



LIBERTY CHAPTER



Volume 5, Issue 1

A Message From The President MG Joseph P. O'Leary (Ret)



The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act was passed by both chambers of congress and signed by President Obama early this year. The NDAA will put the Chief of the National Guard Bureau on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Craig McKinley, presently Chief of the Guard Bureau, will join the four service chiefs (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force) and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Martin Dempsey at the pentagon.

The National Guard Association, the Governors, The Adjutants General,, other organizations and friends on capitol hill joined together to accomplish this historic feat. Guard empowerment was the right thing to do, and the time was right to do it, after a decade unlike any the Guard has seen.

The Guard is a ready and able military force, one that has proven its worth to the Nation for over 375 years, especially the last 10. Home Land Security, Emergency Operations, and the welfare of the 470,000 Guardsmen will now be addressed at highest level of decision making in the Pentagon by a National Guardsman..

This comes at a time of growing pressure from many quarters to reduce defense spending. We need to decide how to defend our Nation and its global interests while cutting \$480 billion in defense spending over the next 10 years. Even under the best scenarios the Guard will likely lose assets and perhaps manpower. Some in Congress suggest it might be necessary to shift active component manpower and missions to the force that can maintain them at a fraction of the cost--to the National Guard and the Reserves.

The National Guard took only 10 percent of the army's budget last year. Our part time status lowers our personnel costs, our retirement starts later, and our medical costs are largely borne by civilian employers. We should always remember -- when you call out the Guard, you call out America. The Army and Air Guard are the components of our Armed Forces with military's strongest connection to the American people.

Winter 2012

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Monday
9 Apr 2012
1930 Hrs
Yonkers
Armory
Annual
Elections

Monday
9 Jul 2012
1930 Hrs
Yonkers
Armory

Thursday
18 Oct 2012
1930 Hrs
Polish C.C.
Yonkers,NY
Spouse/Friends
are Invited

Monday
7 Jan 2013
1930 Hrs
Orangeburg
Armory

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$12.00 E6 & Up \$2.00 E-1 to E-5 Due in April Each Year Check Your Mailing Label In Apr 2012 for Expiration Date



Presidents Message Cont'd

These community based citizen-soldiers and Airmen live in nearly every zip code We meet in Yonkers on Monday 9 April Annual Elections for Chapter Officers.

Upcoming events

TAG Professional Day and MANY Weekend will take place Thursday, April 12 thru , April 14, 2012 at the Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, New York.



West Point Boat Ride on the Hudson sponsored by NY Statue Of Liberty Chap AUSA, 42nd Inf Div Assn. and the Liberty Chapter SCRA is scheduled for 9 Jun 2012. A Flyer and has been posted to the web site at www.nysignal.org



134th NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition will be held 9-12 Sep 2012 in Reno Nevada.

The NYARNG Yellow Ribbon Event for the 101st Signal Battalion is scheduled for 23 & 24 June 2012. Place to be determined at a later date.

The Liberty Chapter Annual fishing trip aboard the "Riptide III" is scheduled for Wednesday September 5, 2012. While the main target fish that day will be Porgies, which are always plentiful, fun to catch and delicious, there is always the chance for a Fluke, Bluefish, Striper or even ???.

Annual Dues are due on 30 Apr 2012 Check your mailing labels, it will indicate expired or will expire on 30 Apr 2012. If after 30Apr12 then you are up to date.

To Promote the Espirit de Corps and Fraternity of the Signal Corps

Army Prepares to Field High-Tech New Comms Kit

Article by Matthew Cox and Photo, provided by www.military.com/news for 2 Mar 2012



Next year, the Army will begin equipping combat brigades with a new family of radios and communications gear designed to connect commanders on the move with trigger-pullers in the stack. If all goes as planned, Capability Set 13 will give soldiers at every level of a brigade combat team the ability to access a high-speed tactical network.

Army modernization officials intend to field this new mix of hardware and software to at least three BCTs deploying to Afghanistan in 2013.

For the first time, brigade and battalion-level leaders will be able to plug into the network while on the move, modernization officials say. Set 13 will also equip soldiers at the squad level with the Rifleman Radio, a Joint Tactical Radio System capable of sending and receiving voice and data communications over the network.

Army officials have been working toward fielding this capability for more than a decade. This complete, tactical network emerged out of the Army's failed Future Combat Systems effort and has become the service's top modernization priority.

Commanders need the ability to move on the battlefield and take the network with them, and you've got to have the individual soldier connected into it, said Paul Mehney, a spokesman for the Army's System of Systems Integration Directorate.

A key component of Set 13 is Increment 2 of the General Dynamics Warfighter Information Network Tactical, or Win-T. Increment 2 consists of a package of line-of-sight or terrestrial radios and satellite communications radios, antennas and software that provide units on the move with a self-healing network. The terrestrial radios form the primary connection and are backed up by satellite radios when connectivity is blocked by terrain and other battlefield challenges.

The Army has used the satellite-based WIN-T Increment 1 since 2004, but it doesn't work on the move.

Increment 2 has far greater bandwidth capacity than the radio-based Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below. This will allow units to send and receive data much faster, Army officials maintain.

Company level units will receive AN/PRC 117G Advanced Wideband Networking Waveform radios, made by Harris Corp. These vehicle-mounted radios can send and receive voice and data simultaneously and link forward units to battalion and brigade levels of command.

Soldiers at the platoon and squad level will receive Nett Warrior equipment, which is mainly a JTRS Rifleman Radio.

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You become a node on the network if you have a Rifleman Radio on your kit," Mehney said, describing how squad leaders can track the soldiers in their squad as Rifleman Radio icons on Nett Warrior's tactical smartphone device. The combination performed well during a recent operational evaluation that involved units from the 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan, Army officials said.

It's still unclear whether soldiers in rifleman or squad automatic weapon roles will be equipped with smartphones. Soldier feedback from the Army's last Network Integration Exercise raised the question -- Do they need that capability or does that become a distraction? Mehney asked. It's also unclear how much it will cost to equip an entire BCT with Set 13, Army officials said.

Capability Set 13 will be fielded to Infantry, Stryker and Heavy Brigade Combat Teams; each will have its own network architecture so equipment sets will vary per BCT, thus a standard BCT cost estimate is not effective, Mehney said.

Soldiers will evaluate the technology of Set 13 in the next Network Integration Exercise scheduled for May. The first BCT scheduled to receive Capability Set 13 is scheduled to begin training with the technology in October, Army officials say. That BCT will be identified sometime this summer.

The initial plan is to equip at least three BCTs next year, said Paul Wilson, project director for Synchronized Fielding, System of Systems Integration Directorate.

Our goal is to do more than that, he said. End state is to do about eight per year.

*Article by Matthew Cox and Photo, provided by www.military.com/news for 2 Mar 2012
Information on article provided by LTC Joe Torres*