

NEW CASTLE NEWS

131st Year

No. 8

New Castle, PA

Copyright 2010 New Castle News Single Copy 50 cents

CLOSER LOOK

FREEDOM CEREMONY OF THE 1-107TH ARMY
NATIONAL GUARD BATTALION SAYS THANKS TO
SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR TIME WELL SERVED.

HONORED



Spc. Robert Lauderbaugh/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Maj. Gen. Randall R. Marchi, commander of the 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, congratulates Spc. Cameron Stover, right, as members of the 1-107th Field Artillery were honored at a Freedom Salute Ceremony on Saturday at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

By **ANDREA BARILLA**
nclocal@ncnewsonline.com

Army National Guard civilian soldiers are all around, ready to serve and protect.

They are parents, like Sgt. William McSwain, father of two boys. McSwain served in Iraq as a rifleman.

They are employed in civilian jobs.

Capt. Drew Shedwick is a physician's assistant for New Castle pulmonologist Dr. Ramesh Kaul. Staff Sgt. Mike Markun is a Beaver County police officer.

They are students, like Spc.

Jamie Hayes, called from Westminster College and her residence life position to serve in Iraq.

A total of 171 men and women of the 1-107th Field Artillery, comprised of New Castle, Hermitage, Oil City and Ford City units, left their families, schools and employers to serve in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and/or Iraqi Freedom. Some left two or three times.

Saturday, these civilian soldiers were honored at a Freedom Salute Ceremony at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Distinguished guests included

U.S. Rep. Jason Altmire; Maj. Gen. Randall R. Marchi, commander of the 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard; Col. Grey Berrier, deputy commander of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team; and Maj. Scott North, commander of the 1-107th.

The ceremony was led by Sgt. 1st Class Chookie LaCamera, with invocation and benediction given by 2nd Lt. Toby Williams.

In his speech, Marchi stressed the importance of family and community support for the soldiers.

HONORED, PAGE A2

Gulf well dead, but effects remain

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The well that spewed millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico is finally dead, but residents will feel the pain for years to come.

A permanent cement plug sealed BP's well nearly 2.5 miles below the sea floor, five agonizing months after an explosion sank a drilling rig and led to the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the federal government's point man on the disaster, said yesterday that BP's well "is effectively dead" and posed no further threat to the Gulf. Allen said a pressure test to ensure the cement plug would hold was completed at 6:54 a.m.

But there is still plenty of oil in the water, and some continues to wash up on shore. Many people are still struggling to make ends meet with some waters still closed to fishing.

Shrimpers who are allowed to fish are finding it difficult to sell their catch because of the perception — largely from people outside the region

OIL WELL, PAGE A3

City man apprehended after manhunt

By **LISA MICCO**
lmicco@ncnewsonline.com

A New Castle man who led police on a mid-morning manhunt yesterday has been captured.

Pete Lopez IV, 34, of 519 Winter Ave. was arrested shortly after noon, hiding behind a burn pile in a clump of weeds, noted Union Township police Chief Joseph Lombardo.

Lombardo was on patrol yesterday when the search for Lopez began. According to reports, Lopez stole a gold Oldsmobile Silhouette from the Haven Nursing Home parking lot between 6 and 6:30 a.m. Saturday. He later crashed the vehicle off Wilder Avenue, a deadend street hovering on the Mahoningtown and Union Town-



Spc. Robert Lauderbaugh/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Family members and friends stand Saturday for the National Anthem prior to the Freedom Salute Ceremony at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The event honored civilian soldiers from the 1-107th Field Artillery, who returned from a tour in Iraq.

Honored

From page A1

“Without the support of our military family members,” said Marchi, “this unit would never have been able to accomplish these missions. The military family consists of the soldiers, the soldiers’ families, their employers and the community.”

He highlighted the sometimes forgotten sacrifice of employers who hire Guardsmen and Guardswomen, knowing they can be called away at any time.

Altmire promised the Guard that government leadership will support them now and as they transition into the Veterans Affairs system.

Each soldier honoree received an American flag in an engraved wooden dis-

play case, a special coin and a “Defender of Freedom” certificate.

Second-time deployed received a Freedom Ring; third-time deployed received a Keystone Freedom Medal and a standing ovation.

National Guard team members — community, family and friends of the soldiers — also were recognized.

Sgt. Chad Beach, honored for three deployments, said the best way to honor his sacrifice is to just say hello and thank you to the soldiers.

When asked how the community can best honor our soldiers, Staff Sgt. Markun said, “If we’re in uniform, just take a moment to come up, shake our hand

and say thank you.”

“Nothing touches me more than a stranger saying thanks,” said Maj. North, commander of the 1-107th. “That’s it. When I’m in a grocery store or a gas station and happen to be in a uniform and a stranger walks up and says ‘I just want to say thanks,’ it’s very touching. And I have to tell you, sometimes it chokes me up.”

He added, “There is nothing more comforting than knowing there are good people back home willing

to jump in and fix that flat tire or take care of the lawn mower.

“I think when we’re called away, it’s harder on those back home. That’s one of the reasons we do this ceremony. We want our families to know, for what it’s worth, thanks.”

The 1-107th Field Artillery will celebrate its 150th anniversary in October 2011.

Its soldiers have fought in every major campaign since Gettysburg, and 47 of its soldiers are still in Afghanistan.

**The gift that keeps on giving ...
A subscription to your hometown
newspaper. The New Castle News**