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Guardlife

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Guardlife

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Guardlife Staff

Editors

Lt. Col. James Garcia
Capt. Jason Fetterolf
Capt. Jon Powers
2nd Lt. April Kelly
Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

Editor-Production

Tech. Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

Staff Writers/Photographers

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson
Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison
444MPAD, NJARNG

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Cover: Bygone era

Pvt. Timothy Gadsen, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, marches past one of the 750,000 bunkers that dot the Albanian landscape while on a road march in Zallherr. Photo Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD/PAO.

Inside Cover: Got you covered

Members of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team practice Military Operations in Urban Terrain at the huge MOUT site at Fort Drum, N.Y., during the brigade's Annual Training in August. The site houses more than 30 multi-level buildings filled with furniture and refuse simulating a war-torn village. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, JFHQ-NJ/PA.

The future is upon us

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

Despite the return of our BSB and RSTA this summer, the New Jersey National Guard continues to support the Global War on Terrorism. In mid-September, we had a send-off for the fifteen Soldiers of the Embedded Training Team (ETT), tasked with training the Afghan National Army in tactical and technical skills. Newly designated Company A, 1st Separate Battalion – the historical title of the state's first all African-American unit from the 1930-40s – they carry their new guidon into the front lines of the stabilization effort in Afghanistan.

The ETT provides experienced U.S. Army mentors and advisors to the Afghan Army in an effort to build a professional military for that country. Join me in wishing Lt. Col. John Langston and his team a successful deployment. The one-year deployment is part of Operation Enduring Freedom and is the second such mission for the Jersey Guard.

At around the same time, seventy-five Security Forces members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing left for a tour in Iraq. These Airmen will be responsible for base perimeter and entry control point security. Also, as members of a rapid response team, they will provide a highly-mobile reaction force to counter threats to the base. Lt. Col. Ronald Turk is leading this contingent in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Godspeed to them all.

Both Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom have put a strain on our nation's military. In response to these challenges, the Department of Defense has adjusted its mobilization plan. Earlier this year I outlined some of the changes that the Army was implementing in order to ease the deployment schedule for Guard and Reserve forces. Some of those changes – deployments managed on a unit basis; 12 months maximum mobilization time; 9 months boots-on-ground – have remained intact.

I also said, "New Jersey units will not be among the six National Guard units remobilized sooner than originally scheduled." I stressed that "We are still on track for 2010...no change!" Unfortunately, the reality on the ground has changed because of the new Army schedule for mobilization and in mid-October we received the Alert Order to begin preparing our 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to go forward into theater sooner than originally planned. The new timeframe for mobilization is now summer of 2008 for stateside training...with overseas deployment to follow.



Lt. Col. John Langston, left, watches as Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, congratulates Sgt. 1st Class Robert Price after his promotion during the departure ceremony for the Embedded Training Team at the Joint Training and Training technology Development Center at Fort Dix on Sept. 20. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.

As we begin to ramp up preparations for mobilization, we must also prepare our families and employers – and ourselves – for the inevitable leave of absence. As an organization made up of families...as a "Guard family"...we will do everything possible to support family members back at home. For your part, get to know your Family Readiness Group (FRG)...your Family Assistance Center (FAC) staff...your chaplains...ESGR representatives...and the myriad network of organizations and benefits that exist to assist family members while loved ones are deployed.

These next few years will not be easy. However, the consequences of failure or shortfall are serious. As members of our nation's armed forces, we are committed to the defeat of those who threaten our freedoms and way of life. The burden of the Global War on Terrorism has been borne by the American military. We have never shirked our responsibilities and we will continue to step up to meet them. If not us, then who else will bear this burden? You are all part of a great organization with a long history of patriotism, dedication and sacrifice. It will not be easy, but I am confident that we will prevail. 🇺🇸

Largest Security Forces deployment

Photos by Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108ARW/PA



Members from the 108th Security Forces Squadron, 108th Air Refueling Wing left for Operation Iraqi Freedom on Sept. 15. This is the third group that has been deployed since May 29; the wing has more than 70 members of the squadron deployed to Iraq. Lt. Col. Ronald Turk, squadron commander, took command of more than 250 active duty and National Guard Soldiers and Airmen upon his arrival to the air base. The deployed Airmen will perform air base security and are due to return to New Jersey in early summer of 2008.



N.J. Soldiers train in Albania

Photos and story by Capt. Jon Powers, Commander, 444MPAD

The National Guard State Partnership Program offers civilian-military expertise to foster democracy, encourage economic development and promote regional cooperation and stability. To the Albanians, the State Partnership Program with New Jersey is an opportunity for their military to contribute to coalition operations throughout the region and to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

ZALLHERR, Albania - Long before the State Partnership Program was created, President Woodrow Wilson, a New Jerseyan, stepped forward after World War I to aid Albania.

During the Paris Peace Conference, Wilson fought against partitioning Albania, allowing the country to remain a separate, sovereign nation.

This summer, 88 years later, New Jersey is again supporting Albania – this time with a platoon of Soldiers from Alpha Company, 2-113th Infantry Battalion, to provide Albania the means toward inclusion as a member of NATO.



Spc. Johnny Andino (back) and an Albanian Soldier provide cover during the field training exercise held on July 16.

This Unit Level Exchange is the first military exercise of its kind in Albania. It was requested by the Albanian Armed Forces Joint Forces commander, funded by United States Army Europe, organized by the Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation and supported by the New Jersey Army National Guard. The infantry tactics shared with the Ready Reaction Brigade will go a long way toward their desire to become a member of NATO and ultimately of the European Union.

“Albania anticipates an invitation into NATO sometime in 2008,” said Capt. Dennis Stiles, Alpha Company Commander. “Cobra Company has recently successfully participated in a NATO level one self-evaluation and our hope is to build upon that success.”

One platoon from each of the respective companies was integrated to form the single



Soldiers of A Company, 2-113th Infantry Battalion and Cobra Company are briefed prior to the field training exercise.



Staff Sgt. David Copeland (left) and Pfc. C. compare notes as an Albanian NCO ob

“Albania anticipates an invitation into NATO sometime in 2008. Cobra Company has recently successfully participated in a NATO level one self-evaluation and our hope is to build upon that success.” Capt. Dennis Stiles, Commander, Alpha Company



Pvt. Timothy Gadsden (left) helps an Albanian soldier adjust a pair of MV-PVS-7B Generation 2+ night vision goggles while Spc. Matthew Castro watches.

training platoon. Buddy teams of one Albanian Soldier and one Guard infantryman share the responsibilities within the infantry’s mission-essential task of ‘movement to contact.’

Beginning with basic skills of map reading and building toward higher technologies like GPS and night vision systems, the combined platoon progressed through the crawl and walk phases toward the keystone exercise in the field. The ultimate goal is integrated operations such as those in Afghanistan with NATO and allied troops.

“We are in the midst of building the Second Battalion; this is to empower the NCOs, build a future

for NCOs’ careers and I believe that the army can not be as strong as it should be without strong NCOs,” said Lt. Col. Bardhwi Kollcaku. “Our NCOs are working closely with (the U.S. NCOs) and I think it is best to give them the authority to be in charge of training.”

The conditions were extreme; early morning starts, afternoon highs reaching 110 degrees, and with minimal downtime. Albania is a rugged and

beautiful country and the eastern horizon a jagged spine of granite mountains. It was in the foothills of this region where the three-day field training exercise would showcase the knowledge and skills the combined platoon worked so hard to earn.

“Movement to Contact is the tool we will use to train their junior NCOs, the team leaders and the squad leaders, where the rubber meets the road. Out there on the lanes is where Soldiers are talking to Soldiers, breaching the language barriers, coming together – working as one team,” said Stiles.

Capt. Kastriot Cera, Cobra Company Commander, plans to maximize the impact of this training. “Our experience will be shared not only inside my company, but within the battalion and inside the brigade,” he explained. His soldiers will be the instructors for future training within the Albanian army, and more importantly will become the leading edge of Albania’s deployed forces in the Global War on Terrorism.

For three days, 24 hours a day, two squad leaders were acting as one, two riflemen were acting as one, and while they shared the infantry specific tactics and procedures, the more beneficial cultural understanding and friendships began to evolve. Ruck marching from patrol base to objective, up and down the foothills, the relationships were forged through physical effort and have laid the foundation for future ULEs.

With each successive rotation, the New Jersey connection to Albania grows stronger and President Wilson would surely be pleased with the N.J. Army Guard’s role in it.



and (left) and Pfc. Carlos Granados (center) Albanian NCO observes.



Sgt. Daniel Kim (left) plans strategy with two Albanian NCOs, as Soldiers of the 2-113th and Cobra Company move forward.

Making a difference

By Capt. Jon Powers, Commander, 444MPAD

ZALLHERR, ALBANIA - The morning sun had just cleared the mountain range when the line began to form.

Village children lined up to receive something very special. From the expectant looks on their faces you would have thought it was a candy or a toy; instead it was a vaccination. New Jersey Army National Guard Medics brought 500 doses of Hepatitis A to vaccinate the local girls and boys.

"It is always great to take care of kids," said Capt. Paul Villalon. "When you treat a child you make his life better now and in adulthood."

The mission was conducted from a small community clinic in Zallherr. Parents and children jammed into the tiny hallway and waiting room but this enthusiasm evaporated when they got into the chair.

Normal childhood instinct took over and panic set in. The Soldiers did their best to calm them and reward them with the standard American after-shot treatment – a lollipop.

"It was a great team effort," remarked Villalon. The medics exhausted their 500 doses in approximately three and a half hours.

In addition to the humanitarian mission, the medics supported the 2-113th Infantry during their mission. The medics saw some of the usual annual training injuries like sprains or eye abrasions and saw unusual ones like trench foot, on one Albania Soldier. The collection of volunteers assembled by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Cosmanic, State Combat Medic, was chosen on very specific criteria: "The medics here are the ones I would want to work on me," said Cosmanic.

"Much of this work was not training, it's doing the real thing...when we treated a patient we affected his life."

During that same period, an Air Guard team led by Lt. Col. Frank Casty of the 108th Medical Group with Maj. Eric Erickson, 177th Medical Group and Senior Airman Erin Fassold, 177th Logistics Readiness Squadron, taught Rapid Reaction Brigade doctors, dentists, medics and nurses U.S. and NATO compatible training.



While Capt. Paul Villalon steadies an Albanian boy, 2nd Lt. Karl Coutinho administers a Hepatitis A vaccination.



Maj. Eric Erickson with a group of Albanian medics. Photo by Senior Airman Erin Fassold, 177FW/LRS.

Background and top photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD

Albanians train at Drum

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

Practicing the age-old adage that “one good turn deserves another,” the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) of the New Jersey National Guard hosted members of the Albanian Army during the brigade’s Annual Training at Fort Drum, N.Y.

In July, Albania hosted members of the 50th IBCT’s, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry for training during Phase I of a Unit Level Exchange (ULE) program. This is part of the ongoing bilateral relationship that the New Jersey National Guard has with the republic of Albania, which is part of the State Partnership Program, sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and European Command.

“I’m here with one platoon of my company for accomplishing the second phase of the Unit Level Exchange,” says Capt. Kastriot Cera, commander of Cobra Company, 2nd Battalion, Rapid Reaction Brigade, Albanian Army. “We are here to gain experience from the U.S. Army.”

Reminiscent of what the U.S. Army refers to as ‘Train the Trainer,’ Cera will take the knowledge he and his soldiers learn back to Albania with him.

“This experience will be shared, not only inside my company, but inside my battalion, and inside my Rapid Reaction Brigade, so it will be expanded, not just inside the platoon and company, but wider,” Cera notes.

Phase I consisted of squad tactics centered on Movement-to-Contact training in a wooded environment in the hilly countryside of Albania. Here in Phase II at Fort Drum, members of Cobra Company will train together with Soldiers from Alpha Company at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site at Training Area 13 Alpha, something the Albanians haven’t had much experience with, according to Cera.

“The MOUT operation range is really great,” says Cera, whose company will deploy to Afghanistan sometime next year. “I myself will give this idea to the higher command. We really will get a lot from this range during this operation.”

While Jersey Guard members were busy explaining MOUT tactics to Cobra Company, they were not there to train them in the traditional sense.

“Integrated Operations with Allied Forces are really the goal of the Rapid Reaction Brigade,” explains Capt. Dennis Stiles, of Bravo Company, 2-113th Infantry, and the project



Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Ropel of Alpha Co., 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, right, watches as members of Cobra Co., 2nd Battalion, Rapid Reaction Brigade, Republic of Albania train at the MOUT village site.

officer for the ULE. “We are not necessarily here to teach them specifically anything, but to familiarize them with how allied forces would operate.” This is an important goal for the Republic of Albania, which is looking to join NATO sometime in the next 18 months.

As with any multinational operation, there are ups and downs during the execution of training, and this operation is no different according to Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Ropel of Alpha Company, 2-113th, who is supervising the training at the MOUT site.

“I think the major problem is the language barrier, which we are actually trying to resolve from every level possible — use of interpreters, use of sign language, and everything else that we can come up with.”

Ropel, who spent some of his active-duty time as a member of the 10th Mountain Division here at Fort Drum, does note the good side to the training “They’re very well-trained soldiers. They have good knowledge about basics, about our NATO techniques as well and they are using them.”

And while training at the MOUT site is initiated by members of the 2-113th Infantry, Soldiers from both countries can benefit from the cross-pollination of tactics and techniques and the preparation that comes with it.

“It makes training more demanding, it puts much more demands on the Soldier,” says Ropel. “It demands that our Soldiers be much more professional, to pay much more attention to details, and also develop both [countries’] Soldiers at the same time.”

Building a fence

Photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA



Civil Engineering Squadron Airmen guide a 1,400 pound panel into place along the United States—Mexico border. The panels and bollards form the fence that serves as part of the tactical infrastructure between the two countries.

The desert stretches for miles – an abundance of nothing.

Slashing across that vast space is the fence – a black line that separates the faded blue sky and the dull sand and sagebrush landscape.

Thirty-seven Airmen from the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron spent their annual training assigned to Task Force Diamondback – part of Operation Jump Start at Yuma, Ariz., – building the fence separating the United States and Mexico from August 18-31. While the mission is a combined Air and Army effort, the command and control is under the Arizona Army National Guard.

“Working with the Army Guard is significantly different for this group,” says Maj. James Layton Jr., Commander, 177th Civil Engineering Squadron.

This fence, when done, will be part of a 900-mile long barrier between the U.S. and Mexican border. It does not extend the entire length of the border because certain portions are inaccessible and there isn’t a need for the fence to be built there. In some areas, sensors or vehicle barriers are being installed. In locations where there are roads or towns near the border – specifically Yuma where the 177th Civil Engineers deployed – primary, secondary and tertiary (chain link) fences are being built.

The primary fence is made up of 1,400 pound sheet steel panels that are eight feet wide by 14 feet tall. Running along

the center – top to bottom – is an I beam with two metal collars attached – one about five inches from the bottom and the other five feet above it. The panels are trucked in from, of all places, Mexico.

Beginning at 6 a.m. until 2 in the afternoon the CE Airmen split into two groups.

“One team worked south of Yuma on the hybrid (primary) fence,” states Capt. John M. Cosgrove, 177th Civil Engineering Squadron. “The other team worked on a secondary fence in San Luis which is about eight miles to the west of the hybrid fence site.”

At the San Luis site, Master Sgt. Bill Brown and his group work with a team of full-time Army and Air Guardsmen placing the foundations for the fence, which in this case is a heavy steel mesh. Closer to the town of San Luis, Tech. Sgt. Howard Achilles and his crew load the foundations on a flatbed 18-wheeler and truck them out to Brown’s site.

At the main site, an Airman attaches a clamp to the top of a panel; a crane lifts the panel, which is then guided by a three-man team over the bollard, once it is in place, the crane lowers the panel until the collars slip over the bollard (poles attached to sheet metal plates that serve as anchors for the panels); then the panel is dropped with a loud crash, the clamp is released, the crane operator taps (slams) the panel into a more upright position, straightens the next free bollard and the

August is not the time to be in Yuma. When you go online, you learn that this is the second hottest place in the U.S.; right after Death Valley. During the day, the temperatures averages above 110; at night it drops to a pleasant 95. There is no shade and it rained – if you count a sprinkle – on the day CE left.

process starts over – for the rest of the day.

The first day – August 20, is the learning curve day; everyone is figuring out what to do and how to do it; the CE Airmen learn how the process works, and promptly go on and break the record for installing the most panels in one day – 192. Eight days later, they broke that record again and installed 218 panels.

“The cooperation between the Army and Air was great,” notes first time CE deployer Staff Sgt. Sam DeMaio III. “They brought us up to speed really quickly and we were able to accomplish the mission successfully.”

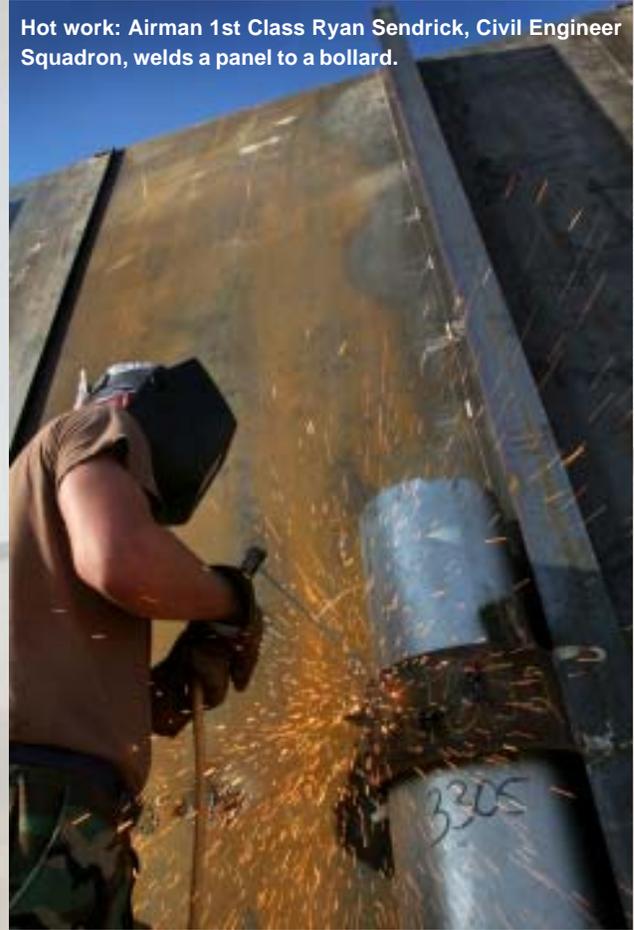
Further down the fence line are the arc welders. All work along the fence is nasty – but this is plain brutal. Each panel has to be welded to the bollard, which line up next to the edge where one panels joins with the next panel. Two Airmen teams adjust the level of each panel – meaning manually adjusting the 1,400 pound panel with crowbars and sledgehammers to drive wedges to keep them in place. Then a welder comes along, drives another wedge into the panel forcing it next to bollard and welds the two together.

“The 177th installed 1,055 steel panels of primary fence for a total of 1.4 miles. While 103 foundations and 94 mesh panels were installed at the San Luis site,” continues Cosgrove.

According to the Desert Sentinel, the Arizona National Guard Public Affairs Office official Operation Jump Start magazine, “62 units from 35 states have come to Arizona to help with the tactical infrastructure border mission.”

No other CE team has come close to accomplishing what the 177th did during its tour with Task Force Diamondback.

Hot work: Airman 1st Class Ryan Sendrick, Civil Engineer Squadron, welds a panel to a bollard.



HIGH NOON AT NOGALES



Photo by Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello, 108ARW/CE

Fifty Airmen from the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron’s PRIME BEEF team deployed in support of Operation Jump Start, Nogales, Ariz., from August 18 - 31; the first time annual training has been coupled with an operational requirement. “This deployment provided an excellent opportunity for other AFSCs to cross-train and work in other career fields,” stated Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello, Commander, 108th Civil Engineer Squadron. The Airmen were dispersed to four separate sites with four missions: filling and grading two sections of road - one was a mile and half long and the other a two-mile length. “The terrain we were in was very mountainous, creating numerous challenges for the team to overcome,” continued Novello. At Ephraim Ridge probably the most rugged worksite, three pole transformers were replaced and two others were hooked up, increasing visibility and security in the sector. The last mission entailed repairing incorrect welds performed by an earlier unit on the bollard fence. “The reenlistment of one of my unit members is directly related to this mission. All in all, this was one of the best, if not the best deployment we have been on,” observed Novello.

Governor



Cor applauds Guard



Units representing Army National Guard, as well as the 108th Air Refueling and 177th Fighter Wings of the New Jersey Air National Guard participated in the New Jersey National Guard's 24th Annual Governor's Military Review was held on Sept. 16.

The ceremonies opened with music performed by the 63rd Army Band and a flyover of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 150th Assault Helicopter Company.

In his introductory remarks Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, acknowledged the service and sacrifice of the New Jersey National Guard.

Governor Jon S. Corzine, who earlier was honored by a 19-gun salute by B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, commended the assembled Soldiers and Airmen for their continued service in defense of state and nation.

Accompanied by Maj. Gen. Rieth, Governor Corzine then reviewed the troops. Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, the Deputy Adjutant General, served as this year's Commander of Troops. The ceremony also included presentation of various awards to members of the state's forces. Governor Corzine also recognized several civilian residents for their support of the National Guard during the last year.

The ceremonies concluded with a final flyover by a 108th KC-135E Stratotanker and two 177th F-16C Fighting Falcons.



The 114th marches on

Photo and story by Spc. Pablo G. Vizcaino, 444MPAD



Pfc. Lee Whitehouse and Sgt. Christopher McKenna, of Bravo Company, 1-114th Infantry, 50th Infantry Combat Brigade Team, perform squad movement training at Fort Drum.

A slight movement catches the eye, the rustling of leaves and distant sounds of snapping twigs provide telltale signs. Suddenly, an enemy pops up and Soldiers hidden in the canopy burst forth into action.

At first glance, it seems to be business as usual, as Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) conducts lanes training as part of their Annual Training here in Fort Drum, NY, but then again, appearances can be deceiving.

Everything is changing in the National Guard.

Switching to the more mobile and self-contained BCTs requires many of New Jersey's Guard units to transform in order to better meet the challenges of today's battlefield. So, as is expected from the guys who are used to going into the thick of things, the 1-114th is taking on this transformation head on.

Surprisingly enough, the 1-114th's Executive Officer Maj. Joe Boucher tells us, the transition has been "fairly easy," as the unit goes into the end of the transformation's second phase, continuing to meet all the goals set out by the state. More than just easy, the transition from mechanized to light infantry has been beneficial, as Boucher adds that by taking the "track" away, the unit now spends less time on maintenance and more time dedicated to actual training.

"It does a lot for the morale of the troops when you give them new equipment," Boucher explained, mentioning some of the new equipment the unit has, and is expected to receive.

Besides getting the newest gear for their soldiers, currently being fielded in a phased approach, they have also received some brand new Light Medium Tactical Vehicles, which they've found to be a tremendous asset. As for what the future holds, they expect to receive some awesome high-tech gear sometime next year, such as Blue Force tracking and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

New gear, coupled with a painless transition, has the 1-114th in high spirits during this AT. Pfc. Lee Whitehouse offers a positive view on the training, primarily that unit cohesion continues to improve, and as everyone gets to know each other better, it leads to better training overall, an important factor that

he believes will help in any possible future deployments.

So while you may no longer see any mechanized tracks on these dusty Fort Drum roads, you will still continue to see the footprints of these dedicated soldiers from the 1-114th as they march on toward the next part of their training.



Cavalry transformation a natural

By Staff Sgt. Joe Donnelly, 444MPAD



Soldiers from Charlie Company, 102nd Cavalry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team cross-train in their new Military Occupa-

tional Specialty Codes at Fort Drum. Photo by Spc. Abraham Pendon, 444MPAD.

For some Cavalry Soldiers, transforming to an Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) may seem like a two-mile sprint, but for members of the 102nd Cavalry Squadron, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, it's a walk in the park.

"It's all coming together...it's a natural," said Spc. William Shawger, of Alpha Company.

Members of the 102nd are finding Annual Training at Fort Drum a time to strengthen, improve and build on what is now commonly referred to as Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target, Acquisition (RSTA). According to 1st Lt. John Craddock, of Charlie Company, "the troops absolutely love the transition."

Much has changed in regards to engagement. Once protected by armor, the RSTA Soldiers now rely on the M-16 rifles, MK-19 Grenade Launchers, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons, 50-caliber machine guns and a radio for protection.

Switching tankers to infantrymen may have taken the man out of the tank, but not the Soldier out of the man. Fighting speed remains strong for the once armored Soldier.

As drastic as the changes in weapons are, so is the training. Where it was once difficult during Annual Training, not to mention drill weekends, to work out the logistics and maintain the tanks, now the RSTA soldiers have the flexibility to drill with their new weapons.

Where it was once difficult to work out the logistics and maintain the tanks, now the RSTA soldiers have the flexibility to drill with their new weapons.

"We can keep the equipment with us," said Craddock. Because of this, the Soldiers have plenty of time to cross-train into their new Military Occupational Specialty codes (MOS).

Scheduled drills are beneficial and enjoyable. Easy access to and low maintenance of weapons make training reliable. Staff Sgt. Mitchell Costa of Charlie Company said, "You ask any one of the troops what they like about drills or AT, and they will say shooting, training and learning about their MOS."

Mounted scouts seem to take the challenge with confidence. Capt. Noel Lyn-kew, Commander of Bravo Company, said "the learning curve is exponential...and the trigger time behind weapons is phenomenal." Many characteristics that made them successful as tankers are identified in their new position. Firing commands, working in crews, executing tactical movements and vehicle weapons are familiar terms to the tankers.

After firing more than 32,000 rounds in four days, Staff Sgt. Donald Sullivan, of Charlie Company, who is a prior Marine, said, "This is the stuff that's going to save us...we smoked a lot of rounds, we came out here to work and that's what we did!"

In today's world, there are no guarantees of what will happen, but the 102nd Cavalry knows that whatever they're called to do, they will be well-equipped, trained and with men they can count on. 🇺🇸

FOB STEEL

Artillery creates Forward Operating Base

Photos and story by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, 444th MPAD

As you headed down the sandy road towards Artillery Firing Point 14 on Fort Dix you noticed something was different.

Barriers funneled you to an Entry Control Point where you are greeted by a sign 'Welcome to FOB Steel' while Soldiers carefully checked who and what entered.

Once inside you notice the tents lined up neatly behind a semi-circle of artillery pieces, where the 230 Soldiers of the 3-112th Fires Battalion, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) are living for two-weeks in the same place with their cannons.

"It is a first time for us, we consolidated and made a FOB (Forward Operating Base)," said Lt. Col. Brian K. Scully, commander of the 112th.

Soldiers in the past slept in a separate bivouac area away from the guns, but now all the firing batteries, the headquarters and the support element shared in the duties of manning the gate, providing perimeter guards and having a Quick Reaction Force to respond to opposing forces attacks. All movement to and from the Forward Operating Base was done in convoys with road movement orders; and everything is done to the Army standard added Scully.

"It is definitely different...more combat like," said Spec. Shadiq Shakir, who has been with the battalion eight years. A lot more training has taken place not just with the guns."

The Warrior Task Training is an integral component of this year's annual training period and those tasks are performed year round according to Scully.

It is especially important for the 3-112th Fires as batteries of this battalion have been deployed twice performing Military



Spc. James Urcinole loads a 155mm round onto the carrier of a M109A5 howitzer during Annual Training with the 112th Fires Battalion.

Police missions in Iraq, Germany and Italy.

"It is a question of balance. We have to balance the non-standard versus the standard FA (Field Artillery) mission. We are keeping the FA core competencies alive by the live fire we are doing," noted Scully.

The gun crews did not mind the temperatures in the 90's and high humidity as they eagerly awaited a fire mission. The radio cracked with coordinates of the target and the crew quickly adjusted the tube as Spc. James Urcinole, with his massive arms and upper body made it look easy to lift the nearly one hundred pound projectile onto the carrier.

Within seconds the round was loaded into the breech, charge placed, the primer set, and lanyard attached and with a steady, swift movement Urcinole sent the round downrange as the ground shook around the 27-ton vehicle.

One of the 330 rounds scheduled to land in the impact area could be the last from the 155mm guns of the New Jersey Guard's M109A5 howitzers.

"This is kind of a history-making AT," explained Scully. "After this we convert to the M119A2 105mm towed howitzer."

It was thought to be the last firing of the self propelled howitzers at last year's AT as the 3-112th Field Artillery transformed into the 3-112th Fires Battalion.

"Things have a way of changing," noted Scully, who along with the rest of the battalion eagerly await the new equipment.

Master Sgt. Michael A. Steck, Jr. will not see the first firing of the towed guns as he turns 60 years old in November. This is the last AT for Steck, who has been a cannoneer since 1985 and despite his age, he is ready to serve.

"I would do it in a minute; if they said tomorrow let's go, I'm there." 🇺🇸



Pfc. Christian Cruz (left) and Spc. Shadiq Shakir prepare a charge for a 155mm artillery round from Artillery Firing Point 14 at Fort Dix.

Gettysburg trip helps Battalion gel

Photo and story Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, 444MPAD



Military Intelligence Company executive officer 1st Lt. David Field, 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion leads a discussion on information and its use in warfare near the Eternal Light Peace Memorial on the Battlefield of Gettysburg.

The formation of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) has had its share of challenges for Soldiers, like new jobs, new armories and a slew of new unit designations.

Last summer the 2nd-102nd Armor Battalion and 250th Signal Battalion, faded into history, but the personnel became the nucleus of the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB).

"It is a unique organization to the New Jersey Army National Guard and to the Army in general," said Lt. Col. Kenneth S. Schechter, commander of the battalion that serves as the combat support element for the IBCT.

The battalion includes a headquarters, Signal, Military Intelligence and Engineer companies and has Military Police

and Chemical Reconnaissance platoons, providing a wide range of options to the IBCT commander.

The final piece of the Special Troops was put into place in February, so this new battalion decided to do something unique during their first Annual Training together at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

The whole battalion of more than 130 Soldiers from E-1 to O-5 boarded three busses and left for Gettysburg National Military Park.

"Sort of us ushering in our new identity and connecting with that, and we are using the Battle of Gettysburg to help us do that," said 1st Lt. Jason E. Mull, executive officer for the BSTB Engineer Company and one of the organizers of the field trip.

But it was much more than the stop and look at monuments sightseeing tour, this trip had actually branch-specific lessons taught by the senior leaders before moving to the next location.

"Know the weaknesses of your enemy," was the response from crowd when the Military Intelligence Company Executive Officer 1st Lt. David Field asked why intelligence is important. Using an artillery piece as his podium near the site of the first day of battles between Union and Confederate soldiers on July 1, 1863, Field led the discussion on information and its use in warfare.

"We are forming a foundation here," stressed Schechter as he spoke about team building and bringing the unit together.

The trip to Gettysburg was a reward for plenty of hard training earlier in the two weeks.

That training included weapons qualification, Warrior Training Tasks (WTT) and Army Warrior Task Battle Drills, such as reaction to IED's or an ambush and removing wounded Soldiers out of vehicles. 🇺🇸



Blackhawk helicopters from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Assault Helicopter Company swoop over a jam-packed Giants Stadium at the Meadowlands Complex in Secaucus before the Giants played the Green Bay Packers on Sept. 16. The crew members of all four helicopters were recognized on the field during the game. Photo by Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD.



For Patriot's Day Sgt. George O'Malley, Staff Sgt. Beau Zordrager, Staff Sgt. Theodore Berry, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Martinez and Sgt. Mauricio Vega raised the Nation's colors at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt. State Police, Department of Corrections and local first responders participated in the Sept. 11 ceremony. Photo by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.

Zum Deutschland (To Germany)

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108ARW/PA

“One of the last good deals in the Guard,” is how Lt. Col. Rick Keasey, Air National Guard Liaison officer, Geilenkirchen, Germany describes a rotation at the NATO airbase.

The 108th Air Refueling Wing deployed a contingent of specialists and crew members for their second time in 2007 for two weeks in August.

The past 14 years, air refueling units have come to Geilenkirchen for two-week rotations to fuel the AWACS airplanes that fly from the base.

For 44 weeks a year, Guard units fly one to two flights a day. Outside of a real world emergency, the flights do not fly from 10 p.m. until 8 a.m., nor do they fly on weekends; giving good reason for crews and their maintainers to enjoy their visit to Germany.

The trips not only includes pilots and boom operators but also specialists from the many sections that are in the wing such as Avionics, Propulsion, Supply, Fuels, Mission Operations Center (MOC) and crew chiefs.

Senior Master Sgt. George Phillips, a Sortie Generation Supervisor with the 108th came to Geilenkirchen on the wing's first mission to the NATO base in 1993. He returned a second time in 2005 and was back for his third trip with the wing.

Phillips, who has deployed throughout the U.S. and around the world said that many people like to do repeat trips to this NATO base. He added that since there is no night flying, sometimes during the second week of summer deployments,



(Left to right) Lt. Col. Bill Crouse, Master Sgt. Michael Sylvester and Lt. Col. Rodney Chandler do their pre-flight while on a deployment to Geilenkirchen.

crew and several specialists may fly to a base in Great Britain for a couple days to do night refuelings.

Senior Airman Albert Grice, an avionics specialist was on his second trip to Geilenkirchen. After working on the plane during the week, he was looking forward to taking a trip to several local cities.

“At 23, I have been to most of the countries in Europe,” he said. “Where else could that happen?”



On Sept. 15, the 108th Air Refueling Wing held a Career Day. The Contingency Response Group and the Intelligence Squadron – the 108th's newest missions – were there, along with the other squadrons, shops and career fields. The 108th has traditional vacancies ranging from aircraft loadmaster, command post, weather, aerospace medicine, contracting, financial management; satellite, wideband, and telemetry systems; supply management and air transport.

Program helps military members find jobs

Vet Career Connect is a program that matches a veteran's specific abilities and interests with jobs requiring those specific abilities.

After participants complete a Caliper Profile, which is an on-line self assessment, they will receive an Individual Developmental Guide outlining personal motivators and areas of developmental opportunity. Participants will then have the opportunity to place their profile results, their resume and military achievements onto a database which will be viewed by New Jersey companies who have indicated a strong interest in employing veterans.

Vet Career Connect program is available at no cost to service members. In order to participate in this program, or if you have additional questions please email or call Barbara Foos, Project Administrator, at 609-524-1228 or bfoos@calipercorp.com.

News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats is a program that connects Guard members with career training and employment opportunities within the construction industry.

The program is administered by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment, and Veterans Employment. Eligibility requirements include: being at least 18 years of age, an honorable discharge, a high school diploma or equivalent, pass a drug test and be physically fit to perform work.

For more information log on to: www.helmetstohardhats.org/

Family Readiness Grant Program

From the N.J. State Family Readiness Council

Family Grants are available to New Jersey Guard members 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 call **1-888-859-0352** or contact the Family Assistance Center nearest you.

Family Assistance Centers

108th Air Refueling Wing
3327 Charles Blvd.
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
POC: Laura Forrest
laura.forrest@njmccgu.af.mil

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

Lawrenceville Army
151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2897
POC: Jane Hackbarth
jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil

Morristown Army
430 Jockey Hollow Road
Morristown, NJ 07960-0499
POC: John Hales
john.a.hales@us.army.mil

Pomona NJNG FAC
400 Langley Road
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
POC (Air): Paul Gunning
paul.gunning@njatla.af.mil
POC (Army): Michael Hughes
michael.hughes@njatla.af.mil

Somerset Army
1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
POC: John Hales
john.a.hales@us.army.mil

Teaneck Army
Teaneck & Liberty Roads
Teaneck NJ 07666-0687
POC: SSG Joe Coltery
joe.coltery@us.army.mil

Toms River Army
1200 Whitesville Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
POC: Maria Morro
maria.morro1@us.army.mil

Woodbury Army
658 North Evergreen Avenue
Woodbury, NJ 08096
POC: Heather Altman
heather.altman@us.army.mil
Or call 1-888-859-0352



ARE YOU RED FOR THE POST DEPLOYMENT HEALTH REASSESSMENT?

Is your AKO stoplight **Red** for My Medical Readiness? Is AKO telling you that you are due to complete your Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA)? Want to know how to fix this?

The PDHRA seeks to identify proactively potential health issues before they become chronic conditions. The PDHRA provides education, screening, assessment and access to care for a wide variety of questions and concerns that Soldiers may have about their health after they return from deployment. **Soldiers who redeployed from a combat zone more than 90 days ago are eligible for the PDHRA. Just follow these simple directions:**

Option 1: Begin PDHRA online and complete it over the phone. You may complete the PDHRA online through AKO by going to <https://apps.meds.army.mil/mwde/secure/!AKOForms.asp> and logging in with your AKO username and password. You must then call 1-888-PDHRA-99 to discuss your responses with a healthcare provider.

Option 2: Complete PDHRA entirely over the phone. If you do not have access to a computer or AKO, you may call 1-888-PDHRA-99 and complete the entire assessment over the phone.

Questions? Visit <http://www.virtualarmory.com/mobiledeploy/PDHRA> for more information.

INCENTIVE FLIGHTS AVAILABLE

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





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SHORT ROUNDS

LIEUTENANTS, FIRST SHIRTS, GRADS AND CAMPOREE



OCS at 50

Nineteen graduating Officer Candidate School (OCS) Class 50 Soldiers were joined by their families and peers on August 5 at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt. Along with the highest of expectations, OCS Class 50 also carries with them another distinction, the continuation of a tradition started in 1958 by the first graduating OCS class of the New Jersey OCS program. These second lieutenant's are the latest graduates in the tradition that has seen 2,827 gain their gold bar from the New Jersey OCS program. Photo by Spc. Pablo Vizcaino, 444MPAD.



1st Sgt. Returns

First Sergeant Dan Mitchell, 177th Fighter Wing Security Forces, returns after a four-month deployment serving as the first sergeant with the 755th Expeditionary Support Squadron at Kabul, Afghanistan. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



Newest CST Grads

The newest members of the 21st Civil Support Team (WMD) (left to right) 1st Lt. Sony Stab, Pfc. Jeffery Whalen, Spc. Michael Issenman and Sgt. Arnold Young graduated from the Civil Support Skills Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., on August 30. The course teaches students the fundamental skills involved in civil support team operations, including blocks of instruction on anti-terrorism, chemistry, hazardous materials, and responder operations. Photo by Maj. Jesse Arnstein, 21CST(WMD).



TAG addresses Scouts

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, speaks to Boy Scouts about their role in Homeland Security during the New Jersey State Police Boy Scout Camporee held at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center (NGTC) on Oct. 6-7. Approximately 9,000 Boy Scouts from all 21 counties converged on Sea Girt for the event. Not since the World War I mobilizations has Sea Girt seen this many tents. The Army Guard provided water trailers and personnel to keep them filled to ensure that the Scouts were well hydrated at this, the largest encampment ever on the NGTC grounds. Photo by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.

ETT bids farewell

By Spc. William Addison, 444MPAD

As the 15 members of the Embedded Training Team (ETT) embark on their journey to continue the New Jersey Army National Guard's mission of training Afghani soldiers, they bear with them the symbol of another legacy, the guidon of Company A, 1st Separate Battalion.

The presentation of the colors took place September 20 at the ETT's farewell salute at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

The ETT will be spending the next year training the soldiers of the Afghanistan army in the standards of the United States Army. Their main mission is to help the Afghanistan Army provide security to the region itself.

"This is truly a unique and critical mission as we help to build a professional army in Afghanistan," said Maj. Gen Glenn K. Rieth, Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard. "They're going to show them what the American standard is," he added.

"We have a robust group of individuals that bring a lot of different skill sets into the mix," said Lt. Col. John E. Langston, ETT team chief, about the readiness of the Soldiers to perform the task at hand.

The team has been preparing since February, training to improve their individual Soldiering skills, weapons marksmanship and physical fitness. "I think all of this combined experience helps us gel into a tight team that will be able to help the Afghan people," said Langston.

Some even have first hand experience working with the Afghanistan army.

"You can't teach these guys how to fight, they've been fighting for thirty years," said Staff Sgt. Michael Tumminelli, ETT company mentor.

This is Tumminelli's second tour to the region adding that the key to success is updating cultural awareness.

"What you need to do is treat them with respect, adhere to their cultural rules and regulations and pretty much keep your level of focus high at all times," he said.

But as the members of the ETT look forward to the mission ahead, they carry with them a reminder of the past under the motto "Sans Peur," Without Fear.

It was this motto that retired Capt. Spencer C. Moore, who was a member of Company C, 372nd Infantry Regiment in 1940, wanted to make sure the ETT members understood as he presented the battalion colors.



Capt. Spencer C. Moore (left), Company C, 372nd Infantry Regiment, passes the Sans Peur guidon to Sgt. Nick Young, JT2DC, dressed in a uniform similar to that worn by the 372nd in the 1930's. Photo by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.

Company A, 1st Separate Brigade was formed on September 25, 1931 after many African-American citizens of Newark, Plainfield and Orange became discouraged by the fact that there were no "Colored" units in the New Jersey National Guard. This fact was echoed by the many African-Americans who fought in World War I and now had no way to pursue their military career.

Soon after, Company B was formed, commanded by "Negro" officers.

Company A made their name in 1934, when the cruise ship "Morro Castle" caught fire near the Sea Girt National Guard Camp. The men of Company A manned life boats and rowed out to the ill-fated ship. Many lives were saved due to their efforts.

"It's a bit inspiring taking on that legacy, but not only because I'm African American," said Langston. "It's the spirit of volunteerism that we want to exchange here along with the colors."

The Jersey Guard members will be leaving Fort Riley, Kan., in the beginning of November prior to starting the one-year deployment to Afghanistan. 🇺🇸



NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

To Sergeant Major (E-9)

Martin Sotomayor Jr.

To First Sergeant (E-8):

Charley Keuscher

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

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Paula M. Cantara
Stephanie A. Chambliss

Richard W. Platt
John H. Warhurst

To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

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Christian S. Dimeo
Angel O. Ferrer Jr.
Timothy J. Hoke

Christopher D. Jaeger
Joseph M. Martin Jr.
David M. Mullen
Roger T. O'Brien
Christopher N. Scott
Jeffrey A. Sorrentino
Albert Veltri Jr.

To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Dwane A. Banghart
Ferdinand Berrios-Rodriguez

David R. Crenshaw
Jose T. Cruz

Britt J. Dudzic
Roger L. Ford Jr.
Daniel Guzman

Kimberly M. Hankins
David L. Hanks

Jonathan Hillebrand
Victor M. Irizarry Jr.
Stephen R. Janeczko

Julian Londono
Adrian A. Mendoza
David A. Michaels
Rafael M. Moura

Patrick J. O'Flaherty
Jean P. Ortega
Fernando Ospina

Vihal Patel
Xavier N. Ramirez
William F. Richmond

David S. Rupert
Luis M. Silva
Joseph A. Swansinger

Eric R. Symonds
Angel L. Torres
Dean E. Walgren

Brian E. Washington
Randall D. Williams
Robert C. Williams

To Sergeant (E-5):

Francis A. Abreu
Carlos R. Arboleda
Edgardo E. Arrazola

Raymond Aviles
Michael W. Carter

Nicholas V. Caruso Jr.
Stephen R. Cervini Jr.
David J. Chaika Jr.

Matthew P. Ebienpesa
Danny J. Escobar
Evangelista Eleanor

Gregory S. Fletcher
Juana E. Garrett
Matthew J. Garzio

Zak A. Goeb
Angel L. Gonzalez
Keshia M. Harris

Nicholas A. Iacovou
Robert D. Jacoby
Timothy J. Jardinico

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Michael D. Joswick
Lauren E. Kuchar

Laurie R. Leskanic
Sean C. McDowell
Steven Molina

Houdine L. Moore
Stephen T. Moore
Joanessa S. Nash

Elizabeth A. Obuobisa
Francisco A. Ortiz
Neckear H. Pauyo

Joseph Perkins
Matthew J. C. Petruz
Alexander I. Platz

Edwin Rodriguez-Santiago Jr.
David J. Schriver
Marc A. Scozzafava

Javier M. Sojos
Allen E. Sperry
Maria E. Teodoro

Kelly A. Wiest
William S. Woll Jr.
Nicholas P. Young

To Specialist (E-4):

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Michael J. Allen
Joshua L. Andrews

Fatmata Bangura
Clarence E. Barbee
Jamil Barrera

Jason F. Butler
Adam P. Butterfield
Rashedul I. Chowdhury

Michael H. Cifelli
Andrew J. Clayton
Brian J. Costigan

Stephen W. David
Lloyd M. Deans
Mayra Y. Espinal

Anthony J. Esposito Jr.
Michael B. Fox
Shawn O. Harris

Jiovette J. Hernandez
Devon K. Hooper
Marcial B. Martinez

Joseph J. McGovern
Alexander I. Mendoza
Norma I. Mojica

Craig R. Morrison
Matthew G. Mullin
Deborah C. Navedo

Evin P. Ramiah
Albert C. Sbarro Jr.
Sasha T. Sherard

Kemesha H. Smith
Michael S. Torstrup Jr.
Alkesh R. Trivedi

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Brenda L. Alexander
Christian Y. Alfaro

Ayala R. A. Alfonso
Dwayne C. Anderson
Joseph R. Antonaccio

Priscilla Arias
Quincy M. Bloxom
Diana C. Brand

Michael G. Brennan
Michael C. Brewster
Stephen L. Carrington Jr.

Matthew L. L. Coward
Mark L. Dashiak Jr.
Samelin Fenelus

Jerette R. Frank
Richard M. Geronimo
Carlos H. Granados

Nathan E. Green Jr.
David L. Inirio
Rachael V. Kennedy

Cristina M. Lainez
Kevon W. Lawson
Roger D. Martinez

Kenneth L. Maze III
Andrew D. McConnell
Marvin Monroig

Quelcia Olea
Joubert Pacius
Brian E. Pawlo

Angel Perez
Alex V. Rogers
Alicia E. Savadge

Cordarre L. Simmons
Aaron B. Smith
Johnny Soriano

Cornelius K. Stewart
Sergio L. Suarez
David L. Wollemborg

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Gordon E. Adams III
Jean-Phillipe Adingra

Christian A. Alvarado
Christopher K. Alvarez
Jose A. Ayala

Jason A. Bacon
Michael F. Bodnar
Dominic A. Buckmuse III

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Kevin D. Carbone II
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Aaron B. Casterline
Kenneth Chan
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Abriel P. Cooper
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Richard A. Dornewass
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Justin R. Eyet

Eric C. Frawley
Shalish D. Grant
Robert W. Gray II

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Elwood R. Humphries IV
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Michael R. Molawka
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Ivan A. Ordonez
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Mario S. Parra

Lawrence E. Pedrick
Joel Pedroso
Tanisha R. Ramsey

Robert S. Reilly
Don Ricciardi
Fames A. Robb

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Joseph R. Salinardi
Erika M. Sanchez

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Anthony S. Scavuzo
Amber R. Snyder

Samuel Sylvain
Jose A. Torres
Nichole M. Tozzo

Jeremy R. Walker
Nyonkapwuo E. Walo
Chantharath

Xumphonphakdy
Christian Zambrano
Dan R. Zanoria

NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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Jennifer A. Stokes

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):

Nicholas Capille Jr.
George P. Gulya
Dwight E. Melton

To Master Sergeant (E-7):

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Thomas R. Capito
Steven S. Enloe

Andrew T. Matejek
Shawn E. Mildren
William C. Perkins

Mark D. Porter
James E. Simmons III
Charles L. Twigg Jr.

Lisel D. White To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

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Tamika S. Covington
Susan J. Faucett

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Frank Garcia
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Marilia D. Rodriguez
Duane T. Sarmiento

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Francisco D. C. Birch

Joshua C. Bone
Brian L. Calhoun
Rosendo Catala

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Timothy D. Delouise

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To Airman Basic (E-1):

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Melissa I. Melendez
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Mitchell
David B. Sheridan
Joel L. Simpson II

Philip J. Vitale
Congratulations To All!

Compiled by
Master Sgt.
Daniel J. Caldarele
(Army promotions)
and
Master Sgt.
Paul B. Thompson Jr.
(Air promotions)

LAST ROUND - HEADING IN

With yellow smoke providing cover and concealment, Pfc. Marc Louden, left, and Spc. Ken Christian charge through a door during the final moments of an Urban Operations Field Training Exercise during Annual Training at MOUT (Military Operations on Urban Terrain) Site 13A at Fort Drum, N.Y. Louden and Christian were part of a combined assault team, which included members of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry and Cobra Company, Rapid Reaction Brigade, Republic of Albania Armed Forces. The Albanians were training with the New Jersey Guardsman as part of a Unit Level Exchange with the State Partnership Program. Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, JFHQ-NJ/PA.



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