

NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 19, 2015



Leadership, not gender

Story by Spc. Devon Bistarkey
Photo by Staff Sgt. Devlin Drew
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



In a month that celebrates women's history, Command Sgt. Maj. Paula M. Cantara reaches her 32 year service mark.

Currently the top senior enlisted female in the state, Cantara has seen women's role in the military evolve during her accomplished career.

"Coming up in the organization, females hit master sergeant and stopped," said Cantara, "Now that glass ceiling is lifted and females have the potential to be recognized."

Cantara is the second woman to reach sergeant major in the New Jersey National Guard.

The rank, she says, should not be dictated by gender, but by a Soldier's ability to lead.

"When I put on this uniform I am not a female, I am a Soldier," Cantara said, "We all have the same requirements, we have to pass physical training and we all have to be proficient in our military occupational specialty."

The command sergeant major recognizes the unique position she holds as the

State's highest enlisted female who serves as an administrator, an advisor for training, and a mentor in charge of the National Guard Joint Training and Training Development Center at Joint Base McGuire-

**IF I SEE SOMEONE
WITH POTENTIAL,
I WILL STEER
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RIGHT
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Command Sgt. Maj.
Paula M. Cantara

Lakehurst- Dix. The key to her success starts from taking a genuine interest in her soldiers. Cantara has a reputation for being the type of leader who demands honesty

from her soldiers in exchange for them receiving the in best training and mentorship.

"If I see someone with potential, I will steer them in the right direction," said Cantara, who encourages her soldiers to be ambitious enough to do their best.

With a major upcoming training exercise involving various outside agencies including State Police, DEA and Reserve and National Guard Cantara stays engaged with soldiers on snowy ranges qualifying their weapons.

Cantara sees her role as paving the road for future female enlisted leaders.

Her message to Soldiers is always this: "Never say 'I won't be in that position.' If I can make it, you can make it."

Cover photo

Soldiers from 328th Military Police Company perform fire and maneuver exercises at the urban operations site at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., March 20, 2015. The Company is deploying to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, later this month. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

RODEO EMPHASIZES RELYING ON YOUR WINGMAN

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



Airmen from the 108th Wing check each other to ensure their mission-oriented protective posture gear is on correctly.

The rodeo is back in town.

Airmen are spread across the hangar floor adjusting their M50 Joint Service General Purpose gas masks, zipping up their Mission-Oriented Protective Posture gear, tugging on boots and pulling on protective gloves.

It's organized chaos.

It is also a great example of the buddy system in action.

During the Wing's annual Warrior Week, the 108th Global Mobility Squadron's hangar was turned into an oversized open classroom for the Expeditionary Skills Rodeo. On one side, Airmen were trained with their MOPP gear; on the other side, the chaos is traded for tables in a more traditional classroom environment. Members of the Wing's Medical Group refreshed a group of Airmen's emergency medical skills.

It's all about re-familiarization with the wearing of the MOPP suit and mask, self-aid and buddy care, as well as a host of other skills.

The Rodeo also covered Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Awareness;

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Defense Awareness Course; CBRNE Defense Survival Skills, Training for Deploying Warfighters and Law of Armed Conflict.

"It gets us in line with NGB's (National Guard Bureau's) new ancillary



Airmen from the 108th Wing, practice self-aid buddy care skills during the Wing's Expeditionary Skills Rodeo March 6, 2015.

training program that basically streamlines our computer-based training and our hands-on training fundamentals," said Master Sgt. Amanda L. Marotta, Emergency Management Superintendent, Readiness and Emergency Management

Flight, 108th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Each Airman ensures that their wingman's gas mask is on correctly, the MOPP suit's hood properly covers the gas mask; the boots that look like oversized winter children's boots, are pulled over the combat boots and that the entire MOPP ensemble is properly sealed.

Each Airman is a second set of eyes during the training.

This critical training and its curriculums are tested and evaluated through exercises and inspections. These skills are the necessary foundation for all Airmen to work effectively in a hostile combat environment.

In a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear environment, each Airman's life will depend it.

And despite the heavy snowstorm, more than 340 Airmen completed the training.

"For me as an instructor, the more practice we get in with this skill set, the better prepared we are for a real world experience, as well as our overall readiness," said Marotta.

108th dominates NJANG Airman of the Year competition

Story by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen and photos by Tech. Sgt. Carl Clegg, 108th Wing Public Affairs

The 108th Wing has swept the New Jersey Air National Guard's Airman of the Year competition.

Security Force's Master Sgt. Olivia M. McMahon and Global Mobility Squadron's Senior Airman Thomas A. Shea respectively claimed the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer and Airman of the Year slots in this year's contest.

"McMahon and Shea are great examples of the dynamic, quality people that serve in the 108th," said Wing Commander Col. Robert A. Meyer Jr.

Both McMahon and Shea are traditional Guardsmen.

As the state's winners, McMahon and Shea will go on to compete at the national level against the best of the other states and territories. Should they win, they will then compete directly against their active duty and reserve counterparts.

Both Airmen have strong deployment backgrounds.

McMahon served as a security forces advisor at the Kandahar Air Wing in Afghanistan. While there, she directed the personal security for the group and wing commanders, as well as the NATO and Afghan Air Force leaders at the base. In addition, McMahon led 28 outside-the-wire-missions, leaving the safer confines of the base and going into enemy-held territory. She also synchronized the Fly Away Security Teams outside the wire missions. FAST teams are required to fly on specific missions when a location requires an extra measure of security to ensure the aircraft and crew are protected from hostile fire or on-board security breaches.

According to her commander, Lt. Col. Brian Griefer, McMahon is a "hard charging senior NCO" who "epitomizes the Air Force core values".

"She is driven to excellence," said Chief Master Sgt. Lance C. Endee, 108th Security Forces Manager. "She is constantly moving forward."

Shea deployed as an aerial port team chief to one of the busiest Department of Defense ports – Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. As a port chief, he was responsible for ensuring that supplies arrived when needed. This was especially critical in the case where supplies needed to be airlifted to remote and in some cases, isolated forward operating bases. During his tour in



Afghanistan, he deployed to the United States Marine Corps forward operating base, Camp Dwyer, located in the Helmand River Valley.

His commander, Lt. Col. Richard E. Friendly, describes Shea as "mission oriented" and "the first to volunteer to deploy".

Both Airmen had significant personal accomplishments.

Shea graduated from Rutgers University with bachelor's degree in psychology with a 3.49 GPA. Using those skills, he develops individualized learning plans for children.

McMahon was chosen by the National Guard Bureau as the top senior NCO in Security Forces for the entire Air National Guard.



Both McMahon and Shea are heavily involved in their communities. McMahon is a Long Island police officer and participates in the Murph Challenge – named after Long Island resident and Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Michael Patrick Murphy – that supports the LT Michael P. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

Shea provides mentorship and support to troubled youth for the Papa Ganache Project. In 2014, he helped more than 250 young people. He is a participant in the Colon Cancer Alliance Undy Run, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society-New Jersey Metro Walk, Toys for Tots and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

New Jersey is definitely well represented in this year's competition.

Curry chosen as AC's Top 40 Under 40

By Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs



Sgt. 1st Class LeVar Curry, Recruiting and Retention Command, was recognized as one of Atlantic City's Top 40 Under 40 for his volunteer community service assisting the homeless, teaching the value of health and fitness to young men and women and supporting various benefit programs.

The ceremony was held at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City, March. 13, 2015.

Atlantic City's Top 40 Under 40 is sponsored by the Greater Atlantic City Jaycees and the Atlantic City Weekly to recognize community-oriented leaders for their volunteerism, entrepreneurship and hard work.

Curry involves his Soldiers in community service projects including feeding the homeless at Sister Jean's Kitchen, organizing food for donation at the Egg Harbor Township Food Bank by collecting clothes to donate for the Atlantic City rescue mission. In addition, he has been teaching students the value of health and fitness in Atlantic County for more than 12 years.

Curry, who has served for more than 20 years, has been a recruiter for 12 years and was the top N.J. Army National Guard recruiter for 2013.

He has done Zumbathon events to raise money for the American Children's Liver Foundation and Atlantic County Special Service's School. Curry started a child development associate scholarship fund in honor of his mother to support early childhood education students at Atlantic Cape Community College. He is a volunteer who teaches fitness for S.H.E. (Strong, Heroic and Empowered) Inspire, which mentors young girls in Pleasantville, as well as for the Gilda's Club of South Jersey supporting families of cancer patients.

Curry credits his success to his wife Kelly and their three children Damon, Halle and Levi.



UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

DMAVA IASD Section

101 Eggerts Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Mar. 18: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Monmouth County Library

Eastern Branch

1001 Route 35
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

Mar. 19: 11am-2pm

POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Mount Laurel Library

100 Walt Whitman Avenue
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Mar. 20: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly)

POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

177th Fighter Wing

Building 229, 400 Langley Road
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

Mar. 26: 12 – 4 p.m.

POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

AAFES (storefront)

Coast Guard Base
Cape May Training Center
Cape May, NJ 08204

Mar. 23: 12 – 3 p.m.

POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Monmouth County Library

Eastern Branch

1001 Route 35
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

Mar. 19: 11am-2pm

POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Military & Family Support Center

Lakehurst NAS, Highway 547
Building 488 Walsh Road

Lakehurst, NJ 08733

Mar. 26: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Newark Armory

120 Roseville Avenue
Newark, NJ 07107

Mar. 25: 12 – 5 p.m.

POC: Darrel Hutchinson
(646) 354-0126

NWS Earle

201 Highway 34 South
Building C29
Colts Neck, NJ 07722

Mar. 25: 10am-2pm

POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Jersey City Armory

678 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Mar. 26: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

POC: Darrel Hutchinson
(646) 354-0126

Army Community Service

Building 119

Dover NJ 07806

Mar. 24: 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

POC: Darrel Hutchinson
(646) 354-0126

Newark Armory

120 Roseville Avenue
Newark, NJ 07107

Mar. 18 & 25: 12 – 5 p.m.

POC: Darrel Hutchinson
(646) 354-0126

Camden County Veterans Affairs

3 Collier Dr. Lakeland Complex
Blackwood, NJ 08012

Mar. 23: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly)

POC: Wil Acosta, (646) 300-1312

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

PO Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or www.state.nj.us/military



Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs (609-530-7062)
Laura Branham, Executive Secretarial Assistant (609-530-7045)
Chuck Robbins, Assistant to DCVA/Outreach Coordinator (609-530-6855)

Fax: 609-530-7191

Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

Brigadier General Steven Ferrari, Director
609-530-6967
Donna Myers, Sec
609-530-6766
Ernie Razzano, Health Professions Recruiter
609-530-6767
Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator
609-530-6979
Vacant, Admin Analyst
609-530-6940
Fax: 609-530-6970

Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home
Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO
Jennifer Pajak, Sec
132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013
Edison, NJ 08818-3013
732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016

Paramus Veterans Memorial Home
Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO
Diane Callaghan, Sec
1 Veterans Drive
Paramus, NJ 07652
201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home
Boris Reissek, CEO
Sharon Davis, Sec
524 North West Boulevard
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895
856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714

Veterans Services (DVS)

Albert J. Bucchi, Director
Cheryl A. Henderson, Sec
609-530-6975
Fax: 609-530-7075

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424
Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404
Cynthia Dzurisin, Interment Office Supervisor – 609-738-2407
Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard – 609-758-7505
350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562
609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169
Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials
Joseph Arroyo & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490

Vietnam Veterans Memorial
1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733
732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107
Korean Memorial
Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
War World II Memorial
W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Veterans Haven South
Walter Nail, Supt – 609-561-4948
Vacant, Asst, Supt – 609-567-3715
301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80
Winslow, NJ 08095
609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186

Veterans Haven North
Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960
Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963
200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101
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State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs
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Veterans Benefits Bureau
Patricia A. Richter, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6949
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Veterans Service Offices
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Hudson
Vacant, VSO (Robert Maulano-Tuesday/Thursday)
Michael Dorobis, Sec
678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 – (Jersey City Army)
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William McDonnell, VSO
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151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 – (Lawrenceville Army)
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Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman
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200 Sanatorium Road, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
908-537-0831/0832 Fax: 908-537-0833

*Flemington, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, 08822 (Wednesday) 908-284-6146

NJ VETS LIT - March 2016



NJ Youth Challenge Academy

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

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



NJDMAVA Highlights is published weekly under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for all members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, their families, the New Jersey veterans community, retirees and civilian employees. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard Bureau, Veterans Affairs or the State of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, NJDMAVA, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. E-mail at: pao@dmava.nj.gov

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3RD ANNUAL VETERAN CAREER FAIR & MILITARY EXPO

MARCH 19, 2015 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

In support of our veterans, military community, and their families, Rider University will host a career fair and military expo.

Last year, over **100 LOCAL EMPLOYERS** and support organizations were in attendance to provide information on job opportunities, career advice, networking and career search strategies.

This event is **FREE** for employers and job seekers! Register in advance on our website:

rider.edu/veterancareerfair
609-896-5033 or ccs@rider.edu



Open to veterans, military service members, and dependents at 9 a.m.

Open to the public and all students at 11 a.m.

RIDER UNIVERSITY
Ranked a best college
for Veterans
U.S. News & World Report

**RIDER
UNIVERSITY**
150
1865-2015
Fulfilling the Promise

ENERGY CONSERVATION

TIP OF THE WEEK

March 16 - 22 is Fix a Leak Week

Did You Know...

Leaks in an average household in the US can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year. Fixing water leaks can save some homeowners 10 percent on their water bills. Fix a Leak Week is a national initiative by the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce water use by finding and fixing leaks. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html to learn more about Fix a Leak Week and how you can fix leaks and reduce water consumption in your home.

At NJDMAVA and the NJARNG, sustainability is very important, but water leaks often go unreported. If you see any water or plumbing leaks, like a toilet leaking or a faucet that won't stop dripping, please report it to your armorer or facilities maintenance person.

If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov

Skylanders MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME

Sussex County
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

APRIL 7TH | 7 PM

at Skylands Stadium, Augusta, NJ

Rain Date: April 11th | 12 Noon

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

For more information contact
Mike DeVilliers at 973.300.2109

EVENT INFORMATION

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

NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

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

MARCH 19

Veteran Career Fair & Military Expo

**Rider College (Bldg. #2)
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**2083 Lawrenceville Road,
Lawrence Township, NJ 08648**

APRIL 14 – 16

Outreach Program

**Kiosk Hours 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.,
daily**

**Medal Ceremony April 14 at 11
a.m. in Sears Court
Woodbridge Center Mall
250 Woodbridge Center Drive,
Woodbridge, NJ 07095**

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