

The Nexus



Volume 3, Issue 1

New York National Guard Counterdrug

Summer 2010



Our Mission: To provide highly skilled personnel, specialized equipment and facilities as requested by Law Enforcement Agencies and Community Based Organizations in response to a changing drug threat.

The Colonel's Corner



As Fiscal Year 2010 comes to a close, we can all be proud of the outstanding accomplishments of the NYNG Counterdrug Task Force. It was a great year. Our program achieved commendable status, (the highest rating), by the National Guard Bureau as cited by our recent Counterdrug Program Evaluation. We taught over 5,000 students statewide. Our alternative activities helped enhance the lives of close to 30,000 participants. Our Criminal An-

alyst support to law enforcement, once again showed an increase in weapons and vehicle seizures. Over 65 million dollars worth of drugs, currency, and property were seized. Our Substance Abuse Prevention Program has made significant strides in training and testing of our soldiers and airmen. We've gone from 2nd to last to consistently placing in the top ten for testing nationally. Our Prevention Treatment & Outreach Program has made vast improvement and is working hard to meet the needs of our soldiers. Our OH-58 marijuana eradication support program continues to exceed previous year totals for marijuana found. The RC-26 program continues to be a major player both at home in the war on drugs, overseas in the war effort and regionally with it's support to Civil Authorities, as evidenced by this

year's participation in the Haiti earthquake support and the Gulf Oil Spill. During my travels throughout New York, I frequently engage with law enforcement agencies heads and school administrators who consistently tell me how great our program is and how awesome our soldiers and airmen are. I could not be more proud of you and this program. I look forward to meeting the challenges ahead with you. Together, we are making a difference.

~COL Saddlemyre



NYNG CDTF XO's Welcoming Words

The Summer 2010 edition of The Nexus has been timed perfectly to coincide with the NYNG Counterdrug Task Force Annual Conference in Lake Placid. For those of you receiving this edition of The NEXUS upon your arrival at the conference, we welcome you to an outstanding opportunity for sharing best practices and receiving world class training from our guest speakers and Counterdrug staff. We have collected suggestions from conference attendees over the years and incorporated many of them into this year's schedule. The result is a conference created by our personnel, for our personnel. This

year's conference location, one of the most scenic areas of the state, emphasizes our support near the northern border. Simply traveling to the conference provides a unique opportunity for our members to become more familiar with the region. As always, we remind all of our attendees and guests to keep safety in mind during their travels and to evaluate risks, especially when driving. Many of our personnel know "the buddy system", and "if it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't", so we are confident, during the conference and throughout the year, we can count on our people to

accomplish each and every mission safely and effectively.



~Lt Col Falvo

Check us out at- www.counterdrug.com

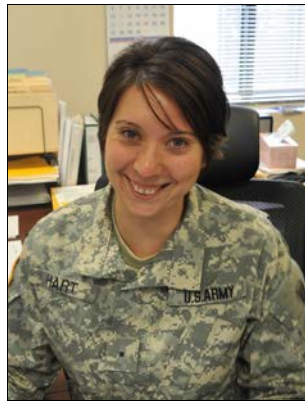
Hellos and Goodbyes Around the Task Force

Western Region has a couple retirements to announce. 1SG Sudyn and SSG Caicedo have now said their goodbyes and will surely be missed. Some of the new faces in Western belong to SGT Allen, working with Intel (Southern Tier Task Force), as well as SSgt Birch and SPC Braun (both with DEA Buffalo), SGT Lindstrom (ICE), and SGT Sanger, who works with DDR (Buffalo).

Northeast Region has no new retirements to announce but has position moves with the region itself. Reassigned DDR rep SSgt Lansley now works with the Rensselaer County Sheriffs Department. SPC Romeo transitioned from Albany DEA to the NYS-IC while SFC Mansman and SGT Stickle were reassigned from the NYSIC to Albany DEA. SSG Markham has also been reassigned to the Albany DEA from HQ. SPC Taylor has moved from Syracuse DEA to Syracuse DDR. SPC DeTamaso is backfilling for SSgt Gardner while she is on title 10 orders. SPC Lingo was hired at the Albany AG's office.

HQ had, what seems to be, a complete overhaul. WOC Courville is now a full fledged Army Warrant Officer and the new OIC of J4 as well as a new bride! So, be sure to congratulate HQ's very own WO1

Hart on her promotion and marriage. J8's SSG Gillis is now the NCOIC of the J4. Also added to the J4 is newly hired SSgt Mattingley. SSgt James has been hired as the CDTF IT specialist. A1C Pierson replaced SrA Myers in the J1 as well as SSgt Clements (or her new married name, Guthinger) takes over for SPC Thorpe in the J3. SrA Newberry is the new Deputy Comptroller and TSgt Rinaldi will soon be the new Comptroller as SSG Comer is leaving the program to further his education. TSgt Kot retired back in May. Lastly for HQ, SMSgt Maryalice Rebis has also decided to leave the NYNG CDTF to further her career in Washington DC, working at the Pentagon.



CDTF HQ Logistics OIC, WO1 Michelle Hart

RC-26B welcomes three new aviators this year, Pilots Lt Andy O'Keeffe and Lt Nate Jobson along with Systems Operator Capt Chris Clifford. Saying their farewells are Lt Col Larson in February and SMSgt Gianetto in March.

OH-58 says it's good byes to CW2 Paul Engle as he leaves to further his career as an Logistics Officer for CCMRF/Army Blackhawk Pilot. Returning to the pilot seat for the CDTF is CW2 Jonathan "Dean Martin" Noble. He was the CD OH-58 pilot two years ago and is back for more!

NYC Region CPT Murphy is the region's new commander as CPT Padley left the Counterdrug program for PTAE in Camp Smith. SGT Romano has been added as an Intel Analyst HIDTA NIU while SGT Smalls has been hired as an Intel Analyst NYSP CNET.

SGT You has been assigned to DDR and SPC Sogomonyan represents the CD member for Intel Analyst USCG-FIST. SSG Rodriguez went from HIDTA Intel to DDR while SSG Villalobos went from USCG-FIST to DEA LIDO. Finally SFC Wolfe is currently deployed supporting the war effort.

Please make sure to welcome all the new members and remember the ones who are leaving. **HALE and FAREWELL!**

A Senior Master Sergeant's Farewell

A little over six years ago, I started working at Counterdrug Headquarters. Little of the Program today resembles what I found back then. Many of the "regulars" were deployed on the first wave of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the staff talked of them often. Fortunately (or not some might say), for me, the Air Force was only deploying their folks for four months at a time, so I cannot even fathom what those soldiers and families had gone and continue to go through. Since that time, several of those soldiers have returned and have deployed again! To you who sacrifice so much for us, thank you. We enjoy our

lives and the comforts of home, while you all put everything aside for us.

Over the past six years, the faces and names of Counterdrug have changed, and much of the program is but a shadow of what it was twenty years ago. Some would say that isn't a good thing – others would disagree. Whatever your opinion of the New York Counterdrug Program – this Airman is grateful. Grateful for the opportunities this position has afforded me; grateful for the people I've met along the way within the regions and even more grateful for the wonderful, lasting friendships I've formed.

They say the military is such a small world – so I'm sure (I hope) our paths will cross again. As I move on to a new position, I'd like to thank you all for your service and sacrifice and "May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the hollow of his hand."



SMSgt Maryalice Rebis

NY State Threats



*Seized Contraband***

FY 10 cash value seizures

Cocaine: \$9,891,991.20+
Heroin: \$8,589,130.62+
Marijuana: \$35,055,304.58+
Other Drugs: \$1,325,860.10+
Currency: \$7,284,770.59+
Property: \$1,389,170.00+
Weapons: 337+

FY 10
Total Seizures: \$65,236,200+
Arrests: 928



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Security & Support / OH-58



LEA officers count their "score" after OH-58 supported ERAD missions in late July of this year.

The FY10 season has been **OUTSTANDING!!** NYNG CDTF was able to acquire more funding for fuel, thus increasing our flight hours. By mid-August, we have exceeded FY09's seizures with over 2900 plants, several pounds of processed MJ and weapons, and we have four weeks remaining in the schedule. Also, all pilots were able to attend the CD Doctrinal Training course, as per NGR 500-2.

We have also increased our mission-readiness rate.

The largest seizure to date was along the Vermont border with a 2-day operation netting 1650+ plants. Of note: we have impact-

ed four grow operations; one grower was growing plants for 40 years without the local LEA suspecting it. We found one grow site that had 16 foot plants and another site that used adjacent corn stalks as a canopy. Another note is that we find more sites with 1-5 plants and 5-10 plants, mostly just off their property or in their backyard; probably to augment individuals' income.

FY11/12 will be difficult to schedule flight crews as NY ARNG is deploying the Blackhawk unit again and will be taking some of our pilots and mechanics.

If your LEAs want support, please have them put their request letter in as soon as possible. We will support them as best as possible with full-time folks or from other resources.

Lastly, because we have more flight hours in FY11, we are looking to increase our support during the off-season with warrant executions, FLIR & Nitesun, vehicle and stationary surveillance, and over-head support missions. If your LEA is interested please have them call CW2 Noble.



CW2s Noble & Engle guide LEA & CDTF units to a "grow" site.

Mobile Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS)

The current MVIS' (model year 2000) maintenance contract will expire in April. There are no plans to renew its contract as of now. The system will be kept running unless there is an issue of some expense. It will then be converted to a rack truck with the radiation system being turned back in.

In the works, a vehicle from the Air Force's excess fleet. The new vehicle (Rapiscan GarDS Mobile "Gamma



Radiographic Detection System") may potentially be "donated" to the CDTF!



RC-26B

The last eight months have racked up an enormous amount of flying time for the C-26 and her crews.

Ninety percent of their missions were in support of the NYNG Counterdrug Task Force. The other ten percent were lending a helping hand around the world. From the war effort in the Middle East, to 186 hours in Haiti earthquake support operations.

Recently, more than 415 flying hrs have been amassed in support for Operation Deepwater Horizon. The C-26 has flown more than double to sextuple the missions than other air frames in support of the worst oil spill in United States history.



Substance Abuse

Substance Abuse Testing Requirements

Army
 Goal of 10% a month
 Requirement of 25% a quarter

Air Force
 Goal of 5% a month
 Requirement of 13% a quarter

Today's citizen Soldiers and Airmen must be prepared at all times to answer the call of duty. Whether called up for a State or Federal mission, all personnel must be well trained, physically fit and mentally alert.

Substance abuse related dependency or misconduct degrades both unit readiness and mission accomplishment. This type of behavior is potentially disastrous to the service member, their family, and public's confidence in the military that is sworn to protect them.

NYNG Substance Abuse Program & Prevention Treatment and Outreach



SSG Tom Ruffing
518-786-3482



SSG Mike Broderick
518-786-3481



TSgt Jared Semerad
518-786-3459



SGT Gina Olcott
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HELPFUL RESOURCES

www.militaryonesource.com, www.vetcenter.com, www.va.gov

www.alcoholics-anonymous.com, www.secularrecovery.com

CDTF on the Evening News



3 August, 2010's National Night Out "Sk8 Nite" event in Orangeburg, NY, provided the CDTF with some very important and welcoming media coverage. Local news stations were there to cover the event exposing the NYNG CDTF aiding the LEAs in charge of running the event.

Shattering the Myths from the National Institute of Drug Abuse

Getting Started: 5 Steps to Hosting a NDFW Event

National Drug Facts Week is a collaborative effort between organizations, adult advisors and local teens.

The best way for you to help shatter the myths about drugs is to host an event in your community with a scientific expert, so teens can ask questions about drugs and get real, factual answers.

All National Drug Facts Week Events should:

1. Have an adult advisor
2. Be held during November 8th-14th, 2010
3. Have a scientific expert
4. Be centered on getting the facts on drugs and drug abuse to teens
5. Be registered on the NIDA website

Are you up for the challenge? Here's what you'll need to do:

Step 1: Find an Adult Advisor

Step 2: Brainstorm an event

Step 3: Find an Expert

Step 4: Register your event

Step 5: Spread the word

Step 1: Find an Adult Advisor

The first step to hosting a National Drug Facts Week Event is to find an adult advisor who can help. You will need an adult advisor to register your event and get it approved by NIDA. An adult advisor should be part of a larger organization interested in helping to shatter the myths about drugs and drug abuse. The advisor could be a teacher, a church group advisor, a

coach, a PTA member or any adult excited about National Drug Facts Week.

Step 2: Brainstorm an event

You have your team in place—now it's time to figure out what type of event would work best for your school or community. Take a look at the Activities section for ideas on events. You can also start by thinking about where you want to host your event (e.g., school football field/auditorium, community center, etc.) and then figure out what kind of events would work in that space. Work with your adult advisor to get permission to hold an event and to find a place to have the event. Once you've decided what event you will do, divvy up the tasks and you are on your way!

Step 3: Find an Expert

You've got the team and you've got the event idea. Now it's time to find an Expert for your event—after all, it's not National Drug Facts Week unless you have an expert on hand to answer questions with factual answers! There are likely experts in your area who have a professional background in the science of drugs or drug abuse. The key is finding the right one for your event. Luckily, there are great resources in your community or on the web that can help you find a local expert.

Step 4: Register your event

Be sure you and your adult advisors register your event and get it approved. You can also check out other NIDA approved events around the country! Use the Drug Facts Facebook page to publicize your NIDA Approved NDFW event and to connect with other events nationwide. Don't forget to send us some pictures so we can show the nation your hard work!

Step 5: Spread the Word About Your Event!

OK—so you have the world's best idea! Now it's time to get your event noticed and get teens to participate! The first step is to let NIDA help you publicize

your event—tell us about it by registering and getting it approved by NIDA! Once your event is approved by NIDA, be sure to use the cool National Drug Facts Week logo as part of your advertisement.

Advertise to your friends and community

Talk about it, Tell everyone you know

The best way to get people to come to your event is to talk about it with your friends and community members. Hand out our "Drug Facts: Shatter the Myths" booklet, along with a flyer advertising your event to get people excited. You can even make a sticker about your event and put it on the back cover of the "Drug Facts: Shatter the Myths" booklet. Make sure you put all the important details on your flyer – who, what, where, when, and why is a good place to start! Putting your posters and flyers up around your school and town is also a great way to get noticed.



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What I Did on My Summer Vacation by MSgt Heather Klein

If you asked any given person “What is your typical summer vacation like?” one might get the response, “summer vacation is a time to relax and de-stress. It is the time to take off from work and spend the warm, sunny weather with your closest family and friends at the lakes, beach, or wherever your vacation destination takes you.” But for the NYC DDR team, their answer would be a little different... as “summer vacation” is the busiest time of the year for these eight Counterdrug members. From multiple Rockwall and low rope events to various summer camps throughout the five boroughs, these three summer months are the most demanding yet rewarding for the team. While their dedication and skills are pushed to the limit and a forty hour work week is long forgotten, they still do it all with a smile.

This year, the NYC region exceeded past years summer support by assisting seven organizations and schools during their summer camps June through August. Eight personnel were assigned to the DDR team during the summer months and split into two squads to ensure quality support. Each squad supported these organizations and schools Monday through Friday. From instructing the Stay on Track Program to supporting summer boot camps, the NYC DDR team could be found in any given borough, each day of the week, creating a drug-free message to the youth of the community.

Stay on Track was taught at IS 192’s summer school in Queens and at the 88th Precinct in Brooklyn during their annual summer boot camp. COL Saddle mire and 1st Lt Flanigan had the opportunity firsthand to see the youth of the 88th Precinct show off all their hard work, disci-

pline and knowledge from Stay on Track when they visited in early August. A majority of the participants of this boot camp continue on to the NYPD Explorer Program which sets them up for success as a future NYPC police officer.

PS 169, the Robert F. Kennedy School was one of the region’s inaugural summer support programs this season. PS 169 has been receiving SOT for the past three years and was excited to sign on this summer to a summer school boot camp. Youth enjoyed learning military drills and physical fitness exercises. The low ropes activities were also introduced to the students which gave them a fun, rewarding challenge and the opportunity to work with a team.

Along with instructing SOT and boot camp support, the DDR team assisted in four organizations’ summer programs; Orange County Boys and Girls Club, The Police Athletic League, The Children’s Art and Science Workshop of Marble Hill, and The Children’s Art and Science Workshop of Bronx River. Youth ranging in age from elementary to high school participated in these programs. Drug education, military physical fitness, drill and ceremony, and low rope activities were instructed to the youth of these programs. Many youth from these programs have been SOT students during the school year, and loved seeing their favorite “Army or Air Force” buddy during the summer. Over the course of the summer, NYC region has supported ten Rockwall events to include the Skate Jam event on August 3rd in Orangeburg to celebrate National Night Out. Also in August, the Police Athletic League had the team busy supporting a Rockwall each day of the week. Every day brought the team to a different borough; from Coney Island in Brooklyn to Watson Gleason Park in

the Bronx, each Rockwall brought together hundreds of community youth celebrating the importance of being drug free.

As August is coming to an end, the warm weather is cooling down and school bags are getting dusted off, many reflect on their “summer vacation” experiences. For most, it was a warm beach complete with sunburn, a calming boat ride on the lake, or a long, relaxing weekend away from home with loved ones. For the members of the NYC DDR team, this “summer vacation” was an unforgettable experience. It was one full of memories and smiles from the thousands of youth they reached in the hopes to make a difference in their life and imprint a lasting, positive image on tomorrow’s future.



MSgt Heather Klein at the 2010 National Night Out “Sk8 Nite” event in Orangeburg, NY this August 3rd.

Wisconsin Air Guard Lends a Helping “Wing”

By SMSgt Doris Libby

While the New York National Guard Counterdrug RC-26 aircraft and it's crew was serving overseas, members of the RC-26 crew from the Wisconsin Air National Guard came to the rescue and assisted the DEA Long Island District Office, Group D-14. The mission involved an organized crime family dealing in drug distribution and money laundering.

Lt Col Michael Tiltrum (Pilot), Maj Timothy Leverence (Missions System Operator) and Capt Adam Kinzinger (Co-Pilot), were more than happy to come and support New York. They have never been to the NYC area and were excited to support us and get a chance to see the New York sites. The DEA Agents and Task Force Officers were excellent tour guides!

While here, the RC-26 crew provided aerial Photography/Video and Reconnaissance/Observation sorties, in the Orange County, NY area. The location consists of a large new dwelling on approximately 100 acres of property. The goal of the RC-26 and DEA, Group D-14 Task Force team, was to locate a concealed helicopter and a semi-tractor trailer on the property, as well as look for signs of drug distribution and trafficking activities.

Lt Col Tiltrum and his staff wanted to thank everyone here at the DEA Long Island District Office and the members of the NYNG Counterdrug Task Force Program, for all of their support and for making the mission go very smoothly for them. They are looking forward to coming to New York again to assist us in future missions.



Lt Col Tiltrum (Pilot), Det. Reilly, Det. Holmes, Capt Kinzinger (Co-Pilot), Det. Cruz and SMSgt Libby.

Growing Up by Maj Nicholas Dean

Growing up is a hard thing to do for all of us but harder for others! As a youth growing up in Schenectady, I spent 90% of my time away from home. I was either in school or playing sports. Most of my life lessons were taught by teachers, coaches or youth program volunteers. So, I guess you would say, I am who I am because of these people! Good, bad or indifferent, you are a product of those around you. Growing up, I never had to worry about drugs, robberies or random shootings. I feel I was lucky to grow up when I did. Why do I tell you this? Why should you care?

Last week, I was speaking to the Schenectady's, Craig Street, Boys and Girls Club facility director, Mike Center. Mr. Center mentioned that one of the young boys he and I had coached on an AAU basketball team two years ago, was recently shot and killed. The boy was 15 years old! What happened? Who did it? How could this young man die so young? These are all good questions that we may never have all the answers to. Unfortunately, random shootings and criminal activities are increasing in our communities daily.

As Counterdrug Task Force members we have a very important mission. Each time we assist with a Law Enforcement investigation, we help make our streets safer by getting criminals off the streets. When we mentor youth we are planting seeds that may grow into great things. These youth could affect our communities for years to come! As a Regional Commander I would like to leave you with one goal:

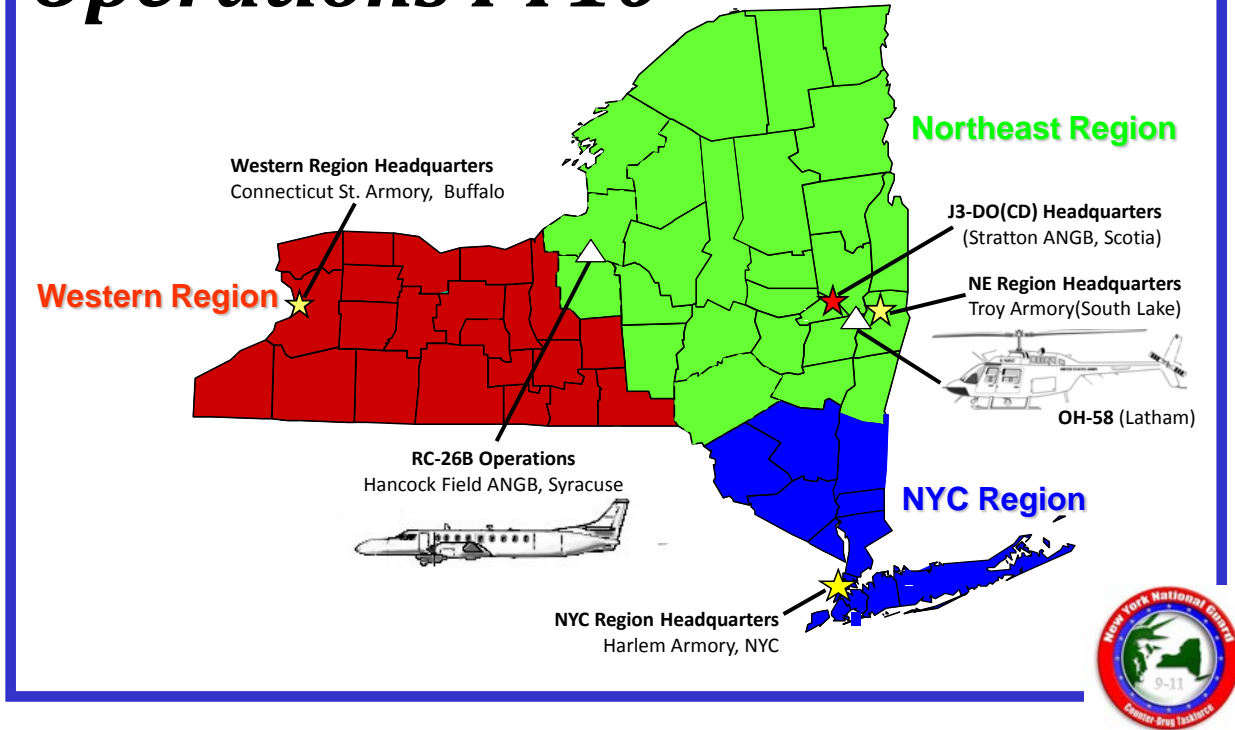
**“Make a difference...each day
change one person's life for the
good!”**

As Counterdrug members our **“EFFORTS”** could take a shooter off the streets, prevent someone from using an HIV infected needle, or helping someone realize that an education is more important than a “fix”. We are the teachers, coaches and youth program volunteers that help mold and mentor the youth in our communities. All of the activities, education and mentoring we provide, to our communities, **“MAKES A DIFFERENCE”** to a child **“GROWING UP”**.



NE Region OIC, Maj Nick Dean

Counterdrug Regional Operations FY10



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