

Guardlife

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD



Legislature honors Women Veterans

Guardlife

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Cover: Post the Colors

Spc. Ivelisse Abreu-Crespo of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), posts the Stars and Stripes while (left to right) Pfc. Starr Gardner, 328th Military Police Company; Spc. Mindy Yeon and Sgt. Kelly Crager, both assigned to the 119th CSSB stand at attention during the Salute to Women's Veterans in the New Jersey Assembly Chambers on March 13. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Inside Cover: Iraq silhouette

Staff Sgt. Carmelito Hernandez Jr., 108th Security Forces Squadron, is silhouetted against the mid-afternoon Iraqi sun. Hernandez is assigned to the 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in Iraq. Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Carmelito Hernandez Jr., 108SF.



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Priorities for 2008

By Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth,
The Adjutant General - New Jersey

These are my priorities for 2008: providing mission-ready Soldiers and Airmen to defend our nation; maintaining the ability to respond to contingencies at home; and assisting families during deployments. With half of the New Jersey Army National Guard going overseas this year, these priorities take on a new meaning and significance.

With the Soldier Readiness Process at Fort Dix behind them, the 50th IBCT is now finishing up pre-mobilization training at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Next stop will be Texas before their final departure overseas. So far, I am extremely pleased with the preparation and training of our troops. I feel confident that New Jersey is providing our nation with the best and brightest, most motivated and dedicated Soldiers possible.

The half of our Soldier force that remains in-state – and their Airmen counterparts – is equally up to the task of responding to any contingency that may arise at home. Will it be tough? Will it be a strain? Absolutely! But once again, I am positive that we have the determination and professionalism to come through for the citizens of this state.

As proud as I am of all our units deploying overseas this year, I can't help but reflect upon the void I feel when I lose operational control over our hometown troops. For about a year, the active duty owns the men, women and equipment of half of our Soldier force. While New Jersey cannot legally interfere with the day-to-day operational tasking of our troops when they are deployed overseas, we *can* help to make their jobs easier. By assisting families of deployed Soldiers and Airmen, we can add to the piece of mind of both those left behind and those serving on foreign soil.

Look through my recent TAG messages – my theme has been to emphasize family support through our Family Assistance Centers, Family Readiness Groups, and other avenues of support and assistance for troops and families. Let me now highlight another partner in supporting our military members, the Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). I would like to welcome my good friend, retired Col. Carmen



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth swears in Youth ChalleNGe Academy Cadets (left to right) Edwin Castro, Ryan Curran, Stephen Nepa, Candace Pollock, and Danielle Grinaway in to the Army. All except Grinaway joined the New Jersey Army National Guard. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.

Venticinque as the new chairman of the New Jersey ESGR Committee. Carmen and his crew have so far done a great job hosting employers as they visited our Soldiers that were going through the Soldier Readiness Process at Fort Dix. Visits to Fort Indiantown Gap and Fort Bliss will truly give any uninitiated civilian boss a deeper appreciation for what their Guardsmen employees are going through.

As we prepare to send off our largest group of Soldiers since World War II, we are glad to welcome home the Airmen of the 108th Security Forces Squadron. Lt. Col. Turk and his troops have done an excellent job...at the same time making history. This was the first time that a National Guard unit was in charge of security at Baghdad Airport...in command of National Guard, active duty, foreign and contractor security teams. Well done and welcome back!

This year will surely finish up much differently than it started. One thing will be consistent though: that the New Jersey National Guard will always be ready to defend our nation, protect our state's citizens, and care for our troops and their families.

GUARDLIFE PHOTO COMPETITION

PORTRAITS



First Place

Master Sgt. Joseph A. Iacovone Jr., Security Force, 177th Fighter Wing (photo taken in Iraq)



Second Place

*Lt. Col. William A. Heineman Jr.
Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey (photo taken in Afghanistan)*



Third Place

*Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dario H. Marchena Jr.
1-150th Aviation Support Battalion (photo taken in Afghanistan)*

GUARDLIFE PHOTO COMPETITION

GUARD ACTIVITIES



First Place

*Sgt. 1st Class Luis Arroyo Jr., 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery
(Photo taken at Fort Dix)*



Second Place

*Maj. Michael A. Bobinis
50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
(photo taken in Afghanistan)*



Third Place

*Lt. Col. William A. Heineman Jr.
Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey
(photo taken in Afghanistan)*

A word from the Judges

The results of the 1st Annual Guardlife Photo Contest speak highly of our Soldiers and Airmen: they have talent and that they can capture the story through their photos.

Thanks again to all who entered - we can't wait to see what you submit for the 2nd Annual Guardlife Photo Competition. Look for submission details in the fall Guardlife.

GUARDLIFE PHOTO COMPETITION

LANDSCAPES



First Place

Sgt. 1st Class Miriam Soto-Quinones, Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey (photo taken in Madison, Wis.)



Second Place

*Staff Sgt. Daniel K. Opperman Jr.
177th Medical Group, 177th Fighter Wing (photo taken in Alaska)*



Third Place

*Master Sgt. Daniel T. Mitchell Jr.
Security Forces, 177th Fighter Wing (photo taken in Afghanistan)*

Appointment with Destiny

Senior Airman Heyward Wiggins feeds his two and a half-month old daughter Destiny - born while he was deployed - when the 108th Security Forces Squadron returned to McGuire Air Force Base on March 24. The 49 Airmen returned home after successfully completing a six-month deployment to Iraq. Their deployment was part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in support of the ongoing global war against terrorism. The 108th Security Forces have made history (see story on page 9) as the first National Guard unit in charge of security at Baghdad Airport in command of Air National Guard, active duty Air Force and Army and a foreign contractor security team. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.



Keeping Sather safer

By Tech. Sgt. Amanda Callahan, 447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq — They stand together in a musty, hardened trailer turned armory. They stand with the smell of weapon cleaner surrounding them, in different uniforms, from different backgrounds, and even speak different languages. The Airmen, Soldiers and Ugandan contractors that make up the 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron wait for guard mount, a briefing that occurs before every shift.

Recently, the 447 ESFS became the first unit in the Air Force to unite Airmen, Soldiers and EOD Technology, a contracted security company, guards in one squadron.

"While working with contractors and other services is not unique to the Air Force, contract guards and Army personnel have never been fully merged into security operations under the sole control of an Area Defense Operations Center in a combat environment under full Air Force tactical command and control," said Lt. Col. Ronald Turk, 447 ESFS Commander.

The 447 ESFS's mission is to patrol, protect and defend Sather Air Base, which includes patrolling the area around Baghdad International Airport.

"There are certainly security challenges on the civilian side of the airport that we deal with on a regular basis to make sure it's safe to operate out here," Colonel Turk added. "Sather is one of the busiest air cargo hubs in Iraq. We ensure the safe flow of cargo and passengers everyday."

Members of the 447 ESFS patrol the perimeter of Sather AB regularly looking for signs of that the fence has been compromised.

"I'm basically looking for holes or deviations in the fence line," said Tech. Sgt. Santiago Tapia, 447 ESFS member, as he looks through the open window of an armored Humvee. He is interrupted only by the sound of radio conversation and the rattling of the heavy doors.

A coyote ran past the vehicle. Luckily, on this night, it was the only sign of unlawful entrance to the base.

"We have to make sure the base is safe," he said. "While we're out here patrolling, we see there are bad people out



Members of the 447th Expeditionary Security Forces - 108th Security Forces, 3rd Infantry Division and EOD Technology, a contracted security company. Photo courtesy 108ARW/SF.

there. We have 'what if' situations running through our heads the whole time."

In the event that something or someone more dangerous than a coyote or desert fox decides to try to enter the base, they will be met with the professionals in the ESFS before they make it very far.

"Most of them [the EODT guards from Uganda] have been in combat situations before here in Iraq, so there are no questions in my mind that if we get into a firefight that they'd join in," added Sergeant Tapia. "They've been through it before. Most of them were in the military in Uganda."

In addition to the combat veterans of EODT, the 447 ESFS has .50 caliber machine guns standing watch over the airfield.

"I think about the job I'm doing up here all the time up," said Staff Sgt.

Michael Collaso, 447 ESFS member. "I'm responsible for taking care of all the guys, being precise and knowing what I'm doing up here. My job is to deter anyone from coming on to the flightline."

Sergeant Tapia went on to talk about the professional attitudes of the Soldiers serving in the 447 ESFS. They conduct their business in a different way, he said, but they maintain respect and discipline in everything they do.

The Air Force members aren't the only ones pleased by the integration. "This is my first time working with the Air

Continued on page 10

For the first time United States Air Force Security Forces, United States Army and Contract Guards stood guard mount to work posts as a fully integrated security force here at the Baghdad International Airport.

***Lt. Col. Ronald Turk,
447 ESFS Commander***

MAJOR PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

By Staff Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108ARW/PA

Maj. Brian Griefer of the 108th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces had a great surprise during his deployment to Iraq when he was promoted to sergeant on Feb. 27.

His civilian job in the Bergen County (N.J.) Prosecutor's Office arranged a surprise promotion party at a distance via video web-cam to promote him to Detective Sergeant with the prosecutor's office.

Commander of the 108th Security Forces Squadron and 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in Iraq, Lt. Col. Ronald Turk called Griefer into the "wired" room and Griefer was totally unprepared for what was about to happen.

When he showed up on the screen at the New Jersey conference room, his co-workers, who also did not know about the upcoming promotion, yelled their hellos. Prosecutor John Molinelli then announced, "Brian, it's my intention this morning – and for you this evening – to promote you to the rank of sergeant."

With a round of applause from the New Jersey crowd, the new major-sergeant (not to be confused with a sergeant major) thanked the prosecutor. Turk assisted with the swearing-in of the Detective Sergeant.



Maj. Brian Griefer (right) is sworn in as a detective sergeant with the Bergen County (N.J.) Prosecutor's Office by Lt. Col. Ronald Turk via video web-cam. Photo courtesy 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

Griefer's fiancée, Susan Grimstead, was in the audience enjoying her first sight of him since his deployment in September.

According to reports, once the new Detective Sergeant returns to his civilian job, he will have a supervisory position in one of the office's more active squads, the Sex Crimes Unit.

Continued from page 9

Force," said Army Staff Sgt. Jamone Drummer, shift supervisor. "I've enjoyed it. I don't normally have a lot of opportunities to work with the Air Force. At first, I didn't know what to expect. It's exciting to get to see another side of the military."

While some members of the 447 ESFS were on the look out at the perimeter, others manned entry control points at several locations basewide.

Senior Airman Adam Fernandez, 447 ESFS member, was one of those manning the flightline ECP.

"This is the first time we have a truly joint mission," he said. "We've worked with the Army before, but now that we have the Ugandans, it's nice to know we can work together as one force. It's a privilege to be able to do this in Baghdad especially. It's an honor to be a part of something historic."

Not only is the squadron historical, the EODT contractors provide their security expertise, which allows the Army and Air Force security forces to concentrate on other security issues.

"We provide specialized and professional security," said Sgt. Seth Kabandize, EODT guard. "That way, the Air Force can do other jobs. We can do security to standards that you will appreciate, and the Air Force doesn't have to stay here in one place."

In addition to the different services working together, the Air Force component of the unit is comprised of about 97 percent Air National Guardsmen. This adds another unique characteristic to the 447 ESFS.

"Each organization cultivates professionalism, from each Guard unit, to the Army to the EODT guards," said Master Sgt. Dave "SWAT" Beun, 447 ESFS member. "It doesn't happen overnight. We're very fortunate to have the quality of professionals we have in this unit."

Sergeant Beun attributes some of the success of the unit to Colonel Turk, as well.

"We have one of the best squadron commanders I've ever worked with. He really knows how to manage and lead his people," he added.

Lakehurst aviators go to war

By Sgt. 1st Class
Kryn P. Westhoven/
JFHQ-NJ/PA

It was just after sunrise on Sunday morning as a small group of aviators and family members shielded their eyes from the bright rays to watch a formation of four Blackhawk helicopters pass by the hanger on Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station. They waved goodbye to the 37 members of the Company A, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion knowing that these New Jersey Army National Guard members would not return to this tarmac for nearly a year.



Pfc. Christina Shewchuk with four-year old sister Bailey. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven.

This was a very personal sendoff compared to a day earlier on Feb. 16 when the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 hangar was filled with family, friends, veterans from several wars and the leadership of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

"I not so sure we can get away with calling ourselves the 'Black Sheep' when we have standing room only at our farewell send off," said Capt. Sean Roughneen, commander of A Company as he spoke of the nickname the unit

took on after being formed less than two years ago.

A total of eight aircraft flew to Fort Sill, Okla., filled with personal belongings and unit equipment to start the mobilization process as they join up with the Utah Army National Guard's 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion. Task Force 2-211 will provide aviation support to the Combined Forces land Component Command in Kuwait.

It has been only 20 months since the unit was started as part of the Army Aviation transformation process. The past year has been difficult and time consuming for the citizen-Soldiers with the many requirements, additional schools and training in Utah, Alabama and Fort Dix to prepare for the Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

"These Soldiers have gone well beyond what is considered a normal training year," added Roughneen.

"This deployment will be a key event in your life. The training you completed up to now, all the courses

you attended, all the annual trainings you participated in, it has all lead to this deployment.

"This is the culmination of what has been your military career," noted Roughneen.

For the commander and nine other unit members this is their second deployment in support of

the Global War on Terrorism. "I have mixed emotions, but the troops need us," said Staff Sgt. Leroy Metz Jr., who has spent 33 years in aviation and deployed with the 50th Main Support Battalion in 2004.

These veterans know that preparation is the key to success; it also helps a new unit gel as a team giving every member confidence.

"We are absolutely prepared. We have had a ton of training the past year. There is going to be more training as we go along, so we are definitely ready for it," said Chief Warrant Officer Todd Collins of Bayville, a Blackhawk pilot who joined the Guard four years ago.

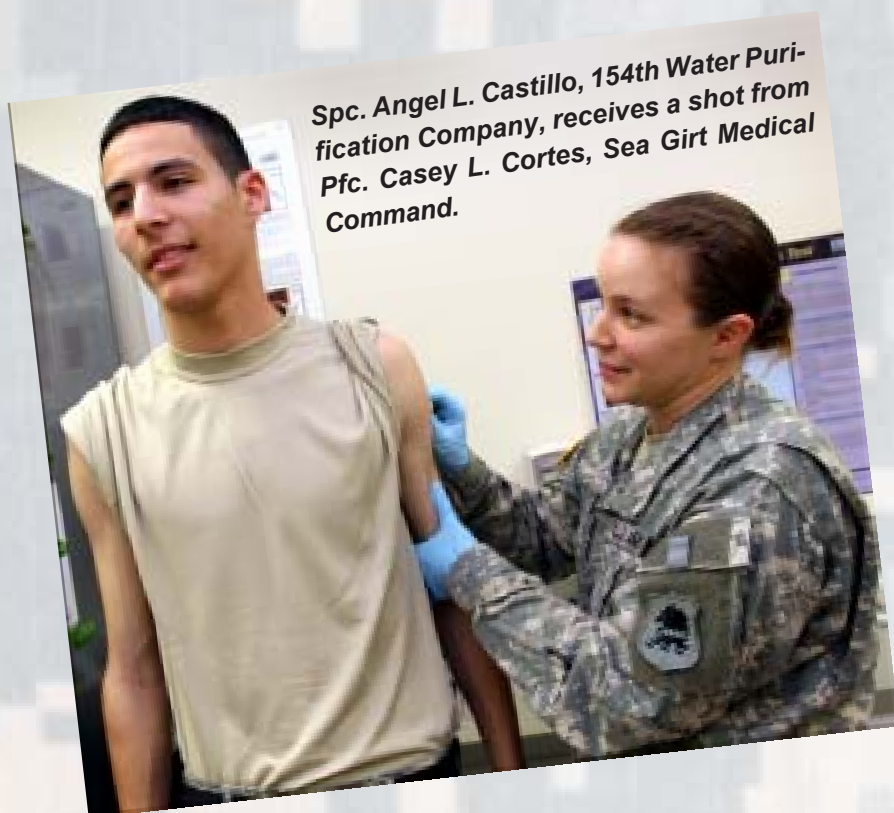
Strapping duffle bags into the back of the helicopter, Trenton native Pfc. Thomas Vickers is eager to face the challenges of the deployment. "This is awesome," said the 23-year old Vickers who serves as a Blackhawk crew chief.

"They are chomping at the bit, they are really ready to get out the door and really ready to get to the next phase," added Roughneen. "It has been a long, hard, tasking year."



Pfc. Thomas Vickers strapping duffle bags into the back of a helicopter. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven.

PREPARING THE SOLDIER



Spc. Angel L. Castillo, 154th Water Purification Company, receives a shot from Pfc. Casey L. Cortes, Sea Girt Medical Command.

Sea Girt Medical Command and Walstonport Element continued their partnership with the Joint Readiness Center (JRC) — and the National Guard's Joint Training and Training Center (JT2DC) to expedite Soldier Processing (SRP).

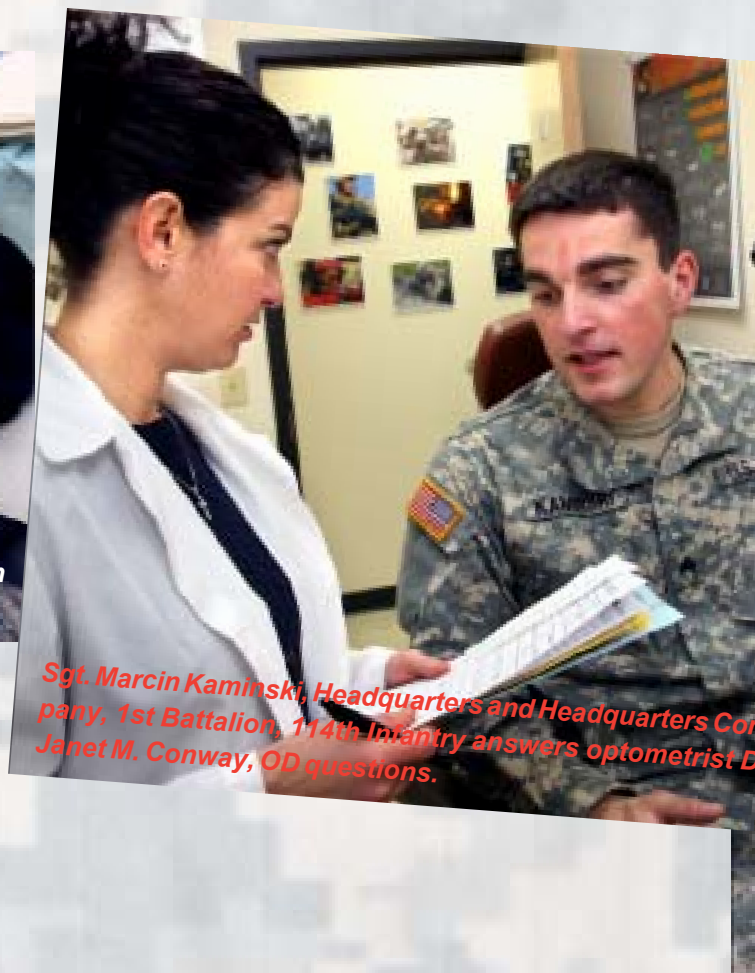
The 328th Military Police Company, 154th Water Purification Company, 50th Chemical Company, 250th Engineer Battalion and the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry received eye exams, immunizations, blood work and medical processing during their two days at the JT2DC.

Although the units are conducting their pre-mobilization training at Dix, the units are set to spend two weeks mobilizing through Fort Bliss, Texas.

Approximately 3,100 Soldiers — including a total of 1,500 from the Garden State — are set to deploy with the 5th SFG(A) this summer. They will be tasked with security for detainee operations missions in Iraq. Fifteen companies within the brigade will provide internal and external security at several prisons.



Spc. Lacquan A. Hodges, 50th Chemical Company, has her teeth checked by Dr. Raja Abdul, DDS.



Sgt. Marcin Kaminski, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry answers optometrist Dr. Janet M. Conway, OD questions.

Photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

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Pvt. Carla M. Sanders, Sea Girt Medical Command, briefs (l-r) Pvt. Alexander A. Wizbicki, 328th Military Police Company; Pvt. Markus L. Pabon, E Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion; and Spc. Michael W. Breeden, C Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry, in the hearing booth.



Dental Technician Charlotte Scott does a final check on Pfc. Ayisha H. Karriem, 50th Chemical Company.



Staff Sgt. Shannon A. Feuster, Sea Girt Medical Command, helps Soldiers with their records.




Pvt. David W. Wallace, 154th Water Purification Company, has his blood drawn by Spc. Efrain J. Morales, Sea Girt Medical Command.




Pvt. Jossie Cruzalegui and Spc. Miesha H. Wilson, both with the 50th Chemical Company, receive their ID tags from Spc. Hristo S. Asenov, 50th Brigade Support Battalion.

EMPLOYERS SET SITES ON PRE-MOB

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA




Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Grimes, Infantry Training Developer, Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC), guides an employer through the complexities of the M4 Carbine. Photo by Spc. Nicholas Young, JT2DC-AAG.



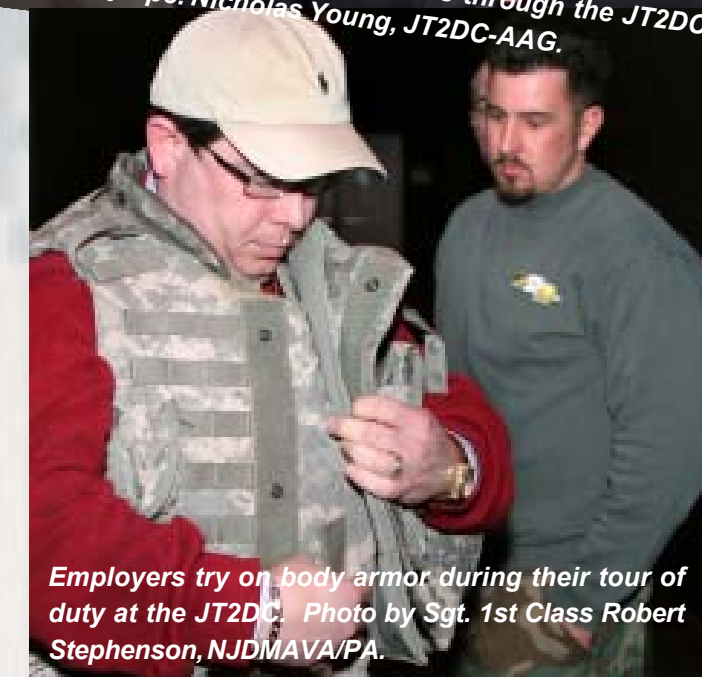
Employers and civic leaders had the opportunity to see some of their employees – who also serve as Citizen-Soldiers – go through the Soldier Readiness Processing at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

The Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve has sponsored at least four employer visits to the SRPs being conducted to mobilize New Jersey National Guard Soldiers. Employers include: Waste Management, Lockheed Martin and Virtua Health.

This is the first step in preparations to deploy the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in June 2008. This summer, more than 3,400 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers will mobilize in the largest deployment since World War II.



Sgt. 1st Class Brent Ludlow, Artillery Training Developer, leads employers and civic leaders through the JT2DC. Photo by Spc. Nicholas Young, JT2DC-AAG.



Employers try on body armor during their tour of duty at the JT2DC. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.



Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (second from left) promotes Sgt. Nicholas G. Ochipinti to staff sergeant while Senator Robert Menendez (left) applauds and Representative Rush Holt (right), 12 District of New Jersey watches. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

Nunn takes on new ChalleNGes

By SPC Pablo G. Vizcaino, 444 MPAD



Betty Nunn (right) mother of newly promoted Brig. Gen. John M. Nunn (center) applauds as Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth pins on a star. Photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Donnelly, 444MPAD.

Thirty years of experience are represented by a single silver star sitting on the shoulder boards John M. Nunn's Class A uniform.

A large crowd watched at the Somerset Armory on March 9 as the red one-star flag was unfurled for Brig. Gen. Nunn as he accepted his new responsibilities as the Assistant Adjutant General of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth was assisted by Nunn's proud mother, Betty, in pinning on the new rank. Her pride was shared by the audience for this former enlisted active duty artilleryman, who joined

the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1977.

"I don't think this is about me," commented Nunn. "It's about the people you serve with."

Nunn's rise through the officer ranks started with his graduation from Officer Candidate School in Sea Girt in 1979. He served as Company Commander of the 50th Adjutant General Company from 1980 through 1984. Moving to the 50th Division Support Command (DISCOM) until 1987 before returning to Sea Girt to be the New Jersey Military Academy's Director of Logistics until 1991. In 1995, Nunn returned to the 42nd DISCOM, then three years later he moved to the 250th Forward Support Battalion as the Executive Officer. He then served as Commander of the 50th Personnel Service Battalion until December 2000, when he was reassigned as the DISCOM Executive Officer and was deployed to Iraq in 2004.

Now once again Nunn's concerns are shifting when he wears the uniform as he is responsible for the Joint Training and Training Development Center among other duties.

Just a few weeks before his promotion, Nunn accepted the civilian position as Director of the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy at Fort Dix. The state-funded program targets at-risk teenagers who have dropped out of high school, and gives them the motivation and direction they need to complete their schooling.

"Right now we graduate an average of around 100, but we are going to look to graduate 200 in the future," stated Nunn.

Nunn can put to good use some of his experiences from his 27-years as a police officer in Newark to help make sure the Youth ChalleNGe cadets are successful. 🇺🇸

Switlik to command RSG

By SPC Vizcaino, 444MPAD

Lt. Col. Roch A. Switlik (left) was presented the 42nd Regional Support Group (RSG) colors by Brig. Gen. Frank W. Dulfer, Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey during the Change of Command Ceremony held at RSG Headquarters in Somerset on March 9.

Looking to the RSG's future, Switlik says, "It is important to continue with the direction Colonel Nunn established – continue to reconstitute the RSG." The RSG is comprised of the 50th Finance Battalion, 117th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 50th Personnel Service Battalion.

Switlik, who has served in the Army for more than 20 years, has had a meritorious career having earned multiple awards among which include the Bronze Star and Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

"We have a very important mission coming up," added Switlik as the support elements during annual training will help prepare the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team for deployment.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly, 444MPAD

Ferrari to command IBCT

By Maj. Jason Fetterolf, 50IBCT/PAO



Col. Steven Ferrari, left, incoming 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander receives the colors from 42nd Infantry Division Commander Brig. Gen. Paul C. Genereux Jr. as Division Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Fearnside watches. Photo by Sgt. Ed Smith, 444th MPAD.

"I pledge my dedication and commitment to ensure the success of this historic brigade."

On Feb. 23, artilleryman Col. Steven Ferrari formally took command of the Iraq-bound 3,463-strong 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) from Col. Jorge J. Martinez at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt.

"Sea Girt is an appropriate setting for this event today... we have mobilized Soldiers here for the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Global War on Terrorism, Operation Noble Eagle," observed Maj. Gen. Glenn Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey.

Influenced by his father, an Army Reserve military policeman, Ferrari's Guard career began 27 years ago with his enlistment in the 1st Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment in Cherry Hill. During his 16 years with the 112th, he went on to become a commissioned officer and progressed through virtually every position within the Battalion. At the Battery level, he began as a fire direction specialist and worked his way up to battery commander. At the Battalion level, he served as operations officer, intelligence officer, executive officer, and

finally, battalion commander.

After his departure from the 112th, Ferrari served as Director of Training and Executive Officer at the Joint Training and Training Technology Battle Lab.

All of the jobs he held gave him an understanding of how a unit works at the lowest level, and his most recent assignment, State Training Officer (G3), for the Joint Forces Headquarters, New Jersey National Guard prepared him for the IBCT command. "It explained resourcing, strategies, the whole operational piece of a higher headquarters," said Ferrari.

Then and now, the Guard focused him, instilled values and provided an environment of camaraderie for Ferrari. He reflected on how that life, coupled with fun missions to go to the field and shoot artillery maintained his interest to stay in the Guard. "We were literally 'rocket

scientists' - We hit a target 20 miles away that you cannot see."

The new commander has his work cut out for him. "The 50th Brigade currently faces the tremendous challenge of transforming from a legacy mechanized brigade to a modular brigade combat team, while simultaneously preparing for an overseas deployment in this uncertain and complex operational environment." This is coupled with the preparation for mobilization to Fort Bliss, Texas in June and deployment to Iraq in the fall.

Ferrari shared several principles of success that got him to where he is today. To be successful, he said you must be confident, have competence, and communicate up and down. "Living the values you preach; to be honest and sincere," Ferrari added. Finally, Ferrari emphasizes his overarching concept, "Always look out for the welfare of your Soldiers."

Ferrari continued: "50th Brigade Combat Team... It's now your time. It's your time to defend freedom and the American way. It's your time to make this a better world for our children."

There is no doubt that this artilleryman will keep his word.



Sergeant leads town

Photo and story by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

When the military talks about 'lessons learned' it is in the context of using past experiences to insure future success. Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Ted Husa has taken that process and applied it to the municipal government in his hometown of Denville.

In town he goes by the title of Mayor for this community of nearly 16,000. Husa was elected to the mayor's office in the fall of 2007, after serving 14-years on the township council.

As a Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) instructor at the 254th Training Regiment in Sea Girt on weekends, Husa certainly knows with 20-years of service in the National Guard what makes the military efficient and successful. It is that understanding that he brings to township operations.

"I use the Army model of organization, accountability and thoroughness," said Husa. "The Army approach is a logical approach."

Husa believes that there were numerous parallels in the decision making processes in the military that correlated



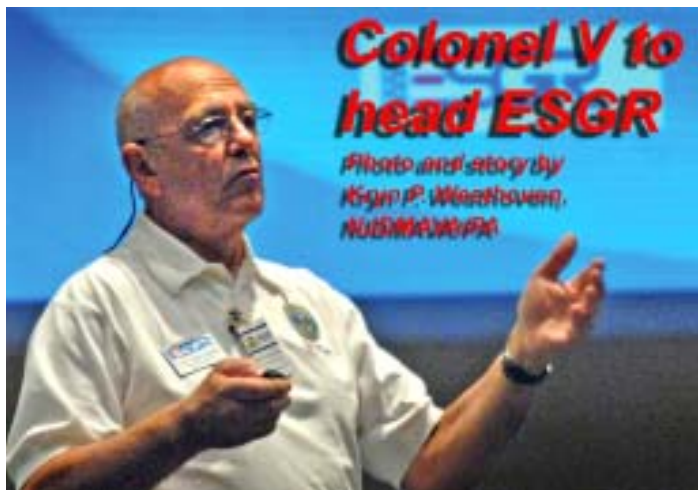
directly to making sound decisions in his civilian role.

The Denville Public Works Department now monitors the cost of vehicle operations by maintaining a log book system similar to one used by military. He also is working to develop a local Emergency Management council that will be based on a military structure of command.

Husa credits the Guard with providing the training to be successful in public service as every Soldier is expected to be an instructor, and public speaking is part of being a Soldier.

This 54-year-old mayor continues to draw from his Army Guard experiences in evaluating and deciding on policy as he oversees a \$13 million dollar budget. As one way to save money, Husa is looking to increase recycling in the town, efforts he is passionate about as he was the Morris County Recycling Volunteer of the Year in 2000.

So if it is saving green, going green or wearing his greens, Husa is ready to lead and pass his experiences on to the next generations of NCO's.



For retired Army Col. Carmen A. Venticinque, the rise to the volunteer position as State Chairman of the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Field Committee was the typical overnight success story that started in 1955.

It was that year he joined the New Jersey Army Guard and for more than 37 years wore the uniform in many capacities. He now has the challenging position of serving more than 17,000 reserve component members in the state.

"We will place additional emphasis on our Military Outreach Program so as to ensure that we can assist all Guard and Reserve members in understanding their rights and obligations under USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act) while encouraging them to recognize supportive employers," said Venticinque.

To accomplish that mission the New Jersey ESGR committee of nearly 150 volunteers has worked tirelessly to educate employers across the state and the new chairman challenged them to work even harder with the deployment of more than 3,000 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers in 2008.

In the midst of the largest deployment of the New Jersey Army Guard since World War II, Venticinque knows the history of the unit. He retired in 1992 from the military as the Assistant Division Commander, 50th Armored Division, the predecessor of today's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The New Jersey Field Committee which was formed in 1972, will continue to focus on the ESGR mission to 'Gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve' in the coming months according to Venticinque.

For more information on the New Jersey ESGR Committee visit www.njesgr.org/index.html.

Cuello chosen as third top U.S. recruiter

By Pvt. Saul Rosa, 444MPAD



Staff Sgt. Juan Cuello (right) receives the Chief's 50 Award from Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn, Director Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau. Photo courtesy Recruiting and Retention Command.

Impeccably groomed, debonair and sociable, Staff Sgt. Juan Cuello is the ideal image winner for the Chief's 50 Award and the third most successful Army National Guard recruiter in the United States.

Cuello recruited more than 40 new recruits and prior-

service enlistments out of the Cherry Hill Armory in 2007.

The Chiefs 50 is an award that is given to the top recruiter in the region and nation. The regional award is given to a recruiter within a certain region of states. The region that New Jersey competes in also includes Washington D.C., Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia.

The winners of the regional award then compete in the national competition. The recruiter is scored on the number of new enlistments and prior-service enlistments they obtain.

A sheer number isn't as simple as it sounds for recruiters. The act of recruitment is a dedicated and personal process that needs to be repeated with every recruit.

"Don't think of them as just a number. Take care of them; help them out," said Cuello, who tries to be friends, yet keep a professional relationship.

There also needs to be a certain degree of devotion and knowledge to enlist future soldiers.

"I'm a pretty aggressive recruiter. If you come into my office, I'll give you all the information you want, but if you're really ready to do this I want a commitment," said Cuello.

The main key to Cuello's success and recruiting is honesty.

Recruiters have a bad name as liars and telling possible recruits what they want to hear, said Cuello, but everything with us is upfront and cut and dry, he added.

Honest and knowledgeable – it's not unlikely that Cuello will be seen amongst the most successful recruiters in the region, if not the nation, again next year. 🇺🇸

CHALLENGE GRADUATES SIBLINGS

Photo and story by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

When the 27th class New Jersey National Guard Challenge Youth Program walked across the stage of the War Memorial in Trenton on March 1 there was something unique this group of cadets. Two pairs of brothers and sisters were among the 85 cadets accepting their high school diplomas.

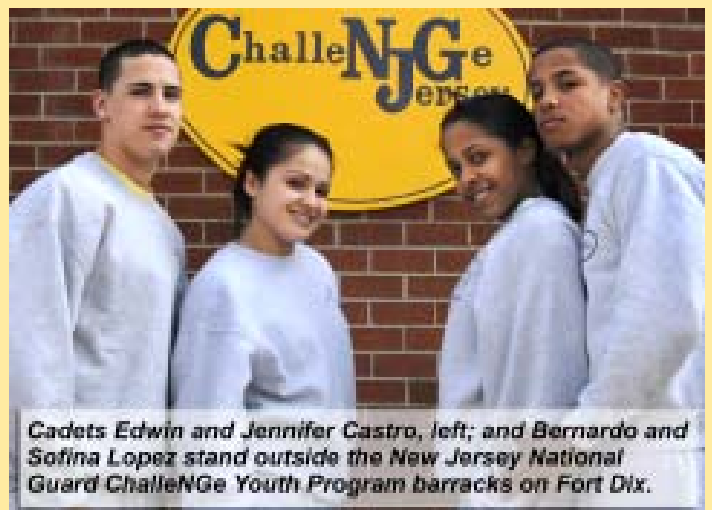
For Edwin and Jennifer Castro of Bayonne; and Bernardo and Sofina Lopez of Cliffside Park the 22-week program was an opportunity for the siblings to grow closer.

"Before this program we used to talk but we were always fighting with each other," said Edwin. "But we are closer now, we are more like friends."

For Jennifer it was like having a built-in safety net for when times got tough during the time away from home. "My brother helped me to stay here and kept me focused," stated Jennifer.

Cadets participate in a daily physical training; community service; vocational training and academic courses emphasize

reading, writing, mathematics, computer skills, citizenship and social studies.



Cadets Edwin and Jennifer Castro, left; and Bernardo and Sofina Lopez stand outside the New Jersey National Guard Challenge Youth Program barracks on Fort Dix.

AIRMEN TAKE FIRST AT 1ST

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

Two of our own were recognized as the best.

But don't take my word for it.

"Our candidates represent the finest uniformed and civilian members throughout the entire North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command community," stated Maj. Gen. Henry C. Morrow, Commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, NORAD, 1st Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

He's speaking about Master Sgt. Daniel T. Mitchell Jr. who was chosen as the winner in the 2007 Overall Annual Awards Winners – 1st Air Force (AFNORTH)/CONUS NORAD Region First Sergeant Category, and Senior Airman Walter R. Kienzle IV who placed first in the 2007 Overall Annual Superior Performers - 1st Air Force/CONUS NORAD Region. Both are assigned to 177th Security Forces Squadron.

So what does it take to get chosen for these awards?

Let's start with Mitchell's accomplishments. During his four-month tour as first sergeant in Afghanistan Mitchell provided



Master Sgt.
Daniel T. Mitchell Jr.

Senior Airman
Walter R. Kienzle IV

leadership to more than 450 Airmen assigned to 29 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) – visiting each location – and significantly improved morale and mission accomplishments in all the FOBs. He developed a security augmentee program, which mitigated the hazards faced by 48 Airmen tasked with base perimeter defense duty.

Now let's look at Kienzle. He volunteered as a member of a 13-Airmen Security Force team deployment to Iraq in support of Operation

Iraqi Freedom. While at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Kienzle was assigned to the Quick Reaction Force (QRF), which won notoriety from both the Air Force and the Air National Guard due to its response to attacks often outside the installation perimeter, all the while safeguarding base personnel. This culminated with the QRF's response to a 2,000 pound Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device attack. Kienzle's decisive actions led to the evacuation of six wounded Soldiers and thwarted any further attacks.

So that is what it takes to win these awards.

Take my word for it. 🇺🇸

This is only a test

Photo and story Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

Staff Sgt. Robert Waters, an Emergency Management Airman, checks for chlorine gas during an anti-terrorism exercise held at the 177th Fighter Wing on Jan. 2-6.

The exercise - based on a terrorist suicide bomb attack - was an opportunity to ensure that Air Force Incident Management System, which employs a unified response between Wing, local, state and federal level responders would work smoothly.

The main event came when a delivery van attempted to run the main gate and despite Security Forces Airmen successfully stopping the vehicle, the terrorists detonated a bomb and released chlorine gas.

Immediately emergency responders, Security Forces, Fire Department, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Readiness, Bio and Environmental Airmen responded to the crisis. In addition, the mutual support agreements with local, state and federal agencies were put into play.

After the various responses were observed, documented and evaluated, the exercise ended. The Exercise Evaluation Team evaluated the results so that events such as this can be avoided.



NJ Embedded Team graduates Afghan Police class

Photo and story by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek, USN



Master Sgt. John Welgos, the senior enlisted mentor for a police mentoring team, congratulates the Bala-Beluk district police chief after he and 142 other policemen from the district — including the chief's son — graduated from an eight-week police training course that is a key part of the Afghan Interior Ministry's focused district development reform initiative, designed to improve the rule of law throughout the country district

by district. The ceremony took place on Feb. 21 in Herat, Afghanistan. This group might prove to be the best in Afghanistan, according to Col. James Klingaman, the commander of Afghanistan Regional Security Integration Command-West. This was the first class of ANP for the focused district development (FDD) initiative to be trained in Herat. The FDD initiative is a reform by the Afghan Ministry of Interior which will improve policing in Afghanistan, district by district. It was developed by the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan to address issues of inadequate training, poor equipment and corruption that made it difficult for the police to provide public safety and internal security. After graduation, the policemen go back to their districts. They won't go back alone, however. A police mentoring team comprised of U.S. Soldiers — among them, New Jersey Army National Guard's Embedded Training Team — will be there to help them use their newly taught policing skills. Master Sgt. Welgos is the senior enlisted mentor for that team. He reminded the graduating class of their responsibility to protect the public. "The eyes of the people will watch you closely," he said. "Stay on the path of good."

Piterski to command 2-113th

Brigade Commander Col. Steven Ferrari (right) presents Incoming Commander Lt. Col. Mark A. Piterski the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry's guidon while Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark (left) and Outgoing Commander Lt. Col. James A. Hayes (second from right) watch during the Change of Command ceremony on Feb. 23. Photo by Sgt. John Crankshaw, 444MPAD.



Super Bowl party held at Governor's mansion



Soldiers, Airmen and family members watch the New York Giants edge the New England Patriots 17-14 during the 42nd Super Bowl on Feb. 3. This is the second year Governor Jon

S. Corzine has opened up his home for New Jersey National Guard members and their families. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-NJ/PA.

Wing unveils new paint job

Sheet Metal Foreman Master Sgt. Michael Carr along with Structural Repair Mechanics Tech. Sgt. Gail Connor, Staff Sgt. Sean O'Connell, and Senior Airmen Corey McPherson and Bryan Mitchell's artwork is on bold display on the tail of 177th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Randall S. King's F-16 Fighting Falcon. Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA.



News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Family Readiness Grant Program

From the N.J. State Family Readiness Council

Family Grants are available to New Jersey Guard members mobilized longer than 90 days within a one-year period, and their families must be experiencing financial hardship.

Business grants are available to New Jersey Guard members who have been mobilized longer than 90 days also within a one-year period and were self-employed business owners at the time of being mobilized.

The State Council has supported family activities, welcome home events and has awarded grants in excess of \$300,000.

For more information on grant criteria or to apply for a grant call **1-888-859-0352** or contact the Family Assistance Center nearest you.

Federal grant available

A \$200,000 grant from the Department of Community Affairs is available for spouses of deployed or recently deployed military.

Typical awards are \$2,500 and are available for financial difficulties (such as past due rent and childcare) as well as for recreational and stress relieving activities for kids.

For more information contact Fawn I. Mutschler, Military Grant Liaison, Women's Opportunity Center, YMCA of Burlington County at 609-543-6200 Ext. 325 or by email at wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org.

Youth Camp Forms Available

The fourteenth Annual New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp will be held July 13-19 at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt. Children, ages 9-12 are invited to apply. The camp fee is still \$100.

All campers must be children, grandchildren or legal dependents of an active or retired member of the New Jersey National Guard.

Volunteer positions are available for senior counselors, junior counselors, safety and security, arts, sports, beach, administrative, public affairs, cooks, transportation and logistics.

For additional information, call the Family Programs Office at (609) 562-0668. To download an application, please visit www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/programs.html. Read carefully as some of the applications have changed.

Family Assistance Centers

108th Air Refueling Wing

3327 Charles Blvd.
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
POC: Laura Forrest
laura.forrest@njmcgu.af.mil

Jersey City Armory

678 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306-2208
POC: Janis Shaw
janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil

Lawrenceville Armory

151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2897
POC: Jane Hackbarth
jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil

Morristown Armory

430 Jockey Hollow Road
Morristown, NJ 07960-0499
POC: John Hales
john.a.hales@us.army.mil

Pomona NJNGFAC

400 Langley Road
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
POC (Air): Paul Gunning

paul.gunning@njatla.af.mil
POC (Army): Michael Hughes
michael.hughes@njatla.af.mil

Somerset Armory

1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
POC: John Hales
john.a.hales@us.army.mil

Teaneck Armory

Teaneck & Liberty Roads
Teaneck NJ 07666-0687
POC: SSG Joe Collery
joe.collery@us.army.mil

Toms River Armory

1200 Whitesville Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
POC: Maria Morro
maria.morro1@us.army.mil

Woodbury Armory

658 North Evergreen Avenue
Woodbury, NJ 08096
POC: Heather Altman
heather.altman@us.army.mil

or call 1-888-859-0352



Guardmembers, become A Recruiting Assistant and for every person you recruit into the New Jersey Army or Air National Guard you earn \$2,000. Logon to <http://guardrecruitingassistant.com/> pick your branch of service, fill out the application and you are on your way to helping someone make a great career choice and some serious cash for yourself.



NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

New Jersey Army National Guard

To Command Sergeant Major (E-9):

Scott C. Lewis
Francis H. Sippel

To Sergeant Major (E-9):

Ronald C. Fisher

To First Sergeant (E-8):

Wayne W. May

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Valerie A. Hopkins
Patrick A. Kildea
Scott E. Mechkowski
John Welgos

To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

Matthew M. Coleman
Peter M. Diaz
Thomas J. Dinkelspiel
Sheila R. Hellwig
Glenn T. Jensen
George R. Kaschak
Beth B. Lapoint
Jose A. Rodriguez
Mercedes D. Rowe
Robert E. Simms
Clifford W. Snedeker Jr.
Laurence A. Wayman

To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Claudia S. Branco
William P. Bryan
Miguel A. Correa Jr.
Arthur N. Hollman
Calvin Holmes Jr.
Jin H. O. Jung
Sanjay Kowlessar
Luis A. Layme
Gregory D. Luccarelli
Jorge A. Marin
William J. McGinnis
Tomas Montalvo
Nicholas G. Ochipinti
Paul A. Rodesky
Luis S. Salgado
James D. Scanlan
Dallas L. Tharp

Brandon C. Traister

To Sergeant (E-5):

Diderot Alerte
Edwin Areizaga Jr.
Drew R. Bendler
Jennifer C. Briggs
Aysu Cesmebasi
Leonel Colon
Lawrence R. Farmer
John A. Fehn
Robin M. Forte
David H. Gaines
Joseph A. Gonzalez
Kevin M. Hilton Jr.
Conrad D. Jorge
Nick A. Lombardi
Oscar D. Lopez
Kayleigh A. Maklary
Omarya Maldonado
Rosalie Martinsen
Kristofer M. Morad
Jared B. Morgan
Antonio S. Narvaez
Charles S. Oglesby Jr.
Cristian

F. Ormazacarrillo
Christopher C. Petrillo
Jacqueline Rivera-Buie
Christopher C. Spellman
Paul W. Summerfield
Johnny L. Thomas Jr.

Andrew J. Tischner
Jason S. Trotman
Ryan K. Uzunis
Davin K. A. Vance
Jeffrey O. Winter

To Specialist (E-4):

Keith K. Adams
Nicholas Allen
Justin W. Barkewich
Walter A. Bielecki
Daniel E. Briggs Jr.
Dashan J. Brown
Antonio C. Cesar
Ki H. Cha
William F. Cody III
Patrick M. Cornely
Robert B. Creevy
Whitney L. Cruz
David M. Difalco
Donald C. Eicher

Ricardo C. Frazier
Frank Gauthier Jr.
Gregory M. Graham
James A. Graves
John W. Kelsey II
Michael P. Kling
Kostadinos I. Kotatis
Jose M. Livres
Aracelis Maldonado
Brian T. Mandelko
Christina D. Mateo-Silven
Juan Mejia
Kevin J. Parrish
Jason W. Patitucci
Jonathan D. Pierce
Erick O. Rosado-Ocasio
Melissa A. Ruggeri
Craig J. Smith
Peter L. Taburas
James J. Urcinole II
Jonelle F. Windham
Nicholas W. Zwicker

To Private First Class (E-3):

Dwayne L. Barnes
Shaquiao S. Blalock
Patrick E. Bolehala
Marc A. Cadet
Kristopher Cartagena
Antoine J. Chislum
Andrew V. Chretien
Mark D. Christian
Zenon N. Chrysaphis
Stephen Cofield Jr.
Louis N. Dalosio III
Corey C. Davis
Edward A. Debiase Jr.
Tina M. Diglio
Erik J. Doucette
Abel A. Duque
Frank L. Eaves
Rafael M. Espinosa
Richard C. Fleming
Christopher R. Forvour
Rolando R. Garcia
Harry H. Garrity
Jasmine S. Holloway
Christopher G. Howland
William R. Klix Jr.

Carl J. Kunst
Eric M. Kuppler
Pedro J. Lopez III
Montano G. E. Lux
Lolita D. Market
Michael J. Martyn
Conor P. McGrath
Kimberly J. Medina
Jersey L. Mijares
Damien H. Montoya
Jorge H. Morejon Jr.
Steven A. Njedbalski
Joel Pedroso
Frank J. Penrose
Jayme G. Pfitzenmayer
Jesus B. Reyes
Chucks M. Richards
Robert J. Richards
Rebekah L. Robinson
Jose A. Rodriguez
Michael A. Ryno
Nicholas S. Saccomanno
Jaime Santiago III
Justin T. Seguire
Robert F. Sendner
Derek A. Smith
Camana D. E. Solis
Charlene V. Stallworth
Hernandez A. P. Tejada
Tamer Turgun
Danilo I. Vargadiaz
Eric D. Warren
Jerome Watts
Joseph G. Wells
Christian Zambrano

To Private (E-2):

Charles E. Alexander
Jeffery M. Bass
Harvey L. Bradley II
Anthony T. Caffiero
Dana L. Calvo
Martinez C. A. Castro
Marcellus Q. Coleman
Jorel W. Cordero
Rochelle L. Cramer
Jessica L. Cromley
Christopher T. Dambrosio
Joseph S. Davis

George R. Decker Jr. Abbas
Fakhrolmobasheri
Daniel J. Finkeldie
Jonathan J. Fischer
Kevin R. Flannery
Derek J. Forbes
Joel Frometa
Ashley L. Gibson
Ronnel C. Gilkes
Michael J. Habbart
Delwin O. Hernandez
Victor D. Hernandezresto
Dwight L. Hicks
Sean M. Hodge
Daniel J. Holly
Christopher R. Howe Jr.
Richard D. Hurwitz
Michael D. Jefferson
Bobby M. Joseph
Aristotelis Laourdakakis
Jose A. Lora Jr.
Shawn P. Lowrie
Ryan J. Mancine
Damaris E. Martinez
Jose E. Martinez
Eric C. Martinezesleve
Lamont J. Mitchell
James J. Morris
Marvin Olivares
Alexis Ortiz
Deandre M. Page
Antonio C. Potts
Alexi G. Quimi
Mendoza
Neil C. Raciti
Iliana V. Reyes
Jessica A. Robinson
Saul E. Rosa Jr.
Kyle L. Rowand
Justin N. Roxas
Daniel Ruiz
Thomas H. Saitta
Andrew M. Shimp
Gary L. Shimp Jr.
Terrill E. Smith
Julio C. Soberalgarcia
Jonatan A. Soto
Jason M. Thomas
Jesus M. Torres Jr.
Joshua A. Torres
Alex Valdez
Forrest J. Wright Jr.

New Jersey Air National Guard

To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):

Shawn L. Jones
Martin W. Schellhas

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):

Michael P. Allen
Steve F. Fernandez
John E. Mumbower
Tania C. Prairie

To Master Sergeant (E-7):

Stephen S. Berling
Matthew J. Johnson
Robert J. Kaminsky Sr.
David K. Martin Jr.
Sean S. Nurse
Garth D. St. Germain
Malakatu B. Saleem

To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Jose L. Anaya
John T. Baum III
Anthony J. Branca
Sonny R. Dagostino
Diana M. Daniels
Bernard Lewis
Joseph B. McCarsion III
Michael J. Meyer
Rebekah L. Morales
Jason C. Roskam
John A. Sevilla

To Staff Sergeant (E-5):

Rasha A. Burton
Ricardo Chavez
Luis A. Duran
John V. Ford
Amiyrah T. Martin
Michael J. Mastrangelo
Jaimie Q. McCracken
Madarrell P. McCullough
David C. Murdock III
Michael F. Ortu Jr.
Kaiflin E. Parker
Michael J. Primavera
John D. Rogerson
Cassandra D. Trott
Jared L. Whalen

To Senior Airman (E-4):

Bradley S. Ferguson
Ada A. Grafals
Jeffrey K. Lee
Lateef B. Steele
Justin Thorne

To Airman First Class (E-3):

Richard J. Bilo
Joshua F. Blaney
Jason M. Cullen
Dustin J. Darrow
Christopher J. Dodson
Emanuel Figueroa
Mark M. Heller
Wayne J. Higgins
Tarell A. McLean
Thomas R. Moss
Daniel L. Rodriguez
Amanda I. Schopf
Folami A. Shorter

To Airman (E-2):

Hany S. Mena
Shawkat S. Mena
Dominoe K. Strong

To Airman Basic (E-1):

Nicholas M. Suech

Congratulations To All!

Compiled by
Master Sgt.
Daniel J. Caldarale
(Army Guard promotions)
and
Master Sgt.
Paul B. Thompson Jr.
(Air Guard promotions)

LAST ROUND - INCENTIVE FLIGHTS



Flightline Crewchief Staff Sgt. Denise Feliciano motions forward an F-16D Fighting Falcon prior to takeoff. The pilot was taking an Airman on an incentive flight, which is part of a program at the 177th Fighter Wing that recognizes deserving 177th Airmen and NCOs. Photo by Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren, 177FW/PA

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Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
PO Box 340
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FIRST CLASS

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