

NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 23, 2015





With tears and hugs, MPs begin deployment

By Spc. Oscar Baldriche, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Saying goodbye is always hard to do.

The New Jersey Army National Guard's 328th Military Police Company held a farewell dinner April 18, 2015, which included family and friends who gathered to wish them a safe journey and a safe return home.

As tears and hugs were being exchanged, the MPs were making the final preparations for their deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where they will support detainee operations.

"This will be the first one for me," said, Spc. Harscal Patel. "I volunteered for this deployment and I want to make my family proud, so I feel that I can't over prepare."

Although placing the mission first is the duty of every Soldier, it can sometimes come at the most inopportune of times.

"I was just recently engaged to be

married," said Spc. Samantha Merryfield. "I'm glad I'm going to Cuba and the hardest part will be not seeing my fiancée and family for a year, but I look forward to coming back and continuing with our wedding plans."

The Soldiers say that while they can count on each other during missions, the support of their families make it possible for them to deploy.

"This is the first time that I will be experiencing my husband deploying," said Alicia Moore, whose husband is 1st Sgt. Ammon Moore, the top enlisted Soldier in the company. "I have mixed feelings, but I am very proud of him. I want to provide him and all the Soldiers in his unit a circle of support."

Her husband said his family will be foremost in his mind during the deployment.

"I count on my family for emotional, physical and spiritual support," Moore said. "We can't do it without them. On our way back I am going to remind my Soldiers to give thanks to their families and friends, because if it weren't for them, we would forget what we are fighting for."

Cover photo

Pfc. Emmory Bowens kisses Jasmine Bowens as their daughter, Kimora looks on. Bowens is among the 50 Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard's 328th Military Police Company deploying to conduct detainee operations at the camps of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The Soldiers said goodbye to their families and friends at a ceremony April 18, 2015 at the armory in Cherry Hill, N.J. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley/Released)

NJ GUARDSMEN PROVIDE SECURITY DURING EXERCISE



By Spc. Devon Bistarkey
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**As an
infantrymen
we're used
to engaging;
but today
we're here
to help civil-
ians on the
home front.**

Spc. Joesph Margeotes
2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry

The crowd of wounded men and women ambled toward the perimeter of a decontamination center.

Their wails of pain sounded real - their wounds tangible, as they move toward an initial chemical response zone as part of the Homeland Emergency Response Force training exercise on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst April 17, 2015.

In hazardous material suits, Soldiers from New Jersey Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, maintained entry and exits points of a containment area used to organize and treat the disaster victims.

"As an infantrymen we're used to engaging; but today we're here to help civilians on the home front," said Spc. Joesph Margeotes. The week-long multi-

phase incident-scenario-training involved federal, state and local organizations including New Jersey and New York National Guard units, New Jersey State Police and New Jersey Urban Search and Rescue. First responders worked together in reaction to a collapsed

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A civilian actor dressed in moulage to simulate an injury stands by to be placed at an accident site during a full scale exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., April 17, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

From April 14-19, 2015, nearly 600 New Jersey and New York Army and Air National Guardsmen participated in the joint-training event with New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and New Jersey State Police Task Force 1. The National Guard Homeland Response Force is one of ten established by the Department of Defense.



Soldiers with the 2nd-113th Infantry Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, interact with role players at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., April 17, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

It's not an easy job. Site security in the midst of chaos and confusion helps to keep rescue efforts organized and focused.

**LT. COL. BENJAMIN RICHARDSON
NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD**

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building involving 600 people and 180 injured.

Role players in full makeup emerged from an engineered pile of rebar and rubble appearing disoriented and injured – and that's where the 2-113th Soldiers took control of the worst case scenario.

"It's not an easy job," said Lt. Col. Benjamin Richardson of the New York National Guard. "Site security in the midst of chaos and confusion helps to keep rescue efforts organized and focused."

In securing the basic footprint area of operation, the Soldiers marked off and contained safe zones for the injured as well as controlled hot and cold chemical response entry and exit points. Responsiveness is key for these Soldiers who coordinate with civilian authorities, maintain all traffic and handle disruptive and curious civilians all part of the life-like training exercise.

Margeotes said training for true disasters requires realistic training.

"This training prepares us for any situation."

Photo top right: A U.S. Army National Guard Soldier assists a simulated burn victim of an accident during a full scale exercise involving over 600 Army and Air National Guardsmen from New York, New Jersey, and West Virginia at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., April 17, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released) Photo bottom right: Sgts. William J. Camp Jr., left, and Nick Lam, both with the 21st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST), New Jersey National Guard, look for evidence at a weapons of mass destruction factory at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., April 16, 2015. The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear portion of the exercise was performed by the 21st WMD CST and New York's 2nd WMD CST. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



A HAIL OF BULLETS FROM 500 FEET

By Spc. Devon Bistarkey
44th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

“Target. 3 o’clock. Combatant vehicle. Engage,” are the instructions radioed to Staff Sgt. Torie Fisher, crew chief with the New Jersey Army National Guard’s 1-150 Assault Helicopter Battalion during aerial gunnery training over Warren Grove Range on April 16.

At 500 feet, the UH-60 Blackhawk slowed to 35 miles an hour to give Fisher time to engage the targets. The M240 Bravo machine gun opened up with a rat-a-rat burst and dust danced around the targets, retired armored vehicles, junked pickup trucks and concrete bunkers.

“This is what we do,” said Fisher whose day started with early morning aircraft prep, a flight brief and ammunition loading – just another day at the office. The veteran crew chief with two Iraq deployments is in her element inside the aircraft working with a crew that makes sure to have fun and stay safe up there.

The multi-phase crew coordinated training focused on weapons familiarization. Once over their target tables at the 177th Fighter Wing’s Detachment 1, Warren Grove Gunnery Range the door gunner engaged targets identified by pilot, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Sturtevant.

The crew’s targets included tanks, vehicles, conex boxes and village structures.

“It’s a lot of fun,” said Sturtevant, “this is something that we look forward to every year.”

The second part of the training exercise included a “hot-fuel” at Coyle Drop Zone where soldiers refueled the aircraft while the engine was still on and blades and still spinning. From there, a rapid exit in the Black Hawk for the return flight to the Army Aviation Support Facility on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to prepare for another night run.

Once safely back on the ground, Sturtevant’s answer was simple when asked how his crew performed during their mission: “Flawlessly.”

It’s the only standard accepted at 500 feet.

Photo above: Sgt. Don Seymour, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief from the 1-150 Assault Helicopter Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, fires down on targets with an M240B machine gun at the 177th Fighter Wing’s Detachment 1, Warren Grove Gunnery Range, N.J., April 16, 2015. Photo below: Staff Sgt. Torie Fisher, center, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief from the 1-150 Assault Helicopter Battalion, preps 7.62 ammunition on the flight line before a training mission at the Army Aviation Support Facility, on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



OUTREACH AND OPPORTUNITY

Veterans Outreach Campaign

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

April 30

Veterans Resource Fair & Workshop 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Lawrenceville National Guard Armory
151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 07095

May 6

“Hiring Our Heroes”
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Susquehanna Bank Center – Camden
One Harbor Boulevard
Camden, NJ 08103



ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

The New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy is looking for mentors.

Success is a team effort. We are seeking caring, responsible adults who will help guide, motivate and support a cadet within the program and beyond.

Mentors make a 17 month commitment to a Cadet to serve as a positive role model and friend. Mentors pledge to maintain on-going contact with his or her Cadet: letters, e-mails, phone calls, and visitation.

At a minimum, mentors have two face-to-face contacts with Cadets monthly.

After attending a required training, mentors will be equipped with the skills to provide guidance, give input, evaluate changes and provide encouragement necessary to help at-risk youth set life goals and plan for a positive future.

For more information, contact the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy at (609) 562-0577 or by email at: rpm@dma-va.nj.gov

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

It's Earth Week 2015!

This weekend, go outside and plant a tree or flowers to give back to the Earth! There will be many Earth Day events this weekend so you can celebrate this wonderful planet, including the Sustainable Cherry Hill Earth Festival and the ACUA's 25th Annual Earth Day Festival.

For more information about the Cherry Hill and ACUA Earth Day Festivals, please visit sustainablecherryhill.org and acua.com/earthday. To find an Earth Day celebration near you, check out your town's website or look here: www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/earthday/april.htm



Reporting in

More than 100 cadets of Class 42 in-processed the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center, Bordentown, N.J., April 20, 2015. The New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy provides a disciplined quasi-military environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who have ceased to attend high school. For more information regarding enrollment eligibility, contact the Program at 609-562-0577. (U.S. Army national Guard photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty/Released)

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

HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

Rolling Thunder ®, Inc.
New Jersey Chapter 2



**12th ANNUAL
 CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**
Honoring New Jersey's Fallen Heroes & Their Families
APRIL 25, 2015 - 7:00 PM

Toms River Armory
1200 Whitesville Rd. Toms River, New Jersey

DIRECTIONS: Exit 82 of the Garden State Parkway. Coming north or south on Route 9 to Route 571 (Home Depot plaza), take 571 West. Get in left lane and make the first left onto Oak Ridge Parkway. Proceed .02 miles and make a left onto Whitesville Road. The National Guard Armory is .01 miles on your right.

Visit us on the web at: www.rollingthunder-nj2.org
 For more information call: 609-971-3544

25 Apr 2015

For our FIRST

Joint - Retiree Appreciation Day

At

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

Join us for:

- A personal welcome from the Joint Base Commander
- Outstanding speakers on subjects of key interest to military retirees
- Updates on retiree benefits and privileges
- Many Information Tables for face-to-face Q&A with experts

Invited to this special event are retirees from all Branches of Service, including:

- US Army Retirees
- US Marine Corps Retirees
- US Navy Retirees
- US Air Force Retirees
- US Coast Guard Retirees
- Retirees of the Reserves of all service branches
- Retirees of the Army and Air National Guard
- Retirees of the uniformed US Public Health Service

For additional information and updates, visit

<http://www.jointbasemdl.af.mil/library/rao.asp> and click on the tab for any of the retiree programs. A full program for the day's events will be posted during the first quarter of 2015.

Joint Committee for J/RAD 2015 with members representing:

- McGuire Retiree Activities Program
- Ft. Dix Retiree Council
- Navy Lakehurst Retiree Volunteers



MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER, GUARD, RESERVE & VETERAN JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR WITH CAREER WORKSHOPS

Thursday, April 30, 2015

9:00 am – 1:00 pm, including Resume Writing and Interview Skills
 Workshops

Lawrenceville Armory, 151 Eggerts Crossing Rd. Lawrenceville, NJ 08625

BRAND NEW – A WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN VETERANS!

The Department of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with The American Legion, presents an interactive overview of medical and mental health services available to current and former women service members.”

Many NJ and national employers will be present with current job openings. The NJ LWLD (Labor and Workforce Development) will be present to assist with all labor concerns. Homeless, criminal justice and mental health providers will be present to offer those confidential services including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for all veterans benefits. The NJ State Parole Board will be present to discuss various criminal justice initiatives. The NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will have service officers, outreach managers, and homeless veteran representatives.

RSVP – EMPLOYER & SERVICE PROVIDERS - Employers with current job openings or entities that can offer services MUST PRE-REGISTER by April 24, With Paul McIntyre, State Parole Board, at VeteranReentry@spb.state.nj.us or call 609 777 0181.

RSVP – SERVICE MEMBERS & VETERANS - All Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and their spouses are encouraged to pre-register, also on VeteranReentry@spb.state.nj.us. Fair day "WALK-INS" are welcome!

CONTACT: Bob Looby, boblooby@embarqmail.com, 908-894-0746.

CONDUCTED BY:



VETERANS JOB FAIR

At The Asbury Park VFW

Harold Daley Post #1333

701 Lake Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Open To Veterans, Friends, And Family

Hosted By



Wednesday, April 29th, 2015 10 am-2 pm

For more information contact Rob Mahrer at 908-607-6364 or Robert.Mahrer@va.gov

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

PO Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

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



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

Fax: 609-530-7191

Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

<p>Brigadier General Steven Ferrari, Director 609-530-6967 Donna Myers, Sec 609-530-6766 Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator 609-530-6979 Fax: 609-530-6970</p>	<p>Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO Jennifer Pajak, Sec 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016</p>	<p>Paramus Veterans Memorial Home Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658</p>	<p>Vineland Veterans Memorial Home Boris Reissek, CEO Sharon Davis, Sec 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714</p>
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Veterans Services (DVS)

<p>Albert J. Bucchi, Director 609-530-6962 Cheryl A. Henderson, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075</p>	<p>Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424 Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404 Cyndi Dzurisin, Intermittent Office Supervisor, – 609-738-2407 Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard, – 609-758-7505 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169 Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials Joseph Arroyo & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490</p>	<p>Vietnam Veterans Memorial 1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107 Korean Memorial Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 War World II Memorial W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608</p>	<p>Veterans Haven South Walter Nail, Supt – 609-561-4948 Vacant, Asst, Supt – 609-567-3715 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow, NJ 08095 609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186</p>	<p>Veterans Haven North Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960 Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101 Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990</p>
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<p>State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6842 Marisol Meyer, Education Prog Asst – 609-530-6849 Lynn Yesalonja, State Admin – 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948 Fax: 609-530-7196</p>	<p>Veterans Benefits Bureau Patricia A. Richter, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6949 Elizabeth Schofield, Prin Staff Officer – 609-530-6954 Paul Kale, Staff Asst – 609-530-6826 Cynthia Barnes, Sec – 609-530-6868 Michele Johnson, Sec – 609-530-7035 Fax: 609-530-6970</p>	<p>Veterans Service Offices Joseph Bucco, State Supervisor – 609-530-6830 Christopher Wambach, State Supervisor – 609-530-6863 Joseph E. Nyzio, VSO – 609-530-6857 VA Regional Office/Philadelphia Vacant, VSO – 215-381-3033 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144</p>
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<p>Atlantic City/Cape May Edmond Famiglietti, VSO Vacant, Sec 1008 Absecon Boulevard, Atlantic City 08401-1999 ~ (Atlantic City Army) 609-441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p>Bergen/Passaic Richard Mannes, VSO Titus Osuagwu, Sec 125 State Street, Suite 109, Hackensack 07601-5435 201-996-8050/8051 Fax: 201-996-8009</p>	<p>Burlington Charles Piscopo, VSO Bernadette Whitman, Sec 555 High Street, Suite 6A, Mt. Holly 08060 609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275</p>
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<p>Camden/Gloucester Joseph Frost, VSO Diane Rosci, Sec 658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 ~ (Woodbury Army) 856-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p>Essex/Union Robert Maulano, VSO Vacant, Sec 20 Washington Place, Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3230 Fax: 973-648-2356</p>	<p>Hudson Vacant, VSO (Robert Maulano-Tuesday/Thursday) Michael Dorobis, Sec 678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 ~ (Jersey City Army) 201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>
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<p>Mercer William McDonnell, VSO Theresa Tomechek, Sec 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 ~ (Lawrenceville Army) 609-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698</p>	<p>Middlesex/Somerset Joseph Battilo, VSO Vacant, Sec 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 ~ (Somerset Army) 732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p>Monmouth Robert Brown, VSO Rita Hyland, Sec 630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904 732-775-7009/7005 Fax: 732-775-3612</p>
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<p>Newark Liaison/VA Regional Office Lorena Huggins, VSO Helen Banks, Sec 20 Washington Place, Room 431 Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3336 Fax: 973-642-0830</p>	<p>Ocean Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO Iris Perez, Sec James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic 970 Route 70, Brick 08724-3550 732-840-3033/3034 Fax: 732-840-0399</p>	<p>Salem/Cumberland Leigh R. Pottle, VSO Vacant, VSO Catherine Raniolo, Sec 524 Northwest Boulevard, Vineland 08360-2895 856-405-4388/4390/4389 Fax: 856-696-6499</p>
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<p>Sussex/Morris William Robinson, VSO 479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 ~ (Dover Army) 973-366-0245/8347 Fax: 973-366-0360 (closed alternate Fridays) *Sussex, 12 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin, 07416 (Thursday/Friday) 973-827-4020 Fax: 973-827-4024 ~ (Franklin Army)</p>	<p>Warren/Hunterdon *Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman Lisa Szymanski, Sec 200 Sanatorium Road, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-0831/0832 Fax: 908-537-0833 *Flemington, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, 08822 (Wednesday) 908-284-6146</p>	<p>Southern Ocean County Resource Center Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO (Thursday only) 179 South Main Street (Route 9) Manahawkin, NJ 08050 609-978-5895 Fax: 609-978-6446</p>
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