

Guardlife

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD



Defenders Of
The Forces

November 2006

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Guardlife

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Cover: Defensor Fortis

Staff Sergeants' Patrick Donohoe (left) and Jason Scalzi (right), both of the 177th Fighter Wing Security Forces, scan a road in Kirkuk, Iraq. Photo by Master Sgt. Joseph Iacovone Jr., 177FW/SF.

Inside Cover: Fuelin' The Angels

A 108th Air Refueling Wing KC-135E Stratotanker refuels a United States Navy Blue Angels F/A-18 Hornet during a mission somewhere over Florida. The Blue Angels, which recently participated in the Atlantic City Air Show, are the Navy's premier aerial demonstration team. Photo by Master Sgt. Ed Montalvo, 108ARW/OG.

TAG's MESSAGE - FUTURE GOALS

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

As we approach the holiday season and the start of a new year, this is good time to look at the direction the New Jersey National Guard is heading.

We have successfully completed deployments of Soldiers and Airmen in support of the Global War on Terrorism while at the same time engaged in the transformation of the Army and Air Guard. Every member of our team needs to be keenly aware of the direction our organization is heading and how we will sustain our sterling record of accomplishments.

In October, I issued my Priorities and Goals for the next two years and beyond. Everything we do should take into account the following Core Values: Integrity, Loyalty, Service before Self, Excellence and Diversity.

The trust and confidence that New Jersey and the nation have placed in us must be upheld to the highest standards. Adhering to these Core Values will continue to allow us to recruit the best and brightest to join our ranks.

Right along with the Core Values is the concern for the health, morale and well being of those wearing the uniform and their families will go a long way to keep us successful in any mission we face and enable us to retain our highly capable personnel.

These tenets of my command philosophy are the bias of my five top priorities.

STRENGTH: This is much more than a number; it is a gauge that will determine future missions and structure for our state. We need to use all the elements of sound force management to include; recruiting, retention and effective manning. The old adage that 'Everyone Is A Recruiter' is even more important today with the Guard Recruiter Assistant Program (G-RAP). My goal is meet or exceed National Guard Bureau strength targets for our state.

HOMELAND SECURITY: Except for Federal mobilization, this is the priority mission. Protecting the citizens of this State continues in the 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' tradition that is our core competency. Our relevance as military first responders will define our abilities to respond to state emergencies, natural or manmade within four to 24 hours.

READINESS and HOMELAND DEFENSE: To meet



Governor Jon S. Corzine signs a Statement of Support for the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve at Sea Girt Oct. 14. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

the needs of the nation, the organization as a whole must be ready to answer the call. Readiness is the personal responsibility of every Soldier and Airmen. Having the facilities and equipment needed to train is a responsibility of the leadership. My goal is to keep the 'Home Town team' trained to standard and equipped to respond to state or federal missions.

FUTURE MISSIONS and TRANSFORMATION: As with any change, there will be some pain before we gain a dynamic combination of capabilities to better serve the state and nation. We have moved from a 'strategic reserve' to an 'operational force' while the country is fighting the Global War on Terrorism. I ask that you remain flexible to help make this transformation as smooth as possible without any loss of mission capability.

DIVERSITY: The New Jersey National Guard must be a reflection of the population of the Garden State. We must mentor our junior enlisted and officers to ensure their future success. The goal is to have senior level NCO's and officers that match the demographics of the state.

These priorities are well within our reach, but let us not limit ourselves. Instead let us strive to exceed my goals and to be the best in everything we do.

Thank you for all you have done this year to make sure that the New Jersey National Guard is a ready, reliable and relevant force. You are the reason for our successes and the foundation of our future. 🇺🇸

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF - DEALING WITH CHANGE

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Paul M. Gunning, State Command Chief Master Sergeant for New Jersey

The end of the Cold War has had an impact on our missions here in New Jersey.

Transformation, Base Realignment and Closure actions, Future Total Force initiatives, the Quadrennial Defense Review, the Global War on Terrorism, Presidential Budget Decision 720, reduced number of air frames and recapitalization issues are changing the footprint in New Jersey.

Our joint force must adapt as the global threats change. I remember a flightline mechanic years ago from the 177th Fighter Wing who would always use the old cliché, the only thing that is constant - is change. Most of us do not like change because it threatens our way of life and takes us out of our comfort zone. It can also have far reaching ramifications for the individual, the family, the employer, and the organization. However, mission readiness for the defense of our nation is of utmost importance.

Our New Jersey National Guard senior leadership has been hard at work procuring new, relevant and 21st century missions. These are missions that come with new equipment, missions that will challenge our best and brightest with state of the art training, and missions that will place us on the battlefield or allow us to help other Americans right here on our soil during times of natural disasters or state emergencies. Missions like the Contingency Response Group for the 108th Air Refueling Wing and the Air Support Operations Squadron for the 177th could be in our future. Other possibilities could



include an intelligence mission and working jointly with the Air Mobility Warfare Center at Fort Dix. Our Army Guard brethren have accepted new missions along with new opportunities with expanded new companies in military intelligence, military police and decontamination units. When all is complete, the New Jersey National Guard will most likely be a little leaner, have significant and relevant missions, but it will require many Airmen and Soldiers to change.

As I write this article, change is happening. Everyone in the New Jersey National Guard will most likely be affected by some type of change within the next two to three

years. Whether it will be a job change, an AFSC/MOS change, a mission change, or a duty location change, we all need to be prepared. Enlisted leaders and supervisors can help tremendously with change and new career opportunities by ensuring the channels of communications are always open as we transform our force in the New Jersey National Guard.

We cannot expect to be performing the same types of missions that we did twenty years ago or flying the same aircraft year after year as the dynamics continue to change at an unprecedented pace.

I challenge you to be prepared for change and understand the necessity as we continue to protect our way of life and the United States of America.

Thanks for everything you do!

Most of us do not like change because it threatens our way of life and takes us out of our comfort zone.

It can also have far reaching ramifications for the individual, the family, the employer and the organization.

Guarding The Forces In Iraq

Story by Tech. Sgt. Paul Connors, 177FW/PA
Photos by Master Sgt. Joseph Iacovone Jr., 177FW/SF

Fire Team Leader Staff Sgt. Jack Baum (facing left) conducts security halt with team members.

A drop of sweat falls off Staff Sgt. Jason Scalzi's nose as he peers intently through a pair of binoculars down a road in Kirkuk. Staff Sgt. Patrick Donohoe crouches next to him with an M-4 Carbine equally alert. It is hot and nasty, just another typical day here in Iraq.

A thirteen-person detachment – all volunteers – from the 177th Fighter Wing (Jersey Devils) Security Forces Squadron is currently assigned to the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

“The QRF is the only mobile response team available to respond to all points on base and outside the wire when needed,” states Team Leader Master Sgt. Joseph A. Iacovone Jr. “Our responsibilities include conducting unexploded ordnance sweeps after rocket and mortar attacks, security sweeps and casualty evacuations and serving as a blocking force in the event of attacks or possible threat situations.”

The team also provides protection for civil engineering and other base personnel on missions outside of the base's perimeter. On occasion, this small group has also provided personal protection for visiting U.S. and Iraqi dignitaries.

The team's success comes from a combination of their Security Forces skills and training coupled with multiple previous deployments, as well as the extra advantage of civilian law enforcement experience. Seven members of this team are police officers.

According to Iacovone, “The majority of our QRF operations are mounted patrols consisting of several fire teams working in coordination on up-armored Humvees.” Each squad works a 12-hour shift and remains on standby during off-duty hours. Just recently two 177th Teams were sent outside the wire as part of a QRF mission to provide

security for the wing commander, who was conducting a survey of the surrounding areas outside the base. Upon their return the commander coined each team member.

“This is definitely an exciting time for me,” observes Senior Airman Walter R. Kienzle IV. “My buddies back home are sitting around bored and I am here making a difference.” Scalzi echoes that sentiment: “I consider this opportunity an honor and I am proud to be able to serve my country, protecting the freedoms of the American people.”

Home station training and recent instruction received at the Desert Warfare Center at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada prepared the Jersey Devils for their deployment to this war zone. “Since the start of this deployment my number one priority has been the safety and well being of my squad members,” says Iacovone.

When using the standard fire team configuration (four members per team equipped with an M-240B machine gun,



Senior Airman Tara Cullen (left) provides cover for Tech. Sgt. Bill Peters (right) while he updates the Base Defense Operations Center during unexploded ordnance (UXO) sweep.



The Quick Reaction Force is the only mobile response team available to respond to all points on base and outside the wire when needed.
Master Sgt. Joseph A. Iacovone Jr., QRF Team Leader



Staff Sergeants' Patrick Donohoe (left) and Jason Scalzi (right) secure a landing zone for UH-60 Army medivac helicopters.

an M-203 grenadier and an M249 SAW), each member is also equipped with an M-4 carbine and a M9 automatic pistol. Before deploying, every team member qualified on each of these weapons, ensuring that each of the 13 members can then be rotated to either fire team.

While there is a routine to security work, the serious nature of the mission means that discipline is the order of the day. Each day prior to receiving their assignments, the team reports to the armory for weapons and equipment issue. Immediately afterward, the team receives a briefing from Intelligence and stands guard mount. Information is all important and the team leaders and squad leader then prepare a detailed operations order. This is the process where the team receives its instructions concerning the upcoming missions they will be conducting. A final rehearsal or battle drill is then conducted by the entire team before leaving on their mission.

Recognizing the high level of continued performance by the Jersey Devils, local security forces leadership nominated



Staff Sgt. Shawn Reilly provides security while posted as a turret gunner during mounted patrol operations.

Senior Airman Kienzle and Donohoe for Airman and NCO of the Month, respectively, while Iacovone was nominated as the Senior NCO of the Month. Additionally, Staff Sergeants' Gabriel R. Armstrong, Kevin C. Allman Jr., Scalzi and Donohoe netted a nomination for The Best Team Award for their Fire Teams performance on the QRF. Donohoe summarizes the team's accomplishments "Being a part of this highly skilled team, I know that any task, any time, any place we will get the job done. I base this on our high level of motivation, sense of pride in our jobs and outstanding team work."

Defensor Fortis. 



Staff Sgt. Armstrong (front), Master Sgt. Iacovone (right) and Senior Airman Kienzle (left) returning from dismounted patrols along base perimeter.

Stand Down 2006

Photos and story by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVPA



Volunteers and military joined together at the North Jersey Stand Down, Sept. 9, at Essex County College in Newark and at the South Jersey Stand Down, Sept. 22, at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill to provide a 'hand up ... not a hand out' to New Jersey's homeless veterans.

The Garden State has an estimated 8,000 homeless veterans.

The Stand Down programs are designed to provide homeless veterans and their family members with access to healthcare, medical screening, information on veterans benefits, substance abuse counseling, legal and employment services, social services, vocational rehabilitation services, religious counseling, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing. The goal of the program is to bring a wide range of resources together in one location so the veteran can access the various services and recognize that the community is concerned and committed to bringing these services to them.

"Stand Down" derives its name from the military term referring to the temporary removal of exhausted combat troops from the battlefield to a safe place, for rest and recovery. Stand Down's are grass-roots, community-based intervention programs to help homeless veterans combat life on the streets.

If you are interested in volunteering for Stand Down or assisting in starting a central Jersey event in 2007, call 1-888-8NJ-VETS.



Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Jenkins, 250th Signal Battalion, cooks hamburgers for homeless veterans in a mobile kitchen at the North Jersey Stand Down in Newark on Sept. 9.



Sgt. Brian Mills, 250th Signal Battalion, hands out plates to homeless vets for a free hot lunch.



Staff Sgt. Japera Talib-Moore, 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group, checks the blood pressure of a homeless vet at the South Jersey Stand Down on Sept. 22, in Cherry Hill.

SOLDIER AND NCO OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Photos and story by Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD



Some Soldiers take Army recruiting slogans to heart, whether it's "Be All That You Can Be," "Army of One," "Army Strong" or the National Guard's "You Can".



New Jersey Army National Guard recruiters Spc. Hector Rivera (above) and Staff Sgt. Robert Freeman (left) are two such Soldiers.

Embodying all the above mantras, Rivera was named the New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier of the Year for 2006, while Freeman took the NCO of the Year title.

The competition was held at the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) on Fort Dix. Five Soldiers competed in six Common Training Tasks — Maintain an M-16 series Rifle, React to a Possible Improvised Explosive Device, Move Under Direct Fire, Perform First Aid on a Bleeding Extremity, Communicate via Tactical Radio in a Secure Net, and Navigate on the Ground — and appeared before a board.

While all the Soldiers performed well, Rivera and Freeman had what it took to edge out the competition.

"I think it came down to the board," said Freeman. "The board is your chance to sell yourself. It's really going to make or break you."

"The best event was probably land nav," said Rivera.

Both Rivera and Freeman expressed their feelings about being named Soldier and NCO of the Year.

"It makes me feel really proud. It's pretty humbling," said Freeman. "It just feels good to be recognized."

"I don't feel like NCO of the Year," he added. "I just feel like an NCO doing my job."

"It means a whole lot to me," said Rivera. "It was a very good experience," he added.

Annual Training Heads South

Photos and story by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD



Master Sgt. Michael Steck, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery demonstrates close quarter fighting techniques during weapon retention training at the Santa Fe Regional Training Institute.

These are the volunteers. Field Artillery, the recently combined Armor and Cavalry units along with Army and Air Guard medical support who volunteered to participate in Operation Jump Start in New Mexico.

From July 21 to August 10, more than 200 National Guard Soldiers directly supported the Customs and Border Protection effort to control the border region. Some did less work than they expected while others got a life lesson they will never forget.

“These guys are hard chargers. They’re here because they want to do it and we will do it as a family,” said 1st Sgt. Christopher Sheridan, 2nd Battalion, 102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance Target, Acquisition (RSTA).

The initial destination after departing the West Orange Armory was the Regional Training Institute (RTI) for the New Mexico National Guard located in Santa Fe. There the Soldiers received two full days of briefings and training designed to set the baseline of knowledge for the mission, along with equipment and radio procedures to be used in the border protection mission.

Although the circumstances requiring the use of physical force were unlikely, the Soldiers were given Army combatives training in weapon retention, ground fighting and hand-to-hand combat. They were also given the chance at “hooah” training on the rappelling wall, obstacle course and fast-rope tower. With an operational focus,

classes on the Avenger Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) system and Customs and Border Protection radio procedures rounded out the Soldiers operational knowledge of OJS.

“The curriculum is taken from the real world experiences of the instructors,” said Sgt. Brian Philipbar, Instructor, RTI Combat Arms Training Company. “Ninety percent of all fights involve the [techniques] we teach here – we assume zero knowledge of the students – the moves we teach are basic, frequently used and memorable.”

Members of the 2nd Squadron, 102nd Cavalry, were destined for Las Playas, N.M., as they transitioned from training to operations. Under the supervision of the durational force from the Arkansas Guard they received additional training, including instruction on the command laser unit (CLU) and site specific details while they spent their extended AT of three weeks in the desert.

Sgt. Darrell Grayson is looking forward to the mission. “We have just been combined with the tankers and this mission will help us come together. We want to get out there, use the Avenger FLIR and learn what we can to apply to our MOS.”

Simultaneously, elements of the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery along with G Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion arrived in Deming and began their rotations to the border alongside the Georgia Army Guard, the current durational force there. The volunteers from the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry would replace the artillery in Deming after the artillery had spent their two weeks on ground.

The power of Volunteers. 🇺🇸



Sgt. Mauricio Acosta (left) grimaces as Pfc. Lesterdan Manuyag (right) applies a collar choke he just learned during combatives training at the Santa Fe Regional Training Institute.

108TH CE DEPLOYS TO SWA

Compiled by the 108ARW/PA Office and NJDMAVA/PA



Sixteen members of the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron pose for a group photo before they deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. CE also has members deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

In fact, Tech. Sgt. Brian J. Belk was featured in a photo in the Ali Air Base, Iraq, base newspaper. According to the story, on Sep 16, the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron (ECES) received a call that power to a part of the base had been knocked out.

A team was sent to the scene and discovered that the three main power feeds had been cut by a contractor. "Most contractors would have stopped digging after hitting one

4,180-volt powerline since the explosion and sparks are very noticeable and down right scary," said Lt. Col. Richard Edwards, 407th ECES Commander. "This brave soul continued on until he hit all three lines."

After the discovery, civil engineers repaired the lines and restored power.

Edwards observed that the dedication of the Active, Guard and Reserve civil engineering Airmen demonstrated how teamwork can get the job done.



Tech. Sgt. Brian J. Belk works on a power cable after three feeder lines were cut by a contractor. Photo by Lt. Col. Roy-Alan C. Agustin, Deputy Commander, 407AEG.



Vets Visit Range

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Kilpatrick, 108th Air Refueling Wing chats with a Vineland Veterans Memorial Home resident during the annual barbecue and air show at Detachment 1, Warren Grove Training Range on Sept. 21. The event, which is hosted by the 177th Fighter Wing and 108th, was organized by Range personnel, Senior Master Sgt. Tim Donovan from the 177th and Master Sgt. Steve Sabato from the 108th. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



New CSMs Minted

State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins poses with the New Jersey graduates from the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas, which was held from June 18-30. Pictured left to right are 1st Sgt. Ronald Fisher, 254th Regiment (Combat Arms), 1st Sgt. John Humphreys, active assignment; State Command Sgt. Maj. Jenkins; Master Sgt. Joseph Tatem, Joint Force Headquarters – New Jersey; Sgt. Maj. Joseph Brennan, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Regional Support Group and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Slowinski, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery. Photo courtesy Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office.



Governor Attends Military Review

*Story by Tech. Sgt. Paul Connors, 177FW/PA
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, 444MPAD,
Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA; Tech. Sgt. Paul Connors,
177FW/PA and Staff Sgt. Joseph Donnelly, 444MPAD*



A stunningly beautiful October Saturday at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt provided the setting for the New Jersey National Guard's 23rd Annual Governor's Military Review on October 14.

This year's review was the first for Governor Jon S. Corzine since his inauguration as New Jersey's Chief Executive and Commander in Chief in January.

Participating in this year's event were units representing Army National Guard, as well as the 108th Air Refueling and 177th Fighter Wings of the New Jersey Air National Guard.

The ceremonies opened with music performed by the 63rd Army Band led by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Durinda Garrison. An airpower demonstration included a formation flyover by a 108th KC-135E Stratotanker and a 177th F-16C Fighting Falcon.

In his introductory remarks Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, acknowledged the service and sacrifice of the New Jersey National Guard: "It is because of you that today's National Guard is essential in defending our nation."

Governor Corzine, who earlier was honored by a 19 Gun Salute fired by A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, spoke of his appreciation for the continued service and sacrifices of the men and women of the New Jersey National Guard by stating "That 19-gun salute, which is pretty impressive, really is for you. It is really about us saying thank you to the 8,300 New Jersey Army and Air National Guard and their families." He reminded everyone in attendance that service is often combined with the ultimate sacrifice when he named the four New Jersey



Photos page 12 clockwise starting top left: Artillerymen from A Battery, 3rd Battalion 112th Field Artillery fire a 19 gun salute. 63rd Army Band members perform the National Anthem. NJNG Soldiers and Airmen pass before the reviewing stand. This page clockwise starting above: Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Governor Jon S. Corzine and Brig. Gen. (Ret) Kenneth Rieth review the troops. Troops pass in review. A flyover by a 108th Air Refueling Wing KC-135E Stratotanker and a 177th Fighter Wing F-16C Fighting Falcon.



Army Guardsmen killed in action during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Governor Corzine, a former United States Marine Corps Reserve Sergeant commended the assembled troops for their professionalism and continued service in defense of state and nation.

Accompanied by Maj. Gen. Rieth, Governor Corzine then reviewed the troops. The reviewing party also included Brig. Gen. (Ret) Kenneth Rieth, Commander of Troops at the original review conducted 25 years ago and Richard Clark, Chairman of the State Veterans Council. Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini served as this year's Commander of Troops.

The ceremony also included presentation of various awards and promotions to members of the state's forces. Governor Corzine presented the Purple Heart Medal to Sgt. James Alston for wounds he received while serving in Iraq.

Governor Corzine also recognized several civilian residents of the state for their outstanding support of deployed National Guard troops during the last year.

This year's ceremony also saw the deactivation of the 42nd Infantry Division's Division Support Command and the Governor presided over the casing of that unit's colors.

The traditional Pass In Review followed and included the 63rd Army Band, the 50th Brigade Combat Team, the 42nd Regional Support Group, the 57th Troop Command, Joint Forces Headquarters-New Jersey, A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery; the 108th Air Refueling Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing.

The ceremonies concluded with a final flyover by UH-60A Black Hawk helicopters from 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation (Air Assault).

NJNG FIELDS STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMO GEAR

Photos and story by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA

One area of concern for first responders to major incidents, whether terrorist or otherwise, has always been communications.

This was never more evident than one year ago when the Gulf Coast was hit by two natural disasters, Katrina and Rita. From federal agencies, including the active and reserve military, through state resources all the way down to local police, communicating effectively was a major effort.

With the National Guard on point for Homeland Security, a solution is in the works that would utilize the Guard to field a communications system, called the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability platform (JISCC). JISCC would provide a rapid-deploy communications infrastructure to support onsite command-and-control communications for the military and for local first responders whose own communications systems might be affected during a major emergency.

Maj. Jeff Brownlee, Director of Support for the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC), has been tasked with putting together a team that will field the new communications gear.

“We would be communicating with our Joint Operations Center (JOC) in New Jersey,” notes Brownlee, in explaining a typical scenario. “At the incident site we would provide interoperability for all the first responders. We can tie all their communications into one system so that fire, police, emergency management rescue, and the military could all talk to each other on different systems but all on the same network.”

The platform, which consists of four separate modules that could fit into a single Humvee, contains everything needed to communicate over varying spectrums, according to Brownlee.

“We have satellite connectivity, internet connectivity, we can do a VTC (Video Teleconferencing), and we have VHF radios that we can use at the incident site, along with FM and 800 Megahertz capability.”

New Jersey is the 18th state to roll out the new system, and training began in early October for Brownlee and his team. Plans are to be ready to respond to a major incident sometime early next year according to Brownlee.

BACKGROUND PHOTO: Two antennas and a satellite dish are part of the JISCC platform that was set up during a training exercise at Ft. Dix. **INSET PHOTO:** Sgt. 1st Class Robert Panfile, foreground, and Sgt. 1st Class Steven Katkics disassemble the antenna head at the conclusion of the exercise.



FOREIGN PRESS VISITS 108TH

Story by Senior Airman Robbie Finley, 108ARW/PA



Journalists are briefed during their visit to the 108th Air Refueling Wing. Photo courtesy 108ARW/PA.

Twenty-two journalists from 17 countries visited the 108th Air Refueling Wing Aug. 30.

The visit preceded a trip by the journalists to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where they toured the National Museum of the United States Air Force and learned more about the operations of the U.S. Air Force.

Inside the wing conference room, representatives from the 305th Air Mobility Wing, 514th Air Mobility Wing, 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Force/621st Contingency Response Wing, and the Secretary of the Air Force/Public Affairs' office, accompanied Lt. Col. Robert Doolittle, 108th

ARW Vice Commander, as each briefed the journalists on their respective missions. The floor was opened up to a question-and-answer session after each briefing, in which reporters asked questions on topics such as the KC-135E Stratotanker's ability to operate in harsh environments, and perceived public sentiments on the recent Lebanese repatriation efforts.

After a break, the journalists jumped on a bus and headed out for a tour of the 305th AMW's KC-10 Extender. There, they got to examine the plane inside and out and also conduct a couple of interviews with 305th AMW personnel. Immediately following the static display, the journalists were taken to a KC-135E for the flight to Wright-Patterson AFB.

A briefing from the Air Force Materiel Command was first up upon arrival at Wright-Patterson, followed by a tour of the Air Force Security Assistance Center. A tour of the Air Force Museum rounded out their busy day.

The next day, after a breakfast, the reporters visited the Aeronautical Systems Center and attended a lunch where they got to sit down and talk to Airmen at Wright-Patterson AFB. The Air Force Research Laboratory was their last stop at Wright-Patterson before they returned that evening.

"(The) journalists had favorable comments about the trip," said Maj. John Thomas, Foreign Press Center, in the after action report on the visit, adding, "Cooperation of all Air Force agencies and the access they were willing to provide made this trip a real success." 🇺🇸

108th Places 2nd In Tournery



The 108th Air Refueling Wing's Men's Open Softball team placed second in the 41st Annual Softball Tournament held at McGee-Tyson Air Force Base, Tenn., August 16-20. The co-ed team placed twelfth in the tournament, and the women's team, which was half 108th players and the rest from the 177th Fighter Wing, placed seventh. Photo courtesy 108ARW/PA. 🇺🇸

AIR FORCE—59 YEARS YOUNG



Senior Airman Robert Finley (left) and Tuskegee Airman Maj. (Ret) Bertram Levy (right) pose for photo during McGuire Air Force Bases' celebration of the Air Force's 59th birthday on Sept. 23. Photo by 2nd Lt. April Kelly, 108ARW/PAO. 🇺🇸

Kiowas Hitch Ride To Operation Jump Start

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVWPA;
Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olson, NJDMAVWPA



Five New Jersey National Guard OH-58 Kiowa helicopters took one last ride from their home at the Trenton Flight Facility recently under somewhat unusual circumstances. No engines growled and no rotors turned. This time the choppers were hitching their own ride down to Texas aboard a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane courtesy of the 172nd Airlift Wing of the Mississippi Air National Guard.

The East Coast choppers were being shipped to the South West border in support of Operation Jump Start, according to 1st Sgt. Jack Cipolla, of the New Jersey National Guard.

“We’re actually losing the aircraft to the Texas National Guard for the Border Patrol. In return we are getting UH-60 Blackhawks. We’re going from 16 helicopters to 30 helicopters.”

That’s because his unit, Company A, 1st Battalion, 150th Air Assault, is transitioning from general aviation support to its current mission of inserting and extracting combat troops, something he’s pretty familiar with. While deployed last year to Forward Operating Base Speicher in Iraq, Cipolla’s unit had a taste of what air assault does, and he knows the capabilities of the bigger chopper.

“I love my Blackhawks,” he notes with pride.

This isn’t the first time the unit has traded aircraft. “We did this a couple of years ago with a task force when we went down to Arkansas with Cobras, so this is good training for everybody.”

Occasionally, C-17 cargo planes will be just a tad heavy for a specific runway which prohibits turning the aircraft around, and that was the case at Trenton, where co-pilot 1st Lt. Denise Rockman and the aircraft commander used a little initiative to position themselves for loading the choppers. Rockman, describes how her plane was able to adapt its landing for the Trenton flight facility.

“We just stopped the aircraft and then did a ninety

degree backing onto this runway here using the thrust reversers and we had the loadmasters giving us directions,” Rockman explains. “We practice these maneuvers on a normal basis and we use them in real missions as well.”

Although she’s seen a lot over the past year since volunteering for active duty, it’s the first time the Iraqi Freedom veteran from the 183rd Airlift Squadron out of Jackson, Miss., has seen choppers loaded on board her aircraft.

“The other day we brought back an RV and a huge truck, which I thought was neat to see, I hadn’t seen that before. It’s neat to see these five helicopters loaded on here.”



Tight quarters for the five OH-58 Kiowas on board the C-17.

EXERCISE PREPARES NJNG FOR CRISIS

Story by Sgt. 1st Class David Moore, JFHQ-PA

If Guard Soldiers and Airmen are going to respond swiftly to meet the humanitarian and safety needs of Garden State citizens as a result of a hurricane striking the East Coast, they need to exercise personnel and equipment.

Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard huddled around computer screens at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix, to track their responses and hone their state emergency plan that focused on New Jersey in the event the governor declares a state of emergency.

According to the scenario, the National Weather Service reports Hurricane Zelda was scheduled to hit the East Coast, but weather models are unclear of the impact. It was estimated that there would be up to 20 inches of rainfall, with sustained winds that at a best case scenario were to be 80 miles per hour. High winds and coastal flooding were likely to create power outages and poor road conditions.

This was all part of a weekend-long exercise called Operation Blue Lightning. The purpose of the exercise was to track the results of the New Jersey National Guard under its new configuration of units expected to come online Oct. 1 as a result of the Guard's recent transformation, various participants in the 48-hour long exercise explained.

To ensure the Guard meets the needs of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Guard levied three major support commands and subordinate units to practice their emergency management skills at the center.

Soldiers sitting inside assigned unit designated cubicles, under the sign "All But War is Simulation," poured over maps, tracked unit personnel, vehicles and equipment assets on computer screens to ensure mission success. "If you look across the floor right now each cubicle simulates an armory, personnel, motor pool and drill floor," said Master Sgt. Karl Tomaszewski.

"As a mission is handed down to the unit from the OEM, we then track the progress of the mission on the screen.



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Katkics Jr., updates a map during Operation Blue Lightning. Photo by Spc. William Addison, 444MPAD

We can then track (for example) a vehicle and its progress to provide emergency support needed in a specific part of the state."

At the center, Maj. Robert Ryan was serving as the National Guard liaison officer, who would be assigned to the New Jersey State Police OEM operation. As the liaison officer, his role is to validate county requests for emergency support once they are received from the New Jersey State Police's OEM.

"I have to review all these requirements to ensure we can support the request. For example, a county has to exhaust all their emergency resources before they get to us. Once the request is approved by OEM, I then turn it over to the Guard's Joint Operations Center where it then begins becoming resourced," he said.

Some of the requirements Soldiers and Airmen could face during an emergency include military police support for traffic control, transportation and military equipment usage.

Future exercises will continue to test and improve the New Jersey National Guard so that when a hurricane does strike the East Coast, the state's Citizen Soldiers and Airmen will be able to swiftly meet the humanitarian and safety needs of Garden State citizens.

News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

The NJNGTP Program

Thirty-one participating state schools waive undergraduate/graduate tuition for New Jersey Army and Air National Guard members under the New Jersey National Guard Tuition (waiver) Program.

In order to participate you must remain in good standing with your unit, apply for financial aid annually (FAFSA, <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>), complete a NJDMAVA Form 621-2-R "Commander's Certification" every semester (unit issued) and comply with school policies, procedures and academic standards.

Each school has their own policies and procedures for administering the program. You must find out which office is responsible for this program and meet with a representative from that office before you register to ensure that you follow that school's policy.

For assistance, contact the Veterans Affairs Representative, the Financial Aid Office or the Registrar's Office. For a list of schools or more information go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/military/education/colleges.htm>.

FRC Offers Grants To Guard Families And Businesses

The State Family Readiness Council has established a Grant Program that will provide both Family and Business Grants to deserving New Jersey National Guard families impacted by deployment.

Business grants are up to \$5,000 and family grants \$2,500. Those interested should contact Family Assistance through the hotline at 1-888-859-0352.

More information is available by e-mail at help@njguardfamilies.com or through the Family Assistance Centers (FACs) or the Family Readiness Groups (FRGs). For a complete list of the FACs and the FRGs, turn to page 23 to find the one closest to you.



Lewis And Clark Youth

On August 13, (back row, l-r) Jillian Albrecht, Juho Cha, William Hood, Amanda Balas, Thomas Fuchs, Nicole White and (front row, l-r) Linda Ann Syers, Joseph Rinaldi, Stephanie Wallace, Amanda Sisco and Edward Sanford begin their week-long journey to North Dakota for the National Guard's Lewis and Clark Youth Rendezvous. They were part of a group of more than 500 teens chosen from every state and territory for writing an essay on what military value best describes the Lewis and Clark expedition. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ralph Cwieka, State Family Programs.

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RU READY FOR SOME FLYOVERS



With the start of football season the New Jersey Army National Guard received high visibility with several low passes. Aircrews from the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation (Air Assault) in West Trenton fly a Blackhawk UH-60 helicopter over the crowd at Rutgers University stadium in Piscataway. A pair of Blackhawks were joined by a Kiowa reconnaissance rotary aircraft for the start of the Scarlet Knights homecoming game against Ohio on Sept. 16. On the ground Army Guard recruiters talked to fans before the start of the game. Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Donnelly, 444MPAD.

INSET PHOTO shows the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation Soldiers on the sidelines at Giants Stadium as the aircrews received thunderous applause when they were introduced to the crowd near the end of the first quarter. A trio of Blackhawks thrilled the thousands of fans at the Meadowlands at the start of the Giants vs. Colts games on Sept. 10. Photo by Lt. Col. James Garcia, NJDMAVA/PAO.



SHORT ROUNDS: ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR, NEW JT2DC COMMANDER, IRAQ OUTREACH AND WELLNES FAIR



Ambassador Visits

Ambassador Aleksander Sallabanda (right), the Albanian Ambassador to the United States is presented a framed photo of his visit to the Homeland Security Center for Excellence by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey on Sept. 13. The visit laid the groundwork for the TAG's trip to Albania Sept. 24 through 29. Photo by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.



JT2DC Gets New CO

Brig. Gen. Charles A. Harvey Jr. presents Col. Anthony Formica the guidon for the National Guard Bureau's Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC), Fort Dix on Sept. 24. Formica was the former executive officer of the Center. The JT2DC formed a task force last year that traveled to New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina relief operations in a program that developed into "Neighbors helping Neighbors." Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dave Moore, JFHQ-NJ/PA.



Helping The Villages

Pfc. Martha Marchese, Delta Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, as well as other Battalion Soldiers have been actively involved with Civil Military Operations in Iraq. This operation is where Soldiers visit villages to help people with medical treatment, power supply, food and water and any other issues which need attention. Photo courtesy 250BSB.



Health And Fitness Fair Held

Sgt. 1st Class Charley Keuscher (right), C Company, 250th Signal Battalion, listens as Staff Sgt. Daniel Opperman Jr. (left), 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group explains the results of Keuscher's cholesteral test during the day-long Health and Fitness Fair held Sept. 7 at the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Fort Dix. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

SHORT ROUNDS: 4-STAR VISIT, HOMECOMING, ANGELS AND FIREFIGHTERS AND AFGHAN TRIP



Vice Chief Of Staff Visits Wing

Gen. John D.W. Corley (center), Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force visits with Tech. Sgt. Steven R. Gaskill (left) and Capt. Luz M. Aponte (right) during his trip to the 177th Fighter Wing on August 29. Corley spoke about transformation, Iraq and Afghanistan deployments and career field realignment. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



Welcome Home

Lt. Col. Aranibar Penaloza presents his daughter Virginia the Center of Influence Award during the Army Medical Detachment (AMEDD) of the New Jersey Army National Guard's Welcome Home and Freedom Salute held at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt August 20. The AMEDD members served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Sgt. Marie Exley, 444MPAD.



Firefighters Briefed

A Navy Blue Angels crew chief briefs (l-r) Technical Sergeants' Ron Wilkens and Alex Cadavid, along with Staff Sergeants' James Gillespie, Seth Van Doren (standing) and Wayne White, all 177th Fighter Wing firefighters, on the procedures for evacuating a pilot from an F-18 Hornet. This was all part of the preparations for this year's Atlantic City Air Show held on August 23. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



A Trip To Shindad

Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix members pose for a photo during a recent trip to Shindad, Afghanistan. In turret: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dario H. Marchena Jr., standing (l-r): Pfc. Albert J. Hausmann, Col. Michael V. Shute, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph P. C. Prieto; kneeling: Cpl. Juan Rodriguez and their interpreter. Task Force Soldiers are helping the Afghan government build a professional Afghan National Army. Photo courtesy Col. Michael Shute.

New Jersey National Guard

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

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Congratulations To All!

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 and Master Sgt.
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LAST ROUND - TOUCHDOWN

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, 444MPAD; photo by Lt. Col. James Garcia, NJDMAVA/PAO



The smile on Sgt. Dave Gregorowitz did not stop for days as he displays the football given to him by Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey after a touchdown. Three New Jersey Army National Guard Blackhawks flew over Giants Stadium to start the Giants versus Colts game on Sept. 10. The aircrews from the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation (Air Assault) in West Trenton were escorted back to the stadium to watch the game on the sidelines. Shockey hauled in an Eli

Manning pass for the score running out of the end zone and right to Gregorowitz, handing the helicopter crew chief the football as they hugged. Millions across the nation saw the hand off on TV as it was the premiere broadcast of Sunday Night Football on NBC. Gregorowitz's cell phone keep ringing afterwards as his friends called to say they had recorded the moment that will be remembered by this Operation Iraqi Freedom Soldier forever.

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