

Guardlife

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD
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Cover: Newest Citizens/Soldiers

Pfc. Raymond Elliot, D Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion takes the Oath of American Citizenship during the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Validation Ceremony at Fort Bliss's McGregor Range in New Mexico on August 22. Originally from Sierra Leone, Elliot is one of ten to receive their citizenship papers before deploying to Iraq. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA.

Inside Cover: Where are you?

A Farewell Ceremony was held for the Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Doughboy Field at Fort Dix, N.J., on June 14. Governor Jon S. Corzine, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; and other dignitaries praised the 2,850 Citizen-Soldiers as they prepared to be mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Sgt. Nicholas P. Young, JT2DC/VI.



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The face of the New Jersey National Guard

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

During each one of my visits to our troops at Fort Bliss, Texas, I was continually impressed at the level of professionalism and motivation that I witnessed in each and every one of our Soldiers. Accompanying me on one of those trips was Governor Corzine. A strong supporter of the Guard, he admitted to being overwhelmed by the spirit and positive attitudes of the young men and women he spoke with. You can't help but be moved by emotion when you are in the midst of 3,000 of our troops-focused, dedicated, training hard and getting ready to perform a difficult task in a far away land.

I want to share a very poignant observation I made while traveling to Fort Bliss to visit the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Whether aboard the New Jersey Air National Guard KC-135 which flew us

to Texas, on the ground with leadership from both the Air and Army sides of our organization, or walking among the Soldiers of the 50th, I noticed that the faces of the NJNG truly do reflect the face of New Jersey...and America. Diversity is one of the cornerstones of our military. Diversity brings a strength all its own to any organization that recognizes its benefits and embraces its culture. In the New Jersey National Guard, we have an obligation to recruit the best that our state has to offer. From every neighborhood...from every corner of the Garden State, the diverse pool of talent and patriotism that flows into the Guard helps to build a stronger, better, more adaptable force.

But we can't reach that talent through formal recruiting efforts alone. As strength continues to be a concern, I ask that each one of us become a recruiter. The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) makes it possible for Traditional and retired Guardsmen to earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit they bring into the National Guard. Some units are having "Bring a Buddy to Work" Day or other open-house style events on base. This is an excellent idea and a good way to expose friends and neighbors to the many jobs available at our armories and bases. Talk up the Guard! Many civilians are unaware of the numerous benefits that service in the National Guard brings. They are surprised to hear about college tuition assistance, good pay, retirement benefits, and the many other plusses that come with wearing the uniform.

As the 50th IBCT departs Texas bound for Kuwait and then



New battle crest: (l-r) Governor Jon S. Corzine, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Spc. Bill Addison and Col. Steven Ferrari, Commander, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, unfurl the 50th's new battle flag during the Farewell Ceremony at Doughboy Field (see pages 6-7 for story more photos). Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

Iraq, let those of us back here continue to support their families and loved ones. Whether it's through our Family Readiness Groups, Family Assistance Centers, private organizations, or just neighbor-to-neighbor contacts, please do all that you can to ease the burden of these hometown heroes. The last thing a Soldier needs on their mind in a combat zone is to worry about a leaky faucet or an unpaid bill back home.

Take a look at page nineteen. I'm serious...stop reading this message and turn to page nineteen right now. It is loaded with information to help families. Earmark that page...cut it out and stick it on your refrigerator door...I don't care what you do as long as you keep it handy for the next time you or a fellow Airman, Soldier or family member needs assistance. And keep this number where you can easily find it: **1-888-859-0352**. It's a good first stop when you're trying to get assistance and don't know exactly where to turn.

Remember that at any given point in time, there are scores of N.J. Guardsmen deployed around the world. Some are in large units like the 50th, some in smaller groups or even individually mobilized. Keep all of our deploying Soldiers and Airmen in your prayers. Keep supporting their families back here at home. And whether duty calls you to the Global War on Terrorism overseas or to a Homeland Security or Defense mission here in New Jersey, keep fighting the good fight. Together, we are an overwhelming force that can overcome any enemy...any disaster...and anything that comes our way.

Patch Ceremony

By Spc. Bill Addison, 50IBCT/PA



Pfc. Peterson Pierre-Paul, Foxtrot Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, affixes his new 50th IBCT patch in unison with his company members. Photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris, 50IBCT/PA.

“This day marks the beginning of the next chapter in the 50th Brigade’s history.”

On a sunny April 16 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Col. Steven Ferrari gazed out upon the 2,850 Soldiers under his command who make up the recently formed 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

The occasion marked Ferrari’s first chance to see his whole infantry brigade combat team in one place since its official transformation March 1 from an infantry brigade. The ceremony officially welcomed and affixed the left-shoulder patch of the 50th IBCT.

“We are now a brigade combat team united by a left-shoulder patch,” said Ferrari as he addressed the newly minted 50th IBCT Soldiers. “This left-shoulder patch is our common bond now – we stand as one.”

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard, kicked off the ceremony by patching Ferrari, who in turn proceeded to patch his brigade command sergeant major and battalion commanders.

“Today is truly historic and it’s a privilege for me to be part of it,” Rieth told the troops. “This is history and everything you do going forward is part of history.”

The National Institute of Heraldry approved the new left-shoulder patch on Jan. 22. It is a tri-colored septigon with the traditional blue, yellow and red of the brigade’s higher command, the 42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division, and is also representative of the brigade’s armor heritage. The insignia

has three stars, which represent the brigade’s heritage and as well as the brigade’s home state, New Jersey, which was the third state of the union to sign the United States Constitution. The middle reversed triangular shape also suggests the letter “V” for victory.

The patch ceremony came at the end of the IBCT’s three-week Annual Training that began March 28 and ended April 19.

Rieth congratulated Ferrari and his Soldiers for everything they’ve achieved during the process of transitioning from citizens to Soldiers.

“All of the reports I’ve gotten back about the brigade is that it wasn’t just meeting the standard, it’s exceeding standard.”

“This brigade combat team is off and running and there’s no question that whatever the nation asks of this BCT, you will fulfill the mission,” he added.



CEREMONY HONORS

50TH

By Pfc. Saul Rosa, 444MPAD



Anxiety, excitement, fear and pride could be used to describe the emotions that emerged during the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's (IBCT) Farewell Celebration held at Fort Dix on Saturday, June 14.

Family, friends and supporters gathered on Doughboy Field to honor the Soldiers deploying to Iraq.

Alexis, the 10-year old daughter of 2-113th Infantry commander Lt. Col. Mark Piterski, sang the national anthem. As she finished, a trio of F-16 fighter jets from the 177th Fighter Wing roared overhead.

"Each and every Soldier on this parade field is an American hero not because of this deployment," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, "but (because) you raised your right hand in an all-volunteer army to make a difference and protect our way of life."

Governor Jon S. Corzine spoke of the sacrifices the Soldiers have endured and focused on the sacrifices the families have made to support the Soldiers.

"Most New Jerseyans understand that this sacrifice is not yours alone that it is your loved ones," said Corzine. "To each we express our gratitude for the sacrifice that you make to make sure our troops are supported abroad."

Corzine then gave his word that the families of the Soldiers would be taken care of while they were deployed.

"It is our responsibility to stand with you while you're away serving us and our pledge is to be certain and clear that it will be there," he said.

After the ceremony the families were able to spend the rest of the day with the Soldiers. Many families had different feelings about the deployment.

"I have no worries. I'm glad for him. I think this is the best thing for him," said retired drill sergeant David Lipscomb, father of Pfc. Brian Lipscomb. "I'm confident in the training he received," he added.

"I'm very proud of him and I support him in everything he does," said Linda Menew, mother of Pfc. Shane Weddle. "I'm very positive and I hope he returns home safe," she added.

Besides family many supporters ranging from volunteers to Vietnam veterans also came to show their support.

"The Army will take care of the Soldiers while they are over there, but it is our responsibility to take care of them when they return," said Jim Ernest, a Vietnam veteran.

The supporters and families of the 50th IBCT may have different emotions about the mission the 50th IBCT will face, but one thing is certain: there is no lack of support from the people of New Jersey.



History is rewritten: 50th departs

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

In a blink of eye, they were gone.

The last group of Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team boarded the chartered airliners at McGuire Air Force Base and left New Jersey on June 25.

The Soldiers came from armories that were geographically scattered all across the state of New Jersey. Sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters and even grandparents left from 21 different armories. Truly the Guard is a community-based force.

For four days, starting on June 16 for some and as late June 22 for the others, the Soldiers were mobilized at their armories. Then, on the final day of their mobilization, they boarded buses under the tear-stained gaze of their loved ones and left for McGuire Air Force Base to leave for Fort Bliss, Texas, where they would continue their training in preparation for their nine-month tour in Iraq.

Godspeed 50th. 🇺🇸



STATE DELEGATION VISITS TROOPS

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



Governor Jon S. Corzine and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, along with a group of elected officials and employers, visited with Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from July 31 to Aug. 1 at Fort Bliss, Texas. After spending the afternoon watching the Citizen-Soldiers learn combat life saving techniques, detainee operations and vehicle rollover training, the group had dinner with the troops who were then treated to stage show by Saturday Night Live actor and New Jerseyan Joe Piscopo. The next day the group participated in a New Jersey Employed Support for the Guard and Reserve Statement of Support signing ceremony (see back cover) before returning to New Jersey. 🇺🇸



EVOLVING ROLES: WOMEN IN THE INFANTRY

By Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris, 50IBCT/PA; photo by Spc. Robert A. Posa, 444MPAD

Sgt. Kathleen Wilson took one small step several weeks ago when she joined the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's (IBCT) 2-113th Infantry Battalion.

She hopes it will one day lead to a giant leap forward for women in the military.

Wilson was transferred into the 2-113th's Bravo Company from the 250th Brigade Support Battalion as part of the 50th's efforts to integrate nearly 250 female Soldiers into units preparing for detainee operations missions in Iraq, duties normally carried out by military police.

"When you talk detainee operations, you're going to be handling male and female detainees," explained Lt. Col. Mark PETERSKI, 2-113th commander. "You need female Soldiers if they come into contact with a female Iraqi adult. An Iraqi male does not like a male Soldier searching an Iraqi female. The last thing you want to do is lose that relationship or not gain that trust."

"In our mission, it's extremely important to have female Soldiers work on our team. It's a force multiplier," he added.

When Wilson joined the team just prior to the start of pre-mobilization Annual Training at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., she wasn't sure what to expect.

"I never really heard of females coming into infantry companies before, so I was a little surprised," admitted Wilson, an X-ray technician in both military and civilian life. "I don't know why I was chosen."

The answer to that question is clear to her fellow Soldiers.

"She's really high-speed," said 1st Sgt. Ruben Rodriguez, Bravo Company first sergeant.

"She's one of the best NCOs I've had the pleasure to work with," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephane Millhollin, Bravo Company platoon sergeant, who was also recently integrated into the 2-113th. "She's a natural leader."

"You wouldn't think she's a new NCO," Millhollin added, noting that Wilson graduated the Warrior Leader Course with superior ratings in October 2007.

Despite Wilson's and the other female Soldiers' qualifications and abilities—the idea of integrating females into combat arms units has met with some opposition. Detractors claim that women cannot physically keep up with men, that inevitable romantic relationships would lead to jealousy and competition, and that women lack the "killer instincts" needed for combat arms.

Integration supporters point out that nearly 200,000 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001, and that the non-linear nature of combat in the Global War on Terrorism has already forced all Soldiers—regardless of rank, Military Occupational Specialty or gender—to become warriors.

"For the most part, the integration has gone well," PETERSKI



Sgt. Kathleen Wilson, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's 2-113th Infantry Battalion.

explained. "I think the units that have been successful have had strong female NCOs who have been mentors to the junior female enlisted Soldiers."

"Bottom line: We haven't worked with females before. It was terrifying initially," explained Sgt. 1st Class Marco Chavez. "But the males in our platoon are like big brothers now."

"They respect her rank. They've done a really good job," Millhollin said of the male Soldiers in Wilson's company. "Her knowledge and the way she demonstrates it—they respect her for that, too."

"There's a lot we can learn from the infantry guys," she continued. "They've been very helpful sharing their knowledge" "They don't treat the girls like girls," she said with a smile.

Wilson has a lot to smile about, including a chance to earn her place—and perhaps a place for future generations of women—in an ever-expanding array of units and missions.

"When I signed up in 2003, females couldn't do combat arms," Wilson explained. "Things are changing, and being a part of that is an honor."

"I'm proud that I'm able to serve," she said. 🇺🇸



RSG: THE SOLDIERS' SUPPORT

By Pfc. Saul Rosa, 444MPAD; photo by Spc. Robert A. Posa, 444MPAD

As the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) prepared to deploy, the 42nd Regional Support Group (RSG) played a critical role in easing the transition from citizen to Soldier.

The 42nd RSG is made up of the 117th Civil Support Brigade (CSB), the 50th Personnel Service Battalion (PSB), and the 50th Finance Battalion (FB).

The 117th CSB, along with the 253rd Transportation Company and the 508th Military Police Company, maintained a shuttle bus, built and guarded the Ammo Holding Area, and completed various transportation-related missions.

"Anything the Brigade asks for comes to our support office and we see if we have the available assets to move it or provide it; if we do, then we task out the 117th to move it," said Maj. Dave Majury, 42nd RSG.

To underscore that statement, the 117th CSB moved more than 1.7 million rounds, 10,000 gallons of water, and 75,000 MREs during the first half of the pre-mobilization training.

The 50th FB began the processes needed to convert inactive guard members to active status and assisted the 50th PSB with the ranges.

"Soldiers who are going overseas shouldn't have to worry about how their families are going to pay the bill," said Majury. That is why the 50th FB is important, he explained.

Finally, the 50th PSB ran the M4 ranges, an M203 range, an M9 range, a shotgun range, an M249 range, an M250



A 50th Personnel Service Battalion Soldier helps a 50th IBCT Soldier clear his gun at the M4 range.

caliber range and a hand grenade range.

"This is great training; the conditions they face are exactly what they will face overseas," he said. 🇺🇸

Boots on ground, HMMWVs ready to roll

By Pfc. Saul Rosa, 444MPAD; photo by Spc. Robert A. Posa, 444MPAD



Approximately 600 Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) attended High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) training at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. March 28 to April 19.

The course, which was conducted by the 1st Battalion, 254th Combat Arms Regiment, trained Soldiers who have had little or no experience with the HMMWV and taught the basics of both daytime and nighttime driving and vehicle maintenance.

Master Sgt. Steven J. Wollermann, 254th non-commissioned officer in charge of the training explained that the course is designed to provide the basic driver training required for units to issue Soldiers a military drivers license.

The first day consists of HMMWV training videos and classroom instruction on safety, operation and familiarization. On the second day, the Soldiers begin driving the HMMWV and study for the final exam. On the third and final day of training, Soldiers drive the HMMWV with an instructor assessing their performance and take a written exam.

"I learned a lot from the slideshows, in-classroom training, and instructors," said Pfc. Marlyn Corona, 50th Chemical Co. "I never drove a HMMWV before and I was surprised how well they handle."

Not your typical band of brothers

By Cadet Amelia Thatcher, 444MPAD

Most mothers worry about their deployed sons or daughters. For one Army mom, separation will be less of an issue – she’s deploying too.

This will be Sgt. Carmen Hernandez’s, a licensed practical nurse, second deployment to Iraq as a medic, and the first with her oldest son. Sgt. Felipe Diaz, 29, is a squad leader in his platoon, and a Paterson police officer. The two Foxtrot Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion Soldiers contribute to the growing number of family members who deploy together, and as one of the first mother-and-son “teams.”

“The hardest thing will be sitting there waiting for him to get back [from a mission],” Hernandez said.

Sometimes family members’ deployments are coincidental, but brothers and best friends often enlist and/or deploy together and most dual-military couples manage to work out arrangements with their commanders. Military families tend to have multigenerational enlistees, including two of Hernandez’s four children.

This mother-son combination is just one of several instances of close family members deploying together in the Brigade. There are five father-son pairs, 15 brothers, eight sets of brother-sisters, one pair of twin sisters and 13 married couples.

She also got married last month to Sgt. Victor Hernandez who deploys with the 1-150th Aviation (Air Assault) next year. With her son and “a lot of young kids here,” Hernandez wants to make Iraq a little more like home. She bought her own medic bag to fill with supplies for them, and is even bringing some



Sgt. Carmen Hernandez and her son, Sgt. Felipe Diaz at Fort Bliss, Texas on Aug. 1. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

pots and pans with her. But, Diaz added, “Mom said ‘when you see me cooking, don’t come over and ask for food.’”

The balancing act of being both a mother and a medic, however, is Hernandez’s greatest concern. For instance, she doesn’t want the other Soldiers to wonder who she would help first, if someone not Diaz had a worse injury, “God forbid if [someone else] gets injured with her son.”

“[Diaz] said to me, you stay in your lane, I’ll stay in mine,” Hernandez said.

FORT BLISS UPDATE



Photo left: Sgt. John Pongratz (left) watches as Pvt. Stefanie Scully, both with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, learns the proper way to perform a body search. Photo right: Pfc. Danilo Vargas takes down a “prisoner” after being sprayed with OC (pepper spray) during Detainee Operations Training at Fort Bliss, Texas. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

CLS: Training to save lives

By Pfc. Saul Rosa, 444MPAD

What do Soldiers do when the fighting is over and their buddies are wounded but there aren't any medics?

Simple: They use the skills they learned from their Combat Life Saver (CLS) course at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., which teaches every Soldier to be a combat lifesaver.

This 40-hour course is normally spread over four to five days, yet it was condensed into three days for the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

"We have to train them to the best of their ability so they can help us when the time comes."

The main skills taught are starting IVs (intravenous needles), suppressing excess blood flow from extremities with the use of tourniquets, using needle decompression to treat a collapsed lung, and maintaining airflow. The course also promotes a degree of trust and unity between combat lifesavers and combat medics.

"We have to train them to the best of their ability so they can help us when the time comes," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Cosmanic, Combat Medic and CLS instructor.

The goal of the CLS course is to have 50 percent of the 50th IBCT qualified by the summer; yet with the team of dedicated instructors and the focused CLS students of the IBCT, the goal will be reached before the end of April with 1,906 total lifesavers.

Although qualification is the announced goal, the true goal is to make every soldier confident enough to save his battle buddy if the time comes.

"I had this course before but I learned a lot of new techniques and now I feel confident in what I know," said Spc. Orlen Zambrano of B Company, 2-113th Infantry, 50th IBCT.

The certification lasts one year as the Soldiers of the 328th Military Police (MP) Company found out May 4. The 328th had to recertify in CLS because they were first certified in October 2007 and would be in Iraq when their certification expires.

"Medical care on the battlefield is essential during the golden hour, at the time a soldier is first wounded, when the care is most crucial," said 1st Sgt. Brett Eberlin, of the 328th MP and certified in CLS.

Soldiers of the 328th appreciated the skills learned in the CLS program.

"It's great for combat operations," said Spc. James Zoladz of the 328th MP "Why wouldn't you want everyone to be trained to save lives?"

Soon many of these Soldiers will be bringing more than their weapons to the fight. They will be bringing the skills to save the lives of their battle buddies; skills learned in the Combat Life Saver course.



Pvt. Antanacio Guzman, left, performs a "live" IV procedure on Pvt. Samuel Diaz during Combat Life Saver training. Both are Soldiers of Alpha Co., 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, 50th IBCT. Photo by Spc. Robert A. Posa, 444MPAD

FORT BLISS UPDATE



Combat life saver instructor Mike Arrowgood (left), along with Spc. Marlene Martinez (center) watches as Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Alston (right) inserts an IV into the arm of Sgt. Jorge Chavez (front). Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Deserting one desert for another

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA



The bright sunshine cast deep shadows along the barren desert of Fort Bliss's McGregor Range in New Mexico as the 3,000 Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team said good-bye to their mobilization station on August 22.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General along with five additional General officers lead a delegation of three dozen senior leaders who traveled to the Validation Ceremony for the brigade that includes two companies of Michigan Citizen-Soldiers.

"We are ready to move to theater, ready to perform our mission," announced Col. Steven Ferrari, brigade commander, as he addressed the nearly 3,000 Soldiers in formation. "You have built cohesiveness and combat-ready teams."

The ceremony ended weeks of training for the detainee operations mission the majority of the 50th IBCT will be doing while in Iraq.

SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR NEW SOLDIER-CITIZENS

Photo and story by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA

For ten Citizen-Soldiers the word citizen took on a whole new meaning as they received the Oath of American Citizenship just days before they headed off to defend their new nation against terrorism.

The 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team members raised their right hands during the Validation Ceremony at Fort Bliss's McGregor Range in New Mexico as Raymond P. Adams, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, El Paso Field Office Director, administered the oath.

It was only three years ago Pfc. Kenneth Adolfo left his native Philippines, joining F Co., 250th Brigade Support Battalion just 12 months after arriving in the state.

"This was the main reason I joined the military for my citizenship and finally I got it," said the 23-year college student.

Joining Aldofo in receiving their citizenship were: Sgt. Kerwin Bornell, 50th Special Troops Battalion-Trinidad-Tobago; Pfc. Jossie Cruzalegui, 50th Chemical Co.-Peru; Pfc. Donald Ward Penina, 50th Chemical Co.-Columbia; Spc. Evan Tajo, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, Philippines; Pfc. Joseph Cenesca, 250th Brigade Support Battalion-Haiti; Spc.



Oscar Llerena, 114th Infantry-Peru; Spc. Fatmata Bangura, 50th Special Troops Battalion-Sierra Leone; Spc. Gilbert Beriso, 250th Brigade Support Battalion-Philippines and Pfc. Raymond Elliot, 250th Brigade Support Battalion-Sierra Leone.

Families say good-bye to 50th

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA



Families and friends of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team shed tears, blew kisses, waved signs and ended long embraces at 21 different armories across the state between June 19 to 25 as the Soldiers headed to Fort Bliss for a one-year mobilization. Before saying goodbye they shared a meal prepared by the Family Readiness Group's before the troops went out the door. Photos clockwise starting above: Woodbridge Armory-Sgt. John Crankshaw, 444th MPAD; Jersey City and Lawrenceville-Spc. Abraham Pendon, 444th MPAD and Toms River-Spc. Robert Neill, JFHQ-NJ/PA.



In the early morning darkness outside the Teaneck armory Spc. Yiesena 'Jessie' Nunez waves goodbye to her 3-year old daughter Mariah Ramero being held up the window by her brother Edwin Nunez as the bus prepares to leave for McGuire AFB. Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA.





WING SWEEPS AWARDS

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

In an unprecedented sweep, 177th Fighter Wing Airmen won all three of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey Air Guard awards.

Recipients are judged on appearance and bearing, military background and professional knowledge, current efforts for advancement, leadership abilities and their contribution toward the improvement of unit performance and esprit-de-corps, and finally participation in civic activities.

Master Sgt. June I. Kelly who received the Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfred Z. Lea Outstanding 1st Sgt. Award commented: "It was an honor to be recognized for something I love to do."

Kelly, a 14-year veteran with the 177th, serves as the Fighter Wing, Operations Group, Operations Support Flight, the geographically separated Warren Grove Range and the 119th Fighter Squadron First Sergeant. During her career, she has served in both Operations' Enduring Freedom – at Diego Garcia – and Noble Eagle.

Master Sgt. Joseph A. Iacovone Jr. was awarded the Sgt. Maj. Harry Arbeitman Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer Award.

A 177th Security Forces Airman since 1990, Iacovone has served in Operations' Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. In Iraq, Iacovone's 13-Airmen Quick Reaction Force responded to a 2,000 pound vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) that struck an Army convoy outside the base, deterring follow on attacks and a second attack.

"It was an honor to accept this award as a representative



EANGNJ awardees (l-r) Master Sgt. June I. Kelly, Master Sgt. Joseph A. Iacovone Jr. and Senior Airman Tara M. Cullen.

of the 177th Security Forces," acknowledged Iacovone.

Rounding out the sweep, Senior Airman Tara M. Cullen was presented with the Master Sergeant John E. Bodine Junior Enlisted Award (Air National Guard).

"As a first-term Airman, it was an honor to receive this award," stated Cullen.

While serving on Iacovone's QRF team, Cullen's immediate and decisive action during the VBIED attack enabled the quick evacuation of six wounded Soldiers.

Truly an extraordinary group of Airmen. 🇺🇸

Army Guard EANGNJ Award recipients



Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfred Z. Lea Outstanding First Sergeant Award: Master Sgt. Patrick Kildea. Position: 112th Fires Battalion. "I was extremely humbled there were several extraordinary First Sergeants that all did outstanding work."



Sgt. Maj. Harry Arbeitman Outstanding NCO Award: Sgt. 1st Class Frances Rutter. Position: Recruiter, ChalleNGe program. "I always wanted to be a teacher," said Rutter, who considers herself more as a mentoring mom to the ChalleNGe Cadets.



Sgt. 1st Class Robert G. Vuinovich Outstanding Soldier Award: Spc. Kelly Crager. Position: 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, HRO Sergeant. "It was a shock. It was a little humbling. I love my troops. I love what I do."

NJNG responds to Albanian disaster

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

On March 15 a munitions depot exploded in Gerdec, which is about six miles north of Tirana, the capital of Albania.

The explosion killed 26 people, injured more than 400 people, destroyed approximately 4,000 homes and displaced at least 600 citizens from their homes. The Albanian government has compared this disaster to “Katrina” in scope for their country. The blast, which was equivalent to 1.5 kilotons and registered 3.6 on the Richter Scale, resulted in unexploded ordnance being dispersed three miles away from the blast site. It was estimated that more than one million pounds of explosives were stored on the site.

Eight days later United States European Command (EUCOM) sent a Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST) to Albania at the request of the U.S. Embassy. The team was comprised of explosive ordnance disposal, civil engineering, mortuary affairs, hazardous materials and environmental cleanup experts.

On April 3, EUCOM requested that the New Jersey National Guard send an assessment team. The team, headed by Col. Ronald Alfors, 108th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Operations; Lt. Col. Paul Novello, 108th ARW Civil Engineering Squadron and Command Sgt. Maj. William Kryscnski, Homeland Security Center of Excellence (HSCOE) recommended that European Command request NJNG Civil Emergency Management experts to support the effort.

“This was the first time European Command utilized the SPP (State Partnership Program) for a HAST mission,” stated Lt. Col. Jeanne Wessel, SPP Coordinator. “It was requested because of their knowledge of the country, its diplomatic system and military structure.”

From April 9 to May 2, Lt. Col. Wessel, Capt. Ray Sackmann, Homeland Security Plans Officer/Anti-Terrorism Officer, Joint Forces Headquarters - New Jersey (Air) and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Bouffard, Chief, Emergency Operations—HSCOE, served on the team as the Civil Emergency Management experts.

During their stay, the New Jersey team advised and assisted the Albanian Ministry of Interior-Civil Emergencies Directorate on their roles and responsibilities of acquiring and reporting damage assessment information from all other ministry sectors. They also gave recommendations on the international donor coordination processes and procedures with the Council of Ministers - Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination. The team helped the on-site commander with security issues and civilian/military response procedures. Finally, the New Jersey Guardsmen helped coordinate between the U.S. Embassy, the Albanian Ministry of Defense, and the



Chief Master Sgt. Richard Bouffard surveys the damage from the weapons depot explosion in Gerdec. Photo by Capt. Ray Sackmann, JFHQ-NJ (Air)

U.S. site remediation contractor, in the areas of security zones and the placement of the military and civilian command posts.

Currently, the Albanian Government and the U.S. Embassy are formulating a plan for the near-to-long term phases of the cleanup operation.



Kids Day at Picatinny

Picatinny Arsenal held their annual “America’s Day for Kids” picnic on August 1, but this year there were some very special guests - two bus loads of New Jersey National Guard family members celebrated as well. Children swarmed to the pool for a swim and others congregated at the trailers full of games and prizes. Photo courtesy Picatinny Public Affairs.

N.J. GUARDSMAN WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

Photo and story by Tim Hipps, FMWRC Public Affairs

FORT MYER, Va. – First Lieutenant Arthur Macaspac won his second crown in the All-Army Chess Championships on May 11-16 at the Fort Myer Community Center in Arlington, Va.

Macaspac, 34, who is assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, won 10 matches and settled for a draw in his final game to win the six-day tournament. He was scheduled to represent the Army in the 2008 Armed Forces Chess Championships June 9-13 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Macaspac also won the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command-sponsored tournament in 2006 and finished runner-up to seven-time All-Army champion Staff Sgt. Rudy Tia Jr. in 2007.

"Practice was the key to winning here," Macaspac said. Macaspac, who is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in September, also finished second in the speed-chess competition.

"Arthur is a very solid player," said runner-up Sgt. Chris Drake of Fort Bragg, N.C., whose only loss in the tournament came at the hands of Macaspac. "If you make a small mistake, he's going to take advantage of it and punish you for it."

Macaspac thought Drake played right into his game plan.

"He played passively," Macaspac said. "He could have defended a pawn, but I think he overlooked it, and then I managed to grab a pawn. Normally, if I have a pawn advantage,



1st Lt. Arthur Macaspac plays to a draw against Sgt. Darryl West of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in their final match of the 2008 All-Army Chess Championships May 16 at the Fort Myer (Va.) Community Club. Macaspac posted 10 victories and one draw to win his second All-Army crown.

I'm able to convert it to a winning game. It was just a small mistake on his part, but it was critical for me to win the game."

Drake agreed: "I made a slight error. I put my rook on the wrong square, and he punished me for it."

Macaspac said that this may be his last tournament.

"Well, it depends," he added. "We keep saying 'last year,' but because we love the game, we keep coming back." ♟

Cadets raise bar during competition

Photo by Ryan Morton, Fort Dix Public Affairs Office

Wil Donaldson (right) of the New Jersey National Guard ChalleNGe Youth Program, pushes himself to the limit during the shuttle run at the 17th Annual Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) Joint Military Service Commanders' Cup Competition hosted by Pemberton High School, JROTC on May 8 at Fort Dix.

Cadets came in from other high schools in places such as Medford, Camden, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Pa., Long Island City, N.Y., and the New Jersey National Guard's ChalleNGe Youth Program to compete in five different physical fitness events to qualify for the cup.

This competition also gives the cadets the opportunity to earn the National Fitness Award and prestigious Presidential Physical Fitness Award.

The top three finishers were Long Island City, Philadelphia Military Academy, Pa., and N.J. ChalleNGe Youth Program taking third place.



News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

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.

Federal grant available

A \$200,000 grant from the Department of Community Affairs is available for spouses of deployed or recently deployed military.

Typical awards are \$2,500 and are available for financial difficulties (such as past due rent and childcare) as well as for recreational and stress relieving activities for kids.

For more information contact Rene Mainor, Military Grant Liaison, Women's Opportunity Center, YMCA of Burlington County at 609-543-6200 Ext. 325 or by email at wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org.

Assistance for Families of Deployed Servicemembers

If you are a family member of a deployed active duty, National Guard or Reserve Soldier; Marine, Airman, or Sailor, there are several Family Assistance Centers in New Jersey that are here to assist you.

These centers can assist with Identification Cards, TRICARE and dental issues, and also provide emergency referral and assistance with financial and legal issues. Each Family Assistance Center is trained to help families get the support and information they need, as quickly as possible, while lending a sympathetic ear to those in need of one.

To contact a Family Assistance Center closest to your home in New Jersey, call the toll free number 1-888-859-0352.

Family Assistance Centers

108th Air Refueling Wing

3327 Charles Blvd.

McGuire AFB, NJ 08641

POC: Laura Forrest

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

Lawrenceville Armory

151 Eggert Crossing Road

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2897

POC: Jane Hackbarth

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

Pomona NJNG FAC

400 Langley Road

Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

POC (Air): CMSgt (Ret) Paul Gunning

paul.gunning@njatla.af.mil

POC (Army): CSM (Ret) Michael Hughes

michael.hughes@njatla.af.mil

Somerset Armory

1060 Hamilton Street

Somerset, NJ 08873

POC: John Hales

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

Toms River Armory

1200 Whitesville Road

Toms River, NJ 08753

POC: Maria Morro

maria.morro1@us.army.mil

Woodbury Armory

658 North Evergreen Avenue

Woodbury, NJ 08096

POC: Michele Daisey

michele.daisey1@us.army.mil

or call 1-888-859-0352



Guardmembers, become A Recruiting Assistant and for every person you recruit into the New Jersey Army or Air National Guard you earn \$2,000. Logon to <http://guardrecruitingassistant.com/> pick your branch of service, fill out the application and you are on your way to helping someone make a great career choice and some serious cash for yourself.



Airman's son highlighted by Tiger Woods Foundation

By Master Sgt. Greg Rudl, National Guard Bureau

POTOMAC, Md. - Though his tee shot was a little high and left, nine-year-old Jeffrey Dahl showed a lot of composure as he teed off with pro golfer Fred Couples for the ceremonial first shot at the AT&T National Golf Tournament here at the Congressional Country Club July 2.

"Amazing," he said of the experience. Amazing too was that he's only started playing the game in May, taking lessons on Fridays.

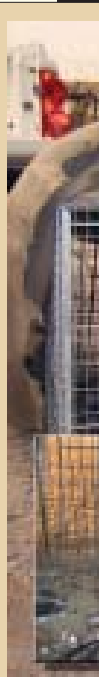
It could be the same grace under pressure that his dad, Maj. Tom Dahl, an operations officer for the 177th Fighter Wing is displaying while deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism overseas.

Jeffrey and several other children of deployed National Guard and Reserve members were invited by The Tiger Woods Foundation to be part of the tournament's opening ceremonies. The group was from "Our Military Kids," an organization that supports children of deployed and severely injured reserve personnel through grants for enrichment activities and tutoring.

When asked where his dad is, the operational security-minded youth simply said, "I can't tell you." He just hopes to play with his dad for the first time when he gets back.

Jeffrey's golf ball was hand-delivered moments earlier by a member of the 101st Airborne Division's Screaming Eagles Parachute Demonstration Team, who jumped from a D.C. Army National Guard UH-1H Iroquois helicopter high above the first hole.

-Reporting by Samantha L. Quigley, American Forces Press Service was used in this story.



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New medal recognizes service

Since 2004, New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Soldiers and Airman have performed more than 5,700 funeral honors in cemeteries throughout the state, including more than 1,900 at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In recognition for their service, a New Jersey Honor Guard Ribbon has been designed, approved and passed out of committee for a vote by the full legislature. Photo courtesy NJDMAVA/PA.

Virtual Camp

Master Sgt. Robert Cuff (left) of the Joint Training and Training Development Center located at Fort Dix, explains how to use the Virtual Convoy Operations trailer to 13 year old DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Camp member Maria Pineda on July 15. Photo by Sgt. John Crankshaw, 444 MPAD.



state medal, DARE Camp and six new senior NCOs



t Control

Airman Amanda Forbes, 108th Civil Engineering Squadron, 1st Air Refueling Wing, crouches next to a Sand Fox (see photo) she captured near Vehicle Operations at Baghdad International Airport in Iraq. Forbes' duties as an entomologist include the control of pests to reduce the spread of disease or injury from animals. Photo courtesy of the 108ARW/CE.

Outstanding Airmen

Master Sgt. Daniel Mitchell Jr. (fourth from the left), 177th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron and the Air National Guard's First Sergeant of the Year poses with the ANG's Outstanding Airmen of the Year at the U.S. Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Va., on June 18. Also pictured (l-r) Senior Airman Charity Orriss, Airman of the Year; Staff Sgt. Scott Geisser, NCO of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Donna Goodno, Senior NCO of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Rolando Garza, Honor Guard Member of the Year; and Tech. Sgt. Raquel Soto, Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith, National Guard Bureau).



Newest Sergeants Major graduates

The graduates of class of 2-08 of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, located at Fort Bliss, Texas, pose for photo. Starting from the left Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Vanderclute, Master Sgt. Lavona Toplyn, Sgt. Maj. Michael Cormier, New Jersey State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins, Command Sgt. Maj. Konrad Uldschmidt, 1st Sgt. Edgar Paulus and Sgt. Maj. Hermenegildo Devarie. Photo courtesy 1st Sgt. Edgar Paulus.

NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

New Jersey Army National Guard

To Sergeant Major (E-9):

Anthony A. Freda Jr.

To First Sergeant (E-8):

Kenneth P. Ashley
Michael L. Boone
Gary M. Davidson
John R. Hicks
Kevin E. Lewis
John Mikajlo Jr.
Edgar E. Paulus
Mark R. Rizzo

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Dean M. Baratta
Richard R. Romanski Jr.
Edward J. Szotak

To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

Ron C. Bailey
Joseph C. Bobinis
Gerard A. Cameron
Gary B. Caton
Roman M. Charczenko
David R. Copeland
Hernando Goy
Juan R. Cuéllaro
George N. Dixon
Joseph L. Donnelly
Barry H. Douglass Jr.
Stephen J. Duckers
Robert T. Freeman
Todd L. Friedman
Jerome F. Graves
Luis L. Gregorich
Jim H. Hamilton-Williams
Francis P. Koszyk
Kevin J. Makin
Jose L. Malave
John P. Meeks
James R. Monaghan
Daryl A. Morrison
Sean Ogorman
Wilson Ormaza-Carrillo
Anthony Padin
Noemi Padro
David C. Pitt
William D. Schreiber
Joseph T. Thorpe III
David W. Thurston
Joseph W. Toomey
Bruce Vega
Seron T. Verrett
Willis F. Wareham Jr.
Charles D. Whitaker
Gregory Williams
Marc D. Winans

To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Peter E. Achenbach
James O. Alston
Zachary H. D. Appleton
Ian C. Brundage
Joseph T. Buckley Jr.

Villy R. Burgos
Arvilla L. Busby
Melinda A. Cobian
Richard A. Corte
Robert M. Costanza
Robert T. Coyle Jr.
Christine Crawford
Frank Dobos
Danny Gonzalez
Jose Hernandez
Howard C. Hines
Raymond L. Ingram Jr.
Ryan J. Jimenez
Raymond E. Johnston Jr.
Stephen A. Kelly
Daniel M. Kim
Christina M. Lewis
James M. McKeon
Shawn H. Morris
Zbigniew Mroczkowski
Gregory A. Murphy
Jose O. Ortizvigio
Calvin Pierce Jr.
Adam G. Psak
Joshua Rios
Richard M. Rivera
Miguel A. Salles III
Frederick J. Scott
William J. Scott
Jason P. Tierney
Daniel R. Tinkler
Kevin J. Washington
Saso Zafirovski

To Sergeant (E-5):

Madeleine R. Avent
Craig O. Barnett
Juliet Betancourt
Charles C. Bowles V
David J. Brimmer
William J. Camp Jr.
Jorge L. Chavez
Kenneth M. Colon
Brian R. Cooper
Jose A. Cruz
John S. Cunniff Jr.
Anthony E. Darrison
John J. Day
Jon S. Doyle
Steven S. Dunston Sr.
Michael A. Esposito II
Adonis A. Francisco
Douglas A. Gentle
Joseph A. Gill
Michael D. Gilliam
Kevin M. Harms
William D. Harpe
Yomaira Henao
Carrie A. Henderson
Joseph M. Hess Jr.
Steven F. Higgins
Robin A. Johnson
Marcin Kaminski
Rafal Kaminski
Philip R. Kral
Michael R. Lahn
Ryan W. Lawton
Ethan J. Letz

Dennis B. Lukasiewicz
John T. Manna
Andy J. Marte
Arturo Martinez
Robert E. McGuire
Nathaniel R. Merejo
Randolph P. Mojica
Gene S. Moore
Michael E. Oliver
Virginia Orozco
Akinwande A. Oshodi
Erick G. Recinos
Vincent R. Roettger
Linda Romano
Daniel Romero
Saadiq M. Shakir
Lourdes L. Siverio
Kevin E. Sweeney
Douglas E. Tackach
Nenad Vuckovic
Jaime L. Walsh
Earl L. Watkins

To Corporal (E-4):

Shaun R. Elmer

To Specialist (E-4):

Carlos Abreu-Rodriguez
George C. Agathokleous
Francisco J. Alcantara
Brenda L. Alexander
David M. Allonardo Jr.
Jason J. Amer
Dwayne C. Anderson
Priscilla Arias
Kennedy A. Asare
Brian K. Atkinson
Christopher R. Atkinson
Brian H. Axelrod
Brandon E. Badilla
Steven P. Baezarias
Jehan S. Barmore
Benjamin J. Baron
Geraldo A. Bedoya
Nicholas M. Benedetti
Edward C. Bennett
Michael G. Bent
Gilbert J. Beriso
Jenna A. Betten
Randal Bisset
Paul P. Black
Quincy M. Bloxom
Jose L. Bracero Jr.
Michael G. Brennan
Ivania T. Brito
Santos B. Brito
Ryan L. Bunty
Keith M. Burkhart
Jon E. Burns
Randolph M. Camp Jr.
Matthew D. Carley
Javier A. Castaneda
Christopher J. Cellinesi
Samuel Cintron Jr.
Vannessa E. Collins
Geraldo J. Colon
Jackelyn Colon
Philip E. Connell

Louis Cosme
Justo M. Cruel Jr.
Carthaniel Crum Jr.
Adam R. Cutaiair
Mark L. Dashiak Jr.
Matthew D. Dawson
Barbara A. Delacruz
Luis A. Deleon Jr.
Gerald S. Desmond
Evan R. Dickerson
Christopher J. Endicott
Alvin Estremera

Derek J. Farrier
Adam J. Ferguson
Anthony R. Fisher
Jorge I. Flecha
Brian O. Florez
Edward A. Franco
Kevin J. Freeman
Laura J. Garcia
Mark T. Gartner
Jason L. Gavilanes
Richard M. Geronimo
Thomas J. Griffin
Speedy Guareno
Robert A. Gumina
Erk M. Hafke
Joel K. Hahn
Monique Hancock
Harold R. Hawkins
Joanne Hostos
David L. Inirio
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Steven S. Martinez
Oscar D. Martinez-Osorio
Andre M. McFarlane
Daniel J. Jr. McGrath
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Michael D. Milan
George M. Miragliuolo

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Marvin Monroig
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Yazalde A. Morgado
James E. Nelson
Quelcia Olea
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William S. Ospina
Kenny O. Oxenade
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Curvey A. Purkett Jr.
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Lamar J. Reddick
Srikanth K. Reddy
Denneisha T. Rhoden
Adam J. Rincon
Daniel Rivera
Vincent M. Rivera
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Andres D. Sanchez
Angela J. Sanchez-Pena
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Cornelius K. Stewart
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Kris L. Ware
Lee J. Whitehouse
Ralph A. Wood
Valentine C. Zdanowicz
James M. Zoladz

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Jeanphilippe Adingra
Richard W. Almonte
Carlos Alvarez
Christopher K. Alvarez
Aaron T. Ampaebeng

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William E. Arias
Thomas F. Arminio
Andres Arroyaveberrudez
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Jason A. Bacon
Christian T. Baierwalter
Johnathan J. Baker
Ismail Bangura
Alex Basile
Jeff J. Bebe
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Stephen R. Beechnox
Michael F. Bodnar
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Michael J. Bowers Jr.
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Ryan L. Brady
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Dominic A. Buckmuse III
Kristen M. Burns
Dana L. Calvo
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Mackenson Casimir
Aaron B. Casterline
Martinez C. A. Castro
Kenneth Chan
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Nicholas W. Dizenzo
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Richard A. Domewass
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Abbas Fakhrolmobasher
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Daniel J. Finkeldie
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Thomas E. Foster
Eric C. Frawley
Julian A. Garcia
Jason R. Gerard
Ronnel C. Gilkes
Robert W. Gray II
Daniel Guadalupe
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Elliot Guzman III
Rustin E. Hartman
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Portillo M. Hernandez
Sean M. Hodge
Timothy J. Horner
Christopher R. Howe Jr.
Richard D. Hurwitz
Bryan J. Inzitari

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 Martin A. Julian
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 Christopher A. Kerr
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 Andrew T. Kuppler
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 Heather A. Lidle
 Ray D. Llaverias
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 Sixto E. Lopez
 Stephanie M. Lopez
 Timothy D. Lynch
 Jacqueline J. Macko
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 Modesto R. Martinez
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 Lamont J. Mitchell
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 Olagbenga A. Odewade
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 Justin M. Rambert
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 Tanisha R. Ramsey
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 Danny Rivera
 Manuel C. Rodriguez
 Arnaldo A. Rodriguez-Ortiz
 Michael A. Rosa
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 Tyler B. Ruane
 Abraham Ruiz
 Joseph R. Salinardi
 Erika M. Sanchez
 Philip A. Serfatty
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 Gary L. Shimp Jr.
 Rohmane R. Smith

Amber R. Snyder
 Julio C. Soberal-Garcia
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 Constantine K. Toe
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 Adan L. Valentin
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 Nyonkawuo E. Walo
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 Eric S. Wieboldt
 Darnell R. Williams
 Kevin A. Wolfe
 Forrest J. Wright Jr.
 Chantharath Xumphonphakdy
 Dan R. Zanoria

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 Sergio A. Agudelo
 Juan C. Arce
 Jose Ascencio
 Jesus Barajas
 Shawn P. Baxley
 Albert A. Brander Jr.
 Adam W. A. Budman
 Erick Bulgarin
 Leigh N. Burnett
 Brandon R. Calloway
 Nathan L. Campbell
 Albert Caraballo Jr.
 Ricardo J. Centurion
 Edgardo Class
 Javier A. Colon Jr.
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 Marcus W. Davis
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 Stephen A. Debuc
 Jesus Dela-Cruz
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 Rodriguez R. Martinez
 Wilfredo Menaerazo
 Sandy J. Mendoza
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 Amanda M. Moss
 Stephen Mukoma
 Robert L. Nunez
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 Adam M. Olsson
 Andrade A. Orozco
 John G. Osorio
 Christian Osorio-Garcia
 Jason Pabon
 Victor H. Pariona
 Timothy J. Payor
 Devindra Persaud
 Jose M. Quintero
 Conan Ramirez
 Arnaldo R. Ramos
 Katelynn R. Reeves
 Jessica Reichner
 Marc N. Reinecker
 Daniel L. Reyes
 Miriam Rivera
 Emmitt T. Robinson Jr.
 Michael B. Roth
 Philip M. Rowe
 Robert R. Rozyla
 Paul J. Schober
 Michael J. Schoenhaar
 Chayanne D. Serrano
 Malik A. Shabazz II
 Bhavinkumar P. Shah
 David A. Smith IV
 Robert J. Spera
 Donald R. Steinmetz
 Daniel E. Stewart
 Kenneth R. Stinson
 Michael R. Storm
 Nicholas D. Swineford
 Seth C. Todd
 Brittany A. Toomer
 Edward J. Vanaman
 Joaquin Viera
 Sarah E. Villanueva-Maria
 Jennifer Waisempacher
 Peter D. Weiss

Emerson E. Westwood IV
 Hasan E. Wilkins
 Anthony H. Wright
 Louis W. Wright III
 Jiunn Y. Wu
 Brian J. Wunk

New Jersey Air National Guard

To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):

John J. Connors Jr.
 Timothy J. Grover
 George B. Williams III

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):

Thomas C. Allewelt
 Frank Camillo IV
 Jose A. Gonzalez
 Ray D. Harris
 Gerard Lamola
 Emil C. Martinelli Jr.
 Raymond O. Petersen
 Paul B. Thompson Jr.

To Master Sergeant (E-7):

Alex Cadavid
 Thomas R. Halle
 Rodney A. Harris Jr.
 Watson O. Joseph
 Raymond J. Joubert
 Rose M. Kopala
 Robert W. Lerner
 Daniel J. McCoy
 Julius E. Simmons
 David E. Snody

To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Kimberly S. Bersch
 Robert A. Berthold
 John A. Biscardi
 Kimberly A. Castner
 Antonio Colon, III
 Damaris D. Eggle
 Rajhun S. George
 James Gillespie, III
 David W. L. Hightower
 Markiss D. Jones
 Dorothy N. Lanthier
 Michael R. Mimler
 Todd A. Mingin
 Colleen R. Ryan
 Christian Skierski

To Staff Sergeant (E-5):

Jessica A. Armstrong
 Jeremy N. Bartram
 Tara N. Beebe
 Christopher D. Berget
 Schweitzer P. Beuns
 Dominique S. Camilien
 Erick A. Contreras
 Bjorn W. Fecher
 Jason T. Feibisch
 Ross M. Feibisch

Matthew A. Goldberg
 Carl S. Gothmann
 Nicole D. Guzman
 Valerie N. Haines
 Michelle L. Herman
 Marlene I. Hernandez
 William R. Hipple
 Kimberly A. Kaminski
 Walter R. Kienzle IV
 Andre L. Lazaro
 Patrick T. Lilly
 Robert M. Maddrey II
 Robert J. McCarty II
 David A. McDonald
 Dominique A. Mehnert
 Luis M. Mendoza
 Nathan J. Mihal
 Adam C. Mogel
 Tabitha G. Moran
 David J. Niedzwiedek
 Jason R. Pagan
 Leah I. Parkhurst
 Jeffrey H. Pearl Jr.
 Michael A. Robinson
 Jose I. Rodriguez
 Alicia K. Rogers
 Ramon A. Rosario
 Nicholas A. Schaeffer
 Gary B. Sills
 Alex A. Swenda
 Jamie A. Tonkinson

To Senior Airman (E-4):

Cortez M. Charles
 Bernard O. Cortes
 Myra I. Eberwine
 Dianna L. Jenkins
 Leonid Levin
 Justin C. Loza
 George J. Michalski III
 Deveron M. Ramcheran
 Anthony Rodriguez

To Airman First Class (E-3):

John A. Amendolia III
 David M. Amodio Jr.
 Patricia A. Arias
 Matthew R. Armitage
 George Baez
 Brett A. Bucsak
 Camilo C. Canon
 John A. Caporaso II
 Jeremy E. Cintyre
 Ernest Clayburn III
 David P. Cox Jr.
 Drew Darrow
 Glenn E. Davis Jr.
 Anthony Ditzio Jr.
 Jorge L. Echevarria Jr.
 Kelly M. Eilenberg
 Matthew J. Flores
 Gregory P. Gablin
 Robinson Gomez
 Kellyn A. Grau
 Erik J. Gustafson
 Samantha J. Hardy
 Patrick R. Ireland
 Andre J. Jackson

Ashley V. King
 Kane L. Lawlor
 Rocco D. Lazaro
 James Logan IV
 Cristina C. Lopez
 Brittany A. Lovett
 Heather L. Lucyk
 Victor J. Mangum
 Jaime A. Mazza
 Ana Mecaj
 Shantia C. Middleton
 Bryan P. North
 Daniel Ortiz
 Steven D. Patellis
 Nicole Piccolo
 Christopher J. Raine
 James T. Rice
 Richard Rios
 Brayant Rivera
 Jennifer L. Robledo
 Naomi Rodriguez
 Jamal N. Roy
 Ava M. Sachleben
 Matthew I. Sandorfi
 Matthew J. Sherer
 Mohammed A. Siddiqui
 Christopher A. Silfies
 Sean R. Smith
 Brian K. Taylor
 Latoya M. Taylor
 Matthew P. Walker Jr.
 Angelo B. Watson Jr.
 Francis E. Wulff III
 Charles A. Zingrone

To Airman (E-2):

Tatiana Cabarcas
 Stephanie Viciania

To Airman Basic (E-1):

Scott M. Allard Jr.
 Michael M. Balnis
 Jane A. Bartholomew
 Peter A. Capito
 Anthony J. Foster
 John M. Madara
 Marie E. Madara
 Christopher R. Maryniuk
 Maurissa S. Miller
 Brittney J. Nicholson
 Rashawn H. Robinson Jr.
 Dominick J. Santo-Pietro Jr.
 Thomas J. Sapio
 Thomas A. Shea
 Tiffany Valencia

Congratulations To All!

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

LAST ROUND - STATEMENT OF SUPPORT



Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team watch as New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine (seated, second from right) signs a Statement of Support during the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJESGR) trip to Fort Bliss, Texas on Aug. 1. The delegation of business and civic leaders, which was hosted by retired Col. Carmen

Venticinque, (right) New Jersey Field Committee Chairman; also included Don Nelson (left), Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Manpower and Personnel, and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (second from left), The Adjutant General of New Jersey. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

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Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
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