



# The Essex Troop

Volume 115 Issue 3

September 2005

The Essex Troop Association – 1315 Pleasant Valley Way – West Orange, NJ - 07052



## President's Message

**KATRINA!** A name that will live in history as one of the worst hurricanes to ever hit the Gulf Coast of the United States. The carnage visited upon the communities by this powerful category five storm will take weeks, and maybe months to assess. From the loss of lives, which some estimate to be in the thousands, to the real property damage and loss of personal items, can only be imagined? As I write this column today, there are a number tractor trailers from Bravo Company of the 250th Forward Support Battalion out of Bordentown, New Jersey loading hundreds of pallets of bottled water onto their vehicles here at the West Orange Armory. LTC Sarama, CSM (Ret) Robert Boggs (W.O.), SFC John Sexton (W.O.), SFC Mike Phelan (W.O.), and SFC Garnham are among the two dozen or so personnel working and supervising the operation under the control of DISCOM. They will transport the water to McGuire AFB where it will be flown to the Gulf Coast. There are a number of other armories throughout the state that are also deposit points for bottled water. I took the time to talk to several of the personnel involved and they informed me the response has been terrific. Again, I stood there and saw myself pitching in and thinking this is the stuff that makes us proud to say we served in the National Guard. I personally remember as a young soldier responding to the hurricane that wreaked havoc on Long Beach Island, New Jersey back in the early sixties. That was certainly an awakening for me. We wish all the victims of this terrible tragedy a speedy recovery of their lives and express our condolences for their losses. I'm sure I speak for all our members in this regard.

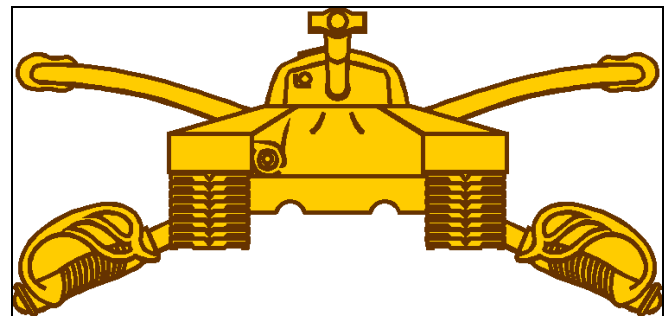
As an update, we have been working in consort with TAG to prevent the 102D Armor (Essex Troop) from being deactivated under a current restructuring of the entire Military system. We are moving from heavy armor units to easily deployable quick reaction forces. It's not quite that simple, but that's the general idea. As the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry of the State of New Jersey, and the oldest such unit, we feel very strongly that the lineage and history of the highly decorated unit and its designation as the 102D "Essex Troop" must be retained in favor of any junior unit. We are working diligently through all channels to supply TAG and his staff with the pertinent

President's Message Cont'd  
data that fortifies our position in this extremely important selection process. We expect a decision from TAG in the near future, perhaps, even before you receive this newsletter as to which unit will be the new Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) Battalion.

The Annual Family Picnic was a success again, as usual. A short business meeting was held prior to the start of the picnic and is addressed in the newsletter. Participants at the picnic enjoyed games, food and camaraderie throughout the day. Weather was fine and many persons went to the beach for a swim.

**October 2005.** It will be held at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, NJ. We need you to respond by October 1, 2005 for planning purposes. You should have received our flyer by now. So mark it on your calendar **today** so you don't forget. If you have a special need we may be able to assist with, please call us. The facility is handicapped accessible. See you there!

Ron Fahey



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### OFFICERS

President ..... Ron Fahey  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ..... Dean Spenzos  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President ..... Paul Tavarone  
Secretary ..... Walter Gill  
Treasurer ..... Dave VanBenschoten  
Sergeant at Arms ..... Vernon Pedersen  
Past President ..... Bob Theall  
Chaplain ..... Michael Festa

### TRUSTEES

Walter Hill – Stanley Krenkowitz - Frank Dulfer  
Myles Rahill - William Marshall III – Michael Renahan

## Meetings, Etc.

<b>EVENT / MEETING</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Annual Muster Get Together	TBA
115 Anniversary Reunion	22 Oct 05
Christmas Party	17 Dec 05

## 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion

### **MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW**

**DATE: Saturday, October 22, 2005**

**PLACE: Mayfair Farms  
481 Eagle Rock Avenue  
West Orange, NJ**

**COST: \$70.00 per person (all inclusive)**

**Dinner is prime rib. An alternate of fish or fowl can be accommodated. Please note as such with your reservation.**

**\*\*\*Cocktail Hour-Dinner-Dancing-Open Bar\*\*\***

**Call: 973-736-0952  
Email: [etroop@verizon.net](mailto:etroop@verizon.net)**

## Dues Notice

**Annual dues are due January 1 of each year. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please renew your membership as soon as possible. Send in your \$15.00 to the attention of the Membership Committee.**

## From The Turret

A message from the  
Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 102<sup>nd</sup> Armor

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am LTC Ken Schechter. I assumed command of 2-102d Armor, from LTC John Manfre, on 1 September 2005. I have been an Armor Officer my entire career. I have spent time on active duty as an Armor Platoon Leader and in many assignments in the New Jersey Army National Guard, including Company Commander, Battalion Logistics Officer, Battalion Training Officer, Brigade S3 and Brigade XO, to name a few. I have gained experience through a large spectrum of operations, in my many assignments, and am ready to command this outstanding organization

The Battalion returned in August from a very successful Annual Training period at Ft Indiantown Gap, Pa. The focus this Annual Training was on convoy operations, convoy security, route and area reconnaissance and basic soldier skills. There was a shortfall of soldiers at Annual Training, this year, due to the ability of redeployed soldiers to have a choice on attending AT, but this did not stop the Battalion from having a successful, challenging and exciting Annual Training. The soldiers all seemed to enjoy the training and received accolades for outstanding execution. The Battalion also conducted a Staff Ride to Antietam Battlefield, while at Annual Training. This trip afforded all of the soldiers attending Annual Training with an opportunity to see the Battlefield and gain some professional development, as a result.

This upcoming Training Year will be very busy and exciting. This Training Year we will be executing Tank Gunnery and individual soldier skills. Tank Gunnery will culminate this year with a modified Tank Table VII at Ft Dix. Our tankers are looking forward to shooting this year. Annual Training, this upcoming year, is scheduled for Ft Drum, NY and will focus on Military Operations in Urban Environment (MOUT) training, convoy security operations and route and area reconnaissance. During the first quarter of this Training Year, the Battalion will be sending our soldiers to West Point, New York to accomplish Individual Weapons Qualification (IWQ). We will also be training on convoy operations and preparing for the Tank Crewman Gunnery Skills Test (TCGST).

Lastly, I just want to say how excited and honored I am to be taking over such an outstanding organization. I am looking forward to the year ahead and opportunity to work with these exceptional leaders and soldiers.

LTC Kenneth S. Schechter  
"Armored Knights"

**We need your input. Please send in news and articles of interest that can be published in the newsletter. Help spread the news.**

## Business Meeting And Picnic At Sea Girt

The quarterly business meeting was conducted on Saturday 30 July 2005 at the New Jersey Military Museum Sea Girt, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 1145 hours by President Ronald Fahey, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by the Secretary Walter Gill. Present were members Ron Fahey, Dean Spencos, Walter Gill, Stan Krenkowitz, Dave VanBenschoten, Myles Rahill, Frank Dulfer, Bill, Marshall, Mike Renahan, Vern Pedersen, Mike Festa, Frank Carlone, Jack Ferguson, Bill McManus, Anthony Galimoto, Dave Fiedler, Vic Morgano, Don Tracy, John Rivera, Bill Woodward, Walter Hill, Tony LaMastra, Frank "Pat" Dodd, and Bill Wishart. Committee reports from Treasurer, Scholarship, Historical and Membership were submitted and accepted as read. Bill McManus submitted a record of Basic Training from 1947 for our historical records – thanks Bill. **OLD BUSINESS:** None to discuss. **NEW BUSINESS: ARMY vs BAYLOR** Football Game set for 17 September 2005 @ \$25.00 per ticket. Bus to leave WO Armory at 0800 hrs. Call ET office for details. **115<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION** to be held 22 October 2005 at Mayfair Farms West Orange at \$70.00 per person (supplemented by ET at \$50.00 per person). Short presentation by Bill Marshall about the **FORCE RESTRUCTURE** currently going on in the Armed Forces and how it may affect the New Jersey National Guard. **NEW "ESSEX TROOP" STADIUM BLANKET** was displayed to the members by Myles Rahill. For sale at \$35.00 each. Ray Rauanheimo, acting curator of the museum, addressed the assemblage about the ongoing **"Oral History Program"** in which veterans of all combat actions are asked to record their experiences for the state archives. He also asked for volunteers to assist in being docents at the museum. Several applications were handed out. He requested Essex Troop involvement for the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the museum that is coming up in December this year. President Ron Fahey requested he notify us of what we can do to participate. Ron Fahey also authorized Ray to hire a small truck if necessary to transport a number of bulky Essex Troop artifacts to the **WAR MEMORIAL AT TRENTON** for a history display of Essex Troop memorabilia. Former State Senator Frank "Pat" Dodd was present. Pat was a member of the 102D ACR back in the fifties. It was great to see him again.

**\*\* Of special note: Colonel Frank Dulfer, a trustee of the Essex Troop Association, graduated from THE WAR COLLEGE on 29 July 2005. President Ron Fahey made this announcement to the assembly and Frank received a hardy ovation. There is lots of hard work and long study hours that go into this accomplishment. Congratulations for a job well done, Frank.**

Closing remarks by President Ron Fahey.  
Benediction by Dr. Mike Festa, ET Chaplain  
Meeting adjourned at 1315 hours.

## Current Mobilizations

This week, the Navy announced an increase in the number of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps had a decrease. The Coast Guard number remained the same. The net collective result is 1,481 fewer reservists mobilized than last week.

At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. Total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 120,307; Navy Reserve, 4,614; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 10,186; Marine Corps Reserve, 8,827; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 538. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel, who have been mobilized, to 144,472, including both units and individual augmentees.

## 2005 Scholarship Recipients

Once again the Essex Troop has awarded scholarships to deserving young men and women associated with the Essex Troop. Each year applications are filed by individuals attending, or planning on attending, college. They must meet certain standards and are selected based on criteria established by the Essex Troop Scholarship Committee. Trustee Walter Hill chairs the committee and makes the selections in cooperation with the Officers and Trustees of the Association. This year we distributed \$4,000.00 to family members of our military personnel. The 2/102 Armor Regimental scholarship went to Katherine Dulfer pictured to the left. Presenting the **Regimental Scholarship** check for \$2,000.00 is Association President Ron Fahey with Chairman Walter Hill looking on. "Katie" is the daughter of Colonel Frank and Maribeth Dulfer and will be attending Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland. The scholarships are open to all members of the Essex Troop and their immediate family, all active members of the 2/102 Armor and 5/117<sup>th</sup> Recon Squadron. Since the scholarship program began, the Essex Troop Association has distributed more than \$60,000.00 in scholarships.

Pictured to the below is Sean Renahan accepting a check for the **Colonel George Saunders Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Association President Ron Fahey. Sean is attending Montclair State University as a junior this year. Colonel Saunders led the 102D Reconnaissance Squadron during much of WWII all through Europe. Sean is the son of Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Mike and Rosemary Renahan.

The **Matthias Garrigan Scholarship** is named in honor of one of the Past Presidents of the Association. Accepting a check for \$1,000.00 from Association President Ron Fahey is Lauren Waldrop with Mom and Walter Hill looking on. Lauren is also the daughter of Sergeant Major Richard Waldrop of the 2/102 Armor. Lauren will be off to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She will be a senior this year and is pursuing a major in Political Science. We wish them all good luck in their pursuit of higher education and hope that each one of them realizes the satisfaction of accomplishing their dream. We are proud to have them as part of our family.



Walter Hill (L) and Ron Fahey (R) presents Katherine Dulfer with a scholarship check for \$2000.



Walter Hill (L) and Ron Fahey (R) presents Lauren Waldrop with a scholarship check for \$1000.



Ron Fahey presents Sean Renahan with a scholarship check for \$1000.

## Louisiana Guard Returns From Iraq To Disaster

FORT POLK, La. (Army News Service, Sept. 8, 2005) -- Imagine returning from a war zone to find the home you left behind looking worse than where you just served. While only an unlikely nightmare for most, for some members of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, Louisiana Army National Guard, it is a harsh reality.

With the devastation caused by recent Hurricane Katrina to New Orleans and surrounding communities, many Soldiers are returning home to find they have no home.

However, like a good battle buddy watching their brethren's back down range, the Fort Polk community has stepped up to give their "brothers-in-arms" a roof over their heads to weather the storm.

"We have to take care of our own," said Rick Russell, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

### **Three-fold plan to house families**

The plan to house returning Soldiers who may have lost everything is three-fold, Russell said.

The first part involves filling up the available 88 housing units on post. In addition to housing displaced Soldiers and their immediate families, Russell said there are also plans to fill housing with new furnishings through funds with funds that may be secured through the Southwest Region of the Installation Management Agency by Col. Wade Woolfrey Jr., garrison commander.

"We want to put them in the best facilities possible," Russell said.

### **Mobile homes are Phase II**

Due to the large number of families that may need homes, though, a second phase of purchasing and renovating mobile home parks scattered near the installation is being planned. This project entails 330 mobile homes to house returning 256th Soldiers. The homes will also be equipped with furniture, washers, dryers, tables, lamps, microwaves and access stairs and ramps.

"It should take about 10 weeks to complete this project," Russell said, noting emphasis is being placed on utilities such as sewer, water and electricity. The project, which will cost about \$11 million, will be performed by bidding contractors through the Directorate of Public Works and in coordination with the Corp of Engineers.

In the meantime, Russell said the third phase will be to build up and prepare the Force Provider Complex on North Fort for those awaiting the completion of the new mobile homes. This complex, according to Russell, can house 550 families.

While it may not be home, the complex will have all amenities necessary, such as air conditioning, laundry and a chapel, among others, to help families stay as comfortable as possible before moving into more permanent quarters. As homes are completed, Russell said families would be transferred out, filling in on-base housing and mobile homes first before moving off post.

### **Care means more than homes**

Housing may go a long way toward helping hurricane victims, but a house doesn't always equate with a home.

To help define the difference, Fort Polk and surrounding community agencies are trying to make life return as close to normal as possible.

Included in these steps are working with the Vernon Parish School Board to integrate displaced children into their schools, creating new bus stops and bus routes and distributing financial dislocation allowances. For those who lost jobs in addition to homes, Soldiers affected are being kept on active duty so they can continue to draw a paycheck to support their families.

"We want to give the Soldiers something to do," Russell said. "We have tons of employment opportunities for them here (on post)."

### **Returning Soldiers could be OCs**

Job opportunities, according to Russell, include providing trainers and staff augmentees to support Fort Polk's force protection and mobilization mission or serve as observer controllers for the Joint Readiness Training Center.

"Operations Group is always looking for trainers," Russell said. "These heroes coming back have real-life experience they can pass to other Soldiers."

Resources such as additional chaplains and financial advisors from the Department of the Army are also arriving on post to help heal spiritual and monetary ailments.

"We're ready to help and ready to move," said Russell, stating the post has been looking into every contingency to make sure everyone is taken care of since learning of the need via a warning order from the 5th Army. "We're ready to receive them (Soldiers of the 256th) and look forward to helping them out."

The Department of Defense will fund the project through IMA which is channeling the funds to the Southwest Region. About 546 Soldiers from the 256th, many from the 1/141st Field Artillery, based out of New Orleans, were affected with a projected 330 families needing homes. Families began filling housing Sept. 8.

Soldiers of the 256th will be returning throughout the week, officials said.

## Fiddlers Green

**Belated notice:  
Trooper Raymond Kolkmann, age 83,  
passed away March 22, 2002**

### **With Sympathy**

Geraldine W. Vidulich, age 71, passed away August 6, 2005. Beloved wife of 30 years to longtime member SGM (Ret) Richard Vidulich. Rich and Gerry were living in Pompano Beach, Florida at the time of her death. Our condolences to entire Vidulich family. Tele: 954-784-

# Essex Troop Post Exchange

PRICE LIST

	ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY ORDERED	TOTAL PRICE
<b>NEW</b>	Essex Troop Blanket	\$35.00	_____	_____
	Golf Shirt w/Crest	\$25.00	_____	_____
	ET History DVD or VHS	\$10.00	_____	_____
	Ft. Jackson Marker Video	\$12.00	_____	_____
	Blazer Crest	\$15.00	_____	_____
	Epaulet Crest	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
	Decals	\$ 1.00	_____	_____
	Old Fashion Glasses	\$ 7.00	_____	_____
	Pilsner Glasses	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
	Brandy Sniffers	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
	Key Chain	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
	Lithograph (19" x 25")	\$20.00	_____	_____
	Mugs with 1st NJ Crest	\$ 7.50	_____	_____
	Mugs with 102d Crest	\$15.00	_____	_____
	Tie with 1st NJ Crest	\$14.00	_____	_____
	Tie with 102d Crest	\$14.00	_____	_____
	ET US Uniform Poster	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
<b>NEW</b>	Guantanamo Bay T Shirt	\$10.00	_____	_____
	ET Baseball Hat	\$15.00	_____	_____
	Tie Tack 102d Crest	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
	Watch 102d Crest	\$30.00	_____	_____
	Coin Tray	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
	Gallop Ho! William Walsh	\$20.00	_____	_____
	Reprint Dash to Paris	\$ 2.50	_____	_____
	March Song Sheet Music	\$ 2.50	_____	_____
			<b>Total</b>	_____

(Temporarily Out Of stock)

Shipping & Handling : add the following to the merchandise total  
 \$1.00 to \$5.00 add \$2.50  
 \$5.01 to \$20.00 add \$3.50  
 \$20.00 and over add \$5.50

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Including Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose your check made payable to "The Essex Troop"  
 Email: [etroop@bellatlantic.net](mailto:etroop@bellatlantic.net)

**NOTE:** A limited number of items are available at the Port Murray Armory. See CPT Gill for assistance.