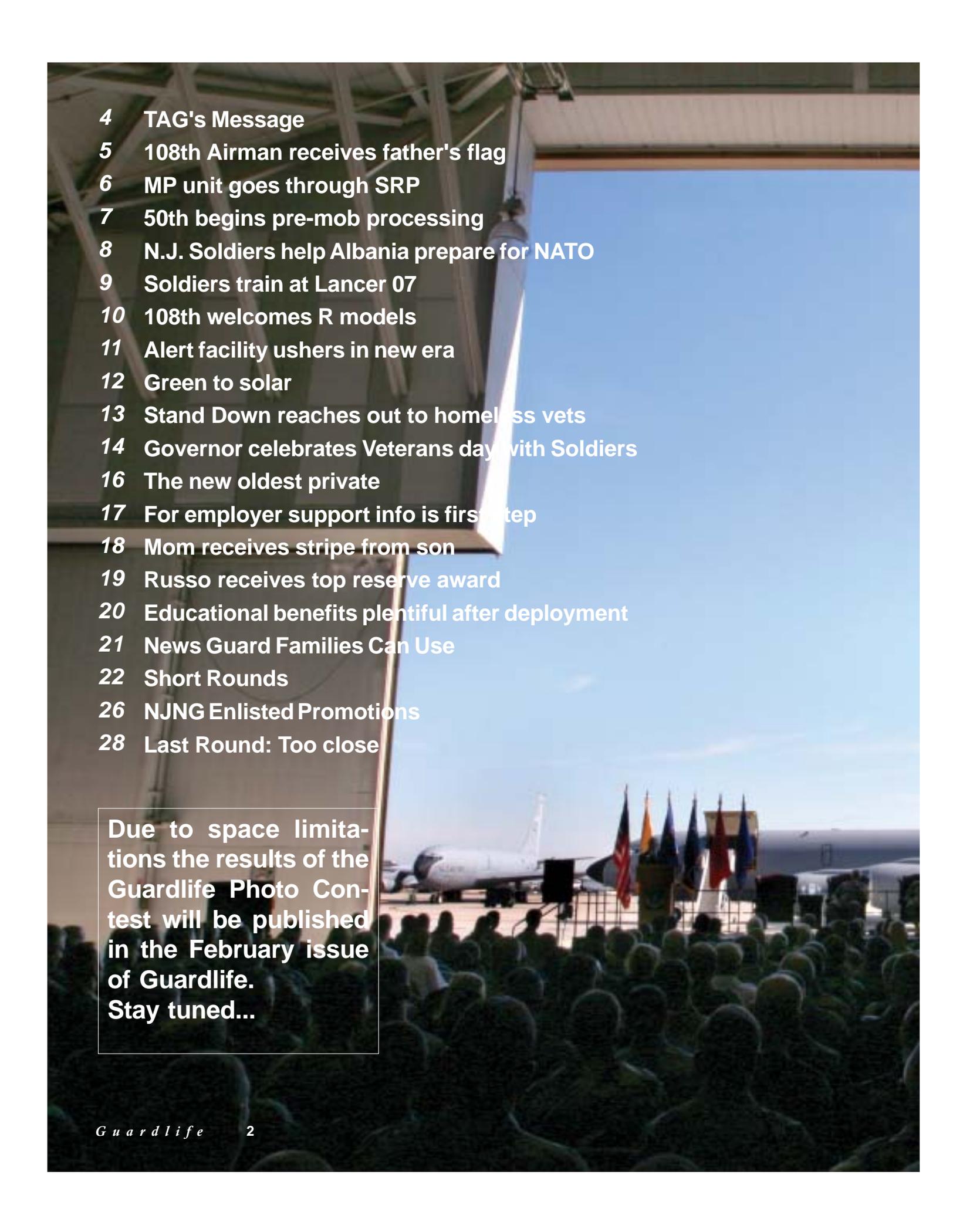


December  
2007

# Guardlife

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD



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Due to space limitations the results of the Guardlife Photo Contest will be published in the February issue of Guardlife. Stay tuned...



# Guardlife

## Vol. 33, No. 5

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### **Cover: On the scene**

Members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces pose for a photo at Camp Victory in Iraq. From left to right are Chief Master Sgt. Lance C. Endee, Tech. Sgt. Alvin L. Mallette, Lt. Col. Ronald B. Turk, Maj. Brian Grier and (kneeling with RPG) is Tech. Sgt. Rafael Moralez. Photo courtesy 108ARW/SF.

### **Inside Cover: KC-135R Rollout**

The first of eight R-model Stratotankers is framed by the 108th Air Refueling Wing's main hangar doors during the arrival ceremony on Oct. 15. For more details on the ceremony turn to page 10. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

# **Being prepared**

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

**Before 2007 has even ended, Soldiers of New Jersey's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team have begun the Soldier Readiness Process (SRP) at our Joint Training and Training Development Center. These are some of the first steps in the long road to mobilization and deployment. 2008 will see half of the Garden State's Soldiers deploying to Iraq. But whether deployed overseas or operating on our own turf, our Hometown Team is getting the job done!**



*Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth addresses the Soldiers and Airmen of the 21st Civil Support Team during the Change of Command ceremony held at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville on Nov. 28. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.*

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, on a recent visit with Army National Guard troops deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, expressed his appreciation for their service and sacrifice and willingness to serve their country. He stated that, "When you call up the Guard, you call up America." Well, the New Jersey National Guard has answered that call, and stands ready for future contingencies.

Our Embedded Training Team (ETT) is doing well, and indications are that it will continue the great work of training members of the Afghan National Army. The Security Forces of the 108th Air Refueling Wing are doing good work in Iraq, helping to keep friendly forces safe and our bases secure. There are many other New Jersey Soldiers and Airmen that are deployed individually or in small teams throughout the world. Every one of them is contributing to the security and stability of the various regions in which they are deployed.

I want to take a moment to say "welcome home" to the 108th's 12-person Security Forces team, recently returned from southern Iraq. These Airmen have successfully completed another outstanding job working with our active-duty counterparts in a joint environment. Traffic on Route 95 from BWI notwithstanding, your return two days before Thanksgiving was a blessing to us all.

To the families of our Airmen and Soldiers, I can't stress enough the importance of establishing a rapport with representatives and staff members of the various organizations that exist to support you. I made a plea in the last issue of *Guardlife* for you to get to know your local Family Readiness and Assistance staff...chaplains... etc.... This is the time to do

that...to get to know the men and women whose job it is to help you. This network exists to support our Soldiers and Airmen and, especially during periods of absence, their families.

One more thing, if for any reason a Soldier, Airmen, or family member ever encounters a problem or does not know where to turn...it is my intent to provide a means by which to find an answer. Call the toll-free number 1-888-859-0352 to find a local Family Assistance Center. Whether preparing ahead of time or faced with an immediate, unexpected problem or financial need, keep this number handy.

As the winter months begin to show their dangerous nature, I want to remind all members of our Guard family to be careful out there. Whether on the job, at home, or on the road...make safety a habit! Although it does not seem this way sometimes, we are located in a region of the country where winter storms are not as bad as other parts of the nation. However, don't let this lull you into a false sense of security: prepare now for ice, snow, sleet and whatever else Mother Nature can possibly throw our way this season.

*Gift of history*

# 108TH AIRMAN RECEIVES FATHER'S FLAG

*By Staff Sgt. Harold Beard, 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron*



*108th Security Force Guardsmen Staff Sgt. Harold Beard (center), and Senior Airmen Roberto Oquendo (left), and Timothy Delouise ceremoniously fold a 67-year-old U.S. flag flown here Dec. 7. The flag, a gift to Beard from his father-in-law, flew in Ohio on Dec. 7, 1941 in honor of the fallen at Pearl Harbor, on various U.S. Army posts in Europe during World War II, and on various military posts in Vietnam during the conflict. Beard flew the flag in Baghdad, Iraq, to commemorate its 67th birthday. More than 60 108th Airmen provide security for Sather Air Base, Baghdad, Iraq. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey, USAF).*

**SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq — I recently received a piece of history in a care package from my father-in-law, Walter Omiecinski.**

Inside the package, contained a 48 Star American Flag that was first purchased by Mr. Omiecinski's parents in 1940. The flag was first raised over Walter's boyhood home in Ohio on Dec. 7, 1941 in honor of the fallen at Pearl Harbor.

The flag was then given to an uncle, Bernard Omiecinski, who served as a U.S. Army sergeant during World War II. Bernard Omiecinski took it with him to every post he was assigned.

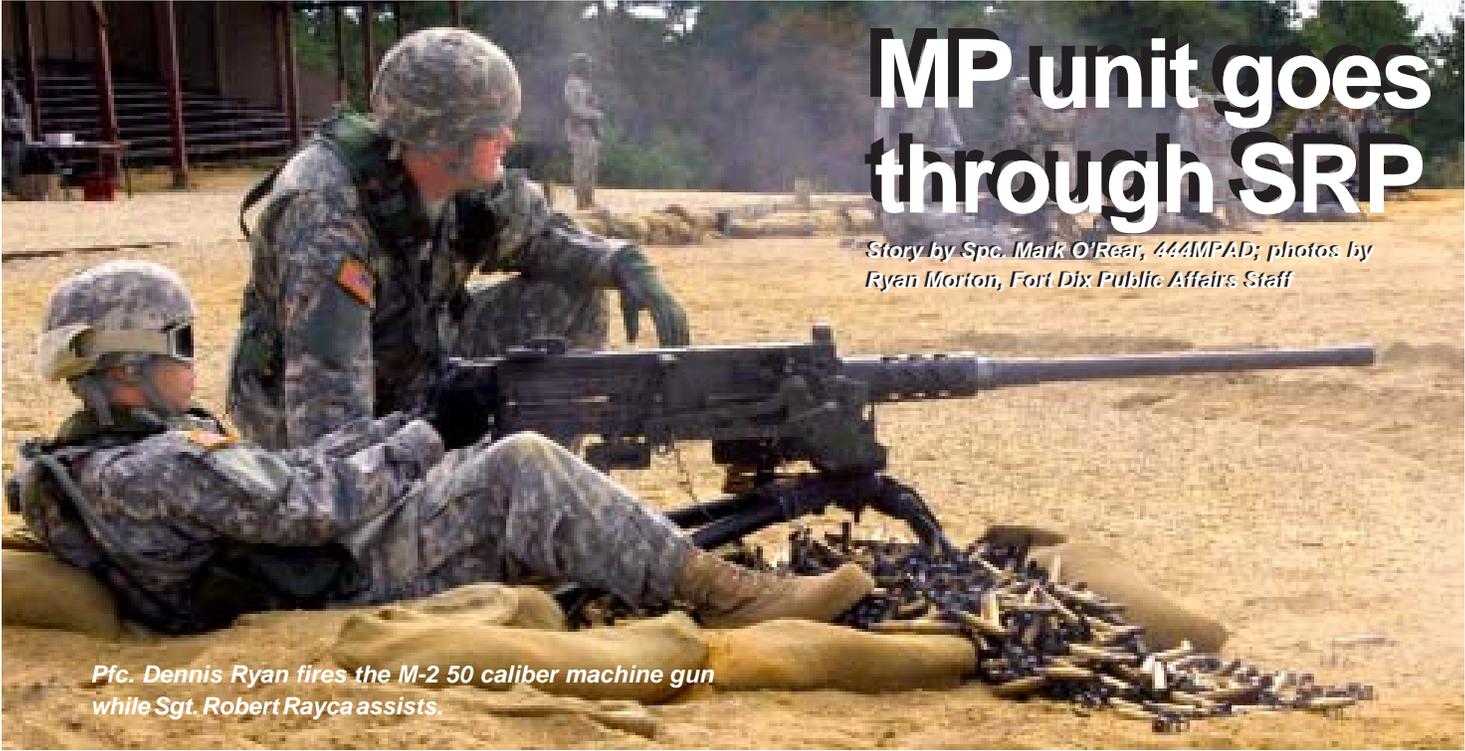
On Aug. 14, 1944 Sergeant Omiecinski was killed near St. Lo, France shortly after the D-Day invasion. The flag, along with his personal effects, were returned to the United States

and back in the care of the Omiecinski family in Ohio.

In 1957, the flag was given to Walter Omiecinski, my father-in-law. Mr. Omiecinski, a Green Beret during Vietnam, and Purple Heart recipient, flew the flag at each post he was assigned during the conflict.

In turn, I flew the flag on Sather Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq on Dec. 7, 2007 — commemorating its 67th birthday. It will be encased, and displayed in a special place in my New Jersey home.

I hope to pass it on to one of my children one day, and they can fly it at one of their military posts, which may not be long from now. My daughter, Courtney, recently graduated from U.S. Air Force Basic Training, and is currently attending technical school to become an intelligence specialist.



# MP unit goes through SRP

Story by Spc. Mark O'Rear, 444MPAD; photos by Ryan Morton, Fort Dix Public Affairs Staff

*Pfc. Dennis Ryan fires the M-2 50 caliber machine gun while Sgt. Robert Rayca assists.*

As any Soldier can tell you, a deployment can be a stressful time filled with anxiety and mountains of administrative paperwork. New Jersey National Guard Soldiers of the 328th Military Police (MP), based at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, are now going through the processes that will give them an experience of a lifetime. Normally Soldiers would be a little apprehensive when they learn that their unit would deploy, but the 328th MPs are genuinely excited about deploying to Iraq.

"I really want to go," said Pvt. Conor McGrath. "I want to say I was a part of something this big." Ever since he could remember, McGrath has had aspirations of becoming a U.S. Soldier, coming from a family with a military background. McGrath had joined the New Jersey Army National Guard right after high school with hopes that the knowledge he will gain from his experiences will get him one step closer to civilian law enforcement.

***Our main goal is to make sure that we're fully qualified, fully trained before we hit the sand.***

Capt. David I. Rios  
328th Military Police

The MP's job is dangerous being that it is a combat enhancement class MOS, but that did not stop Pfc. China-Marie Melendez from answering the call. Military Police is one of the few combat

MOS in which females can enlist.

"I've always had a sense of patriotism," said Melendez, and after the attack on September 11, she became even more determined to become a U.S. Army Soldier. When not drilling on the weekends, Melendez works as a full-time receptionist and full-time student at a community college. She has also adjusted well to the news of the mobilization, having already enrolled for the spring semester before her deployment.

Although the 328th MP have much more administration and training to do before their mobilization, Capt. David I. Rios, 328th Commander is pleased with the progress of the unit. "Our main goal is to make sure that we're fully qualified, fully trained before we hit the sand," Rios said. "Believe it or not, they [328th MP] are ready to go. They want to go."



*Pfc. Jahaid Postell loads a grenade round in the M-203 rifle and grenade launcher for Spc. John Panagakos to fire.*

## Preparation

# 50th begins pre-mob medical processing

Photos and story by Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD

The Army put its promise into practice Nov. 27-28 as nearly 300 troops from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team underwent pre-mobilization medical processing at the Fort Dix Joint Readiness Center.

Approximately 3,100 Soldiers — including a total of 2,600 from the Garden State — are set to deploy with the 50th IBCT this summer. They will be tasked with security forces and detainee operations missions in Iraq.

Conducting such processing during pre-mobilization preparations comes as a result of a policy issued earlier this year that limits Reserve Component mobilizations to no more than one year, inclusive of time spent at the mobilization station, in-theater, and at the demobilization station.

To meet this timeline, units are now required to accomplish certain tasks formerly completed at mobilization stations while still in a pre-mobilization, Reserve Component status.

“They’ve shifted a lot of the pre-mobilization training to the units,” explained Col. Steve Ferrari, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) commander. “We’re reducing some of the time we’d have to spend at (the mobilization station).”

“The more training we can get done in pre-mobilization, the more time we can spend in-theater,” said Ferrari.

Pre-mobilization training includes Soldier Readiness Processing, the Combat Lifesaver course, weapons qualification,



This won't hurt. Pvt. Kimberly Medina (left), Sea Girt Medical Command, inoculates Staff Sgt. Lisandro Peralta, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry.

driver training, and medical screening, among other activities.

For the Brigade Soldiers to meet the pre-mobilization deployment requirements, New Jersey Army National Guard leadership partnered with Fort Dix mobilization leaders to meet the objectives. Under that plan, the Joint Readiness Center and the Joint Training and Training Development Center are being used to expedite the process.

“As the mobilization time prior to deployment has been condensed, every opportunity to train during the mobilization phase becomes precious,” said Col. Judith Robinson, Commander, Walson Medical Support Element.

The 50th IBCT Soldiers received eye exams, immunizations, blood work, and other medical processing during their two days at the Joint Readiness Center. Additional dates for the remaining Soldiers in the brigade are scheduled for the coming months.

“Conducting pre-mobilization medical screening also provides the commanders with more information on the condition of their Soldiers,” Robinson added. “It gives them early knowledge of issues that may preclude the deployment of a Soldier, and allows them to find proper replacements or make adjustments early in the deployment planning cycle.”

“And for those Soldiers who need further care before deployment,” she continued, “it gives them an opportunity to start that care now, and then be able to deploy on schedule with their units.” “It’s a win-win for the unit and the individual Soldier,” she said. 🇺🇸

Dr. Purav Desai (left) examines the teeth of 1st Lt. Nicole Miles, IBCT.



# Lessons learned in Albania

Photos and story by Maj. Jason Fetterolf, PAO, 50IBCT



From left, armed with AK-47s, Spc. Joseph DeAntonio, Spc. James Zeh, and Sgt. William Reid of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry demonstrate how to clear and secure a building while Sgt. 1st Class Edward Long watches.

**In October, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry participated in back-to-back multi-national training exercises in Albania. The Jersey Soldiers joined 1,100 military personnel from 23 countries participating in the Cooperative Longbow 07 (COLW 07) and Cooperative Lancer 07 (COLR 07) exercises.**

Beyond assessing capabilities and interoperability, many important lessons were learned and shared during both exercises. The friendliness and openness of the soldiers in sharing information and training techniques was instrumental in the lesson exchange.

One of the key lessons learned by all was differences in the role of NCOs in various countries. "Other countries do not leverage the chain of command the same way as the U.S.," said 1st Lt. Jason Cornell, 2-113th Infantry.

The only New Jersey Guard battalion to participate in a live fire "shoot-house," the 2-113th Soldiers took the lead in instructing Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) to the exercise participants on short notice. The well-conducted class in close quarters combat techniques was appreciated by the other military leaders. "You have to choose from whom you want to learn. When I choose, I choose American," said 1st Lt. Ervis Tusha, commander of Lion Heart Coy, 2nd

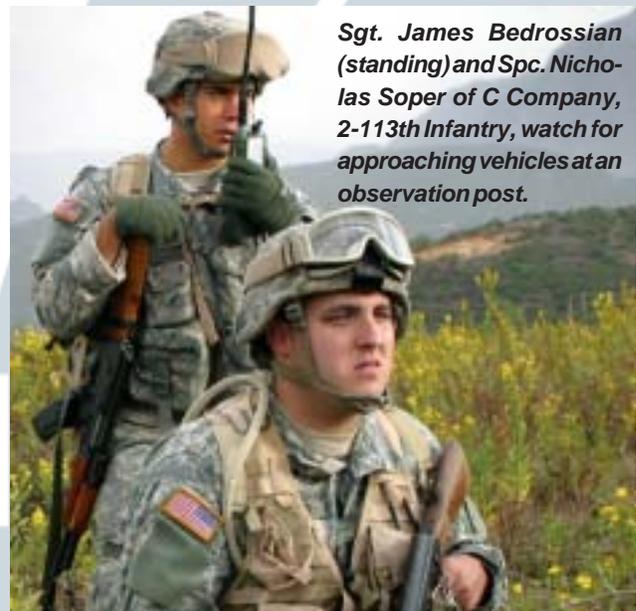
Battalion, Rapid Reaction Brigade, Albanian Army.

"They learned about the respect and how proud each Soldier was for his country, and the heritage of each...culture...and honor...and how proud they were of their lineage," said Capt. Nicholas Calenicoff, C Company Commander, 2-113th Infantry.

Interwoven into the ongoing training of both exercises was a cultural exchange— another unique learning opportunity for all nations. According to Lt. Turan Samidli of the Azerbaijani Army, he learned about the American culture, while relating the rich Azerbaijani culture in turn. Despite the fact that there are different ways of training and working, Samidli added that "We can do something good for the world together."

Even with nearly two-dozen nations cooperating, communicating, training, and exchanging cultures, two simple messages convey the impor-

tance of this experience, and the lessons learned here. "This type of international training must be continuous," said Calenicoff. "You can take the best of training from every nation and put it together," added Spc. Peter J. Ashwell, 2-113th Infantry.



**Sgt. James Bedrossian (standing) and Spc. Nicholas Soper of C Company, 2-113th Infantry, watch for approaching vehicles at an observation post.**

# Guard trains at Lancer 07

Photos and story by Maj. Jason Fetterolf, PAO, 50IBCT



**Sgt. Hayley Allen of the British Army explains the SA-80 rifle operations to 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Soldiers.**

## **ZALL-HERR, Albania - Pershendetje, Yia Su, Salute.**

These are just a few greetings heard in Albanian, Greek and Moldovan by Soldiers of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry during the Cooperative Lancer 07 Exercise (COLR 07) conducted in Albania from Oct. 19 - 30.

Nearly 1,000 soldiers from 21 countries were formed into a multinational battalion for COLR 07. The exercise further expanded the relationship forged during the unit level exchange between the Albanian Army and the New Jersey Army National Guard last summer.

"These are the people we are going to work with in the future," noted Pfc. Lamar Reddick, 2-113th Infantry.

According to Lt. Col. Bardhyl Kollcaku, Commander, 2nd Battalion, Rapid Reaction Brigade, Albania the exercise had several objectives including increasing interoperability and crisis response operations and serving as a framework for the 1st Albanian Coy (Company) to be evaluated as part of Albania's goal of joining NATO.

The exercise was divided into three stages and a challenge day. Stage one consisted of individual tasks including improvised explosive device training, the media, mines, first aid, rules of engagement, communications, anti-terrorism, and live fire of weapons such as the AK-47 and SA-80. "We learned that all weapons are pretty much the same," said Sgt. James Bedrossian, 2-113th Infantry.

One of the challenges was the military cultural difference. NCOs are given more authority in some countries and less in others. This challenge was met through mentoring of countries whose NCOs took a lesser role by those nations with stronger NCO corps.

Stage two consisted of squad-level tasks including area, convoy and urban operations with eight 2-113th Soldiers instructing the multinational soldiers in urban and area operations.

Challenge Day provided a change of pace between stages

two and three. It consisted of three scored events - running, firing weapons and grenade throwing.

Stage three consisted of company-level operations during a field training exercise. Each of the three companies conducted area, convoy, and urban operations. The final part of the field training exercise culminated with a one-day cordon and search mission. The 2-113th provided evaluators in addition to the battalion staff and medical team.

"It (the exercise) has opened my eyes to a whole new way a military can function," observed Spc. Scott W. Kowalski, 2-113th Infantry.

So no matter what language was used - Pune te mbare (Albanian), Kali-thuya (Greek) or Au avut succes (Moldovan); the meaning was the same - good job.



**Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Forrestal, 2-113th Infantry, and Master Sgt. Petros Tsintsaris, 507th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Greek Army, buddy-run during the Challenge Day Run.**

# 108th welcomes R models

By Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108ARW/PA  
Photo and illustration by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA



*Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff holds the ceremonial key to the wing's newest KC-135R Stratotanker. Background photo illustrates the aircraft's new tail insignia.*

The 108th Air Refueling Wing celebrated the arrival of the first KC-135R Stratotanker with a ceremony attended by distinguished visitors, wing members and retirees on Oct. 15.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff told the crowd, "This is a new day in the wing's history," when he spoke.

As the audience watched, the aircraft rolled down the flightline to the hangar and served as a backdrop to the stage. This is the first of eight R-model Stratotankers that will serve the wing.

Congressman Jim Saxton, 3rd District New Jersey, who was instrumental in getting the R-model and other missions to the 108th after the recent Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), spoke to the guests at the ceremony.

"This is a great day for the 108th," he said. "I never cease to be amazed by the dedication of the men and women of this wing."

Boeing Company's model 367-80 was the basic design for the commercial 707 passenger plane as well as the KC-135A Stratotanker. In 1954, the Air Force purchased the first 29 of the future 732-plane fleet. The Air Force received the last KC-135 in 1965. Gen. Arthur Lichte, Commander, Air Mobility Command told the audience that the R-model sitting on the ramp was from the 60's and not the 50's as the aircraft that

have been with the 108th since it became a refueling wing in 1993.

"The professional competency of the members in the 108th is unmatched," stated Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey.



*Congressman Jim Saxton, Gen. Arthur Lichte and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, disembark off the newest KC-135R Stratotanker.*

# 177th Alert facility ushers in new era

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



Under the watchful gaze of members of the alert crew enlisted force, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Representative Frank A. LoBiondo, New Jersey, 2nd District; and Col. Randall S. King, Commander, 177 Fighter Wing cut the ribbon officially opening the new state-of-the-art alert complex on Oct. 9. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

**As the oversized scissors came together under the direction of Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo, 2nd District of New Jersey; Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Col. Randall S. King, Commander, 177th Fighter Wing, the ribbon was cut opening the new state-of-the-art alert complex on Oct. 9.**

"The 177th Fighter Wing is responsible for defending America from air threats," observed Maj. Gen. Rieth. "This new facility and complex will protect the men, women and aircraft that guard America's skies."

The facility it replaces had served the nation well, from intercepting Soviet Bear bombers off the east coast during the Cold War, to escorting aircraft in distress back to safety.

Costing nearly \$13 million, the new alert aircraft shelters, capable of housing F-22 Raptors, and crew quarters will provide a cutting-edge infrastructure to the 177th Fighter Wing's Homeland Defense mission. The 33,000 square-foot facility includes utility support, security and fire suppression systems, emergency generators, communication upgrades and an aircraft apron expansion.

## 5k raises \$3K: Airman's son's scholarship started

More than 154 runners plus a group of volunteers gathered for the 177th Fighter Wing's First Annual Jack Green 5K Run/Walk on Oct. 21. The event was held in memory of Master Sgt. Jack Green, a 26-year veteran assigned to the Avionics shop and his step-daughter Alexa who were killed in an accident on Jan. 16. Proceeds from the Run will go to a special scholarship fund for Jack's son Jake. After receiving a shadowbox of Jack's medals, Lori Green and son Jake started the race. Cruising in first was Liam Dingman, son of Tech. Sgt. William Dingman, with a time of 19 minutes, 20 seconds. First place for women went to Capt. Yvonne Mays with a time of 24 minutes, 21 seconds. The final tally was close to \$3,000. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



# Green to solar

By Spc. Pablo G. Vizcaino, 444MPAD; photos by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA//PA



**If there was a power source that would last for about four billion years, would you not use it?**

What if it was good for the environment and saved you money as well?

You'd be crazy not to use it then.

That's exactly the train of thought that has led the New Jersey National Guard and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to become a leader in renewable energy, namely solar energy.

The plan was simple in its efficiency – utilize an often unused asset, a rooftop, and begin work. The existing rooftop of the Joint Training and Training Technology Development Center at Fort Dix proved to be the perfect candidate. Today, it is covered by 952 photovoltaic panels covering an area of 13,000 square feet and providing a total of 181kW of energy, which for those of us who think in more practical terms, translates to energy that can power over 150 homes.

The push for greener energy was far from over, however. A second project would follow, and as with anything the NJARNG does, it always has to be bigger and better than the last.

Finding a suitable place on the rooftops of the Homeland Security Center and United States Property and Fiscal Office warehouse, 1,648 solar panels will serve to generate 321kW of power – once again, 300 homes - and reduce annual CO2 emissions by 261 thousand pounds.

So how much did this all cost? Such an extensive project did require about \$1,425,000 funding from both federal and state sources, but thinking long-term, it was actually a

bargain. NJDMAVA projects a \$150,000 annual savings from utilizing solar power, meaning that the project will pay for itself in just 9.5 years, with net savings after that. The savings to the environment, however, remain priceless.

The two energy systems provide a staunch example of the leading role in renewable energy the NJARNG continues to maintain nationwide, having already won such awards as the Renewable Energy Award presented by the Secretary of the Army Peter Green on Sept. 13, 2006, and by being the largest military-owned solar project on the East Coast.

The Department is currently looking at a third solar energy project at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt.



*Maj. Erik Myhre, Facilities Manager, checks a solar panel located on the roof of the Homeland Security Center for Excellence in Lawrenceville.*

*In the Community*

# Stand Down reaches out to homeless vets

Photos by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs partnered with county, state and federal agencies to support the volunteer Stand Down Committees in South and North Jersey.

There are more than 6,500 homeless veterans in New Jersey.

On Sept. 21 the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill hosted the South Jersey Stand Down. The North Jersey Stand Down was held on Oct. 21 at the John F. Kennedy Pool and Recreation Center in Newark, a new location for the event.

The Army and Air National Guard assisted with both Stand Downs as Soldiers cooked and provided logistics support while 177th Fighter Wing and 108th Air Refueling Wing medical personnel were on hand to help with the health screenings.

Stand Downs provide homeless veterans with access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services availability, religious counseling, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing. The program's goal is to bring a wide range of resources together in one location so the veteran can access the various available services and also



*Specialists Lillian Nagery (left) and Courtney Roach - Soldiers from the 42nd Regional Support Group serve homeless veterans at the North Jersey Stand Down.*

recognize that the community is concerned.

Last year, 1,151 homeless veterans and their families attended Stand Downs in Cherry Hill and Newark. Stand Downs are grass roots, community-based intervention programs to help veterans battle life on the streets.

Stand Down comes from the military term referring to the removal of exhausted units from the battlefield to a place of security and safety for rest and recovery. 🇺🇸



*Maj. Roxellen Auletto, clinical nurse with the 177th Medical Group assisted homeless veterans during the South Jersey Stand Down.*



*Pfc. Dennis Ryan of the 328th Military Police Company attaches a plastic wrist band on a homeless veteran at the Cherry Hill Armory.*

# GOVERNOR CELEBRATES VETERANS



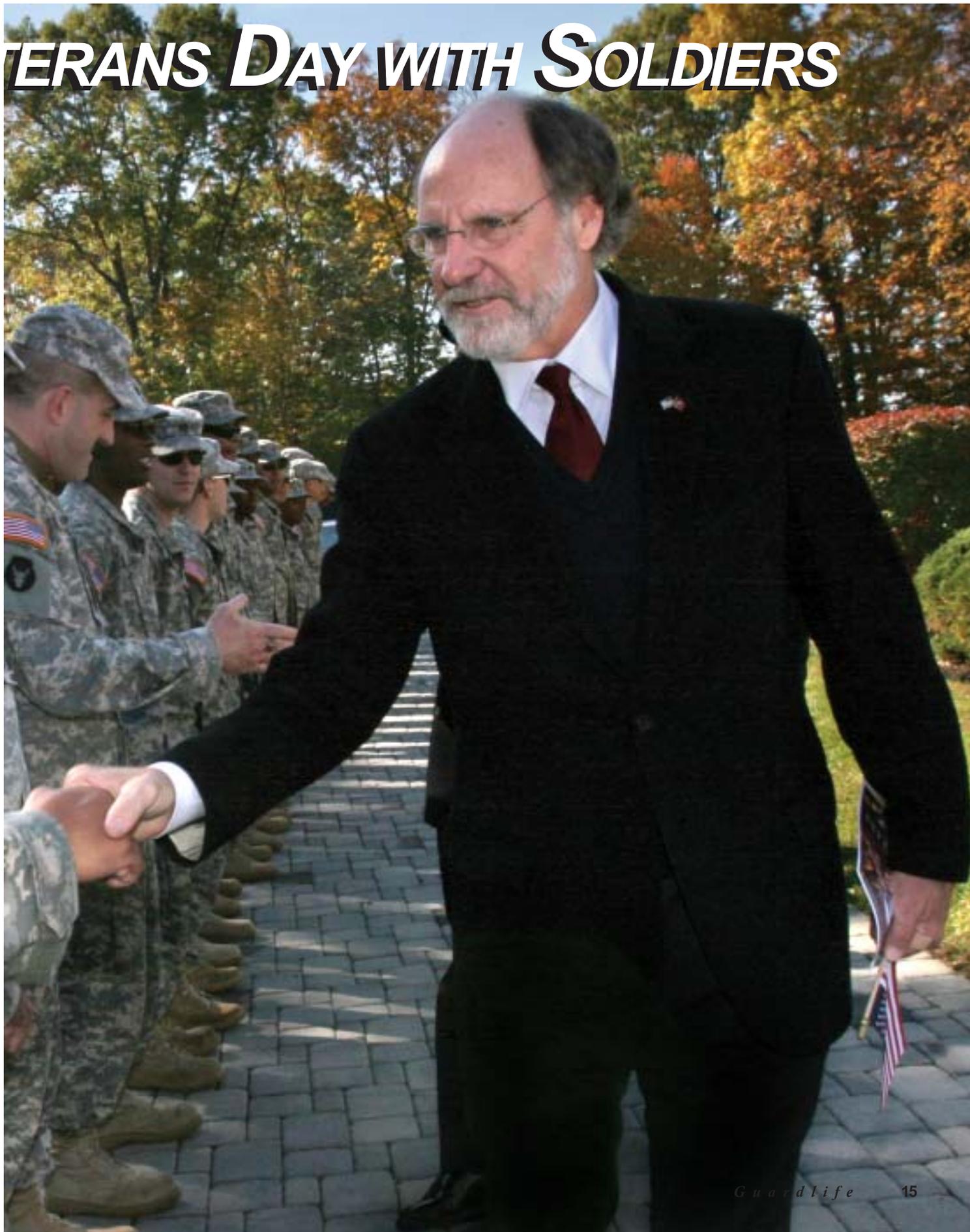
New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine shakes hands with Spc. Raul A. Jordan Jr., D Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, before giving the keynote speech at the Veteran's Day ceremony at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery.

The ceremony took place on Sunday, November 11 at 11 a.m. at the Chapel.

The Veterans Day Ceremony honored New Jersey veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces and included a flag Retirement Service, wherein the ashes of 2,000 flags were entombed.

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery is New Jersey's sole state-operated veterans' cemetery. Dedicated in 1986, it is funded jointly by state and federal dollars and is under the management of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Doyle Cemetery is the busiest state veteran cemetery in the nation, averaging 2,750 interments each year. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

# VETERANS *Day* WITH *SOLDIERS*



# THE NEWEST OLDEST PRIVATE

By Maj. Carl A. Palmer, JFHQ-NJ/PAO

**When Soldiers refer to the "Old Man", they are usually referring to their unit commander.**

At Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry located in Woodbury, just the opposite is true. One of the unit's newest members is 40-year old Pfc. Eric Love. Some people make big career choices early in their lives; some make them later.

Love got his first exposure to the military when he was in high school. "I had the opportunity to attend VMI (Virginia Military Institute)," he said. "It wasn't until a summer barbeque in 2006 that I met a recruiter who advised me the Army National Guard extended its age requirement to 42." He did his homework and discovered that the New Jersey Army National Guard had the most areas of interest and abundant benefits. Finally, he was able to fulfill his lifelong dream.

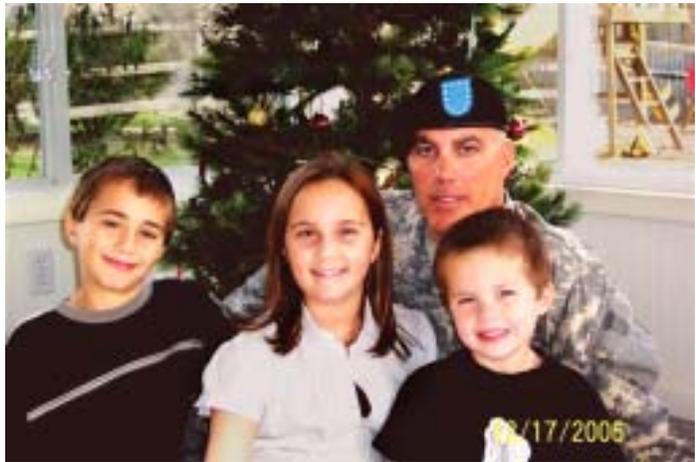
Love was in the middle of a civilian career transition when he spoke to his family about making this choice. "Initially, they thought I was joking," he said. "After several heartfelt conversations, they understood my reasoning and were fully supportive." His kids were more excited than his wife Jill was initially.

Jill's first reaction was "You gotta be kidding me!" Jill, a 43-year old sales representative with Radian Guaranty, later conceded that she had to support such a noble cause. She also admitted her husband had changed while away at training. "He lost weight and his gray hair...since it was shaved off," she joked.

His transition from civilian to Soldier was quick as he soon shipped out to One Station Unit Training (Basic and Advanced Individual Training combined) at Fort Benning, Ga. in September 2006. He was there until January 2007 learning basic and advanced infantry skills.

After sitting behind a desk or making presentations to Fortune 500 companies for most of his working life, he chose infantry as his military occupational specialty (MOS) in order to do something completely different. "I wanted to experience an area that would be demanding and challenging," said Love. "I wanted the toughest training the Army had to offer." When not in uniform, Love is the managing director for Elizabeth Neumann Company, a hospitality consulting firm. He has been in the hospitality industry for 20 years.

Most 40-somethings who are reading this article right now are probably wondering, "How can a 40-year old pull this feat off physically?" After all, Army Basic Combat Training and Infantry Advanced Individual Training (AIT) are very physical and are comprised primarily of 19-24 year olds. "Physically, Basic and AIT weren't that tough," Love claimed. "Keeping in



*Pfc. Love with his children (left to right) Hunter, Samantha and Parker. Photo courtesy Jill Love.*

shape all my life and staying healthy prepared me for the demands of daily activity." He scored a 285 on the Army Physical Fitness Test. "I was hoping to obtain a 300," he exclaimed. He was able to meet this challenge by following a daily routine of running, swimming, biking and taking fitness classes.

Not only was a fitness regimen helpful before attending Basic, so were his 40 years of life experiences. "With age comes wisdom," Love explained. "The mental part of Basic wasn't as tough as it might be for younger recruits." Love's observation of today's youth has inspired him to redouble his efforts toward instilling positive values in his own children – Samantha, age 12; Hunter, age 10 and Parker, age 4.

Just like many new recruits, Love is anxious to take advantage of the many benefits the New Jersey Army National Guard has to offer. "I will certainly be utilizing the educational aspects, along with the GI Bill," said Love. "We have also signed up our 10 year old son to the N.J. National Guard Youth Camp at Sea Girt." Although Love already has an Associate's degree in hospitality, he hopes to use his Guard benefits for free education to help finance his bachelor's and eventually a master's degree.

When so many his age are retiring, where will his new part-time career opportunity take him? "I am getting educated on many different areas of interest that have me excited," answered Love, explaining he plans on "serving my country and community for the next 20 years." Whether he plans on remaining in the infantry or takes advantage of other MOS fields, his future career path remains to be seen.

Love still has plenty of time to make these choices. 🍷

# For employer support, info is first step

By Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA/PA

**With thousands of the New Jersey Guard team preparing to mobilize in 2008, keeping their employers educated and aware of the benefits of employing Citizen Soldiers and Airmen falls into the hands of more than 150 volunteers of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) New Jersey field committee.**

“Our vision is to promote a culture in which all New Jersey employers support and value the military service of their employees,” said retired Army Col. Carmen A. Venticinque, ESGR New Jersey Field Committee Chairman.

Since 1972 the state committee has worked to support the all-volunteer service members of the seven reserve components and recognize employers that have demonstrated a commitment to the employees they share with the military.

It is the responsibility of the Guard member to communicate in a timely manner about when he or she has drills, annual training and especially about an upcoming deployment. This communication can go a long way to avoid problems later, along with maintaining a positive working relationship between the employer and Guard employees.

The New Jersey ESGR field committee is training additional members to serve as liaisons with military units. “We will place additional emphasis on our Military Outreach Program so as to ensure that we can assist all Guard members in understanding their rights and obligations under USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act) while encouraging them to recognize supportive employers,” added Venticinque.

One of the tools available to ESGR to contact and educate employers is the Civilian Employment Information (CEI) data, an initiative through the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

“We will send letters and make personal contact with employers of deployed Soldiers and Airmen,” noted Venticinque. The civilian employment information will also be used to invite employers on ‘Boss Lifts’ to visit 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) Soldiers training prior to and during their mobilization.

The CEI data is being collected during the pre-mob Soldiers Readiness processing (SRP) for the 50th IBCT or is submitted on an annual basis through the Defense Manpower Data Center web site.

Guard members are encouraged to recognize their employers through the ‘My Boss is a Patriot’ award and all the way up to the state Pro Patria and national Freedom Award. These awards show Guard members’ appreciation for their employers’ support and provide the field committee with potential employers that would be eligible for ‘Above and Beyond’ awards or other state awards. These same employ-

ers will also be asked to sign a Statements of Support, which says they pledge to recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA); their managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve; and they will continually recognize and support service members and their families in peace, in crises and in war.

Sometimes despite education efforts, expressions of gratitude along with communication between employer and employee, there are problems that need to be resolved. That is when the field committee ESGR Ombudsmen steps in to try to resolve those issues through informal mediation.

There are currently 19 ESGR volunteers in New Jersey, who have received extensive training on USERRA and dispute resolution techniques, who serve as informal mediators between the employer and employee. The Ombudsmen inform and educate the employer and employee on what the law requires and assist in finding a mutually agreeable solution. Those cases that can not be resolved are then referred to the Department of Labor.

It was summed up best by Dr. L. Gordon Sumner, Jr., Executive Director, National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR), who spoke at the state ESGR training conference in October.

“Without employer support, we would not have a reserve component.”

## Need more info

**Hank Pierre, Executive Director, NJESGR**

**e-mail: [hank.pierre@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:hank.pierre@njdmava.state.nj.us)**

**609-562-0156**

**Tammy Cartagena, Program Support Specialist, NJESGR**

**e-mail: [Tammy.L.Cartagena@us.army.mil](mailto:Tammy.L.Cartagena@us.army.mil)**

**609-562-0157**

## Web resources

**NJ State ESGR Committee - [www.njesgr.org/index.html](http://www.njesgr.org/index.html)**

**My Boss is a Patriot - [www.njesgr.org/mbiapform.html](http://www.njesgr.org/mbiapform.html)**

**National Committee ESGR - [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil)**

**Defense Manpower Data Center - <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>**

**Dept. of Labor - [www.dol.gov/compliance/laws/comp-userra.htm](http://www.dol.gov/compliance/laws/comp-userra.htm)**

# Hines promoted to brigadier general

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA; Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.

**The rank of Brigadier General was pinned on the shoulders of Col. Stephen J. Hines at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville on Sept. 30.**

Brig. Gen. Hines serves as the Deputy Commanding General, 42nd Infantry Division. He recently returned from Bright Star 2007, which combined the 42nd's staff, U.S. Central Command and U.S. Army Central and the Egyptian 9th Armored Division to foster greater military to military relations with participating nations.

Hines enlisted in the New Jersey Army National Guard on Oct. 9, 1971. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the New Jersey Military Academy, Officer Candidate School Class 17, in July 1974. He received a master's degree in geopolitical strategic science from the United States Army War College. He also possesses a bachelor of science. Hines is a graduate of the United States Army War College, Class of 2003.

His military assignments include Rifle Platoon Leader, Mortar Platoon Leader, Tactical Intelligence Officer, Operations Air, Personnel Administrative Officer, and Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company with the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry. While assigned to Headquarters State Area Command, Hines served as the State Marksmanship Coordinator, and Training Branch Chief in the Department Plans, Operations, Training and Military Support Directorate. Following these postings, he was the 50th Brigade Executive



*The rank of brigadier general is pinned on the shoulders of Col. Stephen J. Hines, center, by his mother Mary Hines (left) and his wife Patricia (right) on Sept. 30.*

Officer from July 1995 to July 1999. The general then served as Squadron Commander, 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry. Hines took command of the 50th Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division on March 1, 2002 and served until Feb. 29, 2004. Following that he served as Chief of Staff-Army, Joint Forces Headquarters, New Jersey Army National Guard.

## Mom receives stripe from son

By Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108ARW/PA

**During her recent promotion, Master Sgt. Lisel White (left) had a special person to pin on her latest stripe – her son, Tech. Sgt. Steven Blackstone (right). He was at McGuire Air Force Base, training for deployment to Afghanistan.**



The mother and son both joined the military late in 1994; she enlisted before him but he left for basic first. Blackstone has spent his time in the active duty Air Force and is currently working as an information manager for the Air Force Office of Special Investigation. White, on the other hand, has spent her entire military career in the 108th Air Refueling Wing. When she entered the Air Guard, she served in information management but five years ago cross-trained to become a Military Equal Opportunity specialist.

When her son was 17 and looking into joining the Air Force, his recruiter told him about the National Guard. Three days before her 35th birthday, White was sworn into the Guard.

Both Blackstone and White admit that having a family member in the military makes communication about their military lives easier and both continually express admiration for each other's careers. White said that she was, "honored to have Steven here to pin on my rank at the promotion ceremony."

Pride was evident also in Blackstone as he talked about his mother. "I'm proud to have her as one of my fellow Airmen."

# Russo receives top reserve award

Spc. Pablo Vizcaino, 444MPAD

Soldiers many times take for granted just how much effort it takes to get gear to link up with them at the right time around the world. Military personnel count on the equipment such as a HMMWV or tank being there, not realizing the behind the scenes work it took to meet their expectations. But it is heartening to know the logistics warriors behind this hard work don't go unnoticed for their efforts.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Russo, who serves as the Mobility Officer for the New Jersey Army National Guard's (NJARNG) Joint Forces Headquarters-New Jersey (JFHQ-NJ) became the recipient of the Reserve Component Transportation Corps Regimental Warrant Officer of the Year award for 2006. The prestigious award was for Thomas's service as a major player in the movement of a division worth of equipment and personnel to Iraq and back in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

His accomplishments included direct movement control support to the NJARNG, Fort Dix, Fort Monmouth, and Picatinny Arsenal. Additional support was provided to Army Reserve units stationed in New Jersey, and the Defense Movement Coordinators in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Russo also acted as the direct liaison with New Jersey Department of Transportation and New Jersey State Police to ensure that convoys were not interfered with, due to weapons mounted on vehicles, while traveling on county and state roads.

The award he received in October is national in scope. Candidates from all 54 states and territories were judged not only on their military accomplish-

**"Thomas is a major player in the movement of a division worth of equipment and personnel to Iraq and back in support of the Global War on Terrorism."**



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Russo (center) is presented the Reserve Component Transportation Corps Regimental Warrant Officer of the Year award for 2006 from Brig. Gen. James Chambers (right), Commanding General Chief of Transportation and the other is General (retired) William G.T. Tuttle Jr., the former commander of U.S. Army Materiel Command during a ceremony at Fort Eustis, Va. U.S. Army photo.

ments, but also their community service.

Russo is no stranger to his community since he coaches a competitive soccer team in Hamilton Township, and serves as a member of the Clifton Mill Townhouse Association.

Present at the award ceremony, which took place during the weeklong Transportation Corps Regimental Review in Fort Eustis, Va., was his wife, Hope Marie. She was able to share in this special occasion. "She was very proud," Russo said. Coincidentally, he reminisced, that week was unusually special because it coincided with the yearly Transportation Ball, which he and his wife were able to attend. "My wife got to meet and greet people; it was our first official function. Dress blues and all, very fun," he said.

So, does he see any more awards in the future? His plans are to put in for another award for 2007, with his chances of winning very high. "Especially with the 50th Brigade going out, there will be a lot of stuff going on," he said.

As if to erase any doubts, Russo concluded, "I just got done moving 20 M1 tanks out to Sierra, Calif."

While no one knows what the future holds, it is safe to assume that equipment will get where it needs to be, as Russo continues to keep the NJARNG moving. 🇺🇸

# EDUCATION BENEFITS PLENTIFUL AFTER DEPLOYMENT

By Spc. Mark O'Rear, 444MPAD; photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA; Model: Sgt. Marsha Grant

To most Guard Members, the benefits and processes of the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) can be a little intimidating.

With the addition of a fairly new set of benefits, the MGIB-Reserve Educational Assistance Program Chapter 1607 (REAP), the odds and ends may seem unfathomable to comprehend. But fear not! There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Guard Members who are federally mobilized and

serve for at least two years of continuous active duty may qualify for the MGIB-AD (Chapter 30). However, if they had served less than two years, they would be entitled to nothing. With the addition of Chapter 1607, REAP, all that is going to change.

Chapter 1607 was created in October of 2004, which made certain individuals who were activated after September 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or an increase of current benefits. For service members who have used their GI Bill benefits or their benefits had expired this is a new set of education money. The modifica-



tion was designed to provide a progressive ladder of MGIB benefits for Guard Members who had not reached that full two year requirement.

Chapter 1607 was designed to provide a progressive ladder of MGIB benefits for Guard Members who had not reached that full two year requirement.

The educational assistance allowed payable under Chapter 1607 is a percentage of the Chapter 30 three-year rate based on the number of continuous days served on active duty. The full-time rate in the table below is the rate for full-time institutional training under Chapter 1607 on or after October 1, 2006. Part-

time students would receive less.

Under any one chapter of the MGIB, you may receive a maximum of 36 months of entitlements (units) at the full-time rate. Those eligible for both Chapter 30 and 1607 may receive a maximum of 48 units.

The main differences between the Chapter 1607 and 30 is that the 1607 does not require a \$1,200 enrollment. Also unlike the Chapter 30, which expires 10 years after date of

discharge, the 1607 has no expiration date and remains active until exhaustion of benefits or the Soldier leaves the Selected Reserve.

The money can be used not only for traditional colleges, but also for licensing or certification programs, technical schools and On-The-Job (OJT) apprenticeships like Helmets to Hardhats.

For more information call the Education Office at (609) 562-0975 or visit the website at [www.nj.gov/military/education/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/military/education/index.html).

With all that money and benefits up for grabs, don't miss your chance to cash-in on your education.

<i>Amount of time a Reserve Member Serves on Active Duty</i>	<i>Percentage of Ch. 30 (three-year rate)</i>	<i>Full-time Rate (Eff. Oct. 1, 2006)</i>
90 days but less than one year	40%	\$440.40
One year but less than two years	60%	\$660.60
Two years or more	80%	\$880.80

# News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

## 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 \$300,000.

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.

## Nominate your Employer

It is time to remember our employers who supported us during our deployments, UTAs and annual training.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is encouraging Soldiers, Airmen and their family members to nominate their supportive employers for the prestigious Secretary of Defense Freedom Award. Go to <http://esgr.org/fap.asp?p=form2007> and complete and the form; it is just that simple.

The deadline is midnight Jan. 21.

## Identity theft and your child

With all the talk of identity theft, one group has been completely forgotten: your children.

In 2004, more than 400,000 children were identity theft victims. Identity thieves are now targeting children because their social security numbers and records have not been used.

To prevent this from happening discuss with your child the importance of keeping their information private and never sharing it with strangers. Also watch the mail for offers from credit card companies or bills; report any suspicious activity to credit bureaus.

For more information on identity theft; go to [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit).

## New Tricare Benefit for Drilling Guard Members

Under the new TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) health plan, effective Oct, 1, certain Guard members may qualify for health care coverage under TRS at \$81 for single coverage and \$253 for family coverage. Guard members who are enrolled or eligible to enroll in a health benefit plan under chapter 89 of title 5 U.S.C. Federal Employees Health Benefit Program, IRR and ING Soldiers are excluded from purchasing TRS.

For more information or to enroll contact your state representative listed on [www.tricare.mil/mybenefit](http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit), select the "benefits update" link for the Tricare Reserve Select information page.

## Family Assistance Centers

**108th Air Refueling Wing**  
3327 Charles Blvd.  
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641  
POC: Laura Forrest  
[laura.forrest@njmcgu.af.mil](mailto:laura.forrest@njmcgu.af.mil)

**Jersey City Armory**  
678 Montgomery Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07306-2208  
POC: Janis Shaw  
[janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil](mailto:janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil)

**Lawrenceville Armory**  
151 Eggert Crossing Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2897  
POC: Jane Hackbarth  
[jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil](mailto:jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil)

**Morristown Armory**  
430 Jockey Hollow Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960-0499  
POC: John Hales  
[john.a.hales@us.army.mil](mailto: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](mailto:paul.gunning@njatla.af.mil)  
POC (Army): Michael Hughes  
[michael.hughes@njatla.af.mil](mailto:michael.hughes@njatla.af.mil)

**Somerset Armory**  
1060 Hamilton Street  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
POC: John Hales  
[john.a.hales@us.army.mil](mailto:john.a.hales@us.army.mil)

**Teaneck Armory**  
Teaneck & Liberty Roads  
Teaneck NJ 07666-0687  
POC: SSG Joe Coltery  
[joe.coltery@us.army.mil](mailto:joe.coltery@us.army.mil)

**Toms River Armory**  
1200 Whitesville Road  
Toms River, NJ 08753  
POC: Maria Morro  
[maria.morro1@us.army.mil](mailto:maria.morro1@us.army.mil)

**Woodbury Armory**  
658 North Evergreen Avenue  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
POC: Heather Altman  
[heather.altman@us.army.mil](mailto:heather.altman@us.army.mil)  
**Or call 1-888-859-0352**

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

# THREE NEW COMMANDERS, SECRETARY PRESENTS AWARD, HO VINELAND VISIT



## 150th gets new CO

Lt. Col. Francis A. Matreale (holding guidon) assumed command of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion in a ceremony at the National Guard Armory in West Trenton on Dec. 1. Also pictured are Col. Kevin C. Hegarty (left), outgoing commander Lt. Col. Daniel J. Dreher (back to camera) and Sgt. Maj. Konrad Uldschmidt (right), 1-150th command sergeant major. Photo by Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD.



## CSSB gets new commander

Incoming commander of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) Lt. Col. Todd F. Berger (left) accepts the colors from Col. Kevin Hegarty, commander, 57th Troop Command on Nov. 4 at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill. Lt. Col. Royce P. Lawler (right), served as the 119th CSSB commander since March 2006 of the unit based at the Hammonton armory. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA/PA.



## Arnstein to lead CST

Maj. Jesse Arnstein (left) receives 21st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) guidon from Brig. Gen. Stephen Hines, deputy commander of the Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division, during a Change of Command ceremony held at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville on Nov. 28. Arnstein is the first Air National Guardsman to command the Civil Support Team. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



## Special recognition

First Sgt. Frank Batsch (right), 63rd Army Band was awarded the Army Commendation Medal by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren in a ceremony at the former World Trade Center site on Oct. 31. Batsch worked at Ground Zero performing search and recovery, cleanup and served as a platoon leader for a New York Army Guard unit. Batsch was recognized along with 12 other Soldiers for their first responder work at Ground Zero.

# RD, HOLIDAY PARTIES, CST HOLDS OPEN HOUSE AND



## Santa will always find you

Santa sure does get around. Even with his busy schedule he takes the time to visit Airmen from the 108th Security Force in Iraq. left to right 1st Sgt. Tom Fahnestock, Chief Master Sgt Lance Endee, Staff Sgts. Douglas (active-duty), Jeff Bock (aka: Mr. Claus) and John O'Keeffe and Lt. Col. Ron Turk. Photo courtesy 108ARW/SF.



## Family time during holidays

Sgt. Luisa Sanchez, 250th Personnel Services Detachment gives Madison Moore photo advice during the 50th Personnel Services Battalion annual holiday party at the McGuire Air Force Base All-Ranks club on Dec. 2. Highlights included a promotion and awards ceremony along with a visit from Santa Claus (yes, he does get around this time of year). Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



## Level A Challenge

The 21st Civil Support Team (WMD) hosted an orientation day on Oct. 27 at Fort Dix designed to educate prospective applicants on the CST mission and what it's like to be a team member. The highlight was donning self-contained breathing apparatus and level A suits, and participating in the Level A Sports Challenge, which included shooting hoops, rolling 55-gallon barrels through an obstacle course and processing through a decontamination line. Photo courtesy 21CST.



## Holiday visit

Staff Sgt. Denise Felciano (left), 177th Fighter Wing gives a Vineland Veterans Memorial Home resident a holiday card and a candy cane on Dec. 19. The 177th and 108th Air Refueling Wing raised more than \$1,500 for the residents and were joined by more than 50 fourth graders from the Seaview School in Linwood to sing holiday carols to the residents. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

**SHORT ROUNDS**

# AIRMEN RETURN, G-RAP CHECK, NEW TAIL ART, SOLDIERS R MS AND TOP CREW



## Home again

Tech Sgt. Frank Garcia is greeted by his mother Faustina Rojas, left and his wife Marci, who was nine months pregnant as 108th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces detachment Airmen ended a six-month tour in Iraq. On Thanksgiving Day, just two days after Frank's return, Marci gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Lucas Frank Garcia weighing in at seven pounds, six ounces. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA/PA.



## G-RAP works

The money just keeps coming in. Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing (left to right) Staff Sgt. Seon Carew, Senior Airmen Fabio Alonso and Carlin Deville and Airman 1st Class Bradley Ferguson, recipients of \$9,000 in Guard Recruiting Assistance Program bonuses. Photo by Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren, 177FW/PA.



## Wing announces new tail art

The 177th Fighter Wing formally released the design for the tail art for the wing commander's F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft. Lt. Col. Anthony La Sure, Commander, 177th Maintenance Squadron came up with the concept based on the Atlantic City skyline. Final design was executed by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs.



## Soldiers receive awards

Master Sgt. Joe Prieto, Company D, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, receives the Citizen-Soldier Award at the 6th Annual Veterans Dinner Dance held on Dec. 1 in Cherry Hill from WPHT's Dom Giordano. Also honored was Capt. Kevin Welsh, commander Troop C, 5-117th Cavalry. The National Guard State Family Readiness Council received an \$11,018 check from the event organizers, which is headed by the local chapter of the Jewish War Veterans. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA/PA.

# DIERS RECOGNIZED, NEW WOCs, NEWEST FERRARI, FIGHTING



## Newest Warrant candidates

*Lt. Col. John Sheard (right) Commander, Recruiting and Retention Command, pins Aviation Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) Billy Sierra (left) while Adjutant General Corps WOC Mercedes Devarie (center) watches on Dec. 13 at Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey. Sierra, Devarie and Quartermaster Corps WOC Robert Morgan (not pictured) were all pinned on the same day making this largest group of candidates pinned on a single occasion. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeretha Prather, RRC.*



## Guard Father-Son Team

*Col. Steve Ferrari swore-in his son Pvt. Steven J. Ferrari on Nov. 5 at Joint Headquarters – New Jersey on Fort Dix. Pvt. Ferrari will serve with the 328th Military Police Company in Cherry Hill after he completes basic training and military police school beginning this March. Pvt. Ferrari is the third generation of Ferraris to join the Army; his father was sworn in by his grandfather Col. Mario J. Ferrari in 1981 at the Cherry Hill Armory. Photo courtesy Recruiting and Retention Command.*



## Coming at ya

*Team NJANG members (front to back) Lt. Col. Dave LaTour, Master Sgt. Dave Heullitt, Pete Brown, Capt. (retired) Harry Marshall and Doug Erney along eight other cyclists and a two-member support team, joined 7,500 other cyclists in the 2007 MS150 City to Shore Bike Tour, Sept. 29-30. This two-day event takes riders from Cherry Hill to Ocean City and back. Team NJANG raised more than \$6,900 for the event benefitting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Photo copyright Erick Panger.*



## Load Crew of the Year

*The trophy and the missile go to the 177th Fighter Wing Load Crew of the Year (l-r) Senior Airman Christopher Miller, Tech. Sgt. Bradley Reynoso and Staff Sgt. Anthony Gonzalez. The Annual Load Crew Competition was held on Sept. 15. Congratulations on being the best of the best. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.*

# NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

## NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

### To Command Sergeant Major (E-9):

Thomas J. Clark  
Michael V. Rigby

### To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Jose A. Colon  
James E. Diemer Jr.  
Brian G. Holderness  
Nicholas P. Markert  
Esly A. Panduro  
Marco Paredes  
Joseph P. C. Prieto  
Robert M. Seeland

### To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

Richard M. Denicola  
Nicholas L. Forrestal  
Errol Kipps Jr.  
Lawrence J. Park  
Josue E. Pichardo  
Robert C. Price  
Rodney C. Robinson  
Eric G. Weltner  
Rachelle White

### To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Bruce Rashleigh  
Timothy J. Devoy  
Shannon A. Feuster  
Maria P. Fridman  
Akeel M. Gaines  
Linda F. Kittrell  
Kevin D. Kloss  
Travis S. Lovell  
Neil J. Macarthur  
William Martinez Jr.  
Martin A. McKlein  
Robin Ruiz  
Daniela A. Talharim  
Donza C. Taylor  
Eric J. Wachenheim

### To Sergeant (E-5):

Dawn M. Allen  
Christopher M. Anicito  
Wilfrere D. Augustin  
Bilal Bajwa

Leonardo Betancur  
Tiffany R. R. Bro  
Cesar R. Cespedes  
David J. Chambliss  
Nicole A. Cleary  
Jesus Cordero Jr.  
Terry L. Corte  
Kelly E. Crager

Joseph W. Crincoli  
Katarzyn Czajka  
Shelton C. Damon  
Mark D. Edgell  
Mikel S. Ehntholt  
Alan G. Foja  
Steven N. Fuquay  
Stephen C. Hoppe  
Cornelius M. Just  
Anthony D. Laselva  
Jason C. Macavoy  
Daniel Martinez-Lopez  
Naji A. Mitchell  
Jeffrey W. Mullins  
Peter T. Murphy Jr.  
Alfonso Ortiz  
Pablo R. Oviedo  
Jorge L. Quinga  
Melissa A. Ramos  
Julio Santiago Jr.  
Ismael Santos  
Armand K. Solano  
Douglas K. Stonehouse  
Ricardo Suarez Jr.  
Gregory R. Tantum  
Vanessa M. Vargas  
Kathleen B. Wilson

### To Specialist (E-4):

Travez A. G. Almeida  
John G. Bedoya  
Nicholas W. Blevins  
Damone D. Bowles  
Anthony F. Decario  
Sean P. Donachy  
Juan J. Estevez  
Scott Floystrop  
Brad D. Hunt  
Edmond Lee Jr.  
Andres S. Luna

Percy Mendoza  
Monica G. Montgomery  
Stephen R. Pettit  
Christopher L. Rac  
Wilber E. Regalado  
Jose A. Reyes  
Joseph L. Ripa  
Rocklin J. Ruiz  
Stephanie N. Runyon  
Joseph A. Supplee

### To Private First Class (E-3):

Christian A. Alvarado  
Darren W. Alvarez  
Brian H. Axelrod  
Rudes E. Baez  
Hollie K. Bedford  
Gilbert J. Beriso  
Jason E. Bradway  
Clayton C. Butler  
Cindy M. Calcano  
Marlyn M. Calderon  
Joann L. Caminneci  
Jennifer L. Campos  
Rios S. Castaneda  
Ricardo A. Castro  
Winsome J. Cayanong  
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Louis Cosme  
Jossie Cruzalegui  
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Laura J. Garcia  
Erin M. Gleason  
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Adriana E. Guerrero  
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Richard A. Laird Jr.  
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Julian V. Leddaohare  
Edwin J. Lefebre  
Bryan M. Leon  
William E. Lopez  
Gerald A. MacFarlan Jr.

# GUARD ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

Reynier L. Martinez  
Casey R. Maxwell  
Jenilee I. Mendoza  
Torrell D. Miller  
David L. Mollor  
Ashley V. Mosley  
Lazaro Osendi  
Jamal A. Parker  
Patrick B. Perowski  
Curvey A. Purkett Jr.  
Michael D. Redrow  
Aaron J. Remson  
Vincent M. Rivera  
Alberto Rodriguez-Ortiz  
Edward Santiago  
Abdul Scott  
Joseph M. Scott  
Arthur R. Simpson Jr.  
Randy A. Singh  
Heather N. Smith  
Adam T. Syniowycz  
Adam J. Thron  
Omar S. Tyler  
Jose J. Urbaz  
Elmer S. Valdez  
Andres M. Vanegas  
Brandon W. Vanwagner  
Jelitsa M. Velazquez  
Darnell R. Williams

## To Private (E-2):

Aaron T. Ampaabeng  
William E. Arias  
Andres Arroyavebermudez  
Christian T. Baierwalter  
Alex Basile  
Guy C. Beckett Jr.  
Mark D. Christian  
Michael A. Colihan Jr.  
Andrew L. Dixon III  
Paul J. Garner  
Jason R. Gerard  
Elliot Guzman III  
Keith P. Hernandez  
Timothy J. Horner  
Bryan J. Inzitari  
Sirron D. Jackson  
Seth Kamara

Joseph R. Kemmler  
Andrew T. Kuppler  
Anthony C. Leary Jr.  
Stephanie M. Lopez  
Olagbenga A. Odewade  
Jesus B. Reyes  
Philip A. Serfatty  
Lee G. Silverman  
Constantine K. Toe  
Adan L. Valentin  
Alejandro O. Vasquez  
Brett T. Vitkovsky  
David W. Wallace  
Evan B. Weiser  
Eric S. Wieboldt

## NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

### To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):

Richard E. Reiken

### To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):

Darlene M. Bouffard  
Brian K. Darden  
Raynaldo Morales

### To Master Sergeant (E-7):

Janeen M. Fillari  
Marcie L. Montalvo

### To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Michael A. Costello  
Gordon A. Hill  
Jeremy R. Kahle  
Lakisha D. Meniffee  
Alfonso R. Mitchellrios  
German E. Sandovalovalle

### To Staff Sergeant (E-5):

Edson M. Casanova  
Bryan R. Crossland  
Desiree A. Delagarza  
John Dwyer, III  
Carl A. Erlandson, Jr.  
Steven M. Henderson  
Justin M. Kelley  
David A. Martinez  
William L. Mosher III

Jose L. Oyola III  
Matthew C. Re  
Lawrence K. Robinson Jr.  
Matthew J. Shatkus

### To Senior Airman (E-4):

Michael E. Imperial  
Patrocinio Domingo Jr.

### To Airman First Class (E-3):

John W. Allen, Jr.  
Gary N. Chamberlin  
Kiera R. Clark  
William D. Fairbanks, II  
Stardust S. Folgosi  
Steven J. Gibb  
Russell L. Glenn  
Hung V. Le  
David T. McGee  
Adam C. Mogel  
Amanda J. Niwore  
Heather A. Perez  
Angelo D. Rivera  
Ronald A. Rodriguez  
Philip J. Vitale  
Carl M. Walls  
Lynda A. Wieggers  
Anthony Y. Wollie, Jr.

### To Airman (E-2):

Latoya M. Taylor

### To Airman Basic (E-1):

Kevin J. Dugan  
Matthew P. Walker, Jr.

## Congratulations To All!

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

## Corrections

Page 6 Capt. Dennis Stiles should  
be ULE Project Officer.  
Page 7, Pvt. Timothy Gadsen  
name was misspelled.  
Back Cover: Pvts. Tyler  
Loundenberry (left) and Mark  
Christian were misidentified.

# LAST ROUND - IF YOU CAN READ THIS, YOU ARE TOO CLOSE



Airmen from the 108th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces patrol along the base fenceline at Camp Victory in Iraq. More than 40 108th Airmen are performing base security duties, which include base perimeter and entry control point security, unexploded ordnance sweeps after rocket and

mortar attacks, security sweeps, casualty evacuations all the while serving as a blocking force in the event of an attack. The Airmen, who deployed on Sept. 15, are scheduled to return to New Jersey sometime in early spring 2008. Photo courtesy 108ARW/SF.

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