

# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



MARCH 9, 2011



## Godspeed Soldiers!

U.S. Rep. Jon Runyan (R-3rd Dist.), left, presents Maj. Keith Mackey, right, officer-in-charge of Operational Mentor and Liaison Team, the National Colors while 1st Sgt. Brian Townsend, second from right, receives the New Jersey State flag from Assemblywoman Cleopatra Tucker (D-Dist. 28), second from left, during the Salute to Troops ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville on March 6, 2011. Three groups of New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers were honored in a Salute To Troops ceremony at the Lawrenceville Armory on March 6, 2011. They include: The Operational Mentor and Liaison Team part of NATO-International Security Assistance Force, which

trains and mentors the Afghan National Army; the Security Forces Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, which will coach, teach, and mentor the provincial Governor, Provincial Development Council, and other sub-national officials in order to assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to extend its authority and build a stable society; and the Counterinsurgency Training Center team, which will enhance Afghan National Security Forces and other Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan agencies' capabilities to reduce insurgent influence there. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA - Released)



## NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy Cadets Shine at DC Gala



New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy cadets admire the National Guard racing car at the Sixth Annual ChalleNGe Champions Gala in Washington, D.C. on March 1. Alongside cadets from across the country, 10 cadets from NJYCA helped to raise awareness and support for the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program by showcasing their goals and dreams as well as their talents. Each cadet was seated with various supporters and VIPs, who had a copy of the cadet's biography, outlining where they were from, what they learned from ChalleNGe, as well as their future plans and aspirations. (Photo courtesy of NJYCA)



CPT Jeffery Shirland of the Maine National Guard presents Cadet Ryan Peterson with a general's coin on behalf of Major Gen. John W. Libby, Maine National Guard Adjutant General, on March 4 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Libby, impressed during the Sixth Annual ChalleNGe Champions Gala in Washington, D.C. on March 1 by Peterson's biography, future plans and aspirations, decided to coin the Cadet through a special arranged ceremony at JB MDL. (Photo courtesy of NJYCA)

## Promotion Ceremony

A promotion ceremony was held here at the drill floor of the Lawrenceville Armory in Lawrenceville, N.J., on March 4. The officers promoted are from left to right: Maj. Robert McGehee was promoted to lieutenant colonel; Lt. Col. Mark Preston was promoted to colonel; Maj. Jeff Brownlee was promoted to lieutenant colonel; and Maj. Paul Rumberger was promoted to lieutenant colonel. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA - released)



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Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist



# Helping Soldiers help themselves

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

Quick! What's 10 percent of 115?

Capt. Courtney Bethea will be visibly disappointed if you get your answer by multiplying by point-1.

"You're wasting time. Move the decimal point to the left," Bethea might have snarled if you were one of his students at the first full-fledged five day GT Enhancement Course to be offered at Sea Girt to members of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

Over the course of a week in February, a class of 18 students drilled on the fundamentals that make up the critical math and verbal portions of the GT portion of the ASVAB. A GT score of 110 or better is required for admission to officer and warrant officer candidate schools and is also the gateway for several Military Occupational Specialties.

The next two courses will be offered in May and August. The first, from May 20-22 will be an accelerated course that will benefit Soldiers who broke 95 on previous tests. The second will run from Aug. 8-14 and will allow for a full week of learning the fundamentals needed for the magic score.

Bethea said Lt. Col. Jemal Beale, battalion commander of the New Jersey recruiting command, believes the course will strengthen the Army National Guard by broadening the pool of potential officer candidates and strengthening the MOSs that require higher scores.

Helping Soldiers achieve their career goals has a broader benefit as well.

"To retain Soldiers, you have to do things to help Soldiers," Bethea said. "This clearly helps Soldiers."

On a recent day, Bethea guided students through a mock version of the 36-question arithmetic reasoning portion of the exam, stopping at the end to remind them of a litany of time-saving shortcuts.

"Time is not your friend on the ASVAB," he said. "It's not testing whether you can figure it out. Everybody will eventually figure it out. It's testing how quickly you can



Sgt. 1st Class Julio Borgono, right, gives instruction to Spc. Brad Boehly and Pfc. Jessica Burgos on the finer points of calculations using a right triangle during a GT Enhancement Course being offered to New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers. (Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA)

reason."

Across the hall, Sgt. 1st Class Julio Borgono drilled a smaller group of Soldiers studying a triangle filling a dry erase board. The Pythagorean Theorem, the bane of high school geometry students everywhere, stared back at them.

"With this training, I know I can do it," Stella Okigbo, Warrant Officer candidate School hopeful.

"This is fundamental," Borgono said. "Understand this and you can solve all kinds of geometry problems and learn all kinds of shortcuts to figure out proportions that will appear on the test."

The Soldiers enrolled in this particular course were a mix of full-time and traditional National Guard Soldiers as well as one Army Reservist who enrolled specifically to raise the ST portion of his ASVAB

in hopes of retraining to become a medic. In many cases, the Soldiers were allowed to attend the course on Annual Training orders.

"This class is the best thing that ever happened to me as a Soldier," said Stella Okigbo, a full-time logistics specialist in Joint Forces Headquarters. "If I had found this course a little earlier in my career, I think it would have really put me where I want to go a lot sooner."

And that place is Warrant Officer Candidate School, a career path that will remain out of reach until she boosts her GT by just a few points.

"With this training, I know I can do it," she said. "You can study books all you want, but this course is about training your mind to reason through those questions quickly and get the right answers."

The goal is to have students raise their score by 10 percent. The first group of Soldiers who went through an abbreviated

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## ASVAB

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four-day version of the course in January raised their scores by an average of 6.5 points. In that group of 22, four Soldiers left the course and then broke the 110 GT barrier, said 1st Lt. James Lee Ferguson of the Recruiting and Retention Command.

Although the students take three diagnos-

tic tests over the course of the week, the test for record must be taken at an approved education center. Ferguson said that students are told to keep studying before taking the ASVAB again for record score.

"You only get three chances to raise your GT score in your military career," Ferguson said. "And you are only as good as your last score. If it goes down, that's your record."

Students enrolled in the February course

believed they were prepared to succeed. Students have the option of staying in the Sea Girt billets for the length of the course and may attend evening study sessions with the instructors on top of the eight hours of daily classroom instruction.

"The thing I like about this course is they will let you do it over and over until you're sure you get it," said Sgt. Chuka Ebede, a personnel specialist assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters.

## NJ Guards geared to train Afghan military



*Three groups of deploying New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers were honored in a Salute To Troops ceremony at the Lawrenceville Armory, Lawrenceville, N.J., on March 6, 2011. The Soldiers' mission are to train,*

*mentor, and provide security to Afghanistan's army and security forces, thus allowing these forces to be self-sustainable. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA - Released)*

More than 250 people gathered Sunday on DMAVA's campus to send off about 60 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers who will deploy as three small elite units entrusted with high-profile roles in the development of the Afghan security forces.

The largest team, Security Forces Platoon (SECFOR) drawn from the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, consists of 42 Soldiers who drill from armories throughout New Jersey. Their primary mission is to provide the Afghanistan Provincial government security by teaching and mentoring the Afghan se-

curity forces to be self-sustainable.

A second 12-member team, The Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT), provides the leadership aspect for the development of the Afghan army. OMLT uses training to inspire future leadership within the ranks of the Afghanistan army. To be chosen to be in the OMLT team, soldier must go thru a rigorous selection process which includes the ability to mentor and inspire future leaders of the Afghan ranks.

Three individual mobilization augmentee officers will make up the final element,

the Counterinsurgency Training Center - Afghanistan (CTC-A). Their mission is to provide the security forces of Afghanistan training that would help in counteracting insurgency within the region.

Nearly all of the deploying Soldiers have served at least one overseas tour.

"Being chosen to travel across the seas to teach other soldiers of a different country is a once in a lifetime experience and I'm glad to be part of it" said 1st Lt. John Law from New Egypt, who will deploy with the OMLT.



## Candidates needed for NJESGR State Chair

The New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJESGR) will be conducting a candidate search for the volunteer position of State Chair within the organization.

Current State Chair, Col. (Ret) Carmen Venticinque, has announced that he will be stepping down as the current State Chair for NJESGR.

Chairs are responsible for all aspects of State's ESGR operations. Chairs organize, lead, direct, supervise, and motivate ESGR members with various backgrounds, abilities and interests. Chairs must have excellent leadership and communication skills, as they frequently address influential people, or groups of influential people, including governors, State Adjutants General, Guard/Reserve general/flag officers, federal, state, and local officials, legislators, mayors, chief financial officers, business and industry leaders, Chambers of Commerce, and civic groups. Chairs also develop and execute the State's Annual Spending Plan and budget.

Any candidate interested in this volunteer position should provide to the selection committee a copy of their resume or biography; a letter stating his/her willingness to accept the position, reason(s) for interest serving, and thoughts and plans for leading the State ESGR; other supporting material as appropriate (letters of recommendation, photos, etc.,)

The material must be submitted to Carol Beske via mail to ACT Engineers Inc., 1 Washington Boulevard, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 or Email at [clbeske@actengineers.com](mailto:clbeske@actengineers.com) no later than March 16.

Anyone with questions regarding the process should call Carol at 609-918-0200.

## Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay applications deadline extended

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) has been extended to March 18, 2011, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned under the program guidelines.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution recently signed by President Obama, which provides funding for federal government operations through March 18.

The RSLSP was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss Authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

Outreach efforts including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue through March 18.

To apply or to get more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

## Trenton Devils invites you to Fan Appreciation Night

Trenton's local hockey team would like to invite all DMAVA employees and National Guard members, as well as friends and family to Fan Appreciation Night on April 1.

The Trenton Devils will host the Atlantic league-leading Reading Royals at the Sun National Bank Center and will have prizes, games, giveaway and other interactive entertainment throughout the entire game to show their appreciation of the fans support this season.

Tickets to the lower bowl sections of the rink are starting at \$6 per seat with advance purchase.

This offer will expire on March 31, so make your reservations early by calling the Devils ticket office at 609-599-9500 and ask for Brian, Megan or Jackie.

Sun National Bank Center is located at 81 Hamilton Avenue in Trenton, N.J.

## Veterans Outreach Schedule



### April 2

Vietnam Veterans Education Center  
PNC Bank Art Center, Holmdel, NJ 07777  
Outreach Event Only 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### April 7

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home  
524 North West Boulevard, Vineland, NJ 08360  
Medal ceremony only in Auditorium starting at 1:30 p.m.

### May 7

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, NJ 07777  
Outreach Event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
NJ Vietnam Veterans Remembrance & medal ceremony 11 a.m.

### May 21

American Legion Post No. 65  
Lake Ave & Holly Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840  
Outreach Event Only 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## J2TDC gets new CO

By Spc. Sherwood Goodenough, 444th MPAD

It seems things have come full circle for New Jersey Army National Guard Col. Dennis W. Devery.

A year ago, the Moorestown, N.J. native was training at the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) for deployment to Afghanistan. Today, he's the commander.

At a change-of-command ceremony March 6, Devery received the organization's colors from outgoing commander Col. Loretta S. Thomas.

"Today I am honored to take over command at the Joint Training and Training Development Center," Devery said.

The JT2DC is recognized as a leader in technology based training solutions for the United States military and has also been used to help train visiting foreign military personnel.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard, commented on the facility's critical role in preparing the nation's military.

"I think we owe it to any Soldier, any family and friend, any mother or loved one to ensure that Soldiers, when deployed, meet the Army standard," Rieth said. "That's what this facility is all about."

Rieth praised Thomas, who served as a battalion commander in Iraq, for her leadership at the facility while expanding and improving the volume and efficiency of services provide by the facility during her tenure.

During her 20-month tenure, more than 25,000 service members were trained at the state-of-the-art facility in preparation for their deployments.

Her father, Col (ret.) Rudy J Saulter, proudly echoed the sentiments many shared about his daughter's career.

"She has done an absolutely outstanding job every place she has been since she first took her commission as a 2nd Lieutenant," said Saulter. "And that has never changed."

The Edison, N.J. native thanked key members of her staff, family, and her JT2DC for their hard work and innovation during her



**Incoming commander, Col. Dennis W. Devery, left, accepts the colors and command of the Joint Training and Training Development Center from Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff to the Adjutant General of New Jersey, during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., on March 6. (Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, JFHQ-PA)**

time as commander.

"Soldiers at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, you are a fantastic group of Americans," Thomas said. "Your successes that I have been given credit for are your successes and your triumphs and I have never forgotten that. I will truly miss all of you."

Rieth expressed confidence on the incoming commander.

"There is no question in my mind that we got this assignment right," Rieth said. "Because Dennis Devery is truly all about training Soldiers."

Prior to this command, Devery served as the Deputy Director/Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Security Forces Development Assistance Bureau in Kabul, Afghanistan. In that roll Devery developed and implemented strategies to train Afghan military and police forces, as well as advising US, NATO and Afghan leaders concerning the growth of Afghan Security forces.

## State, Wing garners awards in national media contest

The public affairs offices of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJ DMAVA) and the 177th Fighter Wing received several awards in the 2010 National Guard Bureau Media Contest.

The contest recognizes the best and brightest in Guard's public affairs community, which includes more than 1,000 citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen from 54 states and territories, and includes all the state Joint Force Headquarters.

The contest, which has been running for more than 30 years, has produced many Thomas Jefferson Award winners – the highest award given to a Department of Defense public affairs practitioner.

In the Graphics Layout & Design category, Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th FW/PA and public affairs specialist with NJ DMAVA,

received third place for his work on "Guardlife, the Magazine of the New Jersey National Guard".

The Contrail, the 177th Fighter Wing's monthly newsletter, received second place on the Web-Based Publication category.

In addition, Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, also assigned to the 177th FW/PA, received two awards – first place in the Graphics Animation category for his piece "NJ State Video Intro" and third place in the Graphics Illustration category for his design "Ready Always".

Rounding out the awards was Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th FW/PA, coming in third place in the Illustrative Photo category for his image "Major accident response".

Winners at the Guard level are moved up into the Army and Air Force media contests.