

# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 22, 2016



# Night moves



Above: Airmen from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Security Forces Squadron perform a tactical entry on a building at an indoor Military Operations in Urban Terrain site at the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Training and Training Development Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 16, 2016. Left: SF Airmen clear rooms under low-light conditions. The red and blue lighting simulates a moonlit night as seen through night vision devices. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



## Cover: Maneuver

Airmen from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Security Forces Squadron maneuver through an indoor Military Operations in Urban Terrain site during training at the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Training & Training Development Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 16, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

# Albanian infantry trains with Cavalry

By Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



**Soldiers with the 102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition, New Jersey Army National Guard, train soldiers with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, Albanian Army, on the M4 carbine and the M249 squad automatic weapon at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 13, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Kennedy/Released)**

Approximately 20 leaders from Albania's 2nd Infantry Battalion are learning just what it takes to keep New Jersey's Army National Guard combat and deployment ready.

As a part of the state's ongoing State Partnership Program with Albania, Albanian Armed Forces officers and senior enlisted members will observe and train alongside the Soldiers of the 102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition during their annual training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The 15-day event is designed to show the AAF leadership how U.S. and NATO forces develop company, platoon and squad level leadership, said Master Sgt. Gary Davison, an Operations Non-Commissioned Officer at the N.J. National Guard's Joint Operations Center. The training will further enhance their own capabilities to deploy with U.S. and NATO forces.

He noted that the instruction began at the most basic level – the individual Soldier. Before training with the Cavalry troops, the Albanian soldiers first needed familiarization and training on the M4 Carbine, the common weapon system used by U.S. and NATO

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***“This program has really helped the Albanian Army strengthen their participation with their NATO partners”***  
***Floreta Faber***  
***Albanian Ambassador to the United States***

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forces. Albania will be transitioning to the M4 during the next few years, and the Albanian soldiers here will be the future

trainers for the AAF.

“The training so far has been outstanding,” said Davison.

Davidson said he's been working with the State Partnership Program for six years, and in that time has seen the program grow exponentially from a purely military perspective to an all-inclusive partnership between the State of New Jersey and the Country of Albania.

“We're not only partnering with their military personnel, the New Jersey State police have been working with their national police force and our civilian emergency managers have been helping them build their emergency management capabilities,” he said. “It's been a true partnership across the board.”

“This program has really helped the Albanian Army strengthen their participation with their NATO partners,” said Floreta Faber, Albanian Ambassador to the United States. Faber visited the soldiers during an exercise at the Fort Dix ranges.

“This is really a great opportunity for Albania and the Albanian army to work with our U.S. partners,” said Faber.

# 150th chosen aviation unit of the year

Story by Staff Sgt. Sherwood T. Goodenough, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



**U.S. Military Academy cadets rappel from UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, at West Point, N.Y., during the U.S. Army Air Assault Course June 9, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Vito T. Bryant/Released)**

The Soldiers of 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion of the New Jersey Army National Guard were recently awarded the John J. Stanko Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year by the Army Aviation Association of America.

The Battalion earned the award for their accomplishments while deployed to Kosovo in 2015 in support of the Kosovo Force – a NATO-led international peacekeeping force that has been responsible for establishing a secure environment in Kosovo since 1999.

Lt. Col. Michale Lapointe said the key to the winning the competition is individual dedication to duty.

“I don’t want to stand over my people telling them every little thing to do,” Lapointe said. “We empowered our people to do their jobs and they ran with it.”

While deployed on the 19th KFOR rotation, the Battalion was tasked with being the command element for all U.S. Army aviation assets – airlift and medical evacuation – and several units of infantry for

assorted NATO partners.

This mission allowed the unit to conduct ground and aerial missions all of which resulted in success and brought many accolades from higher headquarters, their NATO partners, and the government of Kosovo.

In addition to the Battalion’s assigned duty, the Soldiers conducted numerous community service projects which ultimately led to the improvement of the local area outside of Camp Bondsteel, and recognition from the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo.

Lapointe said that his Soldiers helped rebuild an orphanage and replaced the roof on a shelter for survivors of domestic violence.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Hicks said several Soldiers also volunteered to prepare local high school students to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language exam.

“They all want to come here to study,” Hicks said. “Teaching them English gives them a tremendous advantage when they apply to get into a U.S. college or university.”

In addition, the rear detachment had maintained its responsibilities to the State of New Jersey while also transitioning into their new unit home station at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Sgt. James Bolek, the Army Aviation Association of America Soldier of the Year, said the key to the Battalion’s success is the close knit nature of the unit.

“The most important part of winning was caring for your fellow Soldiers,” Bolek said. “You do it – not because it’s your job – but because they’re your family while you’re away. And if everybody’s morale is up, you can accomplish so much more than you can imagine.”

The late Col. John J. Stanko is known in Army aviation lore as the pivotal leader in the development of the Army National Guard aviation program. As an aviator, Stanko began his career during World War II in the Army Air Forces. He served as an Army aviator with the Pennsylvania National Guard and spearheaded the first National Guard aviation logistics element.

# 112TH FIELDS NEW COUNTER-FIRE RADAR

By Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The ability to detect incoming rocket, artillery and mortar fire before impact can mean the difference between life and death on the battlefield. Add in the capability to immediately pinpoint and target where that attack originated, and you've gained the advantage needed to quickly eliminate the threat.

That's exactly the ability the Soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 3-112th Fires Battalion now have with the recent fielding of four AN/TPQ-50 counter-fire radar system.

The early warning/counter targeting system is the military's latest upgrade to its arsenal of lightweight counter-mortar radar systems.

Soldiers from the battalion spent their annual training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst training and testing the new systems June 6-17.

"We're not teaching them how it works, we're just teaching them the differences between what they've used and what they have here," said Robert Hoover, a Net Fielder instructor for PDM Radars.

Hoover noted the biggest difference in this system is the ability to mount it on a vehicle to quickly deploy and set up anywhere the battalion needs it.

Still, the initial fielding requires the Soldiers to not only become familiar with new software, but also work through thousands of pages of field manuals for the system.

He said the major advantages from other models were its smaller size, ease of use, mobility, and maintainability. In all, he said a well-trained two-man team could be on location and set up the system in less than 10 minutes.

"The training has been excellent," said



**Spcs. Michael Mirkovic, left, and Allen Waldron, both with the 3-112th Fires Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, train on the AN/TPQ-50 counter-fire radar system at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 13, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Eric Bauza/Released)**

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Hladik, target acquisition platoon leader and counter-fire radar targeting officer for the 112th Fires Battalion.

According to Hladik, the new systems allow the battalion to task out their radar teams to other maneuver battalions within the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to provide maximum coverage and capability for the brigade.

He noted that in an ideal situation,

each team would be located within 10,000 meters within the maneuver unit and providing early warning when incoming mortar, rocket or artillery fire has been fired at our friendly troops.

"Once we detect that an enemy round is coming toward our forces, the information is sent to the Fires Battalion headquarters, and we would be able to determine the best way to fire back."

## At the range

*Soldiers from the 508th Military Police and 50th Chemical Company, New Jersey Army National Guard, perform marksmanship training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 7, 2016. The Soldiers are qualifying for their participation in the Homeland Response Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Lauren Pitts/Released)*



# Veterans 'play hooky' from PTSD

By Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Approximately 20 Vietnam Veterans from the Tri-State area assembled at the New Jersey National Guard's Militia Museum at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt on June 14 to learn the ins and outs of crabbing at the Jersey Shore.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 hosted the event as part of their monthly fishing program, which is designed to connect veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to the outdoors.

The workshops enable veterans to take the time to heal by utilizing healthy outdoor activities, such as fishing and crabbing, said Greg Kucharewski, a Chapter 12 member who leads the seminars.

"We call it 'playing hooky from PTSD,'" he said. "It gives them a chance to forget a little bit."

It's an affective strategy, according to Ed Mack, an attendee and member of a VVA chapter in Pennsylvania.

"The outdoor activities are probably the most effective that you can see in an hour or two hour time period," he said. "What you've got is water, wind and nature and people relax. They get involved in the activity and they just release themselves."

The event opened with a tour of the museum and a history lesson of the New Jersey National Guard.

Kucharewski then demonstrated various traps and baits used to catch blue claw crabs and even provided even provided recipes and tips for how to cook their catch. Attendees each received a goodie bag of recipes, magazines and crabbing gear. Many walked away with door prizes as well, such as fishing trips, gear and apparel.

Kucharewski said the program is in its third year and has already raised more than \$2,000 in donations of fishing gear and apparel.



He acknowledged that reaching Vietnam Vets with PTSD is a challenge, as many have not been diagnosed and won't seek treatment or these types of programs. He noted that the best way is to work one on one with veterans to help identify possible signs of PTSD and get them connected with a veteran's service office. He also said that the programs are designed to be smaller, as crowds are something vets with PTSD will want to avoid.

Veterans' service officers were also the event to connect the attendees with information and points of contact for veteran's services.

For more information on the program, or to find a schedule of workshops, please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-785-9278 or [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).

## Hamlet visits Home

*Hamlet, the miniature horse, visited the residents at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park June 21, 2016. Siemens Corporation volunteers were on hand to help transport the residents to this activity and stayed to assist with a bingo game. Every day, dozens of volunteers visit the three veteran memorial homes to interact with the residents. Volunteers are a force multiplier. They logged more than 75,000 volunteer hours in 2015. (Courtesy photo)*



# NJDMAVA Veterans Affairs POCs

*New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*

PO Box 340  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or [www.state.nj.us/military](http://www.state.nj.us/military)



Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs (609-530-7062)  
Cheryl Henderson, Executive Secretarial Assistant (609-530-7045)  
Chuck Robbins, Assistant to DCVA/Outreach Coordinator (609-530-6855)

Fax: 609-530-7191

## Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

<p><b>Colonel Edward J. Chrystal Jr., Director</b> 609-530-6967 Donna Myers, Sec 609-530-6766 Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator 609-530-6979 Fax: 609-530-6970</p>	<p><b>Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home</b> Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO Jennifer Pajak, Sec 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016</p>	<p><b>Paramus Veterans Memorial Home</b> Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658</p>	<p><b>Vineland Veterans Memorial Home</b> Allyson Bailey, Acting CEO Sharon Frye, Sec 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714</p>
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## Veterans Services (DVS)

<p><b>Albert J. Bucchi, Director</b> 609-530-6962 Cynthia Barnes, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075</p>	<p><b>Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery</b> Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424 Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404 Cyndi Dzurisin, Interment Office Supervisor – 609-738-2407 Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard – 609-758-7505 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169 <i>Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials</i> Joseph Arroyo &amp; Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490</p>	<p><b>Vietnam Veterans Memorial</b> 1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107</p> <p><b>Korean Memorial</b> Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401</p> <p><b>War World II Memorial</b> W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608</p>	<p><b>Veterans Haven South</b> Walter Nall, Supt – 609-561-4948 Vacant, Asst. Supt – 609-567-3715 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow, NJ 08095 609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186</p>	<p><b>Veterans Haven North</b> Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960 Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1863 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101 Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990</p>
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<p><b>State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs</b> Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6842 Marisol Meyer, Education Prog Asst – 609-530-6849 Lynn Yesalonina, State Admin – 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948 Fax: 609-530-7196</p>	<p><b>Veterans Benefits Bureau</b> Patricia A. Richter, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6949 Elizabeth Schofield, Prin Staff Officer – 609-530-6954 Paul Kale, Staff Asst – 609-530-6826 Vacant, Sec – 609-530-6868 Michele Johnson, Sec – 609-530-7035 Fax: 609-530-6970</p>	<p><b>Veterans Service Offices</b> Joseph Bucco, State Supervisor – 609-530-6830 Christopher Wambach, State Supervisor – 609-530-6863 Joseph E. Nyzio, VSO – 609-530-6857</p> <p><b>VA Regional Office/Philadelphia</b> Charles Piscopo, VSO – (Mon., Wed., Alternate Fridays) 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 856-853-4184/4185/4186</p>
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<p><b>Atlantic City/Cape May</b> Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO Sherril Morris, Sec 1008 Absecon Boulevard, Atlantic City 08401-1999 – (Atlantic City Armory) 609-441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p><b>Bergen/Passaic</b> Joseph Restivo, VSO Titus Osuagwu, Sec 125 State Street, Suite 109, Hackensack 07601-5435 201-996-8050/8051 Fax: 201-996-8009</p>	<p><b>Burlington</b> Matthew Still, VSO Vacant, Sec 555 High Street, Suite 6A, Mt. Holly 08060 609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275</p>
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<p><b>Camden/Gloucester</b> Joseph Frost, VSO Charles Piscopo, VSO (Tuesdays and Thursdays) Diane Rosci, Sec 658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 – (Woodbury Armory) 856-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p><b>Essex/Union</b> Robert Maulano, VSO Shelley Darby, Sec 20 Washington Place, Room 439, Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3230 Fax: 973-648-2356</p>	<p><b>Hudson</b> Esther Chucaralao, VSO Michael Dorobis, Sec 678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 – (Jersey City Armory) 201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>
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<p><b>Mercer</b> William McDonnell, VSO Theresa Tomecheck, Sec 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 – (Lawrenceville Armory) 609-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698</p>	<p><b>Middlesex/Somerset</b> Joseph Battilo, VSO Vacant, Sec 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 – (Somerset Armory) 732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p><b>Monmouth</b> Peter J. Midgley, VSO Rita Hyland, Sec 630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904 732-775-7009/7005 Fax: 732-775-3612</p>
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<p><b>Newark Liaison/VA Regional Office</b> Richard Mannes, VSO Vacant, Sec 20 Washington Place, Room 431 Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3336 Fax: 973-642-0830</p>	<p><b>Ocean</b> Paul McIntyre, VSO Robin Mitchell, Sec James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic 970 Route 70, Brick 08724-3550 732-840-3033/3034 Fax: 732-840-0399</p>	<p><b>Salem/Cumberland</b> Leigh R. Pottle, VSO Catherine Raniolo, Sec 524 North West Boulevard, Vineland 08360-2895 856-405-4388/4390/4389 Fax: 856-696-6499</p>
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<p><b>Sussex/Morris</b> William Robinson, VSO 479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 – (Dover Armory) 973-366-0245/8347 Fax: 973-366-0360 (closed alternate Fridays) *Sussex, 12 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin, 07416 (Thursday/Friday) 973-827-4020 Fax: 973-827-4024 – (Franklin Armory)</p>	<p><b>Warren/Hunterdon</b> *Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman Lisa Szymanski, Sec 200 Sanatorium Road, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-0831/0832 Fax: 908-537-0833 *Flemington, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, 08822 (Wednesday) 908-284-6146</p>	<p><b>Southern Ocean County Resource Center</b> Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO (Thursday only) 179 South Main Street (Route 9) Manahawick, NJ 08050 609-978-5895 Fax: 609-978-6446</p>
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# Veterans Outreach Campaign

## SUSSEX COUNTY "BIKE NIGHT FOR VETERANS"

June 23, 5 – 8 p.m.

Chatterbox Restaurant

1 State Route 15

Augusta, NJ 07822

63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SIGNING OF THE KOREAN  
WAR ARMISTICE

July 27, 11 a.m.

New Jersey Korean War

Memorial  
Brighton Park Amphitheatre and  
the Boardwalk  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

"VETTE TO VET NIGHT"

Sept. 9, 5 – 8 p.m.

Chatterbox Restaurant,

1 State Route 15

Augusta, NJ 07822)

## VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN & MEDAL CEREMONY

Sept. 20-21, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Daily

DMAVA medal ceremony Sept.

20 at 11 a.m. at Center Court

Bridgewater Commons Mall

400 Commons Way

Bridgewater, NJ, 08807

Highlights submissions deadline 4 p.m. Wednesday: [mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov)

## Scholarship for wounded guardsmen

The National Guard Education Foundation is offering scholarship grants to current or former National Guard members wounded in an operational or training mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ngef.org/the-van-hipp-heroes-scholarship-fund/>



NATIONAL  
GUARD  
EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

## Military Appreciation Day

**Place:** Casino Pier, Seaside Heights  
800 Ocean Terrace

**Date:** Saturday, 25 June 2016 (Raindate – Sunday 26 June)

**Time:** 1000 – 1430 Hours for bracelet pick-up  
Waterpark opens at 1000 Hrs

**Rain Date:** Please check “NJ State Family Programs” on Facebook for info. Please **DO NOT** call Casino Pier. Changes will be made by the State Family Programs Office and will be posted on their facebook page.

Soldiers/Airmen and Family members of the NJ National Guard are cordially invited to attend “Military Appreciation Day” at the New Jersey Shore.

You will be required to show a Uniformed Services Military ID to obtain waterpark bracelets for you and your dependants only. Friends and extended family members will not receive bracelets.

\*\* check in through the side entrance of the Breakwater Beach Waterpark on 800 Ocean Terrace off Grant Ave. between 1000 Hrs – 1430 Hours.

\*\* Waterpark opens at 1000 hours.

Thank you.....for serving our Country!

**NJ★VET2VET** 1-866-838-7654  
(1-866-VETS-NJ4)

## Confidential Peer Support For New Jersey Veterans

1-866-838-7654

<http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/vet2vet/>

@NJVet2Vet on Twitter, Pinterest & Facebook

Life doesn't have to be a battlefield

Help the DMAVA  
Public Affairs Office  
keep you informed.  
Please respond to the  
brief seven question  
survey about your  
communication  
preferences.

Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z88N2PD>



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