

NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 18, 2015





Engineers train at FIG

By Sgt. Bill Addison
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

More than 150 Soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard's newly formed 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion descended upon Pennsylvania for Annual Training June 5 – 19 at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The two weeks gave the Soldiers the opportunity to transition from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Brigade Special Troops Battalion shedding the infantry and military police companies while acquiring a second combat engineer company along with a signal company.

And while the 104th can trace its lineage back to World War I, the brigade engineer battalion structure is new to the Army, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Leonard.

"This battalion has been at the cutting edge of everything," said Leonard. "We talk about a team effort, this is a good team here."

Leonard said the battalion's training at Fort Indiantown Gap has been phenomenal, adding that each of the six companies

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***Command Sgt. Maj.
Mark Leonard
104th Brigade Engineer
Battalion***

Alpha Company Soldiers with the 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, receive training on light weight handheld mine detectors during an annual training exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., June 12, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Donnelly/Released)

has been able to focus on their various occupational specialties.

"The engineers are out blowing things up, the military intelligence people are doing their portion. The cooks are keeping everyone well fed and the mechanics keeping everything running."

Cover photo

Sgt. Diego Galvis, right, briefs Spc. Yetes Wang, both of Alpha Company, 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, during an annual training exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., June 12, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Donnelly/Released)

MPs to conduct GTMO mission

Story and photo by Maj. Amabilia Payen, 5th Armored Brigade, Division West Public Affairs

FORT BLISS, Texas - The 328th Military Police Company, New Jersey Army National Guard, deployed for Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, June 3, from the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Air Control Group airfield.

The last time the 328th MP Company deployed was in 2009 when the unit conducted detainee operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although the tasks are the same, this is the first time the unit has taken on the GTMO mission.

"We are looking for a successful mission," said Capt. Matthew Neamand, commander, 328th MP Company. "We want to bring great pride and honor back to our home state of New Jersey."

Neamand mentions that 62 percent of his unit consists of Soldiers who are deploying for the first time, while 40 percent are in law enforcement in their civilian jobs.

Neamand feels his unit is ready, thanks to the training he received here, combined with the Citizen Soldiers from their home state.

One Soldier who volunteered for the mission, joined the 328th MP Company from another part of the state of New Jersey, and has calmed his nerves down thanks to the training he received here. Spc. Harshal Patel is now comfortable with his peers, now that he sees them full-time rather than on drill weekends.

"We did a lot of group training so it was a lot of team building," said Patel. "A lot of the command was with us all the time ... we all are getting ready to do this one mission and we are going to do it together."

Patel's personal goals is to take advantage of the educational opportunities



Soldiers assigned to 328th Military Police Company stand in line to be weighed, June 3, at the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Air Control Group airfield, to be manifested for the flight to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba.

while at GTMO. He put his final year at Montclair State University on hold in order to deploy. Being the first in his family to join the military, his biggest supporters are his parents.

"It was kind of a culture shock because I come from a family of well-educated people," said Patel. "Right out of high school I joined the Army. I still made them proud."

Patel thanks his parents for their support, and Neamand agrees that families are the biggest supporters for the 328th

MP Company.

"My wife Jackelyn is the Family Readiness Group leader," said Neamand. "They supported us with a very nice farewell and they are going to be doing a homecoming once we get back."

GUARDING THE STATE



Parachute training

Tactical Air Control Party Airmen from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 227th Air Support Operations Squadron and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) parachute from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the Maryland Army National Guard at Scorpion Drop Zone on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 12, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



UAV training

Spc. Stephanie Zeman, Detachment 1, 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, checks the oil levels on a RQ-7 Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System during a joint exercise on Warren Grove Gunnery Range, N.J., June 16, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

Serving our Veterans



Bus donated

At the American Legion convention in Wildwood, State Commander Michael Wilson, left, joined Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno as National American Legion Commander Michael D. Helm received a framed letter and coin from Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General, right. Wilson handed the keys to a new handicap accessible bus for the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park to Joe Brandspiegel, chief executive officer, during the convention. Wilson's statewide commanders' project slogan "Rich traditions, new ideas" raised more than \$120,000, providing a second vehicle for the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)

Grave realignment

Contractors realign grave markers in Section N at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Arneytown, N.J., June 10, 2015. The grave markers are removed along a row and a grid support system is installed to keep the markers aligned and level. The project will rehabilitate 20,405 grave markers in Sections N, D, E, KN, KE and KW under a \$3.7 million dollar Veterans Administration Operation and Maintenance Grant. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)



Veterans Outreach Campaign

June 17-20: VFW State Convention, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wildwood Convention Center, 4501 Boardwalk Wildwood, NJ 08260

June 20 Veterans Resource Fair 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Police Athletic League Building Parsippany 33 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054



Military Appreciation Day

Saturday, June 27, 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Belmar, New Jersey

5th Ave. Beach

Free food, drinks, music, parking, beach access, volleyball, giveaways and more for all active military and their families.

Beach chairs & umbrellas for your use.

Note: Please bring your military ID



ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK WaterSense makes cents

The Environmental Protection Agency developed the WaterSense label to educate consumers about water conservation and to encourage water efficiency. When choosing a faucet, toilet, showerhead or any other water consuming device, make sure you choose one with the WaterSense label to reduce your water usage by 20 percent or more!

Only one percent of the earth's water is suitable and available for drinking. Approximately 20 percent of the world's population experience water scarcity. Water scarcity occurs when there is not enough water to meet demands and is caused by pollution, waste, and natural occurrences.

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

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



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