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NJ, 08625-0340. E-mail at:mark.

Cover

Honoring The Dead

olsen@njdmava.state.nj.us

(L-R) Spc. Henry Trivino, Sqt. Alejandro Corachan, Sgt. Joe Nyzio and Spc. Cesar Laserna, B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, honor the memory of their fallen comrades. For more photos turn to pages 10-11. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Inside Cover Hero's Welcome

B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, receive a heros' welcome as they parade down Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville. Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA

TAG's Message

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



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, addresses members of B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, during the unit's welcome home ceremony Feb. 11. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

he dedicated and professional citizen-soldiers of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard continue to support their mobilized colleagues deployed throughout the world in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle as well as Family Assistance activities which benefit our military families here at home. It's been a long 41 months since September 11th, but finally, some of our personnel have completed their tours and are returning home.

As our fellow citizen-soldiers rotate back from their extended deployments, it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that this transition process meets their needs, the needs of their families, and the needs of their civilian employers.

First and foremost we need to give our troops appropriate recognition for their service. The successful homecoming events we already have conducted for returning units has been a good, first step towards accomplishing this goal.

Second, we need to assure a smooth transition from a combat environment back to civilian life. We need to make

sure that all returning Guardmembers receive every benefit and entitlement they have earned by virtue of their patriotic service.

Finally, for those individuals who need assistance, we need to eliminate any possible hesitation they may have in applying for help by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy and making these support services more accessible.

At DMAVA, we have the added benefit of having the Division of Veterans Programs and its substantial resources right here within our organization. Part of our plan to facilitate the transition of our returning soldiers and airmen includes the active participation of expert veterans services personnel, the members of our New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee, our extended Family Programs staff, and our chaplain corps. We have developed a comprehensive, multi-level, interorganizational approach that integrates our state Veterans Service Officers with their associated and related Army and Air military activities. Families have the option of participating in "return home workshops" available through each of our Family Readiness Groups.

However, the effort to address the needs of our returning troops and their families should not end with merely making services or resources more readily available. The "Total Guard", which includes family, friends, colleagues, community, unit commanders, and the entire chain of command, needs to be proactive. We all must be part of the effort to encourage our returning heroes to seek the assistance and resources that can make their homecoming less challenging.

I urge each and every returning soldier or airman and their family members to take full advantage of the services and assistance we can provide. Do not try to handle this difficult transition alone. When you were called to extended active duty service, you answered. Now it's our turn to demonstrate our profound gratitude for your selfless service, to show our collective appreciation for the many hardships and sacrifices both you and your families had to endure; and to give back to each of you, in some way, a small part of the tremendous gift you have given us and all the people of America.





Live Fire At Guantanomo

Photos courtesy Combat Camera, Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

ast November, members of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, assigned to the Joint Task Force at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, participated in live fire training at Hicacal Range.

Photos starting clockwise: Spc. Greg Williams takes a reading from an M2 Aiming Circle to ensure that direction of fire is correctly aligned during mortar training. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist Dave Fliesen.

Sgt. Peter Okerchiri fires a machine gun as part of live fire training. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist Dave Fliesen.

Last, Gunner Spc. Jonathan Hernandez ducks as a mortar round is fired. DoD Photo by Photographer's Mate Scott Terry, U.S. Navy.







177th Medics Demonstrate New Decon System

By 1st Lt. Luz Apontè, Public Affairs Officer, 177th Fighter Wing

he 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group demonstrated the new In-Place Patient Decontamination Capability (IPPDC) facility to members of the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey Center for Biodefense and local emergency medical service units Nov. 18.

The mobile decontamination facility – a specially designed tent, is the first of its kind at a New Jersey Air National Guard base. It is designed to decontaminate both ambulatory and non-ambulatory victims exposed to biological or chemical agents before they enter a medical facility. Decontamination team members wear protective suits during the process.

The process is simple: before entering the facility, victims are asked to place their clothes and personal effects into a plastic bag

that is tagged with a serial number. A tag is then tied to the patient's wrist to account for the victim's belongings. The patient then enters the tent, which contains a shower area, to clean and rinse off.

Victims who are unable to clean themselves are placed on a stretcher. The team removes the victim's clothing and places the patient and stretcher on a 16-foot long track. As the victim is rolled down the track,



Members of the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group demonstrate decontamination procedures for a non-ambulatory patient. Photo by Master Sgt. Don Taggart, 177FW/Multimedia Center.

the team thoroughly washes the patient to ensure he or she is decontaminated. After the victims are cleaned, they are then transported to a medical facility for evaluation and treatment.

The 177th Medical Group is one of two decontamination teams in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region II area, which covers New Jersey and New York.

Wing Gets First Woman Chief

Col. Randall King, Wing Vice Commander, presents Senior Master Sgt. Jean C. Perry her chief's stripes during the weekly staff meeting Jan. 1.

Chief Master Sgt. Perry is the first woman Chief Master Sergeant at the 177th Fighter Wing. She joined the Wing May 28, 1982.

Chief Perry is the Superintendent of the Mission Support Flight. She began her career in Maintenance Administration with the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Photo by Master Sgt. Donald Taggart, 177FW/MultiMedia Center.



108th Flies Last Joint Forge Mission

By Senior Airmen Elizabeth Pritchard, 108ARW/PA



Members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing gather in a hangar at Istres Air Base for one last photo before the base closes its doors. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Gary Ash, 774th EABG.

ast December the 108th Air Refueling Wing had the honor of flying the last operational mission in Operation Joint Forge.

Wing members from the 108th deployed, under Operation Joint Forge, to Istres Air Base, France to

assist in the base closure and the relocation of assets and personnel.

The United States Air Force has had a detachment assigned to a hangar in Istres as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to direct and provide air coverage over the Balkans, but now after 11 years, their mission is finally complete. During that time, the detachment has flown approximately 6,000 missions and logged more than 34,000 flight hours.

During the base closure and flag furling ceremony there was a strong sense of friendship between the French and

the Americans that had formed during the decadelong service on French soil.

The phrase "What is not finished is the friendship built between us," was voiced several times by the various guest speakers at the ceremony.

108th Unit Receives AFOUA

The 227th Special Operations Flight, 108th

Air Refueling Wing, received the 2004 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) based on meritorious service for the period of Nov 1, 2002 to Jun. 30, 2004.

"The competition was extremely keen, and each winner is commended for having been selected from an outstanding group of nominees," stated Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, Director, Air National Guard. "The dedication and commitment of the members of these organizations enable the Air National Guard to fulfill its commitment to the missions of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, domestic improvement, and most important of all - defense of America."

Santa's Team Deliver Pies

By Staff Sgt. Matt Johnson, 108ARW Enlisted Council President

The 108th Enlisted Council held a fundraiser in December, the profits of which were donated to the men and women of the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home.

Prior to the fundraiser, a vote was held to choose Santa and his two elves. The winners were Lt. Col. Rory Doolittle as Santa, with Chief Master Sgt. Marv Nichols and Staff Sgt. April Kelly as the elves.

Their job was to deliver whip cream pies to recipients of the Pie in the Face fundraiser. Individuals were brought up in front of the Wing to receive their pies from Santa. The Vineland Veterans Memorial Home received \$200 from the fundraiser.

Cadets ChalleNGe Life At Fort Dix

By Staff Sgt. Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA

he New Jersey National Guard ChalleNGe Youth Program is in business to give the youth of New Jersey a second chance at life.

A majority of the cadets who graduate the program go on to receive their GED and become productive members of society. Many seek higher education, and some choose to join the military and help to fight the Global War on Terrorism. But that's no surprise to Col. (Ret.) Kenneth Prossick, Director, Challenge Program.

"At the ChalleNGe Youth Program, we take 16-18 year-olds who have quit high school, for whatever reason, and give them a second chance at a high school diploma," stated Prossick. "We bring them to Fort Dix for a 22-week residency program and put them through the regimen of a military-style program. We help them change their attitudes and hopefully when they graduate they will have earned or be well on their way to attaining a high school diploma."

The program, which is run by the National Guard and is active in 22 states, seeks to identify at-risk teenagers who have dropped out of high school, and gives them the motivation and direction they need to complete their schooling. Applicants must be New Jersey residents between 16-18 years old, drug-free, and not currently involved in the legal system.

Although its military style program is similar to boot camps that work with juvenile delinquents, the ChalleNGe Program does not work with teenagers already in the justice system or on probation. It does, however, utilize some of the techniques used by the military to motivate soldiers during basic training. And just like the military, the ChalleNGe program is strictly voluntary.

"Our core curriculum works towards academic excellence," says Prossick. "We focus on reading, writing, math, social studies and science. We also 'go heavy' on developing life skills – leadership, follower-ship, health and hygiene, citizenship, physical training of course, and we run this routine 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for 22 weeks."

The cadets learn the importance of community service by shovelling snow for families of deployed



ChalleNGe cadets shovelling snow as part of their community service at Fort Dix. Photo by Melissa Bird, Fort Dix Post.

soldiers at Fort Dix. They also have assisted with several Salute The Troop ceremonies.

This 24/7 program takes place at Fort Dix, a military facility that used to be responsible for the basic training of United States Army Soldiers until about 15 years ago. The facilities at Fort Dix are perfect for the ChalleNGe Program, and Prossick and the other instructors make sure that they take full advantage of them.

"All the assets of Fort Dix are available to us as are the assets of the New Jersey National Guard, and we make full use of those assets."

Mentoring is an important part of Phase Two of the program. After completion of Phase One, the 22week resident phase, adult mentors are assigned to each cadet after they leave Fort Dix.

The ChalleNGe Youth Program is now the second largest mentoring program in the nation, and may be just the ticket for those teenagers who have left school and who feel they have lost direction in their lives.

If you know someone who may benefit from the structure and discipline of the New Jersey ChalleNGe Youth Program, you can contact them at 1-800-997-5587, or at www.state.nj.us/military/challenge.









News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Grants Available Soon

Grants will be available for qualified NJNG families through the State Family Readiness Council. For more information, contact State Family Program Coordinator at (888) 859-0352.

Youth Camp

This year's New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp will be held July 17-23 at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt.

Applications are available online at: www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/. Camper and volunteer applications, from Family Assistance Centers, or by calling the Family Program Office at (609) 562-0668.

Boys and girls, ages 9-12 are invited to apply. All campers must be the child/grandchild/legal dependent of an active or retired member of the NJNG.

Volunteer positions are available for senior counselors, junior counselors, safety and security, arts and crafts, sports, beach, administrative, public affairs, cooks, transportation, and logistics.

For additional information, call the Family Assistance Center at 1-(888) 859-0352 or the Family Program Office at (609) 562-0668.



The New Jersey National Guard wishes to give a special thanks to all the sponsors who supported the 50th Finance Battalion; 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry and B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Homecomings; and the many Pancake Breakfasts and the Pasta Dinners throughout the state.

Troops And Employers Face Challenges

By Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA

s ince September 11, 2001, more than 4,000 New Jersey National Guard soldiers and airmen have been mobilized for federal active duty service in support of Homeland Defense or Homeland Security missions.

These soldiers and airmen responded to a national emergency; serving honorably around the world. And now, their active duty service obligations satisfied; their mission accomplished; their mobilization over; our troops are coming home and returning to their civilian workplace.

But not since World War II has this large a number of mobilized citizen-soldiers returned to the workplace after an absence of up to two years. In the days of an all-volunteer force, one might assume an absence of conflict between military service and other, primary obligations to family and employer. But as we have heard so often, The soldier may have volunteered... but the family and employer didn't volunteer.

The ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) Committee provides guidance and assistance to both citizen-soldiers and their civilian employers to help prevent any frictions that may arise between military service obligations and the civilian career. This support mechanism carries over into periods of mobilization and deployment. Employer obligations to their employees are clearly defined and enjoy the benefit of strict guidance from federal law. Title

38 USC, USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment Re-Employment Rights Act), and the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act provide a comprehensive road map on how to deal with most military service/workplace contingencies. However, given the unprecedented numbers of



Guardsmen and Reservists mobilized for the ongoing war against global terror, Homeland Security, and Homeland Defense missions, the magnitude of the impact on families and employers alike also, has been unprecedented.

The transition process of converting citizens to soldiers is adequately addressed during pre-mobilization training and mobilization. But there is no formal training for employers who have little experience in re-assimilating employees returning from combat or other military duty.

To begin to address these concerns and issues, the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA) together with the New Jersey League of Municipalities (NJLOM) in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will be conducting a

seminar at the Foresgate Country Club on Mar. 11 designed to provide employers with information that can assist them through the re-assimilation process.

With the return of several NJARNG units, ESGR and NJDMAVA were provided a unique opportunity to observe and analyze the re-assimilation phenomenon and begin to assemble information based upon the actual experiences of returning troops and their civilian employers.

Bill Dressel, Executive Director, NJLOM, stated "With large numbers of municipal employees actively serving in the Guard or Reserve, municipal employers were among the hardest hit by the mobilization of specialized skill employees in the categories of police, fire, and emergency services personnel. Absences of key personnel resulted in increased payroll expenditures and put additional strain on fellow employees who were required to pick up the slack by working extra shifts and overtime."

According to Chief Master Sgt. (Ret) Hank Pierre, Executive Administrator, NJESGR, "Civilian employers were an important part of the support team that enabled our troops to complete their active duty service successfully. Now, during "return" phase of the demobilization process, it's our turn to demonstrate our appreciation for the solid support and many sacrifices our employer community so willingly made."

ShortRounds: GTMO Visit, Recruiting Award and Rainbows



Leadership Visits Cuba-Based Troops

On Dec. 23, New Jersey Senator Jon Corzine and Congressmen Rush Holt and Robert Menendez joined Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth and Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini, along with a contingent from the New Jersey Army National Guard

on a visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The trip's focus was to visit deployed soldiers and deliver donated gifts and phone cards for the holiday season. Photo courtesy Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey.



Chief's Award

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (right), presents Sgt. 1st Class Donald Clarke (left), New Jersey's Top Army National Guard Recruiter, the Chief's 54 Award. His total enlistments were 38. The award was presented at the Annual Recruiting and Retention Awards Dinner, which is held to honor the accomplishments of the New Jersey Army National Guard recruiters, was held on Jan. 18. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Seneca, Recruiting and Retention.



Rainbow Support

The Rainbow Division - Division Support Command (DISCOM) gets a hand from Mother Nature in advertising it's presence in Iraq. Left to right: Maj. Timothy Hughes, DISCOM and Lt. Col. Philip Pugliese, New York Army National Guard. Photo courtesy DISCOM.

Short Rounds: CST Team Gets Visit, Bronze Stars And Purple Hearts



Congressman Briefed On Teams' Capabilities

Congressman H. James Saxton (center), 13th District, with members of the 21st Civil Support Team, NJNG. The congressman was briefed on the unit's capabilities Dec. 24. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Iraqi Freedom Bronze Star And Purple Heart Recipients

Bronze Star Recipients

Maj. Angelo Capolupo Capt. David A. Beveridge 1st Lt. Donald A. Kennedy, Jr. 1st Lt. Wesley Martin 2nd Lt. Michel Blackowski Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Kraemer

Master Sgt. Paul S. Horan
Master Sgt. Thomas H. Slowinski
1st Sgt. Matthew V. Valente, III
Sgt. 1st Class Berto Diaz
Sgt. 1st Class William G. Collins
Sgt. 1st Class Patrick A. Kildea
Sgt. 1st Class Mark R. Rizzo
Sgt. 1st Class Salvatore A. Voccia
Sgt. 1st Class Earnest Williams Jr.

Master Sgt. Joseph C. Kunkle Staff Sgt. John C. Betz, III Staff Sgt. Luis R. Trencherivera Sgt. Diego J. Aguirre Sgt. Kevin A. Kauffman Sgt. Cassan B. Taylor Sgt. John C. Yaprem Cpl. Michael J. Scuzzese

Purple Heart Recipients

Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill
Staff Sgt. Humberto Timoteo
Sgt. John A. Cardona
Sgt. Ryan E. Doltz
Sgt. John R. Faulk
Sgt. Robert J. Hladik
Sgt. Larry T. Lurker, Jr.

Sgt. Joseph Nyzio Sgt. Carl Oliver Cpl. Timothy Brosnan Cpl. Alejandro Corachan, III Spc. Gregory Brown Spc. Christopher Catney Spc. Christopher M. Duffy Spc. Konstatinos Kouloulis Spc. Cesar A. La Serna Spc. Filjames Lao Spc. Martin C. McGhee Spc. James R. Plummer Spc. Benjamin J. Stiers Spc. Henry Trivino Spc. Dario A. Vargas Spc. David Vargas

Congratulations To Cpl. Michael J. Scuzzese, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, For Winning The 89th Military Police Brigade Soldier Of The Year Award While In Iraq.

Short Rounds: Cosgrave Award, Medical Conference, On Patrol And Seeing Double



Chief Nichols Receives Award

Chief Master Sgt. Marvin Nichols (right), 108th Air Refueling Wing, receives the Major General Richard "Craig" Cosgrave Chiefs Award from Maj. Gen. Cosgrave. The award honors chief master sergeants that demonstrate superior performance, community service, professionalism and leadership. Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Erbe, 108ARW/MultiMedia Center.



On Patrol

Capt. Joseph Roughneen, 150th General Support Aviation Battalion, pauses while on patrol in Iraq. Photo courtesy 150th GSAB.



NJNG Holds Joint Med Conference

On Jan. 8-9, a joint Army and Air medical conference was held at the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Fort Dix. The conference, under the direction of Col. Debra Burr, State Surgeon, focused on the medical management of radiological casualties as the result of nuclear terrorism. The course instructors were: Col. Charles Garbarino, Chief Surgeon, New Jersey National Guard; Col. Richard Sedlak and Lt. Cmdr. J.L. Crapo from the Armed Forces Radiology Institute, Bethesda, MD. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVA/PAO.



Twins Depart With MSB

Specialists Amina and Mariam Kure (or is it Mariam and Amina?) pose with State Command Sgt Maj. Richard Adkins (left) and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, when the 50th Main Support Battalion departed on Jan. 6. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVA/PAO.

Army And Air Enlisted Promotions

Master Sgt. Daniel J. Calderale (Army) and Master Sgt. Paul B. Thompson, Jr. (Air)

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

To Master Sergeant (E-8)

Roseanne T. Fisher

To Sergeant First Class (E-7)

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NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)

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Kaitlin E. Parker
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To Airman First Class (E-3)

Melissa A. Hermann

Last Round: For All The New Veterans

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