

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

Vol. 28 No. 4

GUARDLIFE





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About The Cover

On Nov. 4, the 177th Fighter Wing deployed to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada to participate in Red Flag training. Capt. William McCrink pilots an F-16C to the end of runway for last chance checks and weapon system arming before take off. Master Sgt. Emil C. Martinelli, Jr., (back to camera) communicates while Tech. Sgt. Alphonso Huges is under the wing preparing to disconnect the communications cable from the aircraft. Photo by Master Sgt. Don Taggart 177 FW MultiMedia Information Center.

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GUARDLIFE won first place in the National Guard Media Contest 2000, in the funded newspapers, magazine format portion of the competition. The award was not announced until the 2002 Public Affairs Conference. The 2001 conference was cancelled because of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

177th Fighter Wing F-16s performing flyover during the Military Review Sept. 29 at Sea Girt. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Homeland Security/Homeland Defense

By Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General

On September 11th history was made in the National Guard when both the President and the Governor activated assets of the New Jersey National Guard almost simultaneously.

In the aftermath of that fateful day, our national focus has been to change our systems in order to preserve our homeland security. The continuing operations we have been involved with since 9/11 are multiple such as deployments overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom by the 108th ARW, the continuing CAP mission of the 177th FW, the day to day Army taskings with each increased threat level, and the continuing mission by the Army at the nuclear power plants.

Most of you have lived these operations on a very personal level because it is personal. Protection of the homeland was the first mission of the militia and now it has come back full circle to the National Guard because we are the "hometown team." We have spent the last 30 to 40 years training for a Cold War mission and overseas contingency operations as part of our federal mission with the active duty. Those deployments will certainly continue. But now the federal mission for homeland security has landed squarely in our backyards with the National Guard as a primary support agency for civil authorities and, in some cases, the lead such as the fighter CAP mission of which 74% is provided by the Air National Guard.

Because it is a federal mission, we must anticipate that the stand up of Northern Command and the new U.S. Department of Homeland Security will certainly impact on the way we function eventually. But we cannot afford to wait for direction from the federal government. On the state side, we have many initiatives we have started in conjunction with other state departments to improve our interoperability. For the New Jersey National Guard we are developing our own comprehensive system to deal with multiple, sustained events within our borders.

The crowning accomplishment is our



Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth discusses Homeland Security issues with President George W. Bush on Sept. 23. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

new Homeland Security Center of Excellence with a state-of-the-art Joint Operations Center. Part of the command, control and communications network of this Center are mobile command posts to increase our ability to get on the ground situational reports and has immediate contact with forward deployed assets. Of course, the facility is only as good as the organization and the personnel doing the work. A fully developed alert process has been built and our plans have been revised although we predict that our plans will always be evolving as we seek to get better. Most importantly we have an active training and exercise program.

We have a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Team (CST) – light and we continue to lobby the Secretary of Defense for a fully funded, full-time CST based here in New Jersey. A fully funded team will provide us with another mobile

communications van as well as a mobile laboratory capable of onsite biological and chemical analysis. Additionally, we have begun the process of identifying teams for a quick response force in key areas such as communications, medical, civil engineering and security.

This is how we are planning to fight on the state side should we have to face another major catastrophic event again. It is also highly probable that in addition to fighting within our own borders, we will be part of the federal operations overseas. I know that you have all been heavily tasked this year but our efforts have improved our readiness and capabilities. Our mission is an honorable and worthy one. And it is a simple one—to protect our families, our homes and our way of life. *✍*

President Visits AASF#1

Story by Roman M. Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA.



Standing room only as more than 2,500 Guardsmen, veterans, school children, and area residents crowd the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 at Trenton-Mercer Airport. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

The New Jersey National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility #1 located at Trenton-Mercer Airport, played host to President George W. Bush Sept. 23.

More than 1,000 members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, along with 1,500 school children, veterans, and area residents filled the 25,000 square foot hangar.

The highlight of the visit came for 16 New Jersey Guardsmen when they were invited to sit on the stage with their Commander-in-Chief. At the direction of Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, this privilege was afforded to individuals selected by their units as a



President George W. Bush with the Secret Service. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

NJ Guardsmen Share Stage With President



The President delivers a speech on Homeland Security at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1. Video capture by Staff Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177 FW MultiMedia Information Center.

reward for their dedication and performance since Sept. 11, 2001. The group were Spc. Phillip Faustino, Staff Sgt. Monte C. Wilson, Spc. Vanessa Marano, Spc. Roquel Rodriguez, Col. Wayne L. Thomas, Maj. Pat Kennedy, Master Sgt. Jerold K. Walker, 1st Lt. Yvonne L. Mays, 2nd Lt. Luz M. Colon, Staff Sgt. Angela Ward, Sgt. Donald Meddings, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Warner, Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Long, Staff Sgt. Charles F. Cale, and 1st Lt. Joseph Roughneen.

Preparations for the visit began almost a week earlier when Col. Paul Ciervo, State Aviation Officer and Station Commander for AASF #1 was asked to assist in planning the presidential visit. Facilities and locations were toured to identify the most appropriate location for the public event, decide where to stage the motorcade, and even where to park

Air Force One, the Boeing 757 aircraft the President uses.

Once the decision to use AASF #1 had been made, a whole army of people became involved. Lt. Col. Jorge Martinez and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ed Kobiella worked closely with the Secret Service, state and

local law enforcement agencies to ensure that the security requirements associated with an official presidential visit were satisfied. Maj. Mark Preston mobilized the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs state maintenance force to assist chief armorer Bill Hutchison to make ready for the event.

"This truly was a team effort," noted Col. Ciervo. "Our guys demonstrated an impressive, cohesive effort that did the state proud."

That team was led by Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Bethea, Crew Chief and First Sergeant of the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation and Master Sgt. Dave Nunlist, Aircraft Maintenance Supervisor for the flight facility.

"We did everything needed to make our facility an appropriate venue to host President Bush and a most welcome accommodation for all the other dignitaries and guests," stated Col. Ciervo. 🇺🇸



President George W. Bush greets Guardsmen and members of the public following his speech Sept. 23 at Army Aviation Support Facility #1. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Tech. Sgt. Rakauckas Leads 108th To Victory

By Major Ron Turk, Commander, 108 ARW/SFS



Tech. Sgt. Michael Rakauckas takes a bead on the target while competing at the Sadler Cup Competition Oct. 21 through 24. Photo courtesy of Major Ron Turk, Commander, 108 ARW/SFS.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Rakauckas of the 108th Air Refueling Wing, Security Forces Squadron, was selected to be this year's team leader for the Air Mobility Command Defender Challenge Team Oct. 21 through 24.

Defender Challenge is a U.S. Air Force Security Forces annual marksmanship competition that draws competitors throughout the Department

of Defense, Department of Energy and foreign security forces teams. This year's competition involved three events: the pistol challenge, the combat rifle course and the prestigious Sadler Cup competition. The Sadler Cup competition is a full day tactical exercise that involves combat skills and teamwork under stressful scenarios.

Tech. Sgt. Rakauckas was one

of only two Air National Guard members to be selected to any U.S. Air Force Major Command team, and is the first Air Guard NCO to ever lead an active duty major command team. After performing in the pistol and combat rifle courses, Tech. Sgt. Rakauckas' team kicked it into high gear and won the Sadler Cup competition. They received accolades from both the Security Forces Director and the Air Mobility Command Commander for exceptional leadership.

Tech. Sgt. Rakauckas is also an Air Mobility Command Raven. Raven teams receive special training and are frequently assigned as aircrew members to provide security to aircraft and personnel when traveling overseas to locations without security, or to high-threat areas. ✍

Lyons Garners Top Academy Award

By Maj. Ron Turk, Commander, 108 ARW SFS

Squad leader Master Sgt. Jim Lyons (right) of the 108th Security Force Squadron was presented with the John Levitow Award for distinguished leadership and academics at the NCO Academy, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, on Sept. 5.

Master Sgt. Lyons also served as NCOA class 02-6's class commander. He was recognized during graduation for his exceptional leadership and recognized for spending his off-duty time working with other students.

Master Sgt. Lyons is one of more than 100 "Guardians of Freedom" mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom. Master Sgt. Lyons most recently led a squad of active duty, guard and reserve security forces on a 90-day mission to Europe. He has more than 16 years of active duty and traditional guard service and is a Deputy U.S. Marshal in his civilian profession. ✍



Day In The Life Observed Oct. 22

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

Last May 30, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Public Affairs entered into an agreement to produce a book documenting Oct. 22, 2002 as “A day in the life of the U.S. Armed Forces.”

From 10 to noon, Oct. 22, I photographed Sgt. Bruce J. Hars, B Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation, along with Spc. William D. O’Neal and Spc. Quron B. Wynn, both of B Company, 2-113th Infantry Division, New Jersey Army National Guard, of Task Force Falcon’s Honor, as they performed a perimeter patrol at the Salem-Hope Nuclear Generating Plant near Salem, New Jersey. Army Guardsmen have been an integral part of the the Homeland Security forces at both nuclear power plant locations since 911. And with few exceptions, almost every unit in the New Jersey Army National Guard have guarded the power plants.

The day in the life project was truly global in scope. United States armed forces across the country and at every imaginable location worldwide were being examined and photographed than at any other time since World War II. The project was designed to “show the emotions, humanity, and diversity of the men and women serving their country on that day in history.” It involved both civilian and military photographers at 125 specific installations, as well as video production teams documenting the project.

Part of the immediacy of the day in the life books has been the minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour accounting for the day being observed. Regard-

less of the locations, the books describe the numerous activities that are occurring moment by moment during the day. Keeping track of this was once a nuisance. Fortunately with the advent of digital cameras date and time was automatically recorded down to the second.

After the book is published the best photographs will be chosen and assembled into a traveling exhibition. Even though the 125 specific installations were already chosen, military photographers at other installations were encouraged to provide imagery to support the project. These open submission photographers are not guaranteed publication; however, all open submission imagery will be given

equal consideration, based on image content and technical quality.

The subject matter areas to be covered ranged from human-interest stories to images that show the massive scale of the largest military force on earth and its wide range of missions.

The book's release date is scheduled for April 2003, however here is an early sampling of the pictures submitted for the New Jersey Army National Guard. 🇺🇸



Oct. 22, 2002, 11:26:40 AM, eastern time, Spc. William D. O’Neal (left), and Spc. Quron B. Wynn (right), B Co., 2-113th Infantry Division, both of the New Jersey Army National Guard, perform a perimeter patrol of the Salem-Hope Generating Plant near Salem.

Jersey Guard Hosts D.A.R.E. Camp

By Staff Sgt. Robert W. Stephenson, 444 MPAD

At the head of the four groups, Guardsmen wearing black polo shirts with the National Guard logo, joined with police officers from across the state as they kept the young “troops” in line.

These children weren’t recruits, they were graduates of the sixth-grade Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program and were at Fort Dix for the third annual Summer Leadership Camp. The camp, a joint venture of D.A.R.E. and the Counterdrug Task Force’s Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program, took place at Fort Dix, Aug. 18 through 22. The Camp provided drug awareness education, in addition to team building, leadership skills, first aid and fire-safety classes, along with sports, games, activities, and a one-day field trip to an Atlantic City Surf minor league baseball game.

“This is what the National Guard is all about,” said 1st Lt. Carmen Lugo-Martinez, Drug Demand Reduction Administrator. “While we are helping to keep the communities drug free, we are also ensuring the future of the National Guard in that we are preparing the youth of New Jersey to follow in our footsteps.”



Spc. Ian Cairns applies finishing touch of camouflage painting during the third annual Summer Leadership Camp, at Fort Dix. Campers attended a minor league baseball game, visited the 108th Air Refueling Wing and toured a KC-135E Stratotanker, and visited the Training and Training Technology Battle Lab at Fort Dix.

253rd Competes In Shooting Championship

The 253rd Transportation Company Rifle Team pose for a photo at a target range on Fort Dix. From left to right, front row, Staff Sgt. Kevin Lewis, Sgt. Harold Prickett, Sgt. Michael Spallina, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Vey. Left to right, back row, Pfc. John Bertino, Sgt. Marc Stevens, Sgt. David Dickinson, Spc. Kelly Wilson, Sgt. John Trainor, and Pfc. Michael Snyder. This year Vey, Stevens, Eckstein, Wilson, Bertino, and Snyder were among the more than 700 competitors who participated in the 32nd Annual Winston P. Wilson Rifle, Pistol, Sniper, and Light Machinegun Championship held at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., Oct. 5 - 11. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.




50th PSB Competes In Army-Style Iron Chef

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

In one of the more unusual military competitions, personnel from the 50th Personnel Service Battalion and the 50th Finance Battalion competed in an international cook-off in hopes of winning the prestigious Philip A. Connelly Award, the Army's version of the Iron Chef.

On Nov. 9, the New Jersey Army Guardsmen went head-to-head against the six best food service units in the active-duty Army, Reserve, and other Guard units worldwide in hopes of being recognized as the best Army field food service unit. This is the first time a New Jersey unit has made it to this level in the annual competition. The evaluators judge all aspects of field food service operations. The evaluation took place Bivouac area 4A at Fort Dix.

The evaluators were so impressed with the cooks' performance, all were given merit citations. The 50th also received a plaque for being one of seven finalists in the competition. 



Spc. Randall Williams (left), 50th Finance Battalion offers advice on proportions to Spc. Monique Knighton-Trotter (second from left) and Spc. Maria Gibson (right), both of the 50th Personnel Service Battalion, while Alfred E. Rudolph (second from right), Philip A. Connelly Award evaluation team leader observes during the competition for the Philip A. Connelly Award held at Fort Dix Nov. 9.



Spc. Monique Knighton-Trotter ladles out the steaming Minestrone soup during the Connelly Award competition.



Spc. Randall Williams places chicken on a cooking sheet, while being observed by Connelly Evaluator Mr. Rudolph.



Spc. Maria Gibson chops vegetables for the cole slaw. The menu included oven fried chicken and German chocolate cake.

2002 Military Review

By Spc. Rebecca O'Donnell, 444 MPAD, photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



Governor James E. McGreevey (left) and Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, inspect the troops.

Pictured, left to right: Warrant Officer Durinda Roth salutes while the 63rd Army Band marches by the reviewing stand. The Colonial Color Guard provided spectators with a vision of what past military parades looked like. Troops from every major command participated in this year's Military Review at Sea Girt. Following the Military Review, a carnival and a picnic was held for the participants and their families.

For some, no matter what branch of service they were representing, the day's nervousness seemed hugely magnified. Butterflies were circling within their stomachs and all the sweat glands seemed to flow steadily to the palms of their hands. And even though soldiers and airmen wear their uniforms proudly each time they put it on, this morning every little thread, crease, and shine mattered even more to them than any other day.

What made this day so different was this was the first time The Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth and Governor James E. McGreevey, the New Jersey National Guard's Commander in Chief, would be inspecting and reviewing the troops.

The New Jersey National Guard held its Annual Military Review at Sea Girt on Sept. 29. The event was open to the public at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, and included displays of tanks and helicopters, a cannon salute, a military band and parade. Every unit of the Army and Air Guard in New Jersey were represented.

Master of Ceremonies, Maj. Royce P. Lawler explained that in order for officers and soldiers



to determine their location in the smoke and confusion of battle they would look for their unit flags. Prior to battle, it was common practice for units to parade their flags at the end of the day. This was called Trooping the Colors and it was done so that the soldiers would recognize their flag during battle.

The units present were the 63rd New Jersey Army National Guard Band, the 50th Brigade, the 42nd Division Support Command, the 57th Troop Command, the New Jersey Air National Guard, including the 108th Air Refueling Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing, Headquarters State Area Command, and the Salute Command, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery.

Once the units had marched into position and a nineteen-gun salute was rendered, the Governor, along side of The Adjutant

General, inspected the troops. Medal and honors were then presented including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Ernest J. Gregory Internal Review Award of Merit, the Chief of Staff Army, Supply Excellence Award, the 2002 New Jersey Governor's Air and Space Special Award, the 21st Air Force Armstrong Trophy, the Colonel Richard A. Newman Award for Food Service Excellence, the Master Sergeant (RET) James A. Goddard Outstanding Supply Sergeant Award, and the New Jersey National Guard Outstanding Family Readiness and Support Award.

Brig. Gen. Rieth assured everyone that the New Jersey National Guard were making a difference on the global war on terrorism.

"The New Jersey National Guard is fully engaged across a full spectrum of operations, from

peacekeeping in Bosnia, to playing a key roles in Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Noble Eagle," said Brig. Gen. Rieth, before turning the podium over to the Governor.

"I want to first say thank all the members of the New Jersey National Guard and their families, for your service, your dedication, your courage and commitment to our state and nation," said Governor McGreevey. "The Army and the Air National Guard is playing a critical important role in protecting our nation."

Following the review a barbeque was held and carnival games were held for family members who attended the event.



Congregation Adopts Soldiers

By Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA

In the aftermath of the commemorations and memorial services marking the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks against America, a number of stories of smaller heart-warming occurrences have begun to surface.

One such story involves a small community church in Salem County. The 175-member Richwood United Methodist Church adopted the troops from their local area who were called upon to provide enhanced security at the Salem-Hope Nuclear Generating Plant.

"The good people of Richwood United were well aware of the 'quality' the Guard added to our community," said Pastor Reverend Dr. Steven



Maj. (Chaplain) Steven Herman and Sgt. 1st Class Keith Johnson, 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry, prepare to distribute the holiday gift packages to troops serving at the Salem-Hope Nuclear Generating Plant.

C. Herman, a 10-year veteran of the New Jersey Army National Guard and chaplain with the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry. "The dedication and willingness to serve in time of emer-

gency demonstrated is very much appreciated."

The focus was to prepare "holiday goodie packages" for each of the 62 troops assigned to the security detail. The church members took great pains to wrap each of the gift packages in a manner appropriate to the festive flavor of that particular holiday. The contents also reflected a variety of traditional holiday treats including cookies, homemade baked goods, candy, and other tasty surprises.

Sgt. 1st Class Keith Johnson of C Troop, NCOIC of the yearlong mission assisted in the distribution of the packages. "It's nice to be thought of. The holiday gift packages really lifted our spirits." ✚



Staff Sgt. Steve Katkics, Readiness NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 50th Brigade and Detachment 2, 42nd Military Police Company, 42nd Infantry, briefs troops during pre-mobilization at Fort Dix. Photo by Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA.



Sgt. Eric Schuman (left) watches as a M880 Short Range Training Round exits the tube of a M120 Mortar while Spc. Antonio Mijaro (back to camera) ducks during the Oct. 26-27 drill at Fort Dix. Photo by Sgt. Brian Reed, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry.

Chojnacki Promoted To Brigadier General

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA



Maj. Gen. Clark W. Martin (left) and Mrs. Barbara Chojnacki (right) watch as newly promoted Brig. Gen. Eugene Chojnacki (center) speaks. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shawn Mildren, 177 FW MultiMedia Information Center.

Col. Eugene Chojnacki was promoted to Brigadier General at a ceremony held at the 177th Fighter Wing Sept. 14. Brig. Gen. Chojnacki is the Vice Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, based at the Fort Dix.

Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Mrs. Barbara Chojnacki, the wife of Col. Chojnacki, conducted the official pinning ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Chojnacki was born in Camden on Aug. 29, 1945 and graduated from Edgewood Regional High School, Tansboro in 1963. He earned a Bachelor in Industrial Education from Trenton State College in 1967 and Master in Business Administration from Southern Illinois University

in 1976. Military education includes Air Command and Staff College, and National Security Management.

After graduating from Undergraduate Pilot Training, Reese Air Force Base, Texas, in 1969, Brig. Gen. Chojnacki completed C-141A training and was assigned to Dover Air Force Base, Del. In 1971, the general attended Helicopter Transition Training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, and was assigned to the 20th Special Operations Squadron, Cam Rahn Bay, Republic of Vietnam, as an UH-1H Pilot. During his combat tour, he flew 120 missions over Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. He served as a Helicopter Instructor Pilot at Hill Air Force Base, Utah until 1973. In 1977, he joined the New

Jersey Air National Guard where he served in a variety of positions including executive support officer, deputy commander for resources and support group commander.

Brig. Gen. Chojnacki has flown more than 2,000 flight hours on a variety of aircraft including: the T-41, T-37, T-38, C-141A, UH-1H, and the TH-1F. His awards and decorations include: the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device. ¶

Mobilization Survey

In order to gain a better perspective on the Air Guard's ability to sustain a particular operating tempo and the impact on retention rates, NGB is conducting a survey on the mobilization process, the sustainable level of effort that the ANG can plan for the long term, and finally, quality of life issues associated with the mobilization and today's high tempo. The survey, can be accessed at www.angsurvey.xservices.com until 8 am on Jan. 13.

Survey responses will be confidential and anonymous; Air National Guard officials will see only summarized data. The plan is to analyze the responses to the survey and then brief the Adjutants General and unit commanders on the results early next year. ¶

Air Guard Units Honored By State Senate

By Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA, photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Both the 108th Air Refueling Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing were honored by an official resolution by the New Jersey Senate in the Senate chambers Oct. 31.

The resolutions, introduced by State Senator Peter Inverso (Republican-14th District), himself a former member of the 108th Air Refueling Wing, and signed by Senate Co-Presidents Richard J. Codey (Democrat-27th District) and John O. Bennett (Republican-12th District), recognize service and contributions made by New Jersey Air National Guard in the months following 9/11.

The 177th Fighter Wing was placed on active duty within an hour following the first attack against the World Trade Centers. Wing pilots have flown and continue to fly a record number of sorties providing CAP (Combat Air Patrols) coverage over the Northeast.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the 108th Air Refueling Wing has been providing around the clock, in-flight refueling to aircraft from the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and allied air forces involved in both Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. ✍



From left to right: 1st Lt. Scott Cleveland, Brig. Gen. Eugene Chojnacki, Staff Sgt. Keith Atwell, Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Col. William Maiorano, State Senator Peter Inverso, Maj. Gen. Clark W. Martin, Master Sgt. James Lyons, and Lt. Col. Richard Buckley.



From left to right: Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Brig. Gen. Eugene Chojnacki, Master Sgt. Kurt Williams, Col. Barry Johnson, State Senator Peter Inverso, Maj. Gen. Clark W. Martin, Senior Airman Jose Anaya, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Thomas and Capt. James Layton.

Warrant Officer Professional Development Day Held

Sgt. Patrick O'Flaherty, 444 MPAD

The first Warrant Officer Advisory Board professional development day was held on Nov. 2 at Fort Dix. Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General set the tone of the day.

"Presently we have 137 warrant officers but need another 40 to just maintain the current vacancies," stated Brig. Gen. Rieth.

Chief Warrant Officer Rick Andrews and Command Chief War-

rant Officer Al Curving organized the event around previous development day models with one major difference. Because warrant officers have such diverse backgrounds, roles and responsibilities it is difficult for their parent unit to justify time away from a critical drill weekend. So the development day assumed twin-working groups, one of a recruitment role and one of developing and mentoring the

current warrant members so that the New Jersey Army National Guard has consistency and defined goals which every member of the warrant officer's corps can practice or improve on, in their daily workday.

The meeting then divided into various working groups and provided 70 plus prospective future warrants with an insight into the life of a warrant officer. ✍

Guardman Takes Command Of T3BL; New Labs Dedicated

Story by Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, 444 MPAD

Col. Charles Ragucci assumed command of the Training and Training Technology Battle Lab (T3BL) at Fort Dix Nov. 3.

Col. Ragucci is the first traditional Guardman to assume command of the facility. He currently serves as the Construction Facility Management Officer, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Col. Ragucci has served in the New Jersey Army National Guard for more than 32 years. He enlisted in February 1970 with the 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry. After nine years as enlisted, he served an additional four as a warrant officer before attending Officer Candidate School at the New Jersey Military Academy in Sea Girt. Upon commission as a second lieutenant, he served with the 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry, Division Support Command, and the 50th Main Support Battalion. He is a graduate of Roger Williams University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration



The Urban Night Fighting Lane at the Training and Training Technology Battle Lab.

and has completed the United States Army Command and General Staff College. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

The ceremony also included the dedication of Phases I and II in the expansion of the T3BL. The Lab serves as a national center for simulators and simulations; a distance learning hub; and a battle staff training site.

The Phase I facility is the Theater of War hub that has the capability to link with multiple locations worldwide. Phase II includes four Night Fighting Lanes, a Close Combat Tactical Trainer bay to accommodate an M-1 Abrams and Bradley Fighting Vehicle Company. It will also be linked to the Consolidated Logistics Maintenance Training Site at Lakehurst, the Army's Leader Development Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and other training facilities.

Youth Camp Applications Now Available

Youth Camp applications are available online at www.state.nj.us/military/family-support/ or through your units. The deadline is May 15. The Camp will run July 6 through 12 at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt and is open to the children, grandchildren and legal dependants, ages 9-12, of active, former, and retired NJNG members. Cost is \$100 and includes meals and all activities, which includes, sports, arts and crafts. Special programs include drug awareness, child safety, health and fitness. For more information call or e-mail Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ralph W. Cwieka at (609) 562-0668 or e-mail: ralph.cwieka@nj.ngb.army.mil



Red Flag: Bombs, Bullets, And Las Vegas

Photos by Master Sgt. Don Taggart, 177 FW MultiMedia Information Center.



From Oct. 26 to Nov. 9, 177th Fighter Wing members participated in Red Flag, a large scale combat exercise at Nellis Air Force Base,

Nevada. Red Flag gives pilots their first ten combat missions, which gets them used to a combat environment prior to actual combat, as well as

working with other services in a joint force employment. This is preparation for the wing's deployment to Southwest Asia. ✈

177th Fighter Wing Breaks Ground For New Communications Building

Groundbreaking for the new 177th Fighter Wing Communications and Security Forces building was held Sept. 14. Pictured are (l-r) Maj. Gen. Clark W. Martin, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard; Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General; Congressman Frank LoBiondo, Second District, New Jersey; and Col. Michael Cosby, Commander, 177th Fighter Wing. The \$6.3 million, 27,000 square foot facility is scheduled for completion in March 2004. ✈



50th MSB Spends Weekend “On the Road”

By Staff Sgt. Barb Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA.



Trucks from the 50th Main Support Battalion on the road. File Photo.

Members of Company B 50th Main Support Battalion spent Nov. 16 and 17, driving across the state – from New Egypt to Vineland, Bordentown to Dover, Fort Dix to Woodbridge, and other locations – transporting armor and artillery equipment to National Guard units throughout the state.

Transportation company drivers were assigned, two per vehicle, to tractor trailers and 5-ton trucks to get tanks, personnel carriers and other vehicles from one site to another. Once in place, the equipment will be used for training. To keep the vehicles moving, the men and women of Company B will also be on the road with “wreckers” – the Army’s version of a tow truck – in the event of any vehicle breakdown. Mechanics and other support personnel will also be ready with their expertise.

Company B, is located in Dover, and commanded by Capt. Chad R. Thiemann. 🇺🇸



Santa Claus attends to the children of 250th Signal Battalion members during the unit's annual holiday dinner which was held at the Westfield Armory on Dec. 8. Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Stephenson, 444 MPAD.



Spc Awilda Vazquez (r) of the 50th Main Support Battalion looks on as Michael Leone (l), a retired Navy veteran who resides at the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home in Teaneck, writes down all the places he saw action during the Second World War. Guardsmen supported the holiday dinner hosted by American Legion Post 128 in Teaneck, Dec. 7. Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Stephenson, 444 MPAD.

Scholarships Available

The Retired Officers Association (TROA) is offering one-hundred \$1,000 grants. For information about eligibility, applications, and deadlines, go to www.troa.org and look for the Educational Aid button on the home page. Application is by the website only.

254th To Develop OCS Wall Of Achievement

The 254th Training Regiment is developing a OCS Wall of Achievement based on the one at Fort Benning. For more information or an application contact Lt. Col. Kenneth Schechter at (732) 974-5900.

Command Changes: 57th and 1-150th Receive New Commanders



Seven generations of Troop Commanders. (l-r) Col. Len Tharney, Col. Dennis J. Dougherty, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Pierson, Sr.; Col. William C. Lowe, Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sullivan, Col. Carlo Accardi, and Col. Charles A. Harvey, Jr. Photo by Maj. Carl Palmer, 444 MPAD.

Col. Charles A. Harvey Jr. assumed command of the 57th Troop Command, New Jersey Army National Guard from Col. Carlo J. Accardi at the National Guard Armory in Atlantic City on Oct. 6.

Col. Harvey was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Mastbaum Vocational Technical High School in

1966. He joined the New Jersey National Guard in March 1967. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Trenton State College in 1986. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant from the Officer Candidate School at the New Jersey Military Academy located in Sea Girt, N.J., in July 1978 and completed the Quartermaster Officer Basic Course. He has also completed the Quartermaster and Field Artillery Advance Officers Course, and the Command and General Staff College. He is a United States Army War College Graduate of the Class of 2002 where he earned a Master Degree in Strategic Studies.

In addition to commanding the 57th Troop Command, Colonel Harvey serves as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations. His previous assignment was as the Assistant Chief of Staff, Chief Training Branch for the HQ's State Area Command. Prior to this assignment served as the Executive Officer and Full Time supervisor of the 57th Troop Command, Headquarters State Area Command. Prior to this assignment, he was the Commander of the 119th Support Battalion. He served as the Supply Management Officer for the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for New Jersey and Company Commander Company A, 250th Supply and Transportation Battalion. ¶

Lt. Col. Robert F. Vicci assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation, located at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 at Trenton-Mercer Airport on Nov. 3.

Lt. Col. Vicci was born March 2, 1958 in Plainfield. He received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and his commission as a second lieutenant from the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., on May 27, 1981.

After attending the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course at Ft. Rucker, Ala, Lt. Col. Vicci was assigned to Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Ga., where he served as an Air Cavalry platoon leader. Lt. Col. Vicci joined the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1988 and took command of C Company, 5-117th Cavalry. Since 1995, he has been assigned to the Headquarters State Area Command where he served as administrative officer, state safety officer and the general safety officer. ¶



Lt. Col. Robert F. Vicci (left) and Col. Charles A. Harvey, Jr. (right) during the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation Change of Command Ceremony. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Veterans' Haven Founder Remembered



Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General and members of the late Lt. Col. (Ret) Steve Wilfing's family unveil a memorial to Lt. Col. Wilfing. Veterans' Haven, a transitional housing program for homeless veterans, was founded in November 1993 by Lt. Col. Wilfing. Since the start of this program, 410 homeless veterans have successfully completed the program and become productive members of society. Photo by Staff Sgt. Barb Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA.

Armory Re-Dedicated To Jersey City's Youth



On Sept. 13, Jersey City Mayor Glenn D. Cunningham (left) and Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (right), The Adjutant General, joined state and local officials in a ceremony re-dedicating the armory to the youth of Jersey City. Last June, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of Human Services, into an agreement to establish a Youth Activity Program in the Jersey City National Guard Armory. Photo by Staff Sergeant Robert W. Stephenson, 444 MPAD.

Pro Patria Award Presented



Guardsmen pose with the Governor and the TAG during the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Pro Patria Award ceremony on Nov. 26 at Drumthwacket. (l-r) Brig. Gen. (Ret) Robert S. Dutko, Sr., NJESGR Chairman; Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, Staff Sgt. James Maribo, Chief Master Sgt. Dave Obetz, 1st Lt. Tracy McGriff, Governor James E. McGreevey, Master Sgt. Michael Francis, 2nd Lt. Pamela Robinson, Spc. Michael J. Williams, and Senior Airman Peter Bach. Photo by Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA.

TAG Presents Check To Cemetery



Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (center), The Adjutant General, presents a check for \$5,600 on behalf of the members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard to members of the Cemetery Advisory Council for the Cemetery Advisory Council Memorial Fund for the purchase of trees, benches, and pavers at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery near Arnetown during the Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Last Round: 1-150th Prepares For Deployment

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



Members of the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation, Sgt. Edward Phillips (left) and Sgt. Frederick Derry (second from left), along with Sgt. Bryan Clarke (second from right) of the Delaware Army National Guard, braved the Arctic deep freeze at Fort Dix Dec. 8 and 9 to train for deployment to sunny Panama next year.

Three UH-60A Blackhawk helicopters and 45 troops will be leaving mid-January for a five-month deployment in support of Operation New Horizons. New Horizons is a nation building program that develops infrastructure - schools, clinics, roads, and bridges in Central American countries. ⚡

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