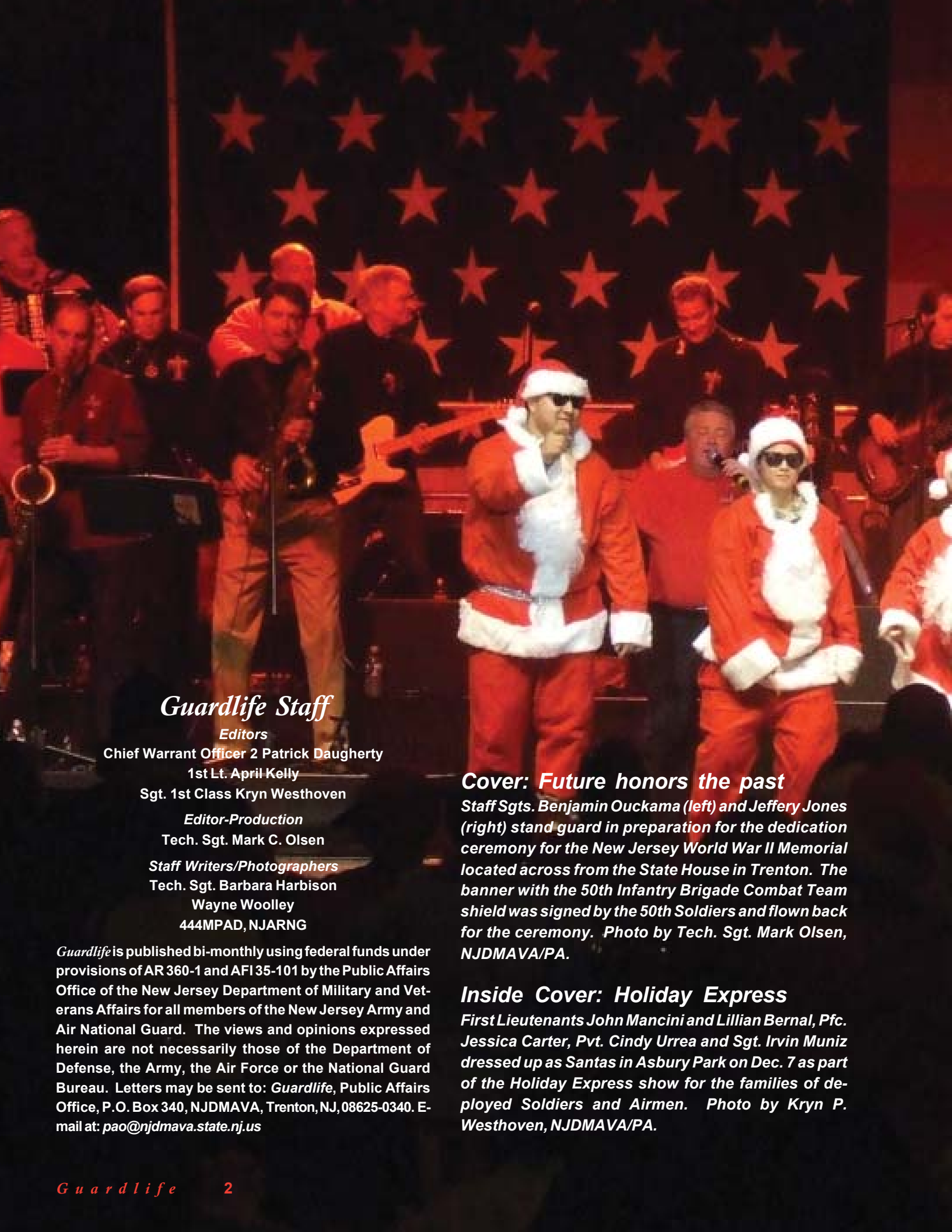


# Guardlife

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

DECEMBER  
2008





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## **Cover: Future honors the past**

Staff Sgts. Benjamin Ouckama (left) and Jeffery Jones (right) stand guard in preparation for the dedication ceremony for the New Jersey World War II Memorial located across from the State House in Trenton. The banner with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team shield was signed by the 50th Soldiers and flown back for the ceremony. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

## **Inside Cover: Holiday Express**

First Lieutenants John Mancini and Lillian Bernal, Pfc. Jessica Carter, Pvt. Cindy Urrea and Sgt. Irvin Muniz dressed up as Santas in Asbury Park on Dec. 7 as part of the Holiday Express show for the families of deployed Soldiers and Airmen. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.

# *Guardlife*

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# Taking care of business - everyday

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

As we begin a new year, I reflect and marvel at our accomplishments. This past year, the team has accomplished more than most could achieve in a lifetime. From preparing the 50th IBCT for its monumental deployment to the establishment of the Air Guard's 108th Contingency Response Group and the 177th Quick Reaction Force to the long-awaited World War II Memorial Dedication to our State Family Readiness Program and supporting FRGs, we have proven without a doubt that the New Jersey National Guard understands our Servicemembers and their families' needs and knows how to *take care of business* at home and abroad. None of these achievements would have been possible without everyone's steadfast support and dedication. For these commitments, I am truly and humbly grateful.

As events of the war on terror continue to unfold, our operational tempo has been fast-paced as our brave men and women travel abroad to fight and preserve our nation's freedoms and way of life. Supporting units, personnel, and volunteers worked diligently to ensure our troops were prepared for their wartime mission. These efforts exemplify our strengths and demonstrate that we, the New Jersey National Guard, can accomplish any given task with professionalism, efficiency and care.

During my recent visit to Iraq, I witnessed firsthand how the collective efforts of our team prepared the 50th IBCT for their ongoing successful mission. With regard to preparation and successful mission completion, I place equal emphasis on demobilization. In an effort to care for our returning warriors, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with New Jersey Supreme Court, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, who proposed developing a Veterans Assistance Program to aid veterans who find themselves in trouble with the criminal courts. Justice Rabner recognizes the importance of military service and the health and mental health challenges associated with it. As part of the program, any veteran facing the courts may elect to enter the Veterans Assistance Program and will be assigned a mentor from the NJNG or the veterans' community. The mentor will guide and assist the veteran through the various processes. In a nutshell, we're taking care of our brothers and sisters in arms. The program launched this month in Atlantic County and later will become a statewide program. This program, coupled with existing programs, will ensure our veterans receive the proper care that they deserve.

At home, we are taking care of business by constantly maintaining our domestic operational readiness. Since 2001, members of the Army and Air have joined forces to ensure the safety of our citizens by protecting the two nuclear power plants located in the state. Soon, this mission will cease. Supplementing our domestic readiness is the 177th Quick Reaction Force, which stands ready to respond to any Military Support to Civilian Authorities event.

With so many demands placed on our Servicemembers, let's never forget the spouses, children and family members that support us. Our families are our anchor and form the foundation of our armed forces. We would not be successful without their care and unwavering support.



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (right) explains the relevance of the McGuire Air Force Base super base to Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley (left), Director of the Air National Guard. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

In a continuing effort to take care of business with our families, we are fortunate to have the strong support of our SFRP, ESGR and other organizations, to include private supporters and businesses. Collectively, these great Americans tirelessly and unselfishly devote their time, manpower and resources to resolve the issues resulting from deployments. In our last issue of *Guardlife*, there was a list of the various services available to our Servicemembers and their families. Again we list these resources on page 23 of this issue. If you or your families are experiencing any hardships and need a helping hand, I encourage you to contact these people. They are there for you and want to help.

In November, we mourned the loss of Chief Warrant Officer 5 Randy Niedt, State Command Chief Warrant Officer and the director of SFRP. Chief Niedt had a genuine affection for our men and women in uniform, was a true professional and a staunch advocate of our families. To provide for the families of deployed members during the holiday season, Chief Niedt and the SFRP worked closely with a nonprofit organization Holiday Express. Through their kindness, Holiday Express performed a phenomenal Christmas show dedicated strictly to families of deployed members. At the show, there was singing, dancing, food, childrens' activities and more. But most importantly, there was friendship. Every man, woman and child who attended walked away with warmth in their hearts, revitalized hope and an extra spring in their step. This show was a genuine act of kindness and a reminder that there is strong support for our efforts and our families. The event was a direct reflection of Chief Niedt's care and devotion for our deployed members' families.

Our current and past achievements have proven our worth and have paved the path for our future. As I look forward, the horizon is clear and I see continued success. Again, thank you for your contributions to our great team. With our combined strength and efforts, we can accomplish anything.

# AIRMAN'S UNIFORM PART OF 9/11 DISPLAY

By Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — A New York City police officer currently deployed at a Southwest Asia air base added a touch of blue to the wing's Patriot Day ceremony here Sept. 11 by donating her police uniform.**

Master Sgt. Rose Condello, a 108th Air Refueling Wing member, is the marketing director for the 380th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron.

Airmen from the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing wanted to donate a uniform display box to their Sept. 11 Memorial during the seventh anniversary commemoration ceremony. They approached Sergeant Condello after hearing she is a police officer with the 62nd Precinct in Brooklyn.

The 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's structures and fire and emergency services flights Airmen built a display case to house a New York firefighter and police uniform.

"Our fire chief, (Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Mohr), asked if we wanted to add a piece to the circle of honor," said Staff Sgt. Mitchell Robinson, the battalion chief. "About 10 of us got together from the two different CE flights and came up with this idea."



The display will be added to the 380th AEW Circle of Honor, the wing's Sept. 11 memorial, as a dedication to the fallen firefighters and police who died in response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

When the commemoration organizers asked Sergeant Condello if she would like to say a few words at the ceremony, she humbly declined. "My story is not that important," she said. "I'm honored I was asked to contribute."

Sergeant Condello said she hopes to share photos of the unveiling and the ceremony with her union and precinct when she returns home just days after the event.

The complete uniform includes a cap device bearing the badge number 3100. This number was the original telephone exchange for the New York Police Headquarters before it moved to One Police Plaza. It was since used as part of the name for the N.Y.P.D. magazine and has come to symbolize the department.

The badge on the uniform displays Sergeant Condello's badge number along with a traditional mourning band.

"It means a lot to me to have my badge number in that display," she said. "To me, it says I had a part in this, I am leaving a part here. The circle of honor will be changed forever."

As the marketing director for the wing, Sergeant Condello occasionally brings tours to the memorial.

"It was nice this last tour because the fire department guys who brief that portion of the tour told the group about the display we've been working on," Sergeant Condello said. "They tell folks that it's my badge number there. I know the story will keep going."

Sergeant Condello will soon return to her home in Staten Island, N.Y., and to the 108th Air Refueling Wing. She will drive the Verrazano Bridge to work every day as she makes her way to work in Brooklyn with a view of the city's skyline and recalled that fateful day.

"I went over the Verrazano Bridge all by myself (on Sept. 11, 2001)," Sergeant Condello said. "They shut the whole city down and every cop had to go to work. You had to go through security to cross the bridge. Only one person could go across at a time in case terrorists would attack the bridges. I was the only one on that bridge; the only vehicle. That's when I lost it, actually. When you're coming over the bridge, the city is off to your left. I'd look at it every day on my way to work, but now I can't even look at it because the Twin Towers aren't there." 🇺🇸

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*Master Sgt. Rose Condello arranges the badge on her New York Police Department uniform she donated Sept. 11 for a display at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing. U.S. Air Force photo Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell.*

# JERSEY SOLDIERS DON COMBAT PATCH

By 1st Sgt. David Moore, JASG-C Public Affairs, Baghdad

**BAGHDAD, Iraq — Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team serving in Baghdad placed the symbol of loyalty to the mission known as the combat patch on their right shoulder sleeves.**

During the Oct. 15 military formation held at a chapel near the American Embassy in Baghdad, the Headquarters Company Soldiers who serve as a lead element for the Joint Area Support Group-Central placed an additional brigade patch on their Army Combat Uniforms.

"It is a clear sign of your loyalty to defend freedom and your

duty to fulfill your military obligation. It is a symbol of respect for Soldiers who have served in a hostile environment and it proves your commitment to face courage and danger," said Col. Steven Ferrari, brigade and JASG-C commander.

The 50th patch, approved in January for wear on military uniforms, is a seven-sided patch vertically divided and contains three stars that represent New Jersey as being the third state to sign the United States Constitution. The patch's shape suggests the letter 'V' for victory.

Ferrari said the organization already has a common bond of wearing the left shoulder patch, but Soldiers standing in the formation are among 3,000 Soldiers now eligible to wear the brigade patch on the right sleeve.

"The right shoulder patch is a reminder, all of you are operating in a hostile environment and cannot become complacent during present military operations," he said.

"It is a reminder to watch out for yourself and watch out for each other. The mission is not over until we all come home," Ferrari added.

Spc. Jamie Lowe said she was proud that the unit is conducting operations in Iraq.

"The patch will always be a reminder of our mission," she said.

In addition to the brigade patch, JASG-C Soldiers also have the option of wearing the Multi-National Force-Iraq as their Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service patch on the right sleeve of the uniform for the remainder of a Soldier's career. The JASG-C is a subordinate unit of MNF-I.

The MNF-I patch has a black shield with a gold border surrounding two crossed silver scimitars (swords). Behind the shield is a wreath of palm branches joined at the bottom with three loops of brown twine. In the center is a gold winged bull of Mesopotamia below a gold, seven-pointed star.

"I am extremely proud of all the Soldiers. The combat patch will always be our bond," Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. David Kenna said.



*Capt. Matthew Bayless, Joint Area Support Group-Central in Baghdad, affixes his combat patch during a ceremony in the U.S. Embassy Annex Chapel Oct. 10. Bayless and the nearly 160 Soldiers from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team who make up the JASG-C earned the patch by spending 30 consecutive days in a combat zone. Photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris, JASG-C Public Affairs.*

## 1-102 Cavalry takes over Bucca

Lt. Col. Dean Spenzos and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Marvian, commander and command sergeant major of the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, ceremoniously uncase the squadron colors symbolizing the transfer of authority Sept. 23 at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq. Photo by Maj. Jason Fetterolf, PAO, 2-113th Infantry Battalion.



# 2-113th, British Soldiers keep watch

*Photos and story by Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Tejada, 2-113th Infantry Battalion*

**CAMP BUCCA, Iraq – Men and women of the Armed Forces serving here may not be aware that they sleep well at night because of the security a singular group of Coalition Forces Soldiers provides far outside the base perimeter.**

One of the Soldiers in this group is Pfc. Kyle Wydner, a Forward Observer in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-113th Infantry Battalion, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Like many other young Soldiers, performing a mission of this type is the fulfillment of childhood dreams.

"I always wanted to do something related with combat," Wydner said.

And so he did. Soon after returning from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training, Wydner was informed he would deploy to Iraq less than a month later.

Wydner is practically a permanent resident at Safwan Hill, a Multi-National Coalition Forces post. Located close to the Iraq-Kuwait border, Safwan Hill was once an Iraqi intelligence and surveillance site during Saddam Hussein's regime and one of the first battlegrounds during the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Towering over the desert landscape like an iceberg of rock in a sea of sand, the view over the hill is impressive.

"We have a view of everything around us...I can see the Iraqi nightlife and it is very different from ours," joked Wydner.

At an age in which most of his peers are in college, or having fun, Wydner spends long hours tirelessly observing through a scope, looking out for dangers that may jeopardize Coalition troops, a responsibility these Soldiers do not take lightly.

"When we are on duty, we are dead serious about our mission because it involves the safety of our guys," Wydner explained.

At first, Wydner was nervous about working with British Forces and the treatment he would receive from other members of the Multinational Forces.

"When I first heard I was going to be with the British (Soldiers) I thought I was going to be in a dangerous area, with some hardcore infantry guys, but they are very respectful and look up to us."

Wydner has now adjusted well to his environment and is



*From left, Pfc. Kyle Wydner and Sgt. Ricardo Suarez, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-113th Infantry Battalion, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Signal Jordan Massey (British Army) survey the area from the top of Safwan Hill, Oct. 19.*

comfortable performing his mission with his new "mates". "We [Coalition Soldiers] work together on everything, from cleaning the toilets to watching out for suspicious activities," Wydner explained.

Despite being in a very restrictive post and enduring a grueling work schedule, Wydner has no regrets about joining the military and celebrating his first enlistment anniversary in Iraq.

"I always knew I was going to do the military before my education," Wydner asserted. "If I were not doing the military, I would be studying environmental science or something that would keep me outdoors, just like in the military."

Rather than kicking doors down or chasing insurgents, as he thought he would be doing, Wydner says that working alongside the Multi-National forces, especially the British, has been a great learning experience.

"I am learning about their vehicles, weapons, but mostly about them as people." Wydner added, "They're not that different from us; they want to [see a successful outcome to] the war and help the Iraqi Government and people, but mostly they want to make sure all our guys [Coalition Service members] get out safe."

**WHEN WE ARE ON DUTY,  
WE ARE DEAD SERIOUS  
ABOUT OUR MISSION  
BECAUSE IT INVOLVES THE  
SAFETY OF OUR GUYS.**

# THE FIRST 100 DAYS

By Capt. Sean Roughneen, Company Commander A/2-104th GSAB

**The Soldiers of Company A, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion recently completed their hundredth day since arriving at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.**

The “Black Sheep” were activated on Feb. 17 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After they completed the required post-mobilization training tasks at Fort Sill, Okla., the company departed for Kuwait in mid-May. Since arriving at Camp Buehring, the Black Sheep, as part of the Aviation Task Force-Kuwait, has provided continuous aviation support to U.S. Army Central Command, so far flying more than 750 hours on 235 missions.

The mission load has kept the company very busy during its first 100 days in theater. Things got off to a quick start with their very first mission involving Lt. Gen. H. Stephen Blum, then Chief, National Guard Bureau, and members of his staff. The air crew proudly informed Lt. Gen. Blum that they hailed from the Garden State.

A primary function of the ATF-KU, known as Task Force Ghost Rider, is to provide direct support to the USARCENT Commander, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, who also heads the Coalition Forces Land Component Command based in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. His dedicated UH-60 Blackhawk aircrew is comprised of Chief Warrant Officers Joseph Parsons and Paul J. Ciervo Jr., along with Sgts. Paul Cimino and Harold Caro.

Because the mission lends itself to high-level visits by elected U.S. officials and dignitaries, 2-104th has transported numerous congressmen and senators, including



*Sgt. Cesar Cuevas greets President-elect, then Sen. Barack Obama on a flight transporting Congressional delegation from Ali Al Salem Airbase to Camp Arifjan and finally to the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait on July 18.*

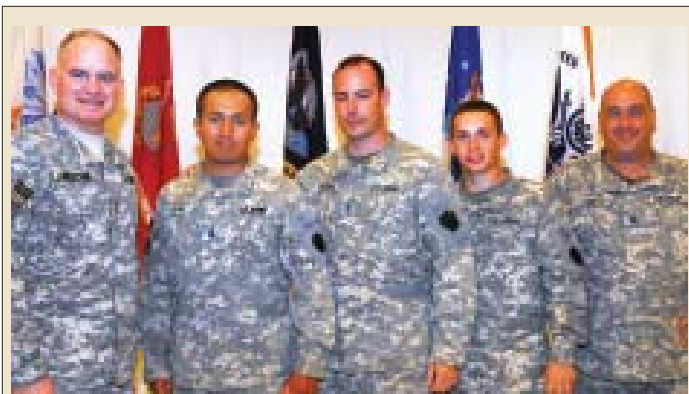
Sens. Hagel, Obama and Reed throughout the region.

Probably the most rewarding missions entail moving Soldiers in and out of Iraq. The vast array of missions has contributed to a high operational tempo which has allowed time to go by very fast for the company.

The dust storms and high temperatures that characterized the shamal season — spanning June through August — tested the Soldiers skills assigned immediately upon arrival. However, due to the effective mix of seasoned professionals with enthusiastic junior Soldiers, the unit has been able to overcome the initial difficulties encountered during its first 100 days. This has been due in large part to the strong sense of esprit de corps they developed, despite the fact that the company was only stood up two years ago. The company's confidence is bolstered by the knowledge of what it has accomplished in the two short years that lead them to the day-to-day missions in Kuwait and Iraq.

Block leave started last month, allowing Soldiers from the 2-104th to return home on their mid-tour leave to visit family and friends. This, of course, greatly enhances each Soldier's morale. Their support chains keep them well provided for with countless care packages and much appreciated letters from home.

Now that the Black Sheep have completed their first 100 days, and the first six months of their activation, they can enjoy the battle rhythm that they worked hard to achieve—all the while looking forward to their safe and successful return home next year. 🇺🇸



*Sgt. Harold Caro (second from left) became a naturalized U.S. Citizen in a ceremony with 20 other applicants on Sept. 5 at Camp Arifjan. The Deputy Commanding General of Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Maj. Gen. Charles Anderson (left) presided over the ceremony. Also pictured are Chief Warrant Officers' Joe Parsons and Paul J. Ciervo Jr. and Sgt. Paul Cimino (center to right); all serve as the General's aircrew.*

# New Jersey and Albania celebrate historic partnership

By Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

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



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (left), The Adjutant General of New Jersey and His Excellency Mr. Gazmend Oketa (right), Minister of Defense, Republic of Albania cut a special anniversary cake commemorating the 15-year partnership between New Jersey and the Republic of Albania.

**The New Jersey National Guard celebrated the 15th anniversary of its alliance with the Republic of Albania through a mentorship project known as the State Partnership Program.**

Soldiers and Airmen from New Jersey have worked with their counterparts in Albania since 1993 to modernize the former communist nation's defense forces and prepare it for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Albania will join the 26-nation alliance in April 2009.

Albanian Minister of Defense Gazmend Oketa said New Jersey provided critical assistance to help it reach its longstanding goal of NATO membership.

"The Albanian armed forces are proud of our achievements and we are proud to say we were not alone," Oketa told National Guard members who gathered at a luncheon held at the Lawrenceville Armory in his honor. "The Albanian armed forces welcomed your help — and your friendship."

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the state Adjutant General, said the Soldiers and Airmen from New Jersey watched the Albanian defense forces blossom in the past several years.

"The quality of the Albanian soldier is top tier," Rieth said.

Many of the New Jersey Guard members and former members who deployed to Albania to serve as advisors were honored at the event as well.

Among them was Dennis Bliss, a retired Army National Guard colonel who served as a member of the legal team advising Albania during the early years of the partnership. He helped draft a constitution that incorporates some of the language and ideas found in the American constitution.

"It was exciting to help an emerging democracy learn from the experiences we had in the United States and allow them to cherry pick the best of what we had to offer," he said. "You're kind of a Johnny Appleseed for a democracy that can be lasting."

The State Partnership Program spawned many friendships over the years.

"We have more in common than what separates us," said Lt. Col. Bruce Protesto, a former program participant.

Maj. Judie Marranco, another program participant, said it was a gratifying experience.

"With this partnership, we bring friendship," she said. "And when you have a friend you know they're going to do anything they can to help."

# NJANG RECEIVES FIRST WOMAN COMMANDER

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

## This year of firsts continues.

Here in New Jersey, the New Jersey Air National Guard received its first woman commander.

Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson assumed command of nearly 2,300 Airmen of the New Jersey Air National Guard, which includes the 108th Air Refueling Wing at McGuire Air Force Base, the 177th Fighter Wing at Egg Harbor Township and Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey (Air Component) at Fort Dix in a Change of Command ceremony at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, located at Fort Dix on Nov. 15.

Outgoing NJANG Commander, Brig. Gen. Lawrence S. Thomas III noted that: "This is long overdue, not just for women in general but for Maria herself."

"It's an honor to be given this responsibility," said Brig. Gen. Falca-Dodson. "I pledge to lead and support fully and I thank you for your belief in me, guidance and support."

The General, prior to assuming command, served as the first female Deputy Adjutant General to The Adjutant General of New Jersey, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs located in Lawrenceville. She was appointed on March 1, 2002. In 2004, she became the first woman to pin on general's stars in the New Jersey National Guard.

"Make no mistake; she's a Soldier and an Airman first. During her time as a deputy, she didn't always get the glorious jobs. But every issue she took and every project that was handed to her was carried out," said Maj. Gen. Rieth. "And there were a lot of things that needed to be carried out during that time."

General Falca-Dodson provided oversight and management to more than 8,300 members of the New Jersey Army



*Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson (right) accepts the New Jersey Air National Guard colors from Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (left), The Adjutant General of New Jersey, while State Command Chief Master Sgt. Edward Karol (center) watches during the NJANG Change of Command ceremony on Nov. 15.*

and Air National Guard, as well as state operations of the Department during the nearly seven years she served as the Deputy Adjutant General. During that time, the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard mobilized more than 7,000 Soldiers and Airmen in support of Operations' Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Hurricane Katrina and Rita efforts; and Operation Jump Start.

She also had direct responsibility for the Army and Air full-time operations, recruiting, New Jersey National Guard Training Center, ethics, and the Office of Military Affairs which includes; Public Affairs, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Government Relations. She was Chair of the Long Range Planning Executive Steering Committee, the Efficiency

and Revenue Steering Committee; the Weapons of Mass Destruction Advisory Committee, was the TAG designee for the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force and was Co-Chair of the Nursing Shortage Task Force in 2002.

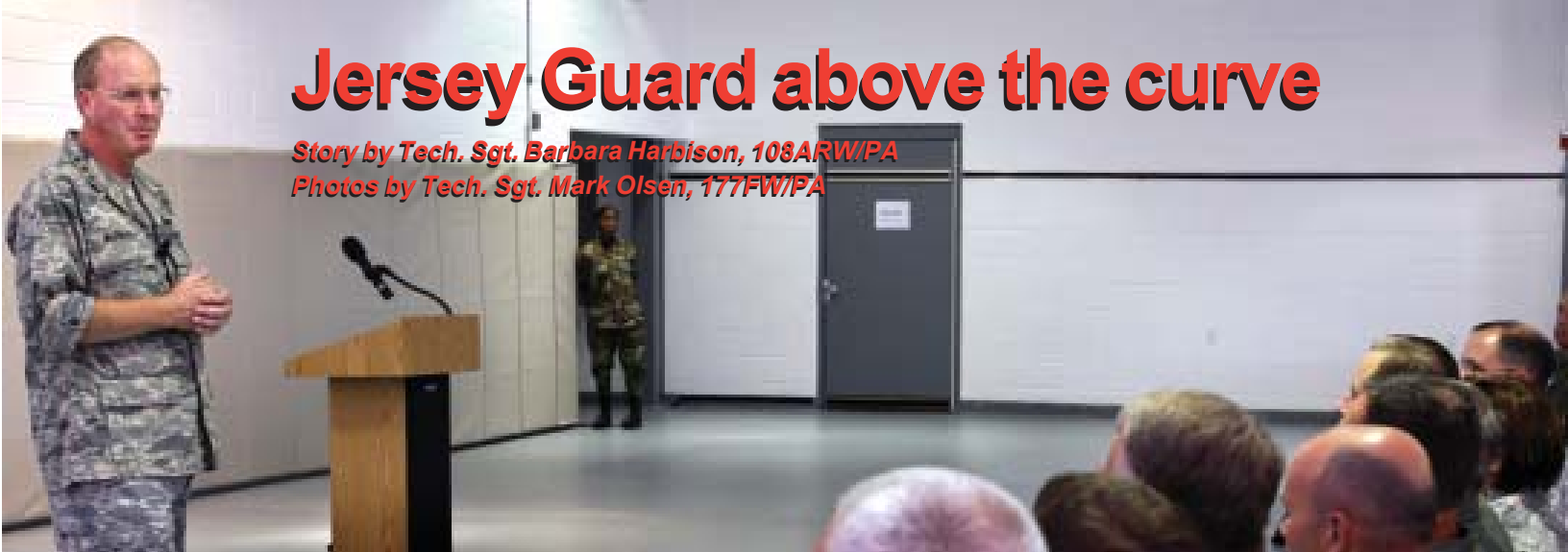
The General attended the College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College) and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1975. Seven years later, she earned a Master of Arts in Administration from Central Michigan University.

General Falca-Dodson began her military career in 1980 when she was commissioned as a first lieutenant with the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard. In 1993, she received her Chief Nurse Badge serving with the 108th Medical Squadron. Five years later, she assumed Command of the 108th Air Refueling Wing Medical Group. General Falca-Dodson has participated in multiple overseas deployments and was deployed as the Medical Commander, Task Force Fuertes Caminos, Panama, 1993. 🇺🇸

# Jersey Guard above the curve

Story by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Harbison, 108ARW/PA

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



**Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Director of the Air National Guard, visited New Jersey, was briefed on the workings of the Army and Air Guards and flew off to the next stop on his itinerary with a very favorable view of how well the two components work together on Aug. 28.**

Lt. Gen. McKinley, who was recently promoted to four star general and now serves as the Chief, National Guard Bureau, remarked several times that New Jersey's Air and Army Guards "are better integrated than any state he has ever visited."

McKinley and his staff were briefed by the commanders of the 177th Fighter Wing, 108th Air Refueling Wing and the N.J. Army National Guard. He took a windshield tour of McGuire Air Force Base and a helicopter tour of the new mega base that encompasses the Dix-McGuire-Lakehurst area.

Airmen and Soldiers gathered in the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix in the afternoon and had a Town Meeting with Gen. McKinley. Prior to giving his coin to Airmen of the 108th and 177th, he told the audience that every Airman is coin-worthy. "We have the best of the best in today's Guard," he stated.

"We all want to be leaders," said McKinley. He told the Airmen and Soldiers that they would spend their best moments of leadership at home with their families.

"As strong as we are as a nation, that is how strong we will be as the Guard," he said. 🇺🇸

*Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley (left), Director of the Air National Guard, addresses 108th Air Refueling Wing and 177th Fighter Wing Airmen, along with New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers during the Town Hall Meeting at the Joint Training and Training Development Center.*



*Lt. Gen. McKinley (left) coins Senior Airman Heyward D. Wiggins IV (right), 108th Security Forces, during the Town Hall Meeting.*



*Photo above: Lt. Gen. McKinley (center) poses for a photo with (l-r) Tech. Sgts. Kelly Banta and Donna Pugh, both with the 177th Fighter Wing; Master Sgt. Sydney Fuchs from Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey and Senior Airman Colleen Shea, also from the 177th. Photo left: Sgt. 1st Class Brent Ludlow (left), Field Artillery Training Developer at the Joint Training and Training Development Center explains the Call For Fire Trainer Immersion Lane to Lt. Gen. McKinley (right).*



# BEST COMBAT FLYING - EVER

By Staff Sgt. Brian Carson, 108ARW/PA; photos courtesy 108ARW/PA



**On Sep. 3, the 108th Air Refueling Wing Airmen returned from a deployment to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They were part of the 376th Expeditionary Wing that included four other Air National Guard units.**

This was the 108th's first Air Expeditionary Forces mission with the newly acquired KC-135R.

The 108th's mission was to refuel the various coalition aircraft that were engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan. This was truly a "joint" mission as there were a number of active duty, Reserve, and National Guard units from different countries and states involved in this operation –

France had a KC-135 stationed at Manas; Spain had a few C-130's, and F-16's coming from the Netherlands. Nebraska, Alabama, Wisconsin, and Tennessee also had tanker units taking part.

The 108th Airmen departed McGuire Air Force Base on July 21. During this time, each flight crew flew between 120-130 total hours, participated in 45 total sorties, including 40 combat missions over Afghanistan. Also, each crew off-loaded more than two million pounds of fuel during the deployment.

"This was a really rewarding experience due to the mission that was being accomplished," said Lt. Col. Bruce Hamilton, chief of tactics. "We were refueling guys who were actually involved in the war and making a difference, which is a great feeling."

This sentiment was further echoed by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Gerofsky, a 108th boom operator.

"We had a direct impact on the combat operations in Afghanistan, particularly with refueling the planes in-theater and also with back-up radio communications," said Gerofsky. "We were able to keep the planes in the fight for much longer because we would refuel them on-scene."

Aircraft Commander Lt. Col. Paul Giblin put it succinctly: "This mission was the 108th's best combat flying ever."



# 150th goes Rough and Tumble

By Spc. Pablo Vizcaino, 444MPAD; photo by Spc. Mark O'Rear, 444MPAD

**Two Soldiers are struggling on the ground. The Soldier on top drives his knee into the lower back of the Soldier face down in the dirt. Then the Soldier on top uses a "zip strap" to bind the other Soldier's arms. The Soldier on top gains control. It's over.**

This rough-and-tumble "Detainee Ops" training at Fort Dix in November is among the ways the Soldiers of the 150th Aviation Battalion are preparing for their deployment in early 2009.

It's all part of the warrior task training required of units during pre-mobilization. Other mandatory training includes instruction on checkpoint operations. The training is conducted by the Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element with the aim of giving deploying units the basic knowledge its Soldiers need before deployment.

"Everything we are doing, whether it be stressful or not, is necessary," said Pvt. Chandeloris Morine of B Company, 150th Aviation Battalion.

She added that the non-combat culture lessons, such as learning which hand gestures are offensive and the proper way to interact with local women, are also essential. "Things that we find normal in our culture, they don't find normal in theirs," Morine said.

The Battalion will continue to train at Fort Dix through the end of the year, conduct a three-week annual training period at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. and Dix before their activation. The Battalion then moves on to Fort Sill, Okla., before deploying to Iraq.



Pfc. Jessica Gall (left) helps Spc. Rina Patel (right) seal her MOPP suit while Pfc. Charles Countryman (center) observes during "React to NBC attack" training. All Soldiers are from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-150th Aviation Battalion.

The Soldiers say they know every bit of training they receive now may pay big dividends later.

"This is the stuff that is going to save your life," said Sgt. Douglas Tackach. "Everyone knows that they have to pay attention." 🇺🇸

## OCS COMMISSIONS 17 SECOND LIEUTENANTS

By Spc. Pablo G. Vizcaino, photo by Spc. Bob Neill, JFHQ-NJ/PA

**Seventeen officer candidates were commissioned as second lieutenants at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt on Aug. 10.**

The candidates belonged to Officer Candidate School Class Number Fifty One, assigned to the 254th Combat Arms Regiment.

During the commencement address, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, took the opportunity to personally thank the families present at the ceremony, saying "that's what I believe is special about the National Guard. It is a family affair and I believe that's what makes it work."

To the graduating officer candidates, Maj. Gen. Rieth stated "I challenge you today, with this commissioning, to understand that you do not automatically walk away as leaders but only as commissioned officers. I challenge you to become effective leaders."

A powerful challenge that resonated with all the newly commissioned officers, in particular with 2nd Lt. Aaron D.

Tomasini, who reflected on Rieth's words, "I definitely agree. Leaders don't just come out of the woodwork. You have to prove yourself to be a leader."



Distinguished Graduate 2nd Lt. Aaron D. Tomasini, who received multiple awards, including The Adjutant General's Award and the Erickson Trophy, poses for a photo with his family.

# CROATIA AND 108TH CES



*A young girl finds a convenient seat to do the age-old task that children find interesting – watching construction workers doing their job. Here Master Sgt. Elliot Adkisson (left) and Lt. Col. Paul Novello work to prepare an area for a new concrete pad.*

**The two commanders met in a small town, ready to battle the elements, logistical delays, troop work conditions with a common goal and a common battle cry, one that every engineer understands – no problems, just solutions.**

Lt. Col. Paul Novello, commander of the 108th Civil Engineering Squadron, New Jersey Air National Guard and Bojnik (Major) Oliver Švob of the 33rd Engineer Regiment, Croatian Army brought their Airmen and soldiers together on the streets of Gašinci (Ga-SHIN-see), Croatia for two weeks during Adriatic Aurora 2008.

Adriatic Aurora was a field training exercise designed to



*Above: Staff Sgt. Robert Mendez grasps a brick from one of the civilian construction workers at the community center work site while everyone was working to prep the building for the new roof.*

*Below: Staff Sgt. Jhon Mosquera (left) and Pfc. Ilija Marakovic - a Croatian soldier work at sanding the slats to be used on the benches at the playground. The American Airmen and Croatian soldiers worked side-by-side creating a playground for the children of the village with benches for the parents to sit while watching the children play.*



train and promote the inter-operability of three states – New Jersey, Minnesota and Vermont and their respective State Partners – Albania, Croatia and Macedonia.

The 108th CES along with Croatian engineers and a small contingent of Albanian engineers worked on a humanitarian project while the American, Croatian, Albanian and Macedonian



# CEMENT BONDS

*Photos and story by  
Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison,  
108ARW/PA*



*Above: "Croatian ingenuity" comes into play: a Croatian engineer raises three of his soldier in a bucket loader while the soldiers and Airmen on the ground situate the basketball standard.*

*Below: Peter Cobankovic, Croatian Minister of Regional Development and Woods and Waters Management (left) and U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Robert A. Bradtke (center) cut a ceremonial ribbon during the playground dedication while Lt. Col. Novello (right) watches.*



soldiers trained in various areas on the military base adjacent to the small village.

The combined forces of Airmen and Soldiers, enlisted and officers, Croatian and American, worked side by side to build a playground next to the town's school and to put a new roof on the village's community center that also houses the town's volunteer fire department and more than 50-year-old fire truck.

Along the way, projects were added to the list and the engineers rose to their "solutions" battle cry. They added a 5-

by-20 foot section of concrete by the entrance between the school house and the playground, meaning less mud to track in and out of school on those rainy days. The townspeople brought a used metal jungle gym to the site in a wheelbarrow and the engineers anchored it in place and painted it red, white and blue—colors shared in both Croatia's and America's flags.

Engineers from both countries found their way to the playground and adjoining soccer area, enjoying the newly installed equipment and fine-tuning their soccer skills against the young opponents from the small town.

The road improvement project was a short one that joined the 108th Airmen with the Albanian engineers, making the road that runs to the local soccer complex easier to transit and provide better drainage.

Novello said, "In any future conflict we could be side by side working with the engineers from Albania or Croatia." He added, "We have developed a good relationship with them. But the personal reward from work is watching the kids; it's heartwarming. I am extremely proud of the unit."

When the work was complete, the Croatian Minister of Defense, the American ambassador to Croatia and representatives from the three states, including Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, who came to visit the site, see the engineers' handiwork and see the village children showcase native dances.

"This project is more than we usually do; it is a challenge and training for my soldiers," stated Švob. "Sometimes, in the beginning, we were stuck on organizational issues but we worked it out by end of day. Well trained, clever people—that means engineers."

It was an honor and a pleasure to work with the Americans."

As the engineers left the small village, their solutions gave the community a few improvements and gave everyone insights into their different worlds. 🇺🇸



*Village children  
show their ap-  
preciation for  
the engineers'  
work.*

# QRF AIRMEN READY TO SERVE

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

**Nearly 40 177th Airmen spent the August drill learning “Soldiering tasks” as part of their becoming certified to serve with the Air National Guard Quick Reaction Force.**

The Jersey Devils spent the weekend learning and practicing the skills thousands of their fellow guardsmen used in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. They join a group of 100 Airmen – 50 each from the 177th and the 108th Air Refueling Wing – who received QRF training at Fort Dix in 2007.

Not only do these Airmen bring their “high-demand” Air Force Specialty Codes such as Civil Engineering, Security Police and other specialties to the street, they will also have the basic knowledge of traditional soldiering skills including the ability to conduct patrols and knowing how to clear and secure buildings.

“That weekend our mission was to support the training of the 177th’s newly formed QRF,” said Lt. Col. Brian D. Sharkey, Commander, 1-254th Infantry Training Battalion, based out of the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt.

This training is seen as an evolution of the extensive support the Air Guard has always provided during a state of emergency. If Airmen are needed to put boots on the ground during a state emergency, they would go through a just-in-time training program at the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Fort Dix before hitting the street.

The 254th instructors – all Operation Iraqi Freedom



*Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Smart (right), 1-254th Infantry Training Battalion, lectures on tactics to QRF trainees.*

veterans – spent several months planning the curriculum. Their expertise ensures that the QRF is ready to respond to any Military Support to Civilian Authorities event.

“Training was successfully conducted on six of the eight MSCA tasks resulting in the 177th’s QRF ready to perform its state mission,” said Sharkey.

Much of the training they received is what they would need in any type of state mission. Everyone remembers the pictures of Guardsmen conducting house-to-house searches in areas of New Orleans devastated when the levees broke.

If something of that magnitude happens here, these Airmen know that their team will work seamlessly with the Army Guard on those very same types of missions.



*Airman 1st Class Stardust S. Folgosi, 177th Security Forces, watches the door as 177th Quick Reaction Force Airmen clear a building during QRF training.*



*Senior Airman Donald A. Cain III (right) and Staff Sgt. Kevin C. Allman Jr. (center), both 177th Security Forces Response Team members, maintain a watchful eye during QRF training.*

# Ending to a Journey for the ETT

*A first-person account by Capt. Ian Cairns, Embedded Training Team member*

**The New Jersey Army National Guard sent an Embedded Training Team to Afghanistan last year to provide guidance and support to that country's national police and army. The team was made up of 16 senior Soldiers who were then handpicked for their specific skills by the team chief, Lt. Col. John Langston. All were volunteers.**

I was a part of that team and believe I can speak for the group when I say we returned from Afghanistan having accomplished all we set out to do.

We left the country a little better than we found it and set up the incoming teams for success. Each Soldier on the team represented the New Jersey National Guard with Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Integrity, Honor, and Personal Courage — all that can be asked of any Soldier.

A year prior to our deployment date, we came together and started working, building cohesiveness in preparation for the

days we would be sent out to accomplish missions away from the main body on the ground. As it turns out, we were separated on Day One and sent to the four winds upon arrival at Camp Stone, the main Forward Operating Base in Western Afghanistan. Most of us were fortunate enough to serve in two- to three-man groups. Several others served as individual entities. In the end, we all just had to work harder to keep contact with each other throughout the tour.

We all saw our share of incoming mortar and rocket fire. How many people can say that they have stood guard on the FOB wall and watched multiple rounds walk in on their position, only to miss by a few hundred yards? You get so accustomed to this state of affairs that you could practically set your watch in the middle of the night by the type of incoming round.

We served as the first responders when a suicide bomber killed 20 civilians and wounded 30 others at a local market. With only two medical professionals on site, the rest of the team had to act as doctors and perform life-sustaining treatment with virtually no supplies for more than five hours until a helicopter could reach the field triage site.

Although the entire team returned to New Jersey safely, several of us were injured. At least one of us was knocked unconscious when numerous rocket propelled grenades struck near our position. Another NJ ETT Soldier received a Purple Heart after sustaining injuries when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

We came to realize that explosions are over in a blink of an eye. And we grew to understand that time stands still in a gunfight. When you're taking fire for hours at a time, your mind starts playing tricks on you. It feels like the fight will never end — and that the enemy has an unlimited supply of bullets. Because of the unique nature of our team, the New Jersey ETT members often had to fight without backup forces nearby.

***continued on page 18***



*Capt. Ian Cairns hands out candy during a stop at an Afghan village. All photos courtesy Capt. Cairns.*

*"Whenever team members started feeling down, all we had to do was look at the plight of the villagers we were there to help. For instance, our not being able to shower for a few months because the pipes were frozen paled in comparison to the baby who died from lack of fresh drinking water."*

**Continued from page 17**

As is the case with any tour, we went through both high times and low times and counted on the camaraderie of our fellow Soldiers to get us through the day. We gained friendships with American Soldiers as well as allied soldiers and civilians. We also lost far too many good friends, whose memories we carry in our hearts and minds. We left Afghanistan with memories that will last the rest of our lives.

Although life was hard for our team, we recognized it did not compare to the trials and tribulations of the Afghan people, who endured the hardest winter in more than 30 years during our deployment. Both people and livestock paid with their lives at the hands of Mother Nature.

Whenever team members started feeling down, all we had to do was look at the plight of the villagers we were there to help. For instance, our not being able to shower for a few months because the pipes were frozen paled in comparison to the baby who died from lack of fresh drinking water. Although we struggled with communication because of satellite issues, the local people suffered when terrorist groups shut down cell towers and made it impossible for them to call for a doctor.



*The faces of the future of Afghanistan; note the snow on the ground and the center child without shoes.*

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the home front was the backbone of our success.

Early in our preparations to deploy, the state provided us with training not usually afforded to these types of teams. The previous N.J. ETT was on hand to share their expertise and experiences to better prepare us for the upcoming missions. The state also assisted in providing the team with equipment that was not readily available. While in country, the Family Support Team kept our minds at ease by taking care of our families. The Adjutant General and his staff were in constant contact throughout the tour to provide additional support. Finally, I have to acknowledge the charity organizations that sent us packages and letters and made us feel close to home throughout our hard times on the battlefield. They are the true unsung heroes in the war against terrorism.

I would like to conclude by answering a question I am often asked. People want to know if I think we are making a difference over there.

The answer is simple. While I can't speak for everyone fighting the war, I can say with certainty that the New Jersey Embedded Training Team made a difference. 🇺🇸



### ***Cairns receives Bronze Star "V"***

*Capt. Ian Cairns (right) is presented with a Bronze Star with Valor for his meritorious service during his nine-month deployment as part of the New Jersey Army National Guard's Embedded Training Team with the Afghan National Army. Cairns received the award from The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth. Cairns provided periodic dispatches to the Home News Tribune from the front line of Afghanistan during his deployment. A plea in one of his articles created a large area drive for clothing and school supplies for the local Afghan residents. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.*

# NEW JERSEY SALUTES GREATEST GENERATION

*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA*

New Jersey dedicated the New Jersey World War II Memorial, located across from the State House in Trenton, on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. From the 63rd Army Band to the flyover by the 177th Fighter Wing, Soldiers and Airmen from the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard were involved in nearly every aspect of the ceremony. The Memorial will serve as a fitting remembrance to honor the Greatest Generation and the New Jerseyans who made the ultimate sacrifice to save the world from tyranny.



*Above: Governor Jon S. Corzine (left) and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth applaud at the unveiling of Lady Victory.*

*Below: New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers prepare to render a rifle salute.*



*Above: Sgt. Edward A. Smith (left), 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment listens to Tuskegee Airman George Watson Sr., 366th Air Service Group, U.S. Army Air Corps.*

*Below: Sgt. 1st Class William J. Crawford, 63rd Army Band, performs taps.*

*Bottom page: The 177th Fighter Wing performs the traditional Missing Man Formation at the close of the ceremony.*



# NJNG to mentor troubled vets

Photo and story by Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

**New Jersey has embarked on a pioneering endeavor to help veterans who get into trouble with the law.**

And the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard will be at the forefront of the effort launched in December through a partnership between the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Judiciary and the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services.

The Veterans Assistance Project will attempt to identify every former and current service member who enters the criminal justice system.

In most cases, the veteran will be assigned a mentor from the Army Guard or Air Guard. The mentors will work with the veteran to ensure they are able to get access to mental health providers, drug and alcohol counselors and benefits specialists to tackle the underlying problems that may have contributed to the legal trouble in the first place.

"This is not a free ticket," said Col. James Grant, Director of the Joint Staff. "But this tells a veteran, 'You just did a service for your nation. We realize this may have caused changes in your life.'"

The mentors will be able to offer empathy to a troubled vet because they wear the uniform themselves.

The program has already launched in Atlantic County and should expand to Union County early in 2009 and the rest of the state after that.

Recently, about a dozen senior officers and enlisted members of the Army and Air Guard underwent a day of training at the Atlantic City Armory.

They got a crash course on New Jersey's criminal justice



*Judge Louis Belasco, presiding Atlantic County municipal court judge, discusses the criminal justice system with Veterans Assistance Project mentors. The fledgling program will allow New Jersey National Guard Airmen and Soldiers to mentor veterans who have run into legal trouble.*

system from Atlantic County Superior Court Judge Bernard DeLury, Jr. and Municipal Court Judge Louis Belasco. They also got a rundown on the services available to veterans.

Master Sgt. Richard Roswell, the primary trainer, led the volunteers through a number of practice scenarios. Topics included ways to motivate reluctant veterans to get the help they need to techniques for handling a phone call from a suicidal veteran.

Roswell said the program will ultimately also assist National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who may not have yet had contact with the criminal justice system but are at risk. ☞



## Patch of their own

*Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth patches Sgt. 1st Class Jeron Verrett as Staff Sgt. Bryan Addo waits his turn. The 21st Civil Support Team - Weapons of Mass Destruction, New Jersey National Guard at Fort Dix held a Patch Ceremony on Nov. 25. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.*



## At the home for the holidays

*Senior Master Sgt. Michael D. Monteith, Tech. Sgt. Donald L. Griffin and Senior Master Sgt. Edgar F. Newell joined other 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Air Refueling Wing Airmen along with Linwood elementary students and sang for the residents at the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland on Dec. 17. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.*

# STATE MOURNS LOSS OF FORMER TAG

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

**Maj. Gen. Francis R. Gerard, the former Adjutant General of New Jersey, died on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008 at the age of 84.**

Gerard commanded the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard from January 1982 to January 1990 during the administration of Governor Thomas Kean Jr. He was promoted to major general on Feb. 4, 1977.

General Gerard was born on July 11, 1924, in Belleville, N.J., and graduated from Lyndhurst High School in 1941.

In October 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps at 18 and on January 1, 1943, entered the Aviation Cadet Program. On August 30 of that year, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and received his pilot's rating at Craig Field, Selma, Ala.

During World War II, he flew the P-51 Mustang while serving with the 8th Air Force and completed two combat tours.

By the end of the war and before he was 21, he had logged 420 combat hours in 91 missions. It was during a mission over Annaberg Germany on Sept. 11, 1944, Gerard fought and shot down four German fighters and damaged another fighter in a furious 12 minute dogfight that confirmed his Ace status. By the end of the war, he shot down a total of eight aircraft, which earned him the Silver Star.

After the war, the General attended Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., and received his certificate of graduation from New Jersey's John Marshall Law College in 1949. He passed the New Jersey Bar examination the same year. His professional military education includes Command and Staff College in 1956, National War College Defense Strategy Seminar in 1965 and 1973, Air War College orientation course in 1966 and 1972, National Security Management Course in 1971 and the ANG/USAFR Senior Officer Professional Military Education Course in 1980.

General Gerard joined the New Jersey Air National Guard in April 1947. During his career, Gerard was recalled to active duty twice. The first was during the Korean War where he commanded a fighter squadron with Strategic Air Command and then with Tactical Air Command.

The second callup was for the Berlin Crisis in 1961-62. In that same period, he served as the Director of Operations for the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing. He later became the wing commander in 1971. From 1976 to 1979, he served as the Special Assistant to the Commander of Strategic Air Command. Following that assignment, Gerard served as the Commander of the New Jersey



Air National Guard, which he held until Governor Thomas H. Kean nominated him as The Adjutant General of New Jersey.

General Gerard's major military awards and decorations include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with six Battle Stars, National Defense Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Secretary of Defense Identification Badge and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. In 1983, Governor Kean awarded him with the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.

We stayed in the up-sun position and about 10 minutes later we sighted a large gaggle of E/A about 5 o'clock to us and going 90 degrees across our tail. We dropped tanks and started after the E/A who were in a slight dive and travelling at high speed. I didn't gain at first but as they made a 90 degree turn on to the bombers I started to close and fired some short bursts to distract them; they took no evasive action but continued straight at the bombers.

I took the tail-end Charlie and he exploded after a short burst. Coolant and flames streamed out behind him and my wingman, Lt Meyer, saw him in a spin with his wheels down and pieces flying off. I CLAIM ONE DOWN-POUND ME 109 DESTROYED.

*Excerpt from the Sept. 11, 1944, encounter report where Maj. Gen. Gerard shot down four German aircraft.*

# Homefront Chaplain Team always on call

Photo and story by Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

**Even at 2 o'clock in the morning, 1st Lt. Andre Ascalon's cell phone is within reach. Same goes for Lt. Col. Joanne Martindale. Ditto for Sgt. 1st Class Jeretha Prather.**

The trio makes up the National Guard chaplain team that has been called to active duty in New Jersey this year to support the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployment to Iraq.

Since the unit mobilized, Chaplains Martindale and Ascalon and Prather, the chaplains' assistant, have supported countless families in crisis in addition to the nearly dozen brigade Soldiers who have come home on emergency leave.

Martindale, who spent 2005 in Iraq ministering to the Soldiers of the former 42nd Infantry Division Support Command, has focused her current efforts on helping spouses and other family members form support groups to cope with similar problems, such as difficult pregnancies.

"My goal is to get folks together and let them eventually form their own group and then I go on to helping the next group form," Martindale said. "Ministry to Soldiers and their families is our number one priority."

Ascalon said he sometimes makes the greatest impact by just being there, whether it's at an airport terminal to meet a Soldier on emergency leave or an armory gymnasium for a Family Readiness Group meeting.

"When the chaplain is there, people know somebody cares," Ascalon said. "A lot of times, nothing even needs be said. It's a ministry of presence."

For Prather, her year in support of the 50th IBCT deployment is a continuation of an active-duty stint that began in 2004. She's paid particular attention to the needs of Soldiers called home for emergency leave, often because of a death in their family.

She said helping Soldiers in their time of greatest need



*1st Lt. Andre Ascalon (l-r), Sgt. 1st Class Jeretha Prather, Col. Alphonse Stephenson and Lt. Col. Joanne Martindale are part of the Jersey Guard's chaplain team. Chaplains' Ascalon and Martindale and chaplains' assistant Prather, have been called to active duty this year to support the home-front needs for the Iraq deployment of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.*

has been the highlight of a military career that's spanned more than two decades.

"Some of the things I've helped people with have been very sad," Prather said. "But it's been the most rewarding period of my career."

Although the deployment has kept the home-front chaplains busy, Martindale worries that there may be some families who don't know this extra help is available.

"People need to know that we are here and we are available," she said. "Any time."

**To reach the chaplains, call 609-694-0635 or 609-802-8125**

## THE POST-9/11 GI BILL

*From the Department of Veterans Affairs*

**The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a new education benefit for Airmen and Soldiers who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.**

In order to be eligible, you must have served an aggregate of 90 days on active duty since Sept. 10, 2001 – or at least 30 continuous days on active duty and have been discharged due to a service-connected disability.

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill you may receive up to 36 months of entitlements, which include:

- Amount of tuition and fees charged, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education;
- An annual stipend of up to \$1,000 for books and supplies.

- A one-time payment of \$500 to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas and;

- A monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing (BAH) amount payable to an E-5 with dependents, in the same zip code as the school paid to you.

One common question: How does the new GI Bill fit with other GI Bills?

It comes down to this: If, on Aug. 1, 2009, you are eligible for any of the GI Bill programs, you may opt for the Post-9/11 version, which will eliminate you using the other programs. In most cases, benefits under the newest GI Bill are more generous than under previous plans.

To learn more, visit: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

# NEWS GUARD FAMILIES CAN USE

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

## Carvill Scholarship available

Friends and family of Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill who was killed while serving in Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom have established scholarship in his name.

The SSG Frank T. Carvill Memorial Scholarship Award is designed to honor and remember Frank Carvill. Applications are available by contacting Peggy Carvill-Liguori at [drpeg639@aol.com](mailto:drpeg639@aol.com). Deadline is April 30.

### Eligibility requirements:

Applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of the New Jersey National Guard.

Applicant may apply for the scholarship while attending high school or presently be in or accepted by a college/vocational program as a full-time student.

Applicant must volunteer time to the community.

Applicant must have a minimum GPA of 2.75

Applicant must compose an essay stating:

How volunteerism affects your life.

How the U.S. military has influenced your life.

## Reunion Briefs

Here are the dates for reunion briefs for families of returning Soldiers.

All briefs are the same - they are not unit specific, so please attend the one that is most convenient for you.

| Date     | Armory        | Time      |
|----------|---------------|-----------|
| Feb. 7   | West Orange   | 9:30 a.m. |
| Feb. 21  | Morristown    | 9:30 a.m. |
| March 21 | Port Murray   | 9:30 a.m. |
| March 22 | Lawrenceville | 1 p.m.    |

For more information, contact Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist at (609) 530-6884.

## Family Readiness increases grants

From the N.J. State Family Readiness Council

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 service members who served on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members 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: Laura Forrest

[laura.forrest@njmcgu.af.mil](mailto:laura.forrest@njmcgu.af.mil)

### Jersey City Armory

678 Montgomery Street

Jersey City, NJ 07306-2208

POC: SFC (Ret) Bernard Sims

[bernard.sims@us.army.mil](mailto:bernard.sims@us.army.mil)

### Lawrenceville Armory

151 Eggert Crossing Road

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2897

POC: Jane Hackbarth

[jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil](mailto:jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil)

### Morristown Armory

430 Jockey Hollow Road

Morristown, NJ 07960-0499

POC: SFC (Ret) Robert Kraemer

[robert.kraemer@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.kraemer@us.army.mil)

### Pomona NJNG FAC

400 Langley Road

Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

POC (Air): CMSgt (Ret) Paul Gunning

[paul.gunning@njatla.af.mil](mailto:paul.gunning@njatla.af.mil)

POC (Army): CSM (Ret) Michael Hughes

[michael.hughes@njatla.af.mil](mailto:michael.hughes@njatla.af.mil)

### Somerset Armory

1060 Hamilton Street

Somerset, NJ 08873

POC: John Hales

[john.a.hales@us.army.mil](mailto:john.a.hales@us.army.mil)

### Teaneck Armory

Teaneck & Liberty Roads

Teaneck NJ 07666-0687

POC: SFC (Ret) Janis Shaw

[janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil](mailto:janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil)

### Toms River Armory

1200 Whitesville Road

Toms River, NJ 08753

POC: Maria Morro

[maria.morro1@us.army.mil](mailto:maria.morro1@us.army.mil)

### Woodbury Armory

658 North Evergreen Avenue

Woodbury, NJ 08096

POC: Michele Daisey

[michele.daisey1@us.army.mil](mailto:michele.daisey1@us.army.mil)

**or call 1-888-859-0352**



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# Short Rounds: Scouts, Unity Day, Company created, Training Albanian



## Wing hosts Scouts

Tech. Sgt. Edwin Visalden (left) and Master Sgt. David Field (second from left) salute as Dylan (next to pole) and Logan Roberts, members of Boy Scout Troop 12 raise the flag during Boy/Cub Scout Day at the 177th Fighter Wing on Oct. 11. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



## Can you hula?

Sgt. Francisco Gonzales (l-r), Staff Sgt. Maria P. Class Daniel Rosas learn traditional Hawaiian hula during Unity Day: Decade of Diversity celebration at the Joint Development Center on Fort Dix on Sept. 1. The event highlighted the different ethnic and special environments represented in the New Jersey National Guard to encourage awareness and harmony among all citizens. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.



## Finance Battalion cases colors

Maj. Roberet McGehee, commander, 50th Finance and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Slowinski along with Col. Roch Switlik, Commander, of the 42nd Regional Support Group, case the 50th Finance Battalion colors on Sept. 21. In addition, the 150th Finance Detachment was deactivated. The 50th will now be the 50th Financial Management Company. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly, 444MPAD.



## 177th trains Albanian police

From Sept. 6-12, Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Francis, Master Sgt. and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Lee deployed to Albania to provide law enforcement training to both 63 Albanian Military and civilian police personnel. The course covered military jurisdiction, military police investigations and airbase security. Pictured are (l-r) 1st Lt. Albana Hoxha, unknown, 1st Lt. Emir Kume, Command Chief Master Sgt. Francis, Tech. Sgt. Lee, 1st Lt. Besim Hoxha, Master Sgt. Iacovone and Deputy Commander, Military Police Battalion. Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Jeff Lee.

# Enlisted recognized, Finance police and Army Ten Miler



P. Fridman and Sgt. 1st  
dance during the Unity  
t Training and Training  
8. This year's event  
emphasis groups repre-  
enhance cross-cultural  
n-Soldiers and Airmen.



Sgt. Joseph Iacovone  
and security training  
covered the Geneva  
se defense doctrine.  
Command Chief Master  
and Lt. Col. Medi Kuçi,  
Jeff Lee, 177FW/SF.



## EANGNJ Awardees

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard 2008 award winners were presented at the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey's 35th Annual Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City on Sept. 27. Front row (l-r): Staff Sgt. Michael F. Sears (Outstanding NCO-Air), Senior Airman John Parillo (Outstanding Airman), Spc. Melissa A. Ruggeri (Outstanding Soldier), Staff Sgt. Daemion A. Clarke (Outstanding NCO-Army), 1st Sgt. Raymond H. Hoffman (Outstanding First Sergeant-Army), Master Sgt. Daniel T. Mitchell Jr. (Outstanding First Sergeant-Air). Second row (l-r): retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michael T. Hughes (President EANG-NJ), State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General; Brig. Gen. Larry Thomas III, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard; State Command Chief Master Sgt. Ed Karol, New Jersey Air National Guard. Photo courtesy the EANG-NJ.



## Jersey Blues place second

The Jersey Blues comprised of (l-r) Master Sgt. Alex Estrada, Master Sgt. Brian Holderness, Sgt. 1st Class Luis Gonzalez, 1st Sgt. Gary Davidson, Lt. Col. John Sheard, Staff Sgt. Jerry Grant, Capt. Andrew Lazarchick and Master Sgt. Gladwyn Martin pose for a photo prior to the Army Ten Miler in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 5. The team placed second. This year close to 22,000 individuals ran in the event. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. Sheard.

# NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

## New Jersey Army National Guard

### To First Sergeant (E-8):

William D. Collier III  
Joseph Dicola  
Barry A. Odell  
Antonio Ortiz Jr.  
Bart H. Spaulding

### To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Juan Acevedo Jr.  
Joseph J. Long  
Ramon M. Morales  
Miriam Sotoquinones

### To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

Leonel A.  
Abreumaldonado  
John F. Archer Jr.  
Kyle P. Bowman  
Sandy N. Caul  
Michael J. Culmone  
Gerard Dibona Jr.  
Philip G. Faustino  
Joseph C. Hammerle  
Genaro B. Haywood  
Gracie Y. Henderson  
Ronnie Joseph  
John E. Klewicki  
Matthew M. Kline  
Juan J. Leon  
Terence McCormack  
Charles J. McDermott  
Jose E. Medinaortiz  
Clifford J. Meros  
Kevin R. Morse  
Clara Munoz  
Anthony C. Norrish  
Sean D. O'Connor  
Michael L. Peterson  
Daniel C. Schrier  
Jason L. Solomon  
Michael A. Strawn  
William A. Stuart  
Clyde A. Taylor III  
Craig R. Tillotson  
John A. Trevino

### To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Jason L. Adams

Denis F. Arnhold II  
Duane Askins  
James R. Bedrossian  
William H. Beldock III  
Luis A. Bonet Jr.  
David C. Boron  
Joseph C. Breiner III  
Crystal R. Burgess  
Joseph R. Burke  
Mark E. Byers  
Daryl B. Caulfield  
Karl E. Cheney  
Eric D. Cooley  
Shereka L. Danzy  
Ronald A. J. Delrosario  
Christopher W.  
Donohue  
Edgar M. Duran  
Ryan J. Edwards  
Charles M. Ellison Jr.  
John M. Facchini  
Robert R. Farrell Jr.  
Bert J. Frullo  
Noah T. Fusco  
Kumar Garg  
James M. Gigante  
Richard J. Gilbert  
Zak A. Goeb  
Robert J. Guarino  
Amir T. Harden  
George A. Henderson  
Nikeisha K. A. Henry  
Christopher R. Howe  
Michael K. Jakubiw  
Michael Just-Cornelius  
Jonathon A. Keich  
Karl G. Kelly II  
Joseph M. Kern  
Albert J. Klinker  
Vicki L. Kohlhepp  
Lauren E. Kuchar  
Mark J. Labombard  
John Lopez  
Derrick V. Luciano  
Dharam Manka  
Vincent E. Mankowski  
Daniel E. Mehmel  
Shawn C. Nachurski  
Luis M. Negron  
Steven M. Nestore  
Stella E. Okigbo  
Thomas J. Patterson  
Jason A. Ragel  
Pierre Richards  
Michael J. Rodriguez

Todd J. Rose  
Richard W. Schlack  
Nathaniel Simmons Jr.  
Daryl J. Slimmer  
Christopher R.  
Smedley  
Anthony Stokes  
Angelo J. Sucameli  
Brad T. Trowbridge  
Scott M. Vanneman  
Mauricio R. Vega  
Brian S. Venerick  
Daniel J. Vilarino  
Travis Watson

### To Sergeant (E-5):

Adrian L. Abella  
Julio C. Abreu Jr.  
Bryan R. Ascher  
Robert E. Baker  
John S. Barbagallo III  
Jamil Barrera  
Jacob Benkovski  
Helmut Boisch  
Brandon A. Botley  
Damone D. Bowles  
Paul M. Burke  
Sean M. Burrough  
Jason F. Butler  
Rafael E. Campos  
Harold F. Caro  
Chowdhury I.  
Rashedul  
Nicole M. Clay  
Joseph G. Coates  
Bruce D. Coleman  
Eugene P. Cooney  
Chad A. F. Corpuz  
Ismael A. Cotto  
Adam C. Courtney  
Brian C. Darling  
Joseph M.  
Deantonio Jr.  
Lorraine M.  
Derowitsch  
Dustin T. Donham  
Raymond C. Facundo  
Brad E. Farmer  
Daisy E. Ferreira  
Bruno M. Figarola  
Christopher P. Finn  
Gregory T. Flynn  
Emel J. Gonzalez  
Lionel Gonzalez  
Albert S. Grant

Jeffrey J. Gural  
David L. Haney  
Michael F. Issenman  
Matthew R. Jenkins  
Victor M. Jimenez  
George R. Joga  
Timothy A. Jones  
John C. King  
Joshua J. Kipp  
Tyrone Knipping  
Stephen W. Kobelka  
Brian B. Kofsky  
Scott W. Kowalski  
Paul Le Jean  
Young K. Lee  
Joseph G. Leon  
Josen D. C. Llave  
Shaun R. Longyhore  
Thomas A. Marchese  
Artur J. V. Matos  
Douglas E. Mattei  
Ian D. May  
Jason P. McKeivitt  
Harold J. Melander  
Daniel W. Monaghan  
Monica G. Montgomery  
Warren R. Moseley-  
Holmes  
Bryan J. Mulvihill  
Michael R. Muscatell  
John Olivo  
Kevin F. O'Malley  
Samantha E. Oro  
Darlene R. Pabon  
Asa L. Paris  
Hemal R. Patel  
Bobbie J. Pearson  
Shawn E. Pekrol  
David B. Pereda  
Nicholas N. Rabeau  
Christian J. Ramirez  
Christopher D.  
Richardson  
Hector Rivera Jr.  
Preston D. Robinson  
Rocklin J. Ruiz  
Jennifer Saldarriaga  
Demetrius M. Saxton  
Brian E. Schopfer  
Richard W.  
Schwarz Jr.  
Robert Scott  
Frances R. Serverson  
Stefanie L. Simi  
Oliver J. Sims Jr.

Michael D.  
Smentkowski  
Jimmy J. Solano  
Scott A. Soulia  
Andrew J. Steffens  
Rodney C.  
Strausbaugh  
Gregory F. Summers II  
Erik J. Swanson  
Glenn R. Sweeten Jr.  
Christopher M.  
Tarasevich  
Carlton S. Thomas  
Alexander Torres  
Osvaldo  
Torressegarra  
Jeffrey A. Townsend  
Bryan J. Vanartsdalen  
Sara B. Vasques  
Daniel G. Vroom  
Ronald J. Wentworth  
Joseph W. Wesner  
Silas E. Whittle  
Dustin R. Widas  
Troy Williams  
Ian R. Worrell  
James A. Zeh

### To Corporal (E-4):

Antonio G. Gagliostro

### To Specialist (E-4):

Ivan E. Addu  
Aleksandr  
Aleksandrov  
Peralta A. Alfonso  
Christopher S. Allen  
Christian C. Anthony  
Carlos A. Archila  
Carlos A. Arenas  
Michael F. Bodnar  
David G. Bugel  
Nicholas Byanille  
Joanann L. Caminneci  
Jennifer L. Campos  
Adam J. Capes  
Kevin D. Carbone II  
Samuel A. Castaneda  
David Castoire  
Young B. Chun  
Raul A. Cobo  
Liz A. J. Cox  
Keishon J. Currie  
Ryan L. Davenport  
Eric M. Demott

James J. Diana  
Tanisha G. Diaz  
Tina M. Diglio  
Nicholas W. Dizenzo  
Vivian N. Ejiogu  
Mark P. Engellau  
Tiffany M. Eubanks  
Richard C. Fleming  
Ross E. Gildow  
Erin M. Gleason  
Spencer Gomez  
Jesse J. Gowdy  
Nadine Graef  
Carlos H. Granados  
Robert W. Gray II  
Samuel I. Guerra  
Jorge A. Hojas  
Bryan L. Jones  
Eric M. Kuppler  
Julian V. Leddaohare  
Edwin J. Lefebvre  
Marc C. Loudon  
Thomas P. Lovas Jr.  
Montano G. E. Lux  
Ryan A. Maharaj  
Felipe Malabe  
Bethany D. Malamut  
Neftaly Maldonado Jr.  
Kirsten A. Martin  
Michael J. Martyn  
Ike W. McGaha  
Kimberly J. Medina  
Jenilee I. Mendoza  
Brian J. Miklea  
Ashley V. Mosley  
Samantha C. Nigro  
Yiesena E. Nunez  
Ivannhoe Ortiz  
Jose A. Pelegrin  
Tony R. Peralta  
Raymond Perez  
Christian L. Pettit  
Peterson Pierre-Paul  
Jorge Pimentel  
Ronald S. Pniak  
Mora G. V. D. Procel  
Jason M. Rajeski  
Robert J. Richards  
Aziz W. Robinson-  
Johnson  
Denisse R. Rodriguez  
Henry Rodriguez  
Elizabeth M. Roslak  
Robert J. Rowe II  
Raheem J. Rowell

# ARD ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

Michael A. Ryno  
Preux D. Saint  
Hector L. Sanchez II  
Johnny C. Sanchez Jr.  
Carla M. Sanders  
Edward Santiago  
Rudolph C. Sarate  
Stephanie L. Saunders  
Derrell G. Schenck  
Todd J. Schillaci  
Jason S. Schriever  
Joseph M. Scott  
Justin T. Seguin  
William F. Shephard  
Justin Z. Stein  
Randy St. Louis  
Steven J. Stone  
George A. Stracuzzi  
Franny A. Tavarez  
Adam J. Thron  
Jeffrey V. Whalen  
Marcus A. Wild  
Leon D. Williams  
Chantharath  
Xumphonphakdy  
Christian Zambrano

## To Private First Class (E-3):

Richard J. Adair  
Austin J. Arcaya  
Jose Ascencio  
Rasheem J. Bartley  
Jeffery M. Bass  
Kasper Biskup  
Javier Bolivar  
Richard J. Bond  
Julienne M. Bryant  
Erick Bulgarin  
Kaneille S. Burke  
Anthony T. Cafiero  
Nathan L. Campbell  
Adam R. Carias  
Diego A. Castro  
Chesly J. A. Cenesca  
Ruben Cintron  
Edgardo Class  
Marcellus Q. Coleman  
Javier A. Colon Jr.  
Brian M. Coolack  
Jorel W. Cordero  
Shane P. Corrigan  
Daniel R. Costroff  
Charles R.  
Countryman Jr.

Jessica L. Cromley  
Andrew R. Cross  
Ryan J. Curran  
Adam R. Daniels  
Marcus W. Davis  
George R. Decker Jr.  
Kevin D. Depuy  
Sean M. Donohue  
Jose C. Dorelien  
Edwin S. Fabian  
Kyle S. Fell  
Jennifer A. Figueroa  
Jonathan J. Fischer  
Kevin R. Flannery  
Derek J. Forbes  
Angel L. Fuentes  
Eduardo L. Galindo  
Jose J. Gonzalez  
Jose R. Gonzalez  
Jonathan F. Gordon  
Cashuan T. Green  
Michael A. Gregory  
Michael J. Habbart  
Zeshan Haroon  
Delwin O. Hernandez  
Victor D. Hernandez-  
Resto  
Daniel P. Horan  
Kenneth R. Howell Jr.  
Michael J. Humphries  
Michael S. Jaczuk  
Bobby M. Joseph  
Seth Kamara  
Trout J. Kathcart  
Jordan R. Kenney  
Se H. Kim  
George A. Kostis  
Jonathan H. Lainez  
Anthony C. Leary Jr.  
Jessica L. Lloyd  
Benedict V. Lopez  
Victor M. Lopez III  
Jose A. Lora Jr.  
Shawn P. Lowrie  
Stephanie V.  
Manansala  
Ryan J. Mancine  
Jose E. Martinez  
Pedro J. Martinez Jr.  
Rodriguez R. Martinez  
Eris C. Martinez-  
Estevez  
Walter M. Medrano  
Alejandro J.  
Merinosampas

Erik R. Midtbo  
Candice A. S. Miller  
Anthony P. Monte  
David A. Morera  
James J. Morris  
Amanda M. Moss  
Stephen Mukoma  
Jamal V. Murray  
Jesse J. Myers  
James L. Nees  
Martin J. Neira  
William J. Nelson IV  
Madeline S. Neumann  
Kevin D. Norton  
Robert L. Nunez  
Erik M. Ortiz  
John G. Osorio  
Deandre M. Page  
Nicholas P. Paulozzo  
Dominick A. Paynter  
Timothy J. Payor  
Devindra Persaud  
Daniel A. Popolillo  
Yessenia M. Pucheta  
Mendoza A. G. Quimi  
Victor Ramos  
Zimir A. Reeds  
Marc N. Reinecker  
Daniel L. Reyes  
Iliana V. Reyes  
Isaac T. Roberts III  
Kamille R. Roberts  
Emmitt T. Robinson Jr.  
Jessica A. Robinson  
Saul E. Rosa Jr.  
Philip M. Rowe  
Justin N. Roxas  
Daniel Ruiz  
Thomas H. Saitta  
Fernando Sanchez  
Steven N. Sanchirico  
Victor Santiago Jr.  
Daniel D. Schwaner  
Chayanne D. Serrano  
Alvin M. S. Sirilan  
Paul K. Stanislas  
Carolyn F.  
Stankiewicz  
Daniel E. Stewart  
Anthony Sturtevant  
James C. Taylor  
Jason M. Thomas  
Niles D. Thompson  
Brittany A. Toomer  
Joshua A. Torres

Dayyan T. Velez  
Maria S. E. Villanueva  
Stacey M. Vormelker  
Laila B. Wahid  
Jennifer  
Waisempacher  
Wayne C. Werner  
Darryl D. Williams Jr.  
Matthew E. Williams  
Anthony H. Wright  
Douglas A. Zirkle Jr.

## To Private (E-2):

Syed B. Abbas  
Walida S. Barr  
Timothy L. Campbell-  
Cromartie  
Fuquan J. Carson  
Manuel J. Castro  
Gary D. Collins  
Erica L. Cruz  
Kenia A. Cruz  
Jessye N. Echevarria  
Ryan Z. Enger  
Randall J. Ferrara  
Roger D. Gallego  
Harvey Green Jr.  
Brandon T. Harrison  
Joseph R. Henthorn  
Jean C. Herrera  
Daniel A. Jones  
Nicholas J. Kasper  
Christina A. Kelly  
Cullis K. King  
Alan M. Lada  
William J. Larson III  
Ryan W. Leonard  
Kim A. McGrath  
Victor H. Meza  
Lindsay J. Milner  
Danyell M. Mitchell  
Edson H. Moreno  
Fabrice M. Nazaire  
Daniel P. Oostdyk  
Markus L. Pabon  
John L. Roscoe  
William L. Scheltino  
Christopher J. Schiavo  
Thomas B. Schneider  
Michael C. Smith  
Johann S. Trujilo  
Cindy Urrea  
Jefferson M. Vargas  
Coco C. Wilson  
Kyle H. Wydner

## New Jersey Air National Guard

### To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):

Daryl K. Fortner

### To Master Sergeant (E-7):

Rose M. Condello  
Ronald Esquiche  
Brian S. Georgeson  
Anthony C. Henschinski  
Olvin Rodriguez  
Santiago E. Tapia

### To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Samuel D. ARIA  
John C. Cobleigh Jr.  
Heather E. Erickson  
Barbara J. Harbison  
Lauren M. Holba  
Taylor F. Holba  
Scott A. Krebs  
Robert D. Roscoe

### To Staff Sergeant (E-5):

Allison R. Anholt  
Michael S. Beckett  
Howard M. Chattlely  
Carrie M. Clements  
Robert J. Gould  
Lucas G. Gunther  
Joseph L. Jeranek  
Kara L. Kauffman  
Andrew J. Kohlbecker  
Jeovanny E. Moscoso  
Ryan T. Pickett  
Michael P. Zielinski  
Michael E. Zundle

### To Senior Airman (E-4):

Sara J.  
Batemanlightfoot  
Richard A. Elliott Jr.  
Tamyka L. Spring

### To Airman First Class (E-3):

Timothy C. Chambers  
Charrich P.  
Charlemagne

Dennis W. Corcoran  
Stephen T. Davey  
Damien Delgado  
Lauren E. Drennan  
Thomas E. Early Jr.  
Dean P. Fazzolari  
Brian J. Gluck  
Jennifer L. Heller  
Ethan J. Hugg  
Korey R. Larson  
Kenneth C. Loesch  
Errol McCalla Jr.  
Cody D. McNaughton  
Jeremy A. Nunez  
Denery Phillips III  
Monica L. Rivera  
Donald S. Rodgers  
Morgan A. Sanchez  
Andrew R. Sharretts  
David S. Silva  
Joseph R. Turbe  
Jason F. Valleley  
Freddy A. Vasquez Jr.  
Katherin M. Yunes

### To Airman Basic (E-1):

Christine Fryling  
Jaime Rodriguez Jr.

## Congratulations To All!

Compiled by  
Master Sgt.  
Daniel J. Caldarele  
(Army Guard promotions)  
and Master Sgt.  
Paul B.  
Thompson Jr.  
(Air Guard promotions)

### Correction

On page 23 of the September issue of Guardlife Sgt. First Class Sean O'Gorman's name was misspelled.

# ***LAST ROUND - EVALUATED AT TRAINED***

*Survey Team Member Sgt. Michael Issenman, 21st Civil Support Team prepares his sample kit. Soldiers and Airmen of New Jersey's 21st CST underwent an Evaluation Lane by 5th Army (ARNORTH) Civil Support Readiness Group-East at the Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control located at Dias Creek, N.J. on Nov. 5. The 21st received an "Evaluated at Trained", the highest possible rating in the 12 mission training plan collective tasks the unit was tested on. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.*

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