



CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**ROBERT G. ORTT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Mayor Ortt Participates with New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force in “Stay on Track Program”**

NORTH TONAWANDA—City of North Tonawanda Mayor Robert G. Ortt participated with members of the New York Army National Guard Counterdrug Task Force during a “Stay on Track” interactive lesson at North Tonawanda Middle School earlier today. Approximately 272 students from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be involved with the comprehensive drug abuse prevention program. The Stay on Track intervention program is designed to help students assess the risks associated with substance abuse; enhance decision making, goal-setting, communication, and resistance strategies; improve antidrug normative beliefs and attitudes; and reduce substance abuse. The program empowers youth by providing knowledge and life skills relevant to health-promoting behavior.

“When it comes to talking with our children about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drugs, you need people who command respect. Our men and women in uniform, most of whom have served in a combat zone at one time or another, are able to command that respect. Our children will listen to them, and that is why this program is so important,” said Mayor Ortt.

First Ward Alderman Dennis Pasiak stated that “this is another example of how our men and women in uniform are serving not only the country, but their communities as well. These students will be the first ones in North Tonawanda that hear this important message. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a partnership between our school district and our men and women in the military.”

Mayor Ortt also added, "The Army National Guard, of which I was a part of for 8 years, is working to make North Tonawanda a better, safer place for our children through this program. Our City, like other communities should welcome what these American heroes are doing to help keep our children safe, both here and abroad."

The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force ("NYNG CDTF") has been working with local communities in the fight against drugs throughout the state since 1989. The Stay on Track program reached over 5,000 students during the 2009-2010 school year. NYNG CDTF personnel are highly trained and dedicated in their mission to increase awareness, provide guidance and facilitate positive changes in self esteem to motivate our nation's youth increasing their abilities to make drug-free choices.

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