# **GUARDLIFE**

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Above: Lt. Col. Thomas Hallowell, battalion commander, 1-114 Infantry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, communicates with his Soldiers before an assault during a f eld training exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., on Aug. 18, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

Cover: Soldiers from Charlie Company, 2-113th Infantry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team participate in an exercise that combines New Jersey's Air and Army assets as a unif ed combat force at Fort Pickett, Va. on Aug. 12, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

### 8,200 reasons

By Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey

### It's a great time to be an Airman or Soldier in the New Jersey National Guard.

Your skills and dedication have never been in more demand and your service to this state and nation has made a tremendous impact for good.

We don't have to look very far into history to see the truth in this statement.

Each and every one of you should be proud of the way you came to the aid of your friends, neighbors and families when Superstorm Sandy struck.

In the words of Gov. Christie, you stepped up in one of the darkest hours of our state's history. You saved lives. You provided comfort to people who needed it the most. And your dedication and expertise allowed people in devastated communities to rebuild. Here's the most amazing thing: More than 150 decided to stay on duty even after learning that the storm had damaged your own homes.

That's self ess service. No other way to put it.

The months that followed the Superstorm brought many challenges to the National Guard.

As you all experienced, we are not immune from the budget constraints imposed across the federal government under what's known as sequestration. Although Defense Secretary Hagel helped reduce the number of

furlough days imposed on our Technician workforce, our Soldiers and Airmen and their families were forced to sacrif ce some of their pay. Mandatory cuts to operation and maintenance funds created other challenges.

The government shutdown in October disrupted training by forcing the rescheduling of drills.

I wish I could say that the budget challenges are behind us, but they are not.

But I have about 8,200 reasons to be optimistic about the future. And they are all of you, the Airmen and Soldiers of the New Jersey National Guard.

There has not been a challenge that you haven't met head on and overcome with your skills, dedication and hard work. In fact, the steeper the hill, the harder you climb. You've proved it over and over and you will again, I'm sure.

It's worth noting that the New Jersey National Guard leads the nation in two very important categories – recruiting and retention.

Great recruiting numbers come from the hard work of the Re-



Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, the Adjutant General, shakes Spc. Brian William Vanbuskirk's hand after awarding him the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal during the annual Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, Sept. 29, 2013. Also receiving awards are Staff Sgt. Carl Hilpl and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

> BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL L. CUNNIFF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL - NEW JERSEY

I have about 8,200 reasons to be optimistic about the future. And they are all of you, the Airmen and Soldiers of the New Jersey National Guard.

cruiting and Retention Command. But every Soldier and Airmen also deserves some of the credit. Your example of service gives others the desire to follow in your footsteps.

The retention rate speaks for itself.

It is a reflection of the pride you take in being ready to serve, no matter how dark the day or steep the climb.

### GUARDLIFE STAFF

EDITOR Chief Warrant Off cer 3 Patrick L. Daugherty EDITOR-PRODUCTION Mark C. Olsen STAFF WRITERS/PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kryn P. Westhoven, Tech. Sgt. Armando O. Vasquez, Staff Sgt. Wayne R. Woolley, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young

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Aviators from the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, assisted 120 West Point cadets in rappelling from UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters at the U. S. Military Academy, N.Y., June 25, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



# "...Military suicides eclipse combat deaths report states" New Jersey's programs are the model DoD is using to combat

this new enemy

Story by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley

It had been an unimaginably tumultuous time for the young New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier. In a span of 24 hours, his car broke down, his civilian employer laid him off and he was forced from his apartment after discovering his live-in girlfriend there with another man.

Continued on Page 6

## NJ LEADS BATTLE AGAINST SUICIDE IN

#### **Continued from Page 5**

The Soldier soon found himself sitting in the car that now held all his belongings, clutching a bottle of pills and contemplating suicide. He made a phone call instead.

Fortunately, the voice at the other end of the line belonged to Dr. Cynthia Lischick, the full-time director of psychological health for New Jersey National Guard Family Programs, who convinced the Soldier that ending his life was not the answer. In the days that followed, the Soldier was connected with more professionals who ultimately helped him f nd a new job and a place to live.

The safety net that caught this Soldier here in New Jersey is one of the most comprehensive systems to be created anywhere in America to assist service members, Veterans and their families with mental health issues including suicide prevention, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and substance abuse. In the past eight years, New Jersey has created a unique umbrella of organizations and partnerships using a blend of state and federal funding to create a system that is saving lives. It's a system that has helped the state maintain one of the lowest suicide rates in the Army National Guard.

"Suicide prevention is our number-one priority," said Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General. "And it starts with every Soldier and every Airman. We need to look out for each other."

The New Jersey National Guard has made resiliency training a cornerstone of its suicideprevention efforts to break the negative stigma associated with mental-health issues. In addition to training unit-level suicide prevention specialists, the National Guard has established the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center (JMFAC) located at the Bordentown armory.

Even these measures are no guarantee of success.

In most of the country, our military – particularly the active Army and the Army National Guard -- is grappling with what could only be described as a suicide epidemic. Although the suicide rate for the active Army and Army National Guard leveled off in 2009 after f ve years of increases, the rates increased over the f rst seven months of 2013 and eclipsed more than one a day in July.

Public awareness of this issue was

heightened by a Time Magazine cover story in July that not only laid out the grim numbers but put human faces on the tragedy. Two of the most heartbreaking stories were those of Ian Morrison, 26, a West Pointer and attack helicopter pilot, and Dr. Michael McClendon, 37, an obstetrician who had once been an enlisted Soldier on a bomb squad. Both men were captains. Both took their own lives 4,000 miles apart on March 21, 2012 after each had repeatedly tried to get help for the deep depression that had overwhelmed them.

The effort to keep our service members

health. The work done in Bordentown compliments the work done by the staff at eight Family Assistance Centers co-located with Army Guard armories and Air Guard families.

Family Programs takes the lead on all issues involving the reintegration of Soldiers back into their civilian lives following a deployment, with a particular focus on mental health.

The mental health resources at Family Programs were bolstered three years ago with the hiring of Dr. Cynthia Lischick as Director of Psychological Health.

In those years, Lischick has successfully

### They want to hear from someone who knows that PTSD is real, traumatic brain injury is real, that feeling like you're in a dark place and can't get out is real.

Melissa Tippett Vets4Warriors counselor

from falling through the cracks begins practically the f rst day they put on the uniform.

After the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard complete their training and join their units, some of the f rst people they hear from are chaplains assistants and people like Staff Sgt. Jamie Gayner, who serves as the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training non-commissioned off cer with the 119th Combat Service Support Battalion in Cherry Hill. It's her job to train other leaders about the ways to identify at-risk Soldiers. She also takes it upon herself to be a walking rolodex of resources both inside and outside the military where a Soldier can turn to for anything from help f nding a new job to a trained mental health specialist.

"Getting people help when they need it is my passion," says Gaynor, who is majoring in social work at Rutgers University.

Giving service members the tools they need to tackle their challenges before they become a crisis is at the heart of New Jersey National Guard Family Programs. From an off ce in Bordentown, more than a dozen full-time professionals assist National Guard members and their families with issues ranging from civilian employment, to relationships with spouses and children, to all aspects of mental intervened in more than 50 cases where a Soldier was contemplating suicide. Although her main objective is to link Soldiers suffering from mental health issues with other professionals who can provide long-term counseling if needed, she often f lls that gap in cases where other treatment is not available. But she's a f erce advocate for Soldiers in helping them immediately access mental health services, often accompanying them to facilities run by the U.S. Veterans Administration – and not leaving until they are screened, prescribed medication if needed, and a follow-up treatment plan established.

"I'm 24/7, 365," Lischick says. "And that's f ne because I love my job. I was told when I was hired it would be the best job I'd ever had and it is. This is one of the best National Guard organizations to work with. I have none of the problems I've heard from my counterparts in other places. We remain one of the lowest suicide rates among the states and there's a reason for that. A lot of it is that we have military commanders who understand and have seen to it that we are resource rich."

New Jersey is one of only seven states that provide additional mental health services for Veterans and the only state to extend this assistance to their families.

## WAR WHERE NO ONE SEES AN END

The state of New Jersey became a pioneer for mental health services for its service members and Veterans nearly a decade ago with the launch of Vet2Vet, a toll free, 24-hour Veterans Helpline – 1-866-838-7654 (1-866-VETS-NJ4).

More than 3,500 Veterans and nearly 1,500 family members have called this number and been connected with one of the dozen Veteran peer counselors who man the phones. The hotline, which is run in partnership with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey has been widely emulated by other state and federal agencies.

Perhaps the ultimate recognition of the potency of Vet2Vet came

in December when the National Guard Bureau selected UMDNJ's University Behavioral Health Care to launch a federally-funded companion service called Vets4Warriors. And it is exactly what its name describes, Veterans helping those still in uniform. The helpline is available to current and former National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the country. Since its launch, Vets4Warriors has f elded calls from more than 13,000 Veterans.

The mission of Vets4Warriors is to con-

nect Veterans with the help they need for any mental health issue, and to do it with fellow vets who speak their language. The top issues facing these Veterans – more than one third of whom served in Iraq or Afghanistan – are anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, medical issues, post-traumatic stress disorder.

Many of the callers



Melissa Tippett, a Vets4Warriors counselor works the Vet2Vet hotline, a toll free, 24-hour Veterans Helpline, which is run in partnership with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The helpline has been widely emulated by other state and federal agencies. Tippett was injured by a roadside bomb during a tour in Iraq as an Army military policeman. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs)

are just looking to talk to someone who has walked in their shoes.

"They want to hear from someone who knows that PTSD is real, traumatic brain injury is real, that feeling like you're in a dark place and can't get out is real," says Melissa Tippett, a Vets4Warriors counselor who was injured by a roadside bomb during a tour in Iraq as an Army military policeman.

Tippett came home from Iraq with pieces of shrapnel still lodged in her body from the blast

and a numbness in half her body. Her most vivid memory of coming home was dropping to her belly and low-crawling through a Walmart parking lot near Fort Polk, La., when a car backf red.

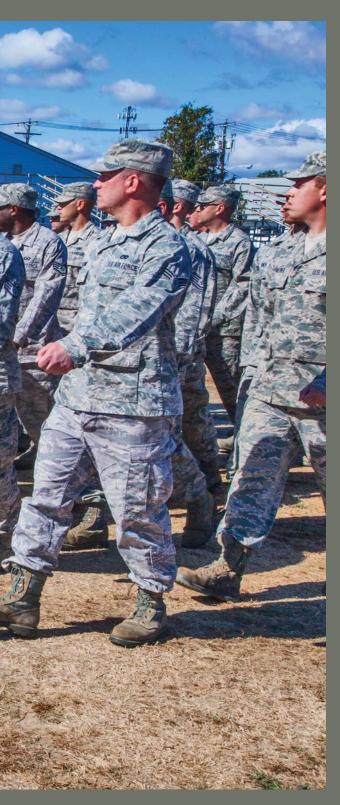
"Someone was walking past me and said something like 'It's OK, you're home now' and I felt a little better," she said. "That's why I love this job. If a service like Vets4Warriors would have been around when I came home, it might have made a big difference in how I dealt with things."

In those years, Lischick has successfully intervened in more than 50 cases where a Soldier was contemplating suicide. "I'm 24/7, 365. And that's f ne because I love my job. I was told when I was hired it would be the best job I'd ever had and it is."

Dr. Cynthia Lischick Director of Psychological Health, New Jersey National Guard Family Programs

## **Definition of service**

In some of our state's darkest hours, you were there. On behalf of every New Jersey resident, I want to thank you. Chris Christie governor



#### Story by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

Carrying on a 121-year-old tradition, the New Jersey National Guard held its military review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt on Sept. 29 and Gov. Chris Christie thanked the force for its self ess service to state and nation.

Christie said National Guard overseas missions enhance the security of every American – and the performance of its Soldiers and Airmen during Superstorm Sandy earned a debt of gratitude from every New Jerseyean.

"In some of our state's darkest hours, you were there," Christie said. "On behalf of every New Jersey resident, I want to thank you."

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General, told the Soldiers and Airmen that their response to a storm unrivaled in its destructive power was "awe-inspiring in its scope and effectiveness."

He said that in addition to helping more than 7,000 people to safety, the variety of other missions undertaken by the National Guard during the storm demonstrated its versatility, from creating an emergency fuel distribution for f rst responders to feeding residents of the Shore at mobile kitchens.

But he said the most noteworthy fact about the National Guard performance was the fact that nearly 150 Soldiers and Airmen whose own homes were impacted by the storm elected to remain on duty.

"That's the true def nition of self ess service," he said.

Both Christie and Cunniff thanked the National Guard members' families for support that makes their service possible and acknowledged the contributions made by the state's Veterans' community.

As the ceremony began, Christie signed legislation that allows the state Motor Vehicle Commission to issue driver's license that recognizes a veteran's status with a "V."

This will hopefully make your life a little easier with a more convenient way of proving veteran status," Christie said.

The most noteworthy fact about the National Guard performance was the fact that nearly 150 Soldiers and Airmen whose own homes were impacted by the storm elected to remain on duty.

# Speed of life

Story and photos by Sgt. Sherwood Goodenough 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Spc. Kevin Heaney

FORT PICKETT, Va. -- Spc. Kevin Heaney got out of his Humvee ambulance and yelled for help. The New Jersey Army National Guard medic needed an assistant driver and he needed one now.

This was no drill.

Heaney's sergeant was already in the back of the ambulance treating two 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Soldiers who had been overcome by heat at a f eld exercise during their unit's Annual Training.

Heaney's heart pounded like a kick drum. His vision tunneled. He barked instructions back and forth with his sergeant, scanned the skinny Denaro and Richard Carson went to work, loosening his uniform and covering him with cool wet rags as they searched for a vein to administer intravenous fuid.

The patient's blood pressure was weak. Three times the medics attempted to insert the catheter. Twice the vein collapsed. The patient spied the f ash of red. Emotion gripped him.

Brown grabbed his patient's hand, met his frenzied gaze and smiled.

The IV began to f ow. "You did great," Brown said. Calm returned to the infantryman's eyes.

### You don't want to lose it in front of the patient. You want to calm them. If you're crazy and you're acting nervous it's going to freak out the patient. Pfc. Sarah Heitzenroeder

Medic, 250th Brigade Support Battalion

gravel road for other military vehicles, sent an update to the off cer on the other end of the walkie-talkie and told the stranger he just met how to serve as an assistant driver in his ambulance.

Time was of the essence. The two infantrymen were fading as their lucidity drained away one drop of a sweat at a time.

Arriving at the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Aid Station, the doors of the ambulance swung open and Sgt. 1st Class Sherwin Granger helped the heat-stricken Soldiers toward the treatment tent. One was able to walk. The second needed a stretcher. When he reached the treatment area, the medic team of Sgt. Thomas Brown and Pfcs. Tony

#### **To Conserve Fighting Strength**

For most of the Soldiers who attended the three-week exercise, their performance was evaluated on their achievements during a vast, realistic, wartime simulation. For the women and men who provide medical support, everything revolves around how well and fast they can aid their fellow Soldiers.

"Everything we do is real. These are real Soldiers," said Lt. Col Stephen McKenzie, an emergency medicine physician's assistant and the brigade surgeon for the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "Army medics can be called in at a moment's notice to re-





Sgt. 1st Class Sherwin Granger

spond to any life, limb or eyesight issues."

The nearest hospital is 12 miles away and not the level of facility that is required to support the hyper-athletic demands of Army training. Even in optimal conditions an ambulance would have more than a half an hour drive at full speed to get to the nearest of the far-f ung training areas where warf ghters hone their craft.

"These Soldiers provide an incredibly high level of care because our training becomes real-world in minutes," McKenzie said.

The medic's command structure provided three echelons of health care in the training areas and a Brigade Medical Support Company aid station in the garrison section of the installation.

While there are also four medevac helicopters on standby from the Virginia State Police and Virginia Commonwealth University, constant support by Range EMS and Southside Regional Medical Center nearby, the medics in the f eld are still the f rst best chance the Soldiers and support personnel of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team have.

"Our job is to send them back to the f eld," said Army nurse 1st Lt. Wilbert Villaluna of Company C, 250th Brigade Support Battalion. "Our job is to get them back to the f ght."

Soldiers are always returned to duty with instructions that help them avoid re-injuring themselves.

#### Healing with calmness

The calm face and even voice of the conf dent healer is a blessing to the injured and afficied. To the medic, it's part of a day's work.

While the challenge of remediating dehydration, infection, insect bites and exhaustion exact many tolls on the body, there is a particular and less visible fatigue borne on the minds of these medics.

Pfc. Sarah Heitzenroeder works three part-time jobs when not with the Army National Guard, so it makes sense that she weathers the excep-



Pfc. Tony Denaro

tionally mentally and emotionally demanding duty of a medic. However, she confesses it doesn't make it any easier.

"During training we do a lot of drills. We don't have time to think about this. We just see it and do what needs to be done," Heitzenroeder said. "While it's happening there is no emotion. You get tunnel vision. You're just looking at the mission you're trying to complete."

But the medic's mission involves maintaining calm when the patient, most often a Soldier just like her, is suffering right in front of her.

"You don't want to lose it in front of the patient." she said. "You want to calm them. If you're crazy and you're acting nervous it's going to freak out the patient."

"I want them to focus on me and I want to focus on them," Heitzenroeder said.

#### Hero O'clock in the morning

Time is the opposing force that all health-care providers battle, whether f ghting infection or shock or dehydration, but in austere environments, staff ng to address those challenges adds other obstacles.

On August 7, Pfc. Heitzenroeder began seeing patients at f ve a.m. during "sick call hours" in the Battalion Aid Station. She saw her last patient 16 hours later.

"It's the job," she said.

McKenzie said that providing 24-hour care is critical to conserving combat power and helps avoid interruptions in training.

"An acute illness or injury can happen anytime, especially when Soldiers push themselves to the limit," he said.

1st Lt. Debra Cho, the evacuation platoon leader explained that is why Charlie Med is a 24-hour operation.

"It may be three in the morning," Cho said. "If we get a call, we're there."

## 

## No one's yelling at them...Yet.

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

But when the training instructors at Basic Military Training (BMT) at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas begin molding the new enlistees, the New Jersey recruits will be ready for the experience.

John J. Adams, above, 108th Wing Student Flight, practices his push-ups April 13, 2013, at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. Forty-four members of the New Jersey Air National Guard Student Flight spent a weekend in a simulated basic training environment preparing them for military culture.

6

ADAMS

AIRCOMO

# **Ready** for BMT

'It 's quite a culture shock when they step off the bus at basic training," said Master Sgt. Shane Clark, recruiting off ce supervisor, 108th "We reduce the culture shock for them." Wing.

For two days in April, 44 members of the New Jersey Air National Guard Student Flight had the opportunity to experience a simulated BMT environment set up by 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing recruiters and other unit members at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J.

Normally Student Flight members meet at their Wings, but once a quarter both Wings are brought together at Sea Girt.

"We run them through a simulated basic training for the weekend," said Clark. "Our goal is to have them prepared for what's going to happen when they step off the bus."

Student Flight gives new enlistees a head start on basic training, making the transition from civilians into Airmen easier from the time of enlistment until the time they leave for BMT. "Historically the self eliminations in basic

training happen in the f rst week," said Clark.

To prevent those recruits from quitting, Student Flight covers topics such as reporting procedures, drill and ceremony, physical training and the Air Force mission, vision and core values. Additionally, they

classes that range from resiliency training to f nancial management. The preparation is paying off. Since the New Jersey Air National Guard Student Flight start-

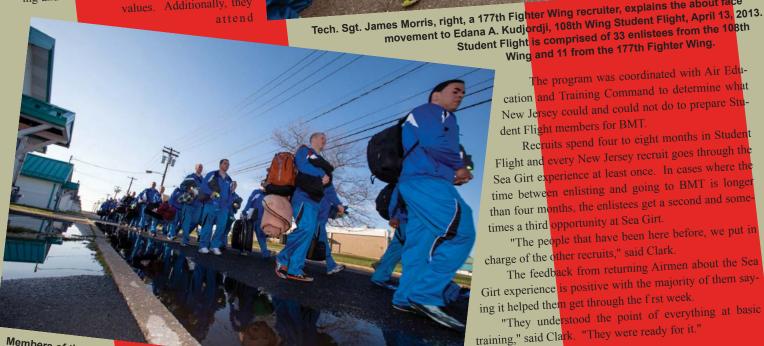
ed in October 2011, none of the New Jersey enlistees have self eliminated in the f rst week.

More importantly they are succeeding.

"We f nd that our folks end up being put in leadership positions at BMT," said Clark. These positions, which range from being element leaders to guidon bearers and dorm chiefs,

give the recruits their f rst position of responsibility in the Air Force.





Members of the New Jersey Air National Guard Student Flight march to their class April 13, 2013. They drill as trainees - their title throughout BMT - during regular unit training assemblies at the Wing<mark>s and are paid at whatever grade in which</mark> they enlisted.

Student Flight is comprised of 33 enlistees from the 108th Wing and 11 from the 177th Fighter Wing.

The program was coordinated with Air Education and Training Command to determine what New Jersey could and could not do to prepare Student Flight members for BMT.

Recruits spend four to eight months in Student Flight and every New Jersey recruit goes through the Sea Girt experience at least once. In cases where the time between enlisting and going to BMT is longer than four months, the enlistees get a second and sometimes a third opportunity at Sea Girt.

"The people that have been here before, we put in charge of the other recruits," said Clark.

The feedback from returning Airmen about the Sea Girt experience is positive with the majority of them saying it helped them get through the f rst week

"They understood the point of everything at basic training," said Clark. "They were ready for it."



Story and photos by Sgt. Michael J. Davis, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. — Scorching rays from the unyielding early morning sun illuminate the scores of steel Soldiers in the maintenance yard standing motionless in formation - a proud military display. The way they are positioned seems as if they are waiting for their next set of orders to come. In the distance, the metal facade of the half raised 30-foot bay doors and a faint, rag-tag symphony of clanging metal tools, humming hydraulic instruments and colorful mechanic language f lls the air.

"We keep the vehicles moving," said Sgt. Jeff Turner, acting motor pool sergeant and light wheel mechanic with the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, while standing in an open bay near a torn-down high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle, or more commonly known as Humvee.

Turner, a 16-year veteran and mechanic with the Army National Guard, has been with this unit for more than six years and is currently on his sixth Annual Training (AT) period with them. For Turner, this two-week training period presents an opportunity to continue honing his technical skills as well as develop his team by responding to both actual and simulated scenarios.

"On AT we get to do our MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) most of the time," said Turner. "We maintain all the vehicles for the unit."

Pfc. John Bayers, a generator mechanic with the 119th CSSB, has been in the New Jersey Army National Guard for a little more than a year and is in the throes of his f rst AT period.

"This is what I've been waiting for," said Bayers.

Bayers felt conf dent and prepared for his f rst AT as a result of the intense preparation they completed in the

preceding months. He said they focused heavily on familiarization and learning the technical specif cations for all the vehicles in use during AT.

Bayers said, "we're only on day three and we already have two vehicles that need to be up and running as a priority for AT."

All the mechanics in the 119th CSSB understand that having operational vehicles is critical and that it takes more than just training to complete a successful mission. It's the culmination of classroom knowledge and real-world application that has grown the level of experience and talent in the 119th CSSB.

"We do what we do to get the job done; we always find a way," said Turner.





## FROM PATROL TO PAGEANT

By Spc. Devon Bistarkey 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

My experience in the National Guard boosts my conf dence. I do it to show girls that you can do anything. To walk a mile in the shoes of Spc. Francesca Vollaro requires a wardrobe change.

Swapping out her combat boots for a pair of pageant heels, Vollaro took the title of f rst runner-up at the Miss American Coed Pageant Nov. 25, in Orlando, Fla.

Vollaro, a military police Soldier with the New Jersey National Guard's 508th Military Police Company, earned her spot at the national competition after being named Miss New Jersey Coed on July 21, 2013 – three weeks after returning home from a deployment to Afghanistan.

While overseas, the Bloomingdale resident planned for her f rst pageant as motivation during the 9-month deployment.

With limited opportunities to prepare for the pageant, Vollaro purchased her formal dress online and took the stage during the interview segment of the competition wearing a handmade suit from Afghanistan.

"In my interview, I share that I am in the National Guard, and I say it with pride," said Vollaro.

While other contestants trained with coaches and honed their presentation and communication skills, Vollaro relied on her military training and support from her battle buddies.

Transitioning from her active duty role to a poised pageant contestant, Vollaro had the support of her MP unit. In a live video stream, Vollaro's fellow Soldiers were able to watch as she took her most current title.

"My experience in the National Guard boosts my conf dence," said Vollaro, 21, who is majoring in justice studies at Montclair State University.

"I do it to show girls that you can do anything," said Vollaro.

Furthermore, Vollaro said she joined the National Guard as a way to follow in the footsteps of her great-grandfather, who served in World War II.

She hopes to make a career in the National Guard and would not hesitate to serve another tour of duty in Afghanistan.

She says that one of the most satisfying opportunities during her deployment to Afghanistan was the opportunity to work with children in orphanages.

According to the Miss American Coed Pageant website, the pageant has awarded more than \$12 million in scholarships and prizes since its inception in 1983. The purpose of the pageant is to help develop tomorrow's leaders. As the contestants go through the competition process, they gain poise and self-conf dence and hone their communication skills.

Vollaro will use her time in the spotlight to solicit support for those serving in the armed forces.

"I want the community to remember them and to support them," said Vollaro.

> In my interview, I share that I am in the National Guard, and I say it with pride.

### Final Check

Senior Airman Vaughn Price, left, makes a f nal adjustment on Senior Airman Guss Tyshawn Jenkins' uniform prior to the 108th Contingency Response Group's Assumption of Command ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Dec. 8, 2013. Both Airmen are members of the **108th Wing Honor** Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)



### Popcorn Scout

SEHDNORGU

New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen divvy up \$2,001 worth of popcorn that Boy Scout Donovan Fisher, second from left, also known as "the Popcorn Scout", donated to the NJNG at the Joint Military and Family As-sistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., Nov. 7, 2013. The popcorn will be distributed among NJNG units in the state, as well as to deployed NJNG units in Afghanistan. Fisher was ranked fourth in the nation in 2012 for fund-raising among the Boy Scout troops raising \$16,167. In 2011, he was 14th in the nation. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

# WATER TRAINING

U.S. Coast Quard rescue swimmer Jason Eoyne instructs 1st 11 Michael Gallinoto on rescue procedures as an HH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City approaches during a joint training exercise in Port Repubic, N.J., Aug. 9, 2013. Gallinoto is an F-16C Fighting Falcon pilot assigned to the 177th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Alf National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

I tried to imagine I was actually being hoisted in a non-training rescue scenario and how glad I would be to be safe in the hands of friendly forces.



Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez

Their jobs are not the most glamorous in the military but very critical for survival. They have to perform their duties in any type of weather element, and if in a serious situation, most likely they will be suited up in a uniform that can be very uncomfortable in the hot weather.

"It takes a special kind of person to be a Dragon Soldier," said Capt. Leo Magee, company commander 50th Chemical Company. "These Soldiers love this stuff and they have to in order to perform their duties."

What Magee refers to is the job duties of a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) operations specialist. The Dragon Soldiers are primarily responsible for defending the country against the threat of CBRN weapons and weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

They accomplish this task by planning, employing and coordinating CBRN defense systems in support of joint and combined arms operations, which include CBRN reconnaissance, biological agent detection, obscurant systems, decontamination and other CBRN hazard detection and warning.

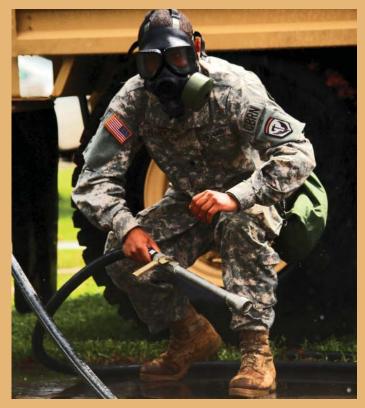
But what makes this job a little more diff cult is the possibility of having to don into MOPP level 4. MOPP, which stands for mission oriented protective posture, are broken into f ve levels, with level zero being the most passive in which the Soldier only carries their protective gear. At level 4, the Soldier has don his full protective gear, which include over garment, mask and hood, f eld gear, footwear covers and gloves. And at this level the Soldier is in a very uncomfortable position, not only because of the heat and obstructed view from the mask, but because at this level, most likely they are in the presence of some CBRN agent.

"We are the f rst to go in to a possible chemical environment," said Sgt. Curtis Baptiste, a CBRN specialist with the 50th Chemical Co. "Our job is to detect any type of chemical. We search and survey the area and then report to higher command our f ndings."

Utilizing hand-held detection kits or biological integrated detection system (BIDS) vehicles, the Soldiers from the 50th Company perform their jobs that keep other Soldiers safe on the battlef eld.

We are the f rst to go in to a possible chemical environment. Our job is to detect any type of chemical. We search and survey the area and then report to higher command our f ndings.

Sgt. Curtis Baptiste CBRN specialist 50th Chemical Company



Spc. John Barandica, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear operations specialist, power washes a Humvee as part of the decontamination process during a CBRN defense exercise July 23, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)

Consequently, Staff Sgt. Peter Taburas, also a CBRN specialist with the 50th Chemical Co., Baptiste and more than 60 Soldiers from the Somerset Armory-based unit were practiced their skills July 23 at the Armory. In hot weather, they simulated the detection and decontamination of troops and vehicles as part of their annual training, which ran from July 15-29. Although the scenario was simulated, the process was real as the Soldiers with their gas mask on, sprayed, scrubbed and washed vehicles to ensure that any chemical agent was removed and equipment and Soldiers were ready to get back to their mission.

"This is some excellent training," said 1st Lt. Elizabeth Donofrio, executive off cer of the 50th Chemical Co. "In our traditional Guard schedule; it is very diff cult to train on all the tasks, so we train harder during our annual training."

They know their jobs are very important if a disaster or an attack with WMDs happens in New Jersey, as they would be most likely called up to assist civil authorities and f rst responders, as well as the 21st Civil Support Team. The 21st CST's mission is to assess a suspected WMD attack, advise civilian responders on appropriate actions, and facilitate the arrival of additional state and federal military forces.

So critical is the job of these CBRN specialists that Lt. Col. Timothy Metcalf, the 21st CST commander, paid a visit to the Somerset Armory to assess the training of the Dragon Soldiers.

As the only chemical company in the New Jersey National Guard, training to stay mission ready is taken very serious by these Soldiers, noted Magee.

"We want to put the Company on the map," said Magee.

### PROFESSIONAL BAD GUYS

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

> MAYS LANDING, N.J. – Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing were once again asked to evaluate and participate in the annual Atlantic County crisis response exercise, which was held at Atlantic Cape Community College on July 12.

> In a statement released by the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Off ce said, "This year we sought out a "Team" with

"Overseas Experience". We received tremendous support via the combat forces and technical support supplied by the 177th Fighter Wing. Training can never replace real life experiences, but their experiences can be passed on to others in the form of a training exercise. The personnel from the 177th Fighter Wing who were assigned to this exercise were well prepared, providing the Atlantic County Hostage Team as well as the Atlantic County Emer-**Response** Team gency (ACERT) with a very challenging exercise and training opportunity."

Two Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing, Staff Sgt. Kevin Allman and Staff Sgt. David Pabon, both veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, were brought in to act as hostage takers.

Allman, a member of the 177th Security Forces Squadron, and also a member of the Ocean County Sheriff's Off ce, likened the role to being a "professional bad guy."

"This exercise is all about professionals helping professionals," said Allman. "I'm happy to help out today as an Air National Guardsman, using my military and civilian experience to help the local law enforcement community." Master Sgt. Joe lacovone, also from the 177th Security

Forces Squadron, helped with the coordination of the exercise as well as the evaluation.

"These exercises not only develop the training for local off cers, but they also help to strengthen the bonds between the Air National Guard and our civilian counterparts in the community," said lacovone, who is also an Atlantic City Police Off cer. "Our experiences as civilian police off cers, as well as combat experiences overseas and what we faced can beneft the county SWAT teams and how they react to different situations. Even as we're evaluating this year's exercise. we're already planning and looking forward to next year's event."

Staff. Sgt. David Pabon communicates with fellow opposing forces members at Atlantic Cape Community College in Hamilton Township, N.J. on July 12, 2013.







"It's all in the follow through," said Staff Sgt. James Nirenberg, as Staff. Sgt. Robert Phoebus was getting ready to propel a small unmanned aerial vehicle into f ight at Castles Drop Zone, Fort Pickett, Va., on August 16, 2013.

New Jersey Army National Guardsmen spent three days with Nirenberg and Sgt. First Class Jorge Ramos, both certif ed RQ-11B Raven master trainers.

The RQ-11B can be remotely controlled from the ground or f y programmed missions using GPS waypoint navigation. The UAV weighs 4.2 lbs. and it has a modular design so it can be carried in ruck sacks by a two-man team.

"In wartime, the Raven is a force multiplier and a fantastic force protection piece of equipment," said Ramos, from the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 101st Regiment Regional Training Institute. "In the past, if you needed to see what was beyond that ridge, you could potentially put Soldiers, Airmen or Marines in harm's way. Now we can send a Raven out there, recon the area and send live feeds to commanders in the feld, as well as commanders in the rear.

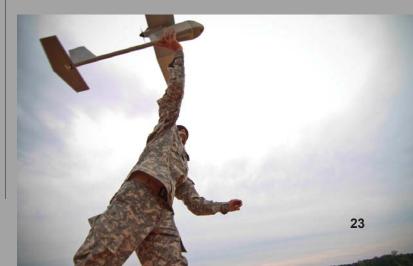
Phoebus, from C Troop, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat team, was the f rst to launch a Raven B during training.

"The Raven could be a great tool for homeland defense and security," said Phoebus. "We used to do security for a site with a company

of Soldiers, but with the Raven, you could have four or f ve Soldiers do the job and do more with less."

Nirenberg and Ramos observed the Guardsmen as they monitored live video feeds, tracked f ight hours and successfully recovered aircraft.

"With the training we've done, the New Jersey Army National Guard will be mission qualif ed to operate this system," said Ramos. "By having an asset like this, they can scan the perimeter, conduct convoy security or check routes for safety. It's a true force multiplier for the New Jersey Army National Guard."



# EYES ON TARGET

A sniper team from 1-114th Infantry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, participates in a f eld training exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., on August 14, 2013. This exercise was the f rst of its kind for the National Guard, as New Jersey's Air and Army assets combine as a unif ed combat force. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



mining for absaster

Story and photos by Senior Airman Adrian R. Rowan 108th Wing Public Affairs

Clouds gathered in the distance, painting the sky an inky black.

Thunder rumbled while lightning f ashed on the scene of inhabitants f eeing the coastal towns of New Jersey. Fear mounted, as Superstorm Sandy decimated New Jersey's shores. The evacuees, forced from their beloved homes, felt helpless; wondering where to go, where to f nd a meal, fresh clothing, a hot shower. Their lives were in an upheaval, but the state banded together to provide for its people.

In Sandy's aftermath, many members of the New Jersey Air National Guard volunteered to assist with cleanup, security details and many other tasks to help victims. These Guard members were part of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

During September's 2013 Unit Training Assembly, members of the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing sacrif ced their time and joined forces to undertake QRF training. More than 150 members attended the training, which involved an array of skills taught by Sgts. 1st Class Todd Friedman Tim Hoke, Barry Douglass, and Staff Sgt. David Crenshaw, all members of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 254th Regiment, Sea Girt, N.J.

For those unfamiliar with the QRF, the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center def nes it as any force that is poised to respond on very short notice, typically less than f fteen minutes. One of the instructors, Hoke, explained further, stating that QRF teams are trained to deal with civil disturbances, site security, roadblocks/ checkpoints, and vehicle and personnel searches. Hoke also said that every state is mandated to have a QRF consisting of 200 personnel.

The course is normally a week long course, but this shortened two-day version is intended to familiarize Guard personnel with tasks involved with a National Guard reaction force. Hoke said, "This class gives basic knowledge, which will serve as a foundation for those attending the full course."

During the training, members were initially briefed and prepared in a classroom setting, then their skills were tested in hands-on situations. The instructors had four training areas, focusing on each Members of the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing participate in the annual Quick Response Force (QRF) training Sept. 29, 2013, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. QRF training teaches Guard members how to deal with disturbances when called to duty for civil support.

component of the QRF. Members alternated through each scenario throughout the day, learning about each aspect.

Senior Airman Seth Schoenfeld, Emergency Management, 108th Civil Engineers, volunteered for this training. Schoenfeld, who was activated for a month during the Superstorm, said he feels the training would have been benef cial for those members tasked with Sandy support and that he hopes to learn more advanced skills to deal with civil disturbances.

QRF has enabled our forces to be more resilient and able to adapt to more situations. It has taught our members skills necessary to handle devastating events, such as Sandy and that's what some of these Guard members did almost a year ago.



Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

eting of a marks

The 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) is making the Soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard better shots, one small group at a time.

MARTE

Eighty-one Soldiers from across the 6,300 member force attended the Squad Designated Marksman course run by the Sea Girt-based training unit in September at Joint Base Mc-Guire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Fifteen days of intense marksmanship instruction and long hours f ring at targets up to 600 yards away paid big dividends for the Soldiers who attended.

"I've never been a great shooter, but now my fundamentals are crisp and I've learned to relax while f ring," said Sgt. Craig Lewis of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion.

Spc. Miranda Meador of the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion achieved what she once thought was impossible – hitting the 600 yard target, which is double the distance of the furthest target on a normal qualif cation range.

"It's built up my conf dence in shooting and myself," she said.

Sgt. 1st Class Terrick Grace, the lead course instructor, said that all Soldiers who attend the course learn enough to coach other Soldiers in marksmanship when they return to their units. "It's built up my conf dence in shooting and myself." Spc. Miranda Meador 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion



Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

Above: Sgt. Ana Karen Cordoba is welcomed home by her mother as the nearly 140 members of the 508th Military Police Company were reunited with their families at the Lawrenceville Armory on June 6, 2013 to conclude a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan. Photos right from top to bottom: The New Jersey National Guard leadership welcome home the returning Soldiers. Guidon bearer Spc. Denis D. Antunes, left, company commander Capt. Kevin M.



Ryan, center, and 1st Sgt. Joseph P. C. Prieto salute during the playing of the national anthem. Brig. Gen. Michael C. Cunniff, center, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, presents a Soldier with the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. A family member looks for his uncle in the sea of Soldiers. Pvt. Thomas C. Ables, left, and Staff Sgt. Frederick C. Abline are welcomed home by their children. The 508th provided security, force protection and advised the Afghan national police force in the Kabul region during their deployment.











1st Sgt. Joseph P.C. Prieto, 508th Military Police Company, surprised his daughter Allison in her sixth grade class in Parlin, N.J., June 7, 2013. Prieto returned from a nine-month long deployment along with nearly 140 members of the 508th on June 6, 2013. The 508th provided security, force protection and advised the Afghan national police force in the Kabul region during their deployment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



## Protect each other!

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez 108th Wing Public Affairs Off ce

Photo and graphic by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen 108th Wing Public Affairs Off ce



Col. Kevin J. Keehn, commander, 108th Wing, speaks to Wing members during the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Stand Down at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Aug. 11, 2013.

In Fiscal Year 2012, there were 3,374 reports of sexual assaults involving service members according to the Department of Defense's Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. Furthermore, the number of service members anonymously reporting a sexual assault grew by more than 30 percent in the past two years according to the report.

The Air Force f nds these statistics troubling and contrary to the Air Force core values. Consequently, DoD is pushing for new sexual assault and prevention measures to eliminate what is being called a stain on the honor of service men and women who honorably serve the Nation.

On Aug. 11, more than 1,000 Airmen from the 108th Wing attended a commander's call at one of the hangars at Joint Base Mc-Guire-Dix-Lakehurst, which was the precursor for the Wing's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response stand down training.

Led by Col. Kevin J. Keehn, wing commander, the Airmen heard the implications of committing these types of crimes, as well as new resources available to victims. In addition, Keehn reinforced his stance on this epidemic and how he depends on Airmen to prevent it.

"We all have a role to play in sexual assault prevention," said Keehn. "We might not have created this problem but we are all charged with preventing it."

During the training event, Keehn discussed the Air Force core values as well as the Wingman concept, telling his Airmen to look out for one another. Furthermore, the Airmen watched several videos, which included the

We might not have created this problem but we are all charged with preventing it. Col. Kevin J. Keehn Commander 108th Wing

Air Force Chief of Staff's message on sexual assault, and instructional videos on potential sexual assault scenarios and how to spot and prevent it.

"This is the military's effort to take another important step to f ght this epidemic," said Lt. Col. Toni Waters, sexual assault response coordinator at the 108th Wing. Waters has been the SARC for the past eight years and will be handing off those duties to Capt. April Doolittle, public affairs off cer.

For victims of sexual assault or witnesses to this crime, there is a support network available to each Airman led by trained sexual assault coordinators, victims' advocates and chaplains. individuals may also notify the chain of command or law enforcement. Additionally, a live, one-on-one conf dential help line is available at www.safehelpline.org or by calling 877-995-5247.

As Keehn concluded the training he charged his Airmen with helping to eradicate this problem. "Hopefully, this training will bring this issue front and center," said Keehn. "And we can do something to help prevent it."



#### Story and photos by 2nd Lt. David Murphy Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Public Affairs

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. -- Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, out of Riverdale, N.J., conducted training March 22-24, at ranges here.

The Soldiers took part in mortar f ring training, M16 and M4 rif e qualif cation and squad live-f re exercises.

"At any given time there is

a unit ready to deploy, so this training ensures our readiness for future deployments," said 1st Lt. Roque Rodriguez, the training off cer for the 113th Infantry.

Distance plays a major factor in determining why the unit trains here as the ranges are located less than 100 miles from Riverdale.

"Traveling to upstate New York or Virginia would cut into the time we have to train because we only have these Soldiers for 48 hours," Rodriguez said. "This is the best place for us and it's the best resource we have."



The 113th's executive off cer, 1st Lt. Patrick Moore, is in charge of certifying Soldiers on the squad live-f re range and echoed Rodriguez's remarks.

"We appreciate everything the base does to accommodate us," said Moore. "The range control guys who come out here in the f eld do their best for us. It's a very professional environment."

The joint base ranges also allow units to tackle mul-

tiple aspects of training during a single weekend.

"The ranges here provide us with a wide variety of uses," Rodriguez said. "We're able to execute our individual training, such as weapons qualif cation, and conduct collective training, such as the squad live-fre certifcation."

The weekend's training was designed to get the greatest results with the least impact on those involved.



"These Soldiers all have full-time jobs, so we want to maximize their time," Rodriguez said. "If we had to leave the area to train we would need these Soldiers for longer, costing the government more and potentially inconveniencing employers. By us-

> ing these ranges we are saving time and money and using that time to actually train."

> The unit is also aware of the noise generated by deployment training, specif cally from mortar round f ring, noise which can impact surrounding areas.

> "The noise is an inconvenience, but is necessary to maintain the readiness of the force," Rodiguez said.

Above, Pfc. Leoneo Perez, 2nd Battalion, 113 Infantry, Mortar Platoon ammo bearer, prepares a 120 mm mortar round for use during training on Mortar Firing Point 4 March 23, 2013, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Below, Pvt. Frank Barber, left, gunner, observes Pvt. Dillon Card, assistant gunner, as he hangs the mortar round during mortar training.

## DISTINCTIVE AIRMAN

During his f rst "All-Call" at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Aug. 14, Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, formally recognized the six 2013 Air National Guard Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Among these distinct Airmen, was 108th Wing's Tech. Sgt. Jamie Jones, who was awarded Outstanding Honor Guard Program Manager.

Story by Airman 1st Class Kellyann Novak 108th Wing Public Affairs



Tech. Sgt. Jamie Jones, center, holds her award for Air National Guard's 2013 Outstanding Airman of the Year, which was presented to her by the Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke, III, left, and Command **Chief Master Sergeant** of the Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, right. (U.S. Air National **Guard photo by Master** Sgt. Marvin R. Preston/ Released)

While in Washington, D.C., Jones and the other f ve Airmen met and had dinner with Clarke and Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the ANG. "They just kind of paraded us around; we went to the Pentagon, we toured Capitol Hill," said Jones. "Then they took us to a Nationals game. They treated us like rock stars!"

On his off cial Facebook page, Hotaling congratulated the Airmen by saying, "This is a signif cant accomplishment for these Airmen that have been selected for this honor. Their personal characters, devotion to duty, and execution of excellence have led them to be highlighted as the Air National Guard's best of the best! This accomplishment speaks to the recognized excellence and distinction of our great Airmen from the 54 States, Territories and the District."

As the 108th Wing's Honor Guard Program Manager, Jones's responsibilities entailed coordinating details and events for ribbon cutting ceremonies, funerals, change of command ceremonies, commander's calls, parades, etc. Jones also handled the budgeting and supplies for the honor guard team. In addition, during the previous f scal year, the honor guard participated in eleven 76er's games, partnering up with the Army National Guard. They also supported a variety of other events.

When asked about the benef ts of being the Honor Guard Program Manager, Jones replied, "It was cool to see our members walk up and post the colors for the colonel and seeing everything that you put in behind the scenes to get this four person team that impresses the whole wing when they're up there. We always get told what a good job they do. The feedback from the people in the Wing is great."

The McGuire Elite Honor Guard is the busiest honor guard in the Air Force, providing military funeral honors to veterans residing in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The 108th Wing's Honor Guard coordinates with active duty and has some members on orders to support McGuire's honor guard. Jones said, "We are getting ready to have f ve people go support their team; we've been supporting McGuire for about two years. Then they come back here on drill weekends and use their knowledge to teach honor guard training classes - because they get more experience with funerals - for any volunteers throughout the Wing that want to be a part of the honor guard team."

Asked why should an Airman consider joining the 108th Honor Guard? Jones says, "It puts you out there in the Wing when you perform ceremonies. People often ask, 'Who was that Airman and where are they out of?' I think it gives squadrons a sense of pride having an active honor guard member. It's great on military and civilian resumes, promotion boards and bullet statements. Too often in the Guard, people stay within their squadron but if you have a bunch of different Airmen out of different squadrons that meet for training it helps give a sense of camara¬derie with the other squadrons."

Clarke echoed the above sentiments during the ceremony honoring the Airmen of the Year. "One of the things I challenged everyone with is to serve with distinction," said Clarke. "Here are some Airmen who fully capture that ideal and take it to heart."

## Engineers to deconstruct

Story and photos by Sqt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven Joint Force Headquarters **Public Affairs** 

When you mention Army engineers, most people think of them as building roads or constructing buildings. For the New Jersey Army National Guard's 150th Engineer Company, their mission in Afghanistan will be the opposite. They will be deconstructing.

The 113 Citizen-Soldiers received a sendoff at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., August 10. Among the well-wishers was New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno.

She addressed the capacity crowd,

be easy. "But I know the 150th will take it all in stride," added Hager.

"The important work of the 150th in Afghanistan...will allow all of our troops to come home faster and our entire nation wants to thank you for that," said Guadagno.

She expressed her mixed emotions as a parent whose son is at the Air Force Academy when Guadagno told the parents: "I can't imagine how hard it also is to let them go."

"They are heroes, they want to go," said Guadagno.



than 100 150th Engineer Company Soldiers to the Wright- Gov. Kim Guadagno as the Citizen-Soldiers of the 150th mander and 1st Sgt. Paulo Amado stown gate of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., to Engineers enter the Joint Military and Family Assistance clutch U.S. and state f ags presentstart their deployment to Afghanistan.

Nearly one hundred motorcycle riders escorted the more Spc. James D'Amico shakes hands with New Jersey Lt. Capt. Jeffrey Hager, 150th com-Center in Bordentown, N.J., Aug. 10, 2013.

ed to them during the ceremony.

You are the generation that gives us hope that tomorrow will be truly better than today.

Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno

recalling how these engineers were on the frontlines during Hurricane Sandy replenishing protective berms. Now they were headed to different frontline.

"You are the generation that gives us hope that tomorrow will be truly better than today," said Guadagno.

The unit's mission this time is not restoring dunes, but returning areas in Afghanistan back to how they looked to the military buildup.

"It is important, not only important in the respect that we are closing down FOBs (Forward Operating Bases) and reducing our nation's footprint in Afghanistan, but also has the implied mission that we are helping to bring our brother Soldiers home," said Capt. Jeffrey Hager, commander of the horizontal engineer company

Hager, of Pemberton Township, has been an off cer at the unit since it was a detachment. He sees the mission ahead will not

The f nal farewell ended as a pair of busses rolled out of Hammonton with a police and motorcycle escort. Nearly one hundred riders brought the Soldiers to the gate of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst where the motorcyclists dismounted and saluted the engineers as they entered the installation.

"Missing your loved one gets easier every day because even though it is one day further from the last time you saw them, it is one closer to next time you will," said Hager.

The 150th Engineer Company includes Citizen-Soldiers from 19 of the state's 21 counties. Four-dozen Soldiers from Delaware deployed with the New Jersey Guardsmen as they left for mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

## **ON TARGET-EVERY TIME**

By Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Kane Lawlor, a tactical air control party Airman assigned to the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, radios a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 1-150 Assault Helicopter Battalion during training at Warren Grove Gunnery Range in Ocean County, N.J. on Aug. 29. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley/Released) They put the "precision" in , precision-guided ordnance.

They are the Tactical Air Control Party Specialists (TACPs) and their role on the battlef eld is to rapidly acquire targets and ensure the bombs land on the enemy, not friendly forces.

Although the TACPs are part of the Air Force, they do their work embedded with Army ground forces, juggling communications between land commanders and pilots to ensure ordnance hits the right target at the right time, the right place and the right angle.

And although Army commanders give the TACPs authority to strike specif c targets, the approval to release the weapons is given to them by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In August, TACPs from the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), a detachment of the 177th Fighter Wing, participated in f eld training exercises with New Jersey Army National Guard's 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion at Warren Grove Range and the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Fort Pickett.

These exercises were unique for the National Guard, as New Jersey's Air and Army assets combined as a unif ed combat force.

While the ten-member Air Force presence was small compared to the nearly 3,000 New Jersey Army National Guardsmen participating, their role in bringing f repower was outsized, as the TACPs were directing ordnance drops from F-16 f ghter jets from the 177th Wing.

Although it was the f rst time the Army and Air assets joined in a training environment, the capabilities of the TACPs was well-known among Army commanders.

"I can tell you that I have used them before, in the real deal, and I have dropped some big bombs with their assistance and they've been at my side," said Lt. Col. Thomas Hallowell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry. "They do a great job and they're warriors and literally, they're game changers."

Hallowell recalled how the morale of troops he was leading in a f ref ght turned around after

1st Class Josh Darins and Staff Sgt. Kane Lawlor, both tactical air control party Airmen from the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, exit a 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter during an air insertion exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., on Aug 17. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

he called in a close-air support to destroy their enemy's position.

"The swing in 90 seconds was incredible," he said.

For other Army leaders less familiar with the use of close air support, the hope was that the joint exercise would help increase their awareness and comfort with air power.

Lt. Col. Al Danza, commander of the 227th ASOS, said his troops laid the groundwork by participating in all brigade planning leading up to the exercise.

"It is incumbent upon us to tell them how this works," Danza said. The Airmen were fully integrated in all of the major troop movements during the exercise, including in an air insertion about UH-60 Black Hawks with scouts from of the 1st Battalion, 102nd Cavalry.

Lt. Col. Bill Morris, the 102nd commander, said the presence of the Airmen and their ability to summon F-16s was a "force multiplier" for

his troops.

"One of the great things about the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard is that we have these folks organic to the State," Morris said. "We work in partnership with them long term. It's great to be able to bring them here and do the mission that you're looking forward to someday or that you're training for."



### **CST** tested

Staff Sgt. Brandon Botley, left, and Spc. Nick Lam inspect vehicles during the 21st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) external evaluation at the Cape May County Mosquito Control Off ces in Cape May Courthouse May 14, 2013. Every 18 to 24 months, the 21 New Jersey Army and Air National Guard members of the CST undergo an evaluation of 500 tasks to make sure the unit is ready to assist civilian authorities in event of a chemical-biological or nuclear threat. NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven

## CANTARA PROMOTED TO CSM

Story and photo by Kryn P. Westhoven

It has been about a decade since the New Jersey Army National Guard has had a woman wearing the rank of command sergeant major.

Consequently, Paula Cantara is only the second female to achieve this rank, following Command Sgt. Maj. Cora Byrd.

"Cory was one of the f rst people I met when I came in," said Cantara.

While she will still be working full-

time at the U.S. Property and Fiscal Off ce on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, on drill weekends she will be with the 117th Combat Support and Sustainment Battalion.

Command Sgt. Maj. Paula Cantara, second

from right, at her promotion ceremony.

"It is an honor and privilege and I never thought I'd be here," said Cantara, as she ref ected on past sergeant majors that mentored her through the years. "They always said I would make it."

Now her goal is to prepare the future leaders. "We need to leave the Guard a better place than when we came in and these kids need to improve on what we started."

### WAIVER FOR CDL

Soldiers and Airmen may substitute two years of safe commercial motor vehicle military driving experience for the required driving skills test needed to qualify for a New Jersey Commercial Driver's License Class A or Class B.

Applicants for a commercial driver license to operate school busses or vehicles used to transport hazardous material will not be given a waiver under these bills. The service member needs to provide the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission with satisfactory proof the applicant is a military member in a position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a commercial motor vehicle.

For more details visit the nearest MVC office.

## CHALLENGE ALL SMILES

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young

he sound of buzzing drills f lled the air at the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy, but it wasn't for building construction, it was dentists reinforcing the foundation of good oral health amongst New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy cadets.

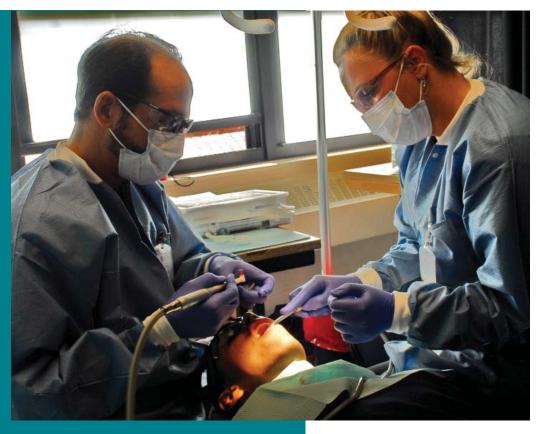
The 129 New Jersey Youth Challenge cadets received onsite dental care at the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The dental care was provided for free by a collaboration of seven dentists and 17 dental assistants from the Oral Health Impact Project and Caplin Family Charities, both programs are a part of the Diversity Outreach Comprehensive Science (DOCS) Initiative.

The DOCS Initiative aims to attract students from underrepresented socio-economic backgrounds to the biomedical science f eld in preparation for careers in medicine, dentistry and allied health professions.

The New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy had the honor of being the f rst of all of the Youth Challenge Academies across the country to receive this type of onsite comprehensive dental care.

The staff setup six full treatment rooms in the academy's building and performed comprehensive care for the cadets, from simple cleanings to oral surgery. Cadets were given bitewing x-rays and panographs to diagnose their oral health.

Some cadets come from families that didn't have many opportunities to see a dentist, but walked away



Our goal is to change behaviors in regards to oral health through community outreach and oral health education.

Dr. Lawrence Caplin Caplin Family Charities with invaluable treatments, knowledge of their own overall oral health and goodie bags f lled with oral hygiene products.

"Our goal is to change behaviors in regards to oral health through community outreach and oral health education," said Dr. Lawrence Caplin.

The Oral Health Impact Project is the only school-based program in the nation that provides comprehensive treatment on location as part of a model that changes the expectations, outcomes and opportunities for underserved children.

Caplin Family Charities has begun to establish Oral Health Academies in underserved communities such as Camden, Philadelphia and Baltimore in order to provide teens and young adults with the opportunity to study dentistry and oral health.

Caplin Family Charities provides funding for scholarships, internships and externships, and furthering education for underprivileged youth and young adults interested in becoming a dentist, oral hygienist or certif ed dental assistant.

# MAINTAINING THE WINGS







a training exercise of checking aircraft parts under a black light, looking for defects, April 14, 2013, at Atlantic City International Airport. Nichols is assigned to the 177th Fighter Wing Nondestructive Inspection shop. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew J. Merlock Jr./Released) Tech. Sgt. Ewan G. Seeman, 108th Wing, changes out an ejector pump on a KC-135R Stratotanker in for maintenance at the 108th's phase dock at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Jan. 13, 2013. Seeman is a jet engine mechanic with the 108th Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen) Master Sgt. Chris Skierski and Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Hemme, both with the 177th Fighter Wing, power up a General Electric F110 engine to afterburner during an engine test on Feb. 7, 2013, at Atlantic City International Airport, N.J. Skierski and Hemme are both F-16C Fighting Falcon engine mechanics assigned to the 177th Maintenance Group. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/ Released)







In his own words, here's two things you should know about 1st Sgt. Rene Sales of Headquarters Company, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

"I've always lived life in the fast lane" and "I've always been a gearhead."

One look at the 26-year career New Jersey Army National Guard veteran's pride and joy demonstrates

the veracity of that statement. It's a methanol-burning, 434-cubic-inch, stroked out Chevy small block, with enormous racing slick tires under a 1975 Chevy Monza shell. His 2,450-pound, 700 horsepower, 147 mile-per-hour Detroit-born beast can eat the quarter mile in 8.9 seconds.

Sales grew up in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn when it was a tough neighborhood, not a hipster haven. Today, he's a f rst sergeant, successful entrepreneur and semi-pro racecar driver who never forgets that many troops he leads joined the military to rise beyond humble beginnings, just as he did.

"I started off with very little. My family didn't have a lot," he said. "When I came into the military, I needed a place to eat and a roof over my head. The Army is what led me out of that."

Sales said the discipline and structure of the military equipped him with the tools needed to achieve success.

Today, he owns and operates First Choice Auto in Toms River, which sponsors an NHRA dragster worth more than \$200,000. He's still climbing.

"You pay your dues to the end," he said, "I started this off when I was 'PV1 Snuffy'."

I would scrape together what little money I had to be with the big guys.

"When I was a kid, I always dreamed of two things: Being an Army guy and owning a shop. And I've accomplished both. Being in the military taught me to set, work for and achieve objectives. When I retire from the military, I hope to race pro."

Sales said the military taught him to never fear trying something – even if it seems like an impossible challege.

"You could be a kid from Brooklyn who didn't have much and... hey,

I'm not saying I'm wealthy. But I enjoy life and the military helped me."

Sales added that the military also helped him develop resilience in the face of adversity.

In November 2012, at a racetrack in northern New Jersey, Sales had a setback as the "wheelie bars" that help keep the incredible thrust of the vehicle from lifting it off of the ground failed.

Smoke from methanol alcohol exhaust f led the cab, the clutch popped and the front wheels of the car reached skyward.

"I stood it up on its back bumper. When the car came down, it was off line and I ran into the wall," he said.

When the parachute deployed and he stepped out of the roll cage in his Nomex suit, the high-speed dragster was now no more useful than a large paperweight. But his military experience helped him rebuild and the same leadership skills he employs at the front of his formation, he used to reset and rebuild his car and

his team.

"I have a lot of f aws that's why I surround myself with smart people," Sales said. "I can't do the racing on my own. Just as I mold the troops, I do the same thing at the shop."

Through his shop, he has an internship program with Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, where he gives back and helps train the next generation of "gearheads." Sales also said his military experience attracts veterans who come to share their stories with him about cars, combat and life.

"Veterans come to tell war stories and kick the tires," he said.

The bottom line for Sales is that he has found a way to combine a life of service, a life of horsepower, family and a successful career – all because the Army led him to believe anything is possible.

"If I walked away today, I would walk away smiling," he said.

When I was a kid I always dreamed of two things: Being an Army guy and owning a shop. And I've accomplished both.



Three members of the 21st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), front to back, Capts. Clifford A. Giampietro and Sony Stab and Sgt 1st Class Desmond T. Canty (not pictured) were recognized by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Cunniff, left, the Adjutant General, in a ceremony at the New Jersey National Guard Family Assistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., Oct. 8, 2013.



Christine Bolton, right, and Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, the Adjutant General, pin on commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard Col. Robert C. Bolton's brigadier general stars during a state medals ceremony at the Cherry Hill Mall June 4, 2013.



From left to right, Cols. Edward J. Chrystal, Daniel T. Mahon and Christopher L. Perron pose for a group photo at their promotion ceremony at the Joint Military and Family Center in Bordentown, N.J., Oct. 9, 2013.



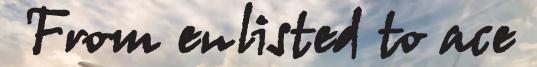
Col. Lisa J. Hou, center, is pinned her colonel rank by family members during a promotion ceremony at New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Lawrenceville off ce July 30, 2013. (NJD-MAVA photos by Mark C. Olsen)



### MAT scenes

Photo above: Sienna Nichole Siracusa, front right, daughter of Maj. Vincent Siracusa Jr., back and second from right, follows her father's example and salutes during the playing of the national anthem during the welcome home ceremony for the Military Advisor Team (MAT) III, who were welcomed home at the Joint Force Headquarters, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 22, 2013, after a year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. MATs are a small team of off cers and NCOs whose primary task is to coach, teach and mentor Afghan National Army (ANA) units. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released) Photo below: Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, the Adjutant General, presents the national and state f ags to Maj. Kevin J. Murphy, center, and Master Sgt. Eric C. Maney at a Salute to Troops ceremony for the Military Advisor Team IV at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., April 18, 2013. MAT IV will serve as the conduit for liaison and command and control and, when required, support the operational planning and employment of the ANA. (NJDMAVA photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez)





JERSEY JERK

Donald J. Strait was born on April 28, 1918 in East Orange, N.J., and grew up in the nearby town of Verona.

As a child, he dreamed of being a pilot and built model airplanes.

"I used to spend the weekends... up at the airport talking to crew chiefs, talking to pilots... just watching airplanes f y because I was extremely interested in aviation," said Strait. "It was a pretty extensive bike ride and my mother used to pack me a brown-bag lunch, and I would spend the whole day there watching these airplanes maneuver and be tested."

These experiences laid the foundation of a career in aviation, when, in 1940, frustrated with his job working for Prudential Insurance, he enlisted in the 119th Observation Squadron, which was located at Newark Airport.

"In January of '41, they sent me to aircraft armament school out at Lowry Field in Denver, Co. ... for about four months, where I was training as an aircraft armorer."

Strait worked his way from armorer to aerial gunner in the backseat of an O-47 observation aircraft. During that time, the pilots he was f ying with convinced him to sign up for pilot training. After qualifying as an aviation cadet, Strait was sent to f ight school at Maxwell Field, Ala., where he graduated and received his commission in January 1943.

"Fortunately, I was one of the 30 that went to f ghters," said Strait. "I don't know what I would have done if they had have called me out for B-17s. I don't think I could have handled it because I wanted to be a f ghter pilot so badly and I had done very well in f ight school."

After training on a P-47 Thunderbolt at Westover Field in Chicopee, Mass., Strait and his fellow Airmen were made a part of the 356th Fighter Group and sent to England in the summer of 1943.

It was in a P-47 that Strait had his f rst victory against the Germans when he shot down a Messerschmitt Me 109 f ghter aircraft in February 1944. By the end of the war, Strait gained 13.5 aerial victories in Story and illustration by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

the P-47 and the P-51D Mustang. In a sign of how his command career would progress, by the end of 1944, he had been promoted to commander of the 361st Fighter Squadron – the only captain in the 8th Air Force to command a squadron.

At war's end, Strait returned to New Jersey, where he served as commander of the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing. During the Korean War, he was one of two Air National Guard off cers promoted to colonel. He was responsible for setting up the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing at

McGuire Air Force Base and moving the 119th Fighter Group from Newark to Atlantic City. In 1955, he was the f rst Air Guard off cer to graduate from Air War College. A year later he did a 21-month tour at the Pentagon as

#### I'm a product of the Air National Guard. I can say that with all respect because the Air Guard did everything for me

the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Air Force ROTC, Air Guard, Air Reserve and Civil Air Patrol Affairs all the while serving as the 108th's commander.

He later became the f rst Air National Guard off cer in New Jersey to be promoted to major general and was selected as the commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard serving from 1958 to 1971.

"I'm a product of the Air National Guard. I can say that with all respect because the Air Guard did everything for me," said Strait. *This article contains quotes from an interview with retired Maj. Gen Donald J. Strait, NJANG by Chief Master Sgt. David P. Anderson from the Air National Guard History Program on May 15, 2008.* 

### Wet-down

Chief Warrant Off cer 2 Kristina S. Sofchak, left, soaks Col. Mark A. Preston and crew chief Sgt. Leroy Metz Jr. following their f nal f ight with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 28, 2013. Preston enlisted in the NJARNG in August 1982 and became a helicopter pilot in January 1988. Metz joined the NJARNG in November 1975 and has served as a crew chief since 1977. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

## **NJNG Family Assistance Centers**

JOINT MILITARY & FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER 1048 US Hwy 206 Bordentown, NJ 08505 POC: Michael Hughes WP: (609) 324-7030 michael.t.hughes.ctr@mail.mil

#### **108TH WING**

3327 Charles Blvd. McGuire AFB, NJ 08641 POC: Douglas Ridgway WP: (609) 754-4479 douglas.ridgway@ang.af.mil

#### 177TH FIGHTER WING 400 Langley Rd. Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234 POC: Jean Perry

WP: (609) 761-6248 Jean.perry@ang.af.mil

#### ARMY-FAC 177TH FIGHTER WING 400 Langley RD. Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234 POC: Michael Hughes

WP: (609) 761-6546 michael.t.hughes.ctr@mail.mil

#### | JERSEY CITY ARMORY |

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TOMS RIVER ARMORY 1200 Whitesville Road Toms River, NJ 08753 POC: Maria Morro WP: (732) 341-9102 Ext 13 maria.d.morro.ctr@mail.mil

#### WOODBURY ARMORY

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#### AFRC, BLACKWOOD

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OR CALL 888-859-0352

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ELIVE

taying t AT

> He's 5-foot-7, 185 pounds and has a body fat percentage low enough to land him in the "elite athlete" range on most f tness charts. He can also do 25 pull-ups, bench press 400 pounds – and max the run on the APFT.

This makes Gaines the ideal f tness expert to share his experience and advice on preparing for an AT session. It starts with three key factors that coalesce into a solid foundation for ensuring you stay f t during AT: mind, diet and exercise. A focused mind leads to better

By Sgt. Michael J. Davis 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ows of exhausted Soldiers sluggishly jumped, twisted and kicked a few more grueling repetitions on the quiet, otherwise empty f eld in front of their barracks.

Each labored movement during this early morning PT session during Annual Training only increased the groups' lack of rhythm and uniformity. The bent bodies and glazed eyes said it all: they were spent.

Staff Sgt. Akeel Gaines, senior logistician for the Army National Guard's 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, took charge.

Arms bulging, but voice soft, Gaines began to call out:

"No stopping... No rest... Not yet... Let's go ... We're gonna get it!" That was all it took. The Soldiers snapped to the next exercise starting position, determined looks in their eyes.

Annual training is supposed to be tough. The days are long, the training is exhausting and the accommodations can be ... challenging. But for that broad swath of National Guard Soldiers who are devoted to physical f tness or sports-specif c training, annual training can derail set workout routines and undo f tness gains with calorie-packed meals.

Gaines – a body builder and endurance athlete – sees AT as a way all Soldiers can improve f tness by breaking from routine.

"When you're on AT, there won't always be a gym available to work out, but there's always going to be a training f eld or open space. That's all you need to get a quality workout session," Gaines said.

At 30, with military career spanning more than a decade, Gaines is qualif ed in f ve Military Occupational Specialties and works full-time for the New Jersey National Guard.

Among Gaines's passions is helping others improve their f tness, in both body and mind.

"I want to develop f tness programs for the Army, for hospitals and even religious groups to help people change their lifestyles and their lives," said Gaines, who holds a master's degree in specialized ministries and is working on a second in health and wellness lifestyle management at Rowan University.

For Gaines, the first step in helping others is to lead by example.

nutritional choices and ultimately the best condition for physical exercise.

These three tenets are the foundation for successfully utilizing the AT period to not only maintain, but even jump-start a training regimen.

"The foundation is the mind," said Gaines. "It's more than just diet and exercise. A strong mind helps you set clear, obtainable goals. It keeps you going, keeps you setting new goals."

Gaines believes dietary survival during AT forces you to be creative; you have to think outside of the box since you won't have a fridge. Snacks are important to keep you f lled with the nutrients your body needs while making sure you don't get too hungry, which leads to overeating.

Gaines goes grocery shopping before AT and spend less than \$40 to supplement lunch and snacks during the two-week training. He'll bring things like protein shakes, tuna, cans of fruit and peanut butter and jelly. These are foods that won't spoil right away, don't require refrigeration, are high in protein and good fats, and that are relatively inexpensive.

With the proper motivational mindset and diet for sustaining energy during the long days of AT, Gaines says you're now in the optimal state for a high-intensity workout.

"If you work out too long, you're wasting your time," said Gaines. "Thirty minutes to one hour, tops. Go in, be effective and get out. Anyone working out for two or three hours is wasting their time."

Gaines recommends high-intensity workouts which elevate the heart, burn calories and build endurance.

Perhaps the best feature of high-intensity workouts is the variety. Gaines said that mixing up your workout routine is imperative to reap maximum benef ts.

"You're not going to see change by going into the gym and doing the same things over and over again. Spending an hour on the same machine will not impact change.

Change requires adjusting the things you do and the amount you do it."

It's precisely these high-intensity workouts that remove the most common excuse for not working out: Time.

"The number one thing we have to f x is time," said Gaines. "I'm tired of hearing about time. You give me 25 minutes and I'll get you ready."

## Next Gen leaders

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley

The New Jersey National Guard is f nding that its longstanding partnership with Albania is proving to be fertile ground for cultivating the next generation of military leaders in both countries.

In July, two New Jersey Army National Guard off cers led a dozen American ROTC cadets on a three week mission to interact with Albanian non-commissioned off cers who are training to become commissioned off cers.

It was the first time New Jersey has participated in the ROTC Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program, which allows American officer candidates to become im-

mersed in a foreign culture and train with members of a foreign military. "For the cadets, it was not only about learning about Albania, it was about learning about themselves," said Maj. William Bono, who lead the mission and was assisted by Capt. Glenn Sudol.

The cadets who participated were from colleges around the nation and during their time in Albania they had an opportunity to train not only with NCOs who are students in that nation's f edgling off cer candidate program but also to train with Albanian special forces troops.

"Both groups had a huge impact on each other," Bono said.

Bono and Sudol met the cadets at Fort Knox and spent several days preparing for the trip, building cohesion among the cadets who had never met before.

Once in Albania, the cadets were able to interact with Albanian soldiers eager to practice their English. The cadets from both



countries embarked on a service project at a local medical clinic. In addition to a rappelling exercise with the special forces troops, the cadets participated in physical f tness training with the Albanian cadets and NCOs.

Bono said some of the best interactions came when the cadets and their Albanian counterparts shared stories about home and tried to dispel myths about each other's countries. The Albanians, for example, thought all American cowboys were small in stature; f guring large men would be too heavy for the horses.

The program was deemed enough of a success by Army ROTC Command that, next summer, New Jersey will coordinate an expanded program that will run for nine weeks and allow up to 50 cadets to attend. Thirty-f ve of those cadets will be New Jersey National Guard members who are participant's cadets in the Simultaneous Membership Program.



# ENLISTED

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To Command Sergeant Major (E-9) Kevin E. Lewis Earnest J. Williams Jr.

To Sergeant Major (E-9) Michael H. Colbert Scott E. Mechkowski

To First Sergeant (E-8) Roman M. Charczenko Eric C. Maney James McGoonan Angel L. Torres

Angel L. Torres To Master Sergeant (E-8) Brandin A. Benson Daniel J. Coleman Jr. Jose T. Cruz Sheila R. Farrell Shawna M. Frey Andrew P. Glatz Glenn J. Godleski Glenn J. Godleski Glenn J. Godleski David A. Michaels Jose A. Rivera Alicia Seaborn Joseph A. Swansinger Luis A. Unda Lance J. Vanderven Steven E. Vandervort Daniel Wilson

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James B. Bertolet Randai Bisset Martin L. Borton Sean J. Bowen Erin E. Brennan Hichael C. Brewster Jessic L. Brooks Damont S. Brown James T. Cherma Michael H. Citelli Paul Cimino Martin J. Coe Steion R. Coleman Javier A. Colon Jr. Chelsea L. Coppock Robert A. Cortes Stadas L. Coopock Robert A. Cortes Sinael A. Cotto Shaun J. Counts Charles E. Crawley Sr. Erica L. Cruz Roger G. Damon Sandra L. Davis Matthew D. Dawson Muthem W. Dawson Muthem W. Dawson Muthew D. Javier A. Sosnera L. Davis Matthew D. Dawson Muthew D. Javier A. Seandra L. Davis Matthew D. Javier M. Seandra L. Davis Muthew D. Javier M. Mathew D. Gamon Sandra L. Davis Muthew D. Generally Jeffrey O. Escalante Herman J. Fenrie Steven H. Felme Steven H. Felmer Julio C. Gamboa Steven A. Garratano Jr. Brandon M. Gehm Mathew D. Generally Justin F. Francis Jacob J. Gowdy William C. Greeley Jonathan M. Hackenburg Kenneth W. Hall Sean P. Harrigan Scott A. Hermann Nicholas R. Hill Sean M. Hodge Glenn B. Holcombe John J. Holly III Sean M. Hodge Glenn B. Holcombe John J. Holly III Sean M. Hodge Glenn B. Holcombe John J. Holly III Nathan L. Ibero Matthew X. Jones Wilfred Jones Ferry W. Jones Wilfred Jones Ferry M. Jones Wilfred Jones Ferry W. Jones Wilfred Jones Ferry W. Jones Wilfred J. Jones Ferry W. Jones Wilfred J. Jones Wilf



Jeffrey W. Burlaga Ethan D. Burney Michael J. Buttros Jr. Wilbert D. Bynum Christopher A. Caamano Anthony J. Caballeron E Thomas A. Calvo I. Campbell Jennifer L. Campos Paul S. Cannizzaro Chaddy Cantona William G. Casamassima Isaias C. Castillo Yadid G. Chanizrico Bi Chen Tamara R. Cheney Jena R. Clifford Matthew D. Collins Roy A. Combs III Michael P. Connolly Jarees A. Coppinger John W. Cosby Jared A. Cotastaro David A. Cruz Mark A. Cubile Keishon J. Currie Joseph P. Daino Christopher M. Danze Lawrence J. Davidson Keith A. Davis Tyler E. Davis Michael J. Davis Hector J. Delacruz Jesse D. Elenon Christopher M. Danze Lawrence J. Davidson Keith A. Davis Tyler E. Davis Michael J. Davis Edward A. Cruz Mark A. Cubile Keishon J. Currie Joseph P. Daino Christopher M. Danze Lawrence J. Davidson Keith A. Davis Tyler E. Davis Michael J. Davis Edward A. Debiase Jr. Hector J. Delacruz Jesse J. Davis Michael J. Davis Stephen T. Dorsey Celesie M. Dowe Joseph V. Dressel Abel A. Duque Rodrigo S. Duran Shanne R. Exkert Sr. Michael R. Engelhard Jr. Niree L. Ervin Schussler M. Ferguson Randal J. Ferrara Marco G. Fox Bran J. Frangione Thus L. Firmin Wesley T. Flores Jermaine A. Forbes Steven R. Forres Jerner R. Forres Jerner R. Forres Jerner B. Gonzalez Cachanah C. Greaz Charles J. Griff De James D. Gorzalez Cachanah C. Greaz Charles J. Griff De James D. Gorzalez Cachanah C. Greaz Charles J. Griff De James D. Gorzalez Cachanah C. Greaz Charles J. Griff De James D. Gorzalez Cachanah C. Greaz Charles J. Griff De James D. Gorzalez Cachanah C. Greaz Charles J. Griff De James D. Gorzalez Cachanah C. Greaz Charles J. Griff De James D. Griffin De James D. Gorzalez Cachanah C. Greaz Charles J. Griff De James D. Gorzalez Andrew Koniecko Kevin S. Konopka Ryan S. Kotulich

Adam J. Kraus James S. Kube Daniel J. Kubik Wayne P. Kulnis Nicky Lam Renato O. Lara Andre D. Lawrence Julian V. Leddaohare Luis M. Lescano Christopher M. Lewis Hector J. Londono Benedict V. Lopez David J. Loughniller Shawn P. Lowrie Abraham Lugo Joshua M. Luis Christopher J. Luisi Luis A. I. Luna Richard Machado Lorenzo Malied Oscar Maldonado Kory M. Malone Josen P. Namola Marwatie Manoo Jeremy J. Marreno Marwatie Manoo Jeremy J. Marreno Marcus D. Martinez Roger D. Martinez Robert C. Martine Zaniel J. McGrath Jr. Sheldon A. McKenzie Kyle L. McNeilh Justina I. Medina Erik R. Mitchal Daniel J. McGrath Jr. Sheldon A. McKenzie Kyle L. McNeilh Justina I. Medina Erik R. Mitchal Daniel J. Morena Danie J. Morena Danie J. Morena Danie J. Morena David A. Nickela Daniel A. Nickenzie Kyle L. Mcolas Michael A. Nicolas Michael P. Nobanky Petrick T. Nobanky Petrick T. Nobanky Petrick J. Nicolas Michael A. Nicolas Rafael A Padilia Spenser T. Padige Victor H. Padige Victor H. Patrick Niuka Y. Pena Jonathan M. Pennisi Alberto L. Perez Javier E. Perezalvarez Tricker T. Piazza Ir. Peterson Pierrez Davier E. Porezalvarez Tricker T. Piazza Ir. Peterson Pierrez Davier E. Porezalvarez Tricker T. Piazza Ir. Peterson Pierrez Davier E. Porezalvarez Tricker T. Piazza Ir. Peterson Pierrez Davier J. Pores Oderier D. Pores David J. Polanco Jr. Wucol J. Polanco Jr. Wucol J. Polanco Johnathan I. Reesor Windell M. Register Glenn J. Richardson A fam J. Richardson Betsy D. Romero Carmen Danod F. Roberts Vincent L. Rodriguez Alance K. Ryu Betsy D. Romero Carmen Danod R. Rossiter David J. Rocellakos Anthony T. Saloka Johard R. Sossiter David J. Scotta Abdul Scotta Abdul Scotta Abdul Scotta Abdul Scotta Abdul Scotta Abdul Scotta Antrew E. Scotti Abdul Scotta Anthony T. Saloka Juse Sanchez Charles J. Schoenhaar Anthony J. Saloka Juse J. Shipmel Aaron B. Smith Michael C. Smith Bryan M. Smith Darren T. Smith Jose J. Solano Richard J. Sopko Dana K. Spinks Earl W. Stagg Jr. Corey Staggers Paul K. Stanislas Timothy C. Stapfer Gregory S. Stevens Robert F. St. John David S. Sutton Troy S. Tabanelli Richard J. Tabor Myriande Tedders Andre D. Thomas Julian J. Tobias Giovanni Toro Jacob T. Torres David Torres Joel Z. Torres David Torres Joel Z. Torres David Torres Julian Trecate Kyle D. Trew Houdinis Trujillo Cindy Urrea Toan N. Tran Cristina Trecate Kyle D. Trew Houdinis Trujillo Cindy Urrea Toan N. Tran Cistina Trecate Kyle D. Trew Houdinis Trujillo Cindy Urrea Toan N. Tran Cistina Tecate Kyle D. Trew Houdinis Trujillo Cindy Urrea Toan N. Tran Cistina Tecate Kyle D. Trew Houdinis Trujillo Cindy Urrea Toan N. Tran Cistina Tecate Kyle D. Tew Houdinis Trujillo Cindy Urrea Toan N. Tran Cistina Tecate Kyle D. Tew Houdinis Trujillo Cindy Urrea Toan N. Tran Cistina Tecate Kyle D. Tew Houdins Trujillo Constopher J. Walaszek Lekeble Washington Sydni C. Walans Matthew P. Williams Matthew P. Ziegler Carlos J. Zuniga

To Specialist (F-4) Kyle W. Abbott Thomas C. Ables Jorge H. Aedo Daniela A. Aquidelogarces Andrew A. Aquirre Adolfo F. Aquirre Kaan A. Akyol Salvatore G. Albanese Terron Alers William G. Alford Andre J. Alfred Jorge I. Alicea Sr. Alfonso J. Alicea James A. Allick Frank M. Alston Gustavo A. Alvarez Joseph E. Amatrudo Kevin T. Amdits Nicholas J. Andersen Shawn A. Anderson Denis D. Antunes Jaime A. Apgar Kicholas J. Andersen Shawn A. Anderson Denis D. Antunes Jaime A. Apgar Kicholas J. Andersen Shawn A. Anderson Denis D. Antunes Jaime A. Apgar Kisholas J. Andersen Shawn A. Anderson Denis D. Antunes Jaime A. Apgar Kishard Arosemena Hector R. Arazola Jr. Benjair Asmat Josha E. Avilleira Esteban J. Babilonia Emanuel H. Baezrovira Christopher Y. Bag Tishawna A. A. Bailey Christopher D. Bailargey Christopher D. Bailangey Christopher J. Balino Anthony P. Balon Francis K. Baluyot Perez Jesse W. Bamboza Thiango V. Barinos Justin M. Barrowstrewitt Robert L. Barros Justin M. Barrowstrewitt Robert T. Bernensi Justin M. Barrowstrewitt Robert H. Basco Jr. Alberto L. Barooza Thiango V. Barion Jennifer Barrios Justin M. Barrowstrewitt Robert T. Berenesi Christopher M. Bialsc

## ROMOTIONS

Steven M. Blasi Alec M. Bogda John M. Boland Ingrith I. Bolanos Michelle Bolton Daquan A. Boyd Brittany A. Boyd Jennifer A. Brady Justin G. Brandon Mosguero J. Bravo Daniel Sean P. Brenner Bryan K. Brewster Jr. Rachel N. Brinkley Dylan N. Brody Ryan C. Brown Justin I. Brunn Angtrew J. Brunn Peter J. Ferares Jr. Taslima Ferdous Felicia M. Fernandez Brachir A. Ferneindez William A. Fey Joseph A. Figarelli Megan E. Fine Joseph A. Figarelli Megan E. Fine Semuel D. Frank Marquise L. Frasier Yaw O. Frimpong William C. Fritts Ruby Fuentes Mathew J. Gaines Sebastian Gallego Adriana Garcia Jorge Garcia Diana P. Carcia Nieves Robert D. Garretson Jr. Josipht T. Gavira Lopez Maxim Genel Lindsay Gentile Michael P. Genni Paris G. Glover Michael P. Genni Paris G. Glover Matham C. Glimore Ariane V. Glenn Paris G. Glover Wellington Godol Allen F. Gonzalez Gabriel J. Guereno Altredo Guillen Ramity Jouis Green Matsan M. Green Mustafa A. Greig Mark S. Grelle Marks Grelle J. Jonathan W. Hali J. Jonathan Anthony J. Judge Hee Y. Jung Yeon Jobs Kang Joseph M. Kaninard Odayah K. Kaplan Alexander I. D. B. Kasem Jonathan W. Keluum James J. Kennedv IV Alexander C. Kent Andrew R. Kervin Jeffrey R. Kind Jonathan T. Kios Matthew B. Kenyeth V. Kindand Jonathan T. Kios Matthew J. Knighton Kelsey L. Knoeller Robert J. Knott Joseph C. Koszyk Shannon E. Krand Matthew R. Krevetski Gilberto Lamourt Lashunte Lantz Lenny Lara Marc L. Latouche Christopher D. Lawler Jessica B. Layton Juan C. Lazo Sammy Le San Lee Joohyeng Lee Dohyeng Lee Dohyeng Lee Dohyeng Lee Joohyeng Lee Joohana A. Lindoust Christian D. Linnares German R. Liranzo Ricardo L. Lisojo Christopher L. Lobello Christian D. Locke Ricardo A. Lojaguillen Eric J. Lopez Joban J. Lopez Joban J. Lopez Joban J. Lopez Angel L. Lopez III Christopher M. Lopez Cakin J. Louke Stephanie V. Manansala Peter C. Manino Miguel R. Manilcic Joseph W. Maduzia Jocsan A. Mairena Giovanni A. Maldonado Stephanie V. Manansala Peter C. Manino Miguel R. Manilcic Joseph N. Margeotes Gerardo Marin Todd A. Marino Matthew J. Marshail Thomas L. Martin Thomas J. Menter Sean P. Mautone Michael J. McKateer Christian D. McCarthy Richard M. More Antine S. McNamara Reann R. McNaen Patrick N. Rivers Marthew J. Menendez Veronica J. Mender Marthew J. Martha Thomas J. Menendez Veronica J. Mender Marthew J. Marthan Reann R. McNaen Patrick N. Riverson Mirade L. Mazaire Gardos J. Mender Siephan A. Miklas Julio K. Minuchepincay Luis E. Mirma Mageline Noelvill Michael R Norelia Jason F Northedge Kenneth E. Novaki I. Christoper A. Nueva Andres A. Nunez Jr. Christina C. Nunez Jr. Rodolfo V. Olarte Edilad J. Oderinde Wayne D. Otkeefe Jr. Rodolfo V. Olarte Edilad Omeri Christopher G. Ondish Lisa M. Orellana Enmanuel Ortiz James S. Ortiz Laura J. Osorio Donald A. Owens Jr. Raymond Owusu Danug Pak Song M. Park Sean J. Palmer Angelos. N. Papageorgiou Kevin D. Paraiso Leon Sean J. Partker Sean J. Partker Sean J. Partker Sean J. Partker Angelos. N. Papageorgiou Kevin Patino Edilat K. Paylon Edilat K. Paylon Edilat K. Paylon Christo A. Peerz Israel R. Perzez Giovanne R. Perzez Giovanne R. Perzez Giovanne R. Perzez Jasac Perzez Israel R. Perzez Jasac Perzez Ja Dylan W. Seip Anthony G. Sengco Alex Sengvoravong Jeffrey J. Sennit Hogar F. Sepulveda III Mohammed S. Shah Kevin Shanahan Brandy J Steiensky Henderson A. Silva Derek T. Silver Ashley A. Simmons Marie Joseph M. Sims Floyd Singson Douglas E. Skinner Jr. Gerron D. Smatt Wayne D. Smith Francine M. Smith Francine M. Smith Sean V. Soto Dean P. Spadavecchia Edward R. Sperling Richard M. Steiner III Onard R. Stevens Jr. Ronald A. Stewart Jr. David A. Steiners Jr. Ronald A. Stewart Jr. David A. Stewartson Cory J. Sweetman Jorcan T. Jaliaterro Matika Tailey Jeffrey C. Taylor Joseph T. Jonnano Cory J. Sweetman Jorcan S. Jelichenat Jang M. Torandell Michael A. Torres Belicia C. Trajano Carlos M. Turner Renan W. Vanera Belica C. Valdera Jene Y. Valdera Janor Y. H. Venney Bran W. Valdera Janor Y. H. Venney Dewin Y. Valdera Janor Y. Valdera Zachary R. Armangeon Nkuah O. Asare Andrew G. Ashton Nelson A. Avila Minchty D. Bachman Matthew D. Backnen Michael Badway Andrew M. Baez Jamie L. Bahrn Christopher J. Balint Jusito J. Barasz Richard Bandurski Steven R. Banyasz Frank D. Barber III Thomas M. Barnes Pablo J. Barquero Matthew R. Bartington Marilim L. Barutia Assamad A. Bash Stephanie M. Barris Daniel L. Beachum Martin P. Becklel Sebastian Bedoya Jasen H. Beilusci Abrik Bennett Michael R. Bensley Viktoryia V. Belanyraya Jasen H. Beilusci Abrik Bennett Michael R. Bensley Schalor J. Blackshear III Shaquile A. Bissonnette Anirudcha Biswas Schalor J. Blackshear III Shaquile A. Bisnofic Corey J. Betrix James R. Bershey Markin K. Bernatet Michael K. Blecker Mark T. Bollmann John C. Bou Randy A. Boyton Brandon R. Branch Antoine I. Branch Antoine K. Blecker Mark T. Bollmann John C. Bou Randy A. Boyton Brandon R. Branch Antoine K. Blecker Mark T. Bollmann John C. Bou Randy A. Boyton Brandon R. Branch Antoine J. Branch Antoine J. Branch Antoine K. Blecker Mark T. Bollmann John C. Bou Randy A. Boyton Brandon R. Branch Antoine J. Branch Antoine J. Branch Antoine J. Branch Mark Bennet Scott M. Buildiger Christopher J. Buttel Manic Carde Brendan W. Carlos Sabrina K. Carrico Pablo Carrillo John C. Bou Mark Carlos Sabrina K. Carrico Pablo Carrilo Benjamin F. Carrol Wane Carlo Brandra R. Card Mark A. Conard Ji Dilion A. Card Negron J. Cardec Brendan W. Carlos Sabrina K. Carlos Benjamin F. Carrol Ward R. Castillo Abimael Carlos Heriberto A. Cortez J. Mark A. Conard Ji Andrew Chol Anthony Cebalen Mark A. Conard Ji Andrew Chol Anthony Cebalen Benjamin F. Carrol Ward R. Castillo Abimael Carlos Benjamin F. Carrol Benjamin F. Carrol Benjamin F. Carrol Jahnes A. Cortez Maning J. Delacruz Wiccent M. Carlos Benjamin F. Carrol Benjamin F. Carrol Benjamin F. Carrol Benjamin F. Carrol Benjamin F. Carlos Benjamin F. Justin I. Bruno Andrew J. Bunn Matthew A. Burke Trenten K. Bufler Trenten K. Bufler Vivian M. Cabanas Alvarez Samuel Cabrera Justin L. Caldwell Jr. Benjamin D. Call Nicole R. Cailahan Anthony J. Camacho Sophia M. Camargo Kelly I. Campesi James Campo Daniel M. Campos Edisberto J. Cardona Ana L. Cardonaparra Anthony J. Cardone IV Kaio V. Cardozo Daniel A. Carpiniello Christopher C. Carr Jr. Dylan E. Carr Iliana I. Carr Carr Iliana I. Carr Carr Iliana I. Carr Luis M. Casablanca Wylan B. Castillo Luis C. Cedeno Gabriel Centeno Nathaniel S. Champion Mc Andy Jude Chapusette Kadeem I. Charles Sheld Angel L. Chavez Sonia C. Chen Gabriel Centeno Nathaniel S. Champion K. Andy Jude Chapusette Kadeem I. Charles Sheld Angel L. Chavez Sonia C. Chen Jasse C. Chong Ryan S. Cholazo Travis P. Collins Sean M. Colman Diana Coloncarr Francisco R. Concha Jaes C. Concha Jaes A. Concha Jaes C. Concha Jaes A. Concha Jaes A. Concha Jaes A. Concha Jaes A. Corteo Tyler S. Covert Briand M. Cozzi Brandon P. Convery Derick A. Convary Brian M. Cozzi Brandon P. Convery Derick A. Convary Brian M. Cozzi Brandon P. Convery Derick A. Convary Brian M. Cozzi Brandon P. Convery Derick A. Convary Brian M. Cozzi Brandon P. Convery Derick A. Convary Brian M. Cozzi Brandon P. Convery Derick C. Covolus Briand M. Cozzi Brandon P. Convery Derick C. Covolus Brian M. Cozzi Brandon D. Basilva Claudio S. Dasilva Mark A. Daugherity James M. Davis A. Kyle Y. Davis A. Basilva Deriskin Davisi Mark A. Daugherity Janes Marton A, Velez Jonathan O, Velez Jonathan O, Velez Jonathan O, Velez Joseph P, Vescio Yaritza A, Victor Raymund N, Vidal Christiopher M, Vidal Christiopher M, Vidal Christiopher M, Vidal Christiopher S, Valker Christopher S, Valker Marker R, Whitehead Resheena D, Whittington Terrence L, Williams Bonne K, Wilson Sethanie A, Wright Andres A, Wynter Jr. David J, Wynter Sethanie A, Wright Andres A, Wynter Jr. David J, Wynter Sethanie A, Wight Andres A, Wynter Stephane A, Zeitlinger Stephane K, Zeitlinger Stephane K, Zeitlinger Stephane K, Zeeman Baruch C, Zepeda Roie Zulk Kole Zuk To Private First Class (E-3) Manuela Abad David J. Abanosager Vanessa M. Abrams Thelma M. Acosta Karen J. Adrada Analisa Alatorre Louis A. Alcantaranarvaez Jimmy I. Alford Anthony V. Aliotta Samuel J. Allay Evelyn T. Allen Christian A. Alvarado Abel J. Alvarado Abel J. Alvarado Abel J. Alvarado Abel J. Alvarado Manuel E. Amaranteadon Yasheeka V. Anderson Izabela M. Andrewssegers Jung H. Ann Michael A. Anthony Jung H. Ann Michael A. Anthony Ashley L. Antoci Aroxsi K. Apkarian Kevin S. Aquino Ruben J. Arias Julie E. Esty Shaun R. Faulds Luckenson Noel

# ENLISTED

Christina N. Digregorio Jonathan Digugliëlmo Zachary T. Dipini Wesley P. Domalewski Scott G. Dorsey Jr. Leticia Dossantos Melinda K. Douglas John W. Duffy Eleazar Dulanto Micah J. Duncklee Chenaom Durant Miguel A. Duranzapata Richard T. Eisler Jr. Jeremy M. Elder Berkan M. Esin Michael K. Esposito Ryan D. Estrada Kyle W. Ewan Naheema Y. Faine Hamzeh Faouri Aaron K. Faria Jahaad A. Farmer Samer Fawal Xavier R. Eelinjano Samer Faval Xavier R. Feliciano David Fernandez William Fernandez William Fernandez Justin L. Fernandez Justin J. Francis Davi J. Francisso Joseph R. Gargon Joseph P. Gargon V. Kyle D. Gervasio Joseph C. Greananto Nichael M. Goldeter Davine Gonzales Duncan Y. Graham Aaron T. Green Tver D. Greenaway Shauulle S. Greene Erice R. Greenemeler Jsesica Greenelar Staudile S. Greenel Eric R. Greenemeler Jsesica Greenelar Stang H. Han Dang H. Han Dang H. Han Dan J. Hennandez Jenny A. Henrandez Jenny A. Henrandez Jenny A. Henrandez Jenny A. Hernandez Jenny A. Hernand



William Osoria Gabriella Ospino Kyle F. Ovens Saskya J. Pachas Purnell B. Pagan Anansa M. Partan Julio C. Parre Grant D. Passamante Mikul H. Patel Harshal J. Perez Sebastian Perez Leonel Perez William R. Perez Akeem T. Perez Histor P





Steven Lopez Andre T. López Brittany Macrae Tricia C. Madrigal Michael A. Maicelo David Martinez Jonathan R. Mascon Joan A. Mateorojas Nicholas J. Mazzeo Edward A. McCaffery Bishop A. McCoy Crystal M. Medio Jeoffrey Mercado Stephen M. Merck Travis S. Milko Olite T. Miller Justin M. Modrzecki Jordan A. Mosley Stephen M. Merck Travis S. Milko Olite T. Miller Justin M. Modrzecki Jordan A. Mosley Stephen M. Merck Travis S. Mora Christopher Morales Matthew R. Mores Jordan A. Mosley Sean T. Mourning Logan M. Mover Edward J. Mutch Samuel P. Nolan Brian O. Nunez Jacob D. Odegaard Thomas Offer Michael G. Oglivie Jr. Nathanel J. Okyerebour Natasha M. Oliver Shanice J. Owens Deyann P. Parits Colin J. Pascal Taylor C. Passero Shivar A. Patel Ryan C. Patten Sheila Pena Kevini T. Perez Terreli D. Person Seat C. Pfatten Sheila Pena Kevini T. Perez Terreli D. Person Seat C. Pfatten Sheila Pena Kevini T. Perez Terreli D. Person Seat C. Pfatten Sheila Pena Kevini T. Perez Terreli D. Person Seat C. Platen Sheila Pena Kevini T. Perez Terreli D. Person Seat M. Peterson Seat M. Poterson Seat M. Sonteramo Justin T. Roche Luis A. Rodriguez Kaity Rodriguez Kaity Rodriguez Kaity Rodriguez Kaity Rodriguez Kaity Rodriguez Michael J. Santerano Justin J. Suero Matthew A. Senterano Justin J. Suero Tony Sweeney Ton Sheehan J. Mathey A. Sertano Justin J. Suero Tony Sweeney Ton Sheehan J. Suero Tony Sweeney Ton Soley A. Soley Wong J. Soley Michael J. Suero Tony Sweeney Ton Sheehan J. Suero Tony Sweeney Ton Sheehan J. Suero Tony Sweeney Ton Sheehan J. Suero Tony Sweeney Ton Ton Sheehan Mathew J. Seley Michael J.

## ROMOTIONS

Wendi Higgins Justin E. Kaenzig Kara L. Kauffman Justin M. Kelley Kemmery E. Kendrick Craig D. Kirkland John E. Mauger Max F. McAllister III Marton L. McKinney Elijah J. Mestin Jason A. Milligan Rafael Morales Jr. David J. Niedzwiadek Michael F. Ortu Jr. Arnaldo L. Pereira Jr. Adam L. Purtell Glenn T. Reichart Marshall N. Rice Jr. Anthony J. Schettino Michael F. Sears David G. Spedden Jr. Jeffrey Tafrow Julie A. Jesta Delroy Wallace Karl J. White George C. Wutsch Brian J. Zaleski Kenneth D. Villaplana Christopher G. Vitoritt Tyler D. Wally Gabriel C. Watson Robert A. White Elliott J. White Sean F. Wieckowski Christopher T. Wilkins Xavier T. Williams Xavier T. Williams Xavier T. Williams Xavier T. Williams Xavier A. Winters James R. Witkoski Johnathan M. Worth Kojo Yeboah Duck K. Yi Ivory S. Yorker Jonathan Zapata Jonathan C. Enos Guillermo A Felipe Jr. Guillermo Ferreras Amy L. Ferry Victoria R. Fiola Carolyn M. Fisher Kristofer A. Flores Jerome J. Francis Avery C. Gorman Tyler A. Haney Durwood W. Hankinson Jr. Daniel R. Hansen Gerard J. Harville Thomas G. Jeffers III Cory J. Kalin Shane S. Kap Brian P. Kelley Matthew S. Kohlmyer Edana A. Kudjordji Leandro A. Lantigua Philip C. Madosky Diana Matonado Dulan J. Manno Nicole F. Marcus Christian J. Martin Tyler M. Martin Samtha M. Massey John P. McColgan Jr. Casey J. McKenna Jonathan M. Miguel Evelyn A. Mohrmurphy Stephen C. Molnar Adam P. Montazar Jonathan M. Miguel Evelyn A. Mohrmurphy Stephen C. Molnar Adam P. Montazar Jonathan A. Pagar Jonathan A. Pagar Jonathan A. Pagar Jonathan A. Pagar Jonathan P. Perez Jonathan P. Perez Jonathan A. Pena Diver Ojedacelaya Christonher S. O'ne Kevin H. O. Rourke Kenneth D. Overstreet Jonathan A. Pena Danielle Piccolo Tanya J. Pritchett Jason R. Rinear Amanda I. Richter Jackne R. Stakeman Jr. Casey J. Stakeman Jonathan P. Hotolia Diver Ojedacelaya Christonher S. O'ne Kevin H. O. Rourke Jonathan A. Pagar Jonathan P. Perez Jonathan A. Pagar Jonathan P. Keren Danielle Piccolo Tanya J. Pritchett Jackne J. Staubinson Kolby J. Rundio Robert J. Paterson Jonathan Perez Jonathan J. Palaciosconde Brittany Robinson Kolby J. Rundio Robert J. Straubmuller Erik C. Stokes J. Michael J. Straubmuller Erik C. Jono Bron A. Stakeman Jr. Louis H. Stephens Vincent E. Stokes J. Michael J. Straubmuller Erik C. Jeida Steven W. Soberts Brittany Robinson Kolby J. Rundio Robert J. Paterson John A. Stakeman Jr. Leuiston W. Tombetta Roden Y. Turmer Rahma C. Williums Jeddel Yeras Brittan Y. Winker Shakera N. Staker III Jeddel Yeras Brittan Y. Weaver S. Don P. Williuk Edward K. Yates III Jeddel Yeras Brittan Y. Wagner Jr. Rohard K. Yates III Jeddel Yeras III Jeddel Yeras III Singyan Yuen Peter Zarriello IV Yesenia P. Guizar Jacqueline P. Guzman Kwaku O. Gyami Amanda L. Hafner Brittany M. Halter Diamond M. Hammond Nicholas S. Hartman Robert J. Headden Kerry C. Headrick Wilson G. Herrera Almanzar Lamont I. Hicks Melissa J. Hill Deja M. Hill Justin Huanca Carina Y. Huezo Joel A. Hunter Keith D. Jamison Nicolette K. Janulis Hunter C. Jenkins Scott A. Johnson Justin C. Jones Michael R. Kahana Nada F. Kandil Michael G. Kapotis Hamilton D. D. Kelly Lauren K. Kelly David B. Kerwien Ashiyan E. Kicki Jaclyn M. Klely Paul L. Kloy Hamilton D. D. Kelly Lauren K. Kelly David B. Kerwien Ashiyan E. Kicki Jaclyn M. Klely Paul L. Kloy Hamilton D. D. Kelly Lauren K. Kelly David B. Kerwien Ashiyan E. Kicki Jaclyn M. Kely Paul L. Kloy Hamilton D. D. Kelly Lauren K. Kelly David B. Kerwien Shom M. Kotansky Jr. Glenn A. Kresge Alorzo K. Lama Bahyd S. Latkins Andrew W. Ledden Jr. Carinen Leon Joseph Lewis Raymond R. Lewis Jr. Sean M. Lindenau. Alexandra M. Hutu Brandon Loaizz David Lopez Jonathan P. Lösche Brian M. Love Crystal D. Lozada Luselys Lugardo Marshail A. Lutz Joseph R. Macri Julia S. Madon Buranda I. Madonado Bryanni J. Manuel Jake R. Marcoux Julian S. Mass Daniel C. Mazzei Ryan C. MCCallaz Jason P. McCloskey James M. McConnell Lillin M. McCoy Marshail A. Lutz Joseph R. March Julian S. Mass Daniel C. Mazzei Ryan C. McCallaz Cinthia J. Martin Jr. Hector J. Melendez Stephen R. Medina Hector J. Melendez Stephen R. Medina Harry G. McKillen Diane L. McRae Dano A. Medina Harry G. McKillen Diane L. McRae Danio A. Medina Harry G. McKillen Diane L. McRae Danio A. Medina Harry G. McKillen Diane L. McRae Danio A. Medina Harry G. McKillen Diane L. McRae Danio A. Medina Hector J. Milemitch Dasy S. Minerada Shayonna S. Moore Alexis Morales Jacob R. New Nigel C. Michens Vincent A. Mignone Condy J. Milermitch Dasy S. Microha Shayonna S. Moore Alexis Morales Jacob R. Pezzano Nicholas V. Perez Shaybener R. Padiffa Ryan J. Peler Shayonna S. Moore Alexis Morales Jacob R. Pezzano Nicholas V. Perez Shaybener R. Padiffa Nicholas V. Perez Shaybener R Bernard A, Rodriguez Victor M, Roldan Justin M, Rucker Michael A, Ruiz Alfredo I, Ruiz Roosvelf M, Saenzrios Erick Salazar Alcantara Briana M, Sample Christian J, Sanchez Michal Saniewski Brandon E, Santana Idalia M, Samtago Lasonda D, Scarborough Louis J, Scarlata Zachary C, Scarpellino Kayla M, Schleich David Serna Stith K, Shands Luis A, Sierra John A, Siha Jean C, Silva Lisbeth Silverio Jahquel T, Simmons Sean P, Smith Erdogan Solakci Shawn N, Solomon Wendy M, Sosa Victoria D, Spano Bevon A, Spencer Ashley E, Stout Norda A, Swain Tirrelf Sykesmixson Robert E, Szeles Jr. Jorome A, Jan Tirrelf Sykesmixson Robert E, Szeles Jr. Jorome A, Jan Shaheed R, Teal Sykira M, Thompson Nicholas G, Tierno Anthony M, Torres Domingue Torres Richard Torres Nicholas G, Tierno Anthony M, Torres Domingue Jorres Nicholas G, Tierno Anthony M, Torres Domingue Jorres Nicholas C, Tierno Anthony M, Torres Domingue Jorres Nicholas M, Thompson Anthony M, Torres Domingue Jorres Nicholas C, Tierno Angleo, N, Tolentino Jon W, Tolentino Jon W, Tolentino Jon W, Tolentino Jon W, Tolentino Jores N, Staneed R, Teal Sykira M, Thompson Micholas G, Tierno Angleo, N, Tolentino Jon W, Tolentino Jon W, Tolentino Jon W, Tolentino Jones N, Turner Joseph G, Valencia Elvin D, Valencia Samuel L, Verity Michole L, Wiltson Mark T, Wiltson Name N, Villeson Sonz Duca Nobe Tervor R, Zampese Joseph A. 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Clark Jamero A. Clark Jamero A. Clark Jamero A. Clark Denise Feirein Denise Ferreri Michael J. George Michael J. George Michael J. George Benjamin J. W. Hemme Douglas M. Herner Tammy L. Hickerson Congratulations To All! Compiled by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hankins, Army Guard and Master Sgt. Paul B. Thompson Jr., Air Guard

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### **Unity Day**

Spc. Ashley Sime and Sgt. Laura Garcia were among the New Jersey National Guard who observed the 15th Annual Unity Day Celebration, a "Salute to the Flags of the World", at Joint Force Headquarters located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 12, 2013. Unity Day enhances cross-cultural awareness and promotes harmony among NJNG members by celebrating the organization's ethnic and cultural diversity through education and entertainment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

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