

NIJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 1, 2015



328th to deploy to Cuba

Story by Spc. Devon Bistarkey, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs



Company commander, Capt. Matthew R. Neamand leads the 328th Military Police Company at a Salute to Troops ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, N.J., March 29, 2015.

The job for the Soldiers of the 328th Military Police Company is to protect, secure and guard without judgment during their yearlong deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

“This is what you sign up for; and this is the mission that needs to get done,” said Sgt. Nicholas DiRenzo, a four-year veteran with two prior deployments under his belt.

A deployment to a high-profile environment surrounded by a whirlwind of political opinion demands the Cherry Hill-based MP company execute their mission with professionalism and military bearing. Limited access to the area, which serves as a military prison for unlawful combatants, has inflated public curiosity on what actually happens there.

For 1st Lt. Domenico Lazzaro, executive officer of the 328th, the opportunity to serve overseas, regardless of location, is something he is proud to do. Lazzaro views the prison as a necessity.

“GITMO is a tool that helps us to take action and defend our rights as citizens against people who don’t subscribe to our philosophies,” said Lazzaro.

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1st Lt. Domenico Lazzaro
Executive Officer
328th Military Police
Company

All of the MPs have undergone extensive training to prepare for the detainee operations mission. The unit spent their two-week Annual Training period at Joint Base McGuire-Lakehurst-Dix, completing pre-mobilization tasks including combatives training, room clearing, and use of pepper spray.

The pepper spray training, which in-



Cover photo

Staff Sgt. Hamlet B. Brito, along with Soldiers of the 328th Military Police Company, sing the Army Song at a Salute to Troops ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, N.J., March 29, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

This is a hardworking unit; a group of problem solvers and doers who are very efficient because there is a certain degree of trust that we can accomplish any mission.

1ST LT. DOMENICO LAZZARO



State Senator Jim Beach, left, 6th District, and Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, second from left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, present the New Jersey state and the United States flags to 1st Sgt. Ammon Moore, right, and Capt. Matthew R. Neamand, commander, 328th Military Police Company, during the Salute to Troops ceremony. The Company, which will deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, were honored by family, friends, the New Jersey National Guard leadership and elected officials.

cluded Soldiers spraying each other to understand its effects, made an impression on Spc. Harshel Patel.

“That was painful,” said Patel, a fi-

nance student at Mt. Claire University who knew he was putting a gap in his college career when he volunteered for this deployment.

The challenges of any deployment include putting Soldier’s home life on pause. Each Soldier has made their military service a top priority for this mobilization that has including long drill weekends and even longer periods of time away from their families and careers. Benefits of their training come in the form of invaluable job experience for Patel who aspires to work for the DEA after graduation and DiRenzo who currently serves as a police officer on the civilian side.

“This is a hardworking unit,” Lazzaro said, “a group of problem solvers and doers who are very efficient because there is a certain degree of trust that we can accomplish any mission.”

That mission for the next year will be to secure and hold detainees and provide security as inmates make movements between legal appointments and leaving the camp.

“It’s our turn to serve, and were proud to do it,” said Lazzaro.

Photo below: Pfc. Oscar A. Barrera, center, poses for a photo with his family after the Salute to Troops ceremony for the 328th Military Police Company, at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, N.J., March 29, 2015.



A day at the range

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen
108th Wing Public Affairs



Senior Airman Raymond J. Buckno, left, Combat Arms Training and Maintenance, helps Airman 1st Class Bryant A. Toro, both with the 108th Wing, adjust the M68 red dot sight on the M4 Carbine.

There was snow on the ground – again. The 108th Wing’s Combat Arms Training and Maintenance instructors took it in stride, the most important thing on that March day was to get the 15 Airmen qualified on the M4 carbine.

The CATM instructors are responsible for ensuring that the Wing’s 1,000 plus Airmen are trained on everything from the M16A2 service rifle, the M4 carbine rifle to the 9mm pistol.

This two-day training was divided between a day in the classroom and a day at the range. In the classroom, the Airmen learned about weapon safety, nomenclature – what’s what on the weapon, zeroing the weapon – this applies to the M16A2 and the M4, disassembling and cleaning the weapon, dry firing the weapon in various positions and extreme operating conditions. In addition, a new course of fire has been added to the curriculum.

“Today, they take what they learned yesterday and put it into practical practice,” said Tech. Sgt. Maurice M. Nelson, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, 108th Wing Armory.

Making this training requirement somewhat easier the Airmen are divided

into two groups. Airmen in the alpha group – security forces for example – have to train annually. The bravo group, maintenance as an example, are trained every two years.

This is a new course of fire. It is based on lessons learned from Operations' Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

TECH. SGT. MAURICE M. NELSON
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE
108TH WING ARMORY

The common training requirement for both groups is, if an Airman is deploying, then they need to requalify on the range 90 days before they deploy.

For this training, the Airmen arrived with their body armor and gas masks. In addition, some brought tarps so when they

were in the prone firing position, they were at least somewhat insulated from the snow.

The Airmen received their ammunition, moved up to the firing line and told to load magazines with predetermined amounts of ammunition.

After everyone zeroed their weapons and went through the traditional firing positions, they learned a new course of fire.

It is preparation for close combat and it’s what the Air Force and the rest of the United States military has learned from the last two conflicts.

“It’s short range combat where an Airman can react to insurgents at close quarters,” said Nelson. “It is completely different from marksmanship.”

Instead of firing from the shoulder, Airmen wearing body armor place the M4 carbine stock closer toward the center of their chest. Because the M4 has a collapsing stock, Airmen with shorter arms found it easier to fire than the longer M16A2 rifle.

“This is a new course of fire,” said Nelson. “It is based on lessons learned from Operations’ Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.”

And that learning is something no one will take in stride.

1-114th competes for German Proficiency Badge

By Spc. Michael Comoroto, 1-114th Infantry

On the morning of February 15, 139 deployed New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers climbed out of their racks and pulled on their boots with one goal in mind: to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

During a three-day period at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion of the 114th Infantry competed in a series of rigorous events designed to test their military acumen.

The GAFPB is awarded to German soldiers if they have met all the proficiency requirements needed to be a soldier, and the decoration is one of many foreign awards approved for wear on the United States Army dress uniform. Earning the badge is not easy, however. Out of the 139 that competed, 53 Soldiers earned badges. And of the 53, only 14 Soldiers earned a gold badge, the highest honor. The badge also comes in silver and bronze versions depending on how well the Soldier performs during the test.

"It is an honor to be awarded the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge," said Staff Sgt. David Allonardo, a recipient of a gold badge. "It not only looks great on your uniform, but it also shows that you are proficient in everything."

During the first day of training, Soldiers completed a 100-meter swim in Military Uniform. To pass the event, Soldiers had to complete the swim in less than four minutes and then remove their uniform without touching the side of the pool.

When the clock started, Staff Sgt. Brandon Montgomery dove into the pool. He sprang off of the side and then thrashed his limbs, water splashing all about him. With more than a minute to spare, Montgomery climbed out of the pool and rubbed himself dry with a towel.

"I've been swimming every morning for almost a month to prepare myself for today," said Montgomery, his teeth chattering between breaths.

Following the swim, Soldiers completed a fitness test, which consisted of three events: an 11x10-meter sprint test, a flexed arm hang and a 1,000 meter run. If



IT IS AN HONOR TO BE AWARDED THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES PROFICIENCY BADGE. IT NOT ONLY LOOKS GREAT ON YOUR UNIFORM, BUT IT ALSO SHOWS THAT YOU ARE PROFICIENT IN EVERYTHING.

Staff Sgt. David Allonardo
Recipient, gold German
Armed Forces Proficiency
Badge

they passed the fitness portion of the qualification, Soldiers moved to the pistol marksmanship event. During this event, Soldiers fired six shots at one target placed at 25 meters. To achieve a gold ranking, the Soldier had to land all six rounds inside the silhouette.

The final day of training concluded with a ruck-march. Competing for a gold ranking, Sgt. Matthew Graham had 120 minutes to finish the 12 kilometers. After Graham hefted his ruck onto his back, he hunched forward and yanked on the straps, careful to distribute the 33 pounds evenly across his shoulders. Once the clock started, he took-off down the road, pumping his arms for momentum.

"It was rough," said Graham, after taking a well-deserved slug of water from his canteen. "Ruck Marches are never fun. You just have to stay motivated."

Keeping a steady pace throughout the entire event, Graham crossed the finish line with minutes to spare. A look of relief washed over his face when he finally let his rucksack slip off of his shoulders.

OF THE 139 SOLDIERS THAT COMPETED: 53 EARNED BADGES. OF THOSE 53, 14 EARNED THE HIGHEST AWARD: THE GOLD GERMAN ARMED FORCES PROFICIENCY BADGE.

ACROSS THE STATE

Top Airman

Command Chief Master Sgt. Ronald C. Anderson Jr., 1st Air Force, presented the CONR-1st Air Force Aerospace Control Alert Security Forces Member of the Year award to Tech. Sgt. Joseph Zavislak, who is assigned to the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Security Forces Squadron, March 24, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Powell/Released)



Art donated

Nancy, left, and Mark Baldwin, right, representing the Estate of Robert M. Baldwin Sr., present Sean Van Lew, superintendent, Veteran's Haven North, Glen Gardner, N.J., with a set of twenty-three matted and framed digital prints of original paintings and drawings created by Robert Baldwin during and after his service in World War II in Germany, with the 82nd Airborne Division, March 23, 2015. The originals were donated to the Ft. Bragg Airborne Museum in Fayetteville, N.C., after Baldwin's death in 2003. This collection is the first-ever created from digital prints of the originals. After the war, Baldwin operated an art and advertising agency and was a former South Plainfield mayor from 1956-1962. When he retired, Baldwin was active with various veterans' groups and designed a number of memorials including the Airborne Walk at Ft. Benning, Ga., and others in Normandy and in Belgium. (Courtesy photo)

French government recognizes Young

Retired New Jersey Air Guard Brig. Gen. James E. Young, left, is presented the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by Bertrand Lortholary, counsel general, during a Ceremony for Veterans Day held at the French consulate in New York City on Nov. 7, 2014. Young served as a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot during World War II flying 44 missions with both the 8th and 15th Air Forces. Among the awards Young received were the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with four Oak Leaf clusters. Following the war, he joined the New Jersey National Guard at Newark Airport in October 1946. Young was recalled to active duty for Korean War and the Berlin Crisis. Young served as Assistant Adjutant General for Air before retiring with more than 39 years of service. (Courtesy photo)



MILITARY CAREER AND RETIREMENT BRIEFING

DATE: Saturday, April 11, 2015

TIME: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

LOCATION: Westfield Armory, 500 Rahway Ave., Westfield, NJ

The Military Career and Retirement Briefing is for ALL New Jersey National Guard Soldiers. The retirement section will be reviewing how to read your RPAM (points) statement and make corrections if needed as well as what is needed to do if you are planning on retiring from the Guard.

In addition, the following topics will be discussed: education benefits, state archives, VA mortgage benefits/reverse mortgage, financial planning and Tricare/US Family Health Plan.

RSVP to event to marie.s.durling.civ@mail.mil

25 Apr 2015

For our FIRST

Joint - Retiree Appreciation Day

At

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

Join us for:

- A personal welcome from the Joint Base Commander
- Outstanding speakers on subjects of key interest to military retirees
- Updates on retiree benefits and privileges
- Many Information Tables for face-to-face Q&A with experts

Invited to this special event are retirees from all Branches of Service, including:

- US Army Retirees
- US Marine Corps Retirees
- US Navy Retirees
- US Air Force Retirees
- US Coast Guard Retirees
- Retirees of the Reserves of all service branches
- Retirees of the Army and Air National Guard
- Retirees of the uniformed US Public Health Service

For additional information and updates, visit

<http://www.jointbasemdl.af.mil/library/rao.asp> and click on the tab for any of the retiree programs. A full program for the day's events will be posted during the first quarter of 2015.

Joint Committee for J/RAD 2015 with members representing:

- McGuire Retiree Activities Program
- Ft. Dix Retiree Council
- Navy Lakehurst Retiree Volunteers

Skylanders MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME



NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

A DMAVA VSO will be present at each event to assist any veteran

April 14 – 16
 Outreach Program
 Kiosk Hours 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., daily
 Medal Ceremony April 14 at 11 a.m. in Sears Court
 Woodbridge Center Mall
 250 Woodbridge Center Drive,
 Woodbridge, NJ 07095

April 23
 DMAVA “Commanders Call”
 10 a.m.
 Veterans Haven North
 200 Sanatorium Road, (Suite 101), Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

The Skylanders Baseball team will host the SUNY Orange CCC Colts on

APRIL 7TH | 7 PM

at Skylands Stadium, Augusta, NJ
 Rain Date: April 11th | 12 Noon

Donations accepted and proceeds will benefit the Student Veterans Emergency Relief Program (SV ER).

For more information contact Mike DeVilliers at 973.300.2109

EVENT INFORMATION

- Military personnel & veterans will be honored
- Nikki Briar, will sing the National Anthem
- The Ogdensburg VFW will provide the Color Guard
- Frank Arminio, Vietnam Veteran & Veteran Advocate will throw out the first pitch
- The Sussex County Veterans Committee will accompany him to the mound along with Visions Federal Credit Union
- Various Veteran Service providers will be in attendance at the game

E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov by close of business Wednesday



NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy’s mission is to provide a highly disciplined environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who have ceased to attend high school.

For more information contact:
 NJ Youth Challenge Academy
 5910 West 16th Street
 Fort Dix, NJ 08640
 (609) 562-0577



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