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GUARDLIFE



GUARDLIFE

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Cover

Memorial For The Heroes

Staff Sgt. Shawn Betten helps Ryan Duffy get closer to the Global War on Terrorism Memorial after the dedication ceremony May 28. See story on page 20. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Inside Cover

Raising The Battalion Flag

A member of the 42nd Military Police Company raises the Battalion's colors as the sun rises over an Iraqi mosque on Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit Iraq. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

TAG's Message - Our New Jersey *Inter*national Guard

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



State Command Sgt. Maj. Richard S. Adkins (left) and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (second from left) pose with members

of the 50th Main Support Battalion during the TAG's recent visit to Iraq.

Given the number of missions and the wide variety of deployment locations around the world involving members of our New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to refer to our citizen-Soldiers as members of the New Jersey International Guard. Regardless of the fact that we've had Soldiers and Airmen deploy to three continents and across the entire breadth of the United States, I want to assure each of you, and your families, that regardless of where you may deploy, or for however long, you'll always remain an important part of our New Jersey Guard family.

Together with State Command Sergeant Major Richard S. Adkins, Jr., and other members of my staff, I've had the opportunity to personally visit our deployed troops in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Italy; Germany; the Sinai; Kuwait; Turkey; and Iraq. Despite the fact that you are federally mobilized, you still remain my concern, my responsibility and you remain my Soldiers and Airmen.

And let me just say, You're all doing an outstanding job! You're making a difference and you comprise an extremely important component in our nation's national defense forces.

There is no doubt that what we're doing in this Global War Against Terrorism is absolutely critical to America's safety and security. From convoy escorts through the most dangerous areas of Iraq to serving as MP's in Germany. From flying record numbers of in-flight air refueling missions to participating in the multi-national Observer Force in the Sinai. From providing security at military installations and nuclear facilities here in New Jersey to flying air patrols in the skies over the northeast

quadrant of North America. From providing critical transportation, maintenance, and supply support on the front lines; from Guantanamo to Turkey. From Burlington to Baghdad; each and every day, you demonstrate the truly unique aspect of the citizen-soldier ...our ability to answer the call to arms...and to adapt successfully to effectively perform whatever mission we are called upon to fulfill.

Whether you're serving in Southwest Asia or somewhere in New Jersey; whether deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom or Noble Eagle; whether Army or Air, you represent New Jersey at its best. You perpetuate the rich tradition and glorious history of our New Jersey National Guard. And, most important, you continue to make us proud of your unequalled dedication, professionalism, and patriotism.

You have the full support of your families and communities back home and the full support of the entire New Jersey National Guard and the entire New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It's up to each and every one of us here at home, and each and every family member, to support our troops. They have answered the call to serve... they have courage, determination, and fortitude...but they also have hearts. Wherever they are for however long, they need to know they are appreciated, thought of, and missed. Time and geography may conspire to distance us from each other ...but nothing will ever overcome the bonds of family. I've said this before and I'll say it again ...and I'll keep saying it throughout the duration of any deployment involving our New Jersey Soldiers and Airmen..."*We are family. We will always be family.*" 

Ice Run: On The Road With The 50th MSB

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA



Convoy commander 1st Lt. Scott Nemeth (right) goes over last minute instructions with (l-r) Specialists William Thornborrow, Patrick Calandrillo and Bill Desain.

FOB SPEICHER, IRAQ - It's a run they make day in and day out, pushing much needed supplies up to other Forward Operating Bases (FOB's), but it's never a "routine" mission for members of Alpha Company, 50th Main Support Battalion, 42nd Division Support Command, New Jersey Army National Guard. Vigilance is the word of the day for all the members of the team, including 1st Lt. Scott Nemeth, and active duty Soldier attached to Alpha Company.

"They're just waiting for us to go to sleep at the wheel," notes Nemeth, referring to the insurgency that permeates his area of operation. Nemeth is the convoy commander for this particular run from one FOB to another, a trip of approximately 70 miles that snakes its way through the heart of former dictator Saddam Hussein's home district.

Rolling Thunder

This convoy, or combat logistical patrol, was comprised of seven vehicles: two gun trucks and three up-

armored humvees, which carried 50 caliber machine guns and MK 19 grenade launchers, and two tractor-trailer cabs, one hauling a refrigerated container full of ice. The goal was to get the ice up to the troops at the FOB. The problem was getting past the numerous improvised explosive devices (IED's) that might possibly be buried along the way. Earlier, Nemeth sat in on a briefing where a map overlay showed that there were approximately eight to 10 IED's that had been discovered or detonated along the route Alpha Company would be traveling, which was no surprise to him. This stretch of road is no friend to U.S. Soldiers.

"Any place that they want us to stop is a place that we don't want to stop. We want to keep going," says Nemeth. "Stopping on this road is the last thing we want to do."

Combat Logistical Patrol start times are varied, so that they don't fall into a routine. Alpha Company's vehicles left the FOB at six that morning, making good time at speeds of up to 50 miles an hour.

Running the Gauntlet

After a quick run through downtown Tikrit, the convoy moved tactically, clearing the road before them of civilian vehicles in order to drive unimpeded to its final destination. The radio squawked as members of Alpha Company spotted the numerous craters left by previous IED's. Some had been patched up but others were just holes in the ground.

The desolate countryside moved by at a fast clip as the convoy passed numerous sheep herders tending their flocks. At one point they passed a herder standing next to one of his sheep lying dead in the road, a normal occurrence in another time and place, but something to be wary of for this convoy as they pass by. IED's can come in all shapes and forms, either buried in the ground, carried in a ve-



Turret gunner Spc. Patrick Calandrillo removes his Kevlar helmet upon entering the safety of the FOB after completing the first leg of the combat logistical convoy.

Ice Run continued

hicle, or strapped to a suicide bomber. In one instance, a donkey was strapped with explosives. To members of Alpha Company, a dead sheep lying in the road could be another IED.

"This is usually a two and a half to three hour trip and we made it in a little under two hours," noted turret gunner Spc. Patrick Calandrillo as they arrived at the FOB. "We were hauling ass today."

The trailer was exchanged for an empty one and the tactical vehicles refueled for the trip home while the team members grabbed a quick meal out of MRE pouches. The Soldiers know that there is always a risk associated with traveling outside the relative security of the FOB and into the Iraqi countryside, but they understand that they are highly trained troops utilizing the latest "Level II" up-armored vehicles and they understand their mission.

"We're trying to do this hearts and minds thing where we're trying not to make everybody mad, but at the same time we've got to watch them and in some cases you've got to point your weapons at them," explains Spc. Bill Desain. "We don't want to piss anybody off but we don't want to leave anything open either."

Nemeth agrees, with one caveat. "It is their country and we're trying to help them but it is my convoy and I have a responsibility to protect my convoy and I will do that," he says with determination.

Wake-up Call

Twenty minutes into the trip back the lead truck reported a fresh crater and mounds of rubble covering the roadway ahead. Evidently some sort of explosive device had detonated since the convoy passed by about an hour earlier. This meant that the convoy would have to move off the road to go around the



Alpha Company Soldiers pause in their Level II up-armored vehicles after finishing the first leg of the combat logistical patrol to the FOB.

obstacle. The area to the side of the road could also have been mined, but the alternative of stopping the convoy and setting up a perimeter was just as dangerous. As it was, the vehicles had to slow down as they approached the obstacle.

"All convoy elements, keep moving as quick as you can," Nemeth warned over the radio. Each vehicle circumvented the obstacle. About 500 meters ahead the convoy encountered

another new crater. Again the seven vehicles were able to quickly move around the debris without incident.

After getting back up to speed, Nemeth reported the grid coordinates of the new craters to higher headquarters, where they would be recorded and would appear in the next brief.

An hour and a half later, the convoy arrived back at their home base without incident. Nemeth gathered his team around him for a quick After Action Review. The new craters were discussed.

"We tracked the ones that we passed coming in, but this was different," says Nemeth, referring to the two new holes in the highway. "There wasn't any visible evidence of another bomb for us to stick around or take accountability of. We went through, we called it in. Obviously, some stuff just blew up there. I'm not going to sit there and see if the bad guys are still around. We're not the gunners . . . we're just the delivery guys. That's exactly how we roll and let the hunters go hunting."

Mission accomplished, the Soldiers prepare for another convoy tomorrow. Although it's never "routine," it's still just another day in Iraq for members of Alpha Company, 50th Main Support Battalion, New Jersey National Guard.

Editors Note: All references to specific bases were removed for security reasons.

From The 177th CCMSgt: *Patriotism*

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Herbert Mimler, photo by Tech. Sgt. Shawn Mildren, 177FW/CF

Patriot – One who loves his country, and supports its authority and interests.

This is one definition of a patriot. How can we display patriotism? How can we bring this trait out in every Guardsman?

There are countless ways and the spectrum runs the gamut, from the flag raising on Mount Suribachi by the Marines on Iwo Jima and the firemen in the World Trade Center, to the little things someone does that go unnoticed. These unnoticed acts are just as important as those that get all of the attention. These acts are what makes the United States military what it is. In reality, we are all patriots. Patriotism is what you feel inside, you are the one who decides what is the right thing to do, when it has to be done, regardless of the inconveniences or other prevailing circumstances.

Everyone in the Guard is a volunteer. We are in the Guard because we want and choose to be. Regardless of the reasons or motivations that prompt someone to raise their right hand and swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and our respective states, Guard members made a positive decision to be part of our nation's military. That positive act, of stepping forward and telling our communities, the state and the nation that they can be counted on, makes each and every Guardsman, a patriot.

As leaders and NCOs, we need to recognize and find that little spark of patriotism and develop it to the maximum. That little spark that develops when the hero makes that decision to do what has to be done at that critical moment should not catch any senior leader or NCO by surprise. Everyone has that spark in them. Again, we just need to find it and give it the opportunity to shine!

It is human nature to want to do the right thing. Very rarely does someone do something wrong intentionally. We have to provide people with the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability. Realize their will, find it and guide them in the right direction. We can do this by leading by example, doing the right thing, and taking responsibility for our own actions. If we use all of the tools in our toolboxes to guide the people around us, we can bring out the best in



our people. By getting to know your people, you let them get to know you. This does not need to be a huge undertaking. First impressions are lasting impressions and they are the impressions that people carry with them; and in some cases, for a lifetime.

You can tell quite a bit about a person the first time you meet them. I met a young Airman the other day on a refueling mission I happened to be on, and we were both excited to be experiencing what was happening around us. I am near the end of my career and the young Airman had been a member of the ANG for just seven months. His

attitude, conduct and bearing, along with his approach to all that he was responsible for that day was admirable. I knew he had all of the potential a person needs to be a future leader in the Air National Guard. It was a genuine pleasure to be around such an enthusiastic and energetic individual. The Airman was the one I had a chance to meet, but the other Airmen on the aircraft exhibited the same professionalism that he did. Unfortunately, I did not have a chance to meet and converse with all of the other Airmen. Yet, for me, it was quite a thrill to be surrounded by younger Airmen, who are the Air National Guard's future. It made me very proud and pleased to know that we are moving forward in the right direction. And it is imperative that we let our people know that they are important, that they are appreciated and that they are doing the right thing.

People are our most valuable asset and our most important resource. As leaders, we need to insure that our newest members receive all the guidance we can provide as they embark on this most exciting time in their lives. Entering military service is like opening a novel to its first page; how it ends is determined by the content between page one and the last page. If we are to help mold a future generation of patriots, we need to be certain that each new member has all of the "content" they will need to be successful team members. We want to make sure they stay around to finish the book.

There is an old maxim that states, "actions speak louder than words." So let it be by our actions that we are judged and let it be our actions that nurtures the next generation of patriots. 🇺🇸

108th Ravens Provide Security

By Staff Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108ARW/PA

Beyond families, full-time jobs and their jobs at the 108th Security Forces Squadron, seven members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing have a busy life flying around the world providing security for AMC aircraft and crew.

These men are part of the team called Ravens that fly with AMC aircraft to locations where there is a high terrorist or criminal threat and no direct American or allied security support.

Gen. Walter Kross, former AMC Commander, implemented the Phoenix Raven Program in 1997 in the aftermath of the Khobar Towers bombing and other critical events around the world. The Raven program became an Air Force-wide program in 2004.

Senior Master Sgt. Grieg Moore, senior member of the 108th Raven team, said that the team members were some of the first people activated after 9/11 and were on active duty for two years.

Many of the senior NCOs were employed as staging managers during that time period; Moore served as one in Germany for 10 months helping to provide site security surveys for Afghanistan. Master Sgt. Dave Beun has served as staging manager in Puerto Rico for flights going to South America.

Some of the flights for which the Ravens provide security are diplomatic support with congressional delegates and diplomats, often leaving from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., going any place in the world.

Beun said the last time he counted he had been to nearly 60 countries. What makes his travels all the more interesting is that he, like the other 6 on the team, is a traditional airman. He said his civilian employer, the Mount Laurel Police Department, has been very supportive of his regular deployments around the globe. In fact the Mount Laurel Police have been doubly supportive of the 108th Ravens as a

second member of the team, Master Sgt. Michael Rakauckas is also a member of their department.

"All of our families, employers and the wing have been very supportive and understanding, which is essential for what we do," said Moore. He cited his own employer, Blockbuster, where he is the regional manager for loss prevention for four states. When

Moore returned from his two-year activation after 9/11, the company gave him a certificate thanking him for the time he spent helping to keep America safe.

According to Beun and Moore, 2-6 people are on a team for each trip and the team member can be left downrange with little guidance to perform their tasks.

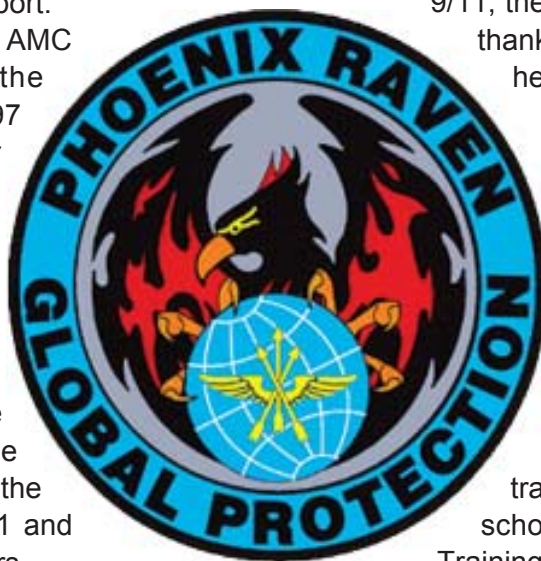
"You may have a situation with civilians where you have to negotiate out of a escalating situation," said Moore.

Once selected for Ravens training, airmen attend a two-week school at the Air Mobility Warfare Training Center, Fort Dix. Moore and

Beun agreed that the school is physical, rigorous and intellectual.

Days start with a 4-6 mile run, followed by hours of classes, then more physical training – Ravens are taught hand-to-hand combat, along with doing hundreds of push-ups every day. "There are no days off, a number of night exercises and you learn to qualify with various weapons," said Beun.

The 108th Raven team currently has four other members; all but one has a civilian job in a related field. Master Sgt. Mark Bajada is with the Dover Township Police Department, Tech. Sgt. John Bunce is a police sergeant with Florence Township and Tech. Sgt. James Hancock is a DEA agent. Senior Airman Rajhun George is the only one on the team not working full-time in law enforcement, but since he is a student, maybe time will tell what his profession will be. 🦅



NJNG Celebrates Unity Day

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



Unity Day began with a 5K Fun Run. Maj. Jesse Arnstein, 21st Civil Support Team won with a time of 18:03.

The New Jersey Army and Air National Guard celebrated Unity Day on June 9, at the National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters at Fort Dix.

The theme for Unity Day 2005 is "Share Your Heritage With Us." Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The



Numerous tables displayed a variety of materials on different cultures.

Adjutant General of New Jersey was the keynote speaker.

"The military has been at the forefront of many major social changes throughout our nation's history" stated Maj. Gen. Rieth. "Our National Guard,

New Jersey's Home Town Team, reflects America's many diverse cultures and ethnicities and truly represents all of New Jersey's many faces. Today is an opportunity to join together and celebrate the fact that regardless of where we come from, we're all proud to be Americans."

Originally the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs had sponsored a number of different heritage celebrations. Unity Day brings this wide variety of ethnic and cultural celebrations together.

The program started with a drill team demonstration by the New Jersey National Guard Challenge Youth Program Cadets, bagpiper, multi-cultural displays and a truly



New Jersey's Challenge Youth Drill Team performed for the celebrants.

unique multi-ethnic food sampling experience. Numerous displays featured African-American, Native American, Caribbean/West Indies, Filipino, German, Hispanic, Italian, Irish, Korean, Asian Pacific Islanders, Middle East and Dominican Republic cultures. Also, the Federal Women's Program, Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen, Fort Dix ACS International, N.J. Army and Air Guard Recruiting, and the 108th Special Emphasis Program Managers participated in the program. 🍴



Everyone got the opportunity to try the new foods.

Exercise Trident Fury

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Connors, 177FW/HO; Photo courtesy Canadian Air Force

In May more than 90 members of the 177th Fighter Wing journeyed from Atlantic City, N.J., to Canadian Forces Base Comox in British Columbia, Canada to participate in an international exercise that involved fighter aircraft from the United States and Canada and AWACS aircraft from NATO.

Designed as an air and sea defense exercise, Exercise Trident Fury was the largest of its kind to take place off the coast and in the airspace over Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

In addition to the various aircraft, the naval exercises included five Canadian Navy warships, five Canadian Coast Guard cutters and three ships from the U.S. Navy.

The exercise was considered a success because it allowed dissimilar aircraft to fly and fight against each other as well as against naval targets. A



A 177th F-16 shares the tarmac with a Canadian Air Force P-3. American, Canadian and NATO forces trained for both land and sea battles.

learning experience for American and Canadian units, both nations' military are already planning for additional exercises like Trident Fury in the future. 🇺🇸

177th Civil Engineers Go To War

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Connors, 177FW/HO; photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA



The 177th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) conducted a mock "mini-war" in its annual cantonment, held during the May UTA.

With a table of scenarios designed by Disaster Preparedness, the entire CE Squadron participated in various battlefield scenarios that contained real world training for personnel deploying in future AEF rotations. Eighty-two CE members received support from the 177th Security Forces Squadron (who acted as aggressors) and the 177th Services Flight, which provided the evening meal for CE as they remained overnight in their cantonment.

The exercise planners created conditions that unit members could expect to encounter while deployed to the Middle East. 🇺🇸



Infantry Returns To Jersey City

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

On April 21, the last GTMO rotation Welcome Home ceremony honored the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry in Jersey City.

The Battalion, which had just completed a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, received a triumphant welcome home. Family, friends, Jersey City Police and Fire Department members, elected officials, community members, along with fellow National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated. The event's highlight came when 40 Battalion Soldiers were reenlisted in the New Jersey Army National Guard.





If It's Tuesday, It Must Be Tikrit

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

In the next issue of *Guardlife*, you will see a number of stories about the troops of the 42nd Division Support Command (DISCOM), who are making history in Iraq as you read these words.

Through an arrangement with National Guard Bureau, I was able to follow a number of New Jersey Soldiers as they went about the business of providing support to those helping to rebuild a recently liberated, but still war-torn country.

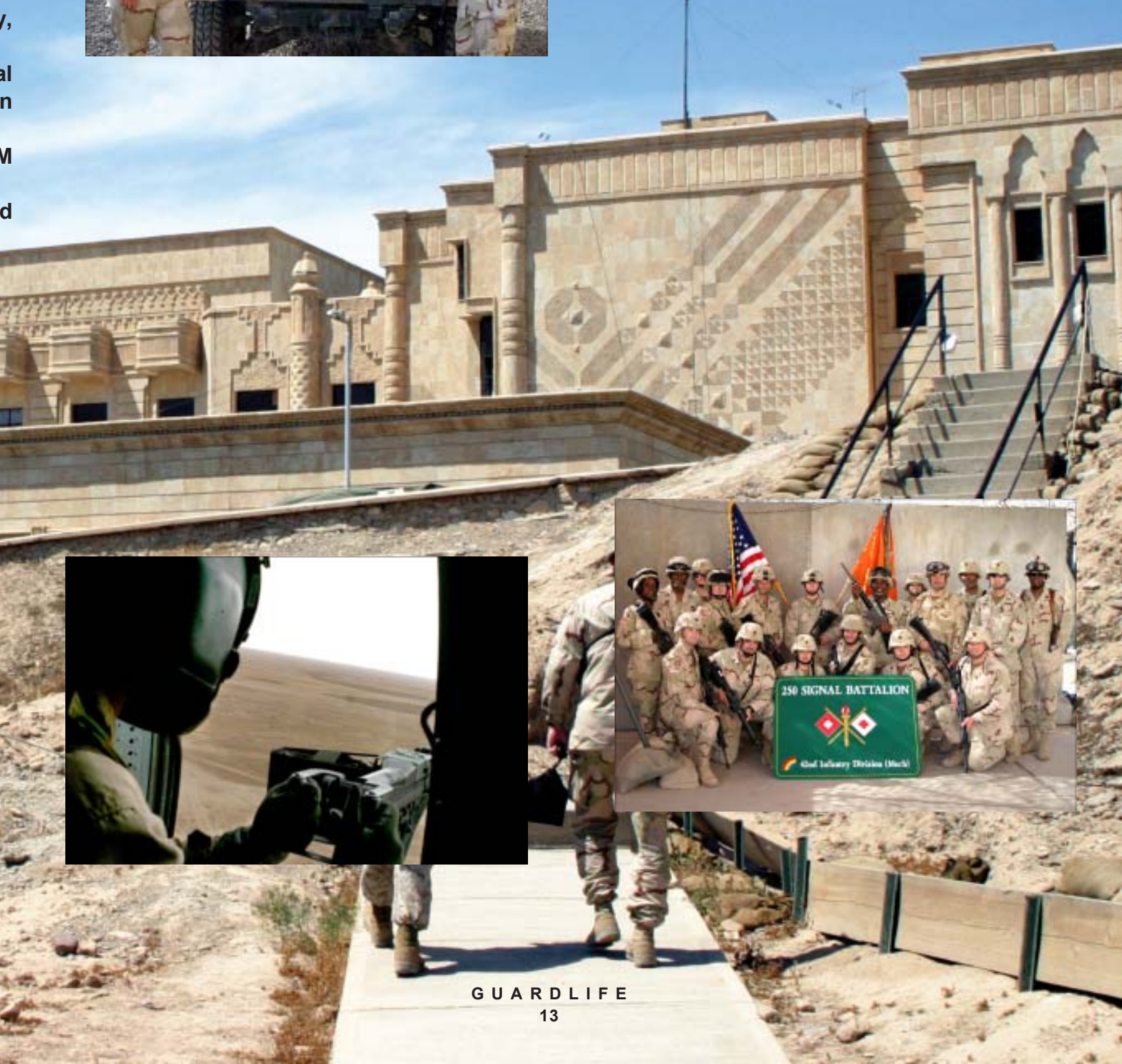
While there I enjoyed the honor of visiting the fighting men and women of New Jersey's National Guard. By commercial jetliner, C-130 Hercules propeller plane, UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, C-17 Galaxy cargo jet, Humvee, gun truck and by the boots on my feet I traveled to and around Iraq.

I saw the achievements and sacrifices made by soldiers in Camp Doha, Kuwait; Camp Victory, Forward Operating Base Danger, FOB Speicher, and FOB Warrior.

I witness the profound contributions to the Army and our nation by members of the 250th Signal Battalion, the 42nd Military Police Detachment, the 50th Main Support Battalion, the 42nd Division Support Command, 119th Corps Support Battalion and the 1-150th Aviation Support Battalion. There was no way I could tell the full story of all the dedicated men and women of the 42nd DISCOM who are making history in Iraq.

I want to thank DISCOM for all the support that they gave me and members of the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs team. Without their help these stories would not have been possible. 





Army Guard Needs More Warrant Officers

By Roman Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PA; photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

The New Jersey Army National Guard is looking for more than a few good men and women to fill 35 technical specialty and an expected six aviation vacancies in the New Jersey Army National Guard's Warrant Officer (WO) Corps.

People like the NJARNG's newest warrant officer, Patrick Daugherty. WO1 Daugherty, formerly a Sergeant First Class and the Chief Paralegal NCO in the JAG office graduated with honors from Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) at Fort Rucker, Ala, May 20. Daugherty, a Woolwich Township resident in Gloucester County is a qualified Jumpmaster and a veteran of seven years with the Army and five years with the NJARNG.

The newest Warrant Officer described WOCS as both mentally and physically challenging and the toughest four weeks of training he has experienced in his military career to include airborne training at Fort Benning and jumpmaster school at Fort Campbell.

Now back home at the JAG office at Fort Dix, the AGR Legal Administrator will be busy assisting and managing the day-to-day operations of the Army's legal office that includes the AGR Staff Judge Advocate, the Staff Judge Advocate, five attorneys, a legal administrator, and a paralegal NCO. Daugherty attributes the JAG's ever increasing work load on the large number of mobilizations and deployments and the related need for increased numbers of pre-mobilization briefings, wills, powers of attorney, family care plans; and assisting commanders and staff of the New Jersey National Guard and their families on diverse legal issues arising from mobilizations.

According to DA PAM 600-11, a WO is the highly specialized expert and trainer, who, by gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership, oper-



Chief Warrant Officer 1 Patrick Daugherty

ates, maintains, administers, and manages the Army's equipment, support activities, or technical systems for an entire career. Primary areas of WO specialties in the NJARNG include Personnel/Admin, Aviation, Quartermaster, Maintenance/Ordnance, and Signal with plans to expand in Field Artillery and Military Intelligence.

Basic appointment qualifications for WOs include: minimum GT score of 110; must meet height and weight standards of AR 600-9; be a U.S. citizen, or have entered the U.S. lawfully for permanent residence; possess or be able to obtain a secret clearance; be a

high school graduate, or pass the GED; must be able to pass an AR 40-501 Chapter 2 Appointment Physical, and must have letters of recommendation specific to the requested WO MOS from Company, Battalion, and Brigade level Commanders.

Upon approval, ALL applicants must successfully complete a weekend Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate Course at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and will have two years after Federal Recognition as a Candidate to complete WOCS at Fort Rucker. Graduates of WOCS are appointed as a WO1, and hold a conditional MOS 001A0. Rated Aviation graduates remain at Fort Rucker where they will complete flight school. Technical Service graduates return to home station, and then have two years to complete Warrant Officer Basic Course at the Proponent to become MOS qualified and retain WO status.

Soldiers that wish to pursue a warrant officer career should contact CW2 Glenn Eckenrode who was selected as the NJARNG's first full time Warrant Officer Recruiter. Chief Eckenrode can be reached via e-mail at glenn.eckenrode@us.army.mil. 

News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Program Supports Families

National Guard Bureau Family Programs recently launched the National Guard Outreach and Partnership Program.

Formed in December 2004, the program is designed to strengthen and enhance support for National Guard families and service members by building and reinforcing the capacity of resources from federal, state and local government agencies along with veteran, volunteer and private organizations.

The Program is meant to augment assistance to families and service members. The program's mission is to strengthen support services, especially for geographically-dispersed families who may not have easy access to a military installation. Logon to www.guardfamily.org for more information on the National Guard Outreach and Partnership Program.

Great Adventure Family Day

Family Day will be held at Great Adventure on Saturday Sept. 24. Tickets will be \$17 each are available at Family Assistance Centers.

Increased GI Bill Benefits For Guardmembers

All Reserve Component Soldiers supporting operations after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible for the newly created Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 1607.

The monthly education assistance allotment of \$288 has been increased to anywhere from \$401 to \$803. Soldiers who deployed are eligible as long as they remain in good standing with their units.

To apply, go to www.gibill.va.gov and enter the Chapter 1607 webpage. Complete electronic application and print out signature page. Attach a copy of your DD-214 to the signed signature page and send both to the address listed on webpage. Payments are ex-

pected to be sent as early as October 2005 and will be retroactive to your date of enrollment. Specific questions about GI Bill payments may be addressed to the VA Regional Office at 1 (888) 442-4551 or through email at the VA website.

The Joint Force Headquarters education team can be reached at 609-562-0975 Monday-Friday between 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FRC Offers Grants

The 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. The Council's website help@njguardfamilies.com can provide additional information. 

ChalleNGe Cadets Perform Community Service

The cadets of the New Jersey National Guard ChalleNGe Youth Program collectively logged more than 1,000 hours during community service week in June. The cadets worked at Cape May Point State Park assisting with the ongoing Woodland Restoration Project. In addition, they cleaned up miles of trash as a part of the N.J. Adopt-A-Highway Program. The ChalleNGe cadets conducted a massive clean up at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. Prior to Memorial Day, the cadets cleaned and prepped approximately 30,000 headstones at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle cemetery in Arneytown. Besides contributing to beautification efforts across New Jersey, ChalleNGe cadets develop an understanding and appreciation for the true spirit of service and volunteerism. Photo courtesy New Jersey ChalleNGe Program. 



Signals From The 250th

Photos and story by Capt. Joseph Pipas, 250th Signal Battalion, Iraq



As part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III and the 42nd Infantry Division's Task Force Liberty, the 250th Signal Battalion is providing the backbone of the voice and data communication network for the Division Area of Operation.

The soldiers of the 250th Signal Battalion, who usually drill one weekend per month in Westfield, Somerset and Cherry Hill, are now at places many of us cannot even pronounce. These citizen Soldiers have not only met the challenges of mobilization and deployment, but have demonstrated their professionalism, technical expertise, ingenuity and innovative approach time and time again.

As temperatures now average well above 100 degrees daily, the Soldiers of the 250th Signal Battalion have not let their guard down. These signalers continue to operate and maintain their Mobile Subscriber Equipment, while leadership at every level ensures that every Soldier gets adequate rest, drinks plenty of fluids, eats, exercises and takes time to themselves to relax and unwind.

Time is passing very quickly and before we know it, we will be back home. 🇺🇸



GUARDLIFE

Short Rounds: Generals, Jessica And Nick, DSMs And The Byrds



Col. Bell Promoted To General

Col. Steven L. Bell (center) is promoted to Brigadier General by his wife Cynthia (left) and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (right), The Adjutant General of New Jersey, in a ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville on May 1. Brig. Gen. Bell is the Assistant Adjutant General, New Jersey Army National Guard. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA. 🦋



Jessica And Nick Visit GSAB

Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey visited the 1st Battalion, 150th General Aviation Support during a USO tour in May. Pictured left to right: Spc. Heather Freeman, Spc. Juliette Bentacourt, Pfc. Mikel Ehntholt, Nick and Jessica and Spc. Candace Briggs. Photo courtesy 1-150th GSAB. 🦋



3-112 Receives DSM

Members of Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal (NJDSM) in a special ceremony held in Lawrenceville June 4. The NJDSM, New Jersey's highest military award, was originally issued in 1858 but was infrequently used until re-authorized by Governor Kean in 1988 as an appropriate way to honor all of these returning combat veterans and acknowledge the debt the state owed them for their service. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVA/PAO. 🦋



Byrds Flock Together

Sergeant Majors' Cora A. Byrd (left) and Vivian V. Byrd (right) - no relation, are serving together again at Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey. The two attended Basic Training together in December 1977. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVA/PAO. 🦋

Short Rounds: Check, Ribbon Cutting And Combat Patches



5K Nets 12K

On May 14, the 254th Combat Arms Regiment's Officer Candidate School held its First Annual Sergeant Sam Nutter Benefit 5K Run at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt. The event was held in the memory of Sgt. Sam Nutter, an Officer Candidate of Class 47 who was diagnosed with terminal cancer and passed away on Jan. 2. The event raised more than \$12,200, to be placed in a trust fund for Sgt. Nutter's three children. The amount exceeded the OCS TAG challenge by \$2,200. The run, which was created by OCS Class 48, with the assistance of various other ARNG units and local corporations, will become an annual event passed on from the senior OCS class to the junior class. To learn about next year's event log-on to www.nutterrun.org. Photo by Eric Petrevich, Senior Officer Candidate, Class 48.



Joint Family Assistance Center

On June 11, the 177th Fighter Wing held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Family Support office. Pictured (l-r) Cheryl Betten, Col. Brian Webster, Commander, 177th Fighter Wing; Congressman Frank LoBiondo, 2nd Congressional District; Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Maj. (Ret.) Joan Searfoss, Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Deputy Adjutant General and Brig. Gen. Eugene Chojnacki, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard. In addition to housing the Air Guard Family Support office the space also has an office for a Family Assistance Representative from the Army Guard making this facility the first of its kind in the state of New Jersey. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen 177FW/PA.

119th Receives COSCOM Patch In Ceremony

On April 11, Lt. Col. Sharon Tootell, Commander, 119th Corps Support Battalion, presented each Company Commander with a 1st Corps Support Command (COSCOM) patch. The combat patch will be worn by all the Soldiers as their Shoulder Sleeve Insignia For Former Wartime Service. COSCOM was formed in 1950 and serves as the Support Command for the 18th Airborne Corps.

"When the country called on its military to fight for freedom, 1st COSCOM Soldiers have been ready to make the ultimate sacrifice to insure freedom's ring is heard all over the world," stated Lt. Col. Tootell. The 119th CSB is now a part of this proud heritage. Photo courtesy 119th Corps Support Battalion.



Army And Air Enlisted Promotions

Master Sgt. Daniel J. Calderale (Army) and Master Sgt. Paul B. Thompson, Jr. (Air)

New Jersey Army National Guard

To Sergeant Major (E-9)

Vivian B. Byrd

To Master Sergeant (E-8)

Michael A. Iskander

To Sergeant First Class (E-7)

*Donald L. Bennett Jr.
Julio C. Borgono
Johnny McDaniel
Geraldine McDaniels
James A. Rebenski
Erinn D. Watkins*

To Staff Sergeant (E-6)

*Michael Alvarado
Carlos R. Ayala
Roy E. Badillofierovich
Anthony G. Delitta
Robert A. Dollaway
James J. Duda
Todd L. Friedman
Christopher D. Jaeger
George R. Kaschak
Kevin A. Kauffman
Richard G. Loftus
Clifford F. McNally Jr.
Mark D. Minisi Jr.
Daniel Miskowsky Jr.
Hector L. Rivera
Jose S. Tassialvarez
Louis E. Tuck
Thomas R. Weaver
Rachelle White*

To Sergeant (E-5)

*Boris Arias
Michael J. Bariso
Gary P. Barwick
William H. Beldock, III
Ernest A. Benjamin
Anilkumar D. Domadia
Scott E. Dromgoole
Mark J. Fischer
Jeremiah J.
Goldsworthy
Pablo Gonzalez
Wendy L. Guevara
Jim H. Hamilton-
Williams
Sung Ho Han
Daniel R. Hensel
Joseph G. Hoffman
Jaime I. Jimenez
Ryan J. Jimenez
John K. Kinyon
Donald W. Little, II
Elizabeth Lopez
Christopher S. O'Brien
Gerald R. O'rourke
Alvaro S. Rodriguez
Matthew Rutch
Shawn P. Scott
Nathaniel Simmons Jr.
Michael D. Small Jr.
Howard J. Smith
Jennifer Terranova
Jason P. Tierney
Erik D. Widland
Gregory T. Williams*

**REMEMBER,
EVERYONE
IS A
RECRUITER.**

New Jersey Air National Guard

To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9)

*Thomas M. Dickson
Donald Martenz*

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)

Paul R. St. Pierre

To Master Sergeant (E-7)

*William W. Barnes
Luis R. Collazo-
Morales
Jason L. Gioconda
Jose A. Gonzalez
Jorge A. Narvaez
Allison J. Phillips
Richard N. Saccone
Garth D. St. Germain
Dominic Tedesco, II
John C. White*

To Technical Sergeant (E-6)

*Gary D. Benson
Robert J. Fishman,
Rodney A. Harris, Jr.
Byron B. Jaramuzchett
Matthew J. Johnson
Milton F. Lecompte, Jr.
Michael McDuffie
Leonard J. Simmons*

To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

*Gabriel R. Armstrong
Nelson R. L. Brown
Ryan M. Butcher
Antonio Colon, III*

*Sonny R. Dagostino
James Gillespie, III
Lori K. Green
Kimberly R. Hall
Lakisha D. Meniffee
Alfonso R. Mitchellrios
Robert E. Sheets
Joseph A. Valentine*

To Senior Airman (E-4)

*Erick A. Contreras
Jessica A. Craig
Nicole D. Guzman
Gretchen L. Hayes
Andre L. Lazaro
Patrick T. Lilly
Benjamin J. Shamy*

To Airman 1st Class (E-3)

*Christopher A.
Hotchkin
Jeanie M. Hubbard
Andrew J. Kohlbecker
Andrey Plaxin*

To Airman Basic (E-2)

*Laura A. Bello
Nicole E. Del Valle
John S. Fernandez
Cody R. Martin
Frankie A. Perez
Nicholas A. Loglisci*

**Congratulations
To All**

Last Round: GWOT Memorial Dedicated



On May 28, a ceremony took place on the grounds of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Global War on Terrorism Memorial honored four members of Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery who were killed in action in Iraq in June 2004: Staff Sgt. Frank Carvill of Carlstadt; Staff Sgt. Umberto Timoteo of Newark; Sgt. Ryan Doltz of Mine Hill; and Spc. Christopher Duffy of Brick.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey stated, "It is most fitting and appropriate that we all come together to honor the service, sacrifice, and the sacred memories of these four brave soldiers on this, the first official observance of Memorial Day since their loss." Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

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