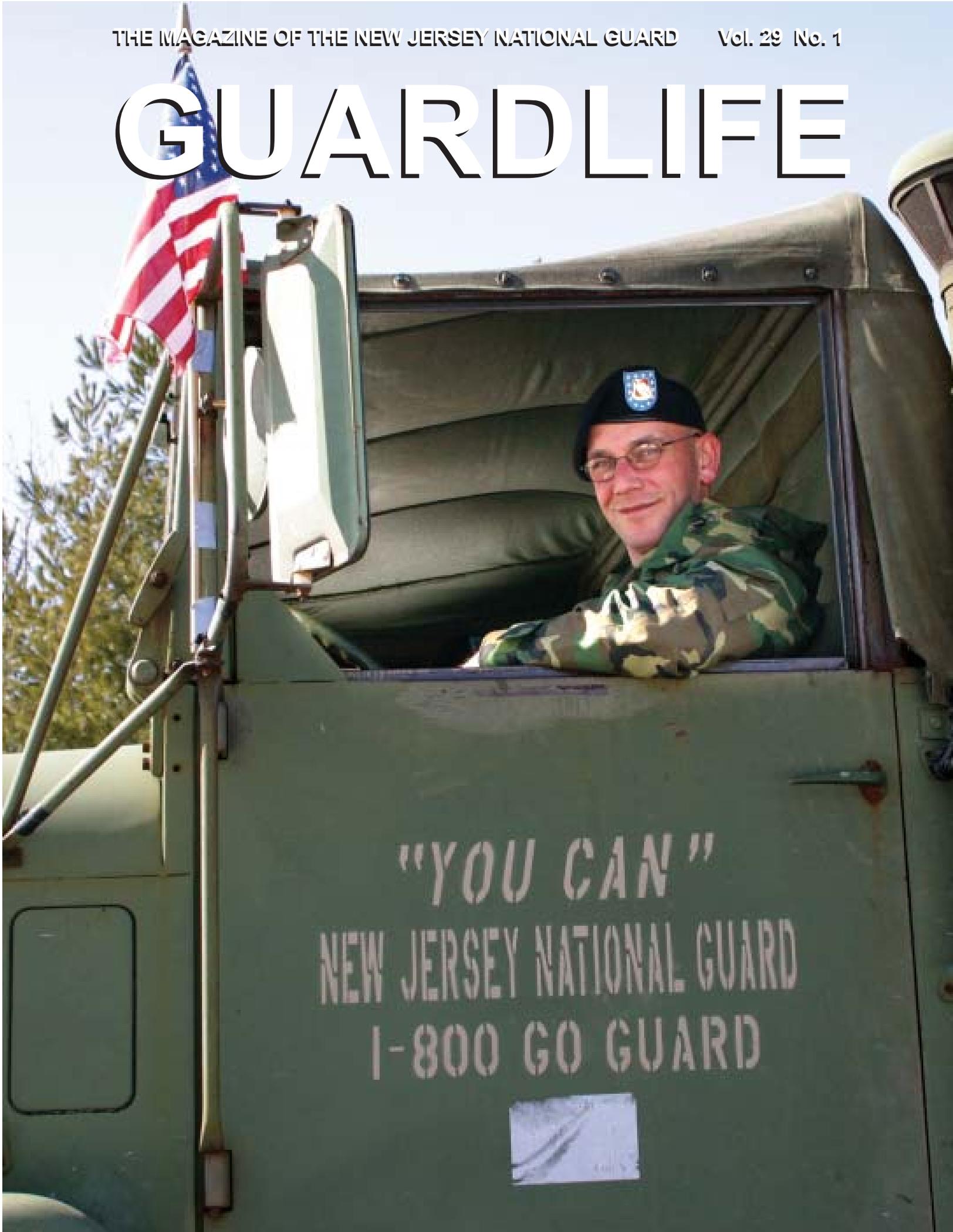


# GUARDLIFE



"YOU CAN"  
NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD  
1-800 GO GUARD





# GUARDLIFE

VOL. 29, No. 1

## GUARDLIFE STAFF

### *Editors*

Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt  
Maj. Denise Waggoner  
2nd Lt. Luz Colon

### *Assistant Editor-Production*

Tech. Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

### *Staff Photographers*

Lt. Col. James Pippitt  
Maj. Mark Preston  
Master Sgt. Donald Taggart

### *Staff Writers*

Roman Martyniuk  
Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison

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### *About The Cover*

#### **Its All About Trucks**

Staff Sgt. Joseph Tress, 253rd Transportation Company, drives a five-ton truck into the staging area at Fort Dix in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

## Index

Letter From The Governor	Page 3
TAG's Column	Page 4
Cavalry Deploys To Air Bases	Page 5 - 7
177th Receives Top Three Environmental Awards	Page 8
Task Force Pegasus	Page 9
253rd Transportation Company Mobilized	Page 10 - 11
50th Finance Serves In Bosnia	Page 12 - 13
Guard Activated For Homeland Security Missions	Page 14
Homecoming 108th Style	Page 15
New Jersey Soldiers Of The Year	Page 16
108th Inspection Results	Page 17
Short Rounds	Pages 18 - 19
Last Round: 1st Women Commanders	Page 20

## IMPORTANT DATES

**May 11-17, National Guard Week**

**May 15, National Guard Day at the State House in Trenton.**

The 108th Air Refueling Wing refuels a Navy Prowler over the Atlantic. Photo by Kenn Mann, 305th Communications Squadron

# A Letter From The Commander - In - Chief

April 17, 2003

On behalf of the citizens of New Jersey, I thank you for your service in the New Jersey National Guard. In time of war and domestic crisis, the National Guard provides vital security for our State and nation. In times of natural disaster, the National Guard protects life and property against forest fires, floods, and snowstorms. I want you to know that the people of New Jersey greatly appreciate the sacrifices you and your family make.

Many National Guard members called to State Active Duty may suffer financial, healthcare and other hardships. I want you to know that I am taking action to reduce those hardships.

For National Guard members who are ordered to State Active Duty for 30 or more days, I am seeking legislation to increase State Active Duty base pay to a minimum of \$100 per day and to provide medical coverage for members and their eligible dependents. I am pleased that Senate President Codey and Assembly Speaker Sires have agreed to have that legislation introduced in the near future.

In addition, on April 1st I signed an Executive Order granting additional benefits for National Guard members including:

- The Division of Motor Vehicles will provide automatic extensions for drivers' licenses, vehicle registrations and inspections for National Guard members who are engaged in active duty.
- The State will create a Scholarship Program for children, spouses and dependents of New Jersey military personnel killed or severely disabled during the war on terrorism or war in Iraq. Also, the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority will extend application deadlines for Tuition Aid Grants for National Guard members on active military service.
- Guard members who had to leave a state college or university when they were called to active duty will be able to receive refunds of registration, lab, and student fees or have the option of re-enrolling without new fees.
- The New Jersey Department of Labor will provide job training through its one-stop career centers. Counselors will conduct special seminars for employers and job search workshops for returning Guard members.
- For the next six months, a half price discount will be provided for military personnel traveling on New Jersey Transit trains and buses. Military personnel will need to show proper military identification.
- The Department of Banking and Insurance will undertake necessary action to prohibit cancellations of professional liability insurance policies while the policyholder is on active duty; to suspend the policyholder's obligation to pay premiums during the term of his or her period of active duty; and to require renewal without lapse of policies that expire during active duty, if application to renew is made within 60 days of return from active duty.
- The Office of the Attorney General will strictly enforce all laws to protect military personnel against discrimination related to housing, employment, education, public accommodations, and credit applications due to active duty service.

The Adjutant General, Brigadier General Rieth, will be providing additional information to all National Guard members through normal communication channels. If you have any questions related to the increased benefits the State will be providing to National Guard members, please go through your normal chain of command.

Again, thank you for your service. May God bless and protect you and our nation.

With All Good Wishes,  
James E. McGreevey  
Governor



*Governor McGreevey signs Executive Order #54 at the Teaneck armory Apr. 1. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NUDMAVA/PA.*

# Command Philosophy Outlines Top Three Priorities

By Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General



Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth shakes the hand of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mickey McGuire and other members of the 253rd Transportation Company deploy to Kuwait. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

One of my goals as your Adjutant General is to keep you and your family informed about issues and programs with the potential to impact the New Jersey National Guard (NJNG). The success of the NJNG is rooted in teamwork and based on communication. We will make every effort possible to share information and provide direction and guidance as we prepare our National Guard forces for a "new way of doing business." I would like to take this opportunity to review our top three priorities for the New Jersey National Guard: Security, Readiness/Strength, and Integrity.

**Security.** The number one challenge for the American military is the protection of the homeland. In doing so, the United States and New Jersey remains fully committed to the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, NJNG personnel have participated extensively in OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE air and ground missions, OPERATION LIBERTY SHIELD, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Our role in homeland security has generated the high degree of confidence and reliance elected officials and the American public have placed in the National Guard. Homeland Security missions include force and resource protection actions, counter-terrorism, critical infrastructure protection, and information security operations. In most cases, state emergencies are handled at the local level by civilian authorities such as police and first responders. In instances where the resources required to mitigate a disaster, manmade or natural, exceed the capabilities of local authorities, either the Governor or The Adjutant

General may call the NJNG to active duty. When you are mobilized for state active duty, you will be happy to know that the Governor has proposed legislation to increase the pay and add health benefits for members and their families when your duty exceeds 30 days. For all mobilized members, the Governor has also signed an Executive Order to implement additional benefits such as extensions for drivers' licenses and registrations, job training, and half price tickets on New Jersey Transit, as just a few examples.

**Readiness/Strength.** Threats to world peace and the nation's subsequent military needs have changed. National Guard members are performing duties and missions both at home and overseas locations. On an average, you are performing well above the traditional 39 days of service a year while balancing, in most cases, the demands of a family and civilian career. It is imperative that we maintain 100 percent strength to enable us to fully engage in readiness or security matters. Strength is the lynchpin for our continued success and, therefore, I challenge each and every one of you to become a voice for our mission and for the Guard. We all play a role in recruiting and retaining members. We are transforming the way we do business; and, as we do, our families and civilian employers need to understand this change. More now than ever, the retention process must include families and employers. Our Department is fortunate to have available the services of our Employer Support to Guard and Reserve (ESGR) volunteers should difficulties arise with employers over military duty obligations.

**Integrity.** As members of the military, we must adhere to standards in everything we do. Integrity is also the fair and consistent treatment of all members and honest execution of our policies, such as weight, physical fitness, military and civilian education, accountability and fraternization. But more than this, integrity means doing the right thing even when no one is looking.

Finally, I encourage you to submit ideas and inputs as we approach these new daunting tasks. I will make a conscious effort to share information about "hot button issues" when practical and provide the necessary guidance and direction as we prepare to face together an array of challenges in 2003 and

# Cavalry Deploys To Air Bases

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



Pfc. David Lopez checks an ID card while Spc. Erick Contreras watches a car at one of the entrances to McGuire Air Force Base.

**T**here's a new team in town. One hundred and fifty-two members of the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry, have been transformed into the 5-117th Armor Reconnaissance Squadron and deployed to McGuire Air Force Base - 120 troops - and the 177th Fighter Wing - 32 troops - as part of Operation Noble Eagle to provide additional base and flightline security.

"As an Air Force leader I'm very happy to see our young troops, both enlisted and officer, be exposed to the professionalism and unique skills of the New Jersey Army National Guard NCO corps," stated Capt. Mark C. Anarumo, Operations Officer, 305th Security Forces, McGuire Air Force Base. "That experience will be a great addition to their

leadership toolbox."

"My staff has integrated into all the Air Force staff sections," said Capt. Tim Cole, Commanding Officer, 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry. "My people are performing law enforcement backup, internal and external security, checkpoint 9 vehicle search - we're everywhere."

Since the events of Sept. 11, the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry has been one of the most deployed units in the NJARNG. Following the terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, 5th Squadron guardsmen

were placed on state active duty and Title 10 federal status to perform security missions at the Hudson River bridges and tunnels, Newark International Airport, the Salem Nuclear Power Plant, and at other key infrastructure throughout the state. The unit was again placed on alert in the weeks surrounding the first anniversary of Sept. 11th.

"Most of my troops served at the bridges and tunnels, as well as other state security missions. Only five of the 32 have never done anything like this before," observed 19-year New Jersey Army National Guard veteran Staff Sgt. Alfred Lamar, NCOIC of the Atlantic City International Airport detail of the 5-117th Armor Reconnaissance Squadron.

"It has been a vast learning experience, doing duties that are not in our MOS's (Military Occupational Specialties)," stated 2nd

**Continued on page 6**



Capt. Mark C. Anarumo (left) and Capt. Tim Cole (right) go over scheduling and locations for the upcoming rotation.



## Cavalry Deploys To Air Bases



*Staff Sgt. Alfred Lamar (left), Cpl. Richard Rivera (center) and Pfc. Paul Drabold (right), return from patrolling the flight line.*

### **Continued from page 5**

Lt. Robert Jenkins, Officer in Charge of the newly constituted 5-117th Armor Reconnaissance Squadron at Pomona. "Even though it looks similar to what we did at the bridges and tunnels, there is a much greater level of responsibility here."

If the idea of having an Army Guard unit serving at Air Guard and active-duty Air Force bases seems strange it's because it's never been done before. The constant demand for Security Forces worldwide has resulted in a strain on the Guard, Reserve, and the active-duty Air Force Security Forces.

On Jan. 11 the entire 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry reported to their various armories around the state to begin pre-mobilization

training in preparation for up to one year of active duty service. This followed an historic agreement between the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Following the pre-mobilization training, Lt. Col. Michael V. Shute, Squadron Commander, chose 152 soldiers to be deployed. After six days at Fort Drum, N.Y., the troops arrived at their respective duty stations on Feb. 10.

"The way the Air Guard trains

their security forces is fantastic," noted Staff Sgt. Lamar. "They prepared us very well for what we are doing. This will help some of the younger troops who are interested in law enforcement as a career." The majority of the troops deployed are between the ages of 18 and 38.

"So far so good. I'm on the day shift and am doing a completely different job than I was trained for. I have a cooking MOS," said Spc. Amy Pendola, the only female deployed to the 177th. Prior to volunteering for the mission, Pendola attended the Moore College of Art and Design thanks to the Guard's tuition reimbursement plan.

Moreover, knowing that they are a critical element of our nation's war on terrorism and a key player in Homeland Security missions is very important to the New Jersey Army Guardsmen. "Some of my troops feel that if they can't deploy overseas, they'd rather be here



*Sgt. Ronnell Pulley (left) clear his M-16A1 while Sgt. Terrance Smith (right) watches.*

***"Even though it looks similar to what we did at the bridges and tunnels, there is a much greater level of responsibility here," 2nd Lt. Robert Jenkins, OIC, 177th Fighter Wing Detail, 5-117th Armor Reconnaissance Squadron.***

making a difference," observed Staff Sgt. Lamar. "I know Homeland Security is very important and I appreciate being part of this mission," concluded Spc. Pendola.

Spc. Pendola's statement underscores the new duties and reality facing the New Jersey Army National Guard unit. Traditionally, the majority of 5th Squadron troops serve with tank, mortar, or scout units; utilizing the M1 Abrams main battle tank, 81mm mortars mounted in M-113 armored personnel carriers, and helicopters to provide rapid deployment/combat capability. The 5th is a subordinate unit within the 50th Armored Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division.

Inevitably the question comes up: can the Army and Air Guard perform the same mission together? Based upon the response of both the leadership and the troops, the answer is yes.

All are members of "New Jersey's Hometown Team."

*Spc. Amy Pendola stands guard in one of the alert hangars. The 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry has been fully integrated into both the Active Duty Air Force and the New Jersey Air National Guard Security Forces.*



## **New Jersey Army Guard Scores Perfect CLRT-X**

**T**he New Jersey Army National Guard received a perfect score on this year's Command Logistics Review Team - Expanded (CLRT-X) inspection.

Overall, 13 of 13 areas inspected received satisfactory ratings, placing New Jersey as one of only two states to recently achieve this distinction. A CLRT-X combines several inspections into one major evaluation, which allows the National Guard Bureau to evaluate each state's logistical posture.

New Jersey's CLRT-X was conducted Feb. 24 -28. Col.

Frank Costello, Chief of Staff, organized assistance teams to prepare the various organizations and identify areas where resources could best be applied.

A year prior to the CLRT-X, several In-Progress Reviews and workshops were conducted in preparation for the inspection by the State Area Command Logistics Office (G-4) and the United States Property and Fiscal Office. In addition, a website was developed, containing a self-evaluation checklist, mailing lists, a documentation page for reference material and a links page.

Thirty days prior to the inspec-

tion the state was notified that the following units would be inspected: 50th PSB, HHC DISCOM, HHC 250th SBF, HHC 50th Bde, HHC 2-102nd AR, C Btry 3-112th FA, T3BL, CSMS-B, UTEs, OMS-1, OMS-12, OMS-20, OMS-25, USP&FO, USP&FO warehouse, Class IX warehouse, the G-4, the Surface Maintenance Office and the Division Support Command property book.

Due to New Jersey's success, the state is not scheduled for another CLRT-X for 40 months.

A job well done by all involved One Team, One Fight, One Future.

# 177th Receives Top Environmental Awards

By 2nd Lt Luz Colón, 177FW/PAO, photo by Master Sgt. Donald Taggart, 177FW/MultiMedia Information Center

The 177th Fighter Wing received the top three Air National Guard environmental awards at the Air National Guard Environmental Conference held at Gulfport, Miss., on Mar. 19.

The Wing's Natural Resources Conservation Team was presented the Air National Guard Environmental Quality Award, the ANG Natural Resources Management Award and the ANG State Environmental Employee Award.

The Environmental Quality Award is presented to the best air guard environmental program. "The Wing has received the Award three times since its inception in 1996," stated 1st Lt. Rich DeFeo. "This award is directly related to the hard work and dedication of all the unit members. What they consider as day-to-day is seen as exceptional by the ANG, and the Air Force."

The ANG Natural Resources Management (team) Award was presented to Lt. Col. John Elwood, 1st Lt. DeFeo, Master Sgt. Wayne Miller, Master Sgt. Anthony Boccelli, Tech. Sgt. Michael Chaney, and Senior Airman Julius Simmons. The team conducts inventories of natural resources; prepares and implements natural resources plans; applies management techniques; protects wetlands and other special natural areas and promotes conservation education. The ANG State Environmental Employee Award was awarded to 1st Lt. DeFeo who manages the entire Environ-



177th Fighter Wing Natural Resources Conservation Team, left to right: 1st Lt. Rich DeFeo, Lt. Col. John Elwood and Master Sgt. Wayne Miller. Not pictured: Master Sgt. Anthony Boccelli, Tech. Sgt. Michael Chaney, and Senior Airman Julius Simmons.

mental program.

The unit will be recognized in May at the Air Force Environmental Awards Ceremony in Wash-

ington, D.C., as the winner of the 2002 General Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award for a Reserve Component.



Members of 177th Civil Engineering Squadron display their battle pennants prior to deploying to Southwest Asia. Left to right: Senior Airman Mike Mimler, Tech. Sgt. David St. Leger, Master Sgt. Bill Brown, Tech. Sgt. Dominic Tedesco, Staff Sgt. Mark Sparagna, Staff Sgt. Mike Jones, Staff Sgt. Richard Dickson, and Senior Airman Ryan Butcher. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

# Task Force Pegasus

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA, Photo by Maj. Mark Preston, 150th GSAB

**A**s part of the mounting involvement of the New Jersey Army National Guard in worldwide military operations, 19 members of the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Task Force Pegasus from Sept. 21, 2001, through April 6, 2002.

The 15 men and four women who deployed were a cross-section of the unit: pilots, communications, a cook, flight operations, base security, ammunition handlers and refuelers. The 150th troops were part of a task force of 359 soldiers and aviators (69 percent National Guard, 30 percent active duty, and one percent Reserve) from 10 states and four active-duty posts. Task Force Pegasus was the first multi-component, multi-functional Aviation Battalion under National Guard command.

With just three weeks of collective training, the team was deployed to Camp Comanche, located approximately six miles from Tuzla. For the next eight months, Task Force Pegasus provided 24/7

aviation operational support throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. They flew more than 5,700 flight hours and transported 3,967 passengers; maintained the highest Operational Readiness Rate of the US Army (90 percent); conducted more than 650 aerial reconnaissance and air movement operations; and participated in several multi-component and multi-national operational missions in support of the Multi-National Division (North) and the General Framework of Peace (Dayton Peace Accords) including successful raids on illegal weapons caches and the roundup of terrorists. The unit also participated in more than 75 humanitarian support operations to local refugee camps and area schools.

Because of their successes, Task Force Pegasus received numerous accolades from I Corps Aviation Safety and Standardization Detachment during the Aviation Operational Readiness and Standardization Evaluation that was held during the deployment.



*The New Jersey contingent of Task Force Pegasus. Front row: Maj. Mark Preston, Capt. Bart Montee, Spc. Danielle Draeger, Sgt. Lisa Lopez, Spc. Guinevere McSulla and Sgt. Victor Morales. Middle row: Sgt. 1st Class Guy Foy, Spc. Jean-Paul Ortega, Cpl. James Nall, Spc. Richard Morgan and Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Hodge. Back row: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bill Tuttle, Capt. Daniel McGuire, Sgt. William Bovik, Lt. Col. Jack Dillie, Master Sgt. William Smith and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Casper Dyckman. Not Pictured: Sgt. Anthony Coleman and Sgt. Henrique Miller.*



# 253rd Transportation Company Mobilized

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

**O**n Feb. 7, the members of the 253rd Transportation Company, reported to their armory at Cape May Courthouse, to begin mobilization training in preparation for active duty service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This action followed the mobilization of the 150th Adjutant General Detachment and the 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

The 253rd Transportation Company is commanded by Capt. Michael Ciarrocca and is part of the 119th Corps Support Battalion under the 57th Troop Command. The 253rd was one of three New Jersey Army National Guard units activated for Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield.

At the end of their three-day preparation, the New Jersey Guardsmen moved to Fort Dix for Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) activity. The SRP activity concentrates on preparing mobilized soldiers for the realities of extended active duty deployment. These additional Garden State Guard troops are now part of the largest mobilization of Army Guard troops since the Persian Gulf War more than 11 years ago.





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# 50th Finance Serves In Bosnia

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, photos by Lt. Col. James Pippitt



*A Sarajevo apartment building shows both the effects of the civil war and the speed of rebuilding the war-torn region.*

**B**osnia has all the aspects of any European country: culture, great food, and friendly people.

And like all the major European countries it is the latest victim of the devastation of war.

From September 2001 through March 2002, 18 members of the 50th Finance Battalion were deployed to Bosnia as part of SFOR-10 (Stabilization FORCE). What was unique was that for the first time the Guard was in charge of the deployment. The finance section (and all the money) was assigned to the Division headquarters, Eagle Base, near Tuzla, which is almost in the dead center of Bosnia. The base is a Former Soviet/Yugoslav air base where they are still finding landmines (so you had to be careful when you stepped out). To this day several million landmines are still unaccounted for in the Bosnia-Herzegovina region.

"I was the first National Guard Finance Battalion Commander in charge of active duty troops in Bosnia," stated Lt. Col. James Pippitt, Commander, 50th Finance Battalion. "I had 18 guardsmen from my unit and 15 active-duty troops, which I integrated immedi-

ately in sections based on the abilities of the soldiers and not on whether they were active or guard."

"The troops were then parceled out to Camp Comanche, the NATO base in Sarajevo, and Taszar, Hungary," noted Capt. Walter Laskowski, A Company Commander, 50th Finance Battalion. Money was disbursed from those locations by road or by air when the weather got bad.

"They would go on two to three hour trips through the mountains, on roads that were barely passable, to get to the various Forward Observation (FOB) sites," continued Lt. Col. Pippitt. "Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, I was sending out troops to FOB Connor and Morgan, as well as Camp McGovern, which are all on the Croatian border. It got worse in November when we got two feet of snow - definitely not parkway driving."

"Bosnia is one of the poorest countries in the region and the capital city Sarajevo is still pretty torn up from the war. The people are very pro-American. They are not looking forward to when we leave because the possibility of renewed conflict is still there," observed Capt. Laskowski. "For a lot of our young troops this was a real eye-opener: it was their first real time away from home and in a combat zone as well."

"It was the best experience of my life," said Sgt. 1st Class David DeMarco, Chief of Military Pay. "I dealt with entitlements where there were a lot of pre-existing



*Spc. Roberto Ramos, 250th Finance Detachment, in the cage disbursing money to the troops.*

***The finance troops had experiences in Bosnia like none they had ever encountered at Annual Training. "We were paying the Bosnian landowners for use of their land; we were paying for the telephone, electricity, and food," explained Spc. Susan Cook, Commercial Vendor Pay.***

problems. By the end, 98 percent of the troop pay was correct while the other two percent were problems that they had brought down-range (from home base) with them."

The finance troops had experiences in Bosnia like none they had ever encountered at Annual Training. "We were paying the Bosnian landowners for use of their land; we were paying for the telephone, electricity, and food," explained Spc. Susan Cook, Commercial Vendor Pay. "Without Spc. Cook, there would have been no water, no electricity, and no food for the base," commented Sgt. 1st Class DeMarco. "Most people had no idea that Cook was making sure they had a base to work at."

All work and no play? "You have to adjust and adapt to your environment. Our unit participated in flag football and won the league trophy. We played basketball; one of our troops even won the Karaoke competition. We had the USO and Arnold Schwarzenegger come visit. The University of Maryland offered long-distance learning so some of my kids took classes and earned college credits," added Lt. Col. Pippitt. "There are plenty of opportunities; you just had to take advantage of them."

"I went on a road march in the Danish-Polish sector sponsored by the Danish Army. More than 150 UN peacekeeping forces, Polish, Danish, American, French, and Russian troops participated," said Capt. Laskowski. "You got to see homes, watch farmers slaughter animals, and smell wood and coal burning."

The 50th adopted their new community and visited the area schools and refugee camps. "After seeing the conditions these people were living in, we contacted friends, family, co-workers, and various other stateside organization to seek donations of school supplies, winter clothing, and sporting goods for the children," remarked Lt. Col. Pippitt. "It was very easy to get people to donate items."

So what does all this add up to? The 50th provided financial services to more than 3,000 soldiers, civilians, and multi-national troops including more than 56,000 transactions for more than \$27.2 million. Pay missions resulted in the disbursement of more than



*50th Finance Battalion troops work with school children during a visit to an area elementary school.*

\$12.5 million dollars while 50th troops logged more than 5,000 accident free miles conducting these missions. They even participated in a training film about the Army's stored value (credit) card.

Throw into this the changeover to the Euro (the new European common currency). For the soldiers this wasn't much of a problem, they had their cash card called the Eagle Card, which was linked to cash or checks so the conversion didn't really affect them. It was a whole different story for the Bosnians. Everyone had to swap their Deutschmarks for Euros. "Bosnia had linked their money - the K-Mark - to the Deutschmark. Yet Bosnia is not part of the European Union so there was a big question whether or not the Euro would be accepted," explained Lt. Col. Pippitt.

"We collected the European currencies from the Bosnians and shipped them back to their countries of origin," noted Capt. Laskowski. In the end the Bosnians stuck with their currency and linked it with the Euro.

"Based on our Bosnian mission, we are changing our training to mirror what we did while deployed. I challenged my troops when they got back to train the troops that didn't deploy," finished Lt. Col. Pippitt. "This deployment set us up for the next 10 years."

# Guard Activated For Homeland Security Missions

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

The New Jersey Army National Guard was activated at the direction of the Governor and the Office of Emergency Man-

agement. The troops will be providing additional security at Newark-Liberty International Airport, Staten Island

crossings, the Lincoln Tunnel, and the George Washington Bridge, as well as the two nuclear power plants.



Spc. Anthony Goodell (left), 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry receives an Army Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. William J. Marshall, III (center) while Lt. Col. Joe O'Connor watches.



Cpl. Homero Almanzar, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry on post at the Newark-Liberty International Airport.



Specialists Jessica D. Gable and Sabrina V. Mohamed of B Company, 50th Main Support Battalion, guard an entrance to the George Washington Bridge.



Staff Sgt. Evelyn Montanez, E Company, 50th Main Support Battalion, guards the George Washington Bridge.

# Homecoming 108th Style

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



Above: Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth and Governor James E. McGreevey pose with Senior Airman Stephanie Marshall (third from right), her husband, Gulf-War Veteran Patrick (second from left) and their family. Photo right: a tearful reunion at the end of the transatlantic flight awaited this guardsman.



have been deployed since late February/early March and were being replaced by 50 more airmen to join another 100 guardsmen already in place to provide aerial refueling and strategic airlift in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These were the first New Jersey Guardsmen to return from deployment. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

On April 4, approximately 60 members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing returned from an undisclosed location in the North Atlantic. These airmen

## Guard, Reserve And Active Duty Break Ground On New Medical Facility

By Maj. Denise Waggoner, 108 ARW/PA

After a six-year effort to get federal funding, Col. Maria Morgan joined members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing (NJANG), the 514th Air Mobility Wing of the Air Force Reserves, the project contractor and the 305th Air Mobility Wing at the 305th Medical Group Ambulatory Health Care Center on March 6, to break ground on the Joint Medical Training Facility.

The 15,000-square-foot, \$4.9 million facility will house the administrative and dental offices for the Guard and Reserve, and will be connected to the active duty Ambulatory Health Care Center via a covered walkway. It will be the first time Guard, Reserve and active duty units will share a state-of-the-art medical complex.



Col. (Ret.) Aldo Baldi (far right), former 108th Medical Squadron Commander joins members of the Guard, Reserve and active-duty Air Force in breaking ground on the new Joint Medical Training Facility at McGuire Air Force Base on March 6. Col. Baldi conceived the concept for the Facility 10 years ago.

# New Jersey Soldiers Of The Year

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



The 2003 New Jersey Army National Guard NCO of the Year and the 2003 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier of the Year were awarded to Sgt. Johnathon M. Sodamin (center, top picture) and to Sgt. Maria E. Velez (center, right picture) respectively. The plaques were presented by New Jersey State Command Sgt. Maj. Richard S. Adkins, Jr., (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Marshall, Jr., (left) 57th Troop Command on April 8. Sgt. Sodamin is currently assigned to the 150th General Support Aviation Battalion located at Trenton-



Mercer Airport, while Sgt. Velez is a Visual Information Equipment Operator/Maintainer at the Training and Training Technology Battle Lab at Fort Dix. The basic criteria for the award includes being MOS qualified or in the process of getting MOS qualified, be within Army height and weight standards and be weapons qualified. Once a soldier is selected by his or her unit, they then go on to compete against candidates from other units up through the entire command level. After that they compete against nominees at the regional and national levels.

## "177th Best Seen To Date"

On Aug. 12, 2002, the 177th Fighter Wing underwent a weeklong Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI).

"Looking back over the last two years of inspections the 177th is the BEST seen to date," stated Col. Joseph J. Kahoe, Inspector General (IG) Team Chief.

The UCI's purpose was to verify the wing's compliance with public law, Department of Defense, Air Force, Air Combat Command, and Air National Guard directives by using Air Combat Command and National Guard Bureau.

The IG team inspected 476 critical compliance objectives with the following findings; 383 or 81% "Complied", 79 or 16% "Complied with Comments", and only 14 or less than 3% "Did Not Comply." The IG team also recognized 11 superior performer teams, 58 individual superior performers, two best practices, and zero findings. The 177th was one of only two units Air Combat Command-wide to satisfactorily pass their Special Interest Item.

## Top OMS In NJARNG



Lt. Col. John Nunn (left, front), the Surface Maintenance Manager, presents Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Laner (right, front), supervisor, Organizational Maintenance Shop #7 the NJARNG Award for Maintenance Excellence. Back row (left-right) are shop members: Staff Sgt. Steve Vidam, Sgt. 1st Class Gary Haddican, and Staff Sgt. Joe dePadua. OMS-7 was also the Region 1B winner for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME). Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

## 108th Medical Squadron Gets Excellent On Inspection

By Tech. Sgt. Ken Schechter, 108 ARW/MDG

**T**he 108th Medical Group recently received an Excellent Rating from the Air Force Inspection Agency.

In addition, two of the group's sections came away from the inspection with perfect scores.

The Health Services Inspection (HSI) is conducted every three years and has a variety of purposes. The primary ones include assessing readiness, providing an independent assessment of medical care, evaluate and report on the effectiveness and the efficiency of medical management and to identify any fraud, waste or abuse.

A number of recent personnel changes in the group provided some challenges for the unit, but through the hard work of the group's members and support from the wing, the 108th came out with a score of Excellent on the inspection.

Programs noted with special recognition by receiving perfect scores were Flight Medicine Management and Workplace surveillance.

The 108th Medical Group provides quality medical support for 1500 wing personnel while maintaining readiness for its diverse peacetime and wartime taskings.

## 108th Finance Section Best For FY 02

By Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA

108th Finance Section as Financial Management and Comptroller Organization of the Year for FY 02

While simultaneously supporting Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom finance taskings, the 16 members of the finance team maintained control of more than \$54 million in Operations and Maintenance funds and more than \$800,000 in Military Personnel funds, and dispersed \$15 million in military payroll, all with virtually 100 percent accuracy. They also managed to deploy a member of their team to Oman, another selected as 108th NCO of the Year and as always, had other team members working extra duties in the wing.

The finance team, which consists of 12 full-time military employees, two full-time civilian employees and four traditional Guardsmen, also developed a user-friendly process for the demobilization phase. The unit is also the seventh best in the entire Air National Guard for government credit card delinquency.

Lt. Col. Ronald Alfors, 108th Comptroller and Chief Master Sgt. Leon Cisek, 108th Deputy Comptroller, received the award from Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, Director, Air National Guard, during an ANG Comptrollers luncheon in Arlington, Va.

Know someone who would make a good member of our Hometown Team? Cut out this form, fill in the blanks and send it in.

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# ***Short Rounds: 126th Returns From CMTC; 150th AG Mobilized***



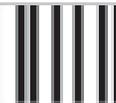
## **126th Returns From CMTC**

*Posing in front of a pair of UH-1 helicopters, the soldiers of B Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment who deployed from Picatinny Arsenal to the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany for three weeks in order to augment the Opposing Force Ravens and Observer Controller Falcons. Front row: Staff Sgt. Roger O'Brien, Sgt. Jan Rzeszot, Sgt. Larry Simms, Staff Sgt. George Bono. Back row, left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Lou Wiersma, Pfc. Paul Weiss, Sgt. Carlos Ayala, Spc. Charlie Fisher, Spc. Ryan Cortez, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frank Partica, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tom Frickanisce, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tom Egleston, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tim Tucker, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dave Lichtbach, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeff Angle, Spc. Steve Molina, Sgt. 1st Class Bob Brownlee, Spc. Mike Rooney, Spc. Kelwin Nieves, and Capt. Tim Hughes. Photo courtesy 1-126th.*



## **150th AG Mobilized**

*Front to back: Specialists Katherine Quiring, Rosa Barillas, Michael Bendel and Jermaine Hamwright, 150th Adjutant General Detachment, work in a converted shower room at the Soldier Readiness Processing center at Fort Dix. The 150th was mobilized on Jan. 27 and provides administrative and personnel services at the center, which helps to prepare mobilized soldiers for extended active duty deployment. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.*



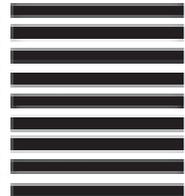
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# ***Short Rounds: Hawks Land In Panama ; 444th Mobilizes and HSCOE Opened***



## **150th Deploys to Panama**

***Port of Cristobol, Republic of Panama*** – Members of the 150th General Support Aviation battalion re-attach rotor blades to a UH-60 Blackhawk in Panama to participate in New Horizons 03, Joint Task Force Chiriqui. The Joint Task Force will construct schools and clinics and practice medicine to benefit the rural villagers in the remote mountain region along the Costa Rican border. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tom Roberts, NGB Public Affairs Support Element.



## **444th MPAD Mobilizes**

Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth congratulates members of the 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD), New Jersey Army National Guard as they began mobilization processing for active duty service. The 444th, under the command of Maj. Carl Palmer, will be stationed at Fort Dix where they will provide public affairs support to Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) activity. The SRP prepares mobilized soldiers for the realities of extended active duty deployment. The 444th was previously called to active duty on March 1, 1999 when they served in Heidelberg, Germany for eight months supporting NATO peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



## **Homeland Security Center Opened**

Governor James E. McGreevey (right) and Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth cut the ribbon officially opening the Homeland Security Center of Excellence on Jan. 4. The Center, located in Lawrenceville, will serve as the focal point for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey Army and Air National Guards' involvement with New Jersey domestic security activities. The Center is capable of supporting multiple, simultaneous emergency response operations, while integrating both New Jersey Army and Air National Guard capabilities into the state emergency response system. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

# Last Round: 1st Women Commanders For Two Units



On April 5, New Jersey Army National Guard history was made when Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt and Maj. Sharon R. Tootell took command of the 50th Personnel Support Battalion and the 119th Corps Support Battalion respectively.

In both cases it was the first time in each of the battalions' histories that a woman officer would be the commander. Lt. Col. Niedt serves as the Public

Affairs Officer for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Maj. Tootell is a traditional drilling Guardsman.

The Ceremony was held at the National Guard Armory at Lawrenceville. Both the 50th Personnel Support Battalion and the 119th Corps Support Battalion are assigned to the 57th Troop Command.

## New Cell Phone Policy

Starting May 1, cell phone use in a government vehicle anytime, anywhere, or in a private vehicle while conducting government business, is restricted to a Hands Off policy. You must either pull over or put your vehicle in park to use your cell phone, or use a no hands device for your cell phone while driving.

## Project Fun At The Beach

Project Fun At The Beach offers free Jersey shore housing units to families of military personnel who have been deployed since Sept. 11, 2001. Families need to call the Burlington County Active Duty Assistance Program hotline at (609) 265-5222 to check for available dates. Requests will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis and limited to unit availability.

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