

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



NOVEMBER 3, 2011

New Jersey National Guard Soldiers train for homeland response mission

Story and photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th MPAD

Soldiers from the New Jersey National Guard, who would normally conduct their annual training as military police or truck drivers, found this year that the focus of AT was more on developing a homeland response force by using off-road vehicles and specialized hazardous material suits.

With trainers from the New Jersey State Police Homeland Security Branch and NJNG's 21st Civil Support Team, about 240 Soldiers from the 253rd Transportation Company, Cape May, and the 328th Military Police, Cherry Hill, trained together to become familiar with the systems used in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's operations in the event of a disaster or terrorist attack.

Lt. Col. Lawrence Eget, commander of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, said the NJNG Soldiers in conjunction with the New York Army National Guard units would operate at FEMA Region II in the event of a catastrophe. This region encompasses the two states as well as Puerto Rico.

"They could be called in as a result of a terrorist attack or natural disaster for military support to civilian authorities," said Eget.

For this training to be effective, Soldiers need to meet the standards from federal organi-

zations such as the Occupational Health and Safety Administration or the Environmental Protection Agency, instead of the military standards that Soldiers are accustomed to.

Furthermore, the equipment that Soldiers will use for this mission is not a part of the military's normal equipment issuance for transportation or for combat chemical attacks. All items such as the Polaris 800 Crew off-road quad or hazardous material suits and equipment are commercial off-the-shelf items.

To familiarize themselves with this new transportation equipment, Soldiers took on the new driver's training program at a quarter of a mile track, which came complete with hills and water obstacles that would put the off-road vehicles through their paces.

Pfc. Michael Venzie, 253rd Transportation Company, who is certified to drive all wheeled vehicles in the Army's inventory, was thrilled at the chance to do some off-road training.

"This is an opportunity to get some training very few have an opportunity to conduct in the civilian world," said Venzie. "Many times when operating a military vehicle you may not be able to get down a normal road because it's too narrow or if there's debris in the way, but with this quad we can get to



Soldiers from the 328th Military Police, Cherry Hill, and 253rd Transportation Company, Cape May, operate a decontamination processing line for victims of a simulated chemical and biological incident during their annual training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Oct. 22.

where we need to go."

Personnel operating the off-road vehicles have the ability to move personnel into place to provide security, supplies or conduct rescue operations where traditional military vehicles can't go.

Critical to the annual training was chemical equipment familiarization and operating in a simulated contaminated environment while providing security, as well as decontamination procedures.

New Jersey Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Jeff Whelan, 21st CST, explained that after receiving classroom instruction, Soldiers were required

to don the hazardous material suits and set up an emergency decontamination site to treat injuries. One team would provide security and extraction of a victim, and the second would set up an emergency decontamination site.

"The Soldiers get a general idea of processing victims through a decontamination processing line," said Whelan.

Spc. Jessie Meyers, of the 253rd, said the training was an essential part of being a member of the Guard.

Not only did these Soldiers train to learn new skills for their mission, but they had fun and a purpose for doing it.

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Tax\$ave 2012 open enrollment info

Open enrollment for the State Employees Tax Savings Program (Tax\$ave) will be ending Nov. 11.

Since participation in a Tax\$ave FSA Plan must be renewed annually, eligible employees must act if they want to participate in an FSA Plan during 2012.

Tax\$ave FSA Plan applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than Nov. 11, 2011.

Get Tax\$ave open enrollment literature online at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/taxsave.shtml.

NJSDCP meeting at Lawrenceville

A representative from the New Jersey State Deferred Compensation Plan will be at the Lawrenceville main campus on Monday Nov. 14 from 9:30 am - 1pm.

Each individual session will be 30 minutes only and will meet in conference room B (basement).

Contact Paul Serdiuk, DMAVA HRD, at 609-530-6878 or via email at paul.serdiuk@njdmava.state.nj.us to reserve a timeslot for this meeting.

Job opportunities at UMDNJ

The University Behavioral Health Care seeks individuals to provide 24/7 telephonic peer support, needs assessment and referrals for National Guard and Reserve components and their families across the country.

Their motto is: "you are never alone, anywhere, anytime."

Currently, UBHC are looking for qualified, reliable and enthusiastic candidates, preferably with military experience, to work with them.

Job Opportunities include - apply now: Clinical Supervisors - [11PS917238](#); Program Coordinator - [11PS917241](#); Mental Health Clinician II - [11PS917138](#); Mental Health Clinician III - [11PS917235](#); Supervising Mental Health Specialists - [11PS917240](#); Mental Health Specialist II - [11PS917150](#); Mental Health Specialist III (Peer Helplines) - [11PS917151](#); Field Service Engineer - [11PS917230](#); Secretary II - [11PS917231](#).

UBHC is a facility within the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Apply on line at <http://umdnj.hodesiq.com/>

Bergen Community College to host veterans job fair and career expo

Join the Bergen County One Stop Employment Services as they host Veterans Re-Entering the Workforce Career Expo and Job Fair on Friday, Nov. 10 at Bergen Community College in Paramus.

The event will be sponsored by The Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Mosaic Center/Employment Pathways Initiative. This event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Technology Building of the college.

The college is located at 400 Paramus Road in Paramus.

For more information please contact John Bautz at john.bautz@dol.state.nj.us or Diane Fewkes dfewkes@bergen.edu.



Coca-Cola Refreshments

Military Job Fair & Open House

Date: Tuesday, November 22nd **Location:** Coca-Cola Refreshments South Brunswick Facility
60 Deans Rhode Hall Road
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

Time: 10am - 2pm

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE NORTHEAST REGION:

Merchandiser	Warehouse Supervisor	Fleet Mechanic
Driver	Distribution Supervisor	Fleet Supervisor
Machine Operator	Production Supervisor	Market Development Manager
Production Worker	QA Supervisor	
Warehouse Worker	Maintenance Supervisor	Account/Sales Manager

INVITATION ONLY EVENT
ALL CANDIDATES MUST FIRST APPLY ONLINE AT:
www.enjoycareers.com/military

Fortune 100 company job opportunity for military veterans - UPDATED

On Nov. 22, Coca-Cola Refreshments (CCR) will conduct a Veterans-Only open house from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to honor military Veterans at their new South Brunswick Distribution Center, located on Rhode Hall Road and State Highway Route 130.

CCR will provide all attending military Veterans the opportunity to apply on-site for many Northeast employment opportunities. Interviews will be conducted and video orientations to CCR will be scheduled throughout the day. In addition, plant tours of the new facility will point out the different opportunities CCR offers in supply chain and other areas of interest.

For more information or questions about this open house, contact Frank Matos, field recruiter, at 732-729-4272 or via email at fmatos@coca-cola.com.



Deputy commissioner for veterans affairs, Raymond Zawacki, addresses the more than 100 veterans, friends and families who attended a medal ceremony at the Woodbridge Center Mall on Nov. 1. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held the medal ceremony to honor and recognize the services of New Jersey's veterans from the various war conflicts. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)

National Guard Militia Museum celebrates 10 years of oral histories

By 1st Lt. Vincent Solomeno, museum curator

SEA GIRT, N.J. – The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey's Center for U.S. War Veterans Oral Histories recently celebrated 10 years of interviewing Garden State heroes at a luncheon at Manasquan B.P.O.E. Lodge 2534 on Oct. 25.

Since establishing its partnership with the U.S. Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, museum staff and volunteers have interviewed 428 service members.

Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard and a 2011 participant in the oral history programs, was the luncheon's keynote speaker. She highlighted the importance of preserving the stories of those who served.

"Found in the more than 425 histories collected in the decade since this project began are the elusive details that humanize our proudest moments as Americans," said Falca-Dodson. "The bare, stark, frank and unvarnished interviews are as varied as those



Carol Fowler displays the cake celebrating the museum's 10-year anniversary of interviewing New Jersey veterans for U.S. War Veterans Oral Histories. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA)

who tell them."

Established in 1980, the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey presents the role of the New Jersey Militia and the Na-

tional Guard within the context of the larger history of the state. Collections include original and reproduction uniforms, weapons, photographs, artifacts and art from the period of Dutch, Swedish and British colonization through the War for Independence, Civil War and World Wars I and II to the present day, with particular attention paid to the diversity of the New Jersey citizen soldier and his or her experience.

"From World War II to the present conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, it has been our great privilege to record the histories of men and women who placed themselves in harm's way in defense of our country," said Carol Fowler, the museum's assistant curator for oral histories. "Their stories are the story of America and provide an important record for students of state and national history."

Interviews are accessible to the public at the museum in Sea Girt. Veterans interested in recording an oral history are encouraged to call 732- 974-5966.

Veterans get help from special clinical and research programs at the VA

The War Related Illness and Injury Study Center at the East Orange campus of the VA New Jersey Health Care System (NJ WRIISC) is a national center for post-deployment health concerns.

The highest priority is to help returning veterans get the best care they deserve. The NJ WRIISC accomplishes this through an extensive clinical and educational programs for veterans with difficult to diagnose symptoms and exposure related concerns, as well as targeted research programs.

This research important to veteran care because often, it can answer questions about causality or lead to new and innovative treatment approaches. The NJ WRIISC has an impressive research program that is focused on translating findings on veteran health into improved clinical care.

Right now, the center is performing cutting edge research on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), blast-related injury, concussions, fatigue and the effects of exposure to burn pits and sand storms.

Current projects include working with NASA and academic centers such as Harvard University and Johns Hopkins, to utilize the most advanced testing systems to better understand post-deployment health problems.

The center is exploring new avenues of treatment such as integra-



tive medicine programs like yoga and Qi Gong. Veterans participation in a WRIISC research project could yield long term benefits to all veterans.

For more information on the WRIISC, visit their webpage at www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/nj/research/research-studies.asp or our website at www.warrelatedillness.va.gov or contact us at 1-800-248-8005.

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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