



JANUARY 6, 2012

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



Daddy Is Home!



Spc. Matthew Jablonsky, 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, receives a hug from his daughter, Taylor, after returning home on Jan. 3, from a deployment in Afghanistan. Jablonsky and more than 60 Soldiers from the 119th CSSB were reunited with their families at the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters after their year-long deployment in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th FW/PA)

Additional photos and story on Page 2

119th CSSB Soldiers return home after year-long deployment

Story by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA and photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th FW/PA

Their mission in Afghanistan accomplished, they marched through the icy air and into a roaring phalanx of family members who welcomed the Soldiers of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion home as heroes on Jan. 3. The reunion outside Joint Force Headquarters on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Tuesday was one of joy, tears and laughter.

“These two have been in my every thought, every day for the past year,” said Jeanie Kuppler, gazing at her sons, Sgts. Andrew and Eric Kuppler, who had just finished their second combat deployment together. “It doesn’t get any easier the second time.”

The Kuppler brothers, military policemen from Pennsauken, said they made it though their year at Bagram Airfield the same way they



Sgt. Andrew Kuppler descends from the plane that brought him home from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan and is greeted by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Acting Adjutant General, and the leadership personnel from the New Jersey Army National Guard at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Jan. 3.

survived their deployment to Iraq, by watching each others’ backs.

“It was definitely a long deployment, it felt a lot longer than the deployment to

Iraq,” said Andrew Kuppler, 28, the older brother. “But us being together made it a lot easier.”

Lt. Col. Walter Nall, who commanded the 60-member

team, said the homecoming was especially sweet because it meant that his objective had been achieved.

The objective: “Bring everyone home safe,” Nall said.



NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN AFGHANISTAN



Photo left, members of the Cape May-based 253rd Transportation Company, New Jersey Army National Guard, get up close and personal with a New Jersey Air National Guard F-16C Fighting Falcon from the 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City, at Bagram Airfield on Dec 26. Photo above, an F-16C Fighting Falcon from the 177th Fighter Wing, proudly displays its nose art depicting the number of bombs dropped in combat operations while based at Bagram Air Field. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Matthew Hecht, 455th AEW/PA)



Photo top left, Airmen 1st Class Joe LaGreca, left, and Braun Hurley, right, detach the tail of a bomb undergoing a semi-annual compliance inspection at Bagram Airfield. Photo top right, LaGreca inspects the components of an MK82 bomb body during an assembled munitions serviceability inspection. LaGreca is a Guardsman from the 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Vernon Cunningham, 455th AEW/PA)



Photo left, Staff Sgt. David Sigwart straps down munitions at Bagram Airfield. Sigwart, an ammo specialist, is also with the 177th Fighter Wing and is currently deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matthew Hecht, 455th AEW/PA)



**New Jersey Department
of
Military and Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Outreach Campaign
Rockaway Townsquare Mall
301 Mount Hope Avenue, Rockaway

January 17 - 19
Medal Ceremony at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17
Kiosk Hours: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., daily

Veterans Service Officers will be available to provide information on state and federal entitlements



"Serving Those Who Served"

Child and Youth Program hosts "Holiday Camp"



By Amanda Balas, New Jersey National Guard State Youth Coordinator

On Wednesday Dec. 28, the Child and Youth Program hosted the first "Holiday Camp" from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Office, which is located on U.S. Highway 206.

In attendance for the day's activities were 40 National Guard youth ages 5 - 17.

The theme for the Holiday Camp was "Building Courage through Developing Our Skills and Talents".

Once everyone arrived and after introductions, the youth were divided into two groups based on their age. The younger children were able to enjoy a presentation and life lessons from Master Torres and his martial art students. The older children and teens enjoyed a "Cyber-bullying and Cyber Safety" presentation by Keith Dunn.

In addition, the teenage children also heard from two young adults, whose fathers serve or have served in the New Jersey National Guard, about college preparedness and college life. Kasey Rigby and Anthony Caruso were able to visit with the teens for an hour to discuss their college experience.

After lunch, the group worked on their talents and practiced on stage with the microphone. At 3 p.m., everyone -including family and friends - sat down to enjoy the Talent Showcase, which featured more than 15 acts. The program wrapped up around 4 p.m., and everyone was exhausted!!

State family program office has new office, phone number

The State Family Program's office is now located at the Bordentown Armory on Route 206.

In addition, their new office number is 609-324-7060.

The office's address is 1048 Route 206 South, Bordentown, NJ 08505-2124.

DA photos now done at JB MDL

Attention New Jersey National Guard Soldiers: DA photos will now be handled by the Training Support Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

To schedule your DA photo appointment, please contact the TSC at 609-562-3340 or go on-line to the VIOS website at www.vios.army.mil.

The TSC, which is located at Building 5411, Alabama Avenue in the Fort Dix side of the base, is open Monday thru Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Photos will be taken by appointment only.

**E-mail your Highlights submissions to
wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us OR
armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us**

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