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Cover: V is for Valor
Chief Warrant Officer Darío Marchena (front) is applauded by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Capt. Michael LaPoint and Lt. Col. William A. Heineman after receiving the Bronze Star with "V" device at the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, in West Trenton on June 3. Marchena received the award while serving in Afghanistan with the Afghan Embedded Training Team. During this period, his convoy was ambushed by anti-coalition militiamen. Marchena's execution of close air support, communication and direction ended the enemy's resistance. His actions resulted in the lifesaving of three wounded fellow Soldiers. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, JFHQ-NJ/PA.

Inside Cover: Showing them the way
Sgt. Casby Sparks, G Battery, 3-112th Field Artillery, gives directions to Bound Brook citizens trying to return to their flooded homes on April 18. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.
TAG’s Message

Answering the call...home and abroad


Storms have figured prominently in the most recent emergency response missions carried out by the New Jersey National Guard.

In one case, flood conditions which overwhelmed several communities and required a rapid response from our personnel and equipment. In another case, rain helped dowse a raging wildfire that National Guard helicopters were helping to bring under control. Our National Guard forces were there to assist civilian and governmental agencies in containing the ravaging effects of water or fire...helping to maintain security and order among the chaos.

When the latest Nor’easter hit Northern New Jersey – dumping up to nine inches of rain in some areas and causing rivers to rise several feet above flood level – our troops and equipment hit the streets. From deuce-and-a-halves...to five-ton vehicles...to Hemmets and Humvees...we helped get emergency personnel in and out of flooded areas. Our soldiers also teamed up with state troopers to control access to flooded neighborhoods, keeping homes secure until their owners could safely return. Standing watch shoulder-to-shoulder with New Jersey’s finest illustrated the true team spirit with which our troops conduct a joint-agency mission.

In the midst of the wildfire southern Ocean County, New Jersey Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk crews and helicopters immediately swung into action. Supporting the N.J. Forest Fire Service, our helicopters carried Bambi buckets filled with water to help dowse pockets of fire.

As the last embers of the fire were dying out, members of the 177th Fighter Wing arrived to assist local residents sort through their belongings that were damaged or destroyed during the fire. The 177th Civil Engineers used heavy equipment to clear lots and help residents prepare for the tough task of re-building their homes...and their lives.

“One Team, One Fight” has always been an unofficial motto at the 177th...and the support they provided to the Air Force claims processing team shows that spirit is alive and well. When active duty Air Force legal and finance personnel arrived to process damage claims by local citizens, members of both the 177th and the New Jersey Army National Guard were there to provide administrative and other assistance. The full-time staff at the Tuckerton Armory provided working space, equipment and additional support.

At around the same time that these clean-up efforts were underway, Soldiers from the 42nd Regional Support Group were deployed to Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH) stations to beef up the security presence at these vital transportation hubs. Side-by-side with Port Authority Police, our Guardsmen are helping deter threats to daily commuters on this busy system.

Yet, even as we respond to disasters and threats at home, we continue to fight the Global War on Terrorism. This summer, Airmen and Soldiers are rotating out to Iraq and Afghanistan. At the same time, 148 of our Soldiers have returned from their extended tour in Iraq. The men and women of the 117th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Targeting, Acquisition and the 250th Brigade Support Battalion have bravely endured a Soldier’s worst nightmare: a last-minute extension of their already year-long tour. But these Soldiers have stood the test and returned to a well-deserved welcome home.

These deployments show that the business of defending our nation continues even as the business of helping our neighbors continues. With all the activity in-state and overseas, I am proud to say that the New Jersey National Guard has met the tempo and pace of current events. As the old saying goes, “when it rains...it pours!” But even if it pours, our Soldiers and Airmen are ready to respond to whatever challenges may come our way...come hell or high water!
Ask Col. William “Buck” Dodson to describe his job while deployed as commander of the 447th Expeditionary Medical Support Hospital at Sather Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq and he will tell you he was a young Col. Potter, referring to the character in the television show M*A*S*H.

And like the television show character, Col. Dodson oversaw a staff of 36 personnel who administered to the medical needs of all the branches of the American military, Iraqi detainees and civilians.

Dodson volunteered to go to the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater for his third, and longest, deployment over the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years holidays because that was the hardest time frame to get volunteers. Why did he volunteer to go again? “We need volunteers now more than ever, because of the increasing number of casualties,” he said.

Along with members from the Pennsylvania Air Guard, the hospital was home to Master Sgt. Patty Hughes of the 177th Fighter Wing who was the Public Health NCOIC. She led the N.J. contingent in painting a state flag on the mortar blast protection wall.

His job encompassed a number of areas including seeing patients in the emergency room, assisting with surgery in the operating room and caring for Iraqi civilians in the Civil Military Operation Center.

Some of the hospital’s Iraqi patients were civilians who were shot by insurgents because their relatives were in government or the military.

The free clinic was constructed and run by U.S. Army civil affairs units and open three days a week in the afternoons. There, staff saw mostly minor infections and trauma come to their “doors.” “We had a neck tumor, an extra large hernia and two severe fractures that required surgery,” said the doctor. He noted that about half of the patients were children.

Col. Dodson feels that the Iraqi citizens, who came to the clinic because they couldn’t be helped by the Iraqi medical system, were happy that we [the Americans] were helping. He added that at times they did work with Iraqi doctors who would come to the American hospital to help.

Dodson said that some days were harder than others. One day three members of the base’s EOD team were killed by a vehicle borne improvised explosive device. In another incident among the injured patients was a 14-year-old Iraqi boy who later died despite efforts of the medical team.

While Col. Dodson was commanding the 447th, the first Iraqi Flight Surgeon School took place. For weeks, the staff taught the Iraqis the effects of flight, altitude and hypoxia (lack of oxygen), on the human body.

He was also responsible for two detainee health teams that examined Iraqi prisoners before and after they were interrogated.

Each deployment the doctor has been on has increased in duration, this one lasting more than 120 days was the longest. He said that this one also saw a higher rate of casualties, both military and civilian, than his previous deployments. But Dodson stated his missions to the war zones “give me the deepest sense of making a difference.”

Col. Dodson, who is the commander of the 108th Medical Group, also wanted to compliment the members of the medical group and the 108th as a whole. “We who are fortunate to deploy could not do it without the people who are in the unit,” he stated. “They get us ready to go over and cover our workload while we are gone.”
The 50th Personnel Services Battalion (PSB) returned from Afghanistan in early March from a challenging but extremely successful 14-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom VII.

The Battalion deployed to Afghanistan at the end of February 2006. After nineteen hours of flight time and a week’s worth of waiting for flights, the 50th arrived at Bagram Airfield, the biggest base in Afghanistan. The PSB linked up with its seven-Soldier advance party and started relief in place operations. Soldiers were immediately deployed throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area in order to provide human resource and postal support to the Warfighters and area support elements.

Afghanistan is an extremely mountainous land-locked country located between Iran and Pakistan. The road system is limited and driving to many locations in the country is impractical. Helicopters and planes were the 50th’s primary means of transportation throughout the country although we

Battalion members kick back for rest before catching a flight on a Chinook CH-47 helicopter.

PSB Soldiers raise the Stars and Stripes over the last Taliban strong-hold - an event that all American Soldiers looked forward to during their Afghanistan deployment.
conducted several dozen combat logistics patrols between Bagram Airfield and Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. The 50th’s mission was to provide human resources and postal support to the Combined Joint Task Force 76 in the Afghanistan Combined Joint Operating Area. It was decided early on to totally revamp human resources and postal service operations. The Battalion was solely responsible for the delivery of inbound and outbound United States Postal Service in Afghanistan. The 50th operated five-Army Post Offices (APO) and several more mini APOs. We designed the operation to push services as far as operationally possible. Postal finance clerks were permanently assigned to 11 major FOBs. Air assets were leveraged to the point where we placed mail in sling-loaded vehicles to maximize the available space on aircraft.

The changes implemented in the way postal operations were conducted were massive and had an immediate theater-wide impact. Upon our arrival, mail delivery schedules were haphazard at best and congressional complaints involving mail were a common occurrence. Higher headquarters tasked the 50th to fix the system. Rotary wing routes were adjusted to hit every FOB at least once a week and 2,000 pounds of mail were allocated per aircraft. Sorting procedures were streamlined to eliminate the double-handling of mail. A Mail Movement Team (MMT) was established with the sole purpose of maximizing the use of space on aircraft and ground vehicles. Team members were tireless and our success in postal operations was a direct result of their actions. The MMT was responsible for coordinating with the movement control battalion and Air Force and coordinating and synchronizing all mail deliveries to the FOBs. An extensive customer service plan was also developed and implemented. Commanders at remote sites were constantly kept in the loop on the status of mail destined to go to their FOB. Commanders were immediately notified of delays and were told when the next delivery attempt would be made.

With all the great planning the Battalion was still at the mercy of the unpredictable weather. Since most mail was delivered by air, a few days of bad weather could cause tremendous backlogs. Despite all the challenges we faced, 13 million pounds of mail was delivered during our tour. In short, the 50th totally re-wrote postal doctrine.

While postal operations was the 50th’s primary focus, the Battalion provided several other critical services to include personnel strength accounting, casualty reporting, personnel records management, promotions, personnel evaluations, personnel information systems management, ID cards, passports, and RS (Reception, Replacement, Return-to-Duty, R&R, and Redeployment) support. Although non-postal operations were not as visible, they were just as important and our Soldiers ensured all customers received first-class support.

On March 1, 2007, our operations in Afghanistan came full circle with the Transfer of Authority to the 147th PSB from the Minnesota National Guard. We coordinated with our replacements for months prior to their arrival and ensured they were well-positioned to succeed.

Training, support from the home front, two-way communication, and teamwork were the key factors in our successful deployment and return. All Soldiers returned safely without any serious injuries. I am incredibly proud of the men and women that I served with during our tour in Afghanistan. They are all great Americans.

Neither rain, nor sleet, will keep the Soldiers of the 50th Personnel Services Battalion from accomplishing their duties.
April showers...

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

The rains saturated the ground, flooding basements and causing the Raritan and Hackensack rivers to crest their banks in several locations, flooding major areas in Bound Brook, Lumberton, South Hackensack and Lodi.

Familiar Territory

National Guardsman were activated and pre-positioned in armories around the state on April 16 in preparation for various types of missions. The first mission jumped off just after 11:30 Sunday night when the Office of Emergency Management requested help in evacuating people in the town of Lodi, an area last hit by flood conditions during Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The 50th Brigade Combat Team responded with four Soldiers and two high-water vehicles.

All told, 24 missions were issued over the next two days by the Joint Operations Center in the Homeland Security Center of Excellence. Both the 50th and the 42nd Regional Support Group handled missions by assigning them to the 250th Brigade Support Battalion, the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery; 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry; the 119th Corps Support Battalion, the 253rd Transportation Battalion and the 102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition.

The missions ranged from evacuating citizens to providing transportation to law enforcement and emergency services, in addition to providing security checkpoints in areas that were declared off limits. Guardsman also provided fresh drinking water in water buffalos and delivered close to 2,000 sandbags to various locations during the three day period.

Breaking Records Across The State

The National Weather Service reported rain accumulation of 8-10 inches in parts of Bergen, Hudson and Somerset Counties during the three-day period ending April 18. According to the United States Geological Survey, flood peaks were the highest ever recorded at 10 of its gauging stations in the Hackensack, Hudson, Raritan, Mullica and lower Delaware River basins.

Flood frequencies ranged from greater than a 100 year event on the Hackensack River and the Great Egg Harbor River at Folsom, the second highest peak on record, going back to 1940. The Passaic River experienced from 20-year to 50-year events. The Passaic at Millington recorded the third highest peak in 87 years, while Rahway River had 55-year flood events.

More than 150 New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were activated across the state the week of April 15 when heavy rains drenched New Jersey from top to bottom.
“Fixed wing aircraft at three o’clock,” squawked the voice in my headset.

“Tally,” came the reply.

With those words, the pilot of the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter acknowledged the airplane just off his right side. Through the smoke and flame of the forest fires raging below, visibility went from adequate one minute to terrible the next as the chopper flew through the air towing a “Bambi Bucket” which was suspended below. The bucket held more than 660 pounds of water which could be dropped on any number of a haphazard patchwork of fires that threatened homes located in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. The fire, which originally started within the confines of the Warren Grove Gunnery Range in Ocean County, threatened to gobble up even more real estate.

Not only was the Blackhawk dodging the smoke and flames, but also a number of other rotary and fixed wing aircraft which had converged on the area to lend assistance. A few of the aircraft were in direct communication, but the majority of two-seater planes and helicopters from the New Jersey State Forest Service were flying under Visual Flight Rules, which meant that they would not have an air traffic controller advising them of other aircraft, but would have to visually spot each other as our Blackhawk just did. Every time we briefly entered a cloud of smoke, there was always that feeling that we were not alone.

“Wow, did you feel that heat,” exclaimed Lt. Col. Daniel Dreher, commander of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, as he piloted our chopper through a particularly nasty plume of smoke and fire. It wasn’t that long ago that the two pilots, Dreher, and Chief Warrant Officer James Den Hartog, and Crew Chief 1st Sgt. Jack Cipolla were flying the unfriendly skies over Tikrit, Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Smoke and fire were not unfamiliar to any of them.

The Blackhawk was flying with its doors open so that the crew, which was attached to harnesses, could lean out the doors to view the bucket, which was suspended some 20 feet below the chopper. Each plume of smoke carried with it superheated air which toasted the crew in addition to affecting the lift of the chopper as it clawed through the thermals.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

We had been in the air more than an hour, continually filling the bucket and then looking for an area where the fire threatened a home or business. Throughout our time in the air, Den Hartog reminded us to keep our eyes peeled for the other aircraft which were still in our vicinity. The constant chatter of sightings here and there constantly filled my headset.

It wasn’t until midway through the mission that I realized that Dreher’s home was possibly in the path of the fire. He was wondering aloud if his family would have to evacuate any time soon, and whether the next 660 pounds of water might just end up landing on his roof.

Just like the firefighters on the ground, National Guardsman reside within the communities they serve and are often dubbed the Hometown Team. It was just a matter of time before a Guard member would be responding to an emergency in his own back yard, just as several members of the Jersey Guard had left their own swamped homes to report to their units during the flood that had inundated a number of communities a month earlier.

Fortunately, from his vantage point in the right-hand seat of the Blackhawk, Dreher was able to spot his house in the distance and was relieved to see that the flames, although close, were not about to engulf his property just yet.

As our chopper continued to consume fuel, the pilots decided it was time to return to the Warren Grove airfield. It was then that we heard that a heavy weather front was moving in and rain was expected. Just what the doctor ordered. Sometimes, despite your best efforts, Mother Nature has the last word.

Sgt. Simon D. Debran, onboard a UH-60 Blackhawk with a Bambi bucket full of water on the way to deliver its payload. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.
On a clear day...

Story by Capt. Sean M. Roughneen, 1-150AHB
Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Jason M. Swingle, 1-150AHB

A 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter perches on top of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. The 150th is currently performing training rotations through the U.S. Army High-Altitude Army Aviation Training Site (HAATS), at Eagle, Colo. Nearly sixty Battalion Soldiers from the two Blackhawk companies have been rotating through the one week UH-60 Power Management Qualification Course since April 29.

Live Fire 07

Gun 2 – a M109A5 howitzer of A Battery, 112th Fires Battalion fires its first live fire of 2007. In the upper right of the photo, which was taken on May 19, a 155mm shell is on its way to the Fort Dix impact area. These are the unit’s final days of doing live fire during Annual Training with M109 A5s before receiving the M119 towed howitzers sometime in 2008/9. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Luis Arroyo, 112 Fires Battalion.
Aircrews learn techniques for operating in austere environments — where altitude or mountainous terrain can severely limit aircraft capability and performance. This coordination is honed by executing multiple recons, landings and take-offs in rugged mountain terrain. The altitude of the HAATS training area simulates the same sort of conditions that exist in many of the locations where the Army is currently deployed around the world.

Lt. Col. Christopher Eads gives his daughter, Julia, a few pointers as she takes aim on the Virtual Interactive Combat Environment (V.I.C.E.) simulator. Children of New Jersey National Guard members got an opportunity on April 28 to learn how the military trains their parents when the youths visited the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) on Fort Dix. The morning event included learning about flags from across the world, exploring a tank and participating in a simulated convoy, ending with lunch provided by the Salvation Army. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, JFHQ-NJ/PA.
Its eleven thirty at night and we have got to get to bed; it’s going to be a busy day tomorrow. But the sun is still shining high in the sky. Alaska: land of the midnight sun - where the sun really does hardly ever set.

For nearly two weeks, members of the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group along with several other Air Guard and active duty Air Force providers participated in the Navy's annual ARCTIC CARE 2007 mission.

The purpose of this deployment was two-fold. First, it was to provide critical cold weather training to medical personnel and second, to provide care to the Inupiat residents in the remote villages of the Northwest Arctic Borough of Alaska. This year's goal was to provide 10 villages, each with a population of approximately 500 to 1,000 Inuipats, living just above the Arctic Circle, with medical, dental, optometric and health education. More important, this was a critical mission for 177th members because it is scheduled to be transitioned from a Navy to an Air National Guard mission in 2008.

The 177th medical team learned firsthand the importance of this dual purpose mission, where we were stationed in two different villages, Selawik and Noorvik. The team provided medical, dental, public health education and public health interventions while we were there.

Lt. Col. Robert DeSipio was the commander of the medical team deployed to Selawik. Selawik was one of two villages chosen to be visited by Pentagon, National Guard Bureau and Alaska National Guard leadership.

During those 10 very cold days (down to minus 41 degrees on one day) we saw approximately 200 to 300 medical and 100 to 200 dental patients. Every child in the village of Selawik had at least one public health presentation in a classroom setting.

All members of the medical team left changed by the experiences of meeting fellow Americans who were so appreciative of our efforts. We felt that we had made a difference, by not only warming their hearts but ours in return.
Survivability on the battlefield and in the civilian workplace is getting a boost this year courtesy of the New Jersey National Guard’s Regional Training Site-Maintenance (RTS-M) equipment upgrades at one of its Fort Dix training areas.

With the purchase of more than $500,000 worth of equipment and materials this past year, in addition to sweat equity by instructors in the post’s 5900 maintenance area, RTS-M leadership personnel now want to crosswalk Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training for Soldiers into civilian certification in at least one of the metal trades — welding.

“All indicators lead me to believe we can get that certification,” Maj. Robert Garvey, RTS-M commander, said. “This means a young Soldier getting the welding training can likely get a job in the world starting at $25 to $30 an hour, which is a good starting point for a career.”

To make that happen, Garvey submitted an application for graduates of the welding course to become members of the American Welders Society. The RTS-M runs about 60 courses a year at the Joint Training and Training Development Center and the 5900 area.

Two of the MOS courses, Metal Worker (44B) and Machinist (44E), are getting trained inside two of the five buildings that look more like a laboratory than a dimly lit workshop.

Since the Global War on Terrorism began in 2001, about 2,000 military personnel honed skills now coveted on the battlefield when it comes to welding up-armor vehicles and making repair parts.

“The welding shop can now train up to 12 students at a time, each having his or her own work area that has welding equipment for each student,” said Sgt. 1st Class Donald Altieri, senior instructor at the RTS-M who has been teaching the 44B course for 11 years.

Altieri, who designed the classroom work stations, said he has the capability to double the class occupancy. Additional workbenches can be moved into place. Since many of the components of the shop have swing-arm capabilities, work areas can be shared by additional students.

Refurbishing new equipment has also seen growth in training in the 5900 area, where the number of students grew from 465 students in fiscal year 2006, to 669 the following fiscal year.

The refurbishing of five buildings in the 5900 area began in October 2005. Cleaning, sandblasting, and painting inside and out was completed by 24 Soldiers of the instructor staff, including the commander. Cost estimates associated with the sweat-equity put into the project are 9,000 hours of labor using $44,883 in materials. The existing staff doing the work saved about $225,000 in labor costs.

“If they weren’t at the podium teaching, they were fixing bay doors, or swinging a roller and a brush,” Altieri said.

As a part of the refurbishment project, new digital milling and lathe equipment is also being added. As the Army continues through transformation and pushing the edge of technology, some of the recently arrived computer numerical-controlled equipment may someday be able to beam machine configuration signals from major commands such as Tank Automotive and Armaments Command to a satellite and on to the machines, a system that would save time and hours.

Altieri, who has designed protective armor plating for military vehicles and has seen Navy Seabees and Marines attend his welding courses, said he receives e-mail and letters from personnel who have attended school in the 5900 area and are serving in Iraq or got a great-paying job as a civilian.

“I get e-mails all the time from Soldiers. They tell me what they learned here as welders or machinists is certainly important to save lives on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Then, I hear from some of them when they return to the civilian world, and they tell me they have a great job, making more money then me and they’re buying a home,” Altieri said.
Governor Jon S. Corzine and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth led federal, state and community officials, friends and family in welcoming the 148 Soldiers of Troop C, 117th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Company D, 250th Brigade Support Battalion at the National Guard Joint Training & Training Development Center, Fort Dix on June 23. The Soldiers, who were mobilized in September and October of 2005, were part of the 1-34th Brigade Combat Team, Minnesota Army National Guard, which was extended for the troop surge. Photo this page by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.
The Soldiers of Troop C, 117th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target, Acquisition and Company D, 250th Brigade Support Battalion were reunited with their families on June 19 at National Guard Joint Training & Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

Top and bottom left photos by Kryn Westhoven, bottom right photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.
The Soldiers were the only New Jersey Army Guardsmen to be extended as part of the 20,000 troop surge. Originally scheduled to return in March, the Soldiers returned to their armories four months later.

All photos this page by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.
Family Readiness Grant Program
From the New Jersey State Family Readiness Council

Family Grants are available to New Jersey Guard members who have been mobilized longer than 90-days within a one-year period, and their families must be experiencing financial hardship.

Business grants are available to New Jersey Guard members who have been mobilized longer than 90-days also within a one-year period and were self-employed business owners at the time of being mobilized.

The State Council has supported family activities, welcome home events and has awarded grants in excess of $200,000.

For more information on grant criteria or to apply for a grant contact a Family Assistance Center or the Family Readiness Group nearest you (see boxed list below).

Military Family Day at Six Flags
Bring the family to Family Appreciation Day at Six Flags, Great Adventure, Jackson, on Aug. 27.

Discounted tickets cost $20 per person, children under three are free. Parking will cost $15 per car. This offer is available to all New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

Tickets include all the rides and the safari. Tickets can be purchased at JFHQ, Family Program’s Office or at any Family Assistance Center. For further information, please contact the Family Program Office at 1-888-859-0352.

Photo Contest Update
A recent e-mail asked the question: “I’m interested in participating in the competition, but how many pictures can I submit? Is it one per category or just one per contest?” You can submit up to five images in each category.

Family Assistance Centers

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 McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
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Our Toll Free Number is 1-888-859-0352
This month’s training will center on one of our biggest force multipliers, the machine gun,” cited Master Sgt. Dave Kovak, Combat Arms Section NCOIC, 177th Fighter Wing Security Forces.

Seventeen Security Forces Airmen spent the May drill at Fort Dix’s Range 7 for their annual machine gun qualification. This annual training was the culmination of classroom instruction and qualification on the required evaluation phases of the Air Force Qualification, full distance course.

Firing more than 10,000 rounds of linked 5.56 and 7.62 ammunition might seem like a lot of training, but when you are shooting both M249 automatic rifles and M240B medium machine guns, that ammunition gets burned up pretty fast.

“A machine gunner should have a more aggressive mindset due to the particular nature and role this weapon plays in air base defense,” noted Kovak.

Each Airman was briefed on M249 and M240B nomenclature, types of ammunition and how to care for handle and preserve ammunition, preparing range cards, tactics and techniques of engaging targets during periods of limited visibility; fire control and target engagement, range determination and lateral distance measurement, as well as weapons function checks and correcting stoppages.

At the firing line the Security Forces Airmen positioned themselves. Firing point instructors Master Sgt. Robert Powell, Tech. Sgt. Bill Peters, Staff Sgt. Stanley Carroll and Senior Airman Justin M. Kelley reminded each shooter to fire a “Six to nine round burst.”

A little more than two hours later, more than 10,000 rounds had been exhausted.

“The importance of training can never be underestimated,” noted Kovak “As Security Forces, we train to protect not only material assets but our personnel as well, and we take that job very seriously, these weapons are an integral part of that mission.”
Guarding the PATH

Richard L. Cañas, Director, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, left, looks on as Staff Sgt. Paul Carradine, 50th Brigade Combat Team, describes his mission in support of the New York and New Jersey Port Authority Police in select Newark and Jersey City PATH Stations. The mission has become all the more important since the revelation of a plot to attack Port Authority property at JFK International Airport, and its fuel supply located in Linden. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

Gubernatorial swearing in

Maj. James H. Moore Jr. (left) is sworn into the New Jersey Army National Guard by Governor Jon S. Corzine (right) as David Socolow (center) – Commissioner, N.J. Department of Labor and Workforce Development – looks on. As a facilities construction management engineer, Moore will be inspecting installation facilities and training sites as well as advising commanders on environmental compliance and new construction projects. Photo courtesy Office of Marketing and Communications.

Bring it on

Senior Airman Erick Contreras (left) gets some hands-on training during 108th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron manadnock baton training trying to subdue “Redman” Staff Sgt. Jacinto Rivera on May 6. Photo by Staff Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108ARW/PA.

New Chiefs recognized

On March 10, a Chiefs Recognition Ceremony was held on McGuire. Sandwiched between State Command Chief Masters Sgt. Paul Gunning (left) and NJANG Commander Brig. Gen. Lawrence S. Thomas III (right) are Chief Master Sgts. (l-r) William J. Schroer, 177th Fighter Wing; Demetrius E. Jones, 227th Special Operations Flight, and Richard F. Bouffard, Jr., Joint Force Headquarters - Air Component. Photo by Chief Master Sgt. James Leopardi, 17FW/LRS.
New Chiefs, Staffer Visit and New Commanders

Congressional Staff visits Wing

Congressional staffers peer inside an F-16C Fighting Falcon during the annual staff visit to the 177th Fighter Wing on June 1. Staff members visited the 108th Air Refueling Wing and National Guard Armories across the state. Photo by Maj. Thomas J. Dahl, 177FW/CF.

New services commander

Col. John Nunn (left), Commander, 42nd Regional Support Group, presents the 50th Personal Services Battalion colors to incoming commander Lt. Col. Joe Cowan at the Lawrenceville Armory on June 3. Photo by Maj. Carl Palmer, JFHQ-NJ/PA.

Top Gun

The 112th Fires Battalion, 50th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) received a new commander on May 19. The ceremony held on the Fort Dix ranges saw Lt. Col. Brian K. Scully, left, receive the battalion's colors as the incoming commander from Col. Jorge J. Martinez, 50th BCT Commander, as outgoing commander Lt. Col. Henri R. Schepens, right, watches with Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas H. Slowinski, 50th BCT. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/DMAVA/PA.

Marin to command PSD

First Lieutenant Monica Marin receives the 250th Personal Services Detachment colors from 50th Personal Services Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Walter Alvarado, right, in ceremonies at Joint Force Headquarters-New jersey on June 2. Photo by Maj. Carl Palmer, JFHQ-NJ/PA.
You served – you save on taxes

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

Have you served in a war?

If you served at least 14 days in a combat zone (see war dates list), you are a citizen and resident of this state, honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in a wartime period, in any branch of the U.S. Armed Services, then you are eligible for the New Jersey Property Tax Exemption of $250.

Application filing with all the required documentation must be done prior to Dec. 31 of the pre-tax year. Documentation includes the property deed and a copy of the veteran’s DD-214. The widow may need to submit the property deed, marriage certificate, death certificate and a copy of the DD-214.

For homeowners who belong to cooperative associations, the procedure is different. The manager or superintendent must complete forms indicating the names and locations of the veterans or spouses within the co-op to the tax assessor. The deduction is then granted to the co-op, the co-op is then responsible to either reduce the rent by $250 or present a check to the veteran or spouse.

War Dates

- Vietnam: Dec 31, 1960 – May 7, 1975
- Lebanon: Sep 26, 1982 – Dec 1, 1987*
- Panama: Dec 20, 1989 – Jan 31, 1990*
- Northern/Southern Watch:** Aug 27, 1992 – Mar 17, 2003*
- Somalia: Dec 5, 1992 – March 31, 1994*
- Bosnia: Nov 20, 1995 – June 20, 1998*
- Operation Enduring Freedom: Sep 11, 2001 – ongoing*
- Operation Iraqi Freedom: Mar 19, 2003 – ongoing*

* Must have served at least 14 days in combat zone and received either the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal or the Iraq Campaign Medal.

** Operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch have been added as qualified war periods for property tax benefits. Both operations refer to the missions that monitored the airspace above and below the 33rd parallel in Iraq.
It has been said the only things certain in life are death and taxes. Promotion can be added to that list of life’s certainties for Army Guard enlisted Soldiers in grades of Private to Private First Class.

A printed example on how well centralizing the promotion lists for private to specialist has worked in the first 90 days can be seen by the 429 names listed on pages 20 and 21 that have sewn on new stripes.

“We just do a scrub asking if a Soldier good to go, do they meet all the criteria,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael Zelenski as he talked about how the lists generated by the G-1 Personnel Section are reviewed monthly for the lower ranking enlisted.

The criteria Zelenski speaks of includes minimum time in grade, time in service requirements, along with meeting the height and weight, passing the APFT and drill attendance.

After the list is generated, once a month Military Personnel Technicians and Readiness NCO’s review it to ensure that every Soldier listed for promotion is eligible.

“The most common complaint by enlisted Soldiers is the promotion system,” said Lt. Col. Robert Niedt, who assumed the reins the G-1 section in the fall of 2006 with lower enlisted promotions being one of the top priorities.

Part of the problem for what can be called ‘automatic’ promotions in the lower ranks was due training for the unit Readiness NCOs. Until that training could get down to the units, it was decided that the G-1 could handle lower grade promotions.

“The bottom line is not that the G-1 did anything special,” added Niedt. “We worked as a team with the field units to figure out what was the best way to take care of a Soldier and promote them so we can retain them.”

Niedt’s remarks that “It has been successful” are backed up by the numbers with 222 to Specialist, 98 moving up to Private First Class and 109 making the move from E1 to E2.

When you add the 78 other promotions from specialist and above, you get a total of nearly 10 percent of the enlisted Army Guard personnel receiving larger drill checks every month.
New Jersey National Guard

New Jersey Army National Guard

To First Sergeant (E-5):

Richard Marciano
Stephanie G. Noll
Alfred H. Roberts Jr.
Harry N. Streets

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Matthew Keg

To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

Larisa E. Carney
Katrina S. Clayton
William J. Crawford
James E. Czech
Levi E. Curns
Jorge E. D重新
Sean P. Dupnik
John F. Fragos
Hazekah E. Griffith
Curtis E. Helling
Priestly K. Kitchar
Ashish N. Karla
Robert S. Morgan
Juan P. D. Perez
David D. Potter
Michael J. Reeser
Paul J. Reim Jr.
Josh J. Rivers
Anthony F. Roberts
John R. Rosencord
Christopher H. Scudder
Marc Stevens
Francisco J. Valdez
Joseph E. Valenti
Anthony J. Yoculfa

To Sergeant (E-5):

Adrian Alvarez
Jesus Baez
Richard A. Barn
Emanuel Bonilla
Germaine D. Bradley
Samuel Casalbo Jr.
Kimberly M. Crawford
Gary L. Currier
Andrew J. Faucett
Marco Garcia-OMayama
DeWanye D. Green
Wendy L. Suevera
Chaeloo Mastoddi
Jimmy Morales
Kevin R. Morse
Felipe Negron Jr.
Lisandro Perata
Carlos Rios
Luis C. Rua
Shivananda R. Sockdeo
George W. Wood Jr.

To Specialist (E-4):

Denise Diaz
Ryan J. Edwards
George H. Hall
Nolita M. Harvey
Russell H. Humes
Thomas J. Jones
John C. Leedes
Alexandra Lindor
Eftel M. Macadosa
Paula A. Negron
Kevianna Mertz
Tony B. Mugavero
Michael J. Rodriguez
Daniel Rosewicz
Jesper Santos
Wendy C. Varner
John A. Vasquez
Gary W. Ward

To Specialist (E-3):

Sultan Abdulrazza
Frederick C. Aflame
Gremier Alemery
Stephanie A. Alvarez
Folashade O. Amusan
Boswell J. Anglin
Michael E. F. Antonucci
A Gregory P. Bleykard
Carla A. Aravalo
Clarence A. Avent
Kail S. Barrett
Kendall Barrett
Jahal S. Baterson
Wariro Batsase
Catherine D. Belay
Jacob Benkovski
Triton J. Bennett
Adriano Berrios
Michael K. Bettinger
March Bhirddass
Michael A. Boccio
Robert J. Bozhi
Israel Bonilla
Raul C. Brown
Ryan A. Brown
Abrau V. Cabaa
Patrick S. Caradno
Dacio Cariona Jr.
Bradford E. Cotes
Nicholas C. Camaruba
James A. Castro
Maria L. Clement
Byron L. Cernacke
Arista S. Cerebasi
Lawrence Chang
Meesha P. Chave
Mark A. Church
Raymond E. Churchill
Nicole A. Cleary
Jaqueline A. Gline
Adam B. Collado
Waren L. Colwell Jr.
Sade S. Conway
Shanu J. Court
Alexa A. Cruz
Christian J. Cruz
Michael A. Cruz
Edward C. Diabow II
Michael J. Daily

New Jersey National Guard

Rembrandt L. Danzi
Brian F. Dardis
Joseph P. Defice
Richard O. Derose
Pouahla D. Diaz
Ken J. Ellis
Felik Encampson Jr.
Mary B. Ernis
Carl L. Enriquez
Ymdeq Esplin
Miguel A. Estrada Jr.
Charles D. Ferguson III
Juthon J. Fornandez
Victor L. Fornandez
Christopher J. Finn
Gregory F. Flynn
Ralph C. Foey
Daniela Fontana
Vivie M. Garcia
John J. Garcia
Ray A. Gonzalez
John J. Glynn
Gawell L. Giann
Vanessa Gross
Edward J. Grillo
Marie J. Guerra
Dana P. Guzman
Christina A. Hartman
Glen M. Handy
Sara L. Heflin
Brian G. Harris
William A. Hawkins
Rachael M. Heneg
Chana E. Herrmann
Leonard B. Hickman
Michael J. Huddy
Celina L. Hijobro
Michael F. Isfahani
Carlos A. Isamilo
Victor M. Jimenez
Michael W. Johnson
Antonio Jones Jr.
David W. Jones Jr.
Justin M. Jones
Sherry Joseph
Karla M. M. Katigbak
Sena H. Kocan
Adam K. Krones
Dominick S. Kralewki
Matthew W. Kube
Christian R. Lackie
Matthew A. Lane
Christina L. Lapin
Neil J. Lassen III
Jean P. Lea
Eugene H. Leao
Steven M. Lewis
James F. Linus
Timothy R. Long
Jarrett E. Longwood
Yuri T. Luostier
Marion L. Luna
Richard Machado
Morris C. Macklin Jr.
Nicholas J. Majo
Thomas M. Marchese
Jorein Martinez
Matilone Martinez
Lindsay M. Matsuza
Robert E. McCollrook
Patricia A. McKallan
Andrew O. Menezes
Jose A. Menezes Pires
Lyle L. Mendez
Param Mistry
Timothy B. Mohan
Joseph M. Monico III
Efrain J. Morales
Jennifer M. Morgan
Julia A. Muniz
Augustin A. Murusun
Antonio S. Nanez
Devon S. Nelson
Mario Neronziko
Jason K. Norman
Jason F. Northedge
Marco Orando
Martin Orando
Stephanie Ochoa
Vanessa Ochoa
John F. Ocho
Glenn E. Ovey
Luis B. Ortiz
Kori M. Oshani
Doug E. Paulik
P Amadone
April L. Pears
Christopher C. Petrito
Daniel P. Pichan
Ryan J. Pich
Manuel P. Pichino
Zoey A. Pimentan
Mendres W. Poblano
Nathaniel Pumham
Elvin Quindzio
James T. Rosebaugh III
Christian J. Ramirez
Peter A. Reed
Dennis C. Regaldo
Wyell M. Register
Francis Rejpe Jr.
Harri A. Rivera
Walee E. Rivero
Vincent A. Rizzo
Lucas C. H. Robinson
Erika Rodriguez
Maximiliano A. Rodriguez
Regina L. Rogers
Randall R. Ronchetti
Max E. Rosales
Angela M. Rotio
Preux D. Saint
Emmanuel Sanchez
Gail S. Saquing
Schmidt William A. III
Harry J. Schwartz
Terrell A. Scott
Luis A. Simon
Adriy M. Sobon
Nicolous J. Soper
David C. Spence
Andrew J. Steffen
Robert L. Stewart III
Michael F. Stires Jr.
Shauny U. Stjulien
Alyssa R. Stokes
Michael J. Sullivan Jr.
Alfred P. Tabana
Christopher M. Tarasewich
Rodrigo I. Tejada Jr.
Marc E. Thomas
Wantage Tius
Ashley D. Tobin
Laselle T. Tough Jr.
Diana Torres
Eduardo A. Torres
Eric S. Urbanek Jr.
Leila U. Urbane
Craig A. Urbo
V. Alex Lee
Fernando Villa
Danaio O. Villamar
Gregory M. Villani
James L. Wilson
Eddie A. West Jr.
Keith J. White
Deon J. Williams
Matthew P. Williams
Shafronda M. Williams
Ryan S. Wolf
Jonathan T. Wood
Leonard D. Wright II

To Private First Class (E-3):

Troy W. Aderhold Jr.
Alex G. Almeida-Trace
Rafael A. Almonte
Carlos A. Archilla
Patriocio Archil
Khalil A. Asare
Crispin A. Awodoli
Ryan G. Wolfe
Randal Bisset
Keith J. White
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Deon J. Williams
Matthew P. Williams
Shafronda M. Williams
Ryan S. Wolf
Jonathan T. Wood
Leonard D. Wright II

To Sergeant (E-5):

Scott W. Baluj
Eric J. Cudworth
Marion Caja
Sheneka L. Darby
Simon D. Debran

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Scott W. Baluj
Eric J. Cudworth
Marion Caja
Sheneka L. Darby
Simon D. Debran
Guard Enlisted Promotions

Stephen W. David
Evon R. Dickerson
Joseph S. Doran
Miguel A. Duque
Christopher D. Favazza
Richard C. Frazier
Kevin J. Freeman
Timothy T. Gadson
Daniel J. Garcia
Shionara Garcia
Frank Gauthier Jr.
Nancy Gonzales
James A. Graves
Speedy Guareno
Jose K. Hahn
Rachel L. Hammers
Joseph D. Harang
Raymond A. Hasty
Devon R. Hooper
William M. James
Bryan D. Johnson
Timothy P. Kaebe
John W. Kelley II
Frederick A. Kennedy
Althara A. Kirk
Michael P. Kling
Robert T. Knockle
Roderick R. Lee Jr.
Joel A. Lopez
Yvonne L. Madison
Thomas R. Macpherson
Felipe Malate
Nicholas D. Marchisello
James P. Martin Jr.
Sulli R. Martinez
John D. Mason
Nicholas R. Mitchell
Saundra A. Montgomery
Desire Morales
Graen N. M. Morrison
Yiessena E. Nunez
Dominique D. Paynter
Joseph A. Pelegino
Jennifer L. Peters
Shawn R. Pickenski
James B. Pratt III
Jeffery A. Pronovich
Joseph F. Ramos
Denneisha T. Rhodes
Kimberly A. Richardson
Aztw W. Robinson-Johnson
Jeffrey R. Rodriguez
Wilber Roman
Oscar A. Romero
Oracio E. Rosado
Hector L. Sanchez II
Mark W. Selbitt Jr.
William F. Shepard
Craig J. Smith

To Private (E-2):

Muksa S. Alaron
Ninoska F. Alaron
Ramon A. Alfonso-Ayala
Darrin W. Alhaver
Deaney C. Anderson
Brian H. Axelford
Rudes E. Baz
Hollie K. Bedford
Gilbert J. Berro
Luther S. Bernard
Tynee A. Borden
Jason E. Brayday
Michael C. Brewer
Manitta A. Cabrera
Cindy M. Callazo
Joanael L. Camarri
Jennifer L. Campos
John Cando
Stephan L. Camington
Ryunard L. A. Casandel
Ricardo A. Castro
Anthony J. Cavalero
Wescome J. Cayuyong
Branden L. Conley
View D. Coohee
Mathew L. C. Coward
Carruthilion C. Moore
Tiffany Y. Cummins
Ryan M. Cutler
Weeley D. Cwech
Brandon R. Damua
Mathew Dickson
Glenda D. Dobson Jr.
Samuel D. Dodson
Kath W. Fernandez
Donald J. Finney Jr.
Jenette R. Frank
Richard M. Geromino
Carlos H. Granados
Adriana E. Guerrero
Robin M. Hall
Shawna R. Hardin
Tyler L. Hollifield
Christopher G. Howell
David L. Irvin

To Private (E-2):

Mikaela L. Johnson
Johanna L. Johnson
Andrew J. Klages
Justice L. King
Kelvin A. Kling
Jonathan J. Knoepfle
Michael L. Knecht
Kevin R. Knorr
Jennifer L. Knorr
Lauren D. Knowles

To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Mark D. Best
Barrett M. Cox
Jill D. Koval
Bair H. Pangan
Barry B. Sasse

To Staff Sergeant (E-5):

Mark A. Atkinson
Thomas F. Atkinson
Robert L. Atkinson
Eric T. Casey
Andrew D. Eberhardt
Elizabeth Eberhardt
Requah D. Haywood
Charles E. Haywood
David E. Heinze
Dion J. Healer
Ellen H. Holts
Lauran A. Scott
Gregory J. STevens
Wilson Torres Jr.
Ashley L. Walker

To Senior Airman (E-4):

Corey A. Nichols
Robert J. Sheldon

To Senior Airman:

Riccardo A. Alvarado
Jeffrey A. Banta
Marla L. Pangan-Danie
Donna L. Pugh
Lakasha Sass
Paul A. Smith
Harry J. Steele

To Airman First Class (E-3):

Robert A. Agzigian
Zena D. Arroliga

To Airman:

David L. Brown
Roger Boushinsane
Juliana Figueroa
Kayndy M. Mclaran

Congratulations To All!
Compiled by Master Sgt. Daniel J. Calandra (Army)
and Master Sgt. Paul B. Thompson, Jr. (Air).

Correction
Correction to the January
issue of Guardlife
(Volume 32, Number 6).
On page 7, paragraph 2, the second sentence refers to the 102nd Reconnaissance, Survelliance, Target Acquisition (RSTA) in error.
The correct unit designation should refer to Governor Jon S. Corzine having lunch with C Troop, 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry RSTA, which is currently attached to the 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry RSTA in Iraq.
Last Round - Father Honored

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

Ryan Duffy hugs his mother Casey’s hand after receiving the Army Combat Action Badge from Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson (second from left), the Deputy Adjutant General, while Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (left), The Adjutant General of New Jersey watches during the Combat Action Badge Award Ceremony held at Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey, Fort Dix on May 25. Ryan’s father, Spc. Christopher M. Duffy along with Staff Sgts. Frank T. Carvill and Humberto F. Timoteo and Sgt. Ryan E. Doltz, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, were killed in Iraq in 2004. The ceremony also dedicated the Purple Heart Recipient Honor Roll Plaque and the Hall of Remembrance.