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# DMAVA

# HIGHLIGHTS



MAY 24, 2012

# MEMORIAL DAY



New Jersey's Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at 10:30 a.m., May 26.



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

*Spc. Gregory Hipps, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Force Headquarters, New Jersey National Guard, sprints his way to a 12:50 first place finish during the 2-mile run portion of the unit's physical fitness test at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. May 19, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Robert Neill, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)*



*Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary R. Nisker, the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Army National Guard addresses New Jersey National Guard warrant officers at the Warrant Officer Professional Development Day May 20. The day-long event covered a range of issues related to the evolving role of warrant officers including sustainment, retention and changing force structure. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sherwood Goodenough, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*



*Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, left, the Director of the Joint Staff for the New Jersey National Guard, pins an Army Commendation Medal to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Katherine M. Bendel at the Warrant Officer Professional Development Day at the Bordentown Armory May 20. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sherwood Goodenough, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*



PRINCETON, N.J. – The change in scenario for most service members returning to civilian life after military service - especially following deployments to a combat zone - can be abrupt and unnerving. There are plenty of tasks to complete and a host of challenges to address. Among these is a very formidable one: finding a job. For a military spouse, it may even be more difficult, as they may have to support a family and a wounded hero that has come home.

To assist veterans and spouses in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area to find satisfying and meaningful employment as they return to civilian life, Don Graff Automotive Consulting is hosting the “Hiring Heroes Automotive Employment Expo”, a two-day job fair, June 5 - 6, 2012.

The event will provide attending veterans the opportunity to interview with representatives from local automobile dealers, or locations that are part of large dealer groups in the metropolitan area. Parts and service retailers AutoZone and STS Tire and Auto Centers will be participating. In addition, AFLAC Insurance, The Higher Gear Group, Lincoln Technical Institute and DeVry University will also be represented.

Kosi Marrero from [TomorrowsWorkplace.org](http://TomorrowsWorkplace.org) will be the featured guest speaker during the June 5 Employer’s Seminar, to explain the VOW to Hire Heroes employer tax credit and how to apply for this business benefit. Furthermore, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is scheduled to also attend on June 5 to provide veterans with information about health benefits and how to access the VA health system.

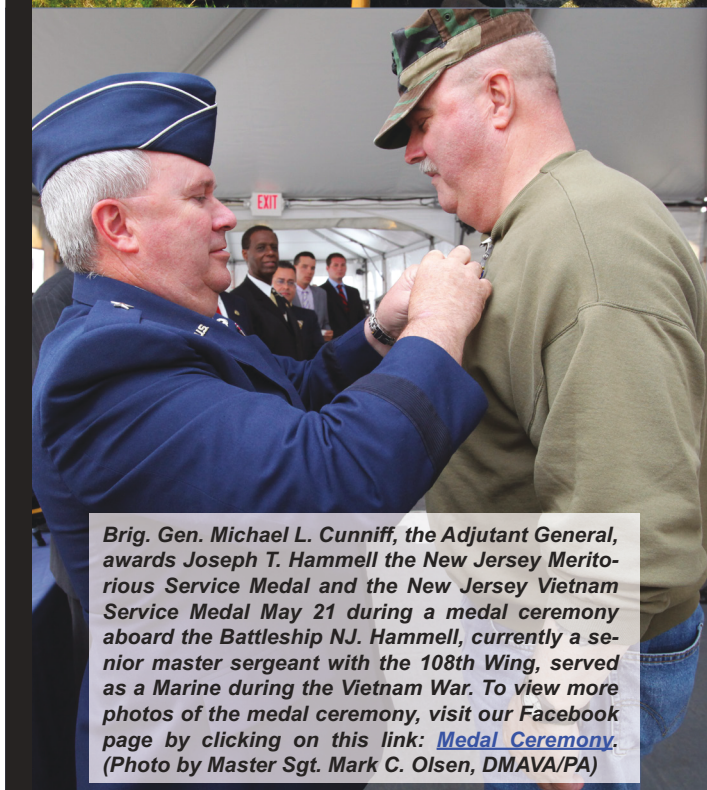
Veterans and family members of veterans who are seeking employment opportunities may register online and submit resumes prior to the event at [www.dongraffautomotive.com/hiring-our-heroes](http://www.dongraffautomotive.com/hiring-our-heroes).

Free article downloads for automotive job seekers and sample job descriptions can be found on the [www.dongraffautomotive.com](http://www.dongraffautomotive.com) website. (See the “Job Opportunities” and “Free Resources” menus)

The event will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, 180 Route 17 South, Mahwah, N.J.



*Lt. Col. Douglas Brockman, left, accepts the 2-113th Infantry Battalion's guidon from Col. Mark Piferski, commander 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, during a change of command ceremony May 20 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Brockman assumed command of the 2-113th Infantry Battalion from outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Paul Nema. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Bobby Neill, JFHQ/PA)*



*Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, awards Joseph T. Hammell the New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal and the New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal May 21 during a medal ceremony aboard the Battleship NJ. Hammell, currently a senior master sergeant with the 108th Wing, served as a Marine during the Vietnam War. To view more photos of the medal ceremony, visit our Facebook page by clicking on this link: [Medal Ceremony](#). (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)*



New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participate in the Region II Homeland Response Force (HRF) External Evaluation at the State Preparedness Training Center, Oriskany, N.Y. May 17. NJNG provided security forces Airmen from the 108th Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing; military police from the 328th Military Police Company and transportation Soldiers from the 253rd Transportation Company. To view more photos of the NJNG Soldiers and Airmen training, visit our Facebook page by following this link: [HRF Training](#). (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Photo left, Senior Airman Tina Fryling, 177th Fighter Wing, discusses her recent deployment to Afghanistan with students at Alder Middle School at Egg Harbor Township, N.J., May 23. Photo right, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Thor Himley, an F-16C Fighting Falcon pilot, talks about his flying career to students at Alder Middle School. Alder Middle school showed it's pride and patriotism by inviting military members to display work equipment and memorabilia and to share stories with students. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA)

## 108th Wing welcomes new commander

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J.** – With a KC-135 Stratotanker at their backs, the Airmen from the 108th Wing stood at attention inside Hangar 33-33 here May 20, as Col. Kevin J. Keehn assumed command of the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, from Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff.

Keehn accepted the 108th Wing's flag from Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, New Jersey Air National Guard commander, during a Change of Command ceremony here in front of his wife, Connie, and children.

He would not be where he is today without the support of his family, said Keehn. "Thank you for having my back."

Cunniff, the outgoing commander, also thanked his family for their support and thanked the Airmen of the Wing for their loyalty and support while he was the commander.

"You are the best Airmen in the Air Force," said Cunniff. "You made my job as commander much easier".

Cunniff was recently appointed the Adjutant General of New Jersey and has assumed command of the 8,500 Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard.

A change of command is a military tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit from one commanding officer to another. The passing of unit colors and standards from an outgoing to an incoming commander ensures that the unit and its Airmen are never without official leadership. Additionally, it signifies a continuation of trust and an allegiance of the Airmen to their unit's commander.

The 108th Wing is an Air National Guard unit with a unique history. They are the result of the consolidation of two outstanding organizations; one with a



Col. Kevin J. Keehn, right, incoming 108th Wing commander, accepts the Wing's flag from Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, New Jersey Air National Guard commander, during a Change of Command ceremony May 20. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th FW/PA)

rich tradition of fighter operations, and the other with a distinguished background in airlift and air refueling. The two units merged in 1993 with a vision of becoming "America's best air refueling wing." The new 108th Wing overcame many obstacles and reorganizations as the objective wing was developed in the Air National Guard. The federal mission of the 108th Wing is to provide rapid global airpower to support both Air Mobility Command and Air Force Special Operations Command. In addition, the Wing deploys expeditionary forces in support of worldwide combat, contingency and humanitarian efforts. Their

state mission is to support the governor of New Jersey in disaster or domestic emergency response situations.

The Wing performs air refueling and airlift missions supporting U.S. and coalition contingency operations. In addition, the Wing provides dedicated rapid response airlift to the Department of Defense in support of United States government crisis response events abroad and domestically.

Since 9/11, the 108th Wing has deployed Airmen around the globe in support of Operation's Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

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### New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General  
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff  
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer  
Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist  
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist