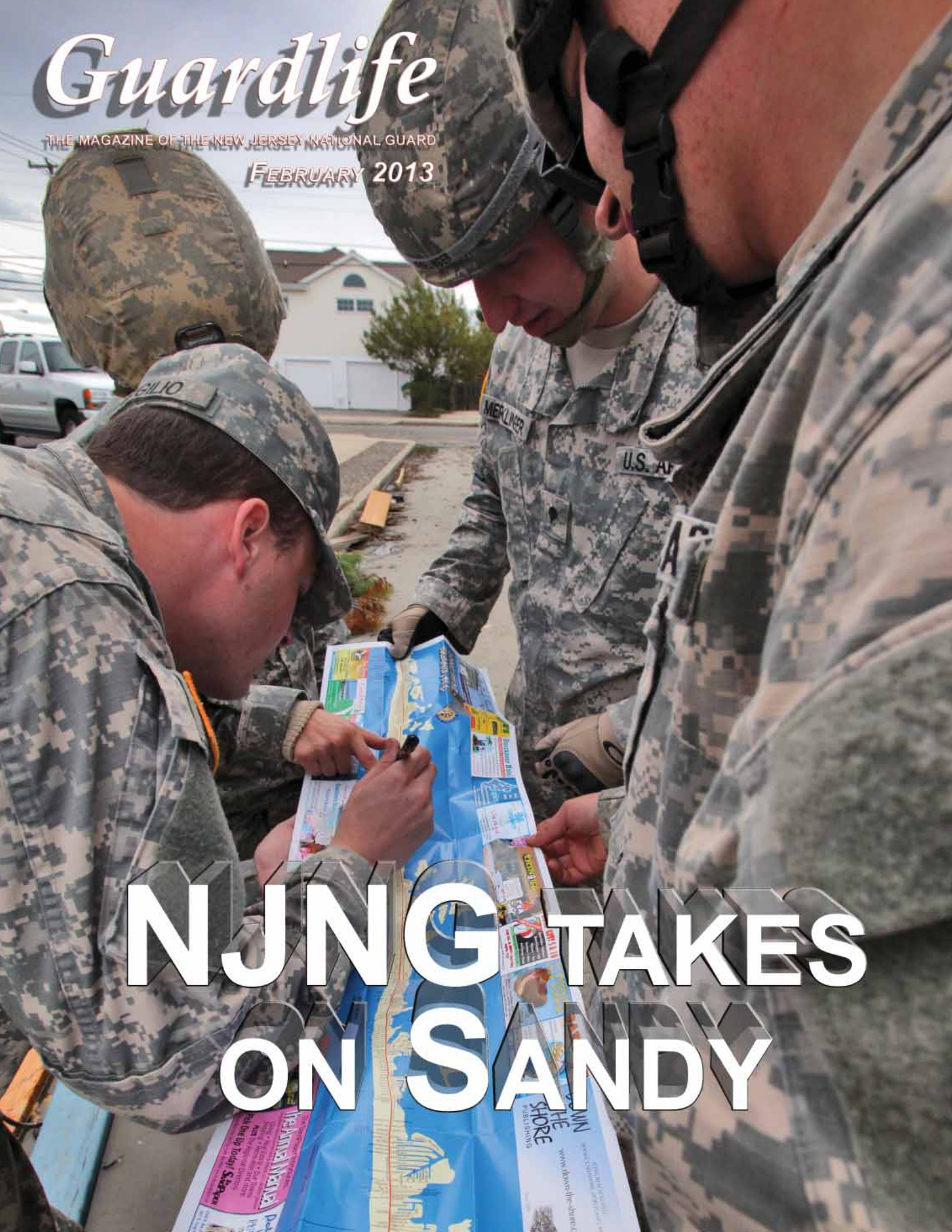


Guardlife

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

FEBRUARY 2013



NJNG TAKES ON SANDY

Guardlife Staff

EDITOR

Chief Warrant Officer 3

Patrick L. Daugherty

EDITOR-PRODUCTION

Mark C. Olsen

STAFF WRITERS/PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kryn P. Westhoven

Staff Sgt. Armando O. Vasquez (NJANG)

Staff Sgt. Wayne R. Woolley (NJARNG)

444th MPAD, NJARNG

108th Wing Public Affairs

177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Guardlife is published using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for all members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, their families, retirees and civilian employees. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau. Letters may be sent to: Guardlife, Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 340, NJDMAVA, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0340. E-mail: pao@njdmava.state.nj.us

Cover: House-to-house

New Jersey National Guard Soldiers assigned to Task Force South, check a map prior to going house-to-house to see if any Long Beach Islanders have remained in their homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy Oct. 31, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Inside cover: Swept away

Aerial view of the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy to Casino Pier at Seaside Heights, N.J., taken during a search and rescue mission by the 1-150 Assault Helicopter Battalion, Oct. 30, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



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ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE

NJNG shines during Sandy

By Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General - New Jersey

No one alive has seen a storm hit New Jersey harder than Hurricane Sandy did.

Its rain, wind and relentless tidal surges cut a path of destruction across this state and threatened thousands of lives.

The hours after Hurricane Sandy made landfall were dark and desperate for tens of thousands of New Jerseyans, but few faced as grave a threat as the people of Moonachie and Little Ferry, two towns submerged in an instant by a broken levee.

In less than 30 minutes, the National Guard was there, helping people to safety.

The theme that emerged with the first rescues in North Jersey and then grew as National Guard operations spread across the state over the next 60 days was this: The Guard was there.

You, the Citizen Airman and the Citizen Soldier of the New Jersey National Guard, were there.

From rescue and recovery operations on Long Beach Island to a debris clearing operation 150 miles to the north in Warren County, the New Jersey National Guard was there to help when the people of New Jersey needed it most.

The New Jersey National Guard responded to nearly 150 separate requests for assistance from Civil Authorities across the state. The operations our Airmen and Soldiers supported ran the gamut from sheltering displaced residents to setting up mobile kitchens to feed first responders to partnering with the Army's 10th Mountain Division to operate three critical fuel distribution points.

There are many impressive numbers that tell the story of the scope and effectiveness of the National Guard's response to Hurricane Sandy.

But the number that sticks in my mind is this: 142.

That's the number of Airmen and Soldiers who were on duty for Hurricane Sandy despite the fact their own homes suffered damage – some of it extensive – from the storm.

I can't think of a better example of selfless service.



Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, Adjutant General of New Jersey, explains New Jersey National Guard force deployment to Gen. Frank J. Grass, center, Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB), and Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, right, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the CNGB, at Stafford Township, N.J. Nov. 2, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL L. CUNNIFF
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL - NEW JERSEY

"142: That's the number of Airmen and Soldiers who were on duty for Hurricane Sandy despite the fact their own homes suffered damage – some of it extensive – from the storm."



Gov. Chris Christie thanks Guardsmen in Sea Bright, Nov. 9, 2012. Governor's Office photo by Tim Larsen

A STORM – AND RESPONSE – UNLIKE ANY OTHER

By Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th MPAD



In Mantoloking parts of the bridge were submerged and 58 houses were swept away into Barnegat Bay. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

T

he full fury of Hurricane Sandy was bearing down on the New Jersey National Guard armory in Teaneck just after 4 a.m. on Oct. 30, when the call came in. A levee had burst 10 miles away, sending a torrent from the Hackensack River into the towns of Moonachie and Little Ferry. Lives were in danger.

Staff Sergeants Catie Cataldo and Bryan Schooley led a convoy of 10 trucks that raced through blinding rain and howling winds to reach a Bergen County Emergency Management command center in 28 minutes. In another five



Soldiers assigned to Task Force South, New Jersey National Guard, assist a Long Beach Islander onto a M939 5-ton 6x6 truck during relief operations Oct. 31, 2012. The New Jersey National Guard is working with Long Beach Island civilian authorities in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Spc. Jesse de la Cruz, center on truck, assists in evacuating a toddler at a rescue mission at Hoboken, N.J. Soldiers from the 250th Brigade Support Battalion were the first Guardsmen to arrive in Hoboken. In addition, de la Cruz rescued a pregnant woman going into labor, who was held up in her home for two days without food, water, and electricity. (Army National Guard photo by Capt. Andre Ascalon/Released)

minutes, National Guard Soldiers began helping people onto trucks to escape the rising floodwaters.

"We were told we needed to hustle," said Cataldo, 32, who works as an adoptions investigator for the New Jersey Department of Youth and Family Service in civilian life. "So we just hauled to get down there. We wanted to help."

Cataldo and Schooley were just two of the more than



Col. Kevin Hegarty, left, operations officer, Joint Task Force for Hurricane Sandy, gets a briefing from Staff Sgt. Catie Cataldo, who led a convoy to rescue residents of Moonachie, N.J., during the height of the hurricane. Soldiers responded to the flooded area in 28 minutes. (Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley/Released)

"People just wanted help to get out of those places, they were filling with water. We were helping older people, women with children, dogs, cats, anything we could fit on the trucks."
Staff Sgt. Bryan Schooley, A Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion



Sgt. Michael Ryno along with 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers provide assistance to displaced residents at an emergency shelter at the Werblin Recreation Center, Piscataway Township, N.J., Oct. 29, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

2,500 Soldiers and Airmen who Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, said distinguished themselves as heroes in the National Guard's unprecedented response to an epic storm.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard ended up

rescuing more than 7,000 people and their pets across a 150-mile swath of the Garden State. They cleared more than 300 miles of debris from power lines, delivered more than 25,000 meals and prepared at least that many more in two Mobile Kitchen Trailers. The NJNG was the lynchpin in a broad

Federal Emergency Management Agency operation to deliver fuel to first responders, partnering with the Pennsylvania National Guard and the 10th Mountain Division to operate fuel points in Egg Harbor, Freehold and West Orange. They provided more than 250 hours of helicopter lift to support civil authorities, supported the operation of more than a half dozen shelters for displaced residents and delivered tens of thousands of basic needs

commodities to displaced residents.

As New Jersey began the monumental task of rebuilding, the state's Soldiers and Airmen remained on duty, assisting civil authorities with traffic control points and security patrols in the hardest-hit areas.

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant said perhaps the greatest contribution made by the individual Soldiers and Airmen was their compassion for their fellow citizens and the sense of order they brought to every place they deployed.

"You encountered human beings who had lost everything," Grant told Soldiers and Airmen who were called to duty on Long Beach Island. "And when they saw you, and that uniform, you brought a sense of calmness."

Schooley, the Soldier who directed the mission into Moonachie with Cataldo, said people were grateful when

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Pvt. Andrea Pittman, 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, offloads 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel from a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck M978 2,500 gallon fuel tanker at the municipal fuel depot at Morris Township, N.J. Nov. 3, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

**THOMAS JOSEPH CULLENY JR.
 FIRE CAPTAIN, ATLANTIC CITY**

"There were people trapped who were being forced to the roof of their homes because of rising waters. Without that five ton, without the National Guard and the fire department working as a team, we would have not gotten to those people."

A STORM – AND RESPONSE – UNLIKE ANY OTHER

BRIG. GEN. JAMES J. GRANT
JOINT TASK FORCE DUAL-STATUS COMMANDER

“You encountered human beings who had lost everything. And when they saw you, and that uniform, you brought a sense of calmness.”

Continued from Page 7

they saw the green National Guard trucks rolling through the floodwaters and into their neighborhoods.

“People just wanted help to get out of those places, they were filling with water,” he said. “We were helping older people, women with children, dogs, cats, anything we could fit on the trucks.”

Many of the people who were evacuated by the National Guard ended up at state-run shelters for displaced residents. The National Guard had a presence at five of those shelters in Middlesex and Monmouth counties from the first days of the storm. As the week went on, Soldiers and Airmen established a shelter for displaced residents at the Jersey City armory and then assisted with the creation of a shelter in Glen Gardner, Hunterdon County.

Many of the Soldiers and Airmen who responded to the storm had spent days away from their own homes, which were not spared the storm’s wrath. Nearly 150 of the Soldiers and Airmen called to duty suffered significant damage to their homes.

Spc. Olivia Ospina of Patterson said her home had suffered some water damage because of the storm, but was convinced that helping her neighbors recover from the storm was her duty.

“I just want to get out there and get my feet wet to help these people,” Ospina said. “This is what I signed up for.”

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Eugeneia Aikens grew up in Atlantic City and knows the ocean. But she never saw it quite like it looked when her unit pulled up near



Master Sgt. Steven Sabato, 108th Wing, listens to the request of one of the displaced residents at the shelter in Jersey City, N.J., Nov. 7, 2012. The New Jersey National Guard provided sheltering for displaced Jersey City residents at the Jersey City armory in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)

"The National Guard guys were right on target and they found me and helped get me out. I can't thank them enough."

Judy Litwinowicz of Brant Beach, N.J.



Staff Sgt. Dion H. Barnes, 108th Wing, places tape on a door in Loveladies on Long Beach Island N.J., to indicate a house has been checked for residents who remained in their homes after Hurricane Sandy Nov. 1, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

the convention center to begin evacuating people whose homes were already full of five feet of water.

"Most people see the ocean as a very peaceful and calm place," Aikens said. "That night, the oceans jumped up and wanted to take away everything. It was not a nice place."

The mission that brought Aikens to Atlantic City from a National Guard command center in Pomona had begun as an assignment to deliver 1,500 cots to a shelter and changed into a mission to save lives.

One of the first people the Soldiers encountered when they rolled into Atlantic City in 5-ton trucks capable of fording 30-inches of water was Fire Capt. Thomas Joseph Cullen Jr.

"There were people trapped who were being forced to the roof of their homes because of rising waters," Cullen said. "Without that five ton, without the National Guard and the fire department working as a team, we would have not gotten to those people."

Scenes like that played out across that night and into Tuesday morning along the Jersey Shore and into the

densely populated New York suburbs of Hudson and Bergen counties.

Many had been like Judy Litwinowicz of Brant Beach, N.J. on Long Beach Island, who had been stranded in the cold and was wet with her cat for two days before the New Jersey National Guard arrived.

She felt powerless when the tidal surge swept across her narrow barrier island.

"We had lived here for 25 years and lived through plenty of storms, but nobody expected anything like this," she said. "The National Guard guys were right on target and they found me and helped get me out. I can't thank them enough." 🙏

**SPC. OLIVIA OSPINA
250TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION**

"I just want to get out there and get my feet wet to help these people. This is what I signed up for."

Photo below: Staff Sgt. Robert Jentsch, left, shines a flashlight onto the control panel of a gas-fired generator for Staff Sgt. Carl Hilpl, both with 108th Wing, as Hilpl prepares to start the system so the shelter at Veterans Memorial Middle School in Brick, N.J. will have power Nov. 7, 2012. Since Hilpl and his team of electricians came on duty, they have been hooking up generators and making sure they were compatible with existing electrical systems. Hilpl was also responsible for bringing oxygen tanks to a woman with cancer, every 12 hours for several days. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



CSSB GETS HERO'S WELCOME



Sgt. 1st Class Victor M. Lopez, above photo, waves while the family, photo left, of Staff Sgt. Pedro E. Correa display a banner welcoming him home from Afghanistan and Pvt. Stephanie Bautista hugs a family member as Soldiers of the 117th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, were welcomed home by family, friends and New Jersey National Guard leadership at the National Guard Armory at West Trenton, N.J., from a nearly year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Jan. 20, 2013. The nearly 70 Soldiers of the 117th transported supplies to more than 45 forward operating bases and combat outposts covering more than two million miles. The Citizen-Soldiers served as the battalion headquarters for six subordinate units at Regional Command-South in Afghanistan. (Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)



For the Veterans



Top photo: Battle of the voices, left to right, Staff Sgt. Cassandra Trott, Tech. Sgt. Larry Shervington Jr., and Senior Airmen Aimee Figueroa and Emmanuel Figueroa, all with the 108th Wing, were among the Airmen from the 108th and the 177th Fighter Wing, who were joined by fourth graders from the Seaview School in Linwood, N.J. for the Annual Holiday "Songfest" at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home, Vineland N.J., Dec. 13, 2012. This is the 12th year the Wings have visited the Home and upon arrival, the Airmen and fourth graders were issued candy canes and holiday greeting cards, assigned to groups and sent out to spread cheer among the residents. The Wings also provided gifts including toiletries, socks, sweat suits and other items based on the Home's wish list. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)



Center photo: Senior Airman Emilio D. Gonzalez, right, bioenvironmental engineer, 108th Contingency Response Group, New Jersey Air National Guard, helps a homeless veteran choose a pair of reading glasses during Stand Down 2012 at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill Sept. 28, 2012. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs along with New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and the Stand Down of South Jersey Committee, Inc. co-hosted the Stand Down to provide homeless veterans with access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services - food stamps and unemployment, legal services, religious counseling, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Bottom photo: New Jersey National Guard Soldiers serve a hot lunch to homeless veterans at the Northern New Jersey Standdown Oct. 13, 2012. The NJNG, along with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and various other veteran service organizations sponsored the event at the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center in Newark, N.J. The one-day outreach event provides homeless veterans and their dependents with various social services to include haircuts, medical checkups and HIV testing. They will also receive information from private and public agencies about employment services, counseling, state and federal veterans' benefits, substance abuse programs, vocational rehabilitation, recovery programs, hospice care, legal services - including city legal support to address outstanding criminal matters - and photo identification cards. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez)

Drive on

117TH GETS BIG MILEAGE OUT OF BHIs

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka, 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – One of the largest sustainment brigades in Afghanistan is getting a lot of mileage out of simple behavioral health initiatives (BHI) implemented for its motor transport operators.

With the incorporation of the initiatives, the 45th Sustainment Brigade has reduced its average number of losses of motor transport operators due to behavioral mental health (BMH) issues per quarter from eight to one.

The initiatives are the brainchild of Maj. Edward Dowgin, the executive officer of the 117th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Dowgin long had a notion what changes could be made to decrease BMH losses and he decided to incorporate the initiatives and study their effect in conjunction with a process improvement class.

"We lost 12 Soldiers between February and August due to BMH issues," said Dowgin. "That is a high percentage considering we only have 465 motor transport operators in the battalion. But those losses had a growing snowball effect on the battalion – the loss of those Soldiers adds stress and workload to remaining Soldiers. Then the remaining Soldiers are at a higher risk for early re-deployment."

Using Lean Six Sigma analysis theories and statistical data provided

by brigade surgeon Capt. Pedro Manibusan, Dowgin realized BMH issues needed attention long before a Soldier requested or required an evaluation. Dowgin concluded the only time he could help Soldiers prevent early re-deployment due to a BMH episode ever occurred; otherwise the Soldier's future was in the hands of a behavioral health specialist and their respective commander.

With prevention of BMH issues in mind, Dowgin implemented three solutions to offset the root causes of the high number of operator BMH losses. Although each was fairly simple, the three combined solutions – one resiliency day per week, dynamic counseling sessions with first line supervisors that include personal issues, and immediate counseling of Soldiers who received Uniform Code of Military Justice action – reduced losses by 87 percent this quarter.

With the battalion's unparalleled operations tempo that's included nearly 2 million miles of driving to 45 far-flung forward operating bases and combat outposts, Dowgin said

that an increase in the frequency of days off was a clear-cut solution. The brigade now gives each Soldier one day off every seven days (without affecting mission) versus the previous standard of one day off every 10 days.

"The Soldiers were simply not getting enough time off and it had become an

issue," Dowgin said. "People need time to unwind. They need time to call their own and decide what they want to do, whether it's go to the gym or sleep all day."

Dowgin's second solution involves an ongoing monthly counseling for all specialists and below that entail discussion of personal issues,

MAJ. EDWARD DOWGIN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
117TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

"These are usually good Soldiers who made one mistake. The counseling encourages them to bounce back and drive on."

not just mission-specific issues. Dowgin defined the concept as compassionate leadership.

"First line supervisors should get to know their subordinate Soldiers on a personal level," Dowgin said. "Once a month at least, these meetings allow Soldiers to explain what is going on in their lives to their supervisors."

The third solution stemmed from Manibusan's behavioral health statistics that revealed 57 percent of Soldiers who re-deployed early due to BMH issues had recently been the subject of UCMJ actions. Dowgin quickly implemented a counseling program for all Soldiers immediately following an UCMJ reading.

"The counseling emphasizes 'don't feel bad, life's not over' following UCMJ action," Dowgin said. "These are usually good Soldiers who made one mistake. The counseling encourages them to bounce back and drive on."

Dowgin said the initiatives will remain in place for the remainder of the 45th's tour, which is set to conclude in January. He said he'll encourage the Third Sustainment Brigade, the 45th's replacement brigade, to sustain the BMH gains made by the 45th. 🇺🇸



Pvt. Drew Lancop, left, discusses an upcoming convoy with Maj. Edward Dowgin, the executive officer of 117th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Nov. 21, 2012 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka/Released)

Soldiers save lives on their way to drill

Story and photo by Army Spc. Michael Davis, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For Sgt. Alex Fontanez and Pfc. Ralph Bird, the early morning commute to the December drill began as so many before it; empty roads, groggy conversations and the soft hum of tires. It changed in a heartbeat when they saw flames shooting from a car traveling the opposite direction on the New Jersey Turnpike.

Neither said a word. Instead, Fontanez made a U-Turn and Bird dialed 9-1-1.

"We got to the car and it was engulfed in flames," said Bird, a cook with Fox Company of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion, which is based at the Teaneck Armory. Fontanez is his team leader.

They approached the burning car, which had pulled off to the shoulder, and parked a safe distance away. As they exited their vehicle they could already feel the heat radiating from the growing fire and knew they had to act quickly.

"Bird is my right hand and go-to guy on my team; he knew just what to do," said Fontanez. The two sol-



Sgt. Alex Fontanez, left, and Pfc. Ralph Bird, both 250th Brigade Support Battalion in front of the National Guard Armory at Teaneck.

diers acted in concert; moving swiftly to assess and control the situation. They helped the passengers safely exit the burning vehicle and placed them in their car parked far away from the scene.

Suddenly, they "heard tires blow out and then the whole car went up in flames," said Fontanez. With each passing moment the burning vehicle posed an even greater threat, so they turned their attention to the safety of

men for their heroic actions and ability to control an extremely difficult situation. But, these two soldiers don't consider themselves to be heroes or even feel that they did anything extraordinary. They credited their National Guard training with giving them the ability to remain calm and do what has to be done in any situation.

"The training carries over into our lives," said Fontanez. "Everybody has a job to do, and we did ours." 🇺🇸

bystanders and traffic still traveling dangerously close to the fire.

"We had to keep everyone safe," said Bird. "We kept control of traffic passing by, cordoned off the shoulder and kept control of the scene until the police and fire trucks arrived."

The New Jersey State Police commended the two New Jersey National Guards-

TAG visits N.J. Soldiers at GTMO

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, center, visited Soldiers from the 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, who are serving with the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Bay, June 12-13, 2012. Pictured left to right are Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Grant, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty, State PAO; Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, Navy Capt. Robert Durand, JTF-PAO; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, Cunniff, Maj. Jon Powers, unit commander; Sgt. Landis Andrews, 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher and Sgt. Saul Rosa, not pictured is Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn/Released)



JERSEY GUARDSMEN TRAIN AFGHAN ARTILLERY SOLDIERS

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs

Think of it as a mini Fort Sill, Okla. in the sands of Afghanistan.

Soldiers from the New Jersey National Guard recently conducted a nine week master gunners' course to train Afghan field artillerymen.

Two dozen senior Afghan officers and non-commissioned officers underwent an intense course modeled after the U.S. Army Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Still.

Although the training was conducted using Russian-made 122mm cannons, much of the emphasis was on getting the Afghans soldiers used to the powerful weapons for indirect fire, a Western-style fighting technique, said Capt. Thomas Weaver, the National Guard officer who created the course.

Indirect fire – launching the shells high into the air for maximum effect on distant targets – was a new concept for the Afghans, who had been using the guns for direct fire, which requires visible targets.



Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Turner, center, New Jersey Army National Guard, and 1st Lt. Ergent Gremi, Albanian Army, observe Artillery Coy 4/2/111th Capital Division, Afghan National Army, as they conduct crew drills on a Russian made D-30 artillery weapon system. The training is part of a nine-week program for both Afghan field artillery Coys, who fall under the 111th Capital Division. (Army National Guard photo/Released)

“This was something new for them,” Weaver said. “The cannon itself, they were very familiar with it, but they learned more ways to use it.”

Leaving the Afghan National Army with effective tools to handle its own national defense has been the focus of Weaver’s unit, a Mentor Advisor Team made up of a dozen New Jersey National Guardsmen and 20 soldiers from the Albanian defense forces.

There are similar teams with military forces from nearly two dozen nations operating across Afghanistan as part of a NATO effort to build the military skills of individual Afghan National Army Battalions.

The field artillery training was a true multinational effort, Weaver said.

The Soldiers from New Jersey and Albania worked closely with Portuguese military advisors who are trying to increase the field artillery proficiency across the Afghan Army’s 111th Capital division.

Weaver said the ultimate goal is for the Afghan National Army to learn to marshal the heavy firepower of its field artillery to cover the shortfalls that will come when NATO forces and their airpower leave Afghanistan.

“As we withdraw, artillery will be their most effective tool,” Weaver said. “We want to make artillery sustainable by its self.”

Capt. Shahmaqsud, Artillery Coy 4/2/111th Capital Division, Afghan National Army, provides direct-fire targeting during a portion of the live fire exercise. (Army National Guard photo/Released)



Soldiers Receive Combat Patch on 9/11



(Army National Guard photo/Released)

KABUL, Afghanistan – On a bright crisp morning of September 11, 2011, Soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard received their combat patch standing in front of half mast flags at Camp Black Horse, Afghanistan.

Not only was this a day of remembrance but a day of reconfirming why we are here as brothers, standing next to each other receiving the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) patch that will unite the team forever in the war against terrorism.

The New Jersey Army National Guard's first Joint Albanian-United States Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT), took part in a time honored ceremony, having the units patch placed on the right shoulder signifying a Soldier's service during war time. The OMLT, made up of 12 NJARNG Soldiers and 20 soldiers from the Republic of Albania are training members of the Afghanistan National Army.

The New Jersey Soldiers arrived in Afghanistan after a long journey that took not only months but had the team crossing continents. Starting in New Jersey the team moved to Louisiana for mobilization. From there they traveled to Albania to link up with their counterparts. Traveling through Italy, Austria, the team finally ended up in Germany to the Joint Maneuver Readiness Center in Hoenfels, for Phase II in preparation for this mission. After all training was complete; the entire team flew to start their mission in Afghanistan.

Although eligible for the patch earlier, the New Jersey Soldiers of the OMLT chose to wait until September 11, 2011 to conduct the ceremony. The significance of the day, especially for the Citizen-Soldiers, was not lost on any of those in attendance. Many of the members of the OMLT were serving in the NJARNG on 9-11 and since then have been a part of the numerous contribution made by New Jersey to the support the Global War on Terror.

The IJC patches were presented by Brig. Gen. John Hammond, Commander of Task Force Yankee, 36th Infantry Division, Massachusetts Army National Guard. Assisting the general was Col. Nicholas Chimienti, the Senior Advisor to the human resources directorate ANA Development.

Chimienti praised the American and Albanian soldiers for coming together to support the NATO mission in Afghanistan. He also commended the service members

of the various other nations present at the ceremony, observing that the effort to build a strong and free Afghanistan was truly a global one.

Once the ceremony ended, the OMLT Soldiers went back to work. There was no big parade, there was no party, it was time to get back to doing one's job. While the patches on their shoulders will represent the time spent here, the day will be remembered forever. 🇺🇸



Air National Guard graphic by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released

Christmas in July

Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard along with their families, as well as Sailors from Naval Weapons Station Earle and residents from Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park were treated by Jersey Mike's Subs to Christmas in July on board the Battleship New Jersey, located at Camden, N.J., June 3, 2012. After remarks by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General and Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, there were performances by the 63rd Army Band, Corey Wagar, the USO Liberty Bells and Holiday Express. Lt. Gov. Guadagno, Gold Star Mother Ruth Stonesifer and Capt. David J. Harrison, commander, Naval Weapons Station Earle, laid a wreath in memory of fallen service members off the New Jersey's port stern. The event was held to raise awareness for Wreaths Across America, which for more than 20 years, has placed holiday wreaths on the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)





Botswana bound

Story and photos by Sgt. Adam Fischman, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SHOSHONG, The Republic of Botswana –The ground shook as satchel and improvised Bangalore charges packed with C-4 explosives detonated, to clear the way for Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry, Aug. 11, in The Republic of Botswana.

Unrelenting mortar and small-arms fire filled the air with a deafening orchestra of explosions, as rounds impacted the dry, African desert. While support-for-fire rounds landed, infantrymen of Company A rushed the simulated battlefield through dust and debris in tactical bounding movements.



Mortarmen of C Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry, carry their equipment to their firing positions during a field training exercise at Southern Accord 2012 on Aug. 10, 2012, at Shoshong Range in Botswana, Africa.

Photo right: Pfc. Tyler Castor (left) and Pfc. Brandon Wood of C Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry Regiment, fire 60mm mortar rounds at the Shoshong Range.

The high-tempo assault and support-for-fire mission was part of Southern Accord 2012, a large combined, joint exercise designed to enhance military capabilities and interoperability between U.S. military forces and the Botswana Defense Force.

"They're just like us," said Pvt. Rusty Rogers, an infantryman with Company A, 1-114th. "Most of the BDF perform the same jobs we do, just a little bit differently, which has made it fun for us to learn from one another."

Once the dust settled, flames still smoldered from detonated ordnance and expended ammunition, creating a mirage-like haze in the air as U.S. Soldiers advanced toward their objective to eliminate their target.

"This is my first time overseas and my first time firing rounds with my new team," said Pfc. Brandon Wood with Company C, 1-114th. "It's a whole new experience, far different than what I expected. Learning a new culture and being around my team for the first time has given me that deployment mindset in an atmosphere close to the real thing."

Wood's favorite part about being a mortarman is firing rounds and carrying the heavy gear. He said it is hard work, but it feels like an accomplishment at the end of the day. He also loves the sound of the rounds making contact.

"There is nothing like hearing the sound of a mortar," said Wood. "It's like magic."

Once the assault team reached the ridge where Company C provided supporting fire, the teams switched, which allowed the BDF a chance to run the lanes. Three separate assaults and support-for-fire missions were completed in

"There is nothing like hearing the sound of a mortar. It's like magic."

*Pfc. Brandon Wood
C Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry*



addition to the BDF live-fire missions.

"This has been a great opportunity to learn from one another," said Pvt. John Donatucci of Company C., 1-114th. "To see how the BDF run their missions and teach them how we run ours has provided great training...It's also a unique experience to train with a foreign military force." 🇺🇸



*Pvt. Jason Sanchez of A Company,
1st Battalion, 114th Infantry, fires live
rounds at Southern Accord 2012.*

From war-zone to workplace

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs

The ability to get the job done is a thread that runs through most people who have served in the military. It begins at basic training when recruits are forced to perform under pressure. It continues in training when service members are bombarded with information they must synthesize and use effectively.

These critical thinking and problem solving skills then grow over a military career. A young Airman, Marine, Sailor or Soldier may find himself or herself in charge of millions of dollars of equipment or responsible for maintaining sophisticated weapons systems.

These skills then get put to the ultimate test in places where some decisions are truly a matter of life and death.

When these people leave active duty, or return from a National Guard or Reserve deployment, they face a tough economy and tight job market.

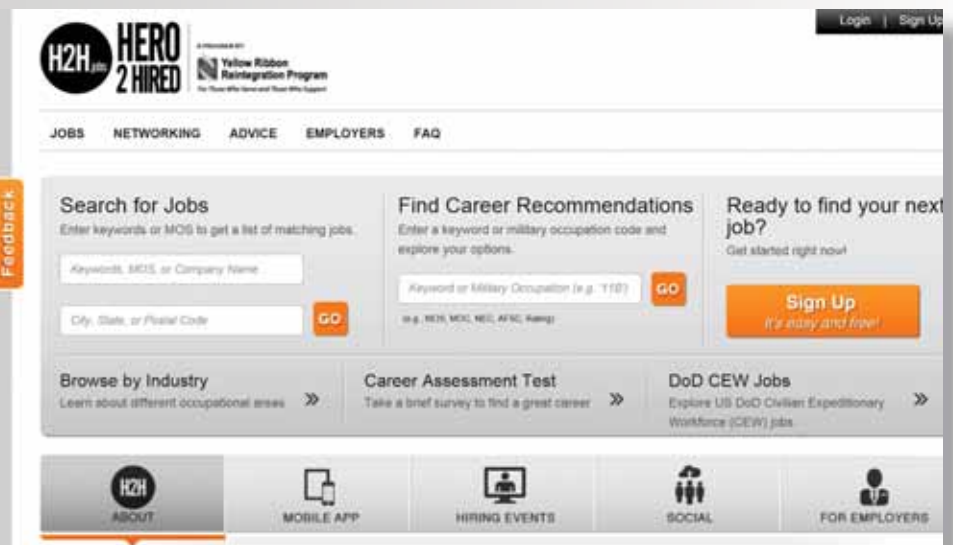
There are about 2.5 million veterans of the post-9/11 era -- and an additional 200,000 men and women are expected to leave military service this year. Nationally, the unemployment rate for these Veterans under age 24 is 30 percent and it is 13 percent for veterans between the ages of 25 and 34.

New Jersey's numbers are better than the national average. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development puts the state's veterans' unemployment rate at about eight percent.

It's still too high.

That's why the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is working with other state and federal agencies, including Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, to find more ways to match veterans with quality employers.

The most comprehensive effort in this area is Hero2Hired, an ESGR program that helps Reserve Component members explore careers, find military-friendly companies and enhance their marketability by showing prospective employers how skills they learned in



Hero 2 Hired homepage provides veterans looking for a job or a new career a place to start.

the military can benefit their company.

One of the most helpful features of the Hero2Hired Website, <https://h2h.jobs/>, is a job search engine that allows users to search for civilian jobs by inputting their military occupational skills identifier.

At a job fair in March hosted by the New Jersey Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, prospective employers got to meet people like Staff Sgt. Marcellus Wilson, who had just finished a 10-year career as a full-time Army National Guard logistician. He honed those skills during in his military service here in New Jersey – and under the stress of two combat deployments. Wilson has a passion for supply-chain management. “If you love what you do, you don’t consider it a job,” he says. He left the fair with a half dozen interviews lined up.

A few weeks later, the Christie Administration and Prudential teamed up for a symposium to help employers learn how to add more veterans to their pools of job candidates.

More than three dozen employers came to the event and they included representatives from some of the state’s biggest employers on down to people like Jo Ann Marianne, the chief operating officer of the Ironbound

Community Corporation, a non-profit in Newark’s Ironbound section. Marianne, who spent most of her career in corporate America in jobs related to the defense industry, was there because she wants to hire veterans because she knows they make good employees. But she needed tips on the best ways to find them without a large human resources department.

She came to the right place. Prudential has been repeatedly recognized as one of America’s most veteran-friendly corporations. They earned this distinction by hiring an entire team of retired veterans whose only job is to make sure the company is looking to find the best potential employees the military has to offer – and then making sure they get the support they need to succeed once they’re hired.

Their service does not automatically entitle them to a job. But they do deserve every opportunity to have a full evaluation of their talents and their character by as many prospective employers as possible.

Most employers who take a look at these young men and women will conclude that hiring a veteran is not just the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do. 🇺🇸



Pass in Review

Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, march past Governor Chris Christie, center back, and Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, during the New Jersey National

Guard's annual Military Review at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt, N.J. on Sept. 30, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jim O'Connor, along with Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey Soldier Counter Drug Task Force, presented gift cards to children from the Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children during a visit at George Walker Field near Somerset, N.J., Dec. 11, 2012. The children, most whom are between the ages of 13-17 and are transitioning from an abusive environment or are between foster care. O'Connor came up with the idea when his sister, who works at the home as a social worker, suggested that some of the children could use some help in getting their lives started after they leave the home. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



250TH returns...

The leadership of the New Jersey National Guard joined family and friends to honor the Soldiers of the 250th Financial Management Detachment during a Welcome Home Ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Flemington, N.J., July 28, 2012. The 250th deployed to Kuwait in August 2011 where they provided disbursement operations, commercial vending services, military and travel pay, and internal control functions to U.S. Armed Forces, government civilians and Department of Defense contractors. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)





AND THE 508TH DEPLOYS

The leadership of the New Jersey Army National Guard said good-bye to Soldiers of the 508th Military Police Company as they deployed from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst July 19, 2012. The MPs are deploying to Afghanistan to provide security and train Afghan National Police force units. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

CSSB prepared for deployment

Story and photo by Maj. Jason Fetteroli, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – Spc. Angeline F. Stephens’s military vocation is human resources; but her military passion is heading to the range with an M4 rifle.

“The smell of gunpowder calms you down ... you just block everything out; nothing is important except fundamental skills,” said Stephens, who recently honed those skills here during three weeks of pre-mobilization annual training in preparation for a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan in April with the 117th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

The pre-mobilization training for the 117th was unique for two reasons.

The first was that it was led by full-time members of the pre-mobilization training assistance element (PTAE), not by the mobilizing unit’s leaders as normally happens. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Denicola, a senior PTAE trainer said the format allowed the 117th to focus on training while the PTAEs deliver subject matter expert-led training.


“This is New Jersey Soldiers taking care of and training New Jersey Soldiers,” said Lt. Col. Paul Rumberger, commander, 117th CSSB.

In addition, the 117th opted to combine 15 days AT with a week of drill days and an active duty week, in what is called a “contiguous mobilization.”

“We are the first unit in the state to do a contiguous mob,” said Rumberger. “Now we are ‘in the groove;’ we have a captive audience ... this helps take care of admin, (Army warrior tasks), and pre-mob tasks.”

The pre-mobilization AT trained 117th CSSB Soldiers in both critical-thinking skills and tactical skills. Critical-thinking training included decision-making exercises and a command post exercise, using systems they may expect to use in theater.

Once deployed, the 117th CSSB will be known as “Task Force Trenton” and execute logistics management missions in the southern region of Afghanistan by directing and managing three transportation companies and one ordnance company to serve the needs of both U.S. and coalition forces in the region. Additionally, the battalion will conduct retrograde operations, facilitating the movement of large containers and rolling stock out of Afghanistan as the U.S. decreases its footprint there, according to Rumberger. 🇺🇸



Sgt. Andrew J. Park, 117th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, admires the pile of .50 caliber brass after firing practice at Fort Indian Town Gap, Pa., March 22, 2012.

50TH PREPARES FOR AT

Story and photos by Maj. Jason Fetterolf, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 3,500-strong 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team prepared for the forthcoming Annual Training (AT) scheduled for Aug. 11 – 25 at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Specific training preparation for AT varied by battalion, but preparation in common was new equipment training and fielding of the Standardized Integrated Command Post System – SICPS – at Sea Girt, N.J. and battalion armories.

The system consists of a cluster of interconnected, rapidly deployable, climate-controlled tents; two tents for each battalion, and nine for the brigade headquarters. SICPS makes fully integrated, interoperable tactical operations possible that includes all supporting tools and equipment needed to support decision mak-



Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, 3-112th Fires Battalion place an M119 105mm Howitzer during a platoon occupation exercise June 8, 2012 at the Morristown, N.J. armory in preparation for Annual Training.

ing. Supporting tools and equipment include digital voice and data communications systems, vehicles and mobile power generators.

Although the system was fielded separately by the battalions for four days and brigade headquarters for 10 days during the June drill, AT will be the first time the entire tent system will be together, according to Sgt. Maj. Mark Leonard, brigade current operations sergeant major.

The new equipment training and fielding process went smoothly in June and offers immense benefits to the brigade, ac-

ording to Capt. Sean Combs, brigade new equipment training officer.

“This is the one system that will link all of our Army Battle Command Systems,” said Combs, in observance that previous systems were in separate locations. “Within five days, (SICPS) can be fully operational.”

Beyond SICPS training, units such as the 3-112th Fires Battalion in Morristown, N.J., honed their skills during the drill weekend for field artillery fire missions at AT.

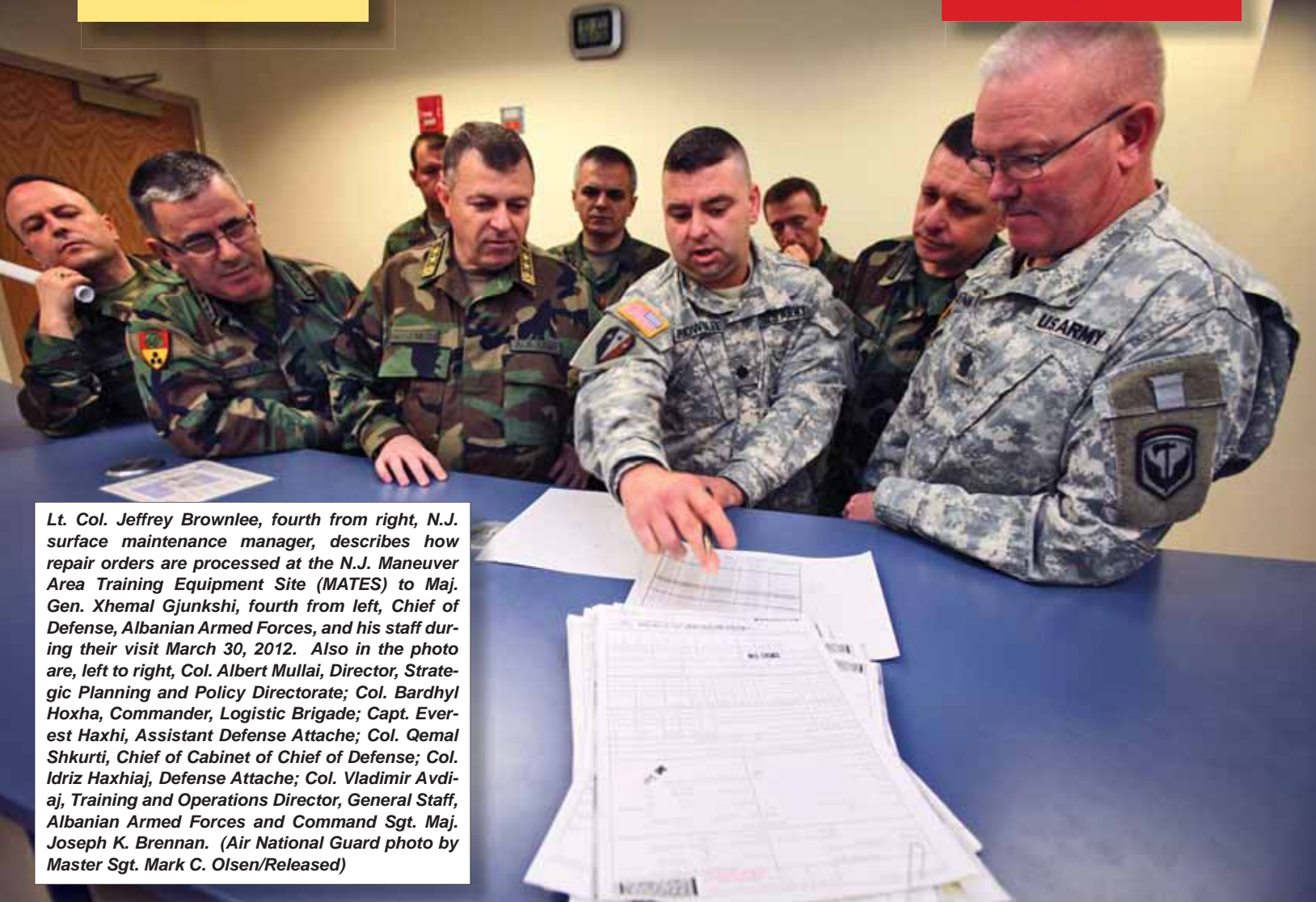
Activities included Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AF-ATDS) new equipment training and platoon occupation exercises. Platoon occupation exercises can be summarized as artillery platoons surveying and occupying a location with their artillery, then placing and aiming the gun in synchronization with an advanced party. The new system training consisted of familiarization with specialized laptop computers that synchronized communications between the artillery battalion and brigade headquarters. 🇺🇸



Sgt. 1st Class Brandin Benson, 112th Fires Battalion, right, assists Sgt. 1st Class Angel Rosario, 2-113th Infantry Battalion fire support sergeant, to synchronize battalion and brigade communications using the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System.



STATE PARTNERSHIP NEWS



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Brownlee, fourth from right, N.J. surface maintenance manager, describes how repair orders are processed at the N.J. Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) to Maj. Gen. Xhemal Gjunkshi, fourth from left, Chief of Defense, Albanian Armed Forces, and his staff during their visit March 30, 2012. Also in the photo are, left to right, Col. Albert Mullai, Director, Strategic Planning and Policy Directorate; Col. Bardhyl Hoxha, Commander, Logistic Brigade; Capt. Everest Haxhi, Assistant Defense Attache; Col. Qemal Shkurti, Chief of Cabinet of Chief of Defense; Col. Idriz Haxhiaj, Defense Attache; Col. Vladimir Avdi-aj, Training and Operations Director, General Staff, Albanian Armed Forces and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph K. Brennan. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Cpl. Quelcia Olea, left, SARSS 1 Operator, explains the Standard Army Retail Supply System to Col. Bardhyl Hoxha, foreground, Logistic Brigade commander and Lt. Col. Lavdim Cota, right, deputy commander of Material Management Center, both with the Albanian Army as Master Sgt. Marco Paredes, second from right and Master Sgt. Berto B. Diaz listen at the United States Property and Fiscal Office Warehouse in Lawrenceville, N.J. on Dec. 13, 2011. The New Jersey National Guard hosted members of the Albanian Army General Staff, Material Management Center and Logistics Brigade for a material management familiarization visit from Dec. 11-16, 2011. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs



NJANG welcomes new state command chief

Story by Airman 1st Class Kellyann Novak, 108th Wing Public Affairs

On a sunny day in June, Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., saw the end to one Airman's career and the beginning of another.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton, until recently the 108th Wing command chief master sergeant, assumed responsibility as the state command chief from outgoing Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Francis during a Change of Authority ceremony at JFHQ June 9, 2012.

It was a sad farewell to Francis - who has served in this position from 2009 until 2012 - as he relinquished his authority by handing the guidon over to Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard. But Francis leaves his post with a small piece of wisdom from the Greek historian, Thucydides, stating that "the nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors, will have its thinking done by fools."

Accordingly, Francis encourages each and every enlisted member to, "do your PME and get your CCAF!"

In addition, special "thanks" was given to Francis for his many years of service in the armed forces as well as to his family for their continued support and sacrifices over the years.

Following tradition, Falca-Dodson presented Morton with the guidon, conferring him as the New Jersey State Command Chief in front of his peers and family members.

As the new state command chief, Morton will be the senior enlisted representative for the enlisted members of New Jersey Air National Guard. He will be responsible for giving advice to the adjutant general and the commander of the NJANG on several issues, to include: mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale, and welfare

of the command's enlisted Airmen.

Morton also has personal objectives while serving in his new capacity.

"One of my main goals will be to take care of Airmen and build a more resilient

enlisted core for the adjutant general, governor, and president," said Morton.

Furthermore, as the future of the NJANG is unpredictable, Morton has a vision for the Airmen of the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing.

"I would like to see an increase in education, a more technology oriented guard, and a more resilient core by eliminating the stigma of asking for

CHIEF MASTER SGT. VINCENT MORTON
NEW JERSEY STATE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

"I would like to see...a more resilient core by eliminating the stigma of asking for help."

help and instead use the resources made available through family and airman programs," said Morton.

As he assumes authority over his new post, it may seem as though Morton is saying goodbye to the 108th Wing, but that is not how he feels.

"I'm not leaving the 108th, I'm now in a better position to serve our Airmen," said Morton. 🇺🇸



Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, left, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, passes the colors to incoming State Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent P. Morton during the Change of Authority ceremony held in front of Joint Force Headquarters, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 9, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

177TH JOINS MIX IN AFGHANISTAN

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs



A 177th Fighter Wing F-16 Fighting Falcon flies over rugged Afghanistan landscape during a mission Nov. 11, 2011. F-16s and F-15s dropped more than 9,000 pounds of munitions on enemy forces trying to overrun a combat outpost in Paktika province, Afghanistan, Nov. 8, 2011. Their efforts helped kill 70 insurgents and resulted in zero coalition casualties. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Brandon Cyr/Released)

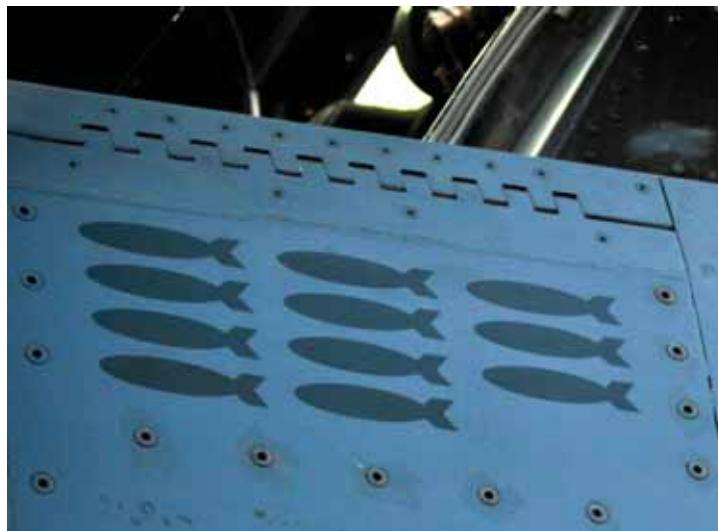
Preparing and going through all those inspections was stressful for the 177th Fighter Wing, but when it came time to deploy to Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan in December 2011 all that preparation really paid off.

"Having been through a UCI (unit compliance inspection), a Phase I and Phase II ORI (operational readiness inspection), we fit the Air Force mold perfectly," said Lt. Col. Bradford R. Everman, deputy commander, 177th Maintenance group. "Our preparation for those inspections ensured we were on our game."

This was important, because unlike Iraq where the Guard has always been a part of the deployment mix, Afghanistan was just the opposite - only active duty fighter units had been deployed to this theater. This was the first F-16 Air

National Guard deployment to Bagram.

"It was an opportunity to show that the Air National Guard could integrate with active duty and coalition forces," said Everman.



An F-16C Fighting Falcon from the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard proudly displays its nose art depicting the number of bombs dropped in combat operations while based at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Dec. 27, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

That meant assuming new roles and responsibilities.

"My supervisor wasn't there, so I had to go to the meetings and report the shop's status," said aircraft electrician Tech. Sgt. Jamie A. Tonkinson.

"As supervisors we had to communicate better with the younger troops," said weapons loader Tech. Sgt. Bradley Rivera-Reynoso. "It was important to insuring mission success."

The numbers speak for themselves, 662 sorties for 1,828 hours while setting a new standard for highest fully mission capable rates for



the oldest F-16 airframes in the Air Force and Air National Guard inventory.

"F-16s make a real difference at that location," said Everman. "With fewer resources we can cover greater ground."

The 177th executed dozens of attacks, including using laser and satellite guided bombs, as well as strafing runs and shows of force.

"The mere fact that we were putting bombs on target - that was a new experience for the younger Airmen," said Rivera-Reynoso. "We took pride in the lives we were saving."

"Just the presence of an F-16 and the enemy would slink away," said Everman.

"I had a cousin in the Army over here and he said he slept better knowing there was air support protecting him," said Rivera-Reynoso.

It wasn't an easy deployment. While New Jersey was experiencing one of the warmest winters on record with virtually no snowfall, the 177th Airmen were being punished with sub-zero



temperatures and snowfall that measured in the inches per hour. Combined with going from an elevation of 66 feet above sea level - what they were used to in New Jersey - to 4,895 in the mountains of Afghanistan, there were some serious adjustment issues to contend with.

"It felt like we were getting 'feets' of snow," said Tonkinson.

"Normally there was only five to nine inches of snow," said Everman. "We got more than 50 inches and the season wasn't over by the time we left."

The snow had a bigger effect other than forcing everyone to bundle up and trying to avoid slipping on the ice, the ramps had to be kept clear because the aircraft had to be mission ready at all times.

Photo above: Weapons loader Staff Sgt. Jeffrey J. Raine makes final checks on an F-16C Fighting Falcon Jan. 17, 2012. Photo below: Senior Airman Monica Rivera works on a panel from an F-16C Fighting Falcon Dec. 2, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

Continued on page 30

177TH IN AFGHANISTAN



Continued from Page 29

"We were out shoveling snow 12 hours a day," said Tonkinson. "It was cold manual labor, but nobody complained. Everybody pulled the gump-tion to get it done out from their center."

The phrase "war does not take a holiday" was certainly true at Bagram.

"On Christmas eve the insurgents mortared the base," said Everman.

The key to the deployment's success was the ingredient that is found everywhere in the military: Teamwork.

"I am amazed at how hard people will work in austere conditions to get the job done," said Everman.

Tonkinson amplified that sentiment: "We were all in the same box. Everybody tried to make it fun, we were all working together."

"It wasn't different shops over there, it was one shop," concluded Rivera-Reynoso. "It was my most fulfilling deployment." 🇺🇸

Photo above: Crew chief Senior Airman Joseph Rice operates a snowblower next to an F-16C Fighting Falcon Jan. 5, 2012. Photo below: Engine mechanic Master Sgt. Chris Skierski sweeps the flight line for foreign objects and debris Jan. 15, 2012. (Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)





Say Yes

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley,
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The raw emotions of the onlookers were palpable for 360 degrees.

On the early morning of Feb. 24, Senior Airman Matthew Flores returned home from a two-month deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, and he still had one more important mission to accomplish...proposing to his girlfriend Corinne Peterla.

While everyone's tears were welling up, he was smiling widely and knew what he had to do.

Flores, a munitions technician with the 177th Fighter Wing had just completed his second deployment after being

deployed to Iraq in 2010. Before leaving to Afghanistan, he planned on proposing to his girlfriend when he got back and had asked his father to hold onto the ring until he returned.

After stepping off the plane, his father passed him the ring, and then in front of all the other returning Airmen and their families, Flores dropped to one knee and proposed to Peterla.

"I couldn't think of a better time than as soon as I stepped off the plane," said Flores.

Peterla's answer was "Yes." 🇺🇸





NJNG JOINS MULTI-STATE WMD EXERCISE

New Jersey National Guard Soldiers from the 328th Military Police Company practice riot control tactics during the Region II Homeland Response Force External Evaluation at the State Preparedness Training Center, Oriskany, N.Y. May 17, 2012. New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen joined forces with more than 700 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands at the Center to undergo certification as a regional disaster response force. The exercise, which ran May 14-20, also included Soldiers from the 253rd Transportation Company and Security Forces Airmen from the 108th Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing. HRF's provide governors with a response capability to assist first responders in saving lives and mitigating suffering. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Jersey crop circles discovered?



The Sahl Father Son Farm's Annual Farm Festival and Corn Maze located at Sahl Father Son Farm, Galloway, N.J., highlighted the 177th Fighter Wing with outlines of an F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter and the 177th shield. Photo by Alan Barclay



VINELAND RESIDENTS VISIT RANGE

Senior Master Tim Donovan, left, listens as Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland resident Henry Speed speaks as Airmen of the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Wing, both assigned to the New Jersey Air National Guard, hosted a barbeque for residents of the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland at Warren Grove Range, Sept. 19, 2012. Afterwards the veterans witnessed live training as A-10 Thunderbolt IIs and F-16 Fighting Falcons strafed and dropped practice bombs at the range. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



NEUMANN'S AMMO

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General, Col Robert C. Bolton, Deputy Adjutant General, Col Kerry Gentry, 177th Fighter Wing Commander and Lt. Col. Brad Everman, 177th Aircraft Maintenance Group cut the ribbon for the Rodger C. Neumann Munitions Administration Facility, Sept. 28, 2012. The new building will aid the 177th Munitions flight in the administration and training of its personnel. The facility is named after Tech. Sgt. Rodger C. Neumann, a munitions flight supervisor, who passed away after a fight against cancer. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



Holiday surprise

Mary-Pat Christie, left, wife of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, shakes hands with Jean-Paul Mina, the son of Staff Sgt. Maria Mina, 108th Wing on Dec. 21, 2011. Seven Airmen and their families attended a holiday event at the governor's mansion where they each received a \$1,000 gift card from Wal-Mart and the Freedom Alliance. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

'Thinking at 1,000 miles per hour'

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Thinking at 1,000 miles per hour', the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron completed a week of grueling training at Fort Drum, N.Y., Aug 24.

The 227th is an Air National Guard unit assigned to the 177th Fighter Wing and is assigned with providing direct support for the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Pennsylvania National Guard's 2-28th Brigade Combat Team.

"As an ASOS unit, we work with the U.S. Army, which is a fluid entity – they are event driven, and we have to flex to that," said Lt. Col. Albert Danza, commander of the 227th. "On the ground, you have to think at 1,000 miles per hour, because the game is constantly changing."

Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs), and support personnel attended the weeklong training, which helped to sharpen their skills. JTACs personnel are qualified military service members who from a forward position, directs the action of combat aircraft engaged in close air support and other offensive air operations.

They got the opportunity to train with both active duty and National Guard aircraft, as well as Soldiers from the 50th IBCT.

"I feel very strongly that we are a force multiplier," said Tech. Sgt. Jose Almeida, one of the squadron's experienced JTAC's. "The things we do; the capabilities that we bring to the fight - utilizing fixed and rotary wing assets are key - and these rigors we encounter in training help us to have a successful outcome on the battlefield."

"When you're in the cockpit, you're insulated," said Danza, as he offered his perspective from an air liaison officer's point of view. "Seeing things from the ground is an eye-opener having been a pilot. I can better relate to what the pilots providing close air support see."

"This is what it's all about," concluded Danza. "Trusting your training; thinking at 1,000 miles per hour." 🇺🇸

Tech. Sgt. Jose Almeida, left, joint terminal attack controller, and Maj Ernie Bio, air liaison officer, check their M4 Carbiners.



BOLTON ASSUMES COMMAND OF NJANG

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs

Col. Robert C. Bolton assumed command of the New Jersey Air National Guard at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Sept. 15.

"What I ask of all of you is to do your current mission well but keep an open mind," said Bolton. "Continue what you've done for years: safely and effectively perform your mission with outstanding professionalism."

Bolton will command the state's Air Guard, which has more than 2,000 Airmen and includes the 108th Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing.

The new commander has a firm grasp of what his new duties will be: To provide mission ready Citizen-Airmen, aircraft, and equipment to both federal and state leadership in support of taskings across all spectrums.

"My job will be to ensure the Wings' have what they need to meet that mission and to ensure we can provide whatever support is requested of us by both the Federal and State governments."

Bolton assumed command of the NJANG from Maj. Gen. Maria A. Falca-Dodson, the first female to be promoted to the rank of major general in the



Incoming New Jersey Air National Guard commander Col. Robert C. Bolton, right, is presented the NJANG guidon by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, as State Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton observes during the Change of Command ceremony held at the Joint Training and Training Development Center Sept. 15, 2012.

New Jersey National Guard and also the first woman to hold the position of assistant adjutant general for the air component.

"The future is bright for the New Jersey Air National Guard and I am truly honored and blessed to have this position," Bolton said. "I look forward with excitement to the challenges ahead."


His military career began when he received a four-year Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps engineering scholarship and attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He was commissioned in May 1983 and began undergraduate

pilot training in July 1983.

After completing pilot training as a distinguished graduate, Bolton spent the next six years flying as both an F-15 Eagle and as instructor pilot.

In 1990, Bolton joined the 177th Fighter Wing as an F-16 Fighting Falcon instructor pilot. In addition, he served as the Chief of Training, Weapons, and Scheduling.

In the ensuing years, he served in a variety of command positions and when the events of September 11, 2001 unfolded, Bolton became the unit's Alert Operations and Scheduling officer and flew on many of the Combat Air Patrol missions.

From 2003 through 2006 he served as the Wing's Alert Detachment Commander. In 2006, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The following year, he was appointed as the Operations Group Commander and in 2009 he was selected as the Wing Commander. In March 2012, Bolton became the Deputy Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard. 



Maj. Devon Hanson, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Fahnstock, right, furl the flag of outgoing New Jersey Air National Guard commander Maj. Gen. Maria A. Falca-Dodson, back row, second from right, while Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, back row left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; incoming NJANG commander Col. Robert C. Bolton, back row second from left and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton observe.

108TH CRG TACKLES EAGLE FLAG

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs; Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs



Tech. Sgt. Jan Ahner, left, along with Staff Sgt. Frederick King, center, and Airman 1st Class Eric Aranquiz, all with the 108th Contingency Response Group, prepare to unload a C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft during Eagle Flag 12-4 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., on August 15, 2012.

When August rolls around in the training calendar for the New Jersey Air National Guard, Airmen from the 108th Contingency Response Group know exactly what to expect. They know they need to put on their game-face and tackle the exercise they have been participating at for the past three years: Eagle Flag.

They've done this before, so they knew this year's exercise would be held at the Lakehurst side of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and would run from Aug. 16 – 20. It is five days of 24-hours operations

As one of only two CRG groups in the Air National Guard – the other is in Kentucky – the 108th CRG is a rapid-deployment unit designed at the initiative of Air Force leadership to be a first-in force that will secure an airfield, establish and maintain field operations. They are tailored for a specific mission and incorporate more than 20 military specialties, which comprises of approximately a 120-person unit ready for deployment

around the globe with no more than 12 hours notice.

Consequently, attending Eagle Flag is quite important



Combat Arms Staff Sgt. Lawrence Aiello performs a function check on a M2 Browning machine gun while guarding the perimeter.

“I would take this group and this RPOE and deploy anywhere in the world, and I know you would do the mission with 100 percent success.”

Col. Robert Brazel, commander, 108th Contingency Response Group



Aerospace maintenance journeyman Tech. Sgt. John Whittaker cinches a strap on a cargo container.

for a CRG, as the purpose of Eagle Flag is to train the Airmen of CRGs to become fully operational capable in order to deploy into a foreign country or anywhere within the continental United States and join other personnel and elements to comprise a United States Air Force expeditionary group.

Once at the location, the expeditionary group will be tasked with a mission to open an air base and conduct air operations. After the expeditionary base is open and functional; the groups' mission can be in of support humanitarian, disaster relief, or combat operations.

At this year's exercise, the Airmen from the 108th CRG and approximately 25 Soldiers from the 689th Rapid Port Opening Element, Fort Eustis, Va., were tasked with operating a joint task force port opening (JTF-PO) that would support humanitarian relief efforts at a poor fictional country named "Nessor".

This task was accomplished by having the Air Force as-



Command post craftsman Staff Sgt. Darnell Carter, right, updates the events log during the night shift.

sets provide air mobility expertise such as setting up the base and receiving air cargo, while the Army's assets transport the much needed cargo to a pre-determined forward node for further distribution. Operating as a joint force, both the Airmen and the Soldiers are evaluated on how well they work together during the operations.

And worked well together they did.

"From my group, I really saw the synergy and the effort to come together with the RPOE," said Col. Robert Brazel, commander of the 108th CRG, as well as the commander of the JTF-PO during the exercise. "We've been with the RPOE for the third time out; my hat is off to you."

"I would take this group and this RPOE and deploy anywhere in the world, and I know you would do the mission with 100 percent success," said Brazel as the exercise culminated and the Airmen prepared to return to home base and begin the training process all over again for next year's Eagle Flag. 🇺🇸



Air transport craftsman Tech. Sgt. Michael George performs an accountability check.



With the aid of two green glowsticks, Tech. Sgt. Jan Ahner directs a 10K all-terrain forklift in picking up cargo.



FINANCIERS GET FAMILY-STYLE AREWELL

By Army Spc. Michael J. Davis
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Javier Colquicocha sings the Army Song as families and friends joined the New Jersey National Guard leadership at a farewell ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Flemington, N.J. for more than two dozen Soldiers from the 50th Financial Management Company Jan. 7, 2012. The unit deployed to Kuwait in support of Opera-

tion Enduring Freedom and will be performing disbursing operations, commercial vending services, military pay, travel and internal control functions for U.S. armed forces, U.S. government civilians and Department of Defense contractors. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Within the old cement walls of the Flemington Armory, the auditorium came alive with the warm, familiar sights and sounds of an Army deployment ceremony: A wall-size American flag, the smiling faces of the Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteers, tearful family and friends, and of course, Soldiers.

Members of the 50th Financial Management Company, who are slated to deploy to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), exuded pride and commitment as they marched across the floor and heard the roar of heartfelt cheers and applause. The feeling could be summed up in one word: family.

"The New Jersey National Guard is my extended family," said Hilary Webekin, wife of Staff Sgt. Richard Webekin, Jr., who is one of the Soldiers deploying with the 50th Financial Management Company. "We watch out for each other."

Webekin is about to embark on his third deployment

and his first deployment as a father of five-month-old Richard Webekin, III. He and his wife said that as each deployment presents new obstacles to overcome, their growing support system of family, friends and FRG resources will help get them through.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, drilled home the importance of family support, especially during the separation that accompanies a deployment, during his remarks.

Cunniff said, "We're all in this together... as a Guard Family."

While deployed, the 50th FMC Soldiers will be performing disbursal operations, commercial vending services, military pay, travel and internal control functions for U.S. Armed Forces, U.S. government civilians, Department of Defense contractors, and many others, in support of OEF. 🇺🇸

Civil Engineers prepare for Prime BEEF

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

Where can you find Prime BEEF... Not the type that you eat, but Airmen assigned to Prime Base Emergency Engineer Force?

Training at the 201st Red Horse Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., is where the 108th Civil Engineers Squadron could be found April 20-22, 2012.

As a Prime BEEF unit, the 108th CE Airmen would deploy to a war zone with tools to complete special projects of hardening airfields and critical base facilities. These include making repairs on existing systems, and updating/ modernizing utilities; preparing new areas for "tent cities" for initial bed-down of arriving troops in country, and building bunkers for personnel protection.

So as an upcoming deployment seems imminent for these Airmen, maintaining their skills to complete all of these objectives is critical.

"At home base we can't train for contingency response," said Lt. Col. Paul Novello, 108th CES commander. "But here we have all the tools for our war objectives."

Within the training complex, the Airmen were able to work on installing emergency airfield lighting systems (EALS), constructing large base shelters, repairing airfields, water purification, heating ventilation air conditioner maintenance and repairs, and other tasks associated with a deployment to a war zone.

Novello said that using the actual equipment that is part of the contingency environment helps his CEs get firsthand experience.

And taking advantage of the tools around him was Senior Airman Bryant Ubando. The Dover resident was among the group of electrical systems personnel working on EALS and then climbing utility poles during the three-day deployment readiness exercise.

Ubando had previously deployed to the Middle East in 2010 and was eager for the upcoming deployment.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Scudder, 108th Civil Engineer Squadron, climbs a utility pole at the 201st Red Horse Squadron Regional Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., April 21, 2012.



Airman saves driver in South Harrison crash

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

For Airman 1st Class Rob Bowen it had been just another relaxing afternoon July 24.

He was talking to his aunt outside her house on Route 45 and Monroeville Road in South Harrison Township. Suddenly, they both heard a very loud bang.

"I knew from the sound of it there was an accident, so I took off running," said Bowen, who couldn't immediately see the crash because of a shed and trees in his aunt's yard.

"As I came around the shed, a tractor-trailer was coming right towards me, the accident was still in progress," he said.

Dodging out of the way, Bowen waited for the dust to settle to assess the situation.

"A white pickup truck was smashed into the trailer of the semi, and the semi had been stopped by a tree, which had burst a fuel tank and started a fire," said Bowen.

Bowen, 24, said his training kicked in right away.

"The training I have received from the Air National Guard, lessons learned from being a first responder, helped immensely," said Bowen, a firefighter with the 177th Fighter Wing.

Bowen immediately ran to the semi, as flames rose around the cab.

"I jumped up on the cab, and looked through the windshield, but I couldn't see anyone," said Bowen. "The fuel

tank started to really go on the semi, so I turned my attention back to the white pickup truck."

When he ran back to the pickup truck, Bowen was able to yank open the driver side door, and discovered an unconscious man inside.

Bowen unbuckled the man's seat belt, grabbed him under the arms, and dragged him away from the wreck.

"I dragged him away until I stopped feeling the heat," said Bowen.

Once the unconscious man, later identified as Timothy Clyne, 37, of Philadelphia, was safely away from the wreck, Bowen went back to the semi.

"I went back to the semi again, but the flames had gotten too bad, the fire was really going," said Bowen.

Bowen returned to the pickup driver to perform self-aid and buddy care, using his shirt to try to stop bleeding from Clyne's forehead.

"Once emergency crews arrived, I stayed with my patient, who was finally starting to come around," said Bowen.

When asked if he was a hero, Bowen would only say, "I hope if I was in that situation, someone would do the same for me."

Clyne was treated at Cooper University Hospital in Camden and released. 🇺🇸



Firefighter salute

Firefighters salute 177th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Robert C. Bolton at the end of his final flight, March 10, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

NJNG NEWSMAKERS



Back to school

Col. Mark Preston, at podium, addresses Guardsmen and students as the New Jersey National Guard joined forces with Acting New Jersey Education Commissioner Chris Cerf in collecting letters during a "Holiday Greetings to the U.S. Military" school assembly at Greenwood Elementary School in Hamilton Township, N.J. on Dec. 16, 2011. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran Affairs and the New Jersey Department of Education collected more than 125,000 holiday cards from New Jersey students for members of the United States military as part of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's "Season of Service". Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs



Ziti for Zaka

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Misty Digangi, left, serves 1st Lt. Zaka McCoy during the 14th Annual Unity Day Celebration, a "Salute to the Flags of the World", at Joint Force Headquarters located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst June 14, 2012. Unity Day is held to enhance cross-cultural awareness and promote harmony among all members of the NJNG by celebrating the ethnic and cultural diversity of the organization through educational displays, music, entertainment, food sampling and competitions. In addition, a blood drive and a bone marrow registration were held. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs



Bombs away

The 177th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit joined forces with 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard and the 87th Civil Engineer Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst for their annual munitions clearance at Warren Grove Range May 29 to June 1, 2012. They performed a controlled detonation to make the more than 12 tons of practice bombs safe for later reclamation. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Drop in

The 1-150th Helicopter Assault Battalion assists West Point Cadets rappel from a Black Hawk at the U. S. Military Academy, N.Y. on June 14, 2012. Three Black Hawks provided the aerial support as cadets in groups of four rappelled from more than 80 feet in the air on to the practice field at West Point. Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs



GETTING IN TOUCH

Spc. Matthew J. Jablonsky, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, spends time with his family at the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Jan. 3, 2012. The more than 60 CSSB Soldiers were reunited with their families after their year-long deployment in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Photo right: Maj. Jon Powers, commander, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, is reunited with his family on Sept. 28, 2012. The 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment were reunited with their families after a year-long deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Photo far right: Sgt. Cesar Cuevas is all smiles as he is reunited with his two children as family members were joined



by the leadership of the New Jersey National Guard in welcoming home the Soldiers of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Sept. 13, 2012. The 150th deployed in November 2011 to the Republic of Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian Koso-

vo Force (KFOR), which supports United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 authorizing an international civil and military presence in the Republic of Kosovo. (Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Last NJ Airmen return from Iraq

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

They have been counting the days until homecoming since the day they departed. And on Dec. 2, 2011 the wait ended for some family members of security forces Airmen from the 108th Wing.

Eight Airmen from the 108th Security Forces Squadron returned home from Iraq to hugs and kisses and were finally reunited with their loved ones at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The Airmen served for approximately six months, and they came home just in time for the holiday season as the drawdown of military troops from Iraq continues.

Although she Skyped at least once a week with her husband, Staff Sgt. Donald Bunce, she was happy to finally have him back, said Mary Bunce, a Wrightstown resident.

"We'll plan a trip to the Caribbean next year," said Mary Bunce.

But for now they just want to enjoy their reunion and their fifth anniversary in February, said Mary Bunce.

In addition, the Airmen are very grateful to be home early for the holiday season.

"I am ecstatic!" said Senior Airman Keri Wanner. "It's all so surreal."

With the help of her father, Kevin, Wanner planned to surprise her family. "Nobody knows that I am back except my father," said Wanner. So she will be visiting her family around the state and giving them a holiday surprise.



Staff Sgt. Donald Bunce, center, is all smiles as he is reunited with his sister, Ashley Laramai, and his wife, Mary, right, Dec. 2, 2011 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., from a recent deployment to Iraq.

"It's always nice to get our Airmen back from overseas," said Lt. Col. Brian Grier, commander of the 108th SFS. "These are our missions but it feels good when they come back safely, especially from over there."

During their deployment in Iraq, the security forces Airmen conducted air base defense, which consisted of ensuring the security of the base; manning the gates for entry and exit into the base and perimeter patrols.



ST HAWKS CK ED



Four New Jersey Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopters from the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion land at Atlantic City International Airport, N.J. on May 29, 2012. The helicopters transported civilian employers of New Jersey National Guardsman for a "Bosslift," an event run by the New Jersey Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

New Jersey Guardsman: Agent of change

By retired Col. Roger Pharo and retired Tech. Sgt. John Carothers; illustration by Chief Master Sgt. Donald Taggart

Although just 29 years old when he died in an aircraft mishap, 1st Lt. Thomas E. Williams had secured a place in history by helping usher in the civil rights movement.

Following his graduation from West Philadelphia High School in 1942, Williams enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and entered into the Army Air Force Pilot Training Program at the Tuskegee Army Airfield, Ala.

Following his separation from active duty in August 1946, he served in the Air Force Reserves while pursuing higher education.

During the Korean War, Williams returned to active duty and volunteered for combat duty. While serving he attended Basic Instructor's School at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Ala.

On June 23, 1953, while commuting in full service dress from Eglin Field, Fla., back to Selma, Williams politely declined to yield his seat -- third from the back of the bus -- and move to the extreme rear of the bus. This action resulted in his being charged under the Jim Crow laws. In a Crestview, Fla., courtroom, Wil-

liams challenged this charge as violation of his Constitutional rights. The Florida judge decided that his court could not hear such a challenge and referred the matter to a higher court, releasing Williams pending the new trial.

Williams met with the NAACP's special counsel, Thurgood Marshall. Marshall requested that the Air Force allow Williams to return to active duty, but Williams declined and instead opted to join the New Jersey Air National Guard on May 7, 1954.

His entry into the NJANG was paved in February 1948, by Governor Alfred Driscoll, who ignored federal policy mandating segregation and ordered the full integration of the New Jersey National Guard months before President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9981.



On May 7, 1954, Williams was assigned to the 141st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 108th Fighter-Bomber Group, New Jersey Air National Guard, McGuire Air Force Base. That day Williams not only became the first African-American to serve in the New Jersey Air National Guard but in the entire Air National Guard as well.

On May 13, the Eighty-Third Congress convened hearings before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. First Lieutenant Thomas E. Williams was the first witness called. His testimony was instrumental in the passage of a bill to amend the Interstate Commerce Act prohibiting the segregation of passengers in interstate commerce on the basis of color or race.

Eighteen months later, on Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks also refused to move to the back of the bus.

During a routine training mission on Jan. 15, 1955, Williams' F-86A Sabre aircraft entered into an unrecoverable spin. During the ejection sequence, the jettisoned canopy struck Williams' helmet, fatally injuring him.

Maj. Arthur E. Martone, Commander, 141st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, wrote to Williams' sister, Mrs. Hilda Picou, "Thomas has been with us just a short time and during the period he lived up to the standards and traditions of the Air Force and New Jersey Air National Guard." 🇺🇸



New name on command jet

2nd Lt. Ivan R. Cartagena Jr., left, 177th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Senior Master Sgt. Tracy O. Mulkey, 177th Maintenance Group, unveil the command jet of Col. Kerry M. Gentry, the new 177th Fighter Wing commander, during the Change of Command ceremony March 11, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Top NCO visits Garden State



Chief Master Sgt. Denise M. Jelinski-Hall, right, Senior Enlisted Leader for the National Guard Bureau, listens to Staff Sgt. Cristina Sanchez, 177th Fighter Wing, during a town hall meeting at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center at Bordentown, N.J., April 21, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

TAKE IT BACK

Photo by Master Sgt. Joseph Prieto

Sgts. Michael Shevlin, left, and Nicholas Swinford, both assigned to the New Jersey National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, prepare to throw boxes containing part of the 16,840 pounds of unwanted or expired medications collected in New Jersey during Operation Take Back into an incinerator May 1.

The New Jersey Counterdrug Task Force assisted the Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement agencies in Operation Take Back April 30 - May 1, 2012 in the disposal of 16,840 pounds of prescriptions, 7,009 pounds more than what was collected in the November 2011

This is Counterdrug's third mission supporting the operation. Operation Take Back is an initiative of the New Jersey Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and the New Jersey National Guard. 🇺🇸



NEWS GUARD FAMILIES CAN USE

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff



Happy puppy

Bono provides a touch of home as the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion became the first full unit to be reconstituted through the new New Jersey National Guard Family Assistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., Jan. 11, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olson/Released)

NJNG FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

JOINT MILITARY & FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER

1048 US Hwy 206
Bordentown, NJ 08505-2124
POC: Michael Hughes
(609) 324-7030
michael.t.hughes.ctr@mail.mil

108TH WING

3327 Charles Blvd.
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
POC: Douglas Ridgway
(609) 754-4479
douglas.ridgway@ang.af.mil

177TH FIGHTER WING

400 Langley Road
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
Air POC: Jean Perry
(609) 761-6248
Jean.perry@ang.af.mil

ARMY-FAC 177TH FIGHTER WING

400 Langley Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
POC: Michael Hughes
WP: (609) 761-6546
michael.t.hughes.ctr@mail.mil

JERSEY CITY ARMORY

678 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306-2208
POC: Bernard Sims
(201) 915-3589
bernard.sims.ctr@mail.mil

LAWRENCEVILLE ARMORY

151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2897
POC: Jane Hackbarth
(609) 671-6681
jane.e.hackbarth.ctr@mail.mil

MORRISTOWN ARMORY

430 Western Ave
Morristown, NJ 07960-0499
POC: John Hales
(973) 656-3592
john.a.hales.ctr@mail.mil

TOMS RIVER ARMORY

1200 Whitesville Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
POC: Maria Morro
(732) 341-9102 extension 13
maria.d.morro.ctr@mail.mil

WOODBURY ARMORY

658 North Evergreen Avenue
Woodbury, NJ 08096
POC: Michele Daisey
(856) 251-6893
michele.daisey1@us.army.mil

AFRC, BLACKWOOD

390 Woodbury Turnersville Rd
Blackwood NJ 08012
POC: Michele Daisey
WP: (856) 481-9341
michele.daisey1.ctr@mail.mil

or call **1-888-859-0352**

SHORT ROUNDS: ARMY AVIATION AND SGT. MAJ. BEATTY REMEM

Hello from Kosovo

Soldiers of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion pose for a group photo in Kosovo Oct. 28, 2011. The 150th provide UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter support as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force in Kovoso. (Army National Guard photo by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Drapala/Released)



KEEHN TO LEAD 108TH

Senior Airman Janelle A. Stokes performs the National Anthem during the 108th Wing Change of Command ceremony for incoming commander Col. Kevin J. Keehn at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. May 20, 2012. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



ON, NEW 108TH COMMANDER MBERED



COUNCIL ADDS GRANTS

The National Guard State Family Readiness Council of New Jersey has added pay differential grant applications for Guard members who served in support of Hurricane Sandy.

The Council has also expanded their grant program to address unreimbursed personal property damage expenses for both family and business grants.

Applications and guidance may be obtained from Family Assistance Centers.



IN MEMORIAM
Sgt. Maj. Darron D. Beatty
June 4, 1967 to Dec. 19, 2012

ARMY AND AIR ENL

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

To Sergeant Major (E-9):

Paula M. Cantara

To First Sergeant (E-8):

Joseph E. Carr
Marco A. Chavez
Norris H. Fletcher
Ernest F. Iodaci
Steven Katkics
Francis P. Koszyk
Lawrence J. Park
John R. Rospond

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Leonel A. Abreumaldonado
Stephen J. Duckers
Roberto Fernandez
James R. Monaghan
David M. Mullen
Ernesto Santiago
Alvin D. Sylvester
Darrin B. Turner

To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

Joseph C. Breiner
William P. Bryan
Kirkpatrick Capers
Linda C. Chapin
Robert A. Dollaway
Maykell A. Guerrero
Kimberly M. Hankins
Timothy S. Harris
Christopher E. Hoenge
Adam Khoudja
Albert J. Klinker
Dennis J. Mahon
Javier E. Mendozavillegas
William F. Quigley
William F. Richmond
Alvaro S. Rodriguez
Angel A. Rosario
Todd J. Rose
Luis S. Salgado
Matthew A. Scheper
Frederick J. Scott
William J. Scott
Paul D. Stengele
Kandar Q. Taylor
Mark S. Ussery
Saso Zafirovski

To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Frederick C. Abline
Mark R. Alexander
John P. Arguelles
Ricardo A. Ariasvasquez
Raphael E. Baez
Charles C. Bean
John G. Bedoya
Drew R. Bendler
Johnny A. Bennett
Hamlet B. Brito
George J. Broughton
Benjamin J. Carter
Mark T. Caruso
Antonio G. Caster
David J. Chaika
Pablo E. Chavez
Antonio G. Ciccone
Nicole A. Cleary
Eric M. Colondres
Martin G. Coogan
Ernest K. Curry
Simon D. Debran
Fave J. Della
Felipe M. Diaz
Catherine A. Dietsche
Steven G. Felter
Michael E. Figueroa
Jim L. Fultz
Harry H. Garrity
Aldo M. Gil
Joseph A. Gonzalez
Gregory Gourgue
Brad T. Graham
Marsha A. Grant

Darrell Grayson
Sean C. Henry
Jeffrey M. Hiles
Michael F. Isssenman
Esteban Jimenez
Robin A. Johnson
David W. Jones
Sanjiv A. Joshi
Richard D. Kovats
Cheston I. Lawrence
Todd N. Lepre
Gustavo D. Limo
William Lopez
Larry F. Mantilla
Henry J. Martebatista
Keith Martin
Jesus M. Martinez
Lopez S. Martinez
Daniel Martinezlopez
Karen M. Massey
Rasheed I. McCord
Samantha A. McGovern
Christopher J. McKenna
Peter D. McSorley
Kenneth S. Meisner
Rockyfaller Mensah
Chedanau M. Naurang
Robert L. Nutter
Michael J. Onembo
Lisa A. Panila
Asa L. Paris
Rina G. Patel
Benny Perez
James F. Preto
Curvey A. Purkett
Michael H. Ramer
Danial A. Rankin
Christopher D. Richardson
Richard M. Rivera
Linda Romano
Fabian J. Rosas
Edward J. Ross
Brett W. Russell
Jonathan P. Scano
Christian G. Schley
Kealoha W. Serrano
Saadiq M. Shakir
Muhammed A. Shonibare
Stefania L. Simi
Richard J. Sopko
Kevin E. Sweeney
Mark M. Towle
William P. Trageser
Martin G. Turfiski
Austin P. Twombly
Robert G. Upfield
Deivy F. Vargas
Fischer N. Villamar
Michael A. Waters
Jeffrey V. Whalen
Troy Williams
Mindy Yeon

To Sergeant (E-5):

Jermaine T. Abraham
Peralta A. Alfonso
David M. Allonardo
Julius I. Almenas
Joseph S. Amditis
Victor M. Ascencio
Matthew S. Baker
Curtis A. Baptiste
Jehan S. Barmore
Paul R. Barr
Timothy B. Bates
Stephen R. Beechnox
Carlyle C. Benjamin
Miguel A. Bergollo
Nochus H. Berry
Andrew N. Betz
James R. Bittle
Michael F. Bodnar
Renee N. Bolden
Javier Bolivar
Christa M. Bonham
Tyrona A. Bordley
Ludmila Bortzova
Joseph S. Bundy
Nathan H. Butterfield
Juan J. Cano
Fuquan J. Carson
Michael E. Cartwright

Kevin G. Cassano
Javier A. Castaneda
Angel L. Castillo
Winsome J. Cayanong
Paul J. Chang
Nolan F. Chowansky
Elizabeth D. Cibotariu
Michael A. Colihan
Gerald J. Colon
Andrew Compagnucci
Michael C. Conroy
Marilyn Corona
Mark J. Corrado
Katherine Coy
Carthaniel Crum
Erica L. Cruz
Robert M. Czech
Daniel G. Czerepak
Anthony M. Daloisio
Wallace E. Daniels
Andy A. Deleon
Jesus M. Delgado
Stephen Delmonico
Dennis Delossantos
Nel R. Despradel
Sean M. Donohue
Jose C. Dorelien
Joanmichael Elefante
Juan J. Estevez
Alvin Estremera
Lourdes I. Fabian
Megan C. Fabrizio
John W. Faison
Edgar D. Fajardo
Craig M. Farawell
Daniel J. Farnkopf
Richard J. Farrell
Michael L. Fenton
Eric M. Ferguson
Jason C. Fermin
Pedro M. Ferreira
Peter J. Figueroa
Alex Fontanez
Derek J. Forbes
Henry J. Fuller
Julio C. Gamboa
Jason M. Garcia
Steven A. Garratano
Vincent C. Giles
Gabriel A. Godart
Monica Gonzalez
Sherwood T. Goodenough
Dante L. Gordon
Brandi S. Gray
Michael J. Groskrantz
Vanessa Gross
Chastidy L. Guinyard
Scott H. Haidet
Gene W. Hamilton
William J. Hanna
Shawn O. Harris
Fernandez B. Hernandez
JeanCarlos Herrera
Zacharie G. Hirschorn
David S. Hitchner
Sean M. Hodge
Michael D. Jefferson
Michael J. Jobe
Damond L. Johnson
Ashanti W. Jones
David L. Jones
Dominick N. Jones
Sharae A. Jones
Kevin L. Jorge
Eric M. Kuppler
Donald J. Lange
Christopher A. Lawson
Joseph M. Lewis
Jose M. Livres
Keshia M. Llauderres
Brent A. Long
Andres F. Lux
Gustavo E. Lux
Michael W. Lydon
Morris C. Macklin
Lesterdan C. Manuyag
Felipe Marquez
Nancy J. Marroquin
Alexander M. Martin
Darwin A. Martinez
Cristina D. Mateo-Silven
Joseph M. McCarthy

Conor P. McGrath
Derrick L. McLean
Christopher L. McPherson
Walter M. Medrano
Lamont J. Mitchell
Marvin Monroig
Brandon E. Montgomery
Richard C. Miras
Robin M. Myers
Isata M. Nabie
Hillary A. Newcomb
Alberto Nicasio
Jesse Nieto
Godson Noel
Michael I. O'Neill
Anthony D. Ortiz
Ivannahoe Ortiz
William S. Ospina
Jason Pabon
Oscar G. Pacas
Robert W. Page
Justin R. Pallokat
Steve S. Park
Noah G. Parker
Stephen E. Pender
Patrick B. Perowski
Christopher C. Petrillo
Richard P. Philip
Roy L. Pierson
Ryan A. Pikul
Steven R. Plucinsky
Philip S. Prekel
Nathanel L. Putnam
Brenda K. Quinn
Alex M. Ramirez
Craig A. Rawles
Dennis C. Regalado
Salvador E. Reyes
Don Ricciardi
Daniel J. Rivera
Falcon J. Rivera
Randolph A. Robinson
Philip M. Rowe
Raheem J. Rowell
Nicholas S. Saccomanno
Andres D. Sanchez
Johnny C. Sanchez
Santiago H. Sanchez
Fabian Santosquendo
John O. Scott
Justin T. Seguiné
Jesus J. Serrano
Donald E. Seymour
Trevor R. Sherba
Michael S. Shevlin
Christopher J. Sippel
Stanley Sirleaf
Johnny Soriano
Christopher A. Stewart
Joseph A. Sweet
Nicholas D. Swineford
Marjorie Terilus
Tavis S. Tindal
Constantine K. Toe
Brittany A. Toomer
Diana Torres
Norma J. Trevino
Marcos Valencia
Andrew D. Vargas
Marc R. Vero
Carlos I. Villa
David W. Wallace
Gregory M. Walls
Nyonkpawuo E. Walo
Daniel G. Weatherington
Larry L. Welch
Tyrone White
Brian Willis
Andrew F. Wirth
Christopher J. Woods
Adriano A. Yanez
Bryan T. Young
Christian Zambrano

To Specialist (E-4):

Adolfo F. Aguirre
Oluwatosin K. Akinduro
Alfonso Alicea
Stephanie A. Alvarez
Rosa M. Andujar
Jeffrey J. Angle
Robert V. Antonetti
Eris N. Aparicio

Edward P. Arabiameyer
Matthew W. Armstrong
Jose G. Arroyo
Oneill Arroyo
Jimmy W. Atoche
Robert D. Au
Adam R. Barney
Benjamin J. Baron
Jaime L. Baron
Alan B. Barsamian
Michael P. Basso
Justin M. Beebe
William J. Belsky
Shonell N. Bender
Jeffrey J. Bennett
Paul A. Berasategui
Horace B. Betha
Portia L. Bethea
David T. Biribaer
Joseph A. Bishop
Devon M. Bistarkey
Aneblay N. Bland
Justin R. Blistyak
Timothy B. Bombace
Sean J. Bowen
Russell E. Bramble
Natara C. Braxton
Daniel E. Bretton
Ivan M. Brito
Deja T. Brown
Hector J. Brown
Pierre Buchailot
Erica L. Buchholz
Ryan J. Burkhart
Jon E. Burns
Andrew A. Butler
Samuel Cabrera
Brendan G. Cahill
Daniel P. Cahill
Donald B. Calamusa
Sean C. Calhoun
Benjamin D. Call
James H. Campbell
Wilson Canelavalerio
Steven Cano
Eduardo L. Carvente
Robert J. Cassese
Edward I. Castillo
Paolojose G. Castillo
Johany Castrillon
John M. Catalano
Marcelo P. Caxias
Joshued D. Celeste
Michelle B. Celestin
Jason J. Chandler
Yadid G. Chaniznico
Dukerlin Cheralstal
Nathalie Chica
Robert J. Chilson
Timothy S. Choi
Sara I. Chojna
Tyler S. Cobb
Andrew B. Cockerham
Juan F. Collado
Joseph M. Collette
Horace A. Colon
Joe S. Conchucos
Joseph Condito
Raheem S. Conerson
Jeanise Correa
Tyler A. Cotton
Sean M. Crawford
Kevin M. Cross
Luis G. Cruz
Nicole E. Cruz
Eric D. Cubero
Mark A. Cubile
Edward R. Danessi
Kelly L. Darish
Francis J. Davis
Tyler E. Davis
Jeanette A. Dejesus
Hector J. Delacruz
Jesse Delacruz
Jacqueline D. Delcid
Allan F. Desousa
Adam J. Dick
Justin L. Divenuta
Danilo F. Doyle
Joshua N. Dryden
David J. Dudzinski
Robert F. Eckert
Cardon J. Edwards
Carlee E. Elghossan

Jesse A. Espallat
Dana L. Eustace
Margaret A. Ferrara
Vincent M. Ferreira
Matthew J. Fesi
Christian Figueroarivera
Edward G. Fletcher
Naima Flores
Jermaine A. Forbes
Steven R. Forrest
Gaetano F. Foti
Jeryl L. Fryar
Henry Garcia
Martin Garcia
Zavier J. Garcia
Gabriel Garcia-Robles
Richard J. Gauthier
Amy T. Gentile
Dennis J. Gentile
Matthew J. Germscheid
Richard M. Geronimo
Charles C. Giambrore
Diyosa C. Gibson
Scott W. Gilchrist
Javier E. Godoy
Parker B. Goins
Andrew M. Gonzales
Eric Gonzalez
Luily J. Gonzalez
Sasha A. Gonzalez
William Gonzalez
Joseph B. Gormley
Mark S. Grelle
Katherine Grodzki
Stephen P. Gross
Zachary T. Gumble
Andrew S. Guth
Bryan K. Gutschall
Sean W. Hanley
Brandon T. Harrison
Courtley R. Hayden
Faustino A. Hernandez
Benjamin R. Hill
Ryan A. Hirschman
Edward P. Hofferica
Joshua S. Holt
Matthew A. Hopkins
Alexander J. Hussey
Matthew R. Jackson
Teresa A. Jara
Jennifer J. Jennings
Carlos A. Jimenez
Roanne T. Jimenez
Christopher E. Johnson
Timothy P. Johnson
April T. Jones
Daniel Juhas
Heung J. Kang
Alexander I. Kasem
John G. Keen
Joseph R. Kemmler
Alexander G. Kerr
Dakota R. Keyworth
Jong J. Kim
Maxwell B. King
Travis V. King
Edward K. Kosso
Robert D. Kukuvka
Susan I. Lagano
Keith T. Lam
Nicky Lam
Eric G. Lancaster
Ryan C. Lee
Elizabeth V. Lescano
Neron K. Lewis
Percy Ley
Ken S. Lim
James F. Linnus
Siyu Liu
Andres Loazia
Herman A. Lopez
Viana Y. Lopez
David J. Loughmiller
Tiffany A. Loving
Stephen J. Macchiorola
Peter J. Magalin
Alexander Makarucha
Heriberto Maldonado
Bryn E. Mandl
Marlon Manzueta
Carlos Marmeolejos
Dangelo M. Martins
Patrick Q. Marvin

LISTED PROMOTIONS

Friedrich Mazur
Erik J. McCarrroll
Richard M. McCarthy
Johnnie C. McDowell
Jonathan M. McGuire
Brendan S. McNamara
Ryan M. McNulla
Patrick Medany
Alan D. Meekins
Jothuel Mejia
Kasey M. Mezanava
Christopher L. Miller
Elizabeth D. Miller
Raymond Miller
William Z. Mineo
Hilario J. Mix
Ellen H. Modica
John F. Monaco
Zachary A. Moninghoff
Manuel Montoya
Jorge L. Moore
Justina L. Moore
Michael Morales
Emmanuel Moreno
Aaliyah S. Mujahid
Sherron A. Murphy
Terrel M. Murray
Joseph M. Muztafago
Ronald L. Nadelberg
James A. Nammoura
Joshua M. Negrón
Patrick H. Neu
Son V. Nguyen
Calvin W. Novak
Kimberly A. Nunez
Natalie J. Ohara
Nancy A. Olango
John M. Ondish
Joshua Ortizrivera
Kyle J. Ostertag
Alexandro Padilla
Nicholas M. Palazzolo
Sun Park
Carmen M. Parrales
Leandra R. Pena
Jonathan M. Pennisi
Matthew A. Pentlicki
Jorge U.
Pereirascarpitta
Josse X. Perez
Pablo N. Perez
Steven A. Perez
Travis C. Philhower
Donald C. Pierce
Anne D. Pierre
Adam J. Pikul
Julio C. Pinedo
Jeffrey K. Pinkerton
Anthony F. Piscopobann
Ryan R. Polny
Zachery J. Potet
Justin M. Potenski
David E. Powell
Oliver E. Prasetyo
Hoa K. Quach
Edgar M. Quinto
Jonathan Raga
Jose M. Ramirez
Robin A. Ranck
Kierra T. Reid
Frank J. Reyeschocha
Edwin R. Reyesvergara
Jared M. Rich
Glenn J. Richardson
Nicole C. Richardson
Scott M. Rickvalsky
Craig P. Risoli
Eric V. Rivera
Jessica J. Rivera
Lagamon D. Robinson
Scott W. Rockwell
Thomas F. Rodgers
Travis J. Rodgers
Kelvin F. Rodriguez
Alberto J. Rodriguez-Reyes
Jonathan N. Rodriguez-Torres
Nelson N. Roman
Angel J. Rosas
David J. Rosenbaum
Diamond R. Rossiter
Alma R. Roundy
David J. Rovell

James G. Ruane
Alan C. Ruiz
Carlos F. Sabogal
Jonathan V. Salamon
Hamid Y. Sandhu
Christopher J. Santangelo
Diego F. Santelices
Griffin R. Sargent
Ebenezer K. Sarpeh
Deven M. Scelfo
Matthew G. Schecter
Jeremiah A. Schenerman
Jonathan V. Schlegel
Eric G. Schreier
Michael A. Sclafani
Joshua A. Seguine
Ahmed F. Sesay
Jacob P. Sherry
Robert M. Shirhall
Eliza S. Silveira
Marcio Silveira
Raymond L. Sippel
Alisa Y. Skripnikov
Amanda L. Smith
Bryan M. Smith
Edward C. Smith
Evan G. Smith
Morgan A. Smith
Jose J. Solano
Laura I. Sosaaldana
Juan A. Sotelo
Latoya S. Sotomayor
Andrew C. Stern
Stephen R. Steussing
Garrett D. Stiers
Keith E. Stratton
Roy M. Sundstrom
Mahmud H. Tamimi
Larry D. Taylor
Michael A. Taynor
Ramez F. Teriak
Norman R. Thomas
Sequana D. Thompson
Hamilton G. Tobararias
Jacob T. Torres
Steven Torres
Raheem A. Travis
Tyrell W. Turner
Brandon L. Ullman
Mark I. Uzorka
Yoelvis Valdez
Joshua Vargas
Jason L. Vazquez
Robert T. Vazzana
David A. Veale
Charles Vega
Joshua J. Velazquez
Bencosme J. Veloz
Jan M. Venturadayleg
Charlie D. Vidal
Bezaleel Villacorta
Justin P. Wagner
Louis E. Wallace
Carlos A. Watson
Francis G. Weatherby
Michael J. Weber
Michael J. Wercoc
Matthew J. Werner
Michael A. Wille
Mark K. Williams
Shyquira L. Williams
Marcus A. Willock
Bonnie K. Wilson
Coco C. Wilson
Nicole E. Wilson
Thomas E. Wilson
Thomas E. Wilson
Michael J. Wise
Terri L. Wisiak
Charles A. Woodkotch
Jane Yang
Lawrence Yang
Paul W. Young
Patrick W. Yun
Christian A. Zapata
Paul C. Zeballos

To Private First Class (E-3):
Manuela Abad
Hector Acevedo
Annelis Alamo
Jean R. Alecice

Jorge I. Alicea
John M. Allen
James A. Allick
Adrian A. Alvarez
Alexander Alvarez
Nicholas J. Amberg
Steven T. Ambrosino
Nicholas J. Andersen
Shawn A. Anderson
Kristi N. Apgar
Gabriel S. Aquino
Kevin S. Aquino
Nicholas C. Araco
Francisco J. Aragon
Stojan Arangelov
Jacqueline B. Armijosjara
Michael A. Arnold
Ashley Arroyo
Benjaire Asmat
Lashante M. Austin
Joseph R. Ayala
Jaime A. Badajoz
Jamie L. Bahr
Tishawna A. Bailey
John T. Baldassarre
Aldrich B. Balingit
Catherine B. Balino
Anthony P. Balon
Jason G. Balseca
Jesse W. Bambrick
John E. Barandica
Thiago V. Barion
Shawn D. Baron
Robert H. Basco
Michelle R. Baugh
John M. Bayers
Robert J. Beck
Sebastian Bedoya
Brandon A. Beebe
Kevin Belalcazar
Arthur Bellis
Luis E. Bello
Robert T. Berencsi
Thiago P. Bethonico
Kamil R. Betka
David N. Bigelow
Michael A. Binder
Barry B. Bing
Christina M. Bishop
Christopher M. Bishop
Quinton E. Blake
Brittany K. Bogan
John C. Bou
Daquan A. Boyd
Jennifer A. Brady
Stephen J. Brana
Oscar A. Bravo
Sean P. Brenner
Bryan J. Brittingham
Ryan C. Brown
Darmel J.
Brueggemancanteen
Jeffery P. Budano
Caitlin L. Buddie
Michael Bueno
Vincent A. Buono
Jesse D. Burke
Matthew A. Burke
Joseph T. Burns
Justin L. Caldwell
Sophia M. Camargo
James Campo
Jonathan Cano
William S. Cappel
Anthony J. Cardone
Kaio V. Cardozo
Georgina R. Carrillo
Victoria Carson
Robert V. Carvalho
Luis M. Casablanca
Idris I. Cason
Abel A. Castillo
Edward R. Castillo
Tyler D. Castor
Raymond Castro
Berlina E. Cebien
Richard K. Cedeno
Benjamin C. Celano
Brian M. Chandler
Christopher R. Charles
Andy Chavez
Muhammad U. Cheema
Jessica A. Chica
Ronald V. Chin

Seikung A. Cho
Ryan S. Chormanski
Hashaam M. Choudri
Brian A. Cirone
Jonathan A. Clark
John S. Cline
Colton J. Cloonan
Rafael Colin
Sean M. Colman
Jason P. Concoy
Vanessa M. Connell
Brandon P. Convery
David J. Corcoran
Oscar A. Correa
Humberto
Cortazadelcastillo
Robert C. Cottrell
Tyler S. Covert
Juan M. Crespo
Ryan J. Crowley
Stafani M. Cruz
Dustin P. Culbertson
Freddy R. Curiel
Taleek D. Daniels
Claudio S. Dasilva
Denise M. Dasilva
Marco A. Dasilva
Hector N. Davila
Antwon T. Davis
Kyle Y. Davis
Aaron M. Dawson
Andre R. Debrito
Alexander Dejesus
Kelsey R. Dejesus
Ralph Delarosa
Joshua A. Delgado
Nicholas A. Delisa
Eliud Demoura
Donald D. Dennis
Ray K. Deschler
Rodolpho L. Desouza
Choconta A. Diaz
Jonathan Diaz
Luis D. Diaz
Dominic L. Dominguez
Jason T. Dorsey
Harvey W. Drayton
Ariel L. Dryer
Daniel I. Dumandan
Lora K. Duran
Alex Duszkievicz
Michael S. Dzubryk
Jacob B. Edelman
Zakar R. Edwards
Aaron G. Elliot
Daniel Engelberg
Jordan T. Enlow
Brenda J. Escamilla
Joel Espiritusanto
Maria I. Estradasuarez
Jonathan C. Estrella
Jeffrey S. Evans
Javier Fandino
Ishana F. Faried
Brandon J. Farnsworth
Felicia M. Fernandez
Justin L. Fernandez
Kevin J. Fernandez
Kyle A. Fernandez
Brachir A. Fernandez-Vargas
Joseph A. Figarelli
Angel M. Figueroa
Megan E. Fine
Christopher P. Fischer
Kevin J. Fleschner
Alexander Flores
Nathaly M. Flores
Rodrigo A. Flores-Goncalves
Justin E. Fontanella
Felix D. Fontanezjoaquin
Joshua C. Fortuna
Bianca M. Francis
Marquise L. Frasier
William C. Fritis
Ruby Fuentes
Clifford F. Gadson
Nicholas Gagliardi
Sebastian Gallego
Joseph T. Gallo
Frank D. Gara
Adriana Garcia
Fernando G. Garcia

Jorge Garcia
Diana P. Garcianieves
Charles P. Garguilo
Kirstin J. Gatto
Louis C. Gelsomini
Maxim Genel
Joseph M. Geronimo
Ariane V. Glenn
David A. Glinbizzi
Wellington Godoi
Allen F. Gomes
Gabriel Gonzalez
Nelson M. Gonzalez
Nicholas D. Gonzalez
Conester Gore
Jeremy L. Grant
Stephen R. Grill
Ambroscio F. Guerrero
Melinda M. Gulsever
Allaura L. Gunn
Wilson Guo
John A. Guyton
Josue Guzman
Jonathan M. Hackenburg
Traulant Halilaj
James L. Halley
David L. Hamilton
Herbert H. Hamlin
Michael H. Han
Dennis L. Handy
Kyle J. Haney
Ahmon A. Hardy
Robert J. Harrington
Lawrence A. Harris
Paul A. Haskin
Brandon M. Hatzel
Jordan C. Hayes
Nimrod J. Head
Matthew R. Hedges
Sarah E. Heitzenroeder
Katie S. Hemingway
Alexandra I. Hernandez
Matthew A. Hernandez
Henry S.
Hernandezzabrano
Erica D. Hicks
Christopher G. Hill
Stephanie Hoang
Blaise G. Hode
Kyle D. Hoffman
James M. Hoover
Christian C. Hoppe
Michael T. Houseman
Zya L. Howard
Louis A. Iasparri
John R. Ingraldi
Helen F. Inirio
Alfred K. Inzar
Anthony J. Irby
Richard F. Isidoro
Marie M. Jeanpierre
Michael R. Jimenez
Kayla C. Johnson
Lasha N. Johnson
Monthy C. Johnson
Lavena S. Jones
Robert C. Jones
Jeffrey H. Joy
Jabarr H. Kajireid
Joseph M. Kanniard
Felicia S. Karcher
Alexis J. Kasper
Jonathan W. Kellum
Alton A. Kenney
James P. Kenny
Andrew R. Kerwin
Brandon M. Ketrlick
Valerie R. Kibler
Patrick C. Kiesow
Gordon J. Kim
Sa B. Kim
Levale J. Kindred
Raselijah J. Kirkland
Jonathan T. Klos
Stephen Knatz
Joseph C. Koszyk
Daniel M. Krakower
Matthew R. Krevetski
William H. Krips
John P. Labozzetta
Gilberto Lamourt
Jury M. Lantigua
Marc L. Latouche
Patrick J. Lauro

Matthew R. Lavelle
Christopher D. Lawler
Jessica B. Layton
Juan C. Lazo
Sammy Le
Lance S. Lebrew
Oliof J. Lecky
David S. Lee
San Lee
Jose A. Lemos
Nikki A. Lenczewicz
German R. Liranzo
Ricardo L. Lisojo
Timothy M. Loeser
Elizabeth C. Londono
Adriana F. Longa
Angel L. Lopez
Eric J. Lopez
Juan C.
Lopezcastellanos
Gilberto O. Lorenzo
Calvin J. Louison
Saddique M. Lucius
Felix Ma
Amanda R. Mack
Brandon M. Mackafee
Hannah J. Mackay
Joseph W. Maduzia
Giovanni A. Maldonado
Erica A. Maniscalco
Miguel R. Manliclic
Anthony J. Marotta
Delisa V. Marshall
Carolyn F.
Mateomercado
Sean P. Mautone
Afungang T. Mboumbo
Michael J. McAteer
Christian D. McBurrows
Terence S. McDonald
Michael E. McGoldrick
Colin M. McGrath
Matthew G. McIntyre
Sheldon A. McKenzie
John J. McLean
Gregory K. McPherson
Miranda L. Meador
Fabio L. Medeiros
Samuel J. Mendez
Peter R. Mendoza
Thomas J. Menendez
Matthew T. Merkle
Eddys J. Mesa
Douglas J. Meyer
Nicola L. Migliarese
Gerard C. Miller
Christopher K. Mitchell
Luis E. Mitma
Carlos J. Molina
Manuel E. Molina
Juan L. Montanez
Walter E. Moore
Joseph R. Morales
Andres A. Morell
Rohan R. Morgan
Thomas A. Morris
Alexander C. Mourtos
Gregory D. Mowle
Paul J. Muller
Iris R. Narine
Clarissa E. Nazon
Chinaenye C. Ndukwe
Antoine M. Nelson
Christopher M. Newell
Makayla S. Newkirk
Charles D. Nguyen
Luz M. Nicasiofeliz
Natalie S. Nieves
Ruben J. Nieves
Patrick T. Nimer
Ahmad A. Nimrouzi
Jonathan A. Nixon
Robert J. Noone
Michael R. Norrelli
Jonathan S. Norton
Christopher A. Nueva
Frank C. Omer
Edlind Omeri
Christopher G. Ondish
Andrew R. O'Neil
Jersson D. Ortega
James S. Ortiz
Ray V. Ortiz
Donald A. Owens

ARMY AND AIR ENL

Raymond Owusu
 Angelos N.
 Papegeorgiou
 Michael J. Pappa
 Melissa L. Parker
 Michael J. Parnigiano
 Inorajit K. Patel
 Mitchell H. Patino
 Tucker J. Patten
 Anthony Payan
 Christa A. Pearsall
 Isaac Perez
 Israel R. Perezmachado
 Stephanie Perezorozco
 Andrew J. Perkins
 Arianna I. Perone
 Tiffany A. Perry
 Kevin C. Peterson
 Angeline N. Picault
 James W. Pierce
 Danielina Pimentel
 Xaviel O. Pimentel-
 Castillo
 Michael J. Pipitone
 Christopher F. Plaugic
 Michael M. Poandl
 Qwazique L. Poole
 John C. Potenski
 Tyrell C. Powell
 Mackenson Previl
 Jason M. Pustizzi
 Anthony E. Putignano
 Duane Quigley
 Victoria A. Rago
 Hector N. Ramirez
 Juan D. Ramirez
 Victor Ramirez
 Mitch Ramlakhan
 Andrew J. Read
 Gary B. Reed
 Grace E. Renz
 Paul B. Richter
 Stefanie R. Ridley
 Nicholas F. Riker
 Joseph A. Rios
 Walter J. Rios
 Daniel R. Rivera
 Michaelangelo Rivera
 Peter P. Roa
 Nicholas Robles
 Rosario C. Robles
 Haminton B. Rodriguez
 Jennifer M. Rodriguez
 Julian A. Rodriguez
 Helen Rojas
 Nabeel Rokerya
 James T. Roman
 Nicholas C. Romaninsky
 Jessica A. Romeo
 Kayleen S. Romero
 Danielle S. Ronquillo
 Alberto Rosado
 Alexis Rosado
 Luis F. Rosado
 Michael A. Rosado
 Jonathan D. Roslatov
 Lennon Ross
 Andrew G. Rott
 Tamika T. Rowe
 John C. Royal
 Matthew W. Ruckey
 Pritish Sahoo
 Nicholas S. Salemi
 Tyree K. Salley
 Darline L. Sanchez
 Jose M. Sanchez
 Nancy M. Sanchez
 Nino R. Sanchez
 Jose A. Sanchezazarario
 Michael Santiago
 Giorgio G. Scarpitta
 Douglas W. Scelfo
 Richard A. Schmidt
 Christopher L. Schultz
 Kirk A. Schutz
 Amanda M. Schwegel
 Stanley N. Scutro
 Christina Segura
 Kadir Selim
 Mikhail I. Semenov
 Alex. Sengvoravong
 Jeffrey J. Sennit
 Mohammed S. Shah
 Kevin Shanahan
 Krista M. Shields
 Nakeem D. Shepperson
 Bless E. Sherrill
 Brandy J. Siciensky
 Justin M. Sidney
 Henderson A. Silva
 Derek T. Silver
 Rajvir Singh
 Jemima M. Skeritt
 Douglas E. Skinner

Phillip E. Small
 Gerron D. Smart
 Jamal J. Solomon
 Steven J. Somsanith
 Victor C. Sotosantana
 Jeffrey W. Sowles
 Dean P. Spadavecchia
 Paula G. Spencer
 Edward R. Sperling
 Tulio C. Squarcio
 Samuel F. Stamler
 Richard M. Standish
 Joshua D. Stecher
 Daniel A. Stemmer
 Ronald A. Stewart
 Samantha R. Stinsman
 Joseph K. Stone
 Quincy M. Street
 Trixy A. Struck
 Jerry Stsurin
 Jonathan R. Stuckel
 Emmanuel Stvil
 Daniel H. Sung
 Danielle E. Swan
 Nicholas E. Swanson
 Cory J. Sweetman
 Jordan T. Talianero
 Richard E. Taroncher
 Miles R. Tarricone
 Desmond N. Taylor
 Christopher R. Territo
 Natasha R. Texidor
 Jerry Thach
 Gregory P. Thomas
 Phillip G. Thomas
 Savon D. Thomas
 Ian M. Thorpe
 Mara D. Tolbert
 Joseph T. Tomb
 Jessica M. Torres
 Cristina Trecate
 Ashley N. Truffia
 Renan Umama
 Miguel R. Valdera
 Alex P. Valdez
 Jay C. Valerio
 Brian W. Vanbuskirk
 Allen J. Vanfleet
 Cody B. Vargas
 Hernan D. Vargas
 Joshua Vargas
 Melissa N. Vargas
 Paulino J. Vargas
 Junior X. Vasquez
 Maria J. Vasquez
 Mark H. Veech
 Damian S. Velez
 Jonathan O. Velez
 Marco A. Velez
 Yasmine M. Velez
 Catherine L. Versoza
 Joseph P. Vescio
 Yaritza A. Victor
 Ezequiel Villanuevo
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 Allen J. Waldron
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 Nadia C. Wilson
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 Tavon O. Wright
 Jia Wu
 Andres A. Wynter
 Gene Yang
 Shawn W. Yates
 Dana D. Young
 Ziya Yuan
 Martin A. Yucra
 Paul M. Zinskie

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 Amaranteadon
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 Devin S. Bombay
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 Sean A. Brand
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 Andrew D. Howard
 Justin T. Hum
 Umer Hussain

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Brandon J. Johnson
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Christian G. Johnson
Natalie D. Jones
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Christopher H. Knott
Mark Kotulski
Steven D. Kurza
Brandon P. Kyle
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Kevin L. Danley
Jeanette K. Giza
Robert M. Hansen
Tori M. Hill

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):
Stephen Caroleo
Rose M. Condello
John A. Dipasquale
Joann Ferguson
Matthew J. Johnson
John A. Pareene
Frank A. Spano
Barry B. Steele

To Master Sergeant (E-7):

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Ryan M. Butcher
Todd W. Butcher
John C. Cobleigh
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Edward Lowden
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Luminada Santiago
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Ashley L. Shatkus
Gerard P. Sheehan
Christopher P. Simon
Paul A. Smith
Richard M. Szerbin
Joseph A. Valentine

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Alicia K. Balseiro
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Jared R. Bright
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Charles L. Reed
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Ricardo Rivera
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Anastacio Perez-Ortiz
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Gisselle M. Rodriguez
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Priya D. Tucker
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Jessica M. Villaiba
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Daeshawn T. Worthy
Anthony M. Zambano
Steven J. Zampino
Ariana R. Zappaunbulso

To Airman (E-2):

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Cherise L. Carter
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Crystal M. Diaz
Maria E. Duran
Guillermo Ferreras
Stephen C. Molnar
Kimberly A. Moncayo
Francisco Moran
Brittany Robinson
Vincent E. Stokes
Stanley J. Tarasewicz

New Airman:

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Frank H. Foray
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Mario A. Lopez
Juwan C. Mangrum
Vilma L. Ordenez-Perez
Christopher S. Orne
Ryan S. Rifkin
Justine O. Rodriguez
Angel D. Servellon-Salinas
Tyler M. Shillings
Robert W. Taylor
Samantha L. Welsh
Kevin C. White
Alexander M. Zanfagna

Congratulations To All!

Compiled by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hankins, Army Guard and Master Sgt. Paul B. Thompson Jr., Air Guard

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Last Round: Protected

Army Staff Sgt. David Pareda, Provincial Reconstruction Team Paktika Security Forces squad leader and a New Jersey National Guardsman, listens to a radio as engineers search for possible unexploded ordnance Nov. 7, 2011. In the background are two local children who, along with their parents, reported the ordnance to an Afghan Police station close to their home. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Ryan DeCamp/Released)

