

*NEW JERSEY
YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY*

Class 26



Graduation Ceremony

25 August 2007

The War Memorial, Trenton, New Jersey

THE NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The Chief, National Guard Bureau, presented the National Guard's Youth Corps Plan to Congress in the Spring of 1992. In October 1992, Congress presented this plan to the President, who then signed Public Law 102-484 which established the National Guard Civilian Youth Opportunities Pilot Program. In 1992 the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs requested a federal grant to conduct a New Jersey National Guard Challenge Youth Program which was approved in the Fall of 1993. In 1994 the New Jersey National Guard Challenge Youth Program was first organized at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Our first Cadets reported on 26 September 1994 and two weeks later, on 10 October 1994, teenagers from throughout New Jersey began Challenge Class #1. To date, over 2000 cadets have graduated from 25 New Jersey Challenge classes. The NJ Challenge Academy is also the proud recipient of the 2004 USO Award for *Most Progressive Program*, the 2005 USO Award for *Excellence in Life Skills, Health & Hygiene*, and the 2006 USO Award for *Academic Excellence*.

Under the direction of the Adjutant General Major Glenn K. Rieth, the Challenge Academy is now a permanent non-combat mission of the National Guard. New Jersey is one of 30 programs funded by the United States Department of Defense, with additional support being provided by each state. The Academy was designed to enhance the life skills and employment potential of civilian youths who ceased to attend secondary school before graduating, through military-based type training, supervised work experience in community service and conservation projects provided by the National Guard.

The Academy is divided into three phases. Phase I, called Pre-Challenge, is a 2 week residential phase at Fort Dix that focuses on the candidate's assessment to successfully complete the program. During this phase, emphasis is placed on attitude, drill and ceremony, the Honor Code, and physical training. Phase II is a 20 week residential phase at Fort Dix housed in Building 5910. This phase of the program offers preparation for the Cadets to obtain their NJ State High School Diploma, life skills, employment readiness, career development, job training, community service, leadership, and physical fitness training. In Phase III of the program, our youth return home and are assigned a trained mentor from their community who continues to provide guidance and direction for a one-year period.

To be eligible for the Academy, students must meet several criteria. Cadets must be at least 16 years old, but not yet 19 by the start of the program. They must have withdrawn from high school for a period of at least one month. Cadets must be citizens or legal residents of the United States and the State of New Jersey. They must be unemployed or underemployed. All cadets selected for the Youth Challenge Academy must be completely drug free and cannot be currently involved with the court system in either a probation or parole situation. And finally, all students must be volunteers.

CADRE SUPERVISORS

Raymond Card
Daniel Leonard
Joseph Phillips
Sean Wilmore

CADRE

James Carradine
Jeffrey Carter
Alvin Fair
Alonzo Hill
George Jackson
Brian Jones
Ronald Kinsler
Richard Clapper
Jameson Martinez
Karen Parker
Miguel Prestan
Barbara Russ
Marie Sheppard
Gerald Tanner
Carroll Victor

The ChallengeNGe Staff

DIRECTOR

Colonel (Ret) Kenneth J. Prossick

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Sean Van Lew

COMMANDANT

Robert Redler

ASSISTANT COMMANDANT

Raymond Card

ASSISTANT RPM COORDINATORS

*Latisha Campbell
Herman Hodge*

RPM ASSOCIATE

*Raven Wityk
Samantha Carnivale*

SENIOR CLERK TYPIST

Doris Murray

SECRETARY

Sharon Card

SENIOR STOCK CLERK

Matthew Studley

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

G. Edward Fyfe

ARMORER

Phillip Freeman

MANAGEMENT INFO SPECIALIST

William Challenger

TEACHERS

*Anna Cooper
Donna Eggert
Joseph Koch
Carol Miller
Dominick Terranova
Paul Wityk*

COUNSELORS

*Tyeka Berry
Helen Lubin*

Graduation Ceremony

Visual Presentation.....William Challenger

Welcome.....Nathaniel Terzano
Cadet First Sergeant

National Anthem

Invocation.....Cadet Michael Velazquez

Introduction of Dignitaries.....Nathaniel Terzano
Cadet First Sergeant

Remarks.....Colonel (Ret) Kenneth J. Prossick
Director, NJ Youth Challenge Academy

Introduction of Guest Speaker.....Brigadier General Frank Carlini
New Jersey Army National Guard

Guest Speaker.....Mr. Richard Cañas
Director, New Jersey Department of Homeland Security

Oath of Office.....Brigadier General Maria Falca-Dodson
Deputy Adjutant General

Presentation of Diplomas & Awards.....Colonel (Ret) Kenneth J. Prossick

Benediction.....Cadet Michael Velazquez

Graduates of Class 26

Luisa Alejo	Marving Dauphin	Stanley Loaiza	Aspen Pierce
Theda Anderson	Isiah Davis	Michael Lopez	Marrissa Pigiaccielli
George Arango	Christopher Denoble	Michael Maldonado	Gary Pulgarin
Dominic Armstead	Gennaro Duarte	Derrick Mallon	Ashley Rivera
Erik Arroyo	Darryl Dueltgen	Bryan Martin	Mario Rosa
Joanna Baptiste	Richard Dwight	Justin Martinez	Angel Sandoval
Michelle Baret	William Echevarria	Pedro Martinez	Jewry Santos
Marco Barreira	Brian Fernandez	Richard Martinez	Joel Simpson
Diego Bedeon	Patrick Ferraro	Salem Matar	Jason Sistrunk
David Brewer	Elijah Finney	Kyle McCarthy	Shaborn Smith
Spencer Brooke	Gordon Fleming	John McDonough	Terique Smith
Japreem Butler	Raul Flores	David McGee	Marcus Stevenson
Angel Camacho	James Fonseca	Quinten McNear	Lorraine Suggs
Jason Carter	James Funches	Misael Medina	James Taylor
Andrea Castillo	Cristaliz Garcia	Melendez, Margarita	Nateyah Taylor
Brian Cedeno	Charlene George	Dean Mendez	Michel Tello
Daniel Claros	Joseph Glavay	Shayne Mestire	Aswahn Thompson
Ruben Cintron	Michael Greenley	Stefany Minaya	Xavier Villalobos
Luis Collazo	Anthony Hall	Josenancia Montuma	Jorban Villon
Vernell Comer	Samuel Hanciles	Ty Nathan	Johnathan Wagner
Stephanie Contreras	Dustin Harris	Newton, Karimak	Tawayne Wallace
Jose Correa	Matthew Healy	Robert Nguidjol	Breon Williams
Andrew Costa	Shanon Hester	Hector Nunez	Sean Williams
Damian Cruz	Matthew Kelly	Tobias Oching	Mark Wosatka
Carlene Cyrus	Brian Kuhns	Nicole Perez	Melika Yuille
Amanda Daughtery	Alonzo Loaiza	Diogo Perinhas	Steven Zimmerman

- 1 - Distinguished Honor Graduate
- 2 - Director's Leadership Award
- 3 - Director's Academic Award
- 4 - Citizenship Award
- 5 - Community Service Award

- 6 - Most Improved Cadet (Male, Female)
- 7 - "ALPHA" Leadership Award
- 8 - "CHARLIE" Leadership Award
- 9 - Superior Performance - English
- 10 - Superior Performance - Computers

- 11 - Superior Performance - Literature
- 12 - Superior Performance - Math
- 13 - Superior Performance - Science
- 14 - Superior Performance - Social Studies