

NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 29, 2015



The grit of Green Phase

Story by Spc. Devon Bistarkey, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



FOR MORE PHOTOS, CLICK ON ANY PHOTO TO GO TO THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD FACEBOOK PAGE.

The New Jersey Army National Guard is the only element in the Army that assigns Soldiers to a “Green Phase” after they complete Basic Combat Training and are waiting to attend their Advanced Individual Training.

“No one does what we do,” said Staff Sgt. Sean Burroughs, RSP recruiter.

The Green Phase Soldiers say the training builds upon what they learned at Basic Training and keeps those skills sharp for going on to more advanced training.

“We are much better prepared,” said Pvt. Ryan Onosnko, Green Phase Student Platoon Guide. “We’ve found that planning and communication is key.”

The weekend field training exercise started with a UH-60 Blackhawk ride from Sea Girt, N.J., to Fort Dix. After landing, the Soldiers marched five miles to their objective before receiving their mission.

That’s where things got tough.

Their mission was to secure a village with known enemy forces. The opposing force they met were the skilled infantrymen from the 1-114th Infantry Battalion, who volunteered to help in the exercise. Focusing on conducting complicated linear ambush scenarios the Green Phase Soldiers encountered smoke grenades, flash-bang pyrotechnics and simulator rifle rounds.

“We’re not trying to hurt them, we’re trying to teach them,” said Sgt. Bernard Madgey, opposition force squad leader, 1-114th Infantry Battalion. “There is a lesson in everything.”

During the last nine months, the Soldiers, with the guidance of expert cadre, have trained for this event putting to test all their basic Soldier skills from land navigation to reacting to contact.

“We are all Soldiers; we have to have these common skills,” Onosnko said.

The journey toward becoming a Soldier is a rite of passage; a journey filled with many milestones.

The “Green Phase” Soldiers from the New Jersey National Guard’s Recruit Sustainment Program completed their field training exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Lakehurst-Dix, May 16, 2015.

The lesson they learned was that there are no short cuts.

We are much better prepared. We’ve found that planning and communication is key.

**PVT. RYAN ONOSNKO
GREEN PHASE STUDENT PLATOON GUIDE**



Cover photo

Recruit Sustainment Program Soldiers with the New Jersey Army National Guard, board a Pennsylvania Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter during the last phase of training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix Lakehurst, N.J., May 16, 2015. (Courtesy photo)



FLURI ONE STEP CLOSER TO GOAL

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, New Jersey National Guard

West Point has been a goal of Pfc. Nico Fluri, a Cavalry Scout from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, since he was 12 years old.

“I have always had a strong love of country and a calling to serve; this innate desire has inspired me to become an Army Officer said Fluri. “I was in the sixth grade when I first learned of the United States Military Academy.”

He recently found out he had been accepted into the United States Military Academy Prep School at West Point.

“I feel both honored and humbled to be accepted into the United States Military Academy Prep School and I am excited to start my journey in becoming an Army Officer.”

The path to West Point has not been an easy one. Fluri set himself up from a young age to be on the

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***Pfc. Nico Fluri
50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team***

right path.

“As I entered middle and high school, all my decisions in the areas of academics, athletics and leadership emphasized the skills I would need to achieve my goal,” said Fluri.

Fluri credits the New Jersey Army National Guard with giving him the skills he needs to follow his dream.

“My time in the National Guard has been instrumental in preparing and training me for both the military and the leadership facets of achieving my goal,” said Fluri. “My experiences of being a private in the Army National Guard have given me the opportunity to have a solid foundation with which I can build upon at West Point.”

Fluri, class of 2020, will join fellow New Jersey Army National Guard soldier Pfc. Nathaniel Okyere-Bour, class of 2019, at West Point this summer.

ACROSS THE STATE

Honoring the fallen

New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, join the New Jersey National Guard leadership and more than a dozen veterans' organizations to honor New Jersey's fallen service members at the State Memorial Day ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in North Hanover Township, N.J., May 23, 2015. The ceremony culminated with the presentation of memorial wreaths by representatives of veteran service organizations. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Staff visits military installations

Staff members from New Jersey's Congressional Delegation pose for a group photo in front of the Army Aviation Support Facility at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., May 27, 2015. The staff members toured the state's military installations from May 27-29, 2015, to increase their understanding of the pivotal role the Garden State plays in the nation's defense and the importance of protecting these assets from any future federal base realignments or closures. New Jersey's military installations – including Picatinny Arsenal, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Naval Weapons Station Earle, the 177th Fighter Wing of Egg Harbor Township, U.S. Coast Guard Station at Atlantic City and the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center at Cape May – provide an economic impact of nearly \$10 billion to the state. In addition, more than 25 percent of the nation's reserve component Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen live within 400 miles of the state's military installations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

STATE EVENTS



PRESENTS




1ST ANNUAL WALKING IN MY BOOTS WALKATHON

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for a walkathon for all ages to raise funds and awareness for Veterans living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - PTSD 

WARINANCO PARK

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM WALK BEGINS AT 10 AM

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL LEVELS

For more information contact Janna Williams at (908) 590-3869 or Vet4u2@gmail.com

IN COOPERATION WITH



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!



HISTORIC MIDTOWN
ELIZABETH
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

In honor of Sergeant Samuel Nutter, a former member of the New Jersey Army National Guard.



11th Annual



NUTTER RUN

5K at Sea Girt, NJ

6 June 2015, 11am at Sea Girt, NJ
National Guard Training Center

Registration 8:00 - 10:30 am. Race starts 11am.

Join us for a day of music, entertainment, food, refreshments, games, activities, raffles and prizes! All proceeds to benefit member(s) of service.

Register Online Today!
www.sgtnutterrur.org

The SGT Samuel Nutter Organization, Inc
Headquarters 254th Regiment
P.O. Box 277 Sea Girt, NJ 08750
Contact email: njocsclass58@gmail.com

Military Appreciation Day

Place: Casino Pier, Seaside Heights
800 Ocean Terrace

Date: Saturday, June 27, 2015

Time: 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. for bracelet pick-up
Waterpark opens at 10 a.m.

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

Soldiers/Airmen and Family members of the N.J. 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 Avenue between 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- ** Waterpark opens at 1000 hours.
- ** Each Military Family will receive a debit card (one) worth \$25.00 to be used to play games at the Casino Pier. (slot machines, ski ball, pin ball games)

Thank you for serving our Country!

PLEASE JOIN US!

In a Ride Where All Proceeds Benefit...

THE HOMELESS AT VETERANS HAVEN NORTH

7.18.15



When: **JULY 18TH**
rain or shine

Registration:
10:00 - 10:45 AM
WILLIAMS HARLEY DAVIDSON,
1100 US 22, LEBANON, NJ

Kick Stands Up:
11:00 AM:
SCENIC RIDE THRU HUNTERDON COUNTY

Arrival: 12:30 PM @ VETERANS HAVEN NORTH,
200 SANATORIUM RD, GLEN GARDNER, NJ

sponsored by:



Live Band & BBQ!

Donation:
\$30.00 PER BIKE

Veterans Outreach Campaign

June Veteran organization conventions
Wildwood Convention Center Outreach Events Only
June 4-5: Elks Convention, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Daily
June 11-13: American Legion State Convention, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Daily
June 17-20: VFW State Convention, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Daily
Wildwood Convention Center, 4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, NJ 08260

Memorial Day at Paramus



ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK Save using ENERGY STAR

For the average home, heating and cooling costs about \$1,000 per year. If your air conditioner is over 12 years old, consider replacing it with an ENERGY STAR certified model to reduce your cooling costs by 30 percent.

The New Jersey Clean Energy Program offers financial incentives and rebates to help offset the cost of making your home more energy efficient. The COOL Advantage program offers rebates for high efficiency air conditioners and heat pumps. To learn more about this program, visit the Clean Energy website at www.njcleanenergy.com/cool

For more information about energy and water conservation efforts, contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov

E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov by close of business Wednesday



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Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer
Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht – Photographer, graphic artist



The US Family Health Plan has been a trusted partner of the Military Healthcare System for more than 30 years.

We provide the TRICARE Prime option to service families and retirees.

US Family Health Plan contracts with over 12,000 physicians.

For more information on our plan, visit us @ usfhp.net