

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

Vol. 28 No. 3

GUARDLIFE





GUARDLIFE STAFF

Co-editors

Lt. Col. Dennis Devery
Maj. Denise Waggoner
2nd Lt. Luz Colon

Assistant Editor-Production

Tech. Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

Staff Photographers

Sgt. 1st Class Declan Callan
Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison

Staff Writers

Roman Martyniuk
2nd Lt. Brian Patton

GUARDLIFE is a product of the NJDMAVA Public Affairs Office, the 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Offices. **GUARDLIFE** is published under provisions of AR 360-81 and AFR 190-7. Opinions expressed in **GUARDLIFE** are not to be considered the official view of this headquarters, or the Department of the Army or Air Force. **GUARDLIFE** is printed via the photo offset process. Letters may be sent to: **GUARDLIFE**, Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 340, NJDMAVA, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0340. E-mail at: mark.olsen@njdmava.state.nj.us

About The Cover

Blackhawk Fights Fire

1159th Blackhawk prepares to dump water on a forest fire at Ft. Dix. Cover and inside cover photos by Sgt. 1st Class Declan Callan, NJDMAVA/PA.

GUARDLIFE

VOL. 28, No. 3

INDEX

TAG'S COLUMN PAGE 3

GOVERNOR HONORS NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD PAGE 4

1159TH RESCUES FIREFIGHTER PAGE 5

50TH LEADS JR. POLICE ACADEMY PT PAGE 6

TAG MARKSMANSHIP MATCH RESULTS PAGE 7

MAJ. GEN. COSGRAVE RETIRES PAGE 8 - 9

108TH CONTINUES WAR ON TERRORISM PAGE 10

SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST ANNOUNCED PAGE 11

177TH FLIES 1,000TH CAP MISSION PAGE 12

CEREMONIES REFLECT CAVALRY TRADITIONS PAGE 13

FAMILY DAY - FUN FOR ALL PAGE 14

AIR GUARD COMMANDER PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL PAGE 15

LAST ROUND: GRADUATES PAGE 16

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER 29

MILITARY REVIEW AT SEA GIRT

OCTOBER 18-20

ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE AT THE CLARION HOTEL IN ATLANTIC CITY

APRIL 25-27, 2003

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE IN WILDWOOD

Strength

By Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey

In my last column in Guardlife I commented that I would use this publication to address the most critical challenges facing the New Jersey National Guard. To that end I have determined that Strength is most critical to our success and so by priority is to be addressed in this issue.

Attaining and maintaining 100% strength in all our units must be our goal. Through Maj. Gen. (Ret) Craig Cosgrave's leadership and exceptional team effort our Air Guard not only met but exceeded this goal over the last year. I applaud them for their success. I now offer my support to Maj Gen. Clark Martin in their ongoing retention efforts.

The Army Guard has a significant challenge ahead and my vision for fixing its strength is both short-term and long-term, short-term changes have already begun.

First, I will enforce the highest ethical standard in strength maintenance. We will not falsify our true strength nor will we manipulate paperwork to cover our strength. The Army Guard's No-Val percentage will be 2% or less by October 2002 regardless of our reported strength figures. Currently estimated to be 6,250 soldiers or 84% of authorized. Second, every member of the team will work toward the standards that the Air Guard has demonstrated in attaining its success:

Recruiters will meet mission, every month, with quality soldiers who understand what and why they are joining.

Leaders at all levels must know their personnel, especially the new ones, and make them part of the unit quickly.

Full-time support personnel, from the Chief of Staff and State Command Sergeant Major to the Readiness NCO will ensure all soldiers get the formal schools training they require and that unit training is well planned and resourced. Leaders will conduct training professionally and to standard. Commanders will ensure their units are doing meaningful tasks and not repetitive and boring routines.

All leaders and their staffs are responsible for the care of our soldiers and their families. In a timely manner, pay them every dollar they are owed, give them every award they have earned, house them in the best possible facilities and include families in all possible activities.

Leaders will eliminate non-performers. Let me make it abundantly clear, everyone of us has a responsibility to make the Army Guard better. If a person is not moving toward the standards outlined above we must remove him or her to insure team success.

Commanders and leaders will praise and reward our performing units and individuals in both our military world and in the community. The National Guard is a community organization that thrives with its support. As part of your



Gov. James E. McGreevey (L), The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (C), congratulate Tech. Sgt. Pedro Rodriguez, Jr., for his service to New Jersey and the United States. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA. See article on page 4.

public relations effort take every opportunity to get your people and units in the media limelight. Show the people what we have, the great things we do and the many ways we support the community.

Long term changes involve strategic adjustments and force structure. I will make difficult decisions by refusing, or if necessary, turning back force structure we can not support. For the New Jersey National Guard to be successful, I will only seek new units we can support. A unit with 50% strength is not capable of performing its assigned mission or supporting itself, it drains resources from other units that can be successful and could become a safety concern.

Strength is critical to our success and every one of us impacts upon our ability to recruit and retain our soldiers.

Be a contributing member of the team in everything you do and we will succeed.

I will be with you throughout the fight to fix the Army Guard Strength problem and I will work hard to get the resources we need to insure success. It follows that I also will be checking to ensure we are on the path of meeting my 100% goal.

Together we will succeed.

Congratulations again to our Air Guard.

Governor Honors New Jersey National Guard

By G. Natasha Zoe, Veterans Information Officer, Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



Gov. James E. McGreevey (right) has dinner with (l-r) Tech. Sgt. Pedro Rodriguez, Jr.; 1st Lt. Yvonne Mays, 2nd Lt. Luz Colon and Senior Airman Tulip Appleton, all members of the 177th Fighter Wing who were mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle.

On July 24, Gov. James E. McGreevey joined more than 60 New Jersey Army and Air National Guardsmen for dinner. The Guardsmen were honored for their service in Homeland Security missions since Sept. 11.

Governor McGreevey with The Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth unveiled a proposed Homeland Security Medal during the din-

ner at the New Jersey National Guard Consolidated Headquarters at Fort Dix.

Governor McGreevey and Brig. Gen. Rieth, also presented the troops with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Certificate of Appreciation. The Certificate of Appreciation was embossed with a copy of the newly proposed New Jersey Homeland Security Medal.



Gov. McGreevey listens to Staff Sgt. John Lacomia's (108th ARW) experiences while deployed in Turkey.

The proposed medal is the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' recommendation as a tribute to the men and women of New Jersey who have provided security to our nation and New Jersey since the Sept. 11 attacks. The medal symbolizes the NJNG's commitment to both federal and state missions.

The ribbon's colors represent our national flag and the Guard's dedication to the federal mission and the American people. The eagle is the vigilant sentry protecting New Jersey. The shield and three plows represent New Jersey's agricultural heritage.



The proposed New Jersey Homeland Defense Medal was designed by Sgt. 1st Class Declan Callan, NJDMAVA/PA.

1159th Rescues Firefighter

By Tech.Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA, photos by Sgt. 1st Class Declan Callan, NJDMAVA/PA

On Aug. 15, a Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company aircrew rescued a firefighter while fighting a forest fire at Ft. Dix.

During the operation, Ft. Dix Firefighter Bradley Ponto became separated from his team. Ft. Dix fire officials requested that the 1159th aircrews search for their firefighter.

UH-60 Blackhawk aircrew 1st Lt. Joseph Roughneen, Chief Warrant Officer 3 James denHartog, and Sgt. Jeff Loffredo located the firefighter in an area nearly surrounded by the fire. After directing the firefighter toward the closest landing zone the helicopter landed and crewchief Sgt. Loffredo got out and led the firefighter to the aircraft. Shortly after the rescue the fire consumed the area where the firefighter had been stranded.

Fire officials requested the help of the New Jersey Army National Guard because portions of the fire

were inaccessible from the ground due to terrain, the fire was consuming hundreds of acres of forest, and its proximity to the Impact Area.

New Jersey Army National Guard personnel from the Army Aviation Support Facility #1, located at Trenton-Mercer Airport, refitted three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters with 660 gallon Bambi Buckets. These bright fluorescent orange buckets, which are suspended below the aircraft, are lowered into lakes or ponds, filled with water, and flown to the fire. The buckets, when filled, add 6,000 pounds to the aircraft. The Blackhawks were joined by a UH-1 Huey from Army Aviation Support Facility #2 with a 240-gallon water bucket. The aircrews fought the fire both day and night, using night vision goggles, for the two days. After three days, 408 drops with a total of 213,336 gallons of water, the blaze was under control. 🚒



Splashdown. Another 660 gallons of water hits its target.

Aviators Rescue Plane Crash Survivors

By Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA

Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company aviators rescued three survivors of a private plane crash in the Colorado Rockies between Vail and Aspen on Aug. 1.

The guardsmen were in Colorado performing their annual training at the Colorado National Guard High Altitude Training Facility at Eagle County Airport.

Crewchief Sgt. Fred Derry was the first to spot the wreckage. After landing their UH-60 Blackhawk near the downed civilian aircraft, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jim denHartog, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chris Millevoy, Capt. William Hydamen, and Sgt. Leroy Metz joined in the rescue effort. With an instructor pilot from the High Altitude Training Facility, the Guardsmen assisted a male survivor aboard the UH-60 and then used a portion of the crashed aircraft's broken wing as a stretcher to carry a



Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company UH-60 Blackhawk.

more seriously injured female passenger to safety.

While en route to Vail Medical Center, the helicopter intercepted an ambulance that had picked up a third survivor. The third survivor, had traveled approximately 5 miles from the crash site in an effort to use his cell phone to call for help. A fourth passenger, a young child, did not survive the crash. 🚒

50th Leads Jr. Police Academy PT

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA

When the Teaneck Police Department ran this year's Junior Police Academy, what was more natural than asking the 50th Main Support Battalion, for their support?

Maj. Mark Piterski, Capt. Allen Mellen and Master Sgt. Russell Falstrom met the 11-14 year-olds each morning at the Milton Votee

Park in Teaneck to lead them in physical training, which includes stretches, with names like windmill, high jumper and squat bender, followed by some standard Army calisthenics, including push-ups, and ending with a one mile run.

Capt. Mellen stated that the 50th has worked with the Teaneck Police Department on several other

activities. "This is just one way of getting our battalion involved in the community," said Capt. Mellen. "It lets the community get to know us."

Lt. Robert Wilson, commander, Community Policing Bureau said that the police department has a good relationship with the 50th and wants the kids to keep the Guard as one of their career options. He also said that the while the Academy offered physical training for the first time last year, this was the first time the Guard had taught it.

"It helps set the tone for the day, to get the students listening to directions and to burn off some excess energy," he remarked. He noted that the parents seemed to like what the Guard was doing – more than once he observed parents on the sidelines watching and even participating in the exercises.

The Junior Police Academy has been in existence for six years giving children of Teaneck township an inside view of law enforcement training and responsibilities.



No more chickenfat. Maj. Mark Piterski leads a group of 11-14 year olds in Army Calisthenics.

Medics Deploy To Nicaragua

By the Guardlife staff, photo by Col. John. Dwyer, DISCOM/CC

1st Sgt. Randall Mahalik (second from right) and Staff Sgt. Luis Figueroa (right), along with 50th Main Support Battalion E Company medics deployed to the Chontales Province of Nicaragua from April 12 through 27 in support of Operation New Horizons.

The Jersey medics were there to provide American forces health care while engineer units from across the United States constructed clinics, flush latrines, schools, and wells in Nicaragua. The medics also visited the village of El Coral where they provided medical treatment to the local population. "Our people were an invaluable part of bringing medicine to the local population," stated Col. John Dwyer, Commander, Division Support Command.



New Crop Of Sergeant Majors

By Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA, photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Bammert, 50 MSB

After more than two years of correspondence courses, writing assignments, and gym training, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Bammert, Sgt. Maj. Jerome F. Zebrowski, Sgt. Maj. Michael C. Amoroso, and Sgt. Maj. John D. Schamber, recently graduated from the Sergeant's Major Academy at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

The course started off with the Army Physical Fitness Test. Those who didn't pass were sent home. More than 550 students came from the active duty Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard to the Academy.

The topics covered in the classes ranged from current affairs to safety to stress management to race relations. The focus in many of the courses centered on ways senior leadership interacted with soldiers; understanding the way people think, and psychology.

The Sergeant's Major Academy is the final school a soldier attends in the Army's Non-Commissioned Officer Education System.



Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Bammert (second from left), Sgt. Maj. Jerome F. Zebrowski (center), Sgt. Maj. Michael C. Amoroso (second from right), and Sgt. Maj. John D. Schamber (right), recently graduated from the final phase of the U.S. Army's Sergeant's Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas. New Jersey State Command Sgt. Maj. Richard S. Adkins, Jr., (left) attended as The Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth's representative.

TAG Marksmanship Match Results

Story and photo by Sgt. Patrick O'Flaherty, 444 MPAD

Every year, The Adjutant General Marksmanship Match is held at Ft. Dix in May. Individual and team marksmen competed in pistol, M-16, sniper, and M-60 machine gun to represent New Jersey at the national competition Winston P. Wilson Match in Arkansas.

The highest shooters in this year's pistol match were Sgt. John Trainor, Sgt. 1st Class Neil MacArthur, Officer Candidate Jose Couselo and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Vey.

Team honors went to the 253rd Transportation Company. In second through fourth respectively were the 3-112th Field Artillery, 1-150th Aviation Battalion and the 250th Main Support Battalion.



Pfc. Paul Weiss fires an M-60 machine gun with Spc. Chris O'Brien, B Company, 1-126th Aviation Battalion.

First in the M-60 Machine Gun Team was Officer Candidate Jose Couselo as gunner with assistant gunner Spc. Patrick Hegarty. Second and third places were taken by the 1-150th Aviation Battalion teams, Sgt. Luis Trenche and Spc. William Lancenese and Spc. Eric Chambers and Sgt. Jonathan Sodomini.

The sniper competition was dominated by 2-113th Infantry with Capt. David Moses nailing first, second place was Spc. Tiberio Gonzalez and third place was shared by Sgt. John Keith and Spc. Justin O'Connor.

All first place individuals and teams will be traveling this fall to Arkansas.

Maj. Gen. Cosgrave Retires

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA



The entire leadership of the New Jersey National Guard leadership and members of the 177th Fighter Wing salute during the New Jersey Air National Guard Change of Command Ceremony held at the 177th June 23. Photo by Master Sgt. Donald Taggart, 177 FW MultiMedia Information Center.

Maj. Gen. Richard C. “Craig” Cosgrave retired after 37 years of service on June 23. He was the Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey.

The ceremony was hosted by the 177th Fighter Wing located at Egg Harbor Township.

General Cosgrave was born on June 15, 1942 in Springfield, Ohio and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio State University in 1965. His military education includes Air Command and Staff College, National War College, and the National and International Security Program. His military education

includes Air Command and Staff College, and National War College.

Maj. Gen. Cosgrave received his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps in June 1965. After completing undergraduate pilot training in 1966, he trained at Davis-Monthan AFB as a student pilot and systems radar operator. From 1967 to 1968, he served an F-4D pilot with 433rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Ubon Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand. After returning to the United States in 1968, General Cosgrave was assigned to Langley Air Force Base to train as an interceptor pilot. Upon completion of his training, he served as both an F-106 aircraft commander and operations training officer with the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Langley from 1969 to 1971. In 1971, General Cosgrave was assigned to the Directorate of Plans, Headquarters United States Air Force, the Pentagon, as the Planning and Programs Officer. From 1972 to 1973, he was a weapons instructor pilot with the 475th Air Defense Squadron at Tyndall AFB, Fla. After being Honorably Discharged from the Air Force in 1973, the General accepted a commission in the New Jersey Air National Guard. During 1973 to 1976, he served as an F-106 fighter interceptor pilot with the 119th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, New Jersey Air National Guard. From 1976 to 1978, the General served as the aircraft systems flight evaluation officer, 177th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. During 1978 to 1982, General Cosgrave was the deputy commander for operations,

Air Guard Commander Finishes 37 Years Of Service

then director of operations with the 177th Fighter Interceptor Group. From July 1983 to October 1989 he served as Commander of the 177th. After attending National War College in 1983, he returned to the 177th and served as the commander until 1989. In 1989, the General served as commander of the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing at McGuire AFB until 1991. From 1991 to 1995, General Cosgrave continued as commander of the 108th during the wing's conversion from a fighter wing to an air refueling wing. In 1995, he became the Air National Guard Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Ill. In May, 1999, Maj. Gen. Cosgrave became the Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard.

The General and his wife Kathy have two children: Michael and Pamela.



Maj. Gen. Cosgrave (left) passes his command flag to Command Chief Master Sgt. John Mastrogiovanni (right) after receiving it from The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (center). Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



Last review. Maj. Gen. Cosgrave (second from left) and Col. Barry Johnson (left), 177th Vice Commander, review members of the New Jersey Air National Guard. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

108th Continues War On Terrorism

By the Guardlife Staff, Photo by Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108 ARW/PA

The 108th Air Refueling Wing, continues to support both Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Noble Eagle refers to U.S. military operations associated with

homeland defense and civil support to federal, state, and local agencies in the U.S. Enduring Freedom refers generally to U.S. military operations associated with the war on terrorism outside the United States.



Homecoming 108th style. After a rotation in Oman, Capt. Tim Burke, 141st Air Refueling Squadron, 108th Air Refueling Wing, returns home to his family.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the wing continues to provide air refueling for the Combat Air Patrol missions operating in the Northeast Corridor.

Since October, more than 100 members of the 108th Security Forces Squadron have mobilized in support of both Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. Their mission has been to provide security to government installations throughout the Washington, D.C. area, as well as performing other security-related missions around the world.

Beginning last December, approximately 200 Air Guardsmen were deployed to a location in Oman in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Under this mobilization, 108th aircrew members, aircraft mechanics, and support personnel are assigned as part of the Air Force's Air Mobility Command. Their mission: support combat missions with aerial refueling.

Air Guardsmen Give Back To Old Guard

By the Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108 ARW/PA

The chance to give something back to the community has sparked the New Jersey Air National Guard to bring smiles and friendship.

Ten years ago, Chief Master Sgt. Bob Bartleson, 108th Air Refueling Wing's Logistic Support Flight supervisor contacted the volunteer coordinator at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland to find out what they could do to help. The answer was simple; come and visit.

Master Sgt. Cheryl Adler who works in customer service for the 108th Logistics Flight, smiles when

she talks about the visiting the veterans at the home. "I learn so much when I go down there and their faces express so much when they realize they are not forgotten."

"It just feels good to help," stated Chief Master Sgt. Russell Fenton, 177th Fighter Wing. A call to the 177th brought more volunteers feeling the rewards of giving to the veterans.

New Jersey Air Guardsmen contribute to the veterans in many ways. Each December, the two wings get together to play "Santa." They have taken up collections in the wings and brought gifts to the

veterans of televisions, VCRs, along with books, and just spending time visiting with the veterans.

Bartleson speaks of the time a couple years ago when the bus pulled up and the vets got off the bus. One of the women from the unit came running up to greet her father who lived at Vineland. "That was pretty close to home," he said.

While all three admit it isn't hard to get volunteers for the visits, they are always on the lookout for more people to join in the fun. As Master Sgt. Cheryl Adler says, "They're part of our family."

Scholarship Contest Announced

By Chief Master Sgt. Ricardo Thurston, HQ NJANG

In celebration of the Year of Diversity, The National Guard Bureau announces two scholarship contests for Guard members and military civilian's children.

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to national-level essay contest winners, one Army and one Air. There will also be six \$100 US Savings Bonds awarded to the art contest winners, one Army and one Air, in each of the three age groups 5-9, 10-14, and 15-18 years.

Essay applicants must be the child of Guard member or DoD civilian employee working for, the Army National Guard or Air National Guard. Applicants must be a high school junior or senior (as of Jan. 2002) who will attend a full-time, accredited degree or certification program by Sept. 30, 2003.

Essay entries must be submitted to the attention of Chief Master Sgt. Thurston and be postmarked no later than Oct. 1. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted. Mail entries to: Chief Master Sgt. Ricardo Thurston, State Human Resources Advisor, c/o Col. Alan Bunting, Executive Officer to Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, Year of Diversity

Scholarship Essay Contest, 3650 Saylor's Pond Road, Ft. Dix, NJ 08640-7600.

State level essay winners (one Army and one Air from each state and territory) will be submitted for national level competition for the scholarship awards. Scholarship winners will be notified on or before Dec. 31. Note all submissions must be routed through the State Adjutants General in order to be eligible for national level competition.

All entries for the art contest must be submitted to Year of Diversity Art Contest, ARNG Diversity Initiatives Office, 111 South George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA 22204-1382 ATTN: Ms. Nadine M. Meyers, by Oct. 1. Contest winners will be notified by Dec. 31. Late entries will not be accepted. Return packaging and proper postage must be enclosed if artwork is to be returned to entrant upon conclusion of the contest.

For further information contact Chief Master Sgt. Thurston at (609) 562-0926, or by email at ricardo.thurston@njmcbgu.ang.af.mil

Watson Takes Command Of 254th

By Pvt. 1st Class Finnbar McCallion, photo by Master Sgt. Joe McGrath, 444 MPAD

In a change of command ceremony at Sea Girt, The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (left) passes the 254th Regimental colors to Col. Robert E. Watson (right) on April 1.

Col. Watson, is back where he received his commission. In June of 1977 he graduated the Officer Candidate School as a Second Lieutenant. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the 3-112th Field Artillery, in Morristown. In 1996 he assumed command of the 3-112th. His most recent assignment was as Chief of Military Support at the New Jersey National Guard headquarters at Fort Dix.

Col. Watson is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Field Artillery Officer Advance Course, Command and General Staff College and the Field Artillery Pre-Command Course. He is a graduate of the United States Army War College. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army



Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

177th Flies 1,000th CAP Mission

By 2nd Lt. Brian Patton, 177 FW/PA, photos by Senior Airman Andrew Merlock, Jr., 177/SVSC



Crewchief Senior Airman Stephen Brunetti assists Maj. Yarko Sos as he prepares for the 1,000th Combat Air Patrol mission.

On July 12, Maj. Yarko Sos of the 119th Fighter Squadron of the 177th Fighter Wing, became the first fighter squadron in the Department of Defense to fly 1,000 missions in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

"This is something we should all be tremendously proud of," said Col. Mike Cosby, Wing Commander. "Not only our members, but their families and employers all have made sacrifices to allow us to do what we do best – defending our country. It was a total team effort."

Operation Noble Eagle refers to the military operations within the North America airspace including the combat air patrols. The North

American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) controls all military air assets assigned to support Operation Noble Eagle within the continental U.S., Canada, and Alaska NORAD Regions. The 177th flies combat air patrol missions in support NORAD in coordination with the NORAD's Northeast Air Defense Sector command and control center located in Rome, N.Y.

Due to its strategic location between New York City and Washington, D.C., operations at the 177th have surged in response to fighting the War on Terrorism since Sept. 11. More than 650 personnel at the 177th Fighter Wing were activated to support 24-hours-per-

day, seven-days-per-week combat air patrols (CAPs) over cities including New York, Washington, D.C.; and Philadelphia; as well as other missions. The 119th Fighter Squadron is a 17-aircraft, F-16C fighter squadron assigned to the 177th.

The wing has played an integral role in the "War on Terrorism" since Sept. 11 and the 1,000-sortie mark is evident of this determination, according to Col. Cosby.

In March, Mrs. Lisa Beamer, the widow of the late Todd Beamer, joined the 177th to unveil the "Let's Roll!" nose art on its wing jet. The dedication honored New Jersey resident Todd Beamer for his heroic actions as he and his fellow passengers thwarted the hijackers on United Flight 93.



Ceremonies Reflect Cavalry Traditions

Photos and story by Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA

On July 6, Lt. Col. Michael V. Shute assumed command of the 5-117th Cavalry.

The ceremony took place at Sharp Field. Relinquishing Command was Col. Stephen Hines who has since assumed command of the 50th Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division.

The entire Squadron observed the traditional passing of the colors; symbolizing the transfer of leadership from the old commander to the new. Brig. Gen. Ken Wondrack, Assistant Division Commander, 42nd Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Kenna, assisted in passing the flag from Col. Hines to Lt. Col. Shute.

The ceremony also featured a change of headgear where the new Commander exchanged his helmet for the historic black felt Cavalry hat and the presentation of the cavalry officer's sword.

The 5-117th is one of the most decorated units of the National Guard with battle streamers for participation in the D-Day landings and the ensuing Battle of Normandy.

The keynote speaker, Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey noted that the 5-117th has been the NJARNG's most called upon unit to respond to a variety of post Sept. 11 Homeland Security missions. "Whether providing additional security at the Hudson River bridges and tunnels, airports, and nuclear facilities or responding to other emergencies here in the Garden State, the troops of the 5-117th have proven time and again that they are ready, willing, and able to answer the call to service." 🇺🇸



Brig. Gen. Kenneth Wondrack (left) observes Lt. Col. Michael V. Shute (second from left) receives the traditional cavalry officer's sword from Col. Stephen Hines (right) while Command Sgt. Maj. David Kenna (center) holds the 5-117th colors during 5-117th Change of Command ceremony on July 6.

The Change of Command ceremony served as a backdrop for Pvt. Michael Daly's (center) promotion to private first class. The ceremony was performed by Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Michael Shute (left), and Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (right), the Adjutant General of New Jersey.



Family Day - Fun For All

Photo (left) by Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison and (right) by Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA



Family Day, the chance for all of us to give back to those who make sacrifices that are equal to those made by every Guardsmen in the New Jersey National Guard. Above, pie-eating without the benefit of utensils was a big hit among children of 108th Air Refueling Wing. The 108th's Family Day was held July 21.



Tug-of-war was the stuff of epic tales at the 2-102 Armor Battalion at Port Murray Aug. 18. More than 700 people attended the "Family Day" celebration, which had been in the planning for more than 6 months. The "Kids Carnival" included a variety of activities for "children" of all ages. All in all, a good time was had by all.

Governor's Staff Tours Key Facilities

The TAG hosted Jim Davy, Chief of Policy and Management and other senior officials from the Governor's office for a tour of the New Jersey National Guard. They traveled to 177th Fighter Wing and 108th Air Refueling Wing where they were briefed by the unit commanders. They were briefed at the Consolidated Headquarters for the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard at Ft. Dix following a tour of the Training and Training Technology Battle Lab. They ended their tour with a visit to the new Homeland Security Center of Excellence Joint Operations Center and briefings on Veterans issues by Col. (Ret.) Emil Philobosian, the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs.



(L-R) Alan Weinberg, Assistant to the Chief, Management and Operations; Patrick Brannigan, Deputy Chief, Management and Operations, Governor's Office; Command Chief Master Sgt. John Mastrogiovanni; State Command Sgt. Maj. Richard S. Adkins Jr.; Col. (Ret.) Michael Smith, Joint Chief of Staff; Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Jim Davy, Chief of Policy and Management for Gov. James E. McGreevey; and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeff Angle.

Air Guard Commander Promoted To Major General

Photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

The Adjutant General of New Jersey Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth and Mrs. Dee Ann Martin pinned on major general shoulder boards on then Brig. Gen. Clark W. Martin, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, July 1.

The ceremony was held at the Consolidated Headquarters for the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard at Fort Dix. Martin took command of the New Jersey Air National Guard June 23.

Maj. Gen. Martin was born in Atlantic City, and received his Bachelor of Arts in English from The Citadel, Charleston, S.C., in 1965 and his Masters in Systems Management from the University of Southern California in 1972. His military education includes Marine Command and Staff College and Air War College. He entered the Air Force in 1966, having been commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program at The Citadel. After completing navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, Calif., he served as a reconnaissance systems officer flying RF-4s with the 14th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, from 1967 to 1968. During that time he also served with the 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadron, Nakon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, as a forward air controller in the O-2A during the Tet offensive. During his Vietnam tour, he flew 153 combat missions, 100 of them over North Vietnam. In 1981, he joined the New Jersey Air National Guard in 1981. He is a master navigator with more than 3,500 hours of flying



The Adjutant General of New Jersey Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (left) and Mrs. Dee Ann Martin (right) pin on major general shoulder boards Brig. Gen. Clark W. Martin, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, July 1

time, primarily in the F-4D/E.

His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, Presidential Unit

Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, and the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars.

Governor Honors Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans

Gov. James E. McGreevey held a Veterans Reception and Military Honor Awards Ceremony on June 22 at Drumthwacket. The Ceremony honored New Jersey active-duty, Guard, and Reserve who had served in Afghanistan and in Operation Enduring Freedom. The New Jersey Medal of Honor was awarded to 15 recipients including Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Pycior, Jr., who was killed at the Pentagon when it was attacked Sept. 11.



LAST ROUND: GRADUATES



Spring and Summer are the times for graduations and the New Jersey National Guard is no exception.

Bottom right: At the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., (L-R) Col. Wyniaco Thomas, Col. Charles Harvey, and Col. William Bertsch pose for a post graduation picture with The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth.

Bottom left: OCS Class 45 poses on the steps of the National Guard Training Facility at Sea Girt.

Left: Members of the 177th Fighter Wing NCO Academy pose with their satellite instructors.

And finally turn to page seven for the article on the sergeant majors graduation at Fort Bliss, Texas.



Congratulations Grads

State of New Jersey
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
PO Box 340
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0340

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**

