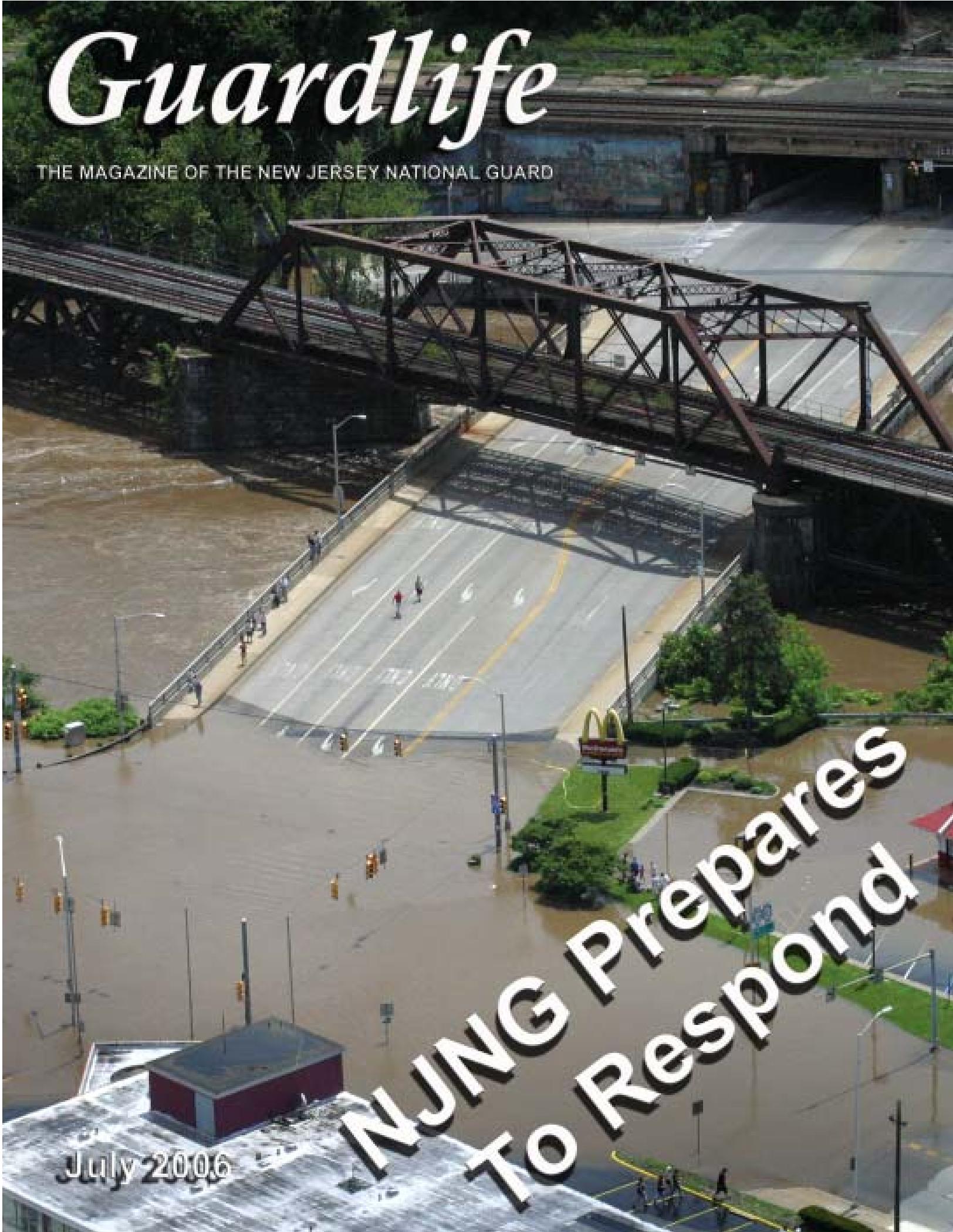


Guardlife

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD



**NJNG Prepares
to Respond**

July 2006



Guardlife Staff
Editors

Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt
Capt. Jonathan Lapidow
Capt. Yvonne Mays
2nd Lt. April Kelly
Sgt. Maj. Anthony Cahill
Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven
Assistant Editor-Production
Tech. Sgt. Mark C. Olsen
Staff Writers/Photographers
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson
Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison

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Cover: Neighbors Joined By Disaster
The Delaware River engulfs a bridge joining Easton, Pa., and Phillipsburg, N.J., inundating an intersection during flooding on June 28. The New Jersey National Guard provided support to the Ewing Police and the Governor's Office during the State Emergency. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

Inside Cover: Memorial Day Reflection
Specialists' Richard Schwarz Jr. (left) and Justin Francis (far right) of the 63rd Army Band perform Taps at the Brig. Gen. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

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TAG's MESSAGE - NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

By Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General - New Jersey

With all the deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism, you might think that the National Guard's core competency of Neighbors helping Neighbors has been pushed aside or has taken a backseat.

The reality is that nearly every day the leadership of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is actively planning to assist state government should the need arise.

The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the Office of Emergency Management are fully aware of the Guard's capabilities. These state agencies also know the Guard's spirit and willingness to assist our fellow Garden State citizens.

Just recently we participated in tabletop exercises to see how the Guard would respond to an influenza pandemic or a hurricane. As we enter this year's hurricane season, Guard Aviation, participated, along with state agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard, in a simulated airlift of hurricane victims.

Who can forget the compelling video images in the days after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, as military helicopters rescued residents off rooftops? Within days, our citizen-Airmen were heading for the region, delivering millions of gallons of bottled water and participating in security missions. The Army Guard followed, spending nearly a month in Louisiana supporting recovery efforts. Whether it is by air or by truck, the Guard is prepared to help evacuees or to deliver supplies should a hurricane or severe weather strike our shores.

Once again the Guard has been asked to assist our long distance neighbors, this time in the southwestern states of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. President Bush announced plans to temporarily boost the National Guard's contribution to security on the U.S.-Mexican border in a nationally televised address on May 15. Under the president's plan, up to 6,000 National Guard members will provide support to the U.S. Customs Border Patrol.

Up to 650 New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and



Governor Jon S. Corzine congratulates Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth after administering the oath of office at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs while his wife Linda and their children Erika and Craig watch. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Airmen will deploy to New Mexico as part of Operation Jump Start for a two-week Annual Training. The command and control will truly be a joint effort - the commander will be Col. Frank S. Caruso from the 50th Brigade Combat Team and the deputy commander will be Col. Roger F. Pharo Jr., from the 177th Fighter Wing.

We will be using our skills to help the U.S. Department of Homeland Security provide a more secure border that will make America safer in the years ahead.

This is not a new mission for the National Guard. During the last two decades, Guard units from across the country have been working on counter-drug and various other missions in the Border States.

It is important for your family, friends and neighbors to understand that New Jersey's Home Town Team has the personnel, the resources and capability to protect the state from threats and respond to disasters, no matter what other missions we may have.

I am confident in the abilities of New Jersey's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, knowing you will once again, answer the nation's call. 🇺🇸



Maj. Gen. Chojnacki Retires

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177EW/PA

In the military when you look at someone's ribbon bar, you get a sense of where they've been and what they've accomplished.

With Maj. Gen. Eugene R. Chojnacki, outgoing Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, that ribbon rack only begins to tell his story.

A Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, an Air Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Star Device, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Device only begins to tell the story of where the man has been and what he has accomplished.

Reading through the dry, bare bones official biography you see the experiences that shaped the man.

Growing up in the 60's, Chojnacki was impressed by President Kennedy's idealism, so much so that after getting his Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Education, Trenton State College in 1967, he went on to attend and get his commission through Officer Training School, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 1968, a tough time in United States history to be considering a military career.

After completing Undergraduate Pilot Training, Reese Air Force Base, Texas, in 1969, Chojnacki completed training in the C-141A Starlifter and was assigned to the 20th Military Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del. Two years later he attended Helicopter Transition Training at Sheppard

Air Force Base, Texas. In 1971, Chojnacki was assigned to the 20th Special Operations Squadron, Cam Rahn Bay, Republic of Vietnam, as an UH-1N helicopter pilot. During his combat tour, he flew 120 combat missions over Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

After returning to the States in 1972, Chojnacki was a helicopter instructor pilot until his discharge in 1973.

It became obvious, that Chojnacki missed the military. He was now living in South Jersey and was close to the 177th Fighter Interceptor Group (what would one day become the 177th Fighter Wing). Seeing the F-106 Delta Darts taking off and escorting Soviet Bear bombers down the coast to Cuba had a profound impact on him so in 1977 he returned to active military status and accepted a commission with the New Jersey Air National Guard.

From that point on, he rose through the Wing from budget officer, computer operations officer, comptroller, chief of supply, deputy commander for resources, support group commander and finally vice commander in 2002.

With the advent of the Global War on Terrorism and after the 177th had adjusted to flying combat air patrols Chojnacki was chosen to serve as the Chief of Staff, New Jersey Air National Guard in August 2002. In February 2004, he was chosen by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth to become the New Jersey Air National Guard Commander.

Truly, what a story. 🇺🇸

AIR GUARD GETS NEW COMMANDER

Brig. Gen. Lawrence S. Thomas III (right) is presented with the New Jersey Air National Guard colors by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (left) during the Change of Command Ceremony held at the 177th Fighter Wing on May 7. More than 1,000 family, friends and unit members attended the ceremony. Thomas, who has served for close to 29 years, is a command pilot with more than 11,000 hours in 17 types of military and civilian aircraft. The general's military career began in August 1977 when he was commissioned as a Navy Ensign. Following flight training, he was assigned to Fighter Squadron 41 aboard the USS Nimitz. From March 1983 to January 1985, the general served as an F/A-18 Hornet instructor pilot. In August 1986, Thomas joined the 177th Fighter Wing and served as the Fighter Squadron Operations Officer, Vice Commander and Commander. After serving as the NJANG Director of Operations and the State Headquarters Inspector General, he became the 108th Air Refueling Wing Commander during the unit's mobilization for Iraqi Freedom. Prior to his assuming command, he was the NJANG Deputy Commander.



*Inset photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA
Background photo by Tech. Sgt. Shawn Mildren, 177FW/CF*

Brig. Gen. Sullivan Retires

By Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA



Brig. Gen. Sullivan in front of his Headquarters in Iraq. Photo by Maj. Timothy Metcalf.

No matter what his rank was, from Airman to Brigadier General, for more than 39 years, you could always count on a smile and a kind word from Thomas J. Sullivan.

"It's not the job, it's the people I will miss," said Sullivan at his retirement party held at The Club on McGuire Air Force Base on June 11.

Sullivan's military journey started in 1967 as an enlisted Air Guard technician for five years before switching to

the Army Guard to become a helicopter crew chief. He completed the Officer Candidate School program at the New Jersey Military Academy earning his gold bar in 1974. "I am very proud of my eight years of enlisted service and I am sure it made me more aware of the enlisted Soldiers' needs," noted Sullivan.

For the next 31 years Sullivan moved up the ranks, serving mostly as a full time national guard technician or AGR Soldier. He gained a wealth of experience that led to his greatest challenge as the 42nd Infantry Division's Assistant Division Commander for Support to Iraq.

"I never thought I would be called to active duty as a National Guard General Officer at age 57 and sent off to war," explained Sullivan.

That deployment, which ended last March, was the culmination of a career that Sullivan said he could not have done without having a great team of professionals who taught him it is OK to have fun and enjoy your work.

By his side that evening was Sullivan's high school sweetheart and wife of 37 years, Jody, remarking that her love and support is a key to his success in the military.

Sullivan will still be close to the Guard family as he intends to play golf with the DMAVA Hackers at Fort Dix and as a civilian employee with Anteon; he will stay current with developments with the 42nd ID. 🇺🇸

254th HOLDS RAIDER COMPETITION

Story by Capt. Edward J. Dowgin, 254 Regiment (CA)

Seventy students from five New Jersey high schools participated in the 1st Annual JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) Raider Competition on June 3 at the New Jersey Military Academy in Sea Girt.

The 254th Regiment hosted the event between New Brunswick High School, Franklin High School, Hillside High School, Eastside High School and Lakewood High School.

The schools were broken down into teams of eight cadets, which competed in six different competitions: Army Physical Fitness Test, General Knowledge exam, First Aid/Litter Carry, Land Navigation, Obstacle Course and a 1.8-mile team run. The cadets showed an awesome display of motivation, teamwork and physical fitness throughout the grueling competition.

New Brunswick High School received top honors, but every school walked away with at least one trophy.



Cadets perform the low crawl while tackling the obstacle course on the dunes of Sea Girt. Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Donnelly, 444 MPAD.

ARMS Lends A Hand

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven and Spc. Sherwood T. Goodenough, 444th MPAD

Tables lined the walls of Doughboy Gym on Fort Dix as volunteers in blue shirts scurried to make sure the food and beverages were ready for the Soldiers that were about to enter after their long deployment.

The volunteers from the American Recreational Military Services (A.R.M.S.) seemed almost as excited as the families that were waiting to see their loved ones for the first time in many months.

This was not the first time these volunteers were spending a late night in a gym full of strangers, it was just one of hundreds of events that A.R.M.S. has been involved with to support the Soldiers and Airmen of New Jersey National Guard.

The relationship started with the experiences of a retired teacher's aide from Red Bank, Ronnie Micciulla, who went to the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island to volunteer at a rest shelter for rescue workers and service members deployed to the site right after the attacks of Sept. 11.

"It was the most awesome thing I've ever done in my life," said Micciulla, who serves as executive director of the group.

That experience led her to seek other ways to serve her community and America's fighting men and women, and in March of 2003 American Recreational Military Services was founded.

Originally a small grass-roots organization, A.R.M.S. has grown into a vibrant organization with more than 325 volunteers throughout the tri-state area that strives to serve any deployed service member and their family.

While A.R.M.S. may be most visible at the Welcome Home ceremonies throughout the state, the organization has packed more than 76,000 pounds of toiletries and paid for the postage to get those 'care' packages to service members overseas. During the holidays, A.R.M.S. collected or bought more than 16,000 presents for the children of mobilized service members and sponsored holiday's parties to distribute those gifts.

Add 6,300 pre-paid phone cards distributed and more



Ronnie Micciulla (left) A.R.M.S. (American Recreational Military Services) founder serves a Soldier who two hours prior had just returned to the United States from Iraq. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

than \$36,500 in direct financial aid to families and the efforts of A.R.M.S. have gone a long way to make serving the nation in the Global War on Terrorism easier.

"Just a great organization that the families really appreciate," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ralph Cwieka, Chief of Family Programs. "I don't know what we would have done without their help."

Smiles and a simple thank you are the fuel that keeps the volunteers of A.R.M.S. running.

"The most wonderful people I've met are through the military," added Micciulla.

A.R.M.S. is a recognized 501(C)(3) charitable organization and supports itself entirely from foundation grants, fund-raisers and individual donations. The organization currently calls the Toms River Armory home and you can find a current schedule of events at www.supportarms.org.

**Volunteerism begins with You.
Your support can mean the
difference in someone's life.**

UNITY DAY



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

The New Jersey National Guard celebrated its Eighth Unity Day on June 15 at Joint Force Headquarters – New Jersey at Fort Dix. The theme for Unity Day 2006 was “Passport to Diversity.” Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey was the keynote speaker.

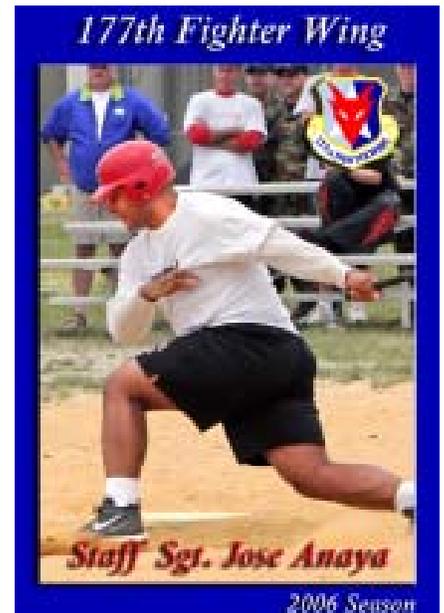
Unity Day was conceived when Col. Jorge Martinez suggested bringing together all the separate special emphasis celebrations. This enables all cultures to be recognized.

This year’s program began with a 5K walk/run, a drill team demonstration by the New Jersey National Guard Challenge Youth Academy cadets and bagpipers. Miss USO 2006 Stacie Wells, sang for the celebrants and there were multi-cultural displays.



Wing Holds Softball Tournament

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Don Taggart, 177FW/CF; story and card design by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA



The 177th Fighter Wing held its Second Annual Softball Tournament June 10 and 11.

The tournament started in 2005, when then Wing Commander Col. Brian Webster instituted the Annual Softball Tournament. That year Accessories - Egress, Fuels, Hydraulics and Electro-Environmental shops - fielded an unstoppable team that slammed Operations 15 to 10.

This year saw more teams, better

players and fans that took an active part in the games. While some of the scores in the four inning games were lopsided, others were not.

The final game once again pitted Accessories, which included several players from the Avionics Intermediate Shop, against Operations.

The top of the first inning saw Accessories pile in run after run and for a while it seemed that Ops couldn't touch their rivals, yet when Opera-

tions got their turn at bat, they tied the score and the race was on.

By the top of the fourth, Ops had pulled away and disaster was rushing at Accessories like a freight train without brakes. On the sidelines a group of Airmen who were cheering and booing both teams impartially had ratcheted up their heckling as the game neared its completion. In the bottom half, Accessories pulled it together and hammered Ops 7 to 6.

NASCAR Visits Sea Girt

Members of the Recruiting Holding Company cadre pose for a photo around a show car version of the #16 National Guard sponsored NASCAR Nextel Cup racer driven by Greg Biffle at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt on May 20. Photo courtesy RHC.



Scouts Become Virtual Soldiers At JT2DC

Photo and story by Spc. Shawn Morris, 444th MPAD

Hundreds of young men in uniform descended upon the New Jersey Army National Guard's Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC), Fort Dix on June 9 to make use of the facility's high-tech training simulators.

No, these weren't deploying Soldiers undergoing mobilization training or National Guard troops conducting Annual Training – they were Boy Scouts participating in their annual Order of the Arrow convention or Conclave.

More than 300 Scouts from local troops attended the three-day Conclave, which was sponsored by the Boy Scouts' honor society, also known as the Order of the Arrow. The event had been scheduled to take place at the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) since this past July.

"The Joint Training and Training Development Center allows young men to be exposed to the virtual-training side of the Army," explained Col. James Grant, Commander, JT2DC.

During the Conclave, the Scouts rotated through training stations dedicated to first aid, weapons, GPS land navigation, counter-drug education, physical training, recruiting, vehicles and aviation. They also had a chance to try out the latest in training aids, such as the convoy simulator. They participated in Native-American dance and ceremonies competitions, and took part in activities such as a football toss, rock-climbing wall and dunk tank.

The Scouts also got to learn much about the New Jersey Army National Guard and its Soldiers, a unique



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Suydam watches as Boy Scouts prepare to fire at the Joint Training and Training Development Center's indoor firing range.

aspect of this Conclave.

"They're exposed to a profession that they may consider for their own future, and to the opportunities that the Guard offers," said Grant.

"It Really Isn't A Video Game"

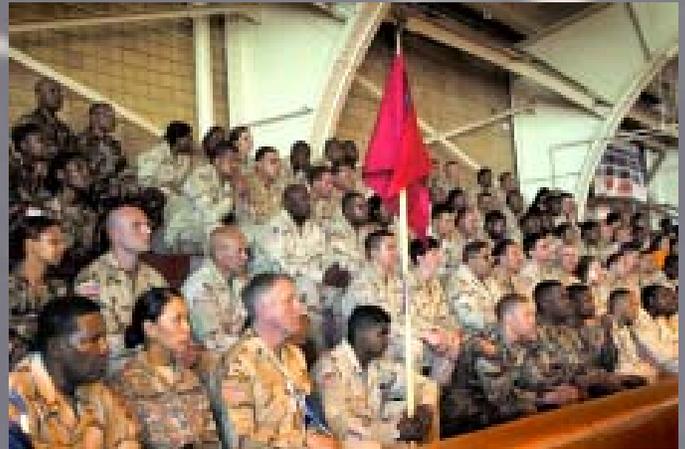


One of the more than a dozen children of Soldiers and Airmen peers through the hatch of a M1A1 Abrams tank simulator at the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) at Fort Dix. The National Guard Youth Coordinator, Amanda Balas, arranged for a tour of the high-tech facility on April 22. During the tour the children got the opportunity to use the M1A1 Abrams tank simulator, experience the Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer; and visit the Woodland, Desert and Urban Training Lanes. The best was saved for last, however, when the kids got the opportunity to fire M-16 rifles hooked electronically to a large screen upon which a computer-generated battle was projected. "It's fun to shoot a weapon and see what my dad does," said 15-year-old Beth Ambrose. Photo by Spc. Shawn Morris, 444th MPAD.

CEREMONIES WELCOME



Family members at the Morristown Armory wave as Soldiers from A Battery, 3-112th Field Artillery file past June 4. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, 444MPAD



Above left: Guardsmen from C Company, 50th Main Support Battalion in West Orange on May 6. Above right: MSB troops pick up their Freed by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.



Left: Soto his father of medals Battered emotion Force quar Jersey Photo Sgt N-DI



Above: Governor Jon S. Corzine (second from left) and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth welcome home troops from E Company, 50th MSB at the Jersey City Armory May 6. Right: Soldiers listen to speeches praising them for their exceptional service. Photo by Spc. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD.



WELCOME HOME TROOPS



...n (MSB) observe the ceremony welcoming them home
...om Salute packages following their ceremony. Photos



Above: Division Support Command Soldiers pass by an honor guard at the Somerset Army June 3. Below: Alyssa, daughter of Lt. Col. Roch Switlick, Commander, 50th MSB, displays a sign she made at the Welcome Home Ceremony in the Teaneck Armory May 6. Below left: the Teaneck Armory appears packed to the rafters during the ceremony. Photos by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.

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Mark Olsen,
MAVA/PA.



...the Army,
... Soldiers
... Army values.

ACTION FIGURES



Staff Sgt. Robert Dollaway holds a prototype of an action figure that bears his resemblance during the Open House at the Riverdale Armory.

Photo and story by Spc. Finnbar McCallion, 444MPAD

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry found a new way of looking at themselves during a recent open house at the Riverdale Armory.

Four New Jersey National Guard members are just months away from becoming part of ongoing national action figure line that will be available at most retailers.

“When I first saw it I couldn’t stop staring at it. It was amazing how close it looked to the real thing — to the real me. When you see it yourself, that’s the real surprise,” said Staff Sgt. Edwin Tejada, a battalion Soldier and now an action figure commenting on the small statue. “It’s quite exciting actually, something you would normally dream about as a kid. Who were these people? Where did they come from?”

The action figures, standing six to seven inches tall on average, are sculpted and created with such accuracy in detail. Some readers may think that translates to hair and eye color matching the intended subject; on the contrary, think again and turn that microscope up a bit. Think accuracy so realistic that the makers of these military action figures captured the nook in a chin or the definition of a cheek bone.

**“I FEEL LIKE THE MOST SCANNED
PERSON IN THE WORLD.”**

STAFF SGT. ROBERT DOLLAWAY

What makes this standard of precision so achievable is the state-of-the-art image recording system used to copy the subject. After the first four Soldiers had their portraits scanned, their image was reproduced and uploaded into a computer and used as templates for the Army figurines appearing in this ongoing series.

“I feel like the most scanned person in the world,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Dollaway, and he just may be. Dollaway, one of two Soldiers from the battalion now an action figure, was also the first New Jersey Soldier to sit and lend his likeness to this project.

“One of the best parts about this is that they use actual Soldiers to get the details correct,” said Dollaway as he stood next to the hand painted prototype of him worth \$35,000.

Perhaps the only imperfection one may discover after close inspection is the figurines lack of unit identification. Since the project is not officially authorized by DoD, the well-known unit patches were not included.

Gala Raises \$115,000 For Guard Families

By Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVA/PAO

The New Jersey State Family Readiness Council held its first Gala Dinner on May 11th.

The event honored former US Congressman Bob Franks for his support of the New Jersey National Guard. Franks is a member of the council and is responsible for its largest fundraising effort. The event proceeds of nearly \$100,000 will be made available through grants, to NJ National Guard members and their families. The council has awarded more than \$90,000 in family grants (\$2500.00 each) and business grants (\$5000.00 each) to date.

For more information on the grant program, visit the Council's website at www.njguardfamilies.com.



Governor Jon S. Corzine, Brian Thompson, Linda Rieth, Bob Franks and Scott Sheppard pose with a check for \$115,000, which will be used for grants to New Jersey National Guard families. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.



Guardmembers, become A Recruiting Assistant and for every person you recruit into the New Jersey Army or Air National Guard you earn \$2,000. Logon to <http://guardrecruitingassistant.com/> pick your branch of service, fill out the application and you are on your way to helping someone make a great career choice and some serious cash for yourself.



JT2DC HOLDS CEREMONY: RECOGNIZES STUDENT

Photo and story courtesy JT2DC

The Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) held a ceremony at its Soldier Memorial on May 6 to commemorate its new walkway and to recognize Kristin Catalanotto, a student whose family lives in New Orleans.

Kristin's story began in New Orleans when JT2DC Soldiers were deployed as the command and control element. During a survey mission, Col. Jim Grant, Commander, Task Force Guard State and JT2DC Commander, met Kristin's father and learned that Mr. Catalanotto's daughter, Kristin, was attending a college in Philadelphia.

After returning to New Jersey, Col. Grant found out that Kristin would not be able to return home because of the financial burden. During the dedication ceremony, Kristin was presented with a round trip airline ticket to New Orleans as well as a check for \$500.



Kristin Catalanotto (center) poses with (l-r) Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini, Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Maskery and Col. Jim Grant.

News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Vets' Preference Changed

National Guard and reserve members released from active duty will get the same veterans' hiring preference for federal jobs as those who are separated or retired from regular active-duty assignments.

The Office of Personnel Management announced the new hiring rules in a notice published the same day in the Federal Register, where new rules and regulations are published. Normally, there is a three- or four-month delay in implementing newly announced federal rules. OPM officials, however, said in a statement accompanying the rule that they chose not to wait for the traditional comment period before implementing the new hiring policy so as to "not unwittingly deny veterans' preference based upon regulations that are now obsolete."

"If OPM's regulations were permitted to remain as currently written while OPM solicited comments upon its proposed revisions there is a chance that reservists recently released from active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, for example, might be denied veterans' preference based upon the language of current regulations," the statement says. The federal personnel office said factors in the rush to implement the policy were "the sacrifices being made by individuals who do not serve full time in the armed forces but who have been called to active duty for significant service."

Under the new rules, a veteran gets extra credit when seeking a federal job. Previously, veterans' preference applied only to people "separated" from active duty under honorable conditions.

Under the new policy, hiring preference would extend to any person discharged or released from active duty if they had more than 180 consecutive days of duty since Sept. 11, 2001, served in a war or in a campaign for which a campaign badge or expeditionary medal was authorized. Also, the person who is discharged or released must have received an honorable or general discharge.

The interim policy is still open to comments, and could be modified. Comments will be accepted through Aug. 8, with revisions possible after a review. 📧

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Active Guardmembers: Guardlife gets your address from your unit, notification is not required.

Also if you would like to have extra copies of past issues of Guardlife, please email Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison at barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Please specify the issue number, number of copies and your full rank, name and address.

Marriage Enrichment Seminars

Family Programs has scheduled a Marriage Enrichment Seminar for Sept. 22-24. Recently deployed Soldiers and Airmen along with their spouses will be given first priority. For more information or to register, call Marie Durling at (609) 562-0739. 📧

Federal Grant For Spouses Of Deployed Or Recently Deployed Military

A \$100,000 federal grant from the Department of Community Affairs is available for spouses of deployed or recently deployed military (all branches across the state). The funds will be available only until September.

For more information contact Fawn I. Mutschler, Military Grant Liaison, Women's Opportunity Center, YMCA of Burlington County by calling 856-234-6200 Ext. 235 or by email at fawnm@ymca-bc.org.

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**CONTACT THE 108TH ARW PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AT (609) 754-4173
OR BY EMAIL AT PA.108ARW@NJMCGU.ANG.AF.MIL. OPEN TO ALL NJNG
GUARDMEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES.**



TAG Visits Troops In Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (bottom step, left), and State Command Sgt. Major Jerome Jenkins (bottom step, second from the right), visit with the 50th Personnel Services Battalion and members of Task Force 50, in front of the Soldier Support Center in Bagram, Afghanistan. The 50th PSB, along with the 250th Personnel Services Detachment, Operation Support Aviation Command and the Afghan National Army Embedded Training Team are in the midst of a one-year long rotation in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo courtesy Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth. 🇺🇸

DIPLOMA MILLS

By Spc. Marimer Navarrete, 444th MPAD

There's a saying: "It if seems too good to be true, it is." It could be called the golden rule for common sense, but it seems to be the first thing people forget when they are looking for a way to advance their career. This is especially true for those who buy diplomas or certificates on the Internet to use in their résumé for a promotion or a pay raise.

But what happens if the college you enroll in is bogus? More important how do you avoid these so-called institutions?

It is difficult to develop a comprehensive list of characteristics that can be used to spot a diploma mill, since they are notorious for imitating legitimate degree programs. But there are some methods that these companies use which you should be on the look out for before you commit your time or money.

Beware of schools of which you never heard before. An official-sounding name does not mean a college is legitimate. Scams often use words like "national" and "education" in their titles.

Check for phrases that describe their programs including "non-traditional, alternative, innovative, state-authorized" or "state-approved". These companies may suggest that their organization has undergone a process of academic review, but in reality the organization may not be

accredited by an agency recognized by the U. S. Department of Education.

Few or no admissions or degree requirements should also raise a red flag. Also promises made about obtaining a degree in less time than that required for the completion of a program at a recognized and accredited institution should be a warning.

When it comes to money, diploma mills' costs are based on degree completion instead of the more common per credit fee schedule. Also, the assessment of learning outcomes or achievement is minimal or nonexistent.

Finally, if the address of the school often suggests a prestigious location, but mail can only be received at a post office box or mail service, that means the company may frequently change its address. Also if there is no significant cluster of physical facilities, they may be operating from a single office or even out of a private residence.

A cheap diploma is not worth losing your promotion or having to face potential problems with your civilian or military careers.

If you have any questions about the accreditation or legitimacy of a school, contact 1st Lt. Benjamin Stoner, Education Counselor at (609) 562-0975 or by e-mail at Benjamin.Stoner@nj.ngb.army.mil. 🇺🇸

SHORT ROUNDS: LAW SEMINAR, CURACAO TRIP, HARDHATS AND LEVITOW AWARD



ESGR Holds Law Seminar

On June 10, the first New Jersey Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Law Seminar was held at the Sea Girt National Guard Training Camp. The focus of the Law Seminar was to advance members' education across a broad range of multiple laws pertaining to service members (to include their families) and employers. Topics ranged from USERRA, Civil Relief Act, N.J. Law for military members and ombudsman techniques. The attendees were given a chance to question intent and the application of the law and relative court cases under present military operations. Photo by Al Smith, NJESGR.



108th Invades Curacao

1st Lt. Matthew Maiorano serenades 108th Air Refueling Wing members as they board a KC-135E Stratotanker Curacao, Netherland Antilles, in support of Operation Carib Shield March 1-31. Twenty-six personnel flew 19 missions, offloading 971,000 pounds of fuel for drug interdiction. The operation, headed up by Southern Command, looks for ships and planes carrying narcotics. Photo courtesy 108ARW/PA.



Helmets To Hardhats

Governor Jon S. Corzine (seated) signs a proclamation in support of Helmets to Hardhats, a program designed to pair former and current service members with union construction employment opportunities June 12. Also pictured are (l-r) Iz Cakrane, Chairman of North American Contractors; Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez and Maj. Gen. (ret) Matthew Caufield, Executive Director of the Helmets to Hardhats Program. Photo by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.



Airman Receives Top Award

Tech. Sgt. Charles A. Redford (right), an aerospace repair mechanic with the 108th Maintenance Squadron, seen here being coined by Maj. Gen. Eugene Chojnacki (left), received the John L. Levitow Honor Graduate Award during the graduation ceremony at the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at McGuire Air Force Base. Photo by Senior Airman Robbie Finley, 108ARW/PA.

SHORT ROUNDS: RAAF VISIT, MPs, PSB AND NEW RSTA COMMANDER



RAAF Visits 108th ARW

Boom operator Master Sgt. Edwin Montalvo (right) briefs Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lieutenant Ian Wallace (left) on the functions of the KC-135E Stratotanker during the lieutenant's tour of the 108th Air Refueling Wing's facilities on May 9. Photo by Staff Sgt. Beth Pritchard, 108ARW/PA.



MPs Award Supply Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Priscilla Karcher (left) looks on as Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoke (center) and Sgt. 1st Class Franklin Smith (right) applaud Karcher for her work supporting the unit while it was deployed. Karcher received the Detachment 2, 42nd Military Police Company's Center of Influence award during the unit's Welcome Home and Freedom Salute ceremony held at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville on June 4. The 25 members of the Military Police Detachment served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from February to November 2005. Photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.



PSB On Guard

Pictured left to right: Staff Sergeant's Louis Tuck and Curtis Hellings along with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frank R. Albanese, Jr., of Task Force 50th Personnel Services Battalion in Salerno, Afghanistan pose, for a photo on Radar Hill over looking the Forward Operating Base. According to Albanese, "On a clear day you can see Pakistan in the distance." The 50th PSB assumed the human resources and postal services mission in Afghanistan. Photo courtesy Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frank R. Albanese, Jr., TF 50PSB.



Taking Charge

Incoming Commander Lt. Col. Dean T. Spenzos, left, receives the 102nd RSTA regimental colors from 50th Brigade Commander Col. Frank S. Caruso (second from right) as outgoing Commander Lt. Col. James D. Rosenberg (far right) looks on during the Change of Command ceremony on May 21 at the National Guard Armory at West Orange. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

SHORT ROUNDS: ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE, ON THE RANGE AND RSTA PAINTS



Wing Participates In Food Drive

Wing and family members (l-r) Senior Master Sgt. Freddie D. Lavan, Sr.; Tech. Sgt. Sue Milam, Master Sgt. Radames Soto Jr. and Matthew Milam were part of the 31 volunteers from the 177th Fighter Wing who helped pick up, unload and sort more than 40,000 pounds of food items during the annual National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp-Out Hunger Food Drive May 13, which benefits the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Southern Branch. This year's volunteer turnout was the largest since the Wing began participating in the food drive 16 years ago. Photo by Master Sgt. Rebecca Lee, 177FW/MSF.



AT Under Way

Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor's Mortar Platoon hone their skills on the M-29A1 mortar during Annual Training at Fort Dix on June 16. From left, Gunner Spc. Bryan Mulvihill, Assistant Gunner Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Miczulski and Ammo Bearer Pvt. Robert Knoble prepare to send an 81mm round downrange. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

RSTA Leaves Their Mark



Soldiers from the 1st Platoon, C Troop, 5th Squadron, 117th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Targeting, Acquisition pose in

front of their mural in Kuwait prior to leaving for Iraq. Photo courtesy 5-117RSTA.

SHORT ROUNDS: CHILDREN AND VOLUNTEER AWARDED AND OPEN HOUSES



School Visit

Command Chief Master Sgt. Herb Mimler, members of the 177th Chief's Council and senior enlisted representatives visited Seaview Avenue School in Linwood on May 26. The visit was to thank the students for their support of the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home during the December holiday season. A 177th lithograph was presented to the school and photos of 177th F-16s were awarded to the students. Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Orme, 177FW/CCA.



108th Volunteer Receives National Volunteer Award

Warren George (left) presents Kathryn Hardy (center), wife of Tech. Sgt. Richard Hardy (right), 108th Air refueling Wing, was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Military Family Member Volunteer Service Award for the United States Air Force during the National VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Community Service Conference held in Washington, D.C. March 6. She also received a \$500 check, which she donated to the 108th ARW Family Readiness Center. Photo courtesy 108ARW/PA.



Flemington Open House

Spc. Brianne King, 50th Finance Battalion, smiles at a job well done as a new warrior looks at the camera in alarm wondering if the camouflage paint will wash off. The Battalion held it's Annual Open House at the Flemington Armory May 6. The Battalion also held a blood drive in conjunction with Red Cross. Photo by Maj. Carl Palmer, 444MPAD.



253rd Hosts Appreciation Day

Sgt. Thunder (the big guy) plays basketball with area children during the 253rd Transportation Company's Community Appreciation Day in Cape May Courthouse June 3. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

New Jersey National Guard

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Chrystal D. Atkins
Thomas J. Carr Sr.
Joyce Locklear

To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

Robert C. Bose
Jeffery L. Carter
Veronica D. Christian
Roberto Fernandez
Patricia Jenkins
Harry E. Matish
James H. Nelson
Mark A. Wilson

To Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Jason T. Archer
Kyle P. Bowman
Glenn A. Carambacoker
John A. Cardona
Fen D. Fenelon
Brian R. Hourahan
William Maldonado
David M. Mullen
Antonio Nieto
Jose A. Padin Jr
Matthew A. Scheper
Max E. Solorzano
Dimitri E. Swain
Daniel Wilson

To Sergeant (E-5):

Dion H. Barnes
Felicia F. Davis
Donna Delavega
Maurice C. Donais
Robert J. Evans
Catherine G. Evernham
Stephen M. Fatcher Jr.
Terrance L. Francis
Ana Gatson

Nicholas C. Gilbert
Amir T. Harden
Lisa M. Hatcher
Chereyse T. Hepburn
Mark A. Macellaro
Qadir B. Majeed
Robert B. Marks
Wilber A. Pome
Adam G. Psak
Brian O. Rennie
Joshua Rios
Tony G. Rispoli
David S. Rupert
Robin R. Sanchez
Luis A. Santiago
Michael F. Sloan
Edward A. Smith
Charles R. Wyckoff Jr.
Eric S. Zinader

To Specialist (E-4):

Kabir A. Ali
Allan E. Alvarez
Derric Bartholomew
Romulo Bittencourt
Kevin L. Buckholtz
Brian M. Burd
Jerry Camacho
Harold F. Caro
Sergio T. Chacon Jr.
Chui kwuemeke S.
Chiazor
Daniel J. Connolly
Donald H. Corrigan
Therese S. Crain
Edgar M. Duran
Joseph A. Gonzalez
Albert S. Grant
David L. Haney
Carrie A. Henderson
Larry E. Krusieski
Anthony J. Larobina
Laura Londono
Douglas E. Mattei
Maximo G. Miranda
James R. Nelson Jr.
Igor I. Nikitin

Carrie A. Oakes
Phillip A. Pasquariello
Jordan S. Ray
Donald R. Riley
Jonathan K. Roman
Linda Romano
Tyler A. Sassaman
Kealoha W. Serrano
Stefanie L. Simi
Gershon E. Stevenson
Keshia M. Stocks
Aravind Talasila

To Private First Class (E-3):

Jason J. Amer
Jae H. Bang
Jesse D. Braddell
Brian J. Callaghan
Shamyrah S. Carreker
Rashedul I. Chowdhury
Donald P. Cicchino Jr.
Geraldo J. Colon
Wilfredo C. Jr.
Keishon J. Currie
Ian Ralph Custode
Juan J. Estevez
Alton J. Garrett
Shania C. Gonzalez
Hilario D. Gonzalez-
Aquino
Jason R. Grasso
Tara M. Graul
Ronald G. Harris Jr.
Michele A. Hernandez
Christopher J. Hovorka
Traci S. Huggins
Cecilia L. Huidobro
Steve T. Jarman
William A. Kayser
Brendan J. Kelly
Sun Kim
Manuel F. Lema
Shawn P. Linn
Jose M. Livres
Alfred L. Loatman Jr.
Thomas P. Lovas Jr.

Rosalie Martinsen
Percy Mendoza
Ramon E. Mercado Jr.
Efrain J. Morales
Jhonny R. Moreno
Matthew G. Mullin
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Daniel D. Oquendo
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Anthony Viera
Fernando Villa
Eric P. Vivino
Brandon C. Volpe
Jonquil N. Weeks
Joey C. H. Yeh
Peter Yeung
Maria C. Zodiaco

To Private (E-2):

Carlos Abreurodriguez
Keith K. Adams
Fatmata Bangura
Frances J. Banks
Geraldo A. Bedoya
Frank R. Borman Jr.
Daley D. Bornsztejn
James A. Bush
Stacy A. Buxbaum
Danielle N. Castimore
Philip E. Connell
Gerald S. Desmond
Christopher W. Diamond

Hard Enlisted Promotions

Lauren J. Escoto
Derek J. Farrier
Ricardo C. Frazier
Kevin J. Freeman
Steven M. Hadala
Joel K. Hahn
Joseph D. Harang
Ricardo Hyppolite
David P. Jules
Jong J. Kim
Kevin R. Klien
Kostadinov I. Kotatis
Lori B. Lemon
Kelly J. Lincoln Jr.
Seundo J. Marquez
Steven S. Martinez
Zuleyca Martinez
Glori L. Morman
Duran S. M. Mosquera
Deborah C. Navedo
Idianeth Ortiz
Kenny O. Oxenade
David J. Palmer Jr.
Christian L. Pettit
Stephen R. Pettit
Frederic A. Reed
Denisse R. Rodriguez
Stephanie N. Runyon
Alicia E. Savadge
Roberto L. Thillet Jr.
Paul F. Tomanek Jr.
Alkesh R. Trivedi
Carl R. Vitiello Jr.
Jonathan D. Whipple
Keith J. White
Steve E. Williamson
Jonathan T. Wood

NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):

Michael J. Edmiston

To Master Sergeant (E-7):

Joyce A. Baker
William D. Erickson
Joseph A. Iacovone Jr.
Laura J.P. Moyer
Robert E. Powell
Dustin T. Walker

To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Bryan C. Bauer
Justin E. Connor
Jamie D'Amico
Christopher T. Lewis
Brian C. Naldzin
Joseph M. Parisi
John W. Studley
Lloyd B. Terry
Mary M. Weisbecker
Michelle R. Weston

To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

Jared R. Bright
Patrick M. Donohoe
Stephen J. Duran
Christopher Gable
Christopher M.
Gairman-Basicle
Jason Hoban
Jamal J. Hogan
Taylor F. Holba
Evelyn J. Iisley
Kimberly King
Patric Klotzbuecher
Dale D. Lacy Jr.
Dorothy Lanthier
Stephen E. Leddy
Robert M. Mendez
Manuel Ocasio Jr.
Sean W. O'Connell Jr.
Brian P. Oliver
Nicholas Remacle
Charles J. Ryan
Ewan G. Seeman
Troy D. Turner
Christian Skier

Carmen Spano

To Senior Airman (E-4):

Erin L. Fassold
Jonathan S. Fernandez
Adrienne Guagenti
Stephen W. Hillmann
Nicholas A. Loglisci
Michael A. Mattola
Emanuel Pagan
Deesha J. Patel
Wifredo Rodriguez
Nicole E. Del Valle

To Airman First Class (E-3):

Stephen J. Caldwell Jr.
Brian L. Calhoun
Andre K. Clements
Bradley S. Ferguson
Tina N. Marchesano
Igor L. Matveyev
Eric R. Munoz
Sean T. Riley
Andrew J. Pratt
Robert F. Taylor Jr.
Sebastian Zelazny

To Airman (E-1):

Laura Bello
Carlin S. Deville
Jeffrey J. Raine
Jennifer L. Robledo
Erica J. Swenda

Congratulations To All!

**Compiled by
Master Sgt.
Daniel J. Calderale
(Army) and Master Sgt.
Paul B. Thompson, Jr.
(Air).**

NJNG Family Assistance Centers

108th Air Refueling Wing
3327 Charles Blvd.
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
POC: Tiffany Colby
Tiffany.Colby@njmccgu.af.mil

Jersey City Armyory
678 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306-2208
POC: Janis Shaw
Janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil

Lawrenceville Armyory
151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2897
POC: Jane Hackbarth
Jane.hackbarth@nj.ngb.army.mil

Morristown Armyory
430 Jockey Hollow Road
Morristown, NJ 07960-0499
POC: Sheilah Kelley
Sjk3care@aol.com

Pomona NJNG FAC
400 Langley Road
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
POC (Air): Joan Searfoss
joan.searfoss@njatla.af.mil
POC (Army): Michael Hughes
michael.hughes@njatla.af.mil

Somerset Armyory
1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
POC: John Hales
john.hales@nj.ngb.army.mil

Teaneck Armyory
Teaneck & Liberty Roads
Teaneck NJ 07666-0687
POC: SSG Joe Collery
joe.collery@us.army.mil

Toms River Armyory
1200 Whitesville Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
POC: Maria Morro
maria.morro@nj.ngb.army.mil

Woodbury Armyory
120 Progress Avenue
Woodbury, NJ 08096
POC: Michele Daisey
Michele.daisey1@us.army.mil

**One Toll Free Phone
Number Reaches All Family
Assistance Centers
1-888-859-0352**

LAST ROUND: AN ENDING AND A BEGINNING

By Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD

For the Army Guard Soldiers that call the Somerset armory home, June 3 was a day filled with hails, farewells and well-deserved honors.

The 42nd Division Support Command (DISCOM) cased its colors while later in the day, the unit's Soldiers were recognized at a Freedom Salute for their 19-month Operation Iraqi Freedom mobilization.

As part of the Army's ongoing transformation, DISCOM, has been redesignated the 42nd Regional Support Group (RSG). The 42nd RSG's mission will remain much the same as the 42nd DISCOM's, although fewer units and Soldiers will fall under its command.

The 119th Corps Support Battalion (CSB) and the 50th Finance Battalion make up the major portion of the 42nd RSG. New water purification and chemical companies being formed will join the 253rd Transportation Company as part of the 119th CSB. The 50th Finance Battalion oversees all the finance, adjutant general and public affairs detachments along with the 63rd Army Band.

With the unfurling of the new RSG colors, Col. John M.



Incoming commander Col. John M. Nunn shakes hands with outgoing commander Col. William E. Rochelle. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.



The 42nd DISCOM colors on display for the last time. Photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.

Nunn took command from Col. William E. Rochelle. Nunn joined the Army in November 1969 and eight years later moved to the National Guard. His first stint with the 42nd DISCOM was in the early 1990s. He returned to the unit as executive officer in December 2000.

DISCOM can trace its lineage back to Feb. 22, 1917, when it was organized in the New Jersey National Guard as the 1st Infantry Supply Company. Following service in Europe during World War I and World War II, the 42nd spent nearly half a century with the 50th Armored Division. It was reorganized as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Infantry DISCOM, in September 1993.

The unit distinguished itself as part of the 42nd Infantry Division, the first National Guard division to command 18,000 Army, Guard and Reserve troops as part of Task Force Liberty in Iraq while stationed in Tikrit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. 🇺🇸

State of New Jersey
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