



COL Stephanie Dawson

COL Stephanie Dawson is the first female brigade commander in New York Army National Guard history. She took command of the 369th Sustainment Brigade in Nov. 2007, later serving as Deputy Commander of 53rd Troop Command, which oversaw two brigades before her retirement in 2011.

Before commanding the 369th she was Deputy Commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade. Earlier as Lieutenant Colonel (LTC), she served as commander of the 27th Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC), a battalion level unit attached to the Corps HQ, and deployed with that unit overseas in 2003/2004, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom. Dawson also served previously as a platoon leader and company commander during her military service. As Executive Officer for the 369th Corps Support Battalion in Harlem, NYC, during the unit's 9-11 activation in 2001, she helped spearhead battalion relief, security, supply, transportation, and other logistics support missions for initial Ground Zero operations following the collapse of the twin towers.

Dawson served as President of the National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) from 2013-2018) and is currently the immediate Past President. As President, she spearheaded fundraising in support of the dedication of a monument in Fort Leavenworth Kansas to recognize and tell the story ("Her Story") of the 6888th Postal Directory Battalion, the only all female, all African American unit, deployed overseas for WWII. Dawson previously was North East Regional Chair and founding President of the New York City Chapter of NABMW. Dawson is on the Board of the Rutgers Business School Veterans Advisory Board and served on the NYC Veterans Advisory Board, chairing the Women's Committee (2011-2012). She is also a life member of the Veterans of Foreign War, 369th Historical Society, and 369th Veterans Association amongst others. She supports many causes, including serving as a team captain for the Queens/Long Island Lupus Walk. She has also consistently serves as mentor, coach, and role model to youth and junior leaders.

Dawson is a 2007 graduate of the Army War College, the Army's Command and General Staff College and the Combined Arms and Services School. Her awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal among other awards.

As a civilian, she is the only female to serve as Chief Operating Officer (COO) at the Port

Authority (retiring 2017) and was responsible for annual revenue of more than \$4 billion dollars per year. She oversaw the Aviation (John F. Kennedy, Newark, Stewart International Airports, as well as LaGuardia and Teterboro Airports); Tunnels, Bridges, and Terminals; Port Commerce (Maritime); PATH Rail Transit System, and the Operations Services Department which supported all of the lines of business and created the Office of Storm Mitigation and Resilience. During her tenure she also had responsibility for police and emergency management, Agency grants management and integration of small business initiatives. Stephanie was also a bank operations manager, and Director in the City of New York overseeing a city-wide management and improvement program.

Background on 369th Sustainment Brigade:

The 369th Sustainment Brigade is one of nine such support units in the Army National Guard. A Sustainment Brigade provides command and control for combat service and combat service support units which enable the Army's combat teams to fight by providing fuel, ammunition, medical supplies, repair parts, and medical and other services. A Sustainment Brigade can support from one to 10 brigade combat teams depending on the number of service and support units it controls.

The 369th traces its heritage back to the 15th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard, an all African American unit organized in 1916. In 1917 the regiment was sent to France and renumbered as the 369th Infantry, but because American Army officers maintained segregated combat formations, the Soldiers were initially used for supply duties. The French Army, though, was more than happy to have these Soldiers fight for them and in May 1918 the 369th went into the trenches.

In tough fighting in France the unit won a regimental Croix de Guerre (it's highest award) from the French Army. and 200 individual Croix de Guerre were awarded. The unit also sustained 1,500 casualties and won itself the nickname "Harlem Hell fighters" and the respect of the German opponents and French allies. The 369th saw more frontline service than any other American unit in World War I.

In World War II the unit served as the 369th Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment, in the Gulf War of 1991 it served as the 369th Transportation Battalion and in 2004 it served as the 369th Corps Support Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom.