

Guardlife

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Special Issue:

Six Years: Each one tells a story

Six years in the making

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

This special issue of *Guardlife* has been six years in the making. It captures some of what the New Jersey National Guard has been doing to protect the lives, properties and freedoms of the citizens of our state and nation. While incomplete by necessity and brief by practicality, this issue attempts to give a glimpse into who we are and what we do. More dramatically, with the timeframe beginning on Sept. 11 2001, it shows who we have become...and how we have responded to terrorist attacks, homeland security challenges, war zone deployments and much, much more.

As this issue is being prepared, the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is preparing to depart New Jersey for a year-long deployment that will take them to Texas...and then Iraq. With our second Embedded Training Team still in Afghanistan, our General Support Aviation Battalion in Kuwait, and our Aviation Assault Battalion preparing to deploy a second time to Iraq, we are at the forefront of our nation's Global War on Terrorism. Through the years, Airmen from both Air Guard units have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Air Expeditionary Force rotations...and will no doubt return before this conflict is over.

The Transformation that the Army and Air has been going through has brought us new missions, equipment and abilities. Take a look at our brand new – not secondhand, like before – Light Medium Tactical Vehicles and HMMWVs. The Air side is ushering in new missions and updated aircraft. Together, we are training and equipping for the future.

Take the time to read about *your* New Jersey National Guard. Take a look at the map that illustrates the locations worldwide where our units and individual deployers have been. Believe me, the map does not fully capture the breadth and depth of our contributions nationwide and overseas...but it gives you an idea. If we were to point out every single location where a Jersey Airman or Soldier has set foot, there wouldn't be any room left to see the map.

Over the period covered in this magazine, we have consistently shown ourselves to be a world-class organization. Before any crisis arises, we have proven to be poised, prepared and mission-ready. When called up, we have demonstrated our ability to train up, suit up and load up. When the mobilization order comes, we show a penchant for rapid deployment and quick theater integration. While in theater, the Jersey Guard has earned a reputation for its skill and professionalism. There is no better proof that we can do the job, than the fact that we did it...time and time again!

While limited to a six-year period, this publication tells a story that reflects a proud tradition and history. To all the men and women that have made this history possible, I say thank you. Because, for all the new equipment, vehicles and aircraft that have been arriving daily into our inventories, it is the Soldier and Airman that get the job done. Your spirit, determination, can-do attitude and resilience are the reasons for our success. I'd like to also thank the families, friends and loved ones who have helped share the burden of our increased operational tempo.

Whatever the next six years will bring – or what the future holds beyond that – I am confident that the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard will continue to rise to any challenge and carry on the good work of protecting our communities, state and nation.



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 daughter Erika watch. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

A message from the Governor

Thank you...two simple words that cannot be said enough for the dedication and service of all the men and women of the New Jersey National Guard.

In this post 9-11 world our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen have been asked to do more than ever before. Missions that were unimaginable just a few years ago have become routine for our National Guard. From providing security at bridges, tunnels, airports and nuclear power plants, to serving across the world in the Global War on Terrorism; you have performed every mission this state and nation has asked you to do with excellence and professionalism.

The founding fathers would not recognize the state militias that won our independence so many years ago, except for one key element; you continue to serve your fellow state residents first and foremost. The citizens of New Jersey praise your service to this state and the nation.

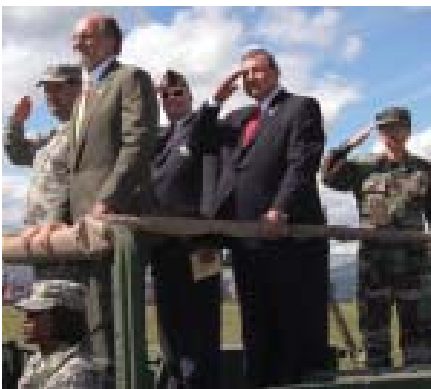
Let me say Thank You again, but this time to your families and employers, because without their support you would not be able to serve. The sacrifices that you, your family and your employer have made over the years are unfathomable. To have a father or mother, husband or wife, son or daughter be away for months at a time has to be difficult and I must say most people do not fully appreciate that level of personal sacrifice.

In the years ahead the Soldiers and Airmen of New Jersey will continue to be a vital part of New Jersey's homeland security and this nations defense again terrorism.

I am proud to be the Commander-in-Chief of this Hometown Team. It is with a firm appreciation for all that you do each and every day to make this state and nation safer places, that I once more say Thank You for your service.



Governor Jon S. Corzine (center) and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (left), The Adjutant General of New Jersey, present Master Sgt. Daniel T. Mitchell Jr. (right), Security Forces, 177th Fighter Wing, the Meritorious Service Medal for his service in Afghanistan. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.



History— The National Guard



The United States National Guard, or organized militia, of the 54 states and territories, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, active as defined in Title 32, USC Section 101 is maintained and administered by the National Guard Bureau. The D.C. National Guard is under the direction of the President of the United States. Each of the 54 states and territories has both an Army and Air Component under control of the Governor and is commanded by an Adjutant General, most often a Major General, at the state's Joint Force Headquarters.

The Army National Guard - the oldest branch of the U.S. military - traces its origins back to the American colonies in 1636, when English colonists needed to protect themselves and drew civilians into organized militias, from which are descended some units of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. The Army National Guard officially received its title in 1798.

During World War I, the National Guard provided 40 percent of the Army's combat forces. Guard membership doubled in 1940, and provided 19 divisions during World War II, of which the National Guard units were among the first to deploy overseas and the first to fight. Guardsmen were also deployed to Korea and during the Vietnam War, almost 23,000 Army and Air Guardsmen were called up for a year of active duty. Of that group, some 8,700 were deployed to Vietnam. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Army National Guard has been used extensively in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Air National Guard (ANG), often referred to as the Air Guard, is part of the United States National Guard and a reserve component of the United States Air Force. Like the Army National Guard, the Air Guard is administered by the National Guard Bureau and may be activated by either the President of the United States or the governor of the state in which it is located.

Although the Air National Guard was not established as a separate Air Force component until 1947, National Guard aviators have played significant roles in all twentieth century wars involving the United States and in most of its major contingencies. More recently, the New Jersey Air National Guard has flown more than 17,000 hours in the Middle East during ongoing operations for the Global War on Terrorism.

The New Jersey Army and Air National Guard

By Lt. Col. Robert Schofield, JFHQ-NJ



The New Jersey National Guard consists of more than 8,300 members and is governed through the New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs. Both the Army Guard and Air Guard have served and remain engaged in several Global War on Terrorism missions. New Jersey units have deployed to Oman, Turkey, Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan, Germany and Egypt in direct support of the war. Within the State of New Jersey, under the Governor's control, the Guard is routinely called upon to provide military support to civil authorities during civil emergencies, natural disasters and significant severe weather events. The New Jersey National Guard has also deployed to assist with the recovery from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and participated in Operation Jump Start to enhance border security in New Mexico.

Transforming to meet Contemporary Needs

While the New Jersey National Guard continues to be called upon to serve both State and Nation at an unprecedented operational tempo, both the Army and Air components are engaged in the U.S. Department of Defense Force Transformation. This modernization of force structure, operational concepts and capabilities are designed to enhance the

Guard's role in protecting the United States against the contemporary asymmetric threats worldwide, preserving domestic tranquility and providing support to civil authorities in response to natural disasters and civil emergencies in the state.

The Army Guard transformation is centered on the Modular Force Conversion that is designed to create an agile, capabilities-based force to strengthen the Army's capability to fight the war on terrorism. Prior to this transformation, the Army was structured for major land campaigns against similarly organized forces. Recent experience shows that this is

not the optimal structure for the threats of the 21st century. As part of the Army's modular conversion, the Army National Guard is restructuring its organizations to create forces that are more stand-alone and sustainable while enhancing their full-spectrum capabilities. The 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) will be structured and manned identically to its active Army counterparts and can be combined with other BCTs or elements of the joint force, facilitating integration, interoperability and compatibility among all components. The 50th IBCT's modular organization provides a more flexible, more capable and more rapidly deployable force.

The New Jersey Army National Guard accelerated its conversion timeline, as part of the overall Army transformation plan, with completion moved from FY 2010 to the second quarter of FY 2008. The plan to accelerate the conversion of Army National Guard forces was officially approved as a part of the Army Campaign Plan and coincides with the deployment of the 50th IBCT. The accelerated conversion timeline also enabled New Jersey to acquire additional force structure and critical capabilities not organic to a modular IBCT. The organizational restructure will also enhance the Guard's ability to assist the state in the areas of transportation, com-



munication and security. The transformed New Jersey Army National Guard force structure is listed below.

New Jersey Army National Guard Major Commands

42nd Regional Support Group (RSG)

- 119th Support Battalion
- 253rd Transportation Company
- 150th Chemical Company
- 154th Water Purification Company

50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT)

- 1st Battalion 114th Infantry Regiment
- 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry Regiment
- 3rd Battalion 112th Field Artillery Regiment
- 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion
- 102nd Battalion (Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition)
- 250th Brigade Support Battalion

57th Troop Command (TC)

- 218th Military Police Detachment Law & Order
- 328th Military Police Guard Company
- Company C(-) 1st Battalion, 224th Support and Service Battalion
- 110th Engineer Utility Detachment

254th Regiment (Combat Arms)

- 1st Battalion (Infantry)
- 2nd Battalion (Modular Training Battalion)
- Regional Training Site - Maintenance (RTS-M)

Joint Training, Training Development Center (JT2DC)



New Jersey Air National Guard Major Commands

The 108th Air Refueling Wing provides aerial refueling support worldwide. They fly the KC-135 R-model Stratotanker and are based at McGuire Air Force Base. The 108th's major subordinate elements include the 141st Air Refueling Squadron, the 227th Special Operations Flight, the 108th Contingency Response Group and 204th Mobility

Air Force Intelligence Squadron.

The 177th Fighter Wing or the "Jersey Devils" is stationed at the Atlantic City International Airport. The 177th provides combat ready Airmen, aircraft and equipment for worldwide deployment in support of U.S. Air Force objectives. The Fighter Wing is made up of primarily F-16 Block-30 C/D aircraft which they fly to support the Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) mission. The 177th's major subordinate units include the 119th Fighter Squadron and Warren Grove Range.

During statewide missions the 108th and 177th are tasked to protect life and property, provide disaster relief, and ensure public safety by deploying their unique capabilities including hazardous materials response, fire fighting, explosive ordnance disposal, civil engineering and security forces.

New Generation Warrior: from Strategic Reserve to a Fully Operational Force

In the initial seven years since the terrorist attacks on the American homeland, more than 6,000 New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have been deployed in support of Operations', Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Virtually all other Soldiers and Airmen have taken part in domestic operations ranging from infrastructure security, response to severe weather events in New Jersey as well as the hurricane ravished Gulf Coast region and border security in the Southwest. Between Sept. 11, 2001 and June 30, 2007, nearly 100 percent of the New Jersey National Guard have served on federal and/or state active duty in service to community, state and nation.

The New Jersey National Guard is made up of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who train regularly but maintain full-time professions and occupations in their own communities. While they may be called up for domestic or international duties, the commitments they make are fundamentally different from those of their counterparts in the active-duty military forces, who for a stated period are full-time military career professionals.

While this is not the first time that New Jersey National Guard personnel have been deployed abroad, the missions undertaken by the New Jersey Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are truly unique in the history of the Jersey Guard. This Guardlife Special Issue presents a picture of those who have fought in the Global War on Terrorism. It is also an account of the dedication and commitment of the men and women of the New Jersey National Guard in their service to community, state and nation beginning at the moment American Airlines Flight 11 flew into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Finally, this issue is dedicated to the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard and their families.



A 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation UH-60 Blackhawk, from Army Aviation Support Facility #1, based in West Trenton, surveys the destruction of

the World Trade Center on the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The initial response: The New Jersey National Guard answers the call

The New Jersey National Guard instantaneously opened its Emergency Operations Center at Fort Dix 24/7 once the emergency began. As the situation developed and New Jersey's emergency response community began to react, the National Guard Emergency Operations Center directed all of the Major Commands to prepare to provide military support. Communication was quickly established with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the National Guard liaison cell was established at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Additionally a liaison cell was dispatched to support the New Jersey OEM Forward and Unified Command Posts at Liberty State Park and

Caven Point. The Headquarters and subordinate operations centers maintained 24-hour command and control throughout the initial response period and were stood down as the situation and mission requirements allowed.

Nearly every Army and Air unit, was involved in security, recovery, and logistical support missions or military operations connected with the September 11 Attack on America. Additionally, New Jersey Naval Militia personnel were called to duty to augment the Emergency Operations Center and



A Soldier from the 101st Airborne Support Battalion inspects the smoke plume over the World Trade Center from Liberty State Park. Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert W. Stephenson - 444294LD



Medics from F Company, 50th Main Support Battalion prepare for the wounded and injured that never came from the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001. Photo by Capt. Jon R. Powers, 444MPAD.

assist the State Police with port and maritime security tasks.

The following covers the major missions and operations conducted by the New Jersey National Guard in response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

177th Fighter Wing conducts air sovereignty operations

The 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard stationed at the Atlantic City began conducting Combat Air Patrol (CAP) operations immediately following the World Trade Center attacks on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

In a matter of minutes more than 180 Airmen were mobilized to support North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) air sovereignty missions in the eastern U.S. Among the nation's initial response forces, the

177th's past experience in maintaining air defense alert and flying air sovereignty missions enabled the Fighter Wing to quickly reconfigure its aircraft and begin flying CAP missions shortly after the attacks. In the ensuing weeks nearly all of the Airmen of the 177th provided direct support to the response and recovery effort. More than two hundred Airmen

were called to active federal service by the Presidential Call-up. NORAD discontinued routine CAP missions over the homeland on April 16, 2002, but the ASA mission continues.

108th Air Refueling Wing provides critical support

Although a significant portion of the organization was deployed to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, the 108th Air Refueling Wing (108th ARW) immediately began preparing its people and aircraft to support



Weapons load team (l-r) Senior Airman James Keefer, Master Sgt. Frank Buzby and Tech. Sgt. Wendell Hunte load an AIM-9 on a 177th Fighter Wing F-16C. Photo by Master Sgt. Don Taggart, 177FW/SVSC.



108th Air Refueling Wing pilots hold a KC-135E steady during a night refueling. Air Force photo by Carlos Cintron.

homeland defense by providing air refueling for the Combat Air Patrol (CAP) missions operating in the Northeast Corridor. Full-time and part-time Air Guard volunteers were supporting these missions.

In the days following the attacks, more than two dozen Airmen volunteered for duty under Noble Eagle and reported to "Ground Zero" in New York City. Their mission was to provide, operate and maintain mobile lighting equipment, "light-alls," at the disaster site. After the light-alls were installed, the 108th Airmen joined the search for survivors.

Additionally, the 108th deployed approximately 50 Security Forces Squadron Airmen to Washington, D.C., to assist in providing security for key facilities and government buildings as part of the Presidential Call-up.

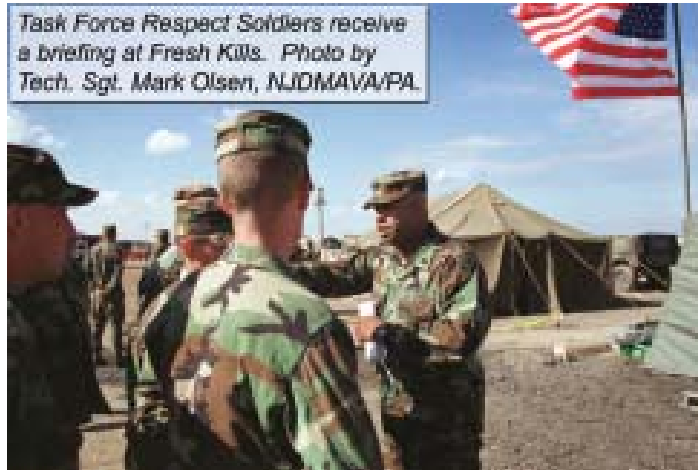
By early October, more than 100 108th Security Forces Squadron Airmen were mobilized in support of Operation's Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom to provide security for government installations throughout the Washington, D.C. area, as well as performing other security-related missions.

In additional, 177th Security Forces Squadron Airmen were federally activated and deployed to Air Force bases



108th Aerospace Ground Equipment Airmen prepare to deploy Light-Alls at Ground Zero. Photo courtesy 108ARW/AGE

nationwide to assist with security. Many of these Airmen were deployed for up to a year. During this period the 108th continued its traditional strategic role to fly routine refueling missions in support of daily Air Force missions.



Task Force Respect Soldiers receive a briefing at Fresh Kills. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Task Force Respect provides life support

The 57th Troop Command, headquartered in Atlantic City, established "Task Force Respect" at the Fresh Kills Landfill, Staten Island, N.Y. The Task Force provided base camp and life support for the FBI and other law enforcement personnel working at the site.

The Guardsmen supported the site with mobile kitchen trailers, cooks, water and medical teams, mechanics, refrigerated trailers, tents, generators, lights and other equipment as needed.

Task Force Respect Soldiers also provided a 24-hour guard force at the Homeport housing area on Staten Island where law enforcement and recovery workers were billeted during the emergency. Additionally, National Guard and N.J. Naval Militia chaplains at the camp provided 24-hour religious/spiritual support and pastoral counseling.

National Guard chaplains statewide selflessly provided around-the-clock counseling to families, deployed personnel and rescue workers in all locations from Ground Zero to Atlantic City since the start of the emergency. Task Force Respect concluded its mission and closed the Fresh Kills base camp operation on Oct. 25, 2001.

NJARNG MP's secure Fort Dix

The 42nd Military Police (MP) Company supplemented the Department of Defense Police and active duty MPs to enhance 24-hour security at Fort Dix.

The Soldiers conducted patrols and operated checkpoints at every gate to the post in addition to their main responsibility to provide 24-hour security for the National Guard Emergency Operations Center. The Company performed its Fort Dix security augmentation role through Oct. 21, 2001.



1-150th Aviation Battalion aviators rush to launch a UH-60A on Sept. 11. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Army National Guard Aviation

Army Guard helicopters based at Trenton-Mercer Airport provided daily support, beginning the morning of Sept. 11, to the FBI and other federal agencies conducting post-attack operations.

Missions included support to both crisis management and consequence management activities and included transportation of essential personnel and materials as well as site survey and surveillance over flights.

More than 110 missions were flown by 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation Blackhawk and Kiowa helicopters in direct support to the Sept. 11 attacks.



Some of the more than 4,000 tons of donated materials received by the New Jersey National Guard at Bayonne. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

DISCOM manages donated materials

The 42nd Division Support Command (DISCOM), headquartered at Somerset organized, established and operated the donation warehouse at the Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne. Soldiers provided daily warehouse support to the Salvation Army, the principal agency responsible for managing donations during major emergencies.

In excess of 4,000 tons of donated material were received, sorted, and warehoused in connection with the World Trade Center response and recovery operations. DISCOM assisted with the distribution of materials and the consolida-

tion of remaining items into a central facility when the Bayonne Warehouse closed in mid November 2001.



2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor Soldiers on patrol at Newark International Airport. Photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.

New Jersey Soldiers secure airports

On Oct. 2, 2001, at the request of the President of the United States, Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco ordered more than 150 N.J. Army National Guard Soldiers to provide additional security at three of New Jersey’s airports.

After strict screening and specialized training by the FAA, these soldiers deployed to Newark, Mercer County, and Atlantic City airports where they provided a “highly visible, armed force to enhance existing security and reassure the American people’s faith in flying.”

Armed NJARNG Soldiers were stationed at every security checkpoint at each airport. Public reaction to the presence of National Guard Soldiers was very positive and helped to instill confidence back in the American people. This mission was completed once the Transportation Security Agency and new federal security measures were in place in the nation’s airports.

In response to the President’s call for increased National Guard presence at airports through the Holiday Season, Governor DiFrancesco authorized the mobilization of a surge



A 177th Fighter Wing F-16C on a Combat Air Patrol (CAP) on Oct. 7, 2001. Photo by Master Sgt. Don Taggart, 177FW/SVSC.

force of an additional 40 Soldiers for deployment to the three airports. The additional Guardsmen served from Nov.15, 2001, through Jan. 7, 2002, and augmented security during the holiday travel period. Soldiers, drawn from the battalions of the 50th Brigade, assisted in conducting luggage checks, perimeter patrols, access control and provided general terminal security.



A New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier guards the Lincoln Tunnel during the bridges and tunnels mission. Photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.

NJNG augments security at bridges and tunnels

On Oct. 27, 2001, the Governor ordered the Army National Guard to deploy troops in support of the New Jersey State Police and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to enhance security at key bridges and tunnels in the New York metropolitan area.

This security force was placed as part of a bi-state effort (New York and New Jersey) to enhance existing security at critical “high value” infrastructure and was not based on specific threats to these facilities. This unprecedented use of armed Soldiers in a “State Active Duty” role became a model for other states in the deployment of Guard Soldiers in support of civil authorities.

At it’s peak, more than 200 Soldiers augmented police security at key Port Authority facilities in New Jersey including the George Washington Bridge, Lincoln Tunnel, Holland Tunnel, and PATH facilities.

Initially Soldiers came from combat units of the 50th Brigade. The first unit called to this duty was the 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor, headquartered in Port Murray. Units deployed for bridge and tunnel security operations on approximately three week rotations. While deployed, the Soldiers were housed at armories in Teaneck, Jersey City and Woodbridge. Thier duties included security of key buildings and transportation hubs, cargo inspections at river crossings, and traffic control at security checkpoints. Once each of the Battalions of the 50th Brigade completed a three week rotation, the operational responsibility rotated among the DISCOM battalions until the mission was completed by the 250th Signal Battalion late in March 2002.



Soldiers on patrol at the Salem-Hope (nuclear) Generating Plant. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMANA/PA.

Nuclear power plant security

Governor DiFrancisco ordered more than 75 Soldiers from the 50th Brigade to State Active Duty on Nov. 8, 2001, to augment existing security at New Jersey’s two nuclear power stations.

Although no specific threats were identified against the Salem and Oyster Creek facilities, it was considered a prudent precaution to bolster security at these key facilities following the commencement of U.S. military action in Afghanistan. This mission and manning levels were reevaluated and tailored to meet the fluid situation on a regular basis and remains active today with a minimal force.

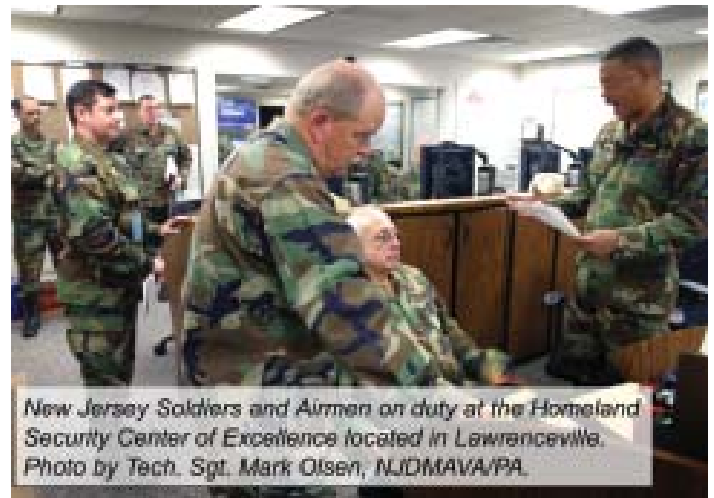
From Strategic Reserve to a full spectrum Operational Force

Virtually all New Jersey Air National Guard personnel, in one status or another, answered the call to support Operation Noble Eagle (ONE) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Almost 95 percent of the more than 2,400 New Jersey Citizen-Airmen were directly involved with providing either OEF or ONE Combat Air Patrol mission support. NJANG Airman deployed within the United States and overseas including Southwest Asia and Afghanistan. Additionally, the NJANG continues to participate in Operation Deny Flight in the Iraqi No Fly Zone.

Not surprisingly, the existing Command and Control in-

Chief Master Sgt. William J. Loder (center), 177th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, was the first New Jersey Guardsman to deploy to Afghanistan. Photo courtesy Chief Master Sgt. (retired) William J. Loder.



New Jersey Soldiers and Airmen on duty at the Homeland Security Center of Excellence located in Lawrenceville. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Infrastructure quickly became overburdened exposing systemic difficulties with the management and support of several widely diverse civil support and security enhancement operations. It became ever clearer that the New Jersey National Guard had to make significant improvements to existing processes and procedures to remain a relevant partner within the state's response community.

Additionally, the new homeland security environment presented increasingly complex challenges that required new operational capabilities and skill sets. Strategic analysis and decision making were focused on building a state of the art Joint Operations Center equipped to handle a newly emerging role in homeland defense and security, revamping the

Military Support to Civil Authorities Operations Plan and acquiring the correct array of force structure to address the challenges of contemporary operational environments both at home and abroad.

Governor James McGreevey dedicated NJDMAVA's Homeland Security Center of Excellence in January 2003. The facility, to be used by the Department as a command and control center for emergency operations, was funded entirely from existing appropriations and constructed through a team effort of in-house maintenance force, 108th Air Refueling Wing and 177th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadrons and civilian contractors.

Members of the 21st Civil Support Team are evaluated by First U.S. Army inspectors at a Salem County shipping company on June 30, 2005. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.





Panoramic view of the NJNG mission at Salem Hope (nuclear) Generating Plant. Photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.

The HSCOE provides NJDMAVA with a state-of-the-art command center that will enhance its operational and communications capability to insure the protection of New Jersey's citizens against terrorism and natural disasters.

By October, the New Jersey National Guard published a comprehensive Military Support to Civil Authorities (MSCA) Operation Plan (OPLAN) incorporating Army and Air capabilities as well as applicable departmental services and support including State Active Duty pay, medical care and logistical support. The MSCA OPLAN introduced the concept of geographic task organization supplemented as required with special capabilities. This structure established the 'Guard Force' concept and has enhanced the improved habitual relationships between National Guard commanders and the supported civil authorities.

In November 2003, the New Jersey Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Advisory Committee, facilitated and led by the NJNG, published the first WMD Appendix to the Terrorism Annex of the state's Emergency Operations Plan. The committee was comprised of members of all major departments of New Jersey state government and representatives from various law enforcement, response and support sectors involved in emergence preparedness and response.

WMD Civil Support Teams deploy rapidly to assist the local incident commander in determining the nature and extent of an attack or incident; provide expert technical and medical advice on WMD response operations; and help iden-

tify and support the arrival of follow-on state and federal military response assets. Each team consists of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard members who are federally resourced, trained and exercised.

Early in March 2004, as a result of an aggressive campaign led by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs with strong support from the Governor and the state's legislative delegation, Congress authorized and funded the stationing of the 21st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (21st CST) in New Jersey significantly enhancing the states's domestic emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Following 15 months of intense individual and collective training, the 21st CST passed its final evaluation by the First United States Army inspectors and was certified mission capable on June 30, 2005. 🇺🇸

New Jersey Army Guard Soldiers provided security at three state airports following the Sept. 11 attacks. Photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.



Below: on July 12, 2002, Maj. Yarko Sos, 177th Fighter Wing, flew the 1,000 Combat Air Patrol in the United States. Photo by Senior Airman Andrew Merlock Jr., 177FW/SVSC.



02

other operational locations included Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Kuwait, Japan, Korea, Panama, and to Turkey and Saudi Arabia to help enforce the no-fly zones over Iraq.

Guard Placed on alert for September 11 anniversary

Following the announcement on Sept. 10, 2002, by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge that there was a credible basis for increasing the threat level, Governor McGreevey directed the mobilization of more than 400 Soldiers to be prepared and available for rapid response to any incidents on the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Contingency force personnel were positioned at various



108th Air Refueling Wing Airmen pose for a group photo in Oman in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo courtesy 108ARW/PA.

Airmen sent to Southwest Asia

Two hundred 108th Air Refueling Wing Airmen were mobilized and deployed to Oman as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Under this mobilization, Air Guard aircrew members, aircraft mechanics and support personnel were assigned as part of the Air Force's Air Mobility Command.

Their mission was to support combat missions with aerial refueling. These men and women are among the 108th ARW's several hundred Citizen-Airmen who mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, which generally refers to military operations in Afghanistan.

In April 2002, approximately 30 additional New Jersey Air National Guard Airmen deployed to Oman to relieve their fellow Citizen-Airmen who initially mobilized when the 108th was tasked to provide aerial refueling.

The 108th provided air refueling support and strategic airlift with 20 KC-135E Stratotankers, making it one of only three "Super (tanker) Wings" in the entire Air National Guard. The Super Wing status enabled the 108th to continue normal operations in support of routine worldwide military missions during its Southwest Asia deployment. The Wing's

locations to prepare equipment and establish communication networks to facilitate a quick reaction if needed.

Concurrently, 177th Airmen and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft were placed on federal active duty to fly CAP missions over the northeast including New York City and Washington, D.C.

The Army Guard mobilizes in support of Fort Dix Power Projection Platform

The 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) and the 150th Adjutant General Company were called to active duty to provide public affairs support and personnel services to the Soldier Readiness Processing and mobilization activities at Fort Dix. Fort Dix served as the northeast's principal Power Projection Platform responsible for mobilizing, training and certifying Guard and Reserve units for deployment to operational theaters.

The 444th MPAD covered the early stages of the most significant mobilization of the reserve component of the U.S. military since the Gulf War in 1991. 🇺🇸



Photos clockwise starting above: 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation Soldiers in Bosnia. Photo by Lt. Col. Mark Preston, 1-150AB. Airmen from the 108th Civil Engineering Squadron work on the Homeland Security Center. Photo courtesy 108ARW/PA. Spc. Curon B. Wynn, 2-113th Infantry Division at Salem-Hope (nuclear) Generating Plant. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA. Maj. Angelo Capolupo, 50th Finance Battalion poses with a group of admirers. Photo by Lt. Col. James Pippitt, 50FB.



03

253rd Transportation Company mobilized

On Feb. 7, 2003, Soldiers of the 253rd Transportation Company, Cape May Courthouse, began mobilization training in preparation for active duty service. Less than a month later, the 253rd became the first New Jersey unit to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 253rd returned home in mid-April 2004 after transporting combat troops and mission critical material nearly one million miles throughout Iraq. This action followed the mobilization of the 150th Adjutant General Detachment and the 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. The 253rd was one of three New Jersey Army National Guard units activated during Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield.

Sgt. Michael J. Spallina (foreground) and Staff Sgt. David A. Dickinson (rear), both with the 253rd Transportation Company, man .50 caliber machine guns while on convoy duty. Photo by 1st Sgt. Michael Vey, 253TC.

NJNG Snapshot



Spc. Nicola Harvey, 253rd Transportation Company was the first New Jersey National Guard Soldier to receive the Purple Heart for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin E. Lewis, 253TC.

“Guardians of Freedom” depart for Europe

On March 8, 2003, 70 108th Airmen departed from New Jersey to support operations in Southwest Asia.

The Airmen were mobilized under the Air Force’s Air Mobility Command to support Operation Enduring Freedom and were assigned to an undisclosed location in Europe where they provided air refueling and airlift support.

This mobilization came on the heels of the Wing’s mobilization and deployment of approximately 200 “Guardians of Freedom” to Oman from Dec. 2001 to July 2002, in support of the same operation.

Army Guard Soldiers mobilized

Several Army Guard battalions began home station pre-mobilization training and soldier readiness processing in early 2003 in preparation for a yearlong active duty mobilization supporting Operation Noble Eagle.

Beginning May 2003 and continuing through the end of the month, approximately 300 Soldiers mobilized for extended active duty service at Fort Dix, Fort Monmouth and Picatinny Arsenal to provide security for these highly critical military facilities in New Jersey.

The Citizen-Soldiers came from the 50th Main Support Battalion headquartered in Teaneck; the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry Regiment headquartered in Vineland and D Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment headquartered at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill.



Company B sent to Iraq

In November 2003, 50 Soldiers of Company B, Truck Motor Transport, 50th Main Support Battalion headquartered in Dover were mobilized to augment their 16 fellow unit members already serving with the Guard’s 253rd Transportation Company in support of the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq.

The unit consisted of Heavy Equipment Transport tractor-trailer vehicles capable of transporting payloads up to 70 tons, which includes tracked vehicles such as tanks and armored personnel carriers to various locations to and from the battlefield. Following pre-mobilization at their home sta-



Soldiers from the 253rd Transportation Company prepare for a morning mission. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Edward Camp, 253TC.

tion, the unit moved to Fort Eustis, Va., for mobilization, processing, and deployment to Southwest Asia where they conducted convoy operations throughout the Iraqi theater.

All 50 Soldiers returned to Dover on March 13, 2005, after successfully completing the yearlong deployment to Iraq.



Staff Sgt. LeRoy Metz Jr. and friends during the 1-150th General Support Aviation Battalion’s deployment for Operation New Horizons 03. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Doug McNeil, 1-150GSAB.

Aviation deploys to Panama

The first contingent of the 1-150th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) arrived in Panama on Jan. 13, 2003 to begin a five-month mission providing aviation support to Task Force Chiriqui during Operation New Horizons ’03 humanitarian mission.

Their equipment, including three shrink-wrapped UH-60 helicopters, arrived by sea from the Port of Philadelphia on Jan. 19. During a five month period, 59 GSAB Soldiers rotated through Panama to provide medical evacuation and air transport for the Task Force. 🇺🇸



Left to right: Spc. Henry Trivino, Sgts. Alejandro Corachan and Joe Nyzio, B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, honor the memory of Staff Sgt. Frank Carvill, Staff Sgt. Humberto Timoteo, Sgt. Ryan Doltz

and Spc. Christopher Duffy who were killed in action in Iraq in June 2004. The dedication took place during the Unit's Homecoming Ceremony. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Redlegs train for new mission

On Jan. 5, 2004, B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery mobilized for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From Jan. 7 to Feb. 21, the Battery underwent military police training at Fort Dix, which included military police weapons systems and tasks. The unit then deployed to Kuwait for theater specific training and certification. By March 7, it had moved to Camp Cuervo in Baghdad, Iraq, where it was attached to the 89th Military Police Brigade and operationally re-designated as C Company. The company received additional training from the unit it was replacing. C Company Soldiers learned important real-world lessons during

04



Capt. (Chaplain) Kevin Williams (far right), 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, presides over a triple wedding at Chapel 5, Fort Dix on Feb. 15. Married were (l-r): Spc. Glenn Erlenmeyer, 3-112th,

and Christina Lyness; Spc. Kaleb Hazen, 1st Battalion, 172nd Field Artillery, and Megan Finnegan; and Spc. William Donahue, 3-112th and Kerry Chin. Photo by Tech Sgt. Mark Olsen. NJDMAVA/PA

this “right seat ride” transition period.

In April, C Company began conducting patrols and providing site security at Iraqi police stations in eastern Baghdad, including Sadr City. The unit later began training and equipping Iraqi police at several stations in their area of operations.

From April 15 to May 15, one platoon was tasked to support the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Fallujah. Their mission was to patrol the main supply route between Fallujah and Baghdad, escort supply convoys, and provide security for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams searching for and disarming improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The remainder of the company remained in eastern Baghdad to con-

tinue patrolling and site security operations.

From mid-May to early June, C Company engaged in fierce combat operations against the Mahdi army of Muqtada al-Sadr in Sadr City. When U.S. Soldiers arrived at Iraqi police stations, insurgents frequently attacked within 10 or 15 minutes. On Mother’s Day, six C Company soldiers defended an Iraqi police station for approximately two hours against more than 100 Mahdi army insurgents, killing 19.

On June 4 and 5, four C Company Soldiers were killed in two IED ambushes on the outskirts of Sadr City. The deaths of Staff Sgts. Frank Carvill and Humberto Timoteo, Sgt. Ryan Doltz, and Spc. Christopher Duffy dealt a devas-

tating blow to the unit and the New Jersey National Guard family as well as the Soldiers' hometown communities.

C Company continued to support and train the Iraqi police force and the local civilian population by providing food and care packages, as well as medics to treat sick or injured men, women, and children at the police stations. The company redeployed from Baghdad on the eve of the first free democratic election following the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime and arrived back at Fort Dix on Feb. 2, 2005. C Company was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation for its meritorious service while conducting combat actions.

50th Brigade and 113th Infantry troops mobilized

In late 2003, more than 400 Soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard received notification that they were to be called to extended active duty service under Title 10 United States Code in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The troops were drawn primarily from 50th Brigade units to include Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 50th Brigade headquartered in Lawrenceville and the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry headquartered in Riverdale. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor from Port Murray and the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery in Morristown rounded out the personnel requirements. A team from the 350th Finance Detachment headquartered in Flemington deployed to pro-



Spec. Matthew Eblen-Pesa, 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor and family during the unit's mobilization to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

vide support and services. The Citizen-Soldiers deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to provide security at the Detention Facility housing suspected Taliban and other terrorists from Afghanistan and the Southwest Asia theater of operations.

The nearly 18-month deployment was part of the second round of rotations of Guard and Reserve units called up in support of Operations' Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom.

On March 24, 2005, the 50th Brigade Soldiers returned to Lawrenceville following the successful completion of the nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry returned home on April 21 after completing their yearlong tour at Guantanamo Bay.

Both units provided perimeter security at the Military Detention facility and served as an integral element as part of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo.

NJNG Snapshot



Master Sgt. Joseph C. Kunkle, 177th Fighter Wing, became the first New Jersey Air Guardsmen to be awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received it while serving as Explosive Ordnance Disposal NCOIC at Baghdad International Airport. Photo courtesy Master Sgt. (retired) Joseph C. Kunkle.



In 2004, Col. Maria Falca-Dodson became the first woman in the New Jersey National Guard to attain the rank of Brigadier General. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



Photos clockwise: Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth , Representative Rush Holt, 12th District of New Jersey and Senator Jon. S. Corzine visited the NJARNG Soldiers at Guantanamo Bay prior to Christmas bringing gifts: NJDMAVA/PA photo. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry pose with schoolchildren's letters while deployed in support of the Multinational Forces and Observers forces. NJDMAVA/PA photo. Below members of the 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor pose with NJNG leadership at Guantanamo Bay. NJDMAVA/PA photo.





Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry deploy to the Arabian Peninsula as part of the Multinational Forces and Observer's force. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

114th Infantry mobilized

More than 300 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers were called to active duty on Title 10 orders.

The mobilized troops were drawn primarily from 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry to include Headquarters and Headquarters Company, located in Woodbury; A Company headquartered in Mount Holly; B Company located in Freehold; and C Company headquartered in Burlington.

The Jersey Guard troops were deployed to the Arabian Peninsula as part of the Multinational Forces and Observer (MFO). During that deployment, the Battalion became the first Army National Guard unit to win the Multinational Forces and Observer's Force Skills Competition. The Competition is similar to the Olympics but focuses on Soldier's skills. The New Jersey Guardsmen competed against soldiers from Columbia, Fiji Islands, Australia, Britain, France, Hungary, Italy and New Zealand in events including an obstacle course, five-kilometer run, land navigation and first aid knowledge.

The 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry was welcomed home in February 2005 after completing the six-month deployment to the Sinai Peninsula.

42nd Infantry Division troops make history

Beginning in May 2004, more than 1,400 members of the New Jersey Army National Guard participated in the largest reserve component division mobilization since World War II when they were called to extended active duty service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Soldiers were drawn from Detachment 2, 42nd Di-

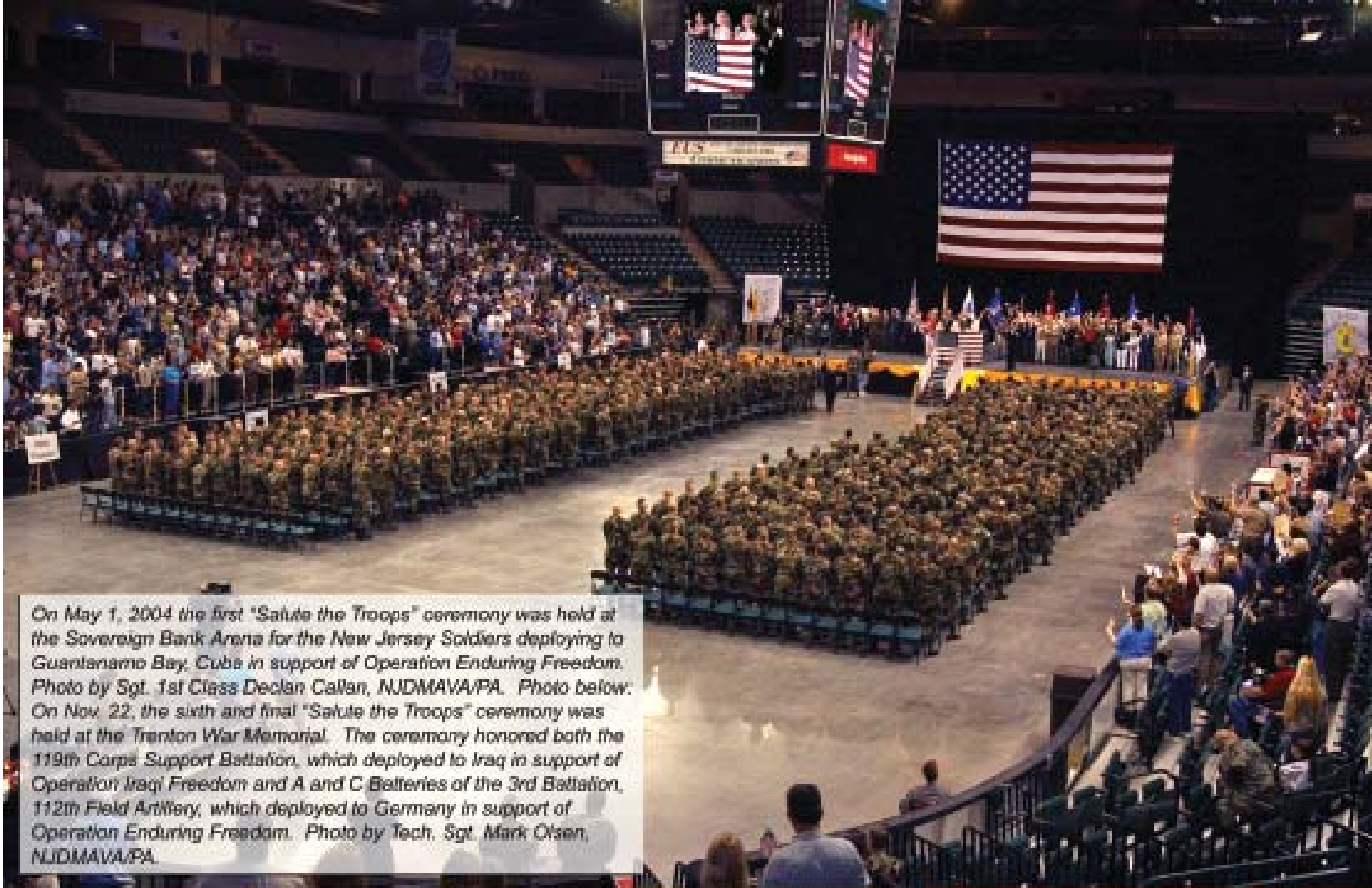
vision, headquartered in Lawrenceville; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Division Support Command headquartered in Somerset; Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, A Company and C Company, 50th Main Support Battalion (MSB), headquartered in Teaneck; E Company, 50th MSB headquartered in Jersey City; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 250th Signal Battalion, headquartered in Westfield; A Company, 250th Signal headquartered in Cherry Hill; C Company, 250th Signal Battalion headquartered in Somerset; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, A Company and C Company, 150th General Support Aviation Battalion, headquartered in West Trenton; Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and B Company, 642nd Division Aviation Support Battalion, headquartered in West Trenton; and Detachment 2, 42nd Military Police, headquartered in Lawrenceville.

In October 2004, the Jersey Guard troops deployed to Iraq to provide command and control, logistical and aviation support to three separate Infantry Brigade Combat Teams.

The more than 18-month deployment that included National Guard, Army Reserve and active-duty Army Soldiers from 13 states was part of the third round of rotations of Guard and Reserve units called up in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 🇺🇸

Below: the 150th General Aviation Support Battalion and 642nd Division Aviation Support Battalion deploy to Iraq on Veterans Day - Nov. 11, 2004. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.





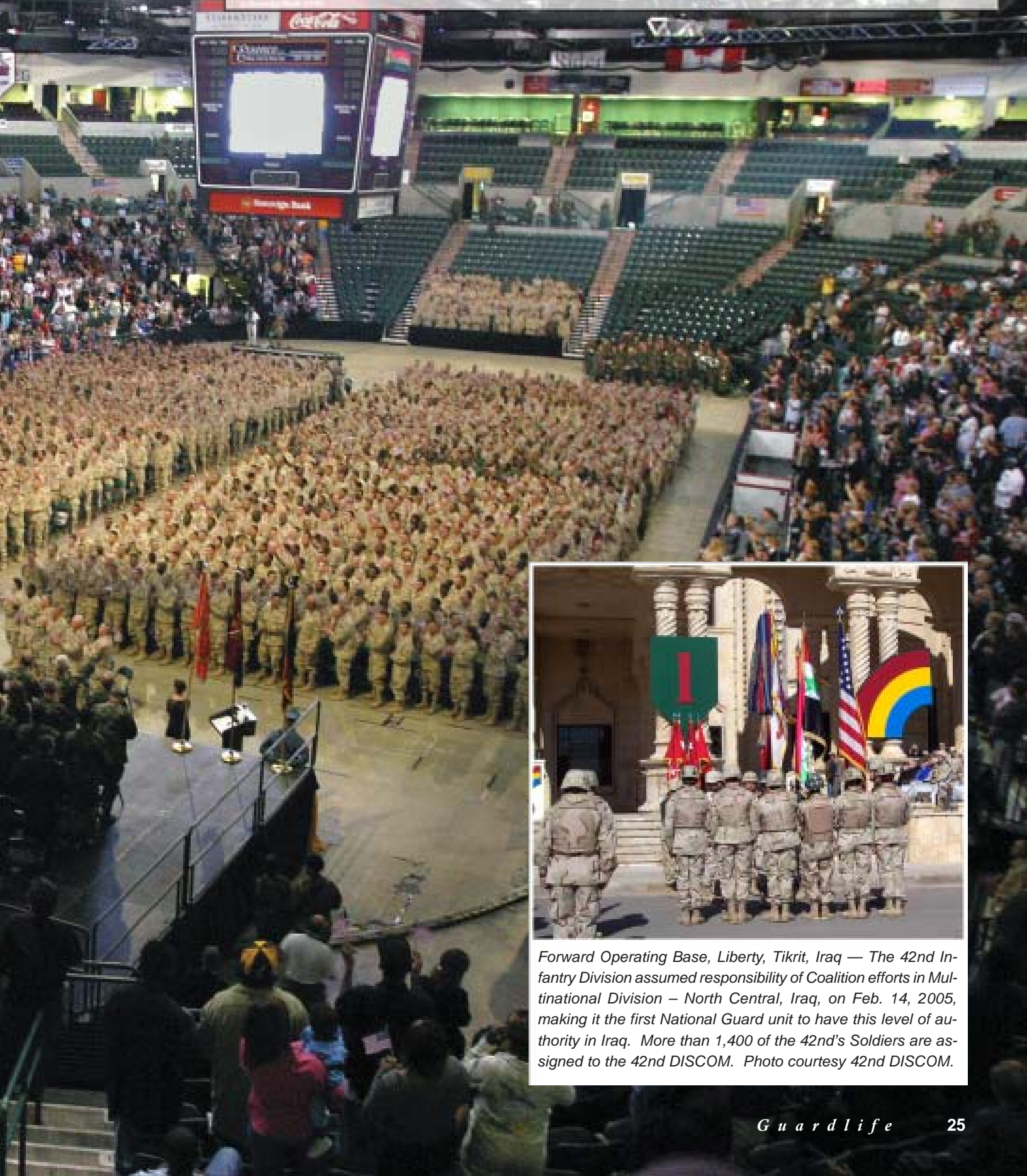
On May 1, 2004 the first "Salute the Troops" ceremony was held at the Sovereign Bank Arena for the New Jersey Soldiers deploying to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Declan Callan, NJDMAVA/PA. Photo below: On Nov. 22, the sixth and final "Salute the Troops" ceremony was held at the Trenton War Memorial. The ceremony honored both the 119th Corps Support Battalion, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and A and C Batteries of the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, which deployed to Germany in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.





The largest "Salute the Troops" ceremony was held at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton on Oct. 9, 2004. Approximately 4,000 family members filled the Arena to honor the more than 2,100 Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division. Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General; hosted the event for Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, Commander, 42nd Infantry Division. The event included performances by country western singer Jeffrey Wade Clark and the New York USO troupe. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

NJNG Snapshot



Forward Operating Base, Liberty, Tikrit, Iraq — The 42nd Infantry Division assumed responsibility of Coalition efforts in Multinational Division – North Central, Iraq, on Feb. 14, 2005, making it the first National Guard unit to have this level of authority in Iraq. More than 1,400 of the 42nd's Soldiers are assigned to the 42nd DISCOM. Photo courtesy 42nd DISCOM.



Photos clockwise above: 42nd DISCOM deploys to Iraq - the largest single New Jersey deployment since World War II. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, 444MPAD. 177th Civil Engineers at Baghdad International Airport. Photo courtesy Master Sgt. Edwin Reyes, 177/CES. 250th Signal Battalion Soldiers clockwise: 1st Lt. Waysel Danysh, Sgt. Steven Felmev, Cpl. Jeffrey Hiles and Sgt. 1st Class James Martino. 250SB Photo: Spc. Lisa Hatcher. 119th Corps Support Battalion, talks with an Iraqi child. Photo by Chaplain (Maj.) Jan Koczera, 119CSB.



05



The 50th Finance Battalion Soldiers modified an existing building into a state-of-the-art 750 square foot bank vault. Photo by Maj. Angelo Capolupo, 50FB.

Finance Battalion returns to Flemington

On Jan. 27, 2005, 25 50th Finance Battalion Soldiers returned to their home station armory after successfully completing a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

The Battalion was instrumental in creating and maintaining the first Central Funding Facility in Iraq. The facility, which held more than \$400 million in U.S. currency at any one time, was responsible for distributing both military and civilian pay to other finance battalions throughout Iraq.

Farewell Salute held for Finance Detachment

On Aug. 27, 2005, 250th Finance Detachment Soldiers completed preparations for federal mobilization and were honored in a Farewell Salute ceremony at their Headquarters at the National Guard Armory in Flemington.

The 250th troops deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

N.J. Guard supports Katrina relief operations

A KC-135E Stratotanker departed the 108th Air Refueling Wing in September, transporting critically needed pallets of bottled water and personnel to the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Nearly three dozen members of the 305th Security Forces joined the on-going relief efforts in the affected ar-

NJNG Snapshot



Master Sergeants' Jeff Redrup (left), 108th Air Refueling Wing and Pedro Rodriguez (right), 177th Fighter Wing, prepare donated water for airlift by the 108th at McGuire Air Force Base to BelleChasse Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on Sept. 7, 2005. New Jersey citizens, corporations and private organizations donated 3.5 million 16-ounce bottles of water in five days for their neighbors in New Orleans. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

reas following the hurricane. In addition to these Airmen, the 108th flew multiple flights carrying humanitarian relief supplies, primarily water, to support the disaster response and recovery.

As the situation developed, the people of New Jersey began to donate needed items, principally bottled water. To better manage the outpouring of support, local armories were designated collection sites and aircraft and Airmen from the 108th and Soldiers from the 250th Forward Support Battalion headquartered at Sea Girt collected, packaged and delivered bottled water in response to the initial urgent request for potable drinking water.

The states impacted by this catastrophe assessed their



Task Force Garden State Soldiers on patrol somewhere in New Orleans. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Moore, JFHQ-NJ/PA.



Task Force Garden State Oct. 14, 2005. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Moore, JFHQ/PA.

circumstances, identified specific needs and requested additional support in the form of equipment and personnel under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Both New Jersey Army and Air National Guard assets were mobilized to provide requested assistance.

In a joint operation, approximately 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Soldiers were mobilized to transport and assemble 65 military tents and hundreds of cots in support of Life Support Operations in the affected areas. The 108th transported the troops and equipment to Naval Air Station New Orleans where the New Jersey Citizen-Soldiers erected tents and cots within the multi-agency response staging area.

As the relief efforts continued and the effects of the disaster became overwhelming, the NJARNG was tasked to deploy a task force to support the recovery in the Gulf State Region.

The Joint Training and Training Development Center, headquartered at Fort Dix provided the command and control structure for the 120-member Task Force comprised of

volunteers from across the New Jersey Guard. The Task Force drove south in a three day, 50 vehicle convoy and joined the relief effort immediately upon arrival in New Orleans. Guard Soldiers engaged in traffic control, supply distribution, transportation of medical support personnel and assisted law enforcement with anti-looting patrols. Task Force members were awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Louisiana State Service Medal at the end of their near month long deployment.

N.J. mobilizes troops to support the Minnesota Army National Guard

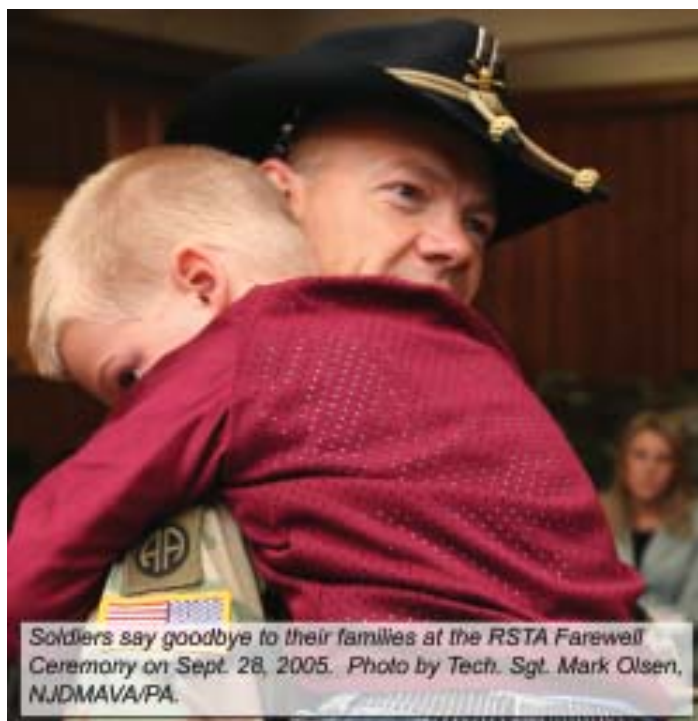
The 148 Soldiers of Troop C, 117th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition (RSTA) and Company D, 250th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) were mobilized in September and October 2005 to deploy as part of the 1-34th Brigade Combat Team, Minnesota Army National Guard along with Company D, 250th BSB.

Families of the 117th and the 250th Soldiers listened intently when President Bush addressed the nation about the war in Iraq on Jan. 11. Shortly after the President stated "I've committed more than 20,000 additional American troops to Iraq."

NJNG Snapshot



First Lieutenant Vincent Caliguire (front), one of the 26 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry; who volunteered to serve with a Pennsylvania Army National Guard unit, is seen here during a lull in a battle with insurgents. Photo courtesy 1-114Infantry.



Soldiers say goodbye to their families at the RSTA Farewell Ceremony on Sept. 28, 2005. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



Staff Sgt. Shawn Better helps Ryan Duffy get closer to the Global War on Terrorism Memorial after the dedication ceremony May 28, 2005. Ryan's father, Spc. Christopher Duffy, was killed in action in Iraq on June 4, 2004. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



Photos clockwise: A 108th Airmen returned to a warm welcome from supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. 108ARW/PA photo. Soldiers from the Heavy Equipment Transportation Platoon were treated to a heroes' welcome at their Armory in Dover on March 13. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA. Tech. Sgt. Samuel Ciriaco (right), 177th Medical Group, bandages a victim of Hurricane Katrina. 177FW/PA photo. Soldiers from the 50th Brigade listen during their Welcome Home Ceremony at the Lawrenceville Armory. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.





Staff Sgt. Clinton Valentine of Company D, 250th Brigade Support Battalion gets a warm welcome on June 19 as 148 New Jersey Army

National Guard Soldiers returned from their extended deployment in Iraq. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.

It was learned that the New Jersey Soldiers who had left Camp Shelby, Miss., in March 2006 would be extended in Iraq for up to 125 days. The Soldiers would be part of the troop surge that would help quell the sectarian violence that was threatening to rip apart Iraq's fragile democracy.

C Troop and D Company were the only New Jersey Army National Guard units extended as part of the 20,000 troop surge. Originally scheduled to return in March 2007, the Soldiers were reunited with their families on June 19 at

National Guard Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

Finance Detachments return home

On Nov. 14, 37 Soldiers of the 150th Finance Detachment and the 350th Finance Detachment, 50th Finance Battalion, New Jersey Army National returned to their home station armory in Flemington after successfully completing their yearlong deployment to Iraq.

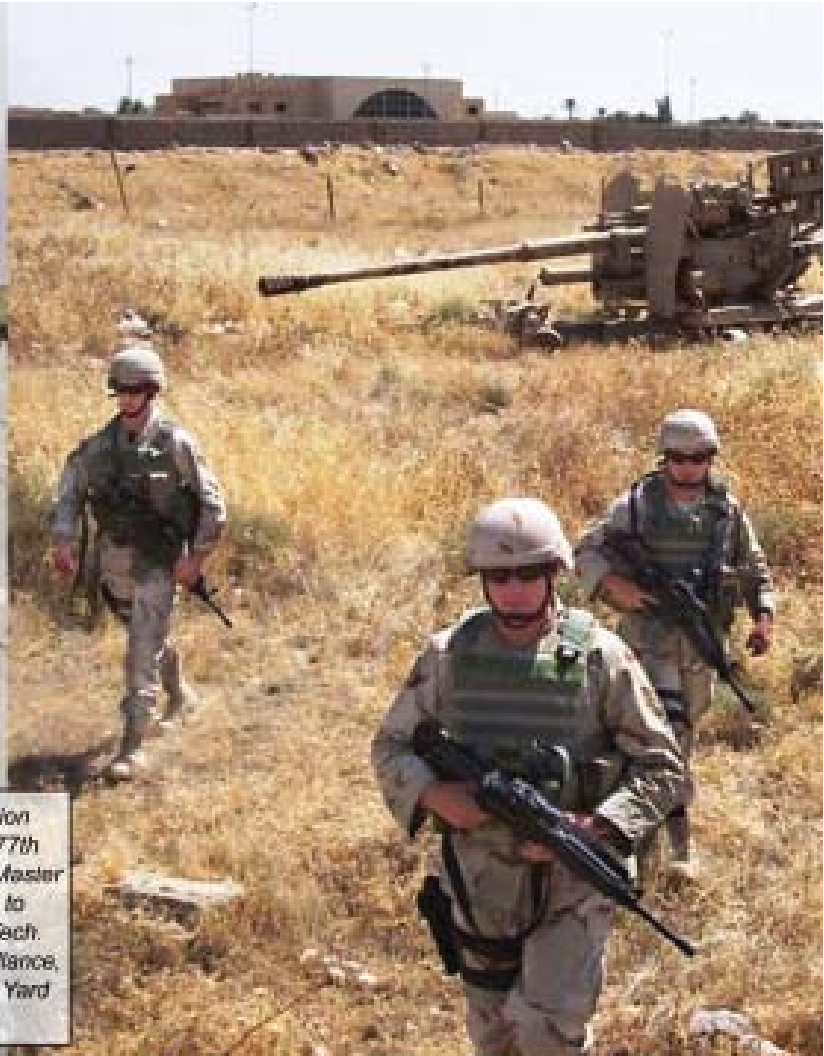


Finance Soldiers are welcomed home after their deployment to Iraq. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Welcome Home Ceremony for 119th Corps Support Battalion

On Nov. 21, 50 Soldiers of the 119th Corps Support Battalion, headquartered at the National Guard Armory in Hammonton, were welcomed home after successfully completing a 12-month deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While on deployment, the Battalion was responsible for providing logistical support to units in its area of operation. During the 12-month period, 17 subordinate units were assigned to the battalion, including Active Duty, National Guard and Army Reserve units. 🇺🇸



Photos clockwise, above: Soldiers from the 50th Personnel Services Battalion arrive at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. 50PSB photo. Armen from the 177th Fighter Wing Security Forces at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Photo by Master Sgt. Joseph Iacovane Jr., 177FW/SF. Finance Detachment Soldiers return to their Army in Flemington after a yearlong deployment in Iraq. Photo by Tech Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA. Bottom left: RSTA (Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition) Soldiers pose for an informal group photo at the Gravel Yard in Iraq. 117RSTA photo.

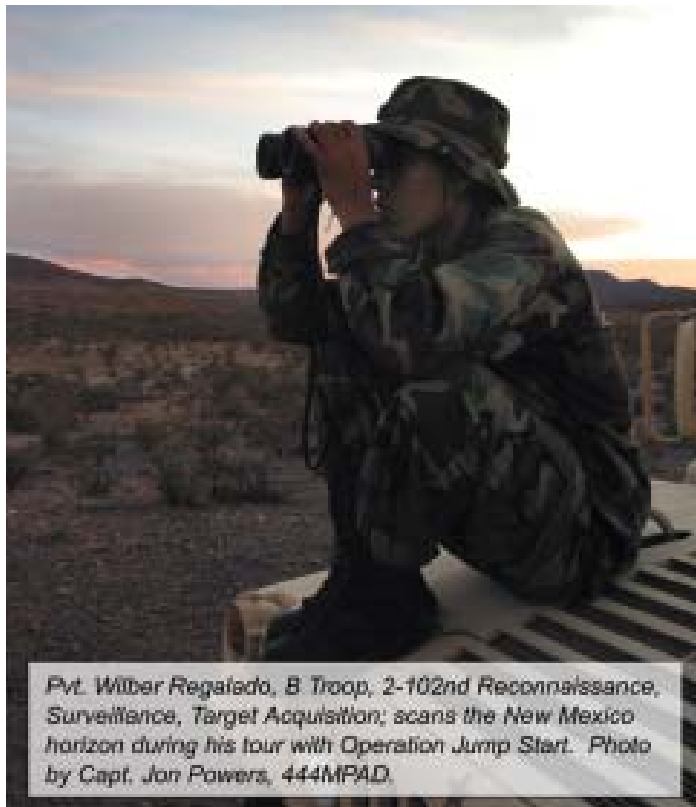


06

NJNG Snapshot



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mickey McGuire (left), 50th Main Support Battalion and Lt. Col. John Nunn, 42nd Division Support Command, pose with Iraqi children. Nunn went on to become the first Operation Iraqi Freedom New Jersey Guardsman to make Brigadier General. Photo courtesy Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mickey McGuire, 50MSB.



Pvt. Wilber Regalado, B Troop, 2-102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition; scans the New Mexico horizon during his tour with Operation Jump Start. Photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.

Jersey troops support border security operations

Nearly 250 New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed to New Mexico as part of Operation Jump Start in a three-week Annual Training rotation from July 21 to Aug. 10, 2006.

More than 200 New Jersey Guard Soldiers directly supported the border protection effort.

The rotation began with two days of mission specific training at the New Mexico National Guard Regional Training Institute in Santa Fe designed to set the baseline of knowledge on equipment and radio procedures used in the interagency border protection mission. The program of instruction also included refresher training in combatives, weapon retention, ground fighting and hand-to-hand combat.

The 2nd Squadron, 102nd Cavalry were tasked to aug-

ment the durational force from the Arkansas National Guard near Las Playas, N.M., and elements of the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery; G Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion and 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry supported the Georgia Army Guard in Deming, N.M. The New Jersey Air National Guard supported both locations with medical services teams that provided on site emergency medical capabilities.

Jersey Devils protect the force

In 2006, the 177th Fighter Wing (Jersey Devils) Security Forces Squadron deployed a 13-member detachment to serve as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq.

The QRF was the only mobile security team available to respond to intrusion attempts and other incidents on the base and outside the wire when needed. The Jersey Devils responsibilities included conducting unexploded ordnance sweeps after rocket and mortar attacks, security patrols and casualty evacuations and served as a blocking force in the event of attacks and elevated force protection conditions.

The team routinely provided protection for civil engineering and other missions outside of the base's perimeter. On several occasions, the detachment provided personal protection details for visiting U.S. and Iraqi dignitaries.



Afghan National Army trainer Maj. Bill Heineman with Hazara children. The Hazara were one of the several ethnic minorities oppressed by the Taliban. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. Bill Heineman.



50th Personnel Services Battalion Soldiers with part of the 13 millions pounds of mail delivered during their Afghanistan tour. Photo by Maj. Michael Bobius, 50PSB.

ETT trains fledgling Afghan National Army

The New Jersey Army National Guard fielded and mobilized a 16-member Embedded Training Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Task Force Phoenix.

Following an intense pre-mobilization training program at Fort Bliss, Texas, the ETT deployed to Hirat, Afghanistan where it worked against Anti Coalition Insurgency Forces.

The team principally advised, supported and operated with the Afghan Army's 207th CORPS from February 2006 through June 2007. The ETT played a significant leadership role in developing a tactical and strategic vision that unified the multi-national, multi-service command and fostered strong supportive relationships between the Afghan National Security Forces, International Security Assistance Forces, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, United States Department of State, National Defense Directorate, Italian Operational and Mentoring Liaison Teams, DynCorp, MPRI, and United Nations agencies.

The ETT contributions assisted the 207th CORPS to be the first region in the Afghanistan to successfully transition all national security operations to Afghan National Security Forces control. The team, which participated in more than 120 combat missions, was highly praised for its actions and contributions and received multiple unit and individual awards from Coalition partners as well as the U.S. Army.

Battalion provides Personnel and Postal Services in Afghanistan

The 50th Personnel Services Battalion (PSB), along with soldiers of the 250th Personnel Services Detachment (PSD) deployed to Afghanistan in late February 2006. Upon arrival at Bagram Airfield, the PSB completed relief in place operations and deployed teams of Soldiers throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area to service the Warfighters and area support elements.

The 50th's mission was to provide postal support and personnel services to include strength accounting, casualty

reporting, soldier records management, promotions, personnel evaluations, human resources information systems management, ID cards, passports, and R5 (Reception, Replacement, Return-to-Duty, R&R, and Redeployment) in the Afghanistan Combined Joint Operating Area.

The 50th's most significant impact was the innovative

NJNG Snapshot



The leadership of the 108th ARW says farewell to Master Sgt. Valentino Lopez as he prepares to leave McGuire Air Force Base for a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lopez is part of the more than 70 108th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron Airmen who deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on Sept. 15, 2007. The unit made history as the first National Guard unit in charge of security at Baghdad Airport in command of Air National Guard, active duty Air Force and Army and a foreign contractor security team. The deployed Airmen returned to New Jersey on March 24, 2008. Photo by Staff Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108ARW/PA.

restructure of the existing postal service operations. The changes developed and implemented were massive and had an immediate positive impact. A Mail Movement Team (MMT) was established with the sole purpose of maximizing the use of space available on aircraft and ground vehicles. The Team was responsible for coordinating with the movement control battalion and Air Force and coordinating and synchronizing all mail deliveries to Forward Operating Bases (FOB) theater-wide. An extensive customer service plan was also developed and implemented. Commanders at remote sites were constantly kept in the loop on the status of mail deliveries to their FOB and were immediately advised of delays and were told when the next delivery attempt would be made. The 50th's re-written postal doctrine resulted in a drastic reduction in delivery delays, and Soldier complaints.

During the yearlong deployment, more than 13 million pounds of mail were processed and delivered.

In March 2007, the 50th PSB transferred authority to the 147th PSB from the Minnesota National Guard and returned to New Jersey to conduct mobilization out-processing and reconstitution, completing its highly successful 14-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The final word

“When you call up the Guard, you call up America.”

That statement unlike any other describes the men and women – the Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen that com-

prise the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard.

Yet no single word or statement can best describe your service and sacrifice and, more importantly, your willingness to serve your community, state and country.

You come from nearly every city and town in New Jersey. You are students, business owners, lawyers, doctors – the list of occupations is endless. Some of you can trace your family roots to the beginning of this country, while some of you have just come to the United States.

You all have one thing in common.

Whenever there is a crisis – a flood, a hurricane, a snow-storm or some other natural disaster, you are there. When the terrorists used aircraft as weapons; you came, unbidden, in uniform to the armories and to the air bases ready to do whatever you could. When the mobilization call-up came, you were there, ready to be trained, ready to leave everyone that you love and ready to lay your life on the line.

No one knows how long the Global War on Terror will last. Some have said it will last years; others say it will last generations. The next few years will not be easy. The path has been set before us and the consequences of failure or inaction will be nothing short of catastrophic. For everyone and everything that we hold dear, we must continue to shoulder the burden, for if we don't do it, who will?

In the end, regardless of the duration, the New Jersey National Guard will prevail.

Guardlife Special Issue

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Cover photo: 3-112th Field Artillery Welcome Home parade by Sgt. 1st Class Robert W. Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

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In Memoriam



Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill

On June 4 and 5, 2004, four Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, New Jersey Army National Guard made the ultimate sacrifice supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill and Spc. Christopher M. Duffy were killed in action in Baghdad, Iraq, on June 4, 2004, when insurgents attacked their convoy.

The next day, Staff Sgt. Humberto F. Timoteo and Sgt. Ryan E. Doltz, were killed when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. These Soldiers answered our nation's call to secure freedom for the people of Iraq. In doing so, they paid the ultimate price so that others may have what we so proudly enjoy.



Spc. Christopher M. Duffy



Staff Sgt. Humberto F. Timoteo



Sgt. Ryan E. Doltz

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

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