

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

December 22, 2010



A 'Salute to the Troops' of the 119th CSSB

1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th MPAD

Three generations of former and present service members joined with family and loved ones on Dec. 18, at Rowan University's Wilson Hall for the Salute to the Troops program for 70 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, headquartered in Cherry Hill, who will be heading to Afghanistan.

William Ray Miller, a Navy veteran of Vietnam and grandfather from Turnersville, looked down several aisles of auditorium seats and pointed to his son-in-law, New Jersey Army Guard Staff Sgt. Jeff Johnson. From there, he pointed to the stage where his grandson, Spc. Jeffrey Johnson, was sitting. He will be going to Fort Lewis, Wa., for training and then to Afghanistan in February.

"The military is a good honorable profession ... I have six people in the family now serving in the military. Right now I am looking at a very faithful grandson who I am sure will do well with his missions,"



U.S. Rep. Rob Andrews (D-1st Dist.) addresses members of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion at the Salute to the Troops program. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven.

Miller said.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, asked the Soldiers to be ready when they reach Afghanistan.

"Be responsible for your 30-days of training. Be responsible in Afghanistan," he said.

Earlier in his presentation, he addressed the families of

the Soldiers deploying calling them the unsung heroes. "You may not wear the uniform, but we all know you serve too," added Rieth.

Staff Sgt. Johnson, an Army Guard recruiter, looked up on the stage and saw six Soldiers he enlisted into the Jersey Guard and are now deploying

with the logistical task force. One of them is his son.

"I'm proud of him. He is willing to step up and take care of us and a nation," Johnson, the father, said. "He is also setting the example for his brother, Timothy, who is coming home from the Army advance individual training tomorrow."



RSP in Toyland

The nearly 230 Soldiers of the Recruit Sustainment Program at the National Guard Training Center wanted to make sure that no child wakes up on Christmas Day without a toy. These young Guard members reached out for help from Cub Scout Pack #62, Toms River; Daisy Troop #1114, Brick; New Jersey Dept of Corrections, Sea Girt; and Brick Township and Manchester high schools Bowling Clubs. Pvt. Andrew Bunn came up with the idea that saw a total of more than 680 toys, clothing items and canned food goods being donated to the Epiphany House program of the New Hope Foundation in Monmouth County. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven

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Air Guard Breaks Ground on CE Complex

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing

With white hard hats and silver shovels, the 108th Wing held a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday Dec. 21 here to commemorate the construction of the 108th Wing Base Civil Engineer Complex on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

In attendance for the event were Army Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey; Air Force Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, the Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard; Air Force Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Commander of the 108th Wing; Air Force Col. Gina Grosso, Commander of the 87th Air Base Wing; delegates from Senator Robert Menendez' office, Ms. Scarlett Rajski and Mr. Richard Locklear, and other distinguish visitors.

After thanking everyone in attendance, both Rieth and Cunniff told all in attendance that this was a long and overdue project and a most deserved one for the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello, commander of the 108th CES, also thanked everyone attending the ceremony and stated how he has been waiting for this new complex since his enlistment into the 108th Wing back in the '80s.

After having won the Major General Robert H. Curtin Award for the Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit Award in 2008 and then deploying to the Middle East from December 2009 through June 2010, there is no more deserving group of Airmen, said Lt. Col. Novello about the new complex.

The \$5.9 million project will replace the 108th CES' current facilities, which include four World War II temporary wood frame structures.

The 108th Wing Base CEC will support daily activities



Building the Future

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, far left; Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard; Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, Commander of the 108th Wing; an official from Puente Construction; and Lt. Col Paul E. Novello, Commander of the 108th Wing, break ground for the new CE complex.

associated with maintaining/repairing base infrastructure and facilities for the 108th Wing, as well as the 108th CES' mobility and readiness requirements.

The contract for this project was awarded to Puente Construction, who is located in Woodbury, N.J., and is expected to take approximately 18 months for completion and be operational by April 30, 2012.

After the ceremony, the official party and distinguished visitors were invited to a post reception of food and refreshments at the 108th CES classroom.

G.I. Go Fund Lanches Magazine

The G.I. Go Fund, a New Jersey military charity that aims to link veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan with jobs has launched an online magazine.

Check out this issue's online version of The G.I. Go Fund Transition Times Magazine by going to <http://www.gigofund.org/transitiontimes.html>

To subscribe to the Hard Copy for free delivery please click on the "subscribe" button and provide the necessary information.

Also check out G.I. Go on Facebook by going to <http://www.facebook.com/GIGoFund>.

Highlights submissions? Please send by email to wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us

Vineland Home needs your votes for \$50,000 grant

Vineland home project needs your vote

The Vineland Veterans Memorial Home is in the running for a Pepsi Refresh Project grant. The riders of Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 NJ are behind the grant request to build a modular restroom building in the grove area of the home.

When residents utilize this outdoor area for miniature golf, the greenhouse or picnic pavilion the veterans must travel back into the facility in order to use the rest rooms.

You can vote every day until December 31 and the project needs to be one of the top ten voted projects to receive the \$50,000 grant for the precast handicap accessible bathroom.

To vote visit: www.refresheverything.com/helpaveteran

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
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Holiday dreams fulfilled in Vineland



Above, Mrs Claus (aka Allyson Bailey, Director of Nursing at Vineland Veterans Home) and Santa (aka Bob Bailey) stop in to see Micheal Riccitelli to wish him a Merry Christmas and present him with a gift provided by Boscov's and the Second Winds Dream Program. Right, Llga Figgs thanks Mrs Claus and Santa for the gift. Each of the homes 301 residents received a holiday gift of their choosing thanks to Boscov's and the Second Winds program. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant.



Jersey Guards' Newest Citizen



New Jersey Army National Guard Spc. Stephany Ospina, of Dover, a Defense Travel System clerk for the 350th Finance Management Detachment, 42nd RSG, Flemington, took her oath as a US citizen on Dec. 14 while deployed at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. She is currently deployed with the 92nd MEB, KFOR-13, Kosovo until April 2011. Ospina, a native of Columbia, is pictured with a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services who presided over the event. Photo courtesy 350th Finance Detachment.

Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

January 11*, 12, 13, 2011

Moorestown Mall

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Medal Ceremony at 10:30a.m. on Tuesday, January 11 – Kiosk hours 10:00a.m. – 8:00p.m. daily
400 Route 38, Moorestown

February 8*, 9, 10, 2011

Quaker Bridge Mall

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Medal Ceremony at 10:30a.m. on Tuesday, February 8 – Kiosk hours 10:00a.m. – 8:00p.m. daily
150 Quaker Bridge Mall, Lawrenceville

March 1*, 2, 3, 2011

Jersey Gardens Mall

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Medal Ceremony at 10:30a.m. on Tuesday, March 1 – Kiosk hours 10:00a.m. – 8:00p.m. daily
651 Kapowski Road, Elizabeth