighted the importance of continued service, recognition, and community engagement. The parade route began at Bright Light Baptist Church and proceeded north along Ralph Avenue and west on Fulton Street to Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza.

Participants included veterans from all branches of service, Active-Duty Soldiers from U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hamilton and the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, members of the New York Police Department, marching bands, veteran service organizations, community leaders, and residents. The event provided an opportunity for the community to publicly recognize the service and sacrifices of those who have worn the uniform.

As Grand Marshal, Major Millard and served as the principal remarks, she emphasized unity, obligation to support veterans observances. She highlighted veterans have access to community support long after concludes.

Major Millard also recognized Duty servicemembers currently Fort Hamilton and the U.S. Army their continued commitment to community engagement. She enforcement partners, veteran community volunteers in making



led the parade formation speaker. In her keynote leadership, and the enduring beyond ceremonial the importance of ensuring resources, advocacy, and their military service

the contributions of Active serving at U.S. Army Garrison Recruiting Battalion, noting national defense and acknowledged the role of law service organizations, and the event successful.

Major Tracee Y. Millard, Esq., New York Guard, Headquarters, Legal Affairs Officer, stands with her mother, Lt. Glennie L. Millard, RN, U.S. Army (Ret), represents the National Association of Black Military Women, Inc., New York City Chapter, during the Veterans Appreciation Day Parade in Brooklyn, N.Y., November 1, 2025

Following the parade, a Veterans Resource Fair was held at P.S. 93, where participating organizations provided information and assistance related to Veterans benefits, healthcare, housing, employment, and community-based support services. Veterans and their families were encouraged to connect directly with organizations offering assistance and guidance.

Continued below

Major Millard was joined at the event by her mother, Ltc. Glennie L. Millard, RN, U.S. Army (Ret), who represented the National Association of Black Military Women, Inc., New York City Chapter (NABMW). Their joint participation underscored a legacy of military service spanning generations and highlighted the continued role of women in uniform and veteran advocacy.

Major Millard's selection as Grand Marshal and Keynote Speaker reflects the New York Guard's ongoing commitment to public service, interagency cooperation, and meaningful engagement with communities across New York State. Events such as the Veterans Appreciation Day Parade and Resource Fair reinforce the New York Guard's mission to support veterans, servicemembers, and the communities they serve.



Major Tracee Y. Millard, Esq., New York Guard, Headquarters, Legal Affairs Officer, poses alongside event signage during the 7th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Parade and Resource Fair in Brooklyn, N.Y., November 1, 2025



Veterans, Active Duty Soldiers from U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hamilton and the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, and community participants assembling prior to step-off during the Veterans Appreciation Day Parade in Brooklyn, N.Y., November 1, 2025.

RONDA DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL!!!

88th 1st Sergeant to Lead Queens Parade

By 1st Lt. Ed Shevlin

Rockaway Beach, New York – The Queens County Parade and Cultural Committee has appointed 1st Sgt. Joseph Ronda of the 88th Company, Deputy Grand Marshal of the 51st Annual Queens County St Patrick’s Day Parade.



The parade, long recognized as the 2nd largest St Patrick’s Day Parade in the State of New York, steps off on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, from Bch 130th Street in Belle Harbor, Queens, at 1300hrs.

Ronda will not be the first New York Guardsman to be honored by the parade committee. The 88th’s First Sergeant joins a growing list of honorees which includes, Lt. Raymond Lamboy (2018), Cpt. Ray Gallagher (2022), Csm. Steve Vera (2023), 2nd Lt. Michael Rogers (2024) and 2nd Lt. Melissa Farrel (2025).

“ It is a great honor to have been selected as Deputy Grand Marshal by the committee.” said Ronda, “I grew up in Throgs Neck just around the corner from Meagher Avenue, and just 1.5 miles from Fort Schuyler, the birthplace of the 88th.” *(General Thomas Francis Meagher was the Commander of the Irish Brigade.)*

The 88th Company traces its lineage back to a time when it was the 2nd Regiment of the Union Army’s Irish Brigade during the Civil War. At that, time the 88th was

primarily composed of Irish immigrants looking to gain their citizenship through military service. As the war dragged on and casualties mounted, the draft was used to furnish replacements for the fallen Soldiers. This diluted somewhat the Irish makeup of the 88th.

The Queens County St Patrick’s Day Parade itself is preceded by two fundraising events. The next fundraiser is at Antuns on Saturday, February 7th, 2026. All those who would like to celebrate 1st Sgt. Ronda being honored as Deputy Grand Marshal are encouraged to attend. This event features dancing to a live band, a five-course dinner, and refreshments.

The UOD (Uniform of the Day) will be ASU (Army Service Uniform) or business attire. Additionally, there will be a Dinner Dance Journal carrying congratulatory ads for all of the honorees. Your support of this celebration would be most appreciated.

Contact Ed Shevlin for further information at thesentinel1917@gmail.com or via text at 917-226-5540.

Ssg. Tatsuya Hondo Named NCO of the Year

By NYG Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Ssg. Tatsuya Hondo, an eight-year veteran of the New York Guard whose service spans emergency response, logistics, recruiting and federal public-health operations, has been named the New York Guard Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for 2025.

Hondo, born April 27, 1998, in New York, serves as a Recruiting and Retention noncommissioned officer with the New York Guard Headquarters G1 Section at Camp Smith Training Site. His selection for NCO of the Year recognizes his leadership, extensive operational experience and contributions to both state and federal missions.

New York Guard officials cited his sustained excellence across multiple assignments, his professional military education, and his mentorship of junior Soldiers as key reasons for the honor. Hondo will represent the New York Guard in upcoming state-level recognition events.

Hondo enlisted in 2016 and has served in a wide range of roles, including flute and piccolo player with the 89th Army Band, detachment recruiter, area command recruiter and senior NCO for recruiting and retention at the headquarters level. He has also been repeatedly tapped to support high-visibility state missions due to his strong administrative and logistical skill sets.

In the civilian sector, Hondo is an industrial hygienist with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection in Queens. Assigned to the Bureau of Environmental Compliance, he conducts asbestos and environmental-law enforcement activities that protect the health and safety of New Yorkers. His responsibilities include oversight of certified asbestos professionals, mitigation of environmental hazards, and ensuring compliance with city regulations governing air quality and pollutant control.

Hondo's service record includes extensive state active-duty experience during the COVID-19 response. From 2020 to 2023, he served as an inventory control specialist, meals specialist and meals NCO for Joint Task Force North; later as the S4 NCOIC, operations NCO and procurement NCO for the Asylum Seeker Resource Support mission; and as a logistics operations NCO for multiple joint task force elements. His work supported statewide pandemic operations, citywide logistics networks and large-scale humanitarian missions.

In October 2025, he assumed duties as a financial management NCO for Joint Task Force operations under the Office of Budget and Finance (J8) at Joint Forces Headquarters in Latham.

Hondo also completed a federal active-duty tour in 2024 as a junior assistant health services officer with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Division of Northeast Imports at the JFK International Mail Facility. He received a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Public Health Service Ready Reserve Corps through the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program.

His promotions include Private in 2016, Specialist in 2017, Sergeant in 2020, ensign in 2024 and Staff Sergeant in October 2025.

Hondo's military education includes Initial Enlisted Training and the Primary Leader Course.

Continued below

He holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Adelphi University; a master's degree in geographic information science from Lehman College; a postgraduate certificate in data science and machine learning from IIT Roorkee; a certificate in public health from the CUNY School of Public Health; and a Master of Public Health degree from the same institution. He is fluent in Japanese.

His awards include the Public Health Service Citation Medal, Coast Guard Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation and numerous New York State and New York Guard awards, including the New York State Medal for Meritorious Service, New York State Recruiting Medal and New York Guard Achievement Medal (second award). He has also earned the Military Emergency Management Specialist Badge at the basic, senior and master levels.

Hondo's selection as NCO of the Year adds to a career marked by professional achievement, technical expertise and a consistent commitment to public service across both his military and civilian roles.



Spc. Jeffrey Servay Named Soldier of the Year

By NYG Staff Writer

New York Guard Soldier Commended for Leadership, Selected as 2025 Soldier of the Year
ALBANY, N.Y. — Spc. Jeffrey Servay of the New York Guard has been recognized for exceptional performance during the New York National Guard’s Enduring Support mission with the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, earning selection as the 2025 New York Guard Soldier of the Year.

Servay joined the mission at Collins Correctional Facility on April 24, 2025, where he was assigned to the installation’s Mayor’s Cell. In that role, he managed operations typically handled by a noncommissioned officer. His duties included overseeing three hotels housing more than 60 soldiers, coordinating a fleet of eight rental vehicles, and organizing food delivery and Soldier transportation.

Leaders said Servay consistently exceeded expectations, setting a standard for professionalism and reliability. He trained six incoming New York Guard members on Mayor’s Cell responsibilities and became essential to the daily operations of the joint mission. His performance, they noted, demonstrated all core values of the New York Guard.

Servay, who was promoted to sergeant on Nov. 1, 2025, outlined his plans for continued professional development in a recent memorandum. He said he aims to expand his technical expertise, complete advanced communications training, and grow as a leader and cadre member within the communications section. He emphasized his goal of balancing military service with personal commitments while preparing to take on increased leadership responsibilities.

“Ultimately, in five years I intend to be in a position where I can make a greater impact on the New York Guard, my unit, and the Soldiers I lead,” Servay wrote.

Born May 26, 1978, in Port Chester, New York, Servay has served four years in the New York Guard. His last assignment was with the New York State DOCCS Joint Task Force at Collins Correctional Facility. In civilian life, he works as a network administrator for the Dutchess County Office of Central and Information Services.

Servay is a U.S. Navy veteran and has completed multiple New York Guard training events, including Annual Training, communications courses, and the Joint Operations Center Training Course at Joint Forces Headquarters–New York.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Ellis University and an associate degree in information technology from Bryant & Stratton College.

Servay’s awards include the New York Guard First Provisional Regiment Ribbon, the New York Guard Service Ribbon, the Defense of Liberty Ribbon, the Extraordinary Performance Achievement Medal, SGAUS Basic and Senior Military Emergency Management Specialist Badges, the COMMO Badge, and this year’s New York Guard Soldier of the Year honor..



56th Company Celebrates the Holidays with Service Members, Families, and Distinguished Guests

Story and photos by Spc. Izzy Bateman

On December 6, 2025, the New York Guard's 56th Company celebrated the holiday season at American Legion Post 1796 in New Windsor, New York. Nearly 100 service members, retirees, family members, and distinguished guests attended the event, making it a memorable evening of camaraderie and recognition.

Among those in attendance were General Riley and his wife; retired Command Sergeant Major Smith and his wife; Cpt. Cisneros and his wife; Sfc. Schultz and her husband from NY Guard Headquarters (G1); along with many retired and current service members and their families. The hall was adorned with the American flags proudly displayed at the front, while a POW/MIA table was set up honorably in remembrance. The remaining dining tables were modestly arranged yet welcoming, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.



The evening began with opening remarks from 1st Lt. Marcigliano, Commander of the 56th Company. He praised the soldiers under his command for their dedication, hard work, and unit cohesion, while also joking about a long-standing friendly competition with the 88th Company Commander, Cpt. James Chin, who attended the event with his wife.

General Riley followed with remarks expressing his gratitude for the invitation and extended his thanks to the soldiers of the 56th Company currently serving on the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) mission.

Several promotions and awards were presented during the ceremony. Promoted were Ssg. Morrison, Ssg. Rodriguez, and Sgt. Krauze. Spc. Wai received her certificate for Basic Communications training. Ssg. Bateman was awarded medals for Humane Service to New York State and New York State Long and Faithful Service.



Continued below



Special recognition goes to WO1 Cohen and the American Legion Post Commander, staff, and volunteer Maria Daggett-Eskinazi, who worked together to organize a successful and enjoyable event. Ms. Daggett-Eskinazi, a personal friend of WO1 Cohen, deserves particular recognition for her continued volunteer support and assistance with recent special events for the 56th Company.

Following the formal ceremonies and dinner, tables were moved aside and the celebration continued with dancing. The evening's music was provided by DJ Clifton Brown, also known as "Cliff B Smooth," a local real estate agent. His energetic playlist, flexibility with song requests, and encouragement brought many attendees onto the dance floor to enjoy the night.

The holiday celebration provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, welcome new faces, and create lasting memories—reflecting the strong sense of family and pride within the 56th Company.



88th CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS PASSES THE BATON TO A NEW COMMANDER

By 1st Lt. Ed Shevlin

Bayside, NY – The 88th Company of the New York Guard held their Annual Holiday Party on Saturday, 20 December, at the Bayside Historical Society in what used to be the Fort Totten Officer’s Club. The event was very well attended with over 100 guests eating and celebrating throughout the evening.

The event was unique in at least two ways. Prior to the commencement of the official program, Congresswoman Grace Meng paid a visit to Captain James Chin during which she presented him with a Congressional Proclamation for his many years of service in the New York Guard and his volunteer work in the community.

“ I am deeply honored and grateful to be recognized with a congressional proclamation from Congresswoman Grace Meng for my service with the New York Guard and in numerous other public service roles.” said Cpt. Chin.

Bagpipers John McManus and Robert Lynch of the County Tyrone Pipe and Drum Band led the official party into the room and the evening’s events were begun.

The second unique feature of the 2025 holiday party was the conduct of the time-honored Change of Command ceremony, in which Cpt. David Tsin relinquished command of the 88th Company to Cpt. James Chin.

The ceremony involved 4 service members, New York Guard Deputy Commander Col. Stephen Ryan, Cpt. James Chin, Cpt. David Tsin, and 88th Company Senior Enlisted Soldier 1stSg. Joseph Ronda.

Using the 88th’s colors as a symbol of responsibility for the unit, the banner is passed from officer to officer and finally to the NCO who accepts the colors symbolizing the acceptance of new leadership for the unit.

Following the ceremony, Tsin commented, “I am grateful to the New York Guard leadership for entrusting me with the 88th Company. I have done my best to honor that trust and I hope that my superiors are pleased with the results.”

The program then moved on to awards. Chaplain (Maj.) John Muniz received the “Chaplaincy Award”, CW3, Arthur Brown was named “Warrant Officer of the Year 2025”, Sgt. Elvina Egan was named “Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year 2025” and Spc. Anthony Paduano was named “Enlisted Man of the Year 2025”.

Once the official program concluded, the DJ accepted requests and played music for the rest of the evening. The evening was punctuated by camaraderie, good cheer, and delicious food and drink.

Col. Stephen Ryan
Congratulating
Cpt. Chin upon
his taking
command
of the 88th



NYG leaders enjoying holiday party

88th HOLIDAY PHOTOS

Photos by Mr. Tom Chin.



DINING OUT HITS THE SPOT

2025 EVENT IS A BIG SUCCESS

Story by 1st Lt. Ed Shevlin, Photos by Ssg. Mike Bilski

West Point, NY – On Saturday, 18 October, the Annual New York Military Forces Dining Out was held in the Grand Ballroom of Eisenhower Hall on the grounds of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Attended by service members from the New York Guard, New York Naval Militia, New York National Guard, New York Air National Guard, and their family members and friends, the annual event lived up to its reputation as the premier annual social event for members of the New York Military Forces.

Spearheaded by Warrant Officer 1 Stanley Cohen of the New York Guard's 56th Company, the 2025 Dining Out checked all the boxes in terms of just what an event of this type should be. "We put a lot of work into this and hope that everyone enjoys the evening." said Cohen.

Brigadier General Peter Riley, Commander of the New York Guard, expressed his gratitude, "I would like to thank Mr. Cohen for the many hours that he put into organizing this year's dining out."

The festive atmosphere found Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and their loved ones enjoying delicious food and drink and dancing the night away to music provided by the Cadet DJs of the USMA radio station, WKDT.

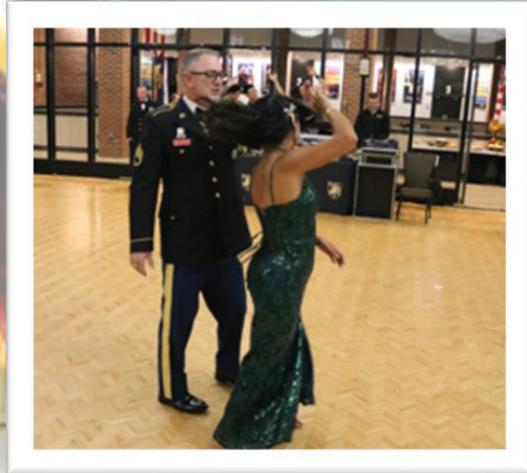
As the evening progressed, it became time to take care of some business. Rear Admiral (Lower Half) Michael Perry, Commander of the New York Naval Militia since April of 2022, introduced his successor, Rear Admiral (Lower Half) MaryEtta Nolan, who would assume command of the 3,100 strong naval force upon Perry's retirement just two weeks subsequent to the West Point event. Nolan would be the first woman to command the New York Naval Militia. Housekeeping on the New York Guard side took the form of honoring two outstanding enlisted service members.

Staff Sergeant Tatsuya Hondo of the New York Guard Headquarters Company was honored as the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, and Specialist Jeffrey Servay of the 56th Company received honors as the Soldier of the Year. Both of the honorees were presented with plaques by Brig. Gen. Riley.

Gatherings such as this go a long way towards boosting morale among the troops and bolstering relationships between counterparts in other branches of the New York Military Forces. The 2025 NYMFs Dining Out was no exception..

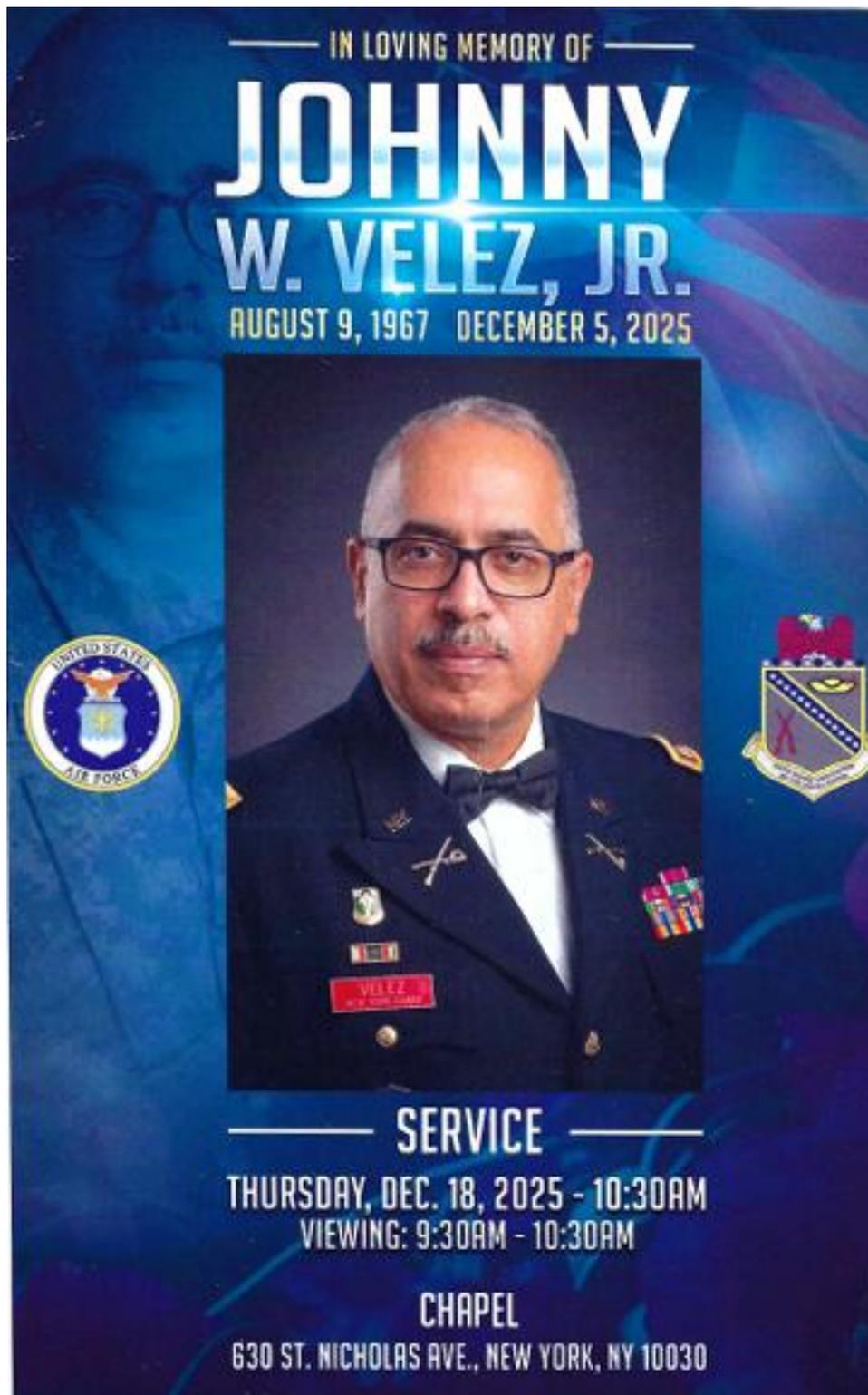


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Captain Johnny Velez

Following a long illness, Captain Johnny Velez, New York Guard (RET) passed away on 5 DEC 2025. Cpt. Velez will be missed by his family; friends and his extended New York Guard Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOHNNY W. VELEZ, JR.

AUGUST 9, 1967 DECEMBER 5, 2025



UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE



SERVICE

THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 2025 - 10:30AM
VIEWING: 9:30AM - 10:30AM

CHAPEL
630 ST. NICHOLAS AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10030

88th Company Commemorates Civil War Battle Fredericksburg Not Forgotten

Story and Photos by 1st. Lt. Ed Shevlin

Long Island City, New York – The 88th Company of the New York Guard held their 28th Annual Battle of Fredericksburg Commemoration at the Irish Brigade Monument in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, on Saturday, 13 December 2025. This year’s event took place on the 163rd anniversary of the famed Civil War battle and was attended by a large contingent of Soldiers from the 88th Company, the Veteran Corps of Artillery and civilians from the local area.

The events of the day began at 1000 hrs. with a Mass of Remembrance celebrated by Reverend Father Robert Lloyd and Chaplain (Ltc.) John Muniz in St Calixtus Chapel on the grounds of the cemetery. Following Mass, Col. Stephen Ryan, Deputy Commander of the New York Guard, spoke on the history of the Battle of Fredericksburg saying, “The Irish Brigade took massive casualties during their assault on Maryes Heights and never quite recovered from that terrible day.” he continued, “as the draft began to bring in a variety of men to replace the fallen, the ethnic makeup of the 88th began to change and they were no longer as Irish as they once were.”



Following a Mass of Remembrance the 88th is preparing to march to the Irish Brigade Monument. The 88th Company held their Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg on 13 December 2025.



CPT James Chin, Bugler, sounding Taps for the fallen of the Battle of Fredericksburg. The 88th Company held their Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg on 13 December 2025.

The Battle of Fredericksburg took place in and around the town of Fredericksburg from December 10th to December 13th, 1862. The Union’s Irish Brigade, part of the United States Army of the Potomac, took part in the assault upon Marye’s Heights, which was occupied by Confederate troops under the command of General Robert E. Lee.

The battle involved over 200,000 Union and Confederate troops and is recognized as one of the most significant engagements of the Civil War. The focus of the commemoration is the participation of the Union Army’s Irish Brigade, which included the 69th New York Volunteers, the 88th New York Volunteers and the 63rd New York Volunteers. The legacy of the 88th New York Volunteers continues as a part of the New York Guard’s 88th Company.

Continued below

Led by Pipe Major Emeritus John McManus of the County Tyrone Pipe and Drum Band and the 88th Company Color Guard, the group marched from the chapel to the Irish Brigade Monument, approximately a quarter mile distant. “It is a great honor to march under the colors of the 88th Regiment. The sacrifices and bravery of our forebears must never be forgotten.” said Color Guard Commander, 1st Sgt. Joseph Ronda.



The Veteran Corps of Artillery at Parade Rest during the Battle of Fredericksburg Commemoration 2025. The 88th Company held their Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg on 13 December 2025.



1st Sgt. Joseph Ronda observing a Soldier saluting the fallen. The 88th Company held their Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg on 13 December 2025.

Upon their arrival at the monument the group took their assigned places and the ceremony commenced. Soldiers from the 88th placed 3 wreaths upon the Irish Brigade Monument, one for each of the 3 New York Regiments of the Irish Brigade. Following the wreath placement, the bugler sounded Taps. The VCA Firing Party then fired a salute of 3 volleys, which was followed by a rendition of Amazing Grace by PME McManus. The 88th's Chaplain (Maj.) John Muniz, then delivered a closing Benediction, concluding the ceremonies. Following the formal ceremonies, the group proceeded to the final resting place of Maj. Gen. Herbert Ryan, former commander of the 88th and father of Col. Stephen Ryan and Ltc. David Ryan. After a brief family ritual, the 88th and their guests reconvened at the Bantry Bay Publick House for lunch.



Ltc. Gary Hess VCA (Drummer) and Pipe Major Emeritus John McManus sound "Amazing Grace" during the Fredericksburg Commemoration. The 88th Company held their Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg on 13 December 2025.



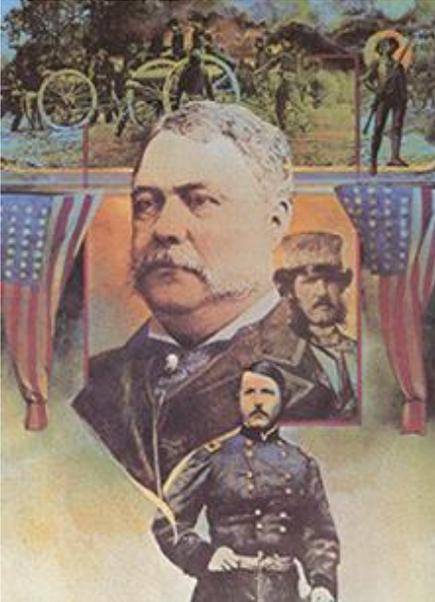
Ltc. David Ryan and Col. Stephen Ryan remember their father Maj. Gen. Herbert Ryan at his final resting place in Calvary Cemetery following annual ceremonies commemorating the Battle of Fredericksburg.



Col. Stephen Ryan, Deputy Commander of the New York Guard shares the history of the Battle of Fredericksburg with the troops. The 88th Company held their Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg on 13 December 2025.

Chester A. Arthur: A Legacy of Logistical Excellence

By Ltc. John Evans, New York Guard G4



Chester A. Arthur served as the 21st President of the United States; however, before ascending to the presidency, he was a proud member of the New York State Militia—a voluntary force and the precursor to today’s New York Guard (NYG) and New York Army National Guard (NYARNG). In a role akin to the modern G4, Brigadier General Chester A. Arthur provided indispensable logistical support to thousands of New York Union Soldiers during the American Civil War.

As Bill O’Reilly highlights in *Confronting the Presidents*: “Chester Arthur has been appointed quartermaster of the New York State militia, a task he performs so well that he rises to the rank of brigadier general.” This recognition reflects Arthur’s exceptional dedication and organizational skill, qualities that would later inform his presidency.

Arthur’s experience in military logistics was both extensive and transformative. As Quartermaster General, he shouldered the critical responsibility of ensuring New York’s regiments were supplied, equipped, and ready for immediate deployment. This demanding position required not only organizational prowess but also keen attention to detail and efficiency under the immense pressure of wartime. Arthur managed vast inventories of uniforms, weaponry, and other equipment, coordinated complex transportation routes, and oversaw the distribution of essential provisions. His tireless efforts ensured that soldiers were prepared to serve on the front lines, often in unpredictable and challenging conditions.

His logistical acumen garnered recognition among peers, as Arthur’s foresight and adaptability in the face of obstacles set a high standard for military supply operations. The infrastructure and processes he established not only addressed the immediate needs of New York’s troops but also laid a foundation for future advancements in military logistics. Through meticulous planning and decisive action, he demonstrated that effective logistical support could directly shape the success of military campaigns—values of resourcefulness, integrity, and service that would come to define his presidential legacy.

“Arthur’s annual report stated that in one four-month period, his office in New York had completely clothed, uniformed, and equipped; supplied with camp and garrison equipage; and transported from this state to the seat of war sixty-eight regiments of infantry, two battalions of cavalry, and four battalions of artillery.”

The legacy of Chester A. Arthur’s logistical excellence continues to inspire the NYG G4 Section today. This proud tradition is evident as the G4 team carefully plans and executes logistical support for Annual Training in May. The section works diligently to ensure that NYG Service Members have access to high-quality food, reliable equipment, and well-maintained facilities, all of which are essential to mission readiness and morale. Every step in preparation—from inventory management and procurement to transportation and distribution—is guided by the same high standards set by Arthur over a century ago.

Continued below

Chester A. Arthur: A Legacy of Logistical Excellence

Arthur endures as a model of service, dedication, and professionalism. The NYG G4 Section honors his memory by striving for excellence in every aspect of their work, understanding that effective logistics remain the backbone of military success. By upholding these principles, today's service members link the past to the present, ensuring that the dedication and standards set during Arthur's era remain alive and well in the New York Guard.

Chester Arthur



Chester Alan Arthur was born in Vermont but grew up in New York where he became a lawyer. A brigadier general in the Union Army, he did not see combat in the Civil War. Arthur was assigned to the Quartermaster Department, where he was responsible for housing and outfitting troops. In 1871, he was appointed to the powerful post of Collector of the Port of New York by Ulysses Grant. He was fired from that post by President Hayes in an attempt to reform the patronage system. Arthur was elected vice president in 1881 to balance the ticket, but he became president when James Garfield was assassinated. As president, Arthur took up the cause of reform and rebuilt the navy.

Chester Arthur

Republican Party



Vice President

None

Preceded By

James A. Garfield

Succeeded By

Grover Cleveland

Born

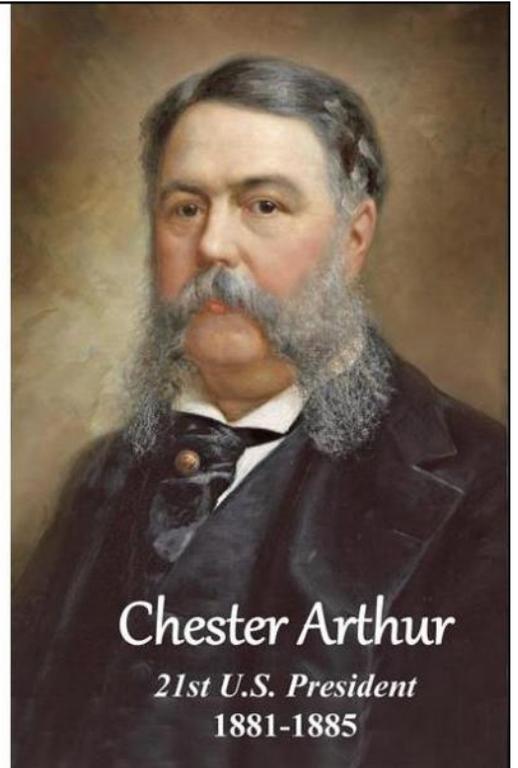
October 5, 1829

Fairfield, Vermont

Died

November 18 1886

New York City, NY



Washington, D.C. Attack Underscores OPSEC's Importance for New York Guard Soldiers

Incident Highlights Need for Vigilance and Security Awareness in the Modern Era

By 1st Lt. Ed Shevlin

In the wake of the alarming attack on two National Guard soldiers in Washington, D.C., the conversation around operational security, or OPSEC, has taken on renewed urgency among New York Guard Soldiers. While the incident occurred hundreds of miles away, its implications ripple outward, serving as a sobering reminder that today's threats are not confined by geography. For New York's military personnel, the lessons learned from the D.C. attack are not just relevant—they're essential.

On a brisk morning in the nation's capital, two National Guard members found themselves targeted while performing duties that, until recently, may have seemed routine. The details of the attack remain under investigation, but authorities have indicated that the assailant exploited information that was publicly available, underscoring the dangers posed by lapses in OPSEC. The event has sent shockwaves through the ranks, prompting units across the country, including those in New York, to reassess their security posture.

OPSEC is a fundamental pillar of our military readiness. It encompasses the measures taken to protect sensitive information and activities from adversaries who may seek to exploit vulnerabilities. For New York Guard Soldiers, OPSEC is not just a set of guidelines but an everyday responsibility that extends from the drill floor to the digital sphere. The Washington, D.C. attack makes it clear that the threat environment is evolving, and complacency can have dire consequences.

"We live in an age where information is more accessible than ever before," said Capt. Sarah Johnson, an OPSEC officer with the New York Army National Guard. "Our adversaries are constantly searching for anything they can use to undermine our operations—whether that's a social media post, a careless conversation, or a visible routine. The incident in D.C. is a stark reminder that we must be vigilant at all times."

For New York Guard Soldiers, the relevance of the D.C. attack extends beyond immediate safety concerns. The incident highlights how quickly information can be weaponized. In today's interconnected world, even seemingly harmless details—such as drill schedules and personal routines—can be pieced together by those seeking to do harm. The consequences are not theoretical; they are real and potentially life-threatening.

Leaders within the New York Military Forces have responded swiftly, issuing reminders about the importance of OPSEC and conducting refresher training sessions. Soldiers are being urged to review their social media presence, limit the sharing of sensitive information, and report any suspicious activity. "It's about creating a culture of security awareness," Johnson said. "We want every Soldier to understand that their actions matter, and that protecting information is as critical as any other aspect of their duty."

Continued below

The attack has also prompted discussions about the role of technology in both enabling and challenging OPSEC. Smartphones, wearable devices, and social media platforms are integral to daily life, but they also present unique risks. New York Guard Soldiers are being reminded to disable location services, use secure communication channels, and remain mindful of what is shared online. “Technology is a double-edged sword,” Johnson explained. “It can enhance our effectiveness, but it can also expose us if we’re not careful.”

Families and support networks are also part of the OPSEC equation. The New York National Guard has extended its awareness campaign to include spouses, partners, and children, emphasizing the importance of discretion when discussing military matters. “Our loved ones are often our first line of defense,” said Sfc. James Rivera, a New York National Guard recruiter. “They need to know what’s safe to share and what’s not, because the consequences can affect us all.”

As the investigation into the Washington, D.C. attack continues, New York Guard Soldiers are taking the lessons to heart. The incident serves as a powerful call to action: OPSEC is not just a bureaucratic requirement, but a matter of life and death. By remaining vigilant, embracing training, and fostering a culture of security, New York’s military personnel are working to ensure that they—and those who support them—are protected against emerging threats.

The D.C. attack may have happened far from New York, but its relevance is felt in every armory, every briefing, and every household. For New York Guard Soldiers, the message is clear: OPSEC is everyone’s responsibility, and the cost of neglect can be unthinkable.

OPSEC
OPERATIONS SECURITY

DON'T SAY:

WHERE: TROOP MOVEMENT & LOCATION

WHO: NO NAMES, RANKS, UNITS, ETC.

WHEN: NO DATES/TIMES OF FLIGHTS, LANDINGS, TAKE-OFFS

WHY: TO KEEP THEM SAFE!

THROUGH PHONE, EMAIL, FACEBOOK, IM, TWITTER, ETC.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR SOLDIER!

If you talk about Where they are going They may never make it there

MAINTAIN OPERATIONS SECURITY

OPSEC IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

EIGHTH ARMY

I WANT YOU TO BE MORE SECURE

PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Intelligence & Security, Security Directorate

47th Annual TAG Match

The Annual TAG (The Adjutant General's) Match is approaching and the New York Guard Combat Pistol Team will be competing once again. Over the years we have had many of our marksmen distinguish themselves by placing at the top of the leader board. Are you interested in being a part of our team? Contact your Chain of Command and let them know that you are ready to represent the New York Guard as a member of our Combat Pistol Team. JOIN US AND SHOOT FOR EXCELLENCE!.



47TH ANNUAL TAG MATCH
APRIL 9-12, 2026
CAMP SMITH TRAINING SITE

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

SCAN THE FOLLOWING QR CODE
AND COMPLETE THE FORM
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT
IN THE COMPETITION



REGISTRATION &
LAUTENBERG AGREEMENT



US ARMY GENERAL ORDERS

Memorize the General Orders

GENERAL ORDERS

1st General Order

"I will guard everything within the limits of my post and quit my post only when properly relieved."

2nd General Order

"I will obey my special orders and perform all of my duties in a military manner."

3rd General Order

"I will report violations of my special orders, emergencies, and anything not covered in my instructions, to the commander of the relief."

Happy Holidays to Our Fellow Soldiers!



Wishing You Joy, Peace, and Safety

As the holiday season arrives, we want to take a moment to celebrate the warmth and camaraderie that make the New York Guard community so special. Each of you brings your own unique spirit and skill set, and because of that we are greater than the sum of our parts.

May your holidays be filled with laughter, love, and cherished memories with those you hold dear. Whether you're near or far, we hope this season brings you comfort and happiness. Let's continue to support and inspire one another as we look forward to a bright new year ahead!

Thank you for being such an important part of the New York Guard and thank you for supporting The Sentinel. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a fantastic start to 2026!

Happy Holidays!

— From Your Public Affairs Team

1st Lt. Ed Shevlin

Ssg. Mike Bilski

Spc. Izzy Bateman



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