

GUARDLIFE



GUARDLIFE

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Cover

Making Friends

Lt. Col. Sharon Tootell, Commander, 119th Corps Support Battalion and Spc. Frank Anaya passing out gifts to Iraqi citizens. For story and photos turn to page 8. Photo by Chaplain (Maj.) Jan Koczera, 119th CSB.

Inside Cover

Hero's Welcome

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor at parade rest prior to the Welcome Home Ceremony at the National Guard Armory at West Orange. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

TAG's Message - Army Transformation

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

In the post September 11, 2001 world, war is the norm... peace is the exception.

We are a nation at war and there is every indication that we are a nation that will be involved in the ongoing global war against terror for a prolonged period of time with great uncertainty about the nature and location of where this conflict will be fought. In order to defeat this uncertain enemy, we must be able to defuse new crises early and defeat new aggression as soon as it is identified to prevent these situations from escalating and to limit the potential loss of life, damage to key infrastructure, and adverse impact on our economy.

To accomplish these goals, we will need flexible, rapidly deployable forces and sufficient depth and strength to sustain multiple, simultaneous military combat operations. We currently have 364,000 soldiers deployed in 120 countries. The uncertainties of the future may require even greater numbers of troops deployed in even more locations.

Conventional Force on Force conflicts are still possible but the more likely scenario is sporadic insurgencies and opportunistic terror attacks. The unfortunate reality is that our homeland is included in the list of potential battle space. The good news is that we are adapting to these new challenges NOW.

The entire military is undergoing major changes in structure, training, and staffing, but none more so than the Army.

And our New Jersey Army National Guard is fully involved in this transformation. Our national defense forces are being optimized to allow battlefield commanders to customize our combat and support resources to prevail in any conflict of any size in any type of terrain and successfully engage in simultaneous, multiple missions.

We need to generate more versatile combat power because we have and will continue to have extended worldwide commitments. We must create a force that can be responsive to the Combatant Commanders' needs.

We must create units that are more relevant to Regional Combatant Commanders and generate versatile combat power with units that are self-contained, more easily sustainable, and more lethal force packages. The Army of the future must be organized to ensure maximum capabilities for the full range of missions; fully interdependent with the other service branches; comprised of adaptive, competent, and confident soldiers and leaders; and truly a trained and ready partner in the Joint Force.

Everything we're doing is designed to support the soldier. We are part of a proud heritage of fighting and winning our Nation's Wars. This noble tradition is reflected clearly in our units' lineage and honors ... and in the number of bronze stars, purple hearts, and other honors awarded to our citizen-soldiers.

We are adapting to the current and projected operational



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (third from right) confers with members of Republic of Albania's military. Photo by State Command Sgt. Maj. Richard S. Adkins, Jr.

environment. We are creating modular brigades and command and control headquarters to better meet Combatant Commanders' requirements and to make the best use of the talent, dedication, and professionalism of our soldiers.

This reorganization will result in more stable combat and support forces; a better-balanced force mix including Active, Guard, and Reserve forces.

This new, modular approach to aligning units will provide capability-based units at the Brigade level to Regional Combatant Commanders with responsive, fully mission-capable combat and support organizations that operate effectively in a Joint, Combined or Multi-National environment.

The new force structure will provide greater capacity for rapid and "tailorable" force packages and improve strategic responsiveness for the full spectrum of homeland defense and homeland security operations.

The Army, as is each of the other armed services, is an indispensable and vital component of the Joint Team. The Army will always conduct operations: offensive, defensive, stability, and support in both a joint and expeditionary context. It will continue to provide prompt, sustained, and decisive land combat power working in concert with air and naval power to ensure a synergy that will give the Joint Force capabilities and power well beyond the sum of its individual parts.

In the past few years, the implementation of the Joint Force concept has transformed our organization from one engaged in independent, de-conflicted operations to one capable of more effective, more efficient sustained interoperability. Our National Guard, as part of the Joint Force, is now moving rapidly towards the ultimate goal of joint interdependence. It's what the commanders on the battlefield need, it's what our soldiers need, and it's what our nation needs. 🇺🇸

NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

***Global War on Terrorism
Memorial Dedication***

**HONORING THE FALLEN HEROES
OF
THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD**

Dedication Site

**NJ DEPT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
101 EGGERT CROSSING ROAD
LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648**

Saturday, May 28

2 p.m.

UNIFORM

Army-Class A, Air-Service Dress



50th Brigade Honored

Photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

On March 24, the New Jersey National Guard conducted a Welcome Home Ceremony for the Headquarters 50th Brigade at the Lawrenceville Armory.

Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, the Deputy Adjutant General, officially welcomed home the Soldiers who deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Ceremony was attended by family, friends fellow National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, the local community, and DMAVA employees.

Twelve unit members received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal Col. Frank Caruso, Lt. Col. Royce Lawlor, Majors' Doug Brockmann, Todd Berger, William Morris, David Moses, Paul Nema, Jack O'Connell and Robert Williams, Capt. John Piotrowski, Sgt. Maj. Anthony Cahill and 1st Sgt. Christopher Sheridan.



From The Deployed 42nd DISCOM CSM: *Standards*

By Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Thomas, photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA

The term “Standards” has been a catch-all word that in some way affects every individual in the military today. Standards in the military can trace their origin back to the pre-Revolutionary war when Citizen-Soldiers were called upon to face the challenge of building a new nation out of a wilderness. In the initial stage of developing an army, certain individuals were unknowingly tasked to set the example for the newly fledgling Continental Army of militiamen. These individuals were appropriately called “Leaders.”

Never in our nation’s history have Soldiers faced the unique challenges they face today. To deal with these challenges, today’s leaders need to remember that NCOs are charged to set and maintain standards.

Standards are enforced by conveying the reasons for standards in a teaching manner and setting the example. Setting and maintaining standards instill discipline. Disciplined Soldiers tackle challenges head-on. Undisciplined Soldiers, those unsure of standards, may buckle under pressures caused by challenging situations. NCOs, since the days of the Revolutionary War, have had to prepare Soldiers for unexpected challenges by enforcing established standards.

In today’s operating environment, conditions change rapidly. Soldiers, trained to standard under varying and diverse conditions, can readily shift their efforts as conditions dictate. NCOs must never forget that they are charged to enforce and maintain standards. Since 1779, NCOs have accepted this challenge and executed their duties in all situations. NCO’s are responsible for training Soldiers to



standard while maintaining set standards themselves and leading from the front. An Army cannot exist without this fundamental element. As Rudyard Kipling wrote in *The Earthen*, “The backbone of the Army is the noncommissioned man.”

Standards had a different meaning for Soldiers and NCOs of the New Jersey Army National Guard while serving at their home station or participating in Annual Training. NJARNG Soldiers constantly trained to standard on tasks to become proficient in the established tasks to assist them in accomplishing their mission and to assume a sense of pride and satisfaction in these accomplishments. Today, these same NJARNG Soldiers from the 42nd Division Support Command have seen the sense of urgency and commitment that comes with setting standards in all tasks. The NCO’s of the 42nd Division Support Command have realized that enforcing standards means more than accomplishing the mission. To these NCO’s it means by

enforcing the tough standards that are established in a combat zone such as Iraq, they will help keep their Soldiers safe while accomplishing difficult missions. It means taking no deviation from enforcing the standards for wearing seatbelts on Combat Logistic Patrols (CLP’s) or properly clearing your weapon in the prescribed, safe manner. It means wearing your Kevlar Helmet, ballistic eyewear, earplugs and your Interceptor Body Armor (IBA) with SAPI plates in 100 degree heat to set the example for your Soldiers. Rehearsing Battle Drills every day before an upcoming CLP may become tedious in nature, but maintaining this standard ensures that every Soldier will respond in the correct manner by instinct when called upon to do so. NCO’s have learned that shortcuts do not save lives, only standards do.

The Soldiers and NCO’s of the 42nd Division Support Command have met and accomplished some extraordinary challenges in our path to Operation Iraqi Freedom III. We will make our mark on world history with our own special contributions to bringing democracy to Iraq. I have challenged every Soldier and NCO in the 42nd Division Support Command to ensure that the Soldier standards that have been set in this Area of Operations are maintained and enforced by every NCO within this Command. These Citizen-Soldiers from New Jersey continue to establish new and higher standards of professionalism and commitment while they proudly serve our state and the nation.

The family members of these fine, patriotic Soldiers can be very proud of their loved ones. They are “First in Support”. 🇺🇸

108th Passes 6,000-Hour Mark

By Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108ARW/PA



Since September 2001, the 108th Air Refueling Wing has flown more than 6,000 hours in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Currently the 108th refuels aircraft that are hauling supplies in support of OEF and OIF. Flying hours include when the 108th was deployed to Oman for OEF and refueled fighters in theater. Three people make up the crew of the KC-135E: the aircraft commander, co-pilot and the boom operator. During their four to five hour flight, they will offload around 70,000 pounds of fuel.

Men and women of the 108th have flown almost 1,150 sorties and have off-loaded millions of pounds of fuel while flying tandem in the air. In addition to the hours flown for OEF/OIF, the 108th has flown more than 3,200 hours in support of Operation Noble Eagle since September 11, 2001, when the wing launched its first refueling mission in U.S. airspace after 9/11. Most of these hours have been flown over the northeast quadrant of the United States refueling F-15s and F-16s flying Combat Air Patrols.

Wing Passes UCI

By Staff Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108th ARW/PA

After months of hard work, sweat, tears, tempers, stress, late nights, early mornings, weekends, it all came down to one hour in the McGuire theater, watching a slide show with more than 350 other anxious individuals hoping that their particular area and the wing as a whole passed the Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI).

The inspectors gave grades on two By Law Areas and 17 Mission Areas. In the By Law Areas – Intel Oversight and Sexual Harassment Education and Prevention – the wing received a good rating. As the team moved through each of the 17 Mission Areas, pockets of the audience relaxed as their section received its grade.

While Transportation was recognized for its “Best Seen to Date” HazMat Training Program, they along with Supply, Contracting, Munitions, Chaplain, Civil Engineer, Communications and Information, Plans

and Programs, Services, Financial Management, Personnel, Command Post and Readiness Reporting all received a good rating.

Four sections in the Mission Areas had the bell ringing and cheers from the audience for receiving a very good rating from the IG Team. First, Security Forces’ exceptional teamwork was noted in the Installation Security rating. Then, Intelligence’s unparalleled training program helped that section receive their high rating. Exemplary training for all aircrew members was only part of the kudos that gave Aircrew Protection a very good rating. Last, but not least, the inspectors noted the impressive program built to track the checklist completion that helped the Self-Inspection Program score its’ very good rating.

Additionally, nine wing members received IG coins for their accomplishments during the UCI.

119th CSB Update

Photos by Chaplain (Maj.) Jan Koczera, 119th CSB
Story based upon Chaplain Koczera's emails

In addition to their regular duties, the 119th Corps Support Battalion, at an undisclosed operating location in Iraq, recently went on a series of humanitarian missions visiting area Iraqi families giving them food, water and presents for the children.

In the first photo (starting at the top) Lt. Col. Sharon Tootell and Sgt. 1st Class Rosa Cosme enjoy tea with an Iraqi family (the woman hugging Cosme lost her husband fighting Saddam). Next Maj. William Peace (center of photo) passes out water. In a separate humanitarian mission, the unit visited area Bedouins and presented them with gifts. In the third photo Spc. Lisa Hatcher gives some school supplies to one of the children. Next, members of the 119th clear a canal.

The sunrise service at Ur (Mesopotamia) – the birthplace of civilization, went very well. Chaplain (Maj.) Jan Koczera assisted in the preparation of an Easter Sunrise Service for members of the 119th CSB and other Soldiers at their posts. "I had about 60 who came with me to attend; we were driving every conceivable armored vehicle down the road, it was great fun," stated Chaplain Jan Koczera.

The service, which included music, prayers and a brief sermon, was attended by many of the 119th CSB Soldiers and civilian government employees from surrounding military camps. The service was conducted on a platform built on a house believed to be owned by Abraham. Saddam Hussein had it restored for a planned visit by Pope John Paul VI in 1999, which was cancelled at the last moment when Saddam said that he could not ensure the Pope's safety.



177th Holds Controlled Burn At Warren Grove

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA; photo by Master Sgt. Donald Taggart, 177FW/CF

On March 15 and 16, Detachment 1, 177th Fighter Wing, Warren Grove Range, in coordination with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service, B Division and Drexel University performed its annual controlled burn.

Close to 70 people were involved in the operation, which cleared approximately 900 acres as part of a five- to seven-year cycle that clears different parts of the range.

Controlled burns remove underbrush - a wildfire fuel source, opens areas for growth and keeps the woods in healthy condition. It also provided the Drexel Forestry students the opportunity to study the effects of controlled burning on this type of forest.



A Day In The Life...

Tech. Sgt. Dave Reaves, 177th Fighter Wing Sheet Metal Shop, welds a bead. Tech. Sgt. Reaves was photographed as part of the "Day In The Life Of The 177th Fighter Wing" held in February. The concept is based on the photo books that documented a single day in a country. The project was a combined effort of the 177th MultiMedia Center, Avionics Intermediate Shop and Public Affairs. Photo by Master Sgt. Don Taggart, 177FW/Communications Flight.



Airman Top Cop

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Francis (right), 177th Fighter Wing Security Forces, poses with Master Sgt. Brian Smith (left) and Airman 1st Class Jason Payne (turret) after completing a convoy security mission. Senior Master Sgt. Francis recently deployed to Baghdad to augment the Cannon Air Force Base Security Forces Squadron as the Security Forces Squadron Superintendent. Senior Master Sgt. Francis is the 177th's Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Non Commissioned Officer in Charge. He is also a Lieutenant with the Margate Police Force in Atlantic County. Photo courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Michael Francis.

Armor Returns From GTMO

Photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

On March 31, the 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor was welcomed home at the National Guard Armory at West Orange.

Family, friends, elected officials, community members, along with fellow National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in the ceremony. The Soldiers were deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. ■









HET Back From Iraq

Photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

Members of the Heavy Equipment Transportation (HET) Platoon, 50th Main Support Battalion, received a Hero's Welcome at the National Guard Armory in Dover March 13.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian McCracken, Sgt. William Blahut, Sgt. Robert Stillman and Sgt. Schronda Williams received Bronze Star Medals during the deployment.

Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini, welcomed the Soldiers home after a year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff



FRC Celebrates Anniversary And Offers Grants

By Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA

The New Jersey State Family Readiness Council (NJSFRC), which celebrated its first anniversary in March, is comprised of more than 20 members representing a cross section of New Jersey spanning the corporate, business and employer community; veterans and service organizations and private citizens. The NJSFRC has raised more than \$100,000 dollars to benefit family programs. The Council sponsored the very successful Family Day at Sea Girt and has supported each of the Salute the Troops/Welcome Home events for deploying/returning New Jersey Guard units.

The Council has established a new Family Readiness Grant Program that will provide both Family and Business Grant opportunities to deserving National Guard families adversely impacted by deployment. According to Linda Rieth, Council Co-chair, "This is another very important way we can show our support both for our troops and the families who have had to shoulder additional burdens as a result of mobilizations and extended deployments."

Eligibility criteria includes unforeseen emergencies, financial hardships and quality of life issues. Business grants are up to \$5,000 and family grants

\$2,500. Those interested should contact their local Family Assistance through the hotline at 1-888-859-0352. Additional information is on the Council's website at help@njguardfamilies.com.

Youth Camp Deadline May 31

The deadline for the Eleventh Annual New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp, which will be held July 17-23 at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, is May 31.

Applications are available online at: www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/. Camper and volunteer applications can be picked up from Family Assistance Centers, or by calling the Family Program Office at (609) 562-0668. Children, ages 9-12 are invited to apply.

All campers must be the children, grandchildren or legal dependents of an active or retired member of the New Jersey National Guard.

Volunteer positions are available for senior counselors, junior counselors, safety and security, arts, 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.

Marriage Enrichment Seminars

Seminars are being offered to all Soldiers/Airmen and their spouses. The seminar focuses on improving communication skills.

Radisson Hotel, Mt. Laurel: June 3-5

Sheraton Hotel, Edison: June 3-5 and 24-26; Aug. 5-7 and 12-14; Sept. 9-11 and 23-25.

For more information contact Family Programs at (609) 562-0739.

21st CST Trains At Leonard Wood

Spc. Bill Addison, 444th MPAD; photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA

For a unit that hopes it will never have to do its job, the members of the New Jersey National Guard's 21st Civil Support Team (CST) are far from lazy.

That's because the 22 Army and Air National Guard members have a unique mission: to provide no-cost support to civil authorities at a potential domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and explosive threat.

"We're a force multiplier, we're the first line of defense for homeland security on the military side of the house," said Lt. Col. Jerry Gagnon, Commander, 21st CST.

"We'll advise, assist, assess and identify what agents are downrange. We have the training to call upon follow-on forces with a reach-back capability from our unified command suite, which is our communication vehicle," according to Gagnon.

No CST can respond to a threat without first completing a strict validation process. The Fort Dix based unit deployed to Fort Leonard Wood in March to conduct Initial Collective Lanes Diagnostic training, a process that will prepare them for their validation testing in June.

"I want to make sure we give the Governor and the Adjutant General an active unit as soon as we can," said Gagnon as he supervised the loading of the CST vehicles onto a Mississippi Air National Guard C-17 cargo plane during the March exercise.



A member of the Mississippi Air National Guard guides a member of the CST during the loading of the C-17.

"No other unit has performed an air movement prior to validation," said Air Force Maj. Jesse Arnstein, Deputy Commander.

One of the unit's biggest obstacles lay in actually getting to the school. "We had to identify the hazardous materials in order to develop a load plan," said Sgt. 1st Class Terrance Taylor, Nuclear Biological and Chemical Recon NCO.

"Everything we're going to need in the field, we're going to bring with us," said Gagnon. "We have an analytical laboratory that we travel with so we can assess and identify right on site about 90 percent of the chemical and biological warfare agents that are out there in the world."

"We've worked a lot of long hours to achieve this," noted Taylor. "This takes us one step

closer to validation."

"Most of the Soldiers and Airmen who comprise the unit come from other military occupations," observed Gagnon. "Each member gets between 800 and 1,800 hours of additional training to utilize the equipment [that's being loaded] on this aircraft right now."

"Now that they've completed their training, they've got time to put it to good use." 🇺🇸

Retiree Notice

NJNG retirees are eligible for a subscription to GuardLife. Email us your name and address: barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us; call 609-530-7088 or write: NJDMAVA, ATTN: PAO-BJH, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. 🇺🇸

Short Rounds: 50 MSB And Girl Scout Cookies



50th Main Support Battalion Supplies Iraq

Members of Delta Company, 50th Main Support Battalion, pose for a group photograph after arriving at their base somewhere in Iraq. Since the transfer of authority between the 701st and the 50th on Feb. 5, the battalion has successfully conducted more than 200 missions and driven more than 300,000 miles. One of the most difficult operations ever planned and executed by the battalion was

the 590-mile Ground Assault Convoy from Kuwait to Iraq. The Convoy was executed under the cover of darkness, something the battalion had not trained for, and was compounded with dismal road conditions, along with awkward intersections and turns. All this was accomplished with no injuries, accidents or loss of equipment. Photo courtesy 50th Main Support Battalion.



Cookies For The Troops

The Girl Scouts of Troop 310, Service Unit Council, Camden County, delivered the highly prized Girl Scout Cookies for the troops March 6.

From left to right: adults are Evelyn Vega, Margie Seay, Kim Long, Napule Green, Marie Durling (doorway far right), Girl Scouts from left to right: are Elanna Vega, Ashlee O'Donnell and Alison Long.

To date, 1-150th General Support Aviation Battalion Family Readiness Group and New Jersey National Guard Family Programs has shipped more than 105 cases of cookies to deployed troops in Iraq. Photo courtesy 1-150th Family Readiness Group.

Short Rounds: Troop Command, Financier Receives Medal, Mail Call And Chiefs



New Commander At 57th

Lt. Col. John DiNapoli (left) accepts the 57th Troop Command guidon from Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini (right), Deputy Commander Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey during Troop Command's Change of Command ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville March 6. During the same ceremony Lt. Col. DiNapoli was promoted to colonel. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.



Financier Receives Purple Heart

Sgt. David Michaels, 150th Finance Detachment, received the Purple Heart from Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, Commander, 42nd Infantry Division. Sgt. Michaels was also presented a commanders coin by Brig. Gen. Thomas Sullivan. Michaels is the first NJARNG finance Soldier to receive the Purple Heart as the result of wounds for duty in Iraq. Photo courtesy 350th Finance Detachment.



Mail Call

One of the most holy of military duties is the collecting and disbursing of mail. Performing that duty is (left to right) Capt. Eric Rautenberg, Sgt. Donald Gregorowicz and 1st Sgt Jack Cipolla of the 150th General Aviation Support Battalion. Photo by Lt. Col. Mark Preston, 150th GSAB.



Chiefs Inducted

Six Chief Master Sergeants were inducted in a ceremony at the McGuire Officers' Club April 2. (L-R) Chief Master Sergeants' Carl Howard, Dominick Galione, Jean Perry, Robert McCarty and Robert Hare of the 177th Fighter Wing. Not pictured is Chief Master Sgt. Edward Rockhill, 108th Air Refueling Wing. Photo by Chief Master Sgt. James Leopardi. 177th Fighter Wing.

Short Rounds: Signal And GSAB, Vest Project And Freedom Salute



250th Meets 150th

At an undisclosed location in Iraq, members of the 250th Signal Battalion and 1-150th General Aviation Support Battalion pose for a group photograph. Back row, l-r, Capt. Joe Pipas, 2nd Lt. Wasyel Danysh, Cpl. Jeff Hiles and Sgt. Steven Felmey. Front row, l-r, Sergeants' First Class Bert Panfile and Sgt. 1st Class James Mannino. All are former full time employees of the J6 (Information Technologies) deployed to Iraq. All are members of the 250th except for 2nd Lt. Danysh who is a member of the 1-150th. Photo courtesy of the 250th Signal Battalion. 📷



State Collects Vests For Troops

On April 11, Acting Governor Richard J. Codey joined Brig Gen Maria Falca-Dodson, Deputy Adjutant General, law enforcement officials and other National Guard members at the West Orange National Guard Armory to assist in packing approximately 1,750 used bulletproof vests that were collected as part of the Acting Governor's Body Armor Initiative. The vests are being shipped to troops in Iraq to strengthen military vehicles against bombs. Acting Governor Codey launched the initiative in January and established drop off points for the vests at several of the state's National Guard armories. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen. 📷

Freedom Salute Honors 253rd

Members of the 253rd Transportation Company were honored March 19 at the Army National Guard's Freedom Salute Campaign held at the Wildwood Convention Center. The troops were honored at a breakfast and given various awards (see photo) for their service. Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Michael Hughes received special recognition for his groundbreaking work in setting up the New Jersey National Guard's first Family Assistance Center. The Freedom Salute Campaign is designed to recognize Army National Guard soldiers, their families, employers and others who have supported them as they answered the call to duty in fighting the Global War on Terrorism – both at home and abroad. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA. 📷



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)

Edward Barnes, Jr.
Michael Carnivale, Jr.
Gary D. Haddican
Peter S. Kube

To Sergeant First Class (E-7)

Eugene Kirby, Jr.
Ignacio Lorenzo
Robert W. Stephenson
Gilbert P. Vanderbilt

To Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Hayden W. Brown
Gloria J. Burrus
Christopher J. Geskey
Joshua A. Maloro
Hassan S. Marshall
Warner L. Ortiz
Johnie Williams

To Sergeant (E-5)

Richard D. Biglin, Jr.
Cesar A. Caraballo
Arthur E. Esannason
Roger L. Galvez
Alexander B. Gelfand
Mark A. Gibbs
Jonathan P. Hernandez
Matthew M. Kline
David W. Lenz
Jorge A. Marin
Glenn M. Olszyk
Sgt. Adrian L. Ortiz
Glenn A. Ovalle
Vihal Patel
Eddy Pierre
Humberto S. Prieto

Lisa Radev
John A. Radzimski
Timothy J. Roughgarden
Michael E. Ruzicka
Ariel Sandoval
Julio A. Santosrios
Robert L. Sprague
Paul D. Stengele
David W. Thurston
Gaudencio E. Ventura
Brian E. Washington

New Jersey Air National Guard

To Master Sergeant (E-7)

Christopher M. Adler
Melissa Bruno
June I. Kelly
Radames Soto, Jr.
Janal D. Thomas
Harry F. Waugh, IV

To Technical Sergeant (E-6)

Darren W. Babnew
John T. Banta
Felicia M. Bittner
Keith W. Elliss, Jr.
Debra M. Green
Raymond J. Miller, Jr.
Patrick M. Ogle
James E. Simmons, III
Christopher M. Smith
Thomas Torres
Christina Vidro
Todd A. Woodward

To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

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Last Round: Rainbow Stretches Over Iraq



By Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown, 22nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE, LIBERTY, TIKRIT, Iraq — In ceremonial fashion, honoring a job well done and welcoming the new, the 42nd Infantry Division assumed responsibility of Coalition efforts in Multinational Division - North Central, Iraq, Feb. 14.

In the ceremony, the torch was passed from Maj. Gen. John R. S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division commander to Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, 42nd Infantry Division (ID) commander, signifying an official transfer of authority.

More than 22,000 Soldiers, more than 1,400 of which are assigned to the 42nd DISCOM, New Jersey Army National Guard; are under the command of the 42nd ID will support the multinational Division-North Central Iraq.

The 42nd was formed on August 5, 1917 at Camp Mill on Long Island, New York. It was composed of men from 26 handpicked states and the District of Columbia. Then Col. Douglas MacArthur, Division Chief of Staff, said, "The Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other." 🇺🇸

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