

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

Vol. 29 No. 3

GUARDLIFE



GUARDLIFE

Vol. 29, No. 3

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About The Cover Convoy Duty

Sgt. Michael J. Spallina (foreground) and Staff Sgt. David A. Dickinson (rear) performing convoy duty in one of the 253rd Transportation Company's Gun Trucks. Photo by 1st Sgt. Michael Vey.

Inside Cover Jambalaya MRE

The MRE that made the New Jersey National Guard - Emeril Lagasse Connection.

Meal

108th Garners Top Awards

By Maj. Denise Waggoner, 108 ARW/PAO

The 108th Air Refueling Wing received the coveted Air National Guard Distinguished Flying Unit plaque and the Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Trophy at the 125th annual National Guard Association of the United States convention. Lt. Gen. Daniel James, Director of the Air National Guard, presented the awards.

Previously, the 108th received both the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor device.

"I couldn't be more proud of the men and women of this wing," stated Col. Larry Thomas, 108th ARW Commander. "Receiving these two prestigious awards shows the defense community as well as the American people the 'stuff' we're made of."

The Metcalf Trophy recognizes the airlift or air refueling unit that demonstrated the highest standards of mission accomplishment. Units are evaluated in the areas of exercises and deployments, human resources, accident rate history, accident prevention and significant accomplishments during the award period. The 108th was recognized for outstanding performance for 2002.

In 2002, the 108th ARW completed its wartime mission to near perfection in support of the global war on terrorism. More than 600 wing members were mobilized for Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM (ONE and OEF). Deploying to Southwest Asia for OEF, the wing achieved a 99.5 percent mission effectiveness rate while flying nearly 700 combat and combat support refueling missions over Afghanistan. For ONE, the unit maintained 24-hour alert status and flew an average of two combat air patrol refueling missions daily for a total of 2,300 hours on 540 sorties. The 108th flew more than 20 percent of all ANG tanker missions in support of these two operations.

The 108th Security Forces Squadron mobilized every available member to support missions at multiple locations worldwide including duty at Guantanamo



108th Distinguished Flying Unit Award- (left to right) Col. Timothy Carroll, Col. Michael L. Cunniff, Col. Lawrence S. Thomas and Col. Michael Moore. Photo courtesy 108ARW/MultiMedia Center.

Bay, Cuba, to guard Al-Qaeda detainees. Security Forces deployed to classified sites overseas while regular forces supported Homeland Defense missions at McGuire AFB and other locations stateside.

The wing also completed the Single Integrated Operations Plan Operational Readiness Inspection while simultaneously supporting ONE and OEF. The Inspector General identified the Maintenance Operation Control Center, Aircrew Life Support, and Security Forces as "Exceptional Performers."

Family support throughout the year was a priority with the high level of deployments. Premobilization briefings were held for unit members and their families to cover all aspects of activation. Volunteers manned phones seven days a week to allow deployed personnel to make numerous morale calls home per month. These same volunteers worked countless hours contacting families so they could meet their loved ones when they returned home from deployments. ¶

The TAG's Mid-Term Assessment Of The N.J. National Guard: *A conversation with Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey*

Q *The National Guard has become a significant player in military operations both here in the United States as well as abroad. As the commander of the NJ National Guard, what do you say to the soldiers and airmen about their changing role?*

A The National Guard is truly instrumental to the Total Force concept. The active component needs the experience, talents, and capabilities found in such abundance among National Guard soldiers and airmen. The time devoted to training and the countless hours of hard work involved in building specialty skills has really paid dividends. In many cases, our citizen-soldiers leapt into operations from a "cold start" to successfully defeat threats aimed at our families and homes. The NJNG has been tested under some of the most difficult circumstances one could imagine and we continue to meet new challenges as quickly as they arise. I have never been prouder to be part of the New Jersey National Guard and I could not be prouder to be your Commander.

Q *The Guard has been called upon to serve a number of Homeland Security missions. What types of deployments are projected for the NJ National Guard in the future?*

A I anticipate that both Army and Air components will remain fully engaged in a wide-range of state and federal missions across the full spectrum of operations. Pre-



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

liminary planning at the Department of Defense indicates that we will be involved in security, peace-keeping, and peace-enforcement operations. Deployments will include direct involvement in Homeland Defense missions anywhere around the world where military operations are underway as well as support operations here at home.

Homeland Defense and Homeland Security are extremely important, high visibility missions for the Guard. I believe we will continue to support both these missions as long as America itself is threatened. It is absolutely essential that the men and women of our National Guard maintain their war-fighting proficiencies and common task training in order to be fully prepared to participate in the total force effort to defeat terrorism.

Q *How prepared is the NJ National Guard for it's missions – both federal and state?*

A Since assuming command of the NJ National Guard, a number of significant changes have been made to adjust to the continuing OPTEMPO and new "normal". Our attendance rate at Army drills is consistently over 99% and retention is the best ever with an attrition rate of 18%. Soldier readiness has improved with our MOSQ rate up from 74% to almost 80%. This is especially important for deployments as evidenced by New Jersey's 'Go' rate at Soldier Readiness Processing for mobilizations. My emphasis has always been on strength and that is still my number one priority in these challenging times. The Air NG strength remains strong at 97.5% and they continue to perform their missions as a normal course of doing business. Army strength is a primary focus for the entire leadership team of the National Guard that includes all officers and NCO's. For our state mission, we have developed and opened our Homeland Security Center of Excellence with a state-of-the-art Joint Operations Center. Additionally, we have implemented a Task Force organization that compliments the State Police in their management of statewide emergencies. Finally, we have made the acquisition of a Civil Support Team Heavy (full-time) a priority at the federal level.

Q *Benefits for traditional drilling Guardsmen are a big issue.*

"The NJ National Guard is New Jersey's Hometown Team. We are community-based. We add tremendous value to our local neighborhoods, our state and nation."

What's happening at either the state or federal level to address this concern?

A Military leaders as well as members of the State Legislature, Congress, and our Governor all recognize the need to provide health care options for the reserve forces. Many Guard families have no health care coverage at all. According to a report from the General Accounting Office, 20 percent of all Guard members have no health insurance while 40 percent of Guardmembers aged 19-35 lack adequate coverage.

The House of Representatives just passed an Appropriations bill that provides some members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families with access to TRICARE, the military health care system. This is in addition to TRICARE Dental, which previously was approved. Under this legislation members of the Guard and Reserve who do not have access to private health care insurance are eligible to purchase TRICARE coverage for a modest premium of approximately \$430 per year for individual coverage or \$1,440 for family coverage.

Members of the New Jersey National Guard already are eligible for tuition-free access to all state colleges and universities to include graduate school, Law school, or medical school and as a result of recent legislation signed by Governor McGreevey, the minimum daily pay for Guardsmen deployed for State Active Duty was raised to \$ 100 and families of reservists

mobilized for either state or federal service were granted extended health care coverage. Guardsmen and Reservists also now have unlimited Commissary and PX/BX privileges.

Q What are your priorities for the New Jersey National Guard?

A My priorities for the next two years and beyond include:

STRENGTH - Strength is the foundation for every endeavor we attempt to undertake. It is the measurement used nationally to assess force relevance. The strength equation requires a balancing of recruiting and retention versus attrition. It is undeniably the most essential element of sound force management.

READINESS: The readiness of our soldiers, airmen, facilities, and equipment is of paramount importance. We must remain relevant, available, and viable in order to be considered an asset to both U. S. Northern Command and our gaining major commands (MACOM/MAJCOM).

HOMELAND SECURITY and HOMELAND DEFENSE: The President, our Governor, and I consider these programs our top priority. Security both at home and abroad is the number one priority for the military.

MOBILIZATION: Calendar year 2004 will witness the largest mobilization and deployment of New Jersey Army National Guard troops since World War II. More than 2,000 personnel are expected to be mobilized for operations in Iraq,

Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. These projected deployments follow close on the heels of significant New Jersey Air National Guard deployments in 2002-2003.

JOINT OPERATING CAPABILITY: On 1 Oct 03, the New Jersey National Guard established a Joint Force Headquarters. This organizational transition makes our National Guard both more accessible and responsive to other military and governmental agencies and organizations prosecuting the Global War on Terrorism. This is the first step in moving the Guard forward towards a seamless joint operation that is better able to accomplish a wider variety of missions.

Q What is your philosophy of command?

A My philosophy of command centers on the core values of: Honesty, Integrity, Loyalty, Diversity and Safety. The health, morale and well-being of our soldiers and airmen is of paramount importance which is why I have placed such emphasis on family readiness and family support in the face of so many deployments.

Finally, just as important is the adherence to standards of conduct. That includes professional relationships, discriminatory behavior or harassment of any type, including sexual harassment. We maintain a zero tolerance policy for harassment and I expect all members of the NJ National Guard to do likewise. §

Military Review Honors Iraqi Freedom

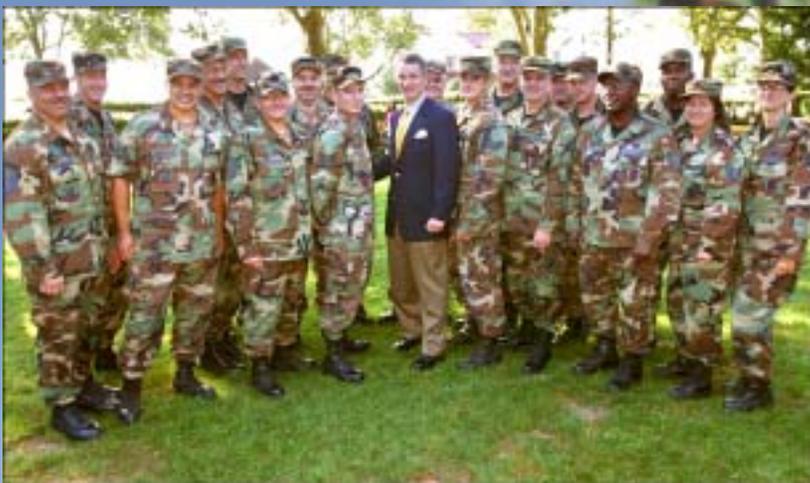
By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

The Annual Military Review was held at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt on Sept. 7.

The Review began with a flyover by helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 150th General Support Aviation Battalion and a cannon salute by members of A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery. After a formal review of the troops, Governor James E. McGreevey, the Commander-in-Chief and Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, spoke about the accomplishments of the New Jersey National Guard both at home and abroad. Members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing, 177th Fighter Wing, and the 253rd Transportation Company who deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom were honored during the ceremony.

Units present included the 50th Brigade, 42nd Division Support Command, 57th Troop Command, 108th Air Refueling Wing, 177th Fighter Wing, Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey and the 63rd Army Band.

Following the Military Review, troops, airmen, and their families were treated to a barbeque and carnival along with static equipment displays from various units of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. The Metro New York Area USO provided entertainment.



Guardsmen



Cunniff Assumes Command Of 108th

By Maj. Denise Waggoner, 108 ARW/PAO

In a ceremony witnessed by almost 1,500 dignitaries, family members, guests, and military members, Col. Michael L. Cunniff assumed command of the 108th Air Refueling Wing on Oct. 26.

Col. Cunniff, formerly the Operations Group Commander, replaced Col. Lawrence S. Thomas, who will be assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey, as Director of Operations, New Jersey Air National Guard.

The 108th Air Refueling Wing is comprised of the 141st Air Refueling Squadron, 150th Air Refueling Squadron, 227th Special Operations Flight, and 19 support units.

Originally from Cedar Grove, Col. Cunniff received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1981.

Col. Cunniff joined the Air Force in July 1982. In October of the following year he received his commission through the Academy of Military Science. Cunniff received his pilot's wings at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., in 1983, and after attending F4-D Phantom fighter training, joined the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing.

During his military career, he also has served as an Instructor and Evaluator Pilot, Chief of Training, Operations Officer, 150th Air Refueling Squadron; Aircraft Maintenance Officer, Flying Safety Officer, Range Control Officer, and Combat Training Team Chief. ✍



Maj. Gen. Clark Martin (left), Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard passes the colors to Col. Michael L. Cunniff (right), the new commander of the 108th. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Martin Hovath, 108ARW/MultiMedia Center.



New Recruiting Office Open For Business

On Sept. 10, (left-right) Maj. Gen. Clark Martin, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, Col. Maria Falca-Dodson, Deputy Adjutant General, Senator Martha Bark, 8th Legislative District; Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, unknown, and Col. Larry Thomas, Commander, 108th Air Refueling Wing officially opened the Wing's recruiting station in the Moorestown Mall. Photo courtesy 108ARW/MultiMedia Center.

Pistol Team Competition

By Lt. Col. Brian Sharkey, Operations, JFH-NJ

The New Jersey Army National Guard Adjutant General's Combat Championship Pistol Team competed in the Winston P. Wilson Small Arms Combat Championship Oct. 11-18.

The competition was held at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center at Camp Robinson, Ark. The team successfully completed a combat-oriented course of 12 matches and placed 21st in a field of 63 teams.

The team currently is looking for soldiers to participate in the following categories: combat rifle, sniper, pistol, and light machine gun. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Barton at (609) 562-0756, or Spc. Lisa Radev at (609) 562-0757. †



The New Jersey Army National Guard Adjutant General's Combat Championship Pistol Team; front row, left to right: Master Sgt. Robert Bork, Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey; team captain Chief Warrant Officer 2 Fred Schipke, 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry; and Sgt. Tim Rawcliffe, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry; back row left to right: Sgt. Victor Garcia, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry and Lt. Col. Brian Sharkey, Operations, Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey. Photo provided by Lt. Col. Brian Sharkey.

Jersey Guardsmen Place Second In Army 10-Miler



The New Jersey Army National Guard Men's Running Team placed second in the 19th Army Ten-Miler, held in Washington, D.C. Oct. 5. The Michigan National Guard team placed first. A record 13,195 runners crossed the finish line in America's largest ten-mile race. Members of the New Jersey Army National Guard pose for a team photo. (l-r): Maj. Mark Piferski, Spc. Anthony Christy, Staff Sgt. Donald Bandinelli, Master Sgt. Alex Estrada (Team Captain), Master Sgt. Yvonne McGuire, and Maj. Jemal Beale. Not pictured Maj. John Sheard. Team Captain Master Sgt. Estrada led with a time of 1:06:40. The other top three finishers were Maj. Sheard (1:06:49), Maj. Piferski (1:07:18) and Staff Sgt. Brandinelli (1:11:30). The times for other team members competing that day were: Spc. Anthony Christy (1:14:10), Master Sgt. Yvonne McGuire (1:32:50), Maj. Jemal J. Beale (1:38:24), Sgt. 1st Class David Stillwagon (1:22:30), Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Krug (1:27:48), Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.) Christopher Peron (2:21:33), and Capt. Robert Martinez (1:39:42).

"Kicking It Up A Notch"

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO

It all started with a postcard sent during Operation Iraqi Freedom...

"Dear Emeril,

Can you please send your favorite recipe for jambalaya to the Defense Dept. I kicked it up a notch [this is one of Emeril Lagasse's, trademark slogans from his Food Television Network TV show] with a bottle of Tabasco, which came with the MRE.

Your fan in the desert
MSGT John J. Nicotra"

Master Sgt. Nicotra, 177th Fighter Wing dining hall supervisor, was deployed together with 17 other members of the 177th Fighter Wing Services Flight in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 21 through July 3. During that period, he served at both Ar' Ar in Saudi Arabia and Baghdad International Airport.

When he didn't get a reply, no one was surprised. When they arrived in Baghdad there was a letter with five recipes and some photos of Emeril.

In late August, a representative of the Food Network approached the New Jersey National Guard with a request for a Blackhawk helicopter. It was needed it for the introduction to the "Thanksgiving



Blackhawk crewchief Sgt. Eric Chambers (right) straps in Emeril Lagasse (left) prior to taking off. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.



Emeril Lagasse (left) and Master Sgt. John Nicotra (right) during the taping of the Thanksgiving with our Troops show at McGuire Air Force Base. Photo courtesy 305th Air Mobility Wing Multimedia Center.

with our Troops" show, which was to be taped at McGuire Air Force Base. Members of the 1st Battalion, 150th General Support Aviation Battalion were tapped for the duty.

Back at the 177th, Master Sgt. Nicotra was invited to attend the show as one of the guests of honor.

At 6 pm on Sept. 26, the actual taping was done. The theme was turkey. For anyone who has not seen the Emeril show, the layout copied the New York taping except on a larger scale—approximately 1,200 active-duty, guard and reserve members attended. The show revolves around Emeril cooking for people sitting at a counter.

For the second segment, Master Sgt. Nicotra, along with POW Pfc. Shoshona Johnson and country music singer Trace Atkins were the guests of honor. Also at the counter was a cluster of Jambalaya MREs with Master Sgt. Nicotra's postcard. The show aired Nov. 16.

On Sept. 27, Emeril and his entourage showed up for the Blackhawk flight. His crew was pilot Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chris Millevoi, Co-pilot Capt. Ryan Kelley, with Sgt. Eric Chambers as the crew chief. Once they were in the air, Emeril taped his introduction.

All this goes to prove that all it takes is one letter to "kick things up a notch." 🍗

Farewell To Brig. Gen. Wondrack

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO

On Aug. 1, Brig. Gen. Kenneth F. Wondrack transferred from the New Jersey Army National Guard to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group, after 34 years of service.

Brig. Gen. Wondrack began his career as a private in the United States Marine Corps. He served in combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam with the Ninth Marine Regiment. After finishing college, he enlisted in the New Jersey Army National Guard where he received a direct commission to first lieutenant. He was assigned to the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry where he served as Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, and Troop Commander.

In the ensuing years he served with the 50th Armored Division, the 1st Battalion, 102nd Armor, and the 254th Regiment. His last assignment prior to his transfer was the Assistant Division Commander, 42nd Infantry Division where he served as the primary advisor to the Adjutant General on all matters concerning units of the 42nd Infantry Division.

Brig. Gen. Wondrack is a graduate of the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses and the Staff Officer Logistics Course at Fort Knox, Ky. He is a 1999 graduate of the United States Army War College and an alumnus of Rutgers University and John Jay College.



Brig. Gen. Kenneth F. Wondrack at Ground Zero, World Trade Center, New York City, Sept. 14, 2001.

Among his numerous awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), Marine Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal (with one cluster), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. 🇺🇸

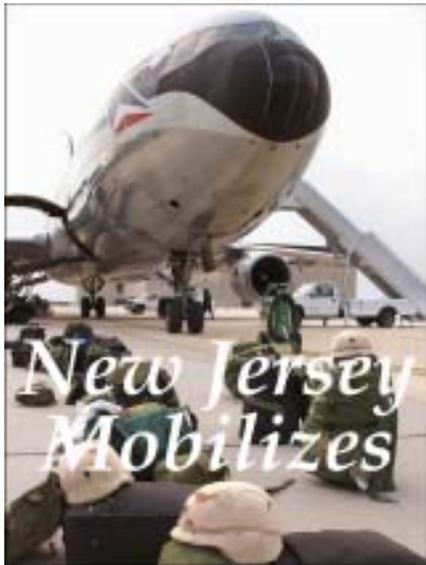
50th MSB Soldiers Honored For Volunteerism

Teaneck American Legion Post 128 Commander Robert Talbot (left) presents certificates of appreciation to Pfc. Ray Steele (center), and Sgt. 1st Class Angel Rosado, 50th Main Support Battalion. In addition, the Teaneck American Legion Post and Auxiliary Post 128 also honored Pfc. Jenny Saldarriaga, Spc. Jacqueline Astete, Sgt. Sarah Loureiro, and Master Sgt. Joseph Zitelli at a luncheon for the residents of the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home on Nov. 8. These soldiers helped serve meals and assisted residents during various activities at the home. Photo by Capt. Alan Mellen, 50th MSB. 🇺🇸



Mobilization Page

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff



The 253rd Transportation Company is providing transportation support to the 101st Airborne in Iraq.

The 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is providing public affairs support at Ft. Dix. Also at Fort Dix is the 150th Adjutant General Detachment, which is pro-

viding mobilization/demobilization administrative support.

Force protection is at the top of the list for New Jersey Army National Guard units. D Company, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, is providing installation force protection at Ft. Dix. Elements of the 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry, are providing force protection at McGuire Air Force Base, Picatinny Arsenal and at the 177th Fighter Wing at Pomona. The 50th Main Support Battalion is also providing force protection at Fort Monmouth. All of these units are supporting Operation Noble Eagle.

Additionally, individual members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing are deployed worldwide supporting various missions.

Finally, the 254th Regiment is training members of the Free Iraqi Force at Fort Knox, Ky. 🇮🇶

Army One Source

The Army One Source program offers information, advice and support, both by phone and online, on a wide range of everyday issues, ranging from parenting and child-care, education, to financial and legal and deployments.

Army One Source online can be accessed at www.armyonesource.com (user id: army; password: one source), or by phone, toll-free, from the U.S: 800-464-8107, International: 800-464-81077, International collect: 484-530-5889. There are consultants who speak Spanish, in addition to simultaneous translation into more than 140 other languages along with TTY/TDD 800-346-9188 are also available. 🇺🇸

Family Assistance Centers (Army) and Family Readiness Centers (Air)

Lawrenceville Armory

151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
MSG(R) Jane Hackbarth
609-671-6681
866-834-2631
jane.hackbarth@nj.ngb.army.mil

Teaneck Armory

Teaneck & Liberty Roads
Teaneck, NJ 07666
SFC Minnie Hiller or Joanne Grieco
201-833-0632
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Joanne.grieco@nj.ngb.army.mil

Cape May Court House

600 Garden State Parkway
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
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State Office – Ft. Dix

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News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Family Matters: The Five Phases Of Reunion

Guardlife's newest column **Family Matters** will focus on topics that affect family members of New Jersey Army and Air National Guardsmen.

Families as well as soldiers and airmen should be aware that reunion is often as difficult as separation. The better prepared you are and the more you understand about the phases of reunion, the easier things will be.

The five phases of reunion are: Pre-entry; Reunion; Disruption; Communication, and Normalcy.

"Pre-entry" refers to the days immediately preceding the return of the service member. Family members and the soldier or airman both are anxious about seeing one another and returning home to some sense of normalcy. Things become hectic and time doesn't seem to go fast enough.

"Reunion" refers to the first time the service member is re-

united with their loved ones and continues for the first several days. One may experience a range of emotions ranging from joy and excitement to relief and tension. The return date or reunion location may change or be postponed which may add to the intensity of these emotions. Focus on the positive and celebrate the fact that the family is together again.

"Disruption" occurs as the family begins to get back to their daily routine. Problems may occur because roles and responsibilities are no longer clearly defined. A spouse may have a new sense of independence. Resentment may surface. Jealousy occurs. Unresolved issues return. It is important to communicate openly and honestly as you address each issue that arises.

"Communication" is essen-

tial in reaching the final stage. Each family member should be given the opportunity to express their feelings in defining and negotiating roles, whether new or old. Decision-making should involve everyone who is impacted.

"Normalcy" occurs when the family settles into their new routine. While duties and responsibilities may be different than they were pre-deployment, new routines are established and personal growth continues.

Understanding that these phases are "normal" in reunion will help families cope. Expect doubts, worries, and change. Share your feelings and communicate. Listen to your loved one's concerns and try to imagine his or her position. Remember your commitment to one another and be supportive. 

Scholarship Programs Available

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

The application window for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program, for \$1,500 academic scholarships ends Feb. 18.

For more information go online to, www.militaryscholar.org.

The National Guard Association of New Jersey Scholarship Committee will award nine \$1,000 Scholarships in 2004.

The deadline is Mar. 15. Applications are available online at www.nganj.org/scholarships.

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey will award six scholarships to Association members' children in 2004. for more information go to www.eang-nj.org. 

Guard Members Receive Unlimited Commissary Benefits

The Department of Defense announced that with the signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, Guard members will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores.

For more information logon to: www.commissaries.com/ 

Cavalry Participates In Freedom Ride

Photo and story by Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth A. Hamilton, 250th Forward Support Battalion

At 7 am, all was quite in Warinanco Park, Roselle, when members of New Jersey Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 began to set up the assembly area for the Ride for Freedom VIII Motorcycle Run to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel.

In the distance, the rumble of motorcycles began to echo throughout the park as thousands of bikes lined up at the registration area. Bikers paid the \$2 entry fee to cover tolls, expenses, and a donation to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation and Education Center.

By 9:30, the rumble of motorcycles was muffled by the UH-1 Huey Helicopter from the New Jersey Army National Guard, Troop D, 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry, which hovered above the rows of bikes and then landed on the soccer field. After shutting down, the crew Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rex Powell, Chief Warrant Officer 2 George Anglim, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Glowzinski and Master Sgt. David Nunlist permitted the crowds of spectators to get a closer look at the aircraft. Veterans pointed out the helicopter to their family members while other veterans said that seeing the aircraft land brought back many memories.

Two hours later, the Police-escorted motorcade began heading out of the park and onto the downtown streets of Roselle toward the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation and Education Center. Thousands of residents lined both sides of the streets and waved American flags or held up handmade signs saying "Thanks Veterans." Along the route people in cars beeped their horns and gave the thumbs up or the peace sign. As the motorcycle color guard drove by, veterans and children stood, saluted, and cheered for the thousands of veterans and supporters who followed on their bikes.

Arriving at the PNC Bank Arts Center, the bikers parked and walked up to and gathered around the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation and Education Center. Several veterans' organiza-



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Glowzinski (center) poses with Rolling Thunder President Bill Parker (right). Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth A. Hamilton.

tions presented memorial wreaths and shared prayers and stories honoring servicemen and women killed in action or listed as missing in action.

At the ceremony's closing, a bagpiper began to play Amazing Grace, while the UH-1 Huey helicopter flew over the Vietnam Memorial in a tribute to all veterans past, present, and future. 🇺🇸

Guardlife Corrections

On page 6 of Volume 29, Number 2, the title of the story: A Day In The Life Of The 253rd By Capt. Michael Ciarrocca, Commander, 253rd Transportation Company, and the cutline for the picture did not print. Listed in the photo are members of the 253rd Transportation Company as they prepare for a convoy run. (l-r) Spc. Anna Maggi, Pfc. Nicola Harvey, Sgt. Russell Smith, Pvt. Andrew Scott, Staff Sgt. Gracie Henderson, unknown, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mickey McGuire. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Edward C. Camp, 253rd Transportation Company.

Air Show Success

By 2nd Lt. Luz Aponte, 177FW/PAO,
photos by Master Sgt. Don Taggart, 177/FWMultiMedia Center

Thousands of vacationers, beachgoers and onlookers crowded the Atlantic City boardwalk, for the Atlantic City Salutes the 100th Anniversary of Powered Flight Air Show Aug. 27.

The Atlantic City Air Show was the first major aviation show staged in Atlantic City in more than a decade and the first along the Boardwalk in more than 50 years. The event featured a variety of aircraft, from F-16 fighters to KC-135E



Army Golden Knights parachute team.

refuelers to P-51 Mustangs from World War II. The three-hour performance began with the Army's Golden Knights elite parachute unit performing precision aerial maneuvers while falling to earth at speeds reaching 120 miles per hour and then landing dead center on target. The Thunderbirds dazzled onlookers as they flew nail biting patterns, sometimes splitting off and making daring turns at nerve racking low altitudes, just a few hundred feet above the waves. The show ended with a B-17 Flying Fortress passing in review while the strains of Amazing Grace were heard over the public address system. 🇺🇸



P-51 Mustangs flash by during the Air Show.

Short Rounds: Blum, Saxton Visit T3BL, 250th CoC And Open Houses



Saxton And Blum Tour T3BL

Col. Thomas W. Simpson, Commander, Training and Training Technology Battle Lab, briefs Congressman H. James Saxton, 13th District, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau and Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey Oct. 20. Congressman Saxton and Lt. Gen. Blum visited various facilities at Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.



250th Change Of Command

On Oct. 26, Lt. Col. Loretta Thomas (left) assumed command of the 250th Signal Battalion from the outgoing commander Lt. Col. Kevin C. Heggarty. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Declan Callan, NJDMAVA/PAO.



119th Holds Open House

Master Sgt. Henry L. Frasier demonstrates a field radio during the 119th Corps Support Battalion open house held Sept. 7. The 119th recently relocated to the Hammonton Armory to better meet its federal and state missions. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.



50th Holds Open House

A 50th Finance Battalion Guardsman along with friends and family members tour one of the many displays during the 50th's open house held Nov. 1. The 50th recently relocated to the Flemington Armory. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Declan Callan, NJDMAVA/PAO.

Short Rounds: New Air Chief, Scholarships And Family Members Meet Governor

Chief Master Sgt. Paul M. Gunning was appointed by Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant for New Jersey on Sept. 5.

Chief Master Sergeant Paul M. Gunning was born on May 20, 1950 in Somers Point and graduated from Mainland Regional High School, Linwood, in June 1968. His Professional Military Education includes Advanced Personnel Systems Management where he was a distinguished graduate the Senior NCO Academy Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and the Chief Master Sergeant Executive Course.



of the physical examination section and was a Shift Leader in the emergency room. In July 1972, Chief Gunning was assigned to Sandia Army Hospital, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. In September 1973, Chief Gunning was honorably discharged from the Air Force.

The following April, Chief Gunning joined the 177th Fighter Interceptor Group, New Jersey Air National Guard. In October 1975, he was hired as a technician at the 108th Tactical Hospital where he served in a variety of positions including health technician, personnel superintendent, military personnel management officer and director of strength.

Chief Gunning joined the Air Force in July 1969. He graduated from Medical Service Specialist School at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas in February 1970. In April, he was assigned to 6217th USAF Hospital, Ching Chuan Kang (CCK) Air Base, Taiwan where he served as NCOIC

Among his numerous awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.



Guardsman Receives Scholarship

2nd Lt. Eric Lubow (right), B Company platoon leader, 250th Signal Battalion receives a \$1,000 scholarship from Maj. Gen. William H. Russ (left), Commanding General, CECOM, Fort Monmouth. Lieutenant Lubow was awarded the Signal Corps Regimental Association's Alfred J. Mallette scholarship at the 2003 Fort Monmouth Signal Ball. Photo by Capt. William Augustus HooFatt, III.



Family Members Meet With Governor

On Nov. 24, family members of deployed New Jersey National Guardsmen met with Governor James E. McGreevey (center back) at the State House to share their experiences and hardships caused by deployments. Governor McGreevey took the time to hear their stories and offer his assistance in making theirs and future deployments easier on families. Front row (l-r): Mary Vey, Buffi Hinker, Toni Presnall, Jamie Burrows, Sharon Polyak, Tahira Damon, Kathy Hardy and Cynthia Ortu. Back row (l-r): Maritza Gonzalez, Lisa Eisele and Cindy Spallina. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, PAO/NJDMAVA.

Short Rounds: New CSMs, Main Weds Cav, Santa Visits and Vans Wrapped



Seven Complete CSM School

Seven New Jersey Army National Guardsmen graduated from the Sergeants' Major Academy in Classes 28 and 29 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Bottom row (l-r): Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Marino, Command Sgt. Maj. Cora Byrd and Sgt. Maj. James Rodgers. Top row (l-r): Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Thomas, 1st Sgt. Richard Waldrop, Sgt. Maj. Mark Slachetka and Master Sgt. Timothy Maskery. Photo provided by State Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Adkins.



Santa Visits T3BL

Pfc. Santa Claus visited the Training and Training Technology Battle Lab (T3BL) to drop off presents for the children of the T3BL staff on Nov. 2. Approximately 225 soldiers and family members enjoyed a traditional holiday feast.



Main Support Battalion Weds Cavalry

1st Lt. Vivienne Fanco Escalona (left), B Company, 50th Main Support Battalion and 1st Lt. Joseph Patrick McNamara (right), A Troop, 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry, both of the New Jersey Army National Guard, were married at Chapel One, McGuire Air Force Base on Sept. 6. 1st Lt. Escalona is currently serving with the Army Force Protection at Fort Monmouth while 1st Lt. McNamara is serving at McGuire Air Force Base. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Druz, JFHQ-NJ.



It's A Wrap

The New Jersey Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command recently wrapped six minivans for use during high school visits, college career fairs and carnivals. Photo by Sgt. Crystal Kim, NJARNG/RRC.

New Jersey Army And Air National Guard Enlisted Promotions

New Jersey Army National Guard

To Sergeant First Class (E7):

Staff Sgt. Christin Auriemma
Staff Sgt. Dilok Boonmema
Staff Sgt. Donald R. Clarke
Staff Sgt. Thomas S. Cranmer
Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Della Vella
Staff Sgt. Valerie A. Hopkins
Staff Sgt. Esly A. Panduro
Staff Sgt. Angel A. Rosario
Staff Sgt. Thomas Simpson

To Staff Sergeant (E6):

Sgt. Kenneth Boudreau
Sgt. Lawrence J. Cascio
Sgt. Stephen R. Cosmanic
Sgt. Mitchel D. Costa Jr.
Sgt. Eugene Coulter Jr.
Sgt. Gloria A. Crossley
Sgt. Samuel A. Demaio III
Sgt. George H. Dudley
Sgt. Michele Jackson
Sgt. David J. Jensen
Sgt. Gary W. Lambert
Sgt. Gregory M. Lakaszky
Sgt. William J. McDonnell
Sgt. Lucinda J. Miranda
Sgt. Rafael A. Morales
Sgt. Ronnell L. Pulley
Sgt. Melissa A. Resides
Sgt. Daniel Rosas
Sgt. Wilfredo Ruiz
Sgt. Richard M. Standish
Sgt. Robert G. Thompson
Sgt. Mauricio R. Vega
Sgt. Jeffrey F. Williams

To Sergeant (E5):

Spc. Charles W. Bastien Jr.
Spc. Richard G. Birmingham
Spc. Anthony L. Evans
Spc. Angel O. Ferrer Jr.
Spc. Wilfredo Foronda
Spc. Edward S. Francoeur
Spc. Jerome Grant
Spc. Alina N. Gutierrez
Spc. Robert J. Hanratty Jr.
Spc. William Martinez Jr.
Spc. Elizabeth A. Michlik
Spc. Jorge L. Moran
Spc. Jose A. Padin Jr.
Spc. Roberto C. Ramos
Spc. Diana M. Rodriguez
Spc. Luis G. Rodriguez
Spc. Yamil E. Rojassuarez
Spc. Max E. Solorzano
Spc. Thomas F. Thrower
Spc. Hui M. Tian
Spc. Sigfredo R. Torres Jr.
Spc. Andrew Vanderplaats

To Corporal (E4):

Spc. Steven R. Clarke
Spc. Daniel P. Leonard

To Specialist (E4):

Pfc. Lauren G. Baxter
Pfc. Antonio Berdecia Jr.
Pfc. Mariana K. Beshai
Pfc. Curtis R. Boyd

Pfc. Curtis O. Buck Sr.
Pfc. Damian P. Caceres
Pfc. Daemion A. Clarke
Pfc. Adam D. Craig
Pfc. Edyta Czerniak
Pfc. Dimitri E. Danford
Pfc. Denise M. Davis
Pfc. Richard O. Dejesus
Pfc. Aakash P. Desai
Pfc. Scott R. Dhein
Pfc. Anthony J. Filosa Jr.
Pfc. Mark J. Fischer
Pfc. Cesar O. Fuentes
Pfc. Steven N. Fuquay
Pfc. Alfredo C. Godoy
Pfc. Keith P. Gould
Pfc. Nicholas S. Heurich
Pfc. Jonathan Hillebrand
Pfc. Dewey A. Johnson III
Pfc. Matthew J. Kryscnski
Pfc. Paulo A. Lopes
Pfc. Robert E. McGuire
Pfc. Jessica L. McMahon
Pfc. Eliezer Mieses
Pfc. Alfahir S. Milton
Pfc. Ingrid V. Minacapelli
Pfc. Ryan J. Nettleton
Pfc. Vicki L. Okeyo
Pfc. Saul Ramirez
Pfc. Vinod P. Scano
Pfc. Santokh Singh
Pfc. Brandon Traister
Pfc. Simone A. Whyte

To Private First Class (E3):

Pvt. Erica V. Alfaro
Pvt. Mario C. Boyd
Pvt. Jennifer C. Briggs
Pvt. Jack J. Brown
Pvt. Glenn A. Cabusora
Pvt. Orlando A. Cestona
Pvt. Ana K. Cordoba
Pvt. Hipolito A. Falcon
Pvt. Yanira Febres
Pvt. Vincent C. Giles Jr.
Pvt. Julian R. Harrison
Pvt. Kristofer Harrison
Pvt. Kenneth G. Iorio
Pvt. Matthew R. Jenkins
Pvt. Robin A. Johnson
Pvt. Najji A. Mitchell
Pvt. Keith T. Muller
Pvt. Olatunbosun Olatunji
Pvt. Jonathan Palmaperez
Pvt. Roxie Perez
Pvt. Mariusz R. Piotrowski
Pvt. Daryl R. Reed
Pvt. Enoc Rivera
Pvt. Vincent R. Roettger
Pvt. Carlton I. Sargent II
Pvt. Andrew E. Scott
Pvt. Heidi A. Strain
Pvt. Wendy C. Varner

To Private Second Class (E2):

Pvt. Alex V. Bauza
Pvt. Catherine Baylor
Pvt. David T. Bowdish
Pvt. Deronie A. Cole
Pvt. Joseph P. Defelice

Pvt. Eric J. Easter
Pvt. William D. Harpe
Pvt. Derrick Harris
Pvt. Hamdan Jaludi
Pvt. Sherley Joseph
Pvt. Daniel Medina
Pvt. Gregory R. Mellas
Pvt. Abraham C. Pendon Jr.
Pvt. David S. Rivera
Pvt. Jacob R. Rodriguez
Pvt. James L. Rose
Pvt. Anthony Viera
Pvt. Andrew F. Wirth

New Jersey Air National Guard

To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):

Senior Master Sgt. Roxanne Ryan
Senior Master Sgt. Richard Smith

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):

Master Sgt. Howard R. Dawson Jr.
Master Sgt. Bethelée A. Rosa

To Master Sergeant (E-7):

Tech. Sgt. Randy Butters
Tech. Sgt. Louis Conzo, II
Tech. Sgt. Deanne M. Coorough
Tech. Sgt. Edward B. Davis
Tech. Sgt. Donald G. Edwards
Tech. Sgt. Dilcia English
Tech. Sgt. David M. Falkowski
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Grover
Tech. Sgt. Katie Hines
Tech. Sgt. David J. Hogan
Tech. Sgt. David J. Kovak
Tech. Sgt. Jill M. Moore
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey S. Redrup
Tech. Sgt. Dominick A. Siciliano
Tech. Sgt. Dawn K. Valois
Tech. Sgt. Richard B. Viggiano
Tech. Sgt. Courtney Wisdom

To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Staff Sgt. Dennis Bradley, II
Staff Sgt. Charles J. Caruso, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Trivina A. Coleman
Staff Sgt. Paul B. Connors
Staff Sgt. Deanne Coorough
Staff Sgt. Edward Davis
Staff Sgt. David Falkowski
Staff Sgt. Bryan E. Hawkins
Staff Sgt. Paul J. Heriegel, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Joseph Hill, III
Staff Sgt. Denise M. Martinez
Staff Sgt. Amy Nevells
Staff Sgt. Robert E. Powell, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Charles A. Redford
Staff Sgt. John H. Sacchetti, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Julie A. Schechter
Staff Sgt. John A. Turner
Staff Sgt. Dawn Valois
Staff Sgt. Edwin A. Visalden
Staff Sgt. Michael Wagoner
Staff Sgt. Thomas P. Zonsius

To Staff Sergeant (E-5):

Senior Airman Anthony J. Branca
Senior Airman Tara Cook
Senior Airman Eric S. Defalcon

Senior Airman Brian S. Flynn
Senior Airman Joseph Gargin
Senior Airman Samantha Gerofsky
Senior Airman Bryan Hawkins
Senior Airman Joseph F. Higgins, III
Senior Airman Johann H. Hintz
Senior Airman Francis W. Jones
Senior Airman Shannon M. King
Senior Airman Brian C. Naldzin
Senior Airman Dennis Phile, II
Senior Airman Thomas Pruss
Senior Airman Rachel Sevi
Senior Airman John Turner
Senior Airman Bethany Valois
Senior Airman Joshua A. Wilson
Senior Airman George Wylie, Jr.

To Senior Airman (E-4):

Airman 1st Class James D. Boehmer
Airman 1st Class Marlene I. Carrion
Airman 1st Class Nicholas E. Cobian
Airman 1st Class Thomas W. Curtis
Airman 1st Class Michele L. Debartolomeis
Airman 1st Class Michelle A. Ent
Airman 1st Class Kelly Hinton
Airman 1st Class Matthew B. Jordan
Airman 1st Class Nancy
M. Kennedy
Airman 1st Class Shannon King
Airman 1st Class Brooke E. MCGaha
Airman 1st Class Corey E. McPherson
Airman 1st Class Juan M. Ortega Hernandez
Airman 1st Class David Pabon
Airman 1st Class David Pairman Basicon
Airman 1st Class Michelle F. Perez
Airman 1st Class Isabel Pinto
Airman 1st Class Luminada Santiago
Airman 1st Class Nicholas A. Schaeffer
Airman 1st Class Christian Skierski
Airman 1st Class Gary B. Sills
Airman 1st Class Mallory L. Suarez
Airman 1st Class Jordan M. Supino
Airman 1st Class Barbara J. Szymanski
Airman 1st Class Dawn Young
Airman 1st Class William Waydelis, Jr.

To Airman First Class (E-3):

Airman Allison R. Anholt
Airman Alicia K. Balseiro
Airman James D. Dempsey
Airman Mildred Estevez
Airman Ninet Fernandez
Airman Rondell L. Fisher
Airman Sharon R. Fuchs
Airman Eric Kellogg
Airman Andre L. Lazaro
Airman Kent M. McGaha
Airman Ryan L. Monroe
Airman Jeovanny E. Moscoco
Airman Paul T. Patterson
Airman Matthew C. Re
Airman David W. Reese
Airman Berry F. Robey, Jr.
Airman Christina K. Toussaint

To Airman (E-2):

Airman Basic Vienna L. Smith
Airman Basic Erin E. Steen

Congratulations.

Last Round: 177th Receives AFOUA

By 2nd Lt. Luz Aponte, photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen



In an informal ceremony held Oct. 5, members of the 177th Fighter Wing watched as Senior Airman Matthew McCune, a crew chief, unveiled the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) emblem on one of the wing's F-16C Fighting Falcon aircraft.

"I'm honored and extremely proud of the Wing for receiving this award," said Col. Michael Cosby, Commander, 177th Fighter Wing. The wing received the award for exceptionally meritorious service from January 1, 2000 thru December 31, 2001. This is the first time the 177th has received this award.

The AFOUA, established by the Department of De-

fense in 1954, recognizes units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units. The 177th was one of the first units to have its aircraft flying after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Congressman Frank LoBiondo, 2nd Congressional District, stated: "The efforts of the 177th Fighter Wing have been essential to America's homeland defense and this award honors those efforts. Congratulations to the men and women of the 177th Fighter Wing on receiving the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for their ongoing homeland defense efforts as part of Operation Noble Eagle." 

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