



**RESOLUTION 09-21:  
ISSUE PERTAINING TO: NATIONAL GUARD / RESERVE RESPITE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

Issue: The National Guard and Reserve forces need a respite center that addresses the therapeutic of our Veterans and their families/dependents.

Background:

The requirements for support services for citizen-soldiers have escalated. Increasing rates for suicide, divorce, spousal abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, reckless driving, sleep deprivation, night traumas and depression are plaguing our Guard members and their families. The construction and operation of a Respite Center of Excellence will meet this need. Patriot Hills of New York, will then serve as the role model for the establishment of this type facility to serve Veterans and their families in centralized locations across the United States.

In New York State alone there are 58 armories across the state, but these armories do not have the ways, means or resources to meet the requirements. National Guard and reserve military and family members are suffering from the effects of eight years of multiple call ups and deployments with resulting casualties, severe injuries, and significant case levels of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Syndrome and Traumatic Brain Injury.

The National Guard and Reserve rely solely on limited Active Duty resources, Veterans Administration Hospitals, Medical Centers, and Veterans Outreach Clinics to relieve some of the tremendous stress placed on them and their families. These programs and facilities are simply not enough.

Although reliance on the Guard remains at historic levels for both Federal and State missions, the National Guard of the United States does not have a customized facility for the care and welfare of veteran citizen-soldiers and their families for transition, reintegration and therapeutic healing. The National Guard and Reserve have no physical infrastructure(s) to sustain their needs.

Recommendation:

The Enlisted Association of New York recommends to the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States to actively engage the Congress of the United States to:

- Support the strategic plan for a “Respite Center of Excellence” for National Guard and Reserve members that address the transition, reintegration and therapeutic healing of veterans and their families.
- Support the pilot project of a national respite facility to ensure a successful transition from all federal missions and deployments back to the local community as healthy and productive citizens.
- Support funding for the Northeast pilot program, Patriot Hills of New York for returning Guard and Reserve personnel to utilize our facility for therapy and convalescence for our veterans and their families and recreational opportunities for family members.

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