

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 4, 2012



NJ NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY REVIEW: A LIVING PART OF HISTORY

**By Sgt. Sherwood Goodenough,
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Carrying on a military tradition dating back to 1893, the New Jersey National Guard conducted a formal Military Pass and Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt today.

Gov. Chris Christie reviewed Airmen and Soldiers from the major Army and Air National Guard commands at the first Military Review in more than a decade to be open to the public.

The ceremony opened with an airborne demonstration by the Army National Guard parachute team and flyovers by Air National Guard F-16 fighter jets and a KC-135 aerial refueler. Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion of the 112th Field Artillery fired a 19-gun salute with 105-mm howitzers.

In his introduction The Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, spoke about the importance of taking time to recognize those veterans and fallen heroes who defend America's interests at home and abroad.

"In each of your faces, I see the best of America," said Cunniff. "Today's event is the perfect opportunity to call attention to those who fight to keep our nation free."

Since Sept 11, 2001, the New Jersey National Guard has deployed thousands of Soldiers and Airmen around the globe to serve our state and nation where they were needed most, from the battlefields of Afghanistan to areas hit hard by Hurricane Irene.

Gov. Chris Christie, the Commander in Chief for the New Jersey National Guard, spoke about the grandeur and the cost of the hard-won peace of mind earned by America's fighting women and men. Before the ceremony, Christie joined the wife and young daughter of a deployed Soldier in a teleconference with the officer from his base in Afghanistan.



Clockwise from top left: guidon bearers of the 108th Wing; guidon bearers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard Honor Guards; and Soldiers of the 63rd Army Band practice prior to the New Jersey National Guard's annual Military Review at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt, N.J. Sept. 30. (U.S. Air Force photos/Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

Afterword, Christie told the crowd at the military review that the day was a tribute to the state's Soldier and Airmen.

"It's an opportunity for us as civilians to pause and say thanks," Christie said. "Along with the glory comes the sorrow. Along with the service comes sacrifice."

Military family member, Ms. Jeannette Roma is the spouse of Capt. Robert Roma. She sat in the audience with couple's 2-year-old daughter Halee, both beaming with pride, as the captain helped

put on the ceremony.

"I just find it so amazing that we're so supported; that the governor came and supports us; that everyone comes out," she said tending to her daughter as she played on the bleachers. "I find it so empowering what my husband does. I come for (my daughter), so she can get a whole new look at what daddy does."

"It almost brings tears to my eyes that people around the world thank these Soldiers for what they do," she said.

NJ Guardsmen, Albanian soldiers help local Afghan village

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

The dusty village sits outside of Kabul and on one of the routes insurgents use to infiltrate Afghanistan's capital. This leaves the villagers with a choice: harbor violent insurgents or support their fledgling government and the Afghan National Army.

A group of New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers are doing everything in their power to convince the villagers that supporting their government and its troops is the path to a more peaceful and prosperous future.

To that end, the 12-man Military Advisory Team recently helped the Afghan National Army launch projects that will nearly double the number of classrooms in the crowded local school; provide clean water for livestock; and make a traffic control point safer for the Afghan soldiers who work there.

The villagers – who had seen very few coalition forces in recent years – were at first deeply skeptical the New Jersey Soldiers would follow through on promises to help them, said Capt. Tim Sorrentino, who began coordinating the projects when his unit arrived nearly 10 months ago.

"The people were kind of on the border of whether they support the government and the army and when we first got there, some of the young men were throwing rocks at our vehicles," Sorrentino said. "Now they follow us through and the whole way we are treated when we go out there has changed. Just us being there now is making people comfortable."

The school project will add eight classrooms to what's now a 10-room school house with more than 1,500 students. It's a project that's especially important to Sorrentino, who is a middle school teacher in civilian life.

The irrigation project is simple in its scope; cleaning mounds of trash from a four-foot deep well and casing the bottom with concrete and building a retaining wall around its top. Yet the project is vital to the villagers, who rely on the water from the irrigation well for water for their livestock, which is their livelihood.

Also simple in its concept, yet vital to the people who use it is



the refurbishment of the traffic control point. The Afghan soldiers working there were cooking indoors on open fires and vulnerable to insurgent sniper attacks. The project included a new kitchen, sleeping quarters and concrete barriers for greater protection.

Sorrentino said giving the Afghans the tools they need to man the local traffic checkpoint is critical because it's a local thoroughfare.

The projects will cost no more than \$350,000, and all three will be complete before the Soldiers return to New Jersey.

So too will the final project, a \$200,000 refurbishment of a local medical clinic, another project the Soldiers agreed to help the Afghan Army complete when they first arrive. Construction there is beginning.

Maj. Richard Karcher, the deputy commander of the Military Advisory Team, which also includes several soldiers from the Albanian Defense Forces, said it was gratifying to be able to help the Afghan National Army navigate the intricacies of building projects for their people.

"We've made a lot of progress," he said.



A New Jersey National Guard Soldier shakes hands with an Afghan student at a local village where they assisted with the school project. The Soldiers are part of the Military Advisory Team helping the Afghan National Army. (Courtesy photo Capt. Tim Sorrentino)

The Military Advisory Team, which consists of New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Albanian Defense Forces, discuss upgrades to the local village with a member of the Afghan National Army. (Courtesy photo Capt. Tim Sorrentino)

HIGHLIGHTS



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
HIRING OUR HEROES

2012 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event - Ocean City, NJ
The Ocean City Music Pier
801 Boardwalk at Moorlyn Street, Ocean City, NJ
October 11, 2012
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Join us October 11, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military and veterans spouses at The Music Pier, 801 Boardwalk at Moorlyn Street, Ocean City, NJ. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers Must register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net	Job Seekers Register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net To guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.
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This hiring event is being sponsored by The American Legion, Cape May County, hosted and cosponsored by the Morvay/Miley Post 524, Ocean City, NJ, and is conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The American Legion, the Cape May County Chamber, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the New Jersey State Parole, the NJ State Library, the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the New Jersey Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, NBC News, and other local partners.

If you need assistance registering, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com.



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U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
HIRING OUR HEROES™
NATIONAL CHAMBER FOUNDATION

2012 Hiring Our Heroes – Flemington, NJ
National Guard Armory -
422 New Jersey Route 12 - Hunterdon County
Flemington, NJ 08822
Wednesday, October 24, 2012
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Join us October 24, 2012, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM for a job fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military, members of the National Guard and reserve components, and military spouses at the National Guard Armory on Route 12 in Hunterdon County, Flemington, NJ. This event will be FREE for both employers and job seekers.

EMPLOYERS Must register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net	JOB SEEKERS Register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net To guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.
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This ESGR-sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and local Chambers of Commerce; New Jersey Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News, and other local partners; we welcome the participation of the office of Assemblywoman Donna Simon.

For registration questions, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807.



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RUTGERS FOOTBALL

MILITARY PERSONNEL/VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

Rutgers vs. Army
Saturday, November 10th

MILITARY PERSONNEL/VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY
Rutgers Athletics would like to invite all those who are currently serving and military veterans along with their family and friends out to the Rutgers vs. Army game on Saturday, November 10th. All would receive a special priced ticket of \$40 Upper Sideline seats (reg. \$55) or \$25 End Zone seats (reg. \$45). Bring out the whole family for a day of Rutgers Football.

• Upper Sideline Seating	\$40 (reg. \$55)
• End Zone Seating	\$25 (reg. \$45)

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HIGHLIGHTS



The Governor's Commission on Women Veterans
invites you to join us for our
Fall Information Forum & Brunch

on

Saturday, November 3, 2012
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

at the

American Legion Post #129
2025 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753

Come learn about the Commission and take part in an informational forum on issues facing today's Women Veterans. Share information about your organization.

Attire: Business

R.S.V.P. by 26 Oct 2012

Terese Acocella 609-851-2257

Teresa.b.acocella@us.army.mil

Continental Brunch

Suggested Donation \$9.00

(Checks payable to: NJ DMAVA)

HIGHLIGHTS



Airmen of the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Wing, both assigned to the New Jersey Air National Guard, hosted a barbecue for residents of the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland at Warren Grove Range on Sept. 19. Afterwards the veterans witnessed live training as A-10 Thunderbolt IIs and F-16 Fighting Falcons strafed and dropped practice bombs at the range. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)



Capt. Michael Sojka created team Foxtrot who participated on the Tunnel to Towers run on Sept. 30. Front row left to right, Sgt. 1st Class Luis Salgado, Staff Sgt. John Roldan, 2nd Lt. Daniel Giannanco. Back row left to right, Spc. Jesse DelaCruz, Sgt. 1st Class Orlando Miranda, Spc. Anthony Crespo, Staff Sgt. Miguel Villavicencio, Sojka and Spc. Jose Arellano. (Courtesy photo)



New Jersey National Guard Soldiers prepare food for Stand Down of South Jersey 2012 at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill Sept. 28. The outreach campaign provides homeless veterans with access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, and many other social services. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen/NJDMAVA)

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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