



LIBERTY CHAPTER



Volume 1, Issue 5

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



On Saturday 13 Dec 08, the 101st Sig Bn hosted its fourth annual holiday military ball at the Polish community center in Yonkers. Over 200 service members and their families attended the affair, including many junior enlisted soldiers, as well as officers and NCO's and former members of the Battalion. BG Mike Swezey, Commander Troop Command and the state CSM, Bob VanPelt and his wife Debbie also enjoyed the festivities.

The hall was beautifully decorated and music was provided by a D.J. Huge poster sized photos of the Battalion in formation at FT Drum and of the individual Companies were displayed. The Ball committee made arrangements for two busses to transport soldiers and their families from Poughkeepsie and Orangeburg to Yonkers for the Ball and return at the end of the evening.

A professional photographer, provided by the committee, was on hand to take individual and group photos on request. An awards ceremony capped the formal part of the evening as the Battalion Commander, LTC Kilmartin, recognized and presented awards to two retiring NCO's, SGM Carl Dornbush, and SSG DiBatista. The Battalion will miss their experience and expertise but I'm sure we will see them both as they continue their proud service in the ranks of the veterans of the 101st Sig Bn. Good Luck

Air Guard General Craig R. McKinley has been awarded a fourth star and became Chief of the National Guard Bureau in a ceremony at the pentagon on 17 Nov 08. More than 300 people from all services and ranks watched Defense Secretary Robert Gates swear in McKinley as the first Four Star General to lead the National Guard in its 372 year history.

GEN McKinley is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flight hours and is the fourth Air Guard officer to serve as Chief National Guard Bureau. He succeeds Army LTG Steven Blum who served as Chief for the past five years and in January 09 will become Deputy Commander of US Northern Command -- The First Guard Officer to hold that position.

Of the Nations more than 460,000 citizen soldiers and airman, some 68,000 army and 5,700 air guard members are on active duty today for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. On any given day an average of 17 Governors call out their National Guard for a variety of domestic needs, Guard Bureau Officials said.

Winter 2009

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Monday
5 Jan 09
1930 Hrs
Orangeburg
Armory

Saturday
11 Apr 2009
1730 Hrs
Camp Smith
Annual
Elections

Monday
13 Jul 2009
1930 Hrs
Yonkers
Armory

Thursday
15 Oct 2009
1930 Hrs
Polish C.C.
Yonkers, NY

**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 08 for
Expiration Date



Upcoming Events

The Military Association of New York (MANY) conference will be held at the Sagamore, Lake George, NY on 17 to 19 April 09.

The National Guard Association (NGAUS) will host its next convention in Nashville, TN on 11-13 Sep 09

101st Sig Bn Holiday Formal Photos



Obituaries

CW4 Robert F. Taggart a retired soldier and full time technician of the 101st Signal Battalion, passed away on 3 Dec 08.

Robert proudly served in a number of military units and retired as a CW4 from the 101st Signal Battalion on May 1, 1978. He had given 43 years of service to his country. He was a veteran of WWII where he served with the 745 Tank Battalion and the Korean War where he served with the 101 Signal Battalion.

He was the recipient of numerous military citations including The Bronze Star with the V for valor, The Purple Heart and The Meritorious Service Medal.

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

MEMBER'S NEWS ITEMS

Article Provided by 1LT Alexander Martin



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The Liberty Chapter newsletter will be published 4 times a year prior to each scheduled meeting. Contributions, comments and suggestions should be e-mailed to: psuchanyc@yahoo.com or to nysignal@nysignal.org All Address corrections should also be forwarded to the above address.

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Signal Regiment Assn
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For those of you who have not met me, I am 1LT Alexander Martin and was appointed in September, the Company Commander of A Co, 101st ITS. To say that I am blessed, honored and humbled by this appointment would be an understatement. This company's true strength is the broad range of talents and experiences that each of its members bring to the table and their dedication to ensuring the success of our mission. Every drill I find someone who is an expert at something which turns out to be very important in our ability to succeed in doing what we were asked. We have several major missions in FY2009.

I want to take a minute to recognize SFC Pell, who as our HQ PSG stepped up and was acting 1SG for the first half of 2008. He was challenged by the many responsibilities of being 1SG and met and exceeded all expectations despite the fact that his background is not Signal. He led A Co through our Annual AT and was able to meet the Signal mission requirements even though we were short on Signal Soldiers. I would also like to recognize SFC Flanagan, who has taken the 1SG position and has brought his wealth of knowledge and experience to that role. It is a true pleasure to work with such a talented and dedicated individual and A Co is fortunate to have him in this role.

The most pressing issue right now is the expansion of A Co in size. We have been asked to increase our size by 27 soldiers in FY2009. In order to achieve this objective we are pressing in all directions, this includes recruitment, retention, through EPP (formerly STAP). We have established a Part Time Recruiting Force (PTRF) headed by SSG Beben and have been hosting regular recruiting events at the BOCES and local malls to find potential recruits. In our ranks, SGT Simpson, who used to be a full time recruited for the Marines, stood up and has brought his wealth of knowledge to help guide the PTRF. We have been working closely with the recruiting team and will be holding a Guard Experience night at the Poughkeepsie Armory at 1800 on January 10, 2009. For that event, each A Co soldier was asked to bring in one friend who is interested in the guard to hear more about what we do. From a retention standpoint, SSG Drayer, A Co's full time readiness NCO has also addressed a major component of our retention program by ensuring that each soldier in A Co is squared away from a schooling / pay / paperwork standpoint. This action serves as bedrock for the future growth of A Company, as all the basic soldier care issues are addressed in a timely professional manner. Finally we are actively scrubbing the EPP lists to find those qualified soldiers who are willing to come to Poughkeepsie to drill us. The task we have been given is much more difficult than I had initially imagined but I am confident that we will be successful.

Our next major mission for FY2009 will be the fielding and the familiarization with the new equipment that we have received from South Carolina and the new Satellite systems that we will be fielded. This is a challenge for us because all the new 190's which we have received are currently sitting in Orangeburg about 90 minutes from our Armory. This makes the logistics for performing PMCS's , executing training more complicated than if that equipment were at our Armory but we are developing plans to be able to accommodate this. Is it ideal ? No, but once again I am confident that we can handle it.

Finally and certainly as important as the above missions is the continued development, training and Team building of current A Co soldiers. Providing training opportunities to ensure that each and every soldier in this unit is trained to standard, is technically and tactically proficient and is able to perform and support this unit's wartime mission, is my responsibility. We accomplish that through our monthly training, through AT's and our oversea missions. It is very important to get the equipment out (whether it is a shelter, an antenna or a rifle) and work with it, so when the flag goes up we are prepared to meet whatever challenge is thrown at us. Having come from the enlisted ranks, I always hated it when there was nothing to do when I came to drill and the entire A Co team is dedicated to ensuring that the soldiers, NCOs and Officers are able to train and become proficient.