The Summer 2014 issue of Guard Times, the New York National Guard magazine, carried a story "Babe Ruth, Great Ballplayer and Artillery Guardsman," written by 1SG Eric R. Hunt. Recruiting and Retention Command. Babe Ruth was the 'Sultan of Swat' but he also was Private George Herman Ruth in the New York Army National Guards 104th Field Artillery. In 1924 the National Guard was holding a recruiting drive and Ruth, then playing for the NY Yankees, enlisted. He was sworn in by the 104th Commander COL James Austin in a Times Square Ceremony.

The 104th Artillery Regiment was part of the 27th Division and was the largest artillery regiment in the US army. The regiment had seen action with the Division in France in 1918. Ruth enlisted in Battery D, 2nd Battalion whose armory was on Broadway & 68th Street. After he signed the enlistment contract and was sworn in, he mounted a horse and rode it all the way to the armory as was the tradition when new members enlisted. One week later General John J. Pershing, General of the Army, wanted to meet him. The article concludes "PVT George H Ruth, the artillery and New York Army National Guard members served his community and country with pride. Serving the community with pride lives on today in our home town military - The National Guard. Military service is an honorable calling and an integral part of our country's history. A roll call of the Presidents of the United States from George Washington to the present finds 31 of them served with military service. Seventeen of them served in their State Militia or National Guard and seven claim Naval Reserve membership. George Washington served in the Virginia Militia. Militia organizations of the various states were forerunners of the National Guard, making the Guard the oldest military service in the country - Older indeed than our Nation itself.

The Liberty Chapter fishing trip was held on Wednesday 10 Sep. The Weather was fine and Long Island sound gave up plenty of fish. MSG Rodrigues and MSG Young waited until the last hour to catch anything. But they soon made up for lost time. Our next gathering will be held at the Cabin restaurant in Valhala. This will be our second visit to the Cabin. Last years meeting was favorably received and many requested a repeat visit.

Upcoming events
101st Signal Battalion Annual Signal Ball, date to be announced later:
137th NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition 10-13 Sep 2015 Nashville, Tennessee

First Responder Communications Vehicles at the NYC-ICC Rally

Obituaries
Mike Fortini, 61, from (old) Bravo Co. Ossining, NY and Pat Ferrusi, 85, who worked at Camp Smith and was also a member of (old) Bravo Co before transferring to the 133rd Maint and then the 199th Band at Smith Passed away in July.
Civil Support Operations communications systems:
New York Military Forces have a variety of state communication systems dedicated for Voice & Data support during state operations and emergency operations.
The MEOC, JISCC, and MERC systems have been used in support of Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene, Civil Support Operations (CSO) exercises, and have provided other emergency response support. These are mobile satellite communication vehicles, or trailers, that provide varying amounts of capabilities to include internet access and the ability to program radio systems to be interoperable between Military forces and Civil Support personnel.

Homeland Response Force (HRF) is a robust, specialized, rapid-response task force to reinforce first responders for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High Explosive incident. The HRF team conducted their external evaluation (EXEVAL) exercise, and transition of authority from the 42d ID to the 27th IBCT in April 2014. Multiple communications platforms were used to provide support to the HRF team during their EXEVAL to include the MEOC, one JISCC and two MERC systems, at two locations: the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany and the 27th IBCT Headquarters in Syracuse, NY.

New York City Interagency Communications Committee (NYC-ICC) -- Communications & Command Rally. On May 7th 2014 members of the Air Guard MEOC and Army Guard MERC teams participated in the Communications & Command Rally, in Valhalla, hosted by the NYC-ICC. The mission of the Rally is to provide familiarity and awareness of regional interoperability assets with key emergency services providers & facilitate partnerships with emergency communications professionals in order to develop best practices and lasting relationships, and is planned to be held annually.

101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion
Annual Training 12-26 July 2014

Signal Equipment Upgrades
The 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducted a very productive Annual Training at Fort Drum, NY this year. This training proved to be very exciting with a primary focus on equipment receipt and inventory, upgrades, validation and Signal Team development. The pictures above depict signal Soldiers working to validate equipment. The first 2 pictures depict Soldiers working on the Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) as they conduct system configurations and attempt to bring the system online. Once the satellite acquires a signal, the Command Post Node (CPN) can be used to provide voice and data communications to subscribers. The last photo depicts 2 Soldiers working on the CPN stacks.
Information Technology (IT) CECOM MTT Classes/Commanding General Visit

In addition to the upgrades to signal equipment, the battalion was able to receive funding to offer 8 certification courses to Soldiers in order to maintain their technical knowledge and skill set. 128 total seats were available to train Soldiers in the following courses: A+, WIN-T Staff, NET Management, NET+, CCNA, MCAT Fiber, SEC+, and IA. The Commanding General, 53d Troop Command, BG Michael C. Swezey takes time out of his busy schedule to visit and engage with Soldiers of the battalion (photo 1 & 2) and receives a briefing from commanders and staff (photo 3) on 23 July 2014.

Battle Hand Offs/Connelly Award Competition/Redeployment

In addition to the Signal training, the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion takes the time to conduct battle hand offs to receive new Soldiers into the battalion from the Recruit Sustainment Program. These Soldiers are recent graduates of Basic Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) (photo 1). The battalion was selected to represent the 53d Troop Command in the Connelly Award Competition which is an annual event that recognizes excellence in Food Service. This event provided a great opportunity to showcase some of the hardest working personnel in the Army, "our cooks", and also served as a low density MOS training event (photo 2). As Annual training came to an end, the battalion shipped many pieces of satellite equipment back to Home Station for use in monthly training events and to support future tasking in support of domestic operations or other events as required (photo 3).
101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion
IDT August 2014

Signal Mini-EX/Initial Response Force (IRF) Training
Each unit returned to Home Station with enough equipment to continue signal training and refine skills acquired through deployment and RESET/validation at Annual Training. Charlie Company, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion employs STTs (photo 1) in the Yonkers Armory parking lot as a part of the Signal Mini-Ex. In order to support mission success in the event of a domestic operations mission, signal Soldiers prepare to test vehicles assigned to the IRF on 17 August 2014.

Medical Readiness Weekend (MRW)/Signal Mini-Ex/Change of Command Ceremonies - HHC and Alpha Company
During September, the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion deployed to Camp Smith Training Site, NY to conduct Medical Readiness for the unit as the primary focus, however there was still time to do some good signal training as well.
The first 2 photos depict the After Action Review of the Signal Mini-Ex (Alpha Co) and Signal Soldiers working to establish communications on the CPN in the shelter (Net Ops Section). The battalion also conducted 2 change of command ceremonies for HHC (left photo) and Alpha Company (right photo). Congratulations to the incoming commanders 1LT Erik Akhtar, HHC and CPT Jarrod Prill, A Co and job well done/farewell to the outgoing commanders CPT Brian Clark, HHC and CPT Jon Santana, A Co.
1. From Tappan Zee Bridge take the Interstate 87 S/New York Thruway S ramp on the left to Interstate 287 E/NY City

4. Merge onto I-287 E

5. Take exit 4 for New York 100A toward Hartsdale

6. Turn left onto New York 100A N/W Hartsdale Ave/Knollwood Rd
Continue to follow New York 100A N/Knollwood Rd
Destination will be on the left