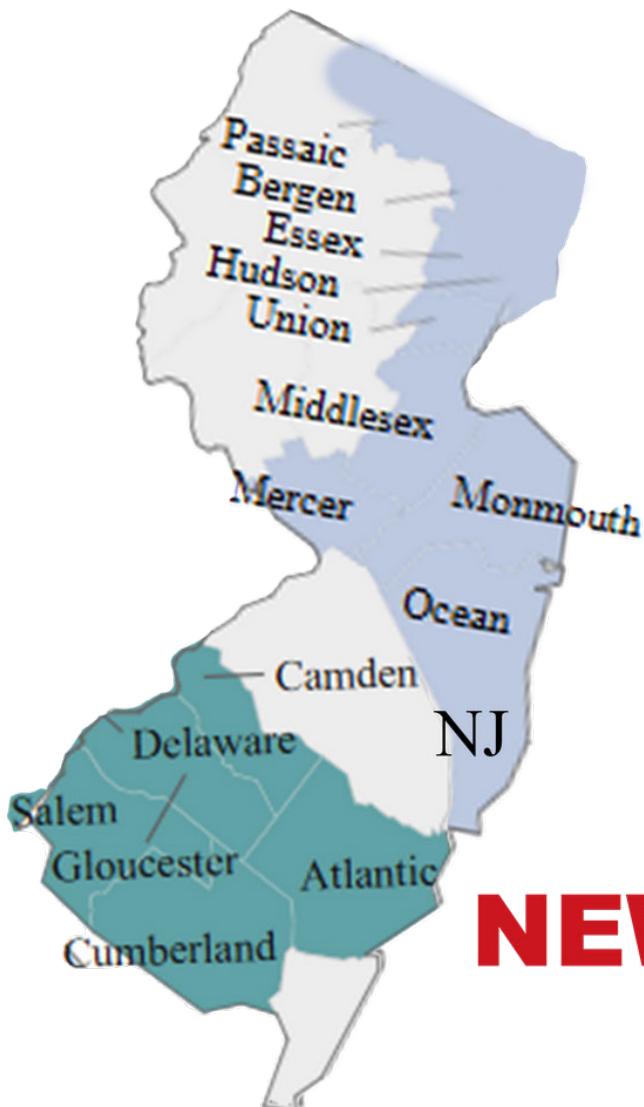


★ NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD ★

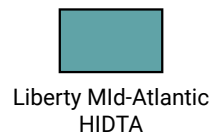
COUNTERDRUG

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) New York/New Jersey - Liberty/Mid-Atlantic

The HIDTA Program mission is to coordinate Federal, State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement resources to reduce the availability of illicit drugs and related violence by investing in LEA partnerships to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking and money laundering organizations in the U.S.



Each year, HIDTA's assess the drug threat and develop strategies to address those threats. This allows HIDTA's to adjust strategies for new and emerging drug trends and apply resources in a timely manner.



NEW JERSEY

As part of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's national HIDTA grant program, the NY/NJ and Liberty Mid-Atlantic strive to facilitate interagency cooperation, improve intelligence gathering, and furnish regional law enforcement agencies with mission-critical resources that would otherwise be unavailable.

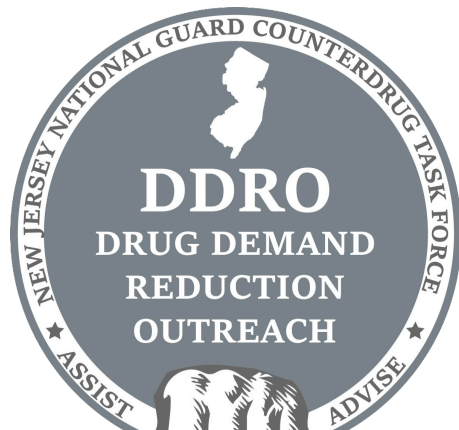
DDRO Drug Trends Update:

This past month, our team attended an in-depth six-hour training on the current **Fentanyl** threat hosted by the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center (NCTC). As a federally supported program, NCTC must present before Congress annually to secure funding — underscoring the national priority placed on counterdrug education and response.

U.S. DEA Fentanyl & Counterfeit Pill Seizures

- In 2024, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports over **60 million fentanyl-laced fake pills seized nationwide** — an amount equal to hundreds of millions of potentially lethal doses.
- Through 2025, as of mid-year federal reporting, approximately **44 million fentanyl pills were seized** by DEA teams across the U.S., along with **4,500 lbs of fentanyl powder**.

Taken together, U.S. federal data suggests well over **100 million fentanyl pills** (the vast majority counterfeit) have been seized across 2024–2025.



Resilience Corner

Skill of the Month: **Hunt The Good Stuff**

MRT Competencies: **Optimism**

Hunt the Good Stuff to counter the Negativity Bias, to create positive emotion, and to notice and analyze what is good.

Record three good things each day and write a reflection next to each positive event about one or more of the following topics:

- Why this good thing happened
- What this good thing means to you
- What you can do tomorrow to enable more of this good thing
- What ways you or others contribute to this good thing

#HTGS

Hunt the Good Stuff builds the competency of **Optimism** by helping us fight our natural Negativity Bias through deliberately focusing on what's good in our lives and what we can control in order to maintain hope.

New Jersey Ground Reconnaissance Team Organizes Phase 2 Course - Fort Indiantown Gap

NEW JERSEY - The New Jersey Joint Counterdrug Task Force - Ground Reconnaissance Team, facilitated the first Ground Recon Support Phase Two course at the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center from March 2 - 13 2026, on Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

Ground Recon Teams utilize specially trained National Guard members to perform ground reconnaissance and observation of suspected illegal drug activity in various operational environments. Their skill sets allow law enforcement officers to focus on fewer tasks during various operations.

This course improves a students ability to problem solve and helps prepare them to conduct recon and observation operations in a safe and effective manner. Students become efficient in mobile, photography, rural, hide sites, static and foot observations. The course is also an excellent environment for networking and gaining knowledge on how other states operate and how equipment is being used or could have access to. It brings the GR operator out of a comfort zone and develops them into leaders with experiencing all types of environments they may not have been exposed to.

NCTC was founded in 1999, in accordance with provisions outlined in the Defense Appropriations Act. Since its inception, they now offer more than 60 unique counterdrug training courses focusing on operations and interdiction, interrogation, undercover operations, leadership, terrorism, intelligence and drug demand reduction. This training was facilitated by the New Jersey Ground Reconnaissance Support Team alongside GRS instructors from Florida, California, Arizona and Pennsylvania.



National "I am In Control" Day - March 30



March 30th, 1981, an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan occurred after leaving the National Conference of Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

While the President was being rushed to surgery on a rainy afternoon, a statement was made. "As of now, I am in control here in the White House." Those are the words of Secretary of State Alexander Haig on March 30, 1981, after the attempt on President Ronald Reagan's life.

Haig later explained that he only meant that he was in charge until Vice President George Bush could be sworn in. Bush was en route at the time.

Sources believe that this was the beginning of National I am in Control Day. This day has evolved and taken on a different context. It is a day to get things under control in your life on a day-to-day basis.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL I AM IN CONTROL DAY

Take a break for a minute and evaluate your situation. Sometimes we can only take charge of the things we are in control over. Everything else we have to let go.

- Start using a daily planner
- De-clutter
- Make lists
- Tackle one project at a time
- Learn organizational skills
- Ask for help
- Talk with someone
- Feel confident with your decisions

Take charge of the things you can control one by one.

NJ Department of Military Affairs - Service Member Spotlight **Recognizes Sgt. Katherine Valdivieso while Deployed Overseas**

Sergeant Katherine Valdivieso, originally from Lodi, NJ, attended Lodi High School and completed some of her college credits at Rutgers University in Newark. She is continuing her education at Thomas Edison State University.

Valdivieso joined the military in 2018 at 17 years old through the Split Training Option, which allowed her to complete basic training after her junior year and her advanced individual training after her senior year.

“I chose to serve because I wanted to fully embrace the opportunities this country has provided and to challenge myself to grow beyond my comfort zone,” said Valdivieso. “The Army has given me structure, purpose, and a platform to build a future through discipline and service. Becoming a mother has deepened that purpose. Everything I do now is to build a legacy that my son can be proud of and to show him that discipline, resilience, and faith can take you anywhere.”

Valdivieso’s long-term goal in the military is to continue developing as a leader and ultimately complete a full career in service. She wants to mentor and shape the next generation of Soldiers, just as her leaders once invested in her.

Currently deployed to the U.S. CENTCOM area of operation, Valdivieso serves as a supply sergeant and is responsible for the accountability and management of more than \$30 million of military equipment in support of mission operations and life support. Her role directly contributes to operational readiness and ensures that Soldiers have what they need to accomplish the mission safely and effectively.

“The experiences during this deployment has shaped me into a stronger leader, a more patient teammate, and a more dedicated mother,” said Valdivieso.



Sgt. Valdivieso is also a Civil Operator with the Joint Counterdrug Task Force - Drug Demand Reduction Outreach (DDRO). As a Civil Operator, she has made many connections with community based organizations in South Jersey counties such as Camden, Burlington and Mercer. She’s even established relationships with the Lenape Tribe in hopes to further drug prevention efforts for the tribal community members and youth in NJ.

RESOURCES

NEW JERSEY VETERANS BENEFITS GUIDE



A Resource Guide
for New Jersey's
Military,
Veterans,
and Families



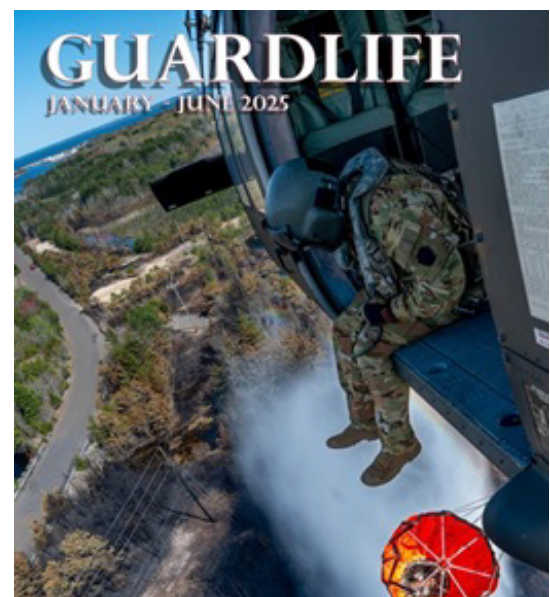
NJ VETERANS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



THIS PROGRAM OFFERS RIDES TO:

VA MEDICAL CENTERS
CLINICS
OTHER HOSPITALS

PRIVATE PHYSICIANS
VA REGIONAL OFFICES
VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES



24 hour support to
NJ National Guard, Military,
Veterans Families, and caregivers
statewide.

Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1