

Guardlife

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Cover: Chairman honors grads

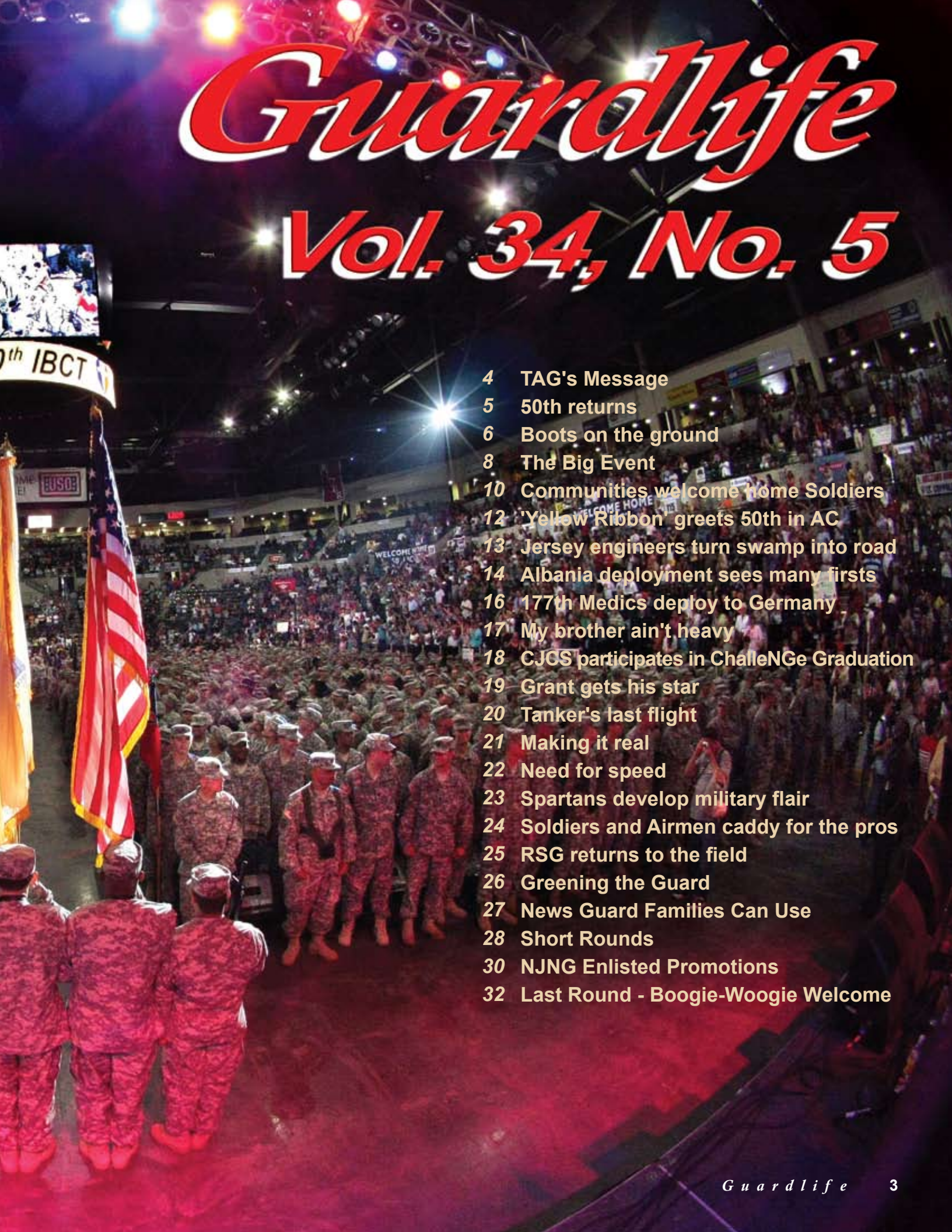
Louis A. Cabrera, left, Assistant Chief and Comptroller of the National Guard Bureau joins Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth and Admiral Michael Mullen, right, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff as Pvt. Michael Milan, center, and Spc. Pedro Martinez receive the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal during the graduation ceremonies for Class 30 of the Youth ChalleNGe program on Aug. 29 at the Trenton War Memorial. The pair of 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers graduated from the Youth ChalleNGe before joining the National Guard. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Inside: Arena-size Welcome

Family and friends welcome home the Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at the Sovereign Bank Arena on June 12. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

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Veterans - your future

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

I spent part of a recent Sunday with the Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as they took part in their 60-day Yellow Ribbon reintegration event in East Orange. The objective was to ensure those brave men and women have the resources they need as they make the transition from warrior to citizen. With their historic mission in Iraq now complete, their eyes are focused on the future.

For many of those Soldiers, that future includes reaching their educational goals.

So it was fitting that after leaving the brigade in East Orange, I went to the Middlesex County Community College campus in Edison to join Gov.

Jon Corzine at a signing ceremony for the state legislative bill that establishes the Troops to College Program.

The program empowers the Department of Military Affairs and the Commission on Higher Education to help the state's public higher education institutions ease a veterans' transition to the classroom, whether they're returning to school after a deployment or stepping onto campus for the first time in years.

One of the great things about this initiative is that it plays to the tech savvy of our newest veterans. Everything from assistance in applying for state and federal student financial aid, to finding counseling resources, to connecting with a campus veterans' assistance officer will be online and a few mouse clicks away.

There are already some great education resources on the Internet for New Jersey veterans.

One of the best can be found at www.operationcollegepromise.com.

That's the online portal for the Operation College Promise program, which is run by the nine institutions that make up the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities.



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, right, watches Governor Jon S. Corzine, center, shakes the hand of Capt. Richard P. Colton, left, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during the Welcome Home Parade, which started at the steps of the State Capital winding through Trenton to the Sovereign Bank Arena on June 12. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

The association says it's dedicated to creating some of the most veteran-friendly campuses in the country right here in New Jersey.

I spoke recently to representatives of this organization and told them that the men and women who are coming to their campuses from combat theaters are certainly worthy of the organization's goal. It's the right thing to do for the veterans who have sacrificed so much to protect the American way of life. It's also the smart thing to do because these veterans have already proven themselves to be focused, disciplined and able to put the greater good above their own needs. In short, veterans are the kind of people who take their degrees and use them to accomplish great things.

The reintegration of the 50th IBCB presents many challenges as those 3,000 Soldiers return to their families, communities and jobs. I'd argue that the reintegration period also offers many opportunities. The chance to start or continue a path of higher education is high on that list of opportunities. I urge you to take advantage of everything that's offered. You earned it.

50TH RETURNS



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMVA/PA



BOOTS ON THE GROUND

May 25 saw the first of what were to be many reunions between family members and Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Arriving at all hours of the day, in large groups and small, the results were always the same; momentary chaos as families searched for loved ones, followed by hugs, kisses and, well, more hugs and kisses. In the following days, the Soldiers of the 102nd Cavalry, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, 328th Military Police Company, 50th Chemical Company, 1-114th Infantry, 154th Quartermaster Company, 112th Fires Battalion, 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and the 2-113th Infantry arrived home. After completing all their in-processing at Fort Dix, the next big event was the Welcome Home ceremony.

Above, Governor Jon S. Corzine, center, and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, right, greet a 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldier. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen 177FW/PA. Below, Sgt. 1st Class Sam Weiss, left, greets his daughter. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly, 444MPAD. Opposite page, top left photo by: Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA. All others by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.





THE BIG EVENT





On June 12, the Soldiers of the 50th marched past Trenton's citizens to the Sovereign Bank Arena where they were welcomed with live entertainment and speeches by federal, state and local officials. Aerial parade photo by Spc. Mark O'Rear, 444MPAD. All other photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.





COMMUNITIES WELCOME HOME SOLDIERS

The incessant spring rains paused just long enough to allow Mount Holly residents a chance to welcome home a group of 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers.

Waving American flags and sporting yellow ribbons, it seemed as if the entire town, just a few miles south of Fort Dix, turned out to shake a Soldier's hand.

"He's the true definition of a hometown hero," said Army mom Theresa Durham of her son, Cpl. George O'Malley. "He grew up here and now the town is honoring him."

Spcs. Martin Borton, Mark Morehouse and Joe Sams, along with Pfc. Justin Schober rode into town on a Mount Holly Fire Department engine. Flanked by motorcycle groups, including the Warriors' Watch Riders, the parade

could be heard from all the way across town. The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Yellow Ribbon Club, resident John Hennessey, and Spc. Sams' family also helped organize the event.

After speeches by local luminaries and challenge coin presentations, each Soldier got the microphone for a chance to address the crowd. All thanked their families, but Spc. Morehouse had more to say.

"I want to thank my wife again," he said. "She's the true hero, taking care of the family through this." Having joined the military in his thirties, he said, made the separation more difficult.

Not all in attendance had family returning from overseas. Dot and Bruce Ward of Lumberton just wanted to welcome the troops home.



"The whole unit came back, every single one of them," said fire department lieutenant Terry Matthews. "That's amazing."

Pfc. Schober appreciated the small ceremony.

"It's more fun!" he said. "There are actual people here!" By that, he meant, everyone in attendance wanted to thank him personally, and all did.

Photo credits, opposite page: Pennsauken held a Welcome Home parade down the Main Street on June 28 Photo by Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA. Photos this page: top, the town of Franklin held a parade for the Soldiers from the 50th Chemical Company followed by a ceremony at the high school football field. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly, 444MPAD. Below: High Street in Burlington was the scene for a parade for the 1-114th Infantry. The Soldiers marched from their armory to the river front, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars held a ceremony to honor the troops. Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, 444MPAD.



'Yellow Ribbon' greets 50th in AC

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

After two months of tough training in Texas followed by 10 hard months in Iraq, the Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Lawrenceville, got a chance to unwind with their families in Atlantic City in August.

It was the first of three Yellow Ribbon reintegration events to help Citizen-Soldiers make the transition back to civilian life and learn about how their service in the combat zone has made them eligible for enhanced education, health and other benefits.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, urged the Soldiers to take advantage of every benefit.

"You spent a year of your life defending our way of life," Rieth said. "You've earned every entitlement you have coming to you."

As the event began Aug. 16 at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Gov. Jon S. Corzine reminded the Soldiers and their families that when they deployed in June 2008, he had pledged on behalf of the government that they would not be forgotten.

"This reintegration process is all about keeping the promise that our state and nation will not forget what you have done for all of us," Corzine said.

The Yellow Ribbon program is a year-old initiative sponsored by the Department of Defense and provides for three events within 90 days of the return of Soldiers from a combat deployment. The first event is to provide



Chris Kulkosky, left, Veterans Service Training Officer with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs discusses state and federal benefits with a 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldier. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Soldiers with information on benefits. The second event focuses on their mental health and the final reintegration event is for a comprehensive health screening. The Pentagon provided New Jersey with about \$3 million for the Yellow Ribbon program.

The goal of the first event in Atlantic City was to give the Soldiers and their families the ability to learn about their benefits in an informal setting. Many Soldiers with children brought them along.

Having his 2-year-old daughter Aimee in tow ensured that Spc. David Bennett of Barnegat had few dull moments. The 23-year-old Rutgers University student alternated his time listening to briefings and then turning the listening duties over to his wife whenever Aimee got restless and wanted to run in the hallways in the Convention Center.

"Having her here is actually relaxing for me ... it kind of makes it less like a formal military event," said Bennett, who served near Baghdad with the 328th Military Police Company of Cherry Hill.

The event closed with a banquet for the Soldiers and their families.

Sgt. 1st Class Keith Johnson, 51, of Williamstown, said he considered the banquet an extension of the welcome home that began with a parade in Trenton in June and has continued with events in towns across the state.

"The parade, the picnics, now this all kind of reminds you that people appreciate what we did," Johnson said. "Everybody has been great to us."



Spc. Miriam Hines, left, 154th Water Company receives an information packet from Ronald Calissi, Fairleigh Dickinson University. Photo by Spc. Mark O'Rear, 444th MPAD.

JERSEY ENGINEERS TURN SWAMP INTO ROAD

Story and photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – What happens when a mucky patch of Maryland swamp meets the 150th Engi- neer Company?

A road capable of carrying 80,000 pound trucks begins to emerge foot by painstaking foot.

More than two dozen Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard unit spent their annual training at this sprawling Army installation north of Baltimore building a road strong enough to carry ammunition trucks.

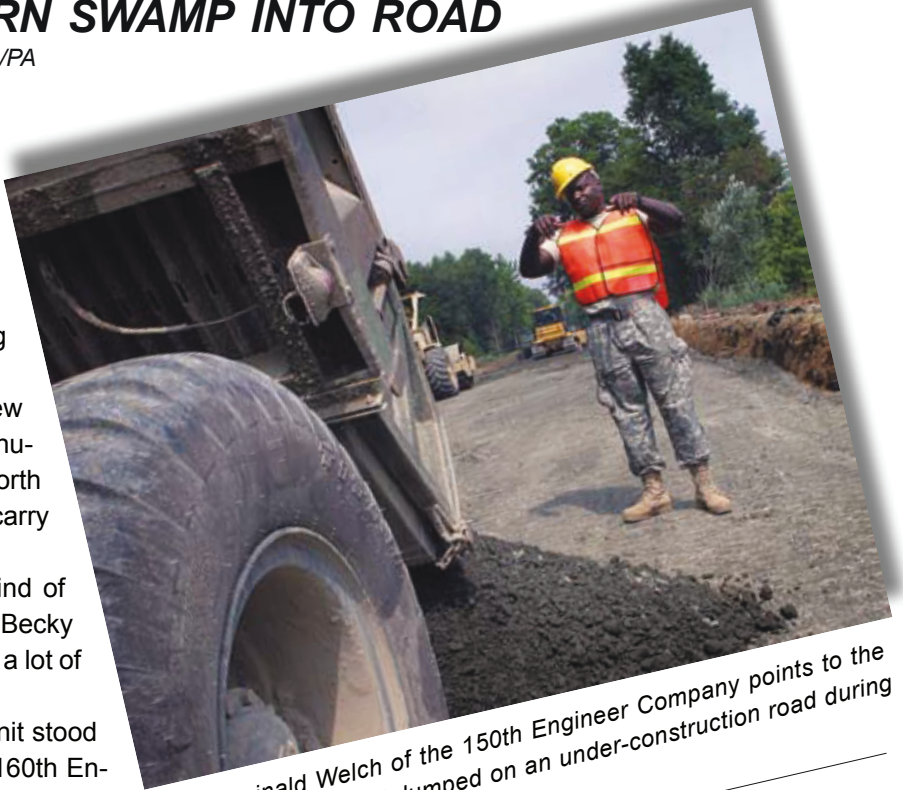
"This is great training -- it's exactly the kind of work we would do if we deployed," said Capt. Becky Lapidow, the company commander. "There are a lot of roads being built in Afghanistan."

The AT is a milestone, the first since the unit stood up in October 2008. Several members of the 160th Engineer Detachment took part as well.

As he grinned through a cloud of gravel dust, Staff Sgt. William Cook, a 150th member who once listed his top three military job preferences as engineer, engineer and engineer, said progress on the road – nearly 2,000 feet in two weeks – surprised him.

"When we got here, we had a swamp," he said. "Now, it's starting to look a lot like a road."

In addition to the digging, grading and laying the stabilizing sand and gravel for the road, all of the Soldiers trained



Spc. Reginald Welch of the 150th Engineer Company points to the spot he wants gravel dumped on an under-construction road during his unit AT in July.

on the safe operation of five- and 20-ton dump trucks. Spc. Reggie Pharel, a supply clerk, enjoyed the driver training so much he volunteered to get behind the wheel of a five-ton dump truck every day for the rest of AT.

After several 10-hour days of driving the same two-mile loop, he still wasn't bored.

"Good training," he said with a big smile as he backed up to drop yet another load of gravel. 🇺🇸

GOVERNOR SIGNS *ORAL HISTORY FOUNDATION BILL*

Governor Jon S. Corzine, seated center, finishes signing the bill for the creation of a state Veterans' Oral History Foundation on August 17. That day, Col. Steven Ferrari and retired Army Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini shared recollections about their time in war zones with Corzine after the governor signed the bill in Atlantic City creating the Foundation. A board of nine representatives to be appointed by Army Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, New Jersey adjutant general, will guide the foundation's work. The foundation will raise money and publicize efforts to capture the oral histories of New Jersey veterans and preserve them at the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey. Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, JFHQ-NJ/PA.



Albania deployment sees many firsts

Story and graphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

TIRANA, ALBANIA - - New Jersey National Guard units have been instructing the Albanian military for 15 years.

During that time, there have been a number of firsts, but none have been as significant or as far-reaching as the deployment of 33 New Jersey Guardsmen to Tirana, the capital of Albania.

Eighteen of the Guardsmen were police officers, New Jersey State Troopers, or state corrections officers. A first, since these traditional Guardsmen were specifically chosen because they were in law enforcement.

Two units were deployed. This alone is not unusual except one was Air guard and the other was Army Guard. In a first of its kind deployment, eighteen 108th Air refueling Wing Security Forces Airmen and fifteen 508th Military Police Soldiers deployed together from June 7-21.

During that deployment, the New Jersey Citizen Soldiers and Airmen jointly trained 130 of their counterparts in the Albanian Military Police Battalion Unit Number 4002, another first.

"It's a great example of the two services integrating and working together to train the Albanian MPs," said 108th Security Forces Airman 1st Class Jaime Mazza.



Airman 1st Class Jaime Mazza, left, 108th Security Forces, watches as two Albanian soldiers practice search techniques. Photo by 1st Sgt Raymond Hoffman, 508th Military Police Company

"Both units worked hand-in-hand to accomplish the assigned classes that the Albanian Military Police requested," said 508th 1st Sgt. Raymond Hoffman, who serves as an Irvington Police sergeant. "They were extremely motivated to learn from us."

The training itself was geared so the Albanians would be familiar with United States Army and Air Force military police and security forces doctrine.

"They are definitely working toward joint missions with us," said Mazza.

The New Jersey Soldiers and Airmen taught the rules of engagement and escalation of force, convoy operations, civil disturbance and crowd control, checkpoint security, vehicle search, accident investigations, military operations on urban terrain, rules of engagement and self aid and buddy care.



Senior Airman Christopher Palm (I) watches as Tech. Sgt. Scott Krebs (third from left) prepares to give a tactical baton demonstration to a group of Albanian military police. Photo by 1st Sgt Raymond Hoffman, 508th Military Police Company.

"We geared their training so that if they deployed to a forward location with a NATO unit, they could fit right in," said Senior Master Sgt. David Beun, 108th Security Forces non-commissioned officer in charge of standards and evaluation and also a patrolman with the Mount Laurel Township Police force. "I can definitely see the benefits from our being here. Their exposure to us will help them adapt to NATO."

Each day the Soldiers and Airmen would cover the different subjects. Some areas the Soldiers would be the lead instructors; in others the Airmen would be in charge.

Spc. James O'Brien, an MP with the 508th, instructed the Albanians on checkpoints and cordon searches.



Albanian MPs search 1st Sgt. Ray Hoffman, kneeling back, while 1st Lt. Matthew Zilinski, kneeling front, both with the 508th Military Police Company, waits the same treatment. Photo by Spc. Kristen Burns, 508th Military Police Company.

"I can see more benefits from our efforts here than other places I have been deployed." Senior Master Sgt. David Beun, 108th Security Forces



Senior Airman George Michalski, left, 108th Security Forces and Staff Sgt. Derrick Luciano, second from right, 508th Military Police Company, are searched during the skills demonstration on June 20. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

"It was great putting my skills to work for another country," said O'Brien.

"The instructors made the learning easy," said 1st Lt. Armand Basholli, Engineer Company Deputy Commander with the Albanian Rapid reaction Brigade. "As they spoke, they also gave demonstrations of what they were talking about."

"They put 110 percent into their learning," said Hoffman. "They have the heart and spirit to get the job done."

At the end of the training, the Albanian MPs gave a demonstration of the skills they had learned to Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General; Gazmend Oketa, the Albanian Minister of Defense, and the Albanian military leadership. During the exercise, the MPs demonstrated crowd

control methods, checkpoint operations, room clearing and extraction of wounded personnel.

"I can see more benefits from our efforts here than other places I have been deployed," said Beun. "They really appreciate us being here."

Following the demonstration, New Jersey's top performing Soldiers and Airmen were recognized by the Albanian leadership. In turn, Maj. Gen. Rieth coined the top Albanian soldiers.

The final first came when it came time to return home. Instead of boarding a commercial airliner, the New Jersey Soldiers and Airmen flew home in a KC-135R Stratotanker, courtesy of the 108th Air Refueling Wing.

This was the first time a New Jersey Air Guard unit provided airlift to Albania. And it certainly won't be the last first in this partnership.



Staff Sgt. Danny Sanchez, center, watches as Spc. Jirigarthe Cruz, left, both with the 508th Military Police Company, copies down contact information so they can stay in touch with their Albanian friends. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



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

177TH MEDICS DEPLOY TO GERMANY

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY--Airmen from the 177th Medical Group deployed to Ramstein Air Base, located near Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany from July 19 to August 1.

The 31 Airmen comprise all the major sections in the Medical group – laboratory, medical logistics, medical technicians, public health, dental, optometry, administration, nursing and flight surgeons. In addition, three members of the 177th Chaplain team deployed to serve the wounded at Landstuhl Army Hospital, which is located near Ramstein.

The 177th Airmen served with the 86th Medical Group, which with 854 medical personnel divided among five squadrons is the largest overseas Air Force clinic. It also has the largest Dental Squadron comprised of 52 dentists who attend to more than 51,000 appointments each year.

"They got a lot of training that is often hard to come by," said Col. David J. Mellish, 177th Medical Group commander. "In addition they were working alongside their active-duty counterparts."

The purpose of the deployment was to give the Airmen Readiness Skills Verification training at an overseas medical treatment facility. These include everything from H1N1 screening, patient loading on aeromedical evacuation flights, to biological warfare testing and even K-9 patient handling.

During their time at Ramstein, they accomplished more



Capt. Jessica Bramlette, front, Staff Sgt. Neal Esplin, back left, and Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Cortez-Lozoya, 86th Dental Squadron work on Staff Sgt. Summer Walter.



Public health journeyman Senior Airman Desireé Duffy, left, with the 177th Medical Group examines a strip with Public Health Inspector Staff Sgt. Amy Deboy of the 86th Medical Group that checks the parts per million of chlorine in sanitizing water during an inspection at the Ramstein (Germany) Central Meat Processing Plant on July 29.

than 80 percent of their RSVs—a rather high accomplishment, given the duration of the deployment.

The Garden State Airmen assigned to the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility were fully integrated with the active duty Airmen and Marines performing aeromedical patient movement duties.

The doctors—dental, optometry, pediatrics and family practice saw at least one patient per hour. In addition, 23 medical Airmen—74 percent of the group deployed—donated blood.

All in all, a very fulfilling deployment.

My brother ain't heavy

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY--Five 177th Airmen were on special assignment during their Germany annual training.

Master Sgt. Harry Waugh, Tech. Sgts. Melissa Blackledge and Marie Paggi, along with Staff Sgts. Chantel Bullock and Valerie Chiola were assigned to the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility or CASF.

"The CASF is responsible for transporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom wounded warriors from the flightline to the hospital then to the flightline when they are sent back to the United States," said Senior Airman Liam Velez, a CASF medical technician assigned to the 86th Medical Group.

More than 65,000 wounded Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines have passed through Ramstein.

In the morning Waugh, Blackledge, Paggi, Bullock and Chiola were prepared for their duties by undergoing refresher training transporting volunteers around on stretchers.

While all this may seem basic – lifting, moving and loading, it has a direct impact on those being transported.

That training was tested at noon when the 177th Airmen were assigned to moving a group of wounded warriors.

The 177th team moved the injured warriors from the CASF building to a bus specially designed to carry stretcher-borne



Tech. Sgts. Marie Paggi, left, and Melissa Blackledge, second from left, along with Master Sgt. Harry Waugh, second from right, and Staff Sgt. Valerie Chiola, right, all with the 177th Medical Group, receive a lesson on patient movement from Senior Airman Liam Velez, on stretcher, a CASF medical technician assigned to the 86th Medical Group at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

patients. They were then driven to the Ramstein flightline where they were loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III attached to the 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard.

The 177th Airmen joined active-duty Air Force and Marines in lifting and carrying the wounded warriors from the bus and onto the aircraft.

"It was an honor to help get the wounded home," said Waugh.

Afterwards the entire CASF team got together at the bottom of the C-17 to give a cheer for the warriors.

"This is a real world event, it was exciting," said Chiola. "It's not just another exercise." 🇺🇸



Master Sgt. James McCloskey, left, helps lift a patient on board a C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft. McCloskey was part of the second team to work at the CASF during the deployment.



CJCS participates in ChalleNGe graduation

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

The top American military commander, Adm. Mike Mullen, was the guest of honor for the graduation of Class 30 of the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy at the War Memorial on Aug 29.

Mullen, the 37th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, commended the cadets for enrolling in the rigorous 22-week National Guard program at Fort Dix that uses discipline and community service to help at-risk youth turn their lives around and graduate from high school. More than 2,500 teen-agers have completed New Jersey's program since it launched in 1992.

"To want to make a change is not easy at any age," Mullen said. "To make that decision at your age is to be commended ... you are going to be our leaders in the future."

The chairman also had kind words for the National Guard.

"We would not be the military we are, we would not be the nation we are and, indeed, New Jersey would not be the state that it is without the National Guard," Mullen said.

Although the objective of ChalleNGe is to produce productive, high school graduates, many of the cadets go on to enlist in the military. In fact, 42 Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which returned from Iraq in June, are ChalleNGe graduates.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, swore five of the ChalleNGe graduates into the National Guard at the ceremony.

Clive Hinds, the distinguished graduate of Class 30, said he's considering joining the military as well, but first wants to attend college.

The 18-year-old from Hackensack, said the discipline instilled in the ChalleNGe program helped him channel the anger that once got him in trouble.



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, and Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman, second from right, Joint Chiefs of Staff, shake the hands of graduating ChalleNGe graduates on Aug. 29. Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, JFHQ-NJ/PA.

"This program really helped calm me down and focus," Hinds said. "I can't say enough good things about ChalleNGe and the cadre."

His mother, Andrie Hinds, agreed. "My son is so patient now, I almost didn't recognize him," she said. "He always was a good boy. He just needed a push in the right direction. I'm so grateful he got it."

For the ChalleNGe cadre, graduation day was the payoff for weeks of long days.

Staff Sgt. Gerard Tanner, one of the instructors, beamed as the new graduates crowded around him to shake his hand.

"These kids make me proud," said Tanner, who is also an Army National Guard staff sergeant. "You've got some bright kids here. I guarantee you a lot of them are going to go on to do great things." 🇺🇸

Colonel Thomas takes command of Battle Lab



From the first woman to command a New Jersey Army National Guard battalion in combat to the first female in the state to graduate from the Army War College, Col. Loretta Thomas, right, seen here receiving the guidon from Brig. Gen. John Nunn. Thomas has garnered a string of firsts in her 25-year military career. She extended the streak on July 11 when she became the first woman to lead the National Guard Bureau Joint Training and Training Development Center at Fort Dix. Thomas, who led the former 250th Signal Battalion in Iraq in 2005, wants to build on the Battle Lab's national reputation as a center of excellence. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Donnelly, 444MPAD.

GRANT GETS HIS STAR

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

James J. Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff, was promoted to Brigadier General in front of an overflow crowd at the Lawrenceville Armory on Aug. 21. It was full of people who had been there for most of the milestones in Grant's life.

In addition to his wife, Betteanne Grant, his daughter, Kelly Grant, and his mother and stepfather, Martin and Theresa Cramer, three of his high school friends were in attendance, including his best friend, Kevin Mineiri.

Others in attendance included Grant's former colleagues from the New Jersey State Police, Joe Klecko, the Hall of Fame defensive end from the New York Jets and 1st Lt. Wil Crombie, an honored Iraq War veteran with whom Grant began a correspondence.

Of course, the largest contingent at Grant's promotion ceremony came from the organizations Grant now helps to lead, the New Jersey National Guard and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.



The newest New Jersey Army Guard general, Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, smiles as Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, and his wife, Betteanne Grant, right, pin on his stars during a ceremony on Aug. 21 in the Lawrenceville armory. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, called Grant "a leader with strategic vision" who played a key role in some of the most critical events in the National Guard, including the largest deployment of New Jersey National Guard Soldiers since World War II.

"We are blessed to have Jim on our team," Rieth said. 🇺🇸



Air Guard commander pins on second star

Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, right, receives her two-star general flag from Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, as State Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Francis, center, watches during Falca-Dodson's promotion ceremony on June 22. This is a continuation of her string of historic firsts; from first woman general officer in the New Jersey National Guard to first female commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard to the first woman in the history of the Jersey Guard to earn two stars. Falca-Dodson was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy Adjutant General when she was appointed to that post in 2002. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

Tanker's last flight: Last "E" model leaves wing

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

The Airmen of the 108th Air Refueling Wing gathered on the McGuire Air Force Base tarmac on Aug. 7 and said goodbye to an old friend that flew combat missions from Vietnam to Iraq during a 52-year military career.

With pieces of chalk, the Airmen signed their names on the gray fuselage of their "friend," a KC-135E "Stratotanker" tanker jet.

After a brief ceremony, the big bird took off for one last mission, refueling a C-5 cargo plane en route to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where the four-engine jet will become a display in the Air Mobility Command Museum.

The plane retiring from New Jersey is one of three "E" Model KC-135s in the entire Air Force inventory still able to fly – and the only one still capable of flights in support of combat. The plane that was retired, number 57-1507, flew its last mission in support of operations in Iraq, a refueling operation over the Atlantic Ocean, on July 14.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the 108th commander, was one of the two pilots for the plane's final flight.

Cunniff, who logged more than 3,000 hours at the controls of KC-135Es over his career, called the retirement "bittersweet."

"This is the end of the era and retirement of an aircraft that served with distinction over many years," Cunniff said. "But it's also a happy day, a new beginning."

That's because the 108th Air Refueling Wing's fleet has been upgraded to KC-135R models, which have more powerful, quieter and more fuel efficient engines as well as upgraded electronics.

Under original Department of Defense plans announced in 2005, the 108th would have lost its mission with the retirement of its last KC-135E model, Cunniff said. Instead, New Jersey's congressional delegation worked with Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson and the Airmen of the 108th to convince the Pentagon to allow the unit's mission to continue with upgraded aircraft.

But the plane that retired Friday was clearly a part of history.

Commissioned in 1959, the plane was first assigned Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, then transferred to Barksdale



Master Sgt. Marcie Montalvo, former KC-135E boom operator, prepares to finish artwork on the last KC-135 E-model before it left on its final flight to the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover Air Force Base, Dover, Del. The dice are in the 150th Air Refueling Squadron's unit patch. The 150th was part of the 108th Air Refueling Wing. By Tech Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108ARW/PA.

Air Force Base in Louisiana and then it moved on to Thailand and the Philippines in support of combat operations over Vietnam. With its ability to carry more than 30,000 gallons of fuel, the KC-135 was credited with changing the face of aerial combat in Vietnam by lengthening the time warplanes could spend over the battlefield. Built and designed by Boeing, the KC-135 was a relative of the 707, one of the most successful early wide-bodied commercial airliners.

The E Model heading for retirement transferred to the Air Guard in 1975 and made its way to the 108th in 1984. The plane flew missions during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, patrolled the no-fly zone over Iraq in the late 1990s and most recently flew thousands of hours in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As the time for the plane to push back and begin its takeoff neared, one of the Airmen who kept it flying all these years looked a bit sad.

"I cut my teeth on these airplanes. They were good airplanes," said Master Sgt. Dan Kimble of Wanaque in Passaic County. "What does the plane mean to me? Do you remember your first car?"

Making it real

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

Senior Airman Chris Chiola, right, issues an order while Senior Master Sgt. Gus Egizi, center, both with the 177th Civil Engineering squadron, performs self aid and buddy care on Airman Basic Cody Passaro, left, during the 177th's June operational readiness exercise on June 5.

Moulage has been best described as an experience similar to dressing up for Halloween.

The 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group takes it one step further. Combining various apparatus with liberal amounts of synthetic blood and makeup, the idea is to create authentic looking wounds that will actually bleed.

Whether it is an object impaled in a person's eye, a lost limb, or entrails coming out of an Airman's abdomen, the key is to make the experience of treating the wounded by the 177th unit members as real as possible.

Under the guidance of Staff Sgt. Justin Kaenzig of the 177th Medical Group, doctors and medics prepare Airmen from the 177th's Student Flight for their roles as the wounded and dying in the various operational readiness exercises leading up to October's all-important operational readiness inspection.

After much preparation, the young Airmen are turned loose, looking like extras from George Romero zombie movie, on the unsuspecting base population.

In this case, Halloween has come a little bit earlier than usual.

Photo above right: Staff Sgt Justin Kaenzig, left, and Capt. (Doctor) Jessica Bramlette, center, prepare Airman Basic Ron Leonard for his role during one of the medical exercises. Photo bottom right: Staff Sgt. Justin Kaenzig spatters synthetic blood on Airman Basic Natalia Rojas.





Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA

It was the first appearance of the National Guard sponsored Michael Jordan Motor-sports #54 racing motorcycle in the Garden State on Labor Day weekend at New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville.

Atop of the two-wheeled recruiting billboard is Geoff May, who capped off the year with a set of solid results in the last race of the season for the American Motorcycle Association's (AMA) Pro National Guard American Superbike series.

With the National Guard sponsoring the 11-race series and a high-profile team, it seemed the Guard presence was everywhere at the 2.25 mile "Thunderbolt" raceway track of the two-year old motorsports facility in Cumberland county.

Nearly a dozen Soldiers and Airmen got the ride of a lifetime holding on tight as May took his passengers out screaming through turns as he leaned the Suzuki just inches from the ground.

"It was intense, it was the craziest minute and half of my life," said Pvt. Michael Werloch of Cape May. "You just lean so far in the turns you think you are going over, then you slingshot out and you are doing a one hundred plus."

"I got off the bike I was just shaking" said Werloch, 28, who left for Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. the day after spending his last weekend as a civilian enjoying the races.

"That was just amazing," said Airman Ryan Diaz, 18, as the 177th Fighter Wing member removed the racing leathers.

The New Jersey Army Guard provided the color guard for both days of the event and on Saturday Brig Gen. Stephen Hines, deputy commander, 42nd Infantry Division, made a grand entrance in a Blackhawk helicopter to be the Grand Marshal for the races.



Airman Ryan Diaz, left to right, relaxes after a high speed trip around the New Jersey Motorsports Park on the back of the National Guard pro racing motorcycle with fellow Guard members Pvt. Michael Werloch, Pfc. Paul Dzialo and Spc. Ingrid Minacapelli. Background photo: Brig. Gen. Stephen Hines waves the green to start the race.



Spartans develop military flair

Story and photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJ DMAVA/PA

One of the highest compliments a football coach can get is that his team “moved with military precision.”

Steinert High School Head Coach Dan Caruso might hear a lot of that this season.

His players went to the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt for part of their preseason camp and found themselves nose-to-nose with Army Guard Recruiting and Retention Command Soldiers who led some of their conditioning drills.

“It was intense,” said Vince Fiorello, a senior defensive back. “We pushed ourselves harder than any training camp I’ve been a part of.”

The way the team reached the most unusual training camp location of perhaps any high school in New Jersey history is the story of the relationships built over the last several years by Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Vega, a Lawrenceville-based recruiter.

On a visit to the Hamilton Township school more than a year ago, the coaches told Vega they dreamed of holding training camp in a “military atmosphere.”

Vega worked to make it happen. By late August, the team was cleared to report to Sea Girt.

The coaches ran the two-a-day practices, but Vega and a few fellow recruiters led some conditioning exercises, including workouts on the beach.



Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Vega, right, encourages Steinert High School sophomore quarterback Adam Riese during the team's pre-season camp at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. Vega enabled the Mercer County High School to hold its training camp there.

“They looked like sugar cookies when we were done,” Vega said. The Soldiers apparently made an impression on the players after the workout sessions as well.

“I know there are some guys who are thinking more about (joining) after this week,” said Nicki Maciolek, 16, senior defensive back and running back. 🇺🇸



More than 40 Soldiers from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team got the opportunity to be honored during halftime of the Giants and Jets preseason football game at Giants Stadium

on Aug. 29. The game started off with a Blackhawk flyover and Army Guard Soldiers presenting the colors. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mauricio Vega, Recruiting and Retention Command

BIRDIES FOR THE BRAVE

Soldiers and Airmen caddy for the pros

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA

Smiles were showing among the 14 members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard during the last week of August, when they were caddies and announcers at The Barclays, the first event of the PGA's FedEx Cup, held at Liberty National Golf Course, Jersey City.

On Aug. 26, two New Jersey Air Guard members and nine Army guard members were among the 27 members of the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard from New Jersey and New York who caddied for the pro golfers for the first hole during the Pro-Am tournament. Tech. Sgt. Jim Maribo from the 108th Air Refueling Wing was the lucky military member who picked Tiger Woods' name out of the hat.

Other Jersey Guard caddies were: Pfc. Michael Conroy (Ryan Moore and Fred Couples); Staff Sgts. Trygve Myklebust (Lucas Glover), Richard St. Pierre (Dustin Johnson) and Dan Tinkler (John Rollins); Sgts. 1st Class Brian Bollinger (Sergio Garcia) and Todd Friedman (Nick Watney); Air Guard Master Sgt. Jill Moore (Adam Scott); Sgts. Maj. Harold Homan (Jerry Kelly) and Lisa Homan (Kevin Na); and retired Lt. Col. Ed Slavin (Joe Ogilvie). Some of the professional caddies handed their green caddy vest to their guest caddy to wear for their new job.

"A chance of a lifetime," said Conroy, echoing many of his cohorts who lugged the heavy bags down the fairway. Many of them came off the course with mementos from the golfers, things to remember a very special day.

On Saturday and Sunday, four New Jersey Guard members were part of the military presence that announced the pro golfers as they stepped off on their first tee of the day. Slavin, Tech. Sgt. Donald Woods, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, Air Guard Master Sgt. Lisel White and Slavin, all took turns with military members from the Coast Guard and Army to announce the pros. White also sang the national anthem before



Airman caddy Master Sgt. Jill Moore, left, listens as Adam Scott discusses what to expect on the first fairway.

the start of the tournament on Sunday on the first tee.

The Barclays, PGA and Birdies for the Brave sponsored free admittance to the event for members of the military, retirees and their family members during the entire event. There was also a tent on the fourth fairway for the military members to relax, get free refreshments and play video games. 🎮



Soldier caddy Sgt. 1st Class Brian Bollinger, right, holds the bag while pro golfer Sergio Garcia removes a wedge.



57th gets new commander

Lt. Col. Gerard R. Gagnon, left, gives the 57th Troop Command colors to Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Marshall for safekeeping during Gagnon's installation as commander on Sept. 19. He replaces Brig. Gen. James J. Grant. Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, 444MPAD.

RSG RETURNS TO THE FIELD

By Spc. Landis Andrews, 444th MPAD; photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA



A Pennsylvania Army Guard Blackhawk idles at a Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. landing zone as members of the 42nd Regional Support Group prepare to load a simulated casualty. Staff Sgt. Daniela Talha-

rim, center, turns to give the order to, clockwise, Pfc. Vanessa Ochoa, Pfc. Monique Best and Pfc. Esther Carrasco to move towards the aircraft carrying Sgt. Wandley Hernandez during annual training.

The 42nd Regional Support Group is known to handle a wide variety of tasks. But evacuating casualties in helicopters, urban assault, and repelling down buildings, is not among the support group's standard missions.

Yet that didn't stop RSG Soldiers from jumping head first into these tasks during their annual training in August at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

On a windswept landing zone, logistics Soldiers hoisted "wounded" buddies onto stretchers and rehearsed loading them onto UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

Beads of sweat covered Spc. Steven Balducci's face as he ducked low to avoid the whirring helicopter blades. He was in for a surprise when the casualty was loaded. The crew told the Soldiers to hop aboard for a ride.

"It was great," an awed Balducci said after landing. "I've never done that before in my life. It was a wonderful experience."

A few miles away, the 154th Quartermaster Company Soldiers were bustling around Humvees outfitted with lightweight purification systems and testing tubs of murky water to determine which were contaminated – a critical mission when the unit deploys.

Other Soldiers fought their way through the urban assault course, whooping as they kicked doors open and grunting as they struggled to subdue "enemy combatants."

The 508th MP Company readied their soldiers for a variety of tasks. Pfc. Ebenezer Sarpeh was surprised at how much training the unit could cram into one day.

"Yesterday alone, we did convoy training in the morning, land navigation practice in the afternoon and then we did night driving after dark," Sarpeh said. His day didn't end until 10 p.m.

The long days did not deter him from enjoying the training.

"The night driving was crazy because you couldn't see anything! And the land nav was a lot of fun," said Sarpeh.

Sgt. Wanda-Lee Hernandez, who was coordinating some of the training, said the aim was to make sure it wasn't boring.

"To have the soldiers out here and being a part of the action, as simulated as it is, gets them pumped up," said Hernandez. "But they are also actually grasping the concepts and understanding what their role is in the National Guard."

Greening the Guard

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA



With the newly installed photovoltaic solar electric power system above them, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; President Jeanne M. Fox, center, Commissioner, Board of Public Utilities and retired Brig. Gen. Jeff L. Pierson, right, Superintendent, National Guard Training Center, cut the ribbon inaugurating the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs newest onsite solar generation system on August 26 at the NGTC, located at Sea Girt.

The photovoltaic solar electric power system is expected to save the Department more than \$55,000 annually and lower its use of conventionally-generated power. It also has the capability of producing 300 Solar Energy Renewable Credits annually, which are currently selling for \$650 per credit.

Covering more than 20,000 square feet, the 230 kilowatt photovoltaic system uses 1,064 modular pre-engineered solar panels tilted at a ten degree angle to maximize energy output and convert sunlight directly into electricity, generating power to the facility.

With the completion of this project, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs represents the largest commitment to install solar power by a military agency on the East Coast. With an estimated 300,000 kilowatt hours per year, the photovoltaic solar electric power system will reduce more than 7 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions during the next 30 years; the equivalent to planting 1,000 acres of trees or by not driving 9 million miles on New Jersey's roadways. 🐛

108TH WINS HONORS FOR MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

The 108th Air Refueling Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard has won a prestigious national award for meeting the highest standards of mission accomplishment in 2008.

Judges of the Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Trophy cited the Wing for flying more than 5,000 mishap-free hours in a year when the McGuire Air Force-based unit deployed more than 200 airmen to 13 countries on four continents, including missions in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The award, named for a former deputy chief for plans and operations at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., also cited the wing for supporting its local community by volunteering at the New Jersey Vineland Veterans Memorial Home and at the "Stand Down" to help homeless veterans.

To be considered for this award, units are evaluated in

the areas of exercises and deployments, human resources, accident rate history, accident prevention and significant accomplishments during the award period.

Wing leadership accepted the award during the 131st National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) General Conference and Exhibition, which was held in Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 11-13.

During 2008, the 108th ARW deployed more than 200 unit personnel world-wide in support of assignments on four continents and thirteen countries. Currently, the 108th has filled more than 4,400 deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Jump Start. The wing executed more than 5,000 mishap-free flying hours supporting these missions.

This is the second time the wing has won this trophy. Its previous award was in 2002.

NEWS GUARD FAMILIES CAN USE

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Next Marriage Enrichment weekend in February

From Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

The next Marriage Enrichment weekend will be in February 2010.

As soon as information is available on location and date, the applications will be available in the Family Support newsletter.

There is only space for 25 couples, so keep your eyes open for the notice. Contact Marie at 609-530-6884 or marie.durling@us.army.mil to receive the e-newsletter.

Family Readiness increases grants

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has increased the amounts of family and business grants up to \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Both grants are known as TIER I grants.

TIER II family grants are also available to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed servicemembers who served on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Servicemembers meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500.

Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

108TH AIR REFUELING WING

3327 Charles Blvd.

McGuire AFB, NJ 08641

POC: Doug Ridgway

douglas.ridgway@ang.af.mil

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Jersey City, NJ 07306-2208

POC: Bernard Sims

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LAWRENCEVILLE ARMORY

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POC: Jane Hackbarth

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MORRISTOWN ARMORY

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POMONA NJNG FAC

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Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

Air POC: TBD

Army POC: Michael Hughes

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SOMERSET ARMORY

1060 Hamilton Street

Somerset, NJ 08873

POC: John Hales

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TEANECK ARMORY

Teaneck & Liberty Roads

Teaneck NJ 07666-0687

POC: Janis Shaw

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TOMS RIVER ARMORY

1200 Whitesville Road

Toms River, NJ 08753

POC: Maria Morro

maria.morro1@us.army.mil

WOODBURY ARMORY

658 North Evergreen Avenue

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For further information, contact Lori Caputo, 951-256-4076, LoriCaputo@eknowledge.com.



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.



Short Rounds: Unity Day, and lots (and lots) of guns



We are United

New Jersey National Guardsmen present a united front prior to the beginning of the funwalk/run at the 11th Annual Unity day Celebration on Sept. 17. This year's event also included a blood drive. Unity Day highlights the different ethnic and special emphasis groups represented in the NJNG to enhance cross-cultural awareness among the Garden State Citizen Soldiers and Airmen. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick Daugherty, JFHQ-NJ/JAG.

50th IBCT gets newest comms



Chaplain's Assistant Xochi Risco, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, trains on the Harris PRC-117F Multiband Manpack Radio outside the National Guard Armory at Lawrenceville from July 13-17. The 50th troops are the first New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers to be trained on the new system. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMA-VA/PA.

SOLDIER

By Kryn P. Westhoven

As Sgt. Jared Morgan tuning the sound of the hard not to notice the

It was more than would sound for the send off the 1-150th A deployment to Iraq, it was days before.

Morgan was going as he was selected to as the all-star team for Guardsmen was going tour.

The 90-minute theme "Lights! Camera! of the uniformed performances of the technical skills controls during six and Soldiers perform nearly cluding stops in Hawaii

The cast and crew show. "As a kid I was always in handy with four miles

Morgan's interest f

One down Weapons reset

Spc. Diana Brand, clean a .50-caliber rifle past year in Iraq with Team. Brand, of the and Nieto, of the 1 brigade Soldiers who to clean and reset m cluded everything f to crew-served weapons month-long operation at the United States renceville. State Co ert J. Richardson, w "The Guard saved the assurance by performing Sgt. Wayne Woolley

sound decision, new radios

R TAKES SOUND SKILLS COAST TO COAST

by Spc. Mark O'Rear, 444MPAD

Morgan worked the controls of a large audio mixing board fine-tuning the 63rd Army Band in the War Memorial in Trenton it was a smile on his face.

Morgan's satisfaction of how well the band sounded to hundreds of families gathering to watch the 63rd Assault Helicopter Battalion on a deployment was the news he received just a few days later.

Morgan, on his own personal deployment, will be part of what could be described as the "Army entertainers"; this Jersey City native is part of the 2009 Soldiers Show.

The "Soldiers Show" is a theatrical concert production with the "Soldiers Show! Action!" showcases the talents of the performers and highlights the capabilities of the staff. Morgan will be at the audio mixing board for a half-month tour that will see the show play 100 times on 46 installations, including in Iraq and Korea.

Morgan will handle 18 tons of equipment for each deployment. "It's always into hooking things up," added Morgan, a skill that will come in handy when in need of connecting to lights and speakers. Morgan's experience for the Soldier Show came from another member of the New Jersey

Army Guard band Sgt. 1st Class Dexter Hendricks, who had gone to see the show and returned with a program, telling him it was "something he should check out."

Following Hendricks's advice, he did a little research on the Soldier Show, learning more about this touring group that goes by the motto "Entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier" as part of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. Morgan started sending e-mails and resumes; weeks later he got the invite to join this year's tour.

A combination of a four-year degree from Montclair State in Broadcasting and his work as an editor for the CBS network for five-years caught the Soldier Show's staff attention according to Morgan. He joined the 63rd as a French horn player and migrated to the technical side of the music business over the nearly dozen years he has served in the Guard band.

This opportunity to be part of national touring company is an extension of what he does in the National Guard. "I see this as a bigger opportunity for me," Morgan said as he plans to bring back many useful ideas to the Sea Girt-based band when he returns in this fall.

Also this year another 63rd Army Band member was selected to join an Army Entertainment touring group as Sgt. Steve Higgins is playing guitar with USA Express across the country.



, 2,999 to go finishes 50th deployment

Left, and Cpl. Jesse Nieto team up to work on a machine gun that spent most of the deployment with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd RSTA, are among two dozen soldiers who worked with about 70 contractors to repair more than 3,000 weapons, which included everything from 9 mm pistols and M4 carbines to machine guns from the deployment. The team took up a full warehouse floor at the Property and Fiscal Office at Lawton. Command Chief Warrant Officer Robert Spearheaded the operation, said "It took time and money and ensured quality work in house." Photo by Spc. Mark O'Rear, NJDMAVA/PA.



NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

To Sergeant Major (E-9):

Thomas S. Cruz

To First Sergeant (E-8):

Scott E. Mechkowski

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Luis Arroyo Jr.
Sean M. Chapman
Carmen
Giamporcaro
Cametrice Isaacs
Ammon Moore
Scott E Nile
John J. Rowe
Thomas E. Sippel
Brian K. Townsend
Frances A. Watson
Danny W. Womack

To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

William R.
Biedermann
Peter J. Colombo
Mark A. Forenback
Christopher W.
Griswold
Arthur D. Hollman
Keron P. Johnson
Hassan S. Marshall
Robert R. Peer
Miguel A. Salles III

To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Madeleine R. Avent
David A. Bell
Jennifer C. Briggs
Raymond S.
Butterwick III
Antonella G.
Cataliotti
Katarzyna Czajka
Anthony E. Darrison
Christopher M.
Davis
John A.
Dedomenico
Anilkumar D.
Domadia
Sherwin S. Granger
Jeffrey J. Gural
George H. Hall
Frederick J. Hornig
Therese M. Kerbrat
Christian W. Miller
Richard E. Miller III
Donald J. Mulvey
Antonio S. Narvaez
Jorge M. Oliveira
John P. Rosa
Dwayne L. Sample
Jennifer Sbarro
Harold R.
Singletary III
Carmen Spano
Luis M. Suarez
Ricardo Suarez Jr.
Roger A. Trotman
Richard P. Wieggers

Nicholas P. Young

To Sergeant (E-5):

Eugeneia L. Aikens
Juan V. Aponte
Alberto C. Araujo
Kennedy A. Asare
Clarence A. Avent
Johnny A. Bennett
Antonio Berdecia Jr.
Ryan A. Blackman
Thomas E. Boden
Israel Bonilla
Hamlet B. Brito
Leopold M. Brown
Ryan I. Bunty
Joseph B. Butler III
Saul Cantor
Destiny M.
Caporaletti
Mario L. Centofanti
Saul Colon
Martin G. Coogan
Justo M. Cruel Jr.
Jirigathe P. Cruz
Janice Davila
Gerald S. Desmond
Larceric M. Diaz
Edward J.
Drzewiecki Jr.
Irving R.
Echevarriamateo
Filberto Figueroa Jr.
Torie A. Fisher
Aadae G. Fonseca
Stephanie Fulmer
Harry H. Garrity
James R. Glading
Jaclyn A. Gormley
Sean P. Harrigan
William A. Hawkins
Miguel A.
Homearango
Philip P. Jimenez
Sanjiv A. Joshi
Cesar Laserna
Tiffany T. Leitch
Kenneth L. Lewis
Clayton J. Linde
Cary Liverpool
Timonhy R. Long
Marc C. Loudon
Kenny Maldonado
Marlene Martinez
Pedro E. Martinez
Ike W. McGaha
Taymyiah K.
McLendon
Rafael E. Melecio
Jaime A. Mendez
Jenilee I. Mendoza
Leonard A. Mondile
Joseph A. Mullan
Ahmad R. Nobles
Benny Perez Jr.
Ernest F. Pettus
Curvey A. Purkett Jr.
Jose A. Reyes
Ayana M.
Richardson
Gerald J.
Rodriguez
Manuel C.
Rodriguez
Jorge M. Rosales
Enrique Rosalopez
Shaun H. Ross
Jonathan P. Scano
Christian G. Schley

Katherine L. Schuck
Saadiq M. Shakir
William J. Shawger
Muhammed A.
Shonibare
Peter L. Taburas
Roberto L.
Thillett Jr.
Kris O. Tolin
Sandra L. Trettner
James J. Urcinole II
Jeffrey V. Whalen
Lakeya D. White
Benjamin
Williams IV
Orlen A. Zambrano
Valentine C.
Zdanowicz

To Corporal (E-4):

Celeste M. Dowe
Jeffrey R. Heine
Michael T. Suplee

To Specialist (E-4):

Troy W.
Aderholdt Jr.
Richard A.
Agabiti Sr.
Emmanuel E.
Alexandre
Juan C. Arce
Arthur E. Axelson
Jose A. Ayala
Steven Balducci Jr.
Stephen R.
Beechnox
Cynthia J. Bengel
Rajaan L. Bey
James E. Booth
Tomory D. Boyer
Albert A. Brander Jr.
Bryan A. Breza
Timothy C. Brining
Erick Bulgarin
Eugene Butkovic
Anthony T. Cafiero
Russell T. Campbell
Matthew J.
Carpenter
Kevin G.
Cassano Jr.
Ana R.
Castilloramos
John S. Ceccato
Edgardo Class
Andrew M. Coley
Alexis Colon
Samantha R.
Conover
Joseph G. Cooper
Rayson M.
Coppedge
Shane P. Corrigan
Charles R.
Countryman Jr.
Andrew T. Craven
Garry G. Creque
Charles M. Cropper
Andrew R. Cross
Vincent Damiano
Lisa Day
Sean A. Dehais
Richard A.
Dornewass
Erik J. Doucette
Timonhy D.
Durstewitz

Heather M. Dutko
Shaun R. Eckert Sr.
Latashia M.
Edwards
Ryan Z. Enger
Edgar D. Fajardo
Nancy A. Feliz
Elliott H. Figueroa
Peter J. Figueroa
Ralph C. Foy
Massinissa J.
Francis
Diego Galvis
Jason M. Garcia
Osmond R.
Garrison
John W. Gifford III
Muneer A.
Gonsalves
Edward A. Gonzalez
Jose J. Gonzalez
Jacob J. Gowdy
Jesse J. Gowdy
Shalish D. Grant
Daniel Guadalupe
William J. Guernon
Martin V. Guhr
Elliott Guzman III
Michael J. Habbart
Jeffrey S. Hancaviz
Joseph D. Harang
Donald G. Hellings
Sajata B. Henry
Keith P. Hernandez
Freddy M. Herrera
Nash L. Hetzell
Felipe J. Hill
Michael F. Hope
Marco A. Indri
Matthew J.
Jablonsky
Angela M. Jennings
Michael J. Jobe
Jeffrey N. Johnson
David L. Jones
Kyle R. Keeton
Christina A. Kelly
William R. Killinger
Marshall M. King
Amouzouvi F. Kluvi
Lauren A. Knoble
Volodymyr Lastovka
Melissa D. Lee
Jeremy D. Lefberg
Eric M. Love
David Maldonado Jr.
Lolita D. Market
Alexander M. Martin
Modesto R.
Martinez
Pedro J.
Martinez Jr.
Conor P. McGrath
Janet Median
Justina I. Medina
Walter M. Medrano
Michelle E.
Meglaughlin
Sandy J. Mendoza
Edwin Morales
David A. Morera
Khalid Muhammed
Jesse J. Myers
Clayton F. Nichols
Gabriel Orozco
Christian
Osorio-Garcia
Timothy J. Paylor
Randy J. Pearce

Michael A. Perez
Rodney G. Pollard
Jahiad D. Postell
Kevin E. Potter Jr.
Brittany L. Powell
James B. Prall III
Orren M.B. Quero
Michael D. Redrow
Jessica Reichner
Marc N. Reinecker
Salvador E. Reyes
James L.
Riveralorenzo
Isaac T. Roberts III
Roger J. Roberts
Wilbur Roman
Christopher B.
Sammacici
Fernando Sanchez
Anthony J. Santos
Michael W. Spiecker
Paul K. Stanislas
Daniel E. Stewart
Michael R. Storm
Paul Suh
Stephen M. Sykes
Robert Synniefski
Xavier S. Tipanluisa
Tiffany L. Tomlin
Giselle M. Torres
Adan L. Valentin
Neil J. Vanderploog
Joshua A. Vanhorn
Luis A. Vega
Joaquin Viera
Brett T. Vitkovsky
Stacey M.
Vormelker
Thomas D. Walsh
Eric D. Warren
Chelsea J. Wight
Darryl D.
Williams Jr.
Norman A. Williams
Brian Willis Sr.
Matthew J.
Windram
Michael R. Wolf
Louis W. Wright III
Justin M. Yourison
Matthew R. Ziegler

To Private First Class (E-3):

Jennifer Abreu
Glenny Almonte
Pedro L. Almonte Jr.
James E. Anderson
Michael A.
Anderson
Stephanie M.
Bautista
Robert H. Bolejszo
Santa A. Britt
Baron B. Brown Jr.
Sean C. Calhoun
Daesha Caracer
Luis A.
Castanedaraymundo
Omar Castillo
Grace E. Clark
Ronald T. Clark Jr.
Tyler S. Cobb
Michael A. Colaanni
Demetrius D.
Coleman
Raheem S.
Conerson
Michael J. Cosme

Rincon P. Coy
Jacob E. Davis
Jesus Dela Cruz
Katherine Delgado
Henri O. Diante
Felipe W. Dornelas
Leroy H. Drayton III
Dustin D.
Ducksworth
Ronny L. Dunson
Kenneth Flores
David J. Foster Jr.
Roger D. Gallego
Edison Gamboa
Julio C. Gamboa
Matthew E. Graham
Luis Guillermo Jr.
Edwin A. Guzman
Carmella M. Hair
Kevin M. Haynes
Eric A. Heisler
Robert L. Hendrix
Barrington C.
Hibbert
Sean P. Howard
Marquise D.
Johnson
Marwin D. Jones
Ibrahim Kargbo
Nicholas J. Kasper
Christian T. Keeton
Marquise J.
Kennedy
Timothy W. Kerr
Jibreal Koomson
Michael S. Krepp
Alan M. Lada
Renato O. Lara
Edgar C.
Leonsalinas
James C. Lewis Jr.
Roberto Lopez Jr.
Jorge L. Luna Jr.
Jose L. Matos
Jannella Matthews
Casey R. Maxwell
Mark J. McKnight
Jason E. Mueller
Rahmel M. Nelson
Peter J. Novobilsky
William S. Nugent II
Ronny Nunez
Brian E. O'Donnell
Daniel P. Oostdyk
Andres Ortiz
Alaura K. Painter
Lawrence E.
Pedrick
Jon J. Pellicione
Jose M. Peralta
Javier E. Perez-
Alvarez
Michael A. Pilgrim
Brandon R. Pizarro
Peter R. Polo
Arnaldo R. Ramos
Johnathan Ramos
Niurka Y. Ramos
Kierra T. Reid
Christopher
Restrepo
Nicole C.
Richardson
Coletan D. Rivera
Jose L.
Rivera-Morales
James A. Robb IV
Peter P. Rohloff
Joseph E. Ruiz Jr.

ARD ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

Andrew J. Ryan
Jarmaine Salce
Daniel F.
Sanchez-Merino
David Santana
Jonathan V.E.
Schlegel
Theodore F. Shaffer
Bienvenido Silvestre
Danielle A.
Singleton
Mary Colleen B.
Sobon
Leo Sotomayor Jr.
Peter J. Stendler III
Angeline F.
Stephens
Frank J. Sterlacci
Gabriel Suarez
Vincent M. Sullivan
Jordan L. Surgick
Christopher M.
Szlag
Jasmine J.
Thornton
Toan N. Tran
Michael J. Treacy
Jacob P. Trinkle
Johann S. Trujilo
Andrew Turbay
Marvin A.
Urrutiaazucena
Robert J. Vance
Samuel Vasquez
Jennifer C. Viera
Tiffany L. Walker
William Wan
Gabriel K.
Washington
Thomas J. Welsch
Victoria K. Whorton
Marvin William Jr.
Mark K. Williams
Terri L. Wisiak
Christopher J.
Woods
Gabriel F. Yalowitz
Thomas D. Yawger
Andres F. Zalazar

To Private (E-2):

Martin A. Altemose
Nakemiah Armstrong
Melissa G. Blanks
Ludmila Bortzova
Kenley D. Boucher
Mathew A. Bruschi
Ricardo Byanille
Anthony
Caballero Jr.
James H. Campbell
Daniel J. Candido
Luis C. Cardenas
Donovan L. Carper
John M. Catalan
Dukerlin Cheralst
Gaetano
Chirichiello Jr.
Juan Francisco
Collado Jr.
Michael P.
Comoroto
Anthony Crespo
Nicholas A. Crowley
Joshua C. Davila
James M. Davis
Keith A. Davis
Luis A. Dejesus
Jacqueline D.

Del Cid
Christopher A.
Dichiara
Chynna M. Dietrich
Daniel R. Dunn II
Rodrigo S. Duran
Adriann J. Evans
Joel A. Feliciano
Eric D.
Fernandez-Nunez
Desiree Y. Frazer
Sean K. Fritts
Terrel J. Fulcher
Joseph S. Glavey
Tasha I. Gonzalez
Alexander D.
Goodfellow
Jeremy L. Grant
Jessica M. Granzen
Joao Guilherme
Scott H. Haidet Jr.
Steven R. Heiser
Faustino A.
Hernandez
Jhan C.
Hernandez-Grullon
Jeffrey T. Herrmann
Brian M. Hitt
Therron L. Horne
John Huber IV
Joseph P. Hughes
Daniel J. Jacoby
Mark C. Jaekel
Agnieszka A.
Jakowska
Andrew C.
Jankowski
Thomas M.
Keiper Jr.

Michael J. Krusieski
James S. Kube
Daniel J. Kubik
Eniel Lahens
Scott A. Lamond
Raydolph B.
Leary Jr.
Alberto Lima Jr.
Ronald D. Lind
John R. Roberto
Tabitha M. Lodge
Gerardo Marin
Anthony W.
Martinez

Michael K. Matovski
Vanessa L. Maxie
Erik J. McCarroll
Cernico D.
McCreight
Gregory K.
McPherson
Henry A. Merwin
Rodolfo D. Meyo
Santos C.
Minayapichardo
Julio K.
Minuchepincay
James L. Mixon
Joquann M.
Montgomery
Andrew J.
Muscarella
Carlos E.
Navichoque
Anthony N.
Nazzario
Liana J. Nicholas
David L. Norcutt Jr.
Sung M. Park
David Peralta

Michael Pereira
Brian J. Pilaar Jr.
Andres D.
Quinterosbasantes
Cesar V. Quirumbay
Rainy L. Recio
Eddie A. Rios
Alexander L. Rodri-
guez
Angel L. Rodriguez
Michael X. Rogers
Edgar Rosa
Angel Rubbert
Rachel Ruiz-Ramos
Matthew G. Selems
Anna M. Slusarek
Darius A. Smaw
Michael E.
Stevens Jr.
Allen T. Strack
Richard D. Thomas
Darrin B. Turner Jr.
Khalif E. Turner
Daniel J. Vetere
Michael A. Webber
Christopher R.
Weber
Charles R. Wolfe III
Andrew D. Wood
David Wood Jr.
Charles A. Wood-
kotch
Dominick D.
Woolley
Matthew E. Yetman

NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):

Richard Kilgore
George Phillips

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):

Elliot Adkisson
David Beun
John Bunce
Robert Hansen
David Hogan
Anthony Sullivan

To Master Sergeant (E-7):

Dwayne Anthony
Michael Biggs
Sondra Brigandi
Dean Burlew
Israel Caraballo
Frank Diliberto
Randall Freeman
Floyd Henry
Joel Hutchcraft
Thomas Loughran
Danielle Marshall
Edward Morris
Freddie Nabb
Stephen Naughton
Sondra Ramos
Thomas Revak
Todd Schnell
Harry Steele
Dwight Thompson
John Turner
Robert Westergaard
Steven Whelpley
Andre Williamson

To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Roger Alston
Harold Beard
Jason Brown
Suzanne Capuano
Ivan Cartagena
Cris Delestre
Paul Durante
Bradley Elkins
Denise Feliciano
Denise Ferreri
Suzanne Fisler
Willmont Griffin
Benjamin Hemme
Wendi Higgins
Grant Holway
Lauren Humphrey
Jamie Kendall
Kemmerly Kendrick
Kimberly King
Shannon King
Francis Klotz
Kenneth Lehman
Litchror Marquis
Jared Mathis
Zaka McCoy
James McNally
Heidi Melanson
Elijah Mesfin
Jason Milligan
Sean Rawles
John Riccio
Elizabeth Rivera
Jason Scalzi
Anthony Schettino
Tenisha Schex-
nayder
Lauren Scott
Ashley Shatkus
Christopher Shaw
Jeffrey Tafrow
Stacy Terry
Heidi Waterhouse
Thomas Wood
Paul Woodring

To Staff Sergeant (E-5):

Stephen Ballinger
Mrugank Bhatt
Angela Bowman
Tonya Cleveland
Jolie Cobble
Casey Dzimiel
Dominic Francesco
Adnardo Garcia
Carolina
Gutierrezcubillos
Ariel Hansen
Carolina Haviland
Diorca Hernandez
Nicole Horn
Jeanie Hubbard
Daniel Kelly
Randal Kopenhaver
Tomasz Kwintuk
Vincent Lamola
Timothy
Lippertrichvalsky
Rusty Litterer
Jolie McLeod
Angela Miller
Mark Naughton
John Parillo
Latasha Parker
Joseph Searle
Michele Sharp

Ryan Sutphin
Anthony Torres
Daniel Vergara
Nicole Wandras
Dale Williams
Unique Wilson

To Senior Airman (E-4):

Robert Agzgian
Jason Balas
Courtney Beard
James Degregorio
Antonio Etheridge
Steven Fielding
Timothy Fitch
Justin Hansen
Andrew Izzo
Levar Kinard
Andrea Liverpool
Ivan Martinez
Ronald Ohnmacht
Ying Pang
Eduvijas Pantaleon
Ravi Patel
Demetrius Reyes
Dante Rosini
Mohammed Siddiqui
Daniel Simmons
Christopher Smith
Christine Spice
Keri Wanner
Richard Wellins
Jeremy Williams
Charles Zingrone

To Airman First Class (E-3):

Kevin Aguiar
Christopher Bird
Mark Cavanaugh
Christopher Cella
Kristopher Colley
Jymal Cruse
Kyle Daley
Jeffrey Daniel
Ashley Daraklis
Marlena Davison
Levi Degruchy
Beau Deleon
Jose Delgado
Ryan Diaz
Alexis Engelhart
Marquis English
Jasmine English-
Mitchell
Joshua Fogel
Anthony Foster
John Franco
Ryan Galante
Lily Garciagarzon
Emilio Gonzalez
Esteban Gonzalez
Herbert Grant
Randy Gutch
Somer Hernandez
Bryant Hendricks
Victoria Hillmann
Rachel Hodge
Erik Hudson
Cole Inman
Rhode Jadotte
Damian Jimenez
Walter Johnson
Alison Jones
Ryan Keating
Ashley Kline
Michael Klinger

Alexander Kronick
Francis Laast
John Lafollette
Jose Lopez
William Lopez
Dominic Manera
Justin Marmo
Daniel Mayer
Jason Melchiorre
Moriah Merritt
Stephen Moore
James Mullen
Dijon Murdaugh
Trong Nguyen
Arnold Oakman
Brandon Parker
Victor Pascale
Cody Passaro
Nicole Patchus
Alfred Poling
Samantha Pompei
Jeffrey Ramirez
Joseph Rice
Joseph Rifkin
Samantha Rivera
George Ruczynski
Alexander Saia
Dominick
Santopietro
Tracy Schneider
Alex Scott
Winnie Show
Matthew Sinton
Kevin Stewart
Christian Taylor
Stephanie Torres
Luis Velez
Joseph Walsh
Robert Weasner
Casey Weber
Michael West

To Airman (E-2):

Bradley Hibbert
Nicholas Kligmann
Marie Madara
Brittney Nicholson
Richard Rodriguez

New Airman:

Keith Bates
Mecca Jennings
Kevin Klingaman
Joshua Lettera
Jose Petthyng
Deborah Reidy
Marcus Roberts
Seth Schoenfeld
Christopher Sierra
Raymond Smith
Darell Wilson

Congratulations To All!

Compiled by
Master Sgt.
Daniel J. Caldarele
(Army Guard
promotions)
and Master Sgt.
Paul B. Thompson
Jr. (Air Guard
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State of New Jersey
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
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LAST ROUND - BOOGIE-WOOGIE WELCOME



Spc. Abdul Scott, right, C Company, 2-113th Infantry, and other Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team demonstrate their moves alongside Sarah

Dash during the 50th's Welcome Home ceremony at the Sovereign Bank Arena on June 12. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.