

# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2, 2014



**Tech. Sgt. John Hurley, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, 177th Fighter Wing, measures an area denial artillery munition during a practical problem – an EOD process that uses munition replicas to test future EOD technicians - as the 177th EOD team trains Albanian Army EOD soldiers to become level 1 EOD trainers at Peze Helmes, Republic of Albania, Sept. 23, 2014. Turn to page 3 for the story. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen /Released)**



# Governor lauds National Guard at Military Review



*Story by Spc. Oscar Baldriche, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs*

The New Jersey National Guard held the annual military review Sunday, at which Gov. Chris Christie saluted the troops and paid tribute to families and veterans of fallen soldiers at Sea Girt.

The review kicked-off with a 19-gun salute to Christie and the governor signed a proclamation, making Sept. 28 a day of tribute to the New Jersey parents of fallen military sons and daughters day.

Sunday also marked the state's Run for the Fallen, in which New Jersey Guardsmen ran for more than 180 miles representing the fallen service members of the New Jersey National Guard who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Together we all make one team. All of you here today, help protect our friends and neighbors," said Brig. Gen Michael Cunniff, Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard.

After mounting a Humvee for a trip around the parade field to inspect the ranks, Christie addressed the troops.

"This is an occasion as governor that I look forward to every year," Christie said. "I think of all you do to safeguard us and make us feel protected. We will never forget your sacrifice and commitment to the great state

of New Jersey and our nation."

After being presented with an engraved howitzer shell, Christie praised to the New Jersey National Guard, and expressed his support for all veterans and families of service members.



*New Jersey Run for the Fallen participants pass the American flag to New Jersey veteran organization leaders prior to meeting with members of Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill's family prior to Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Sept. 28, 2014. Carvill was killed in action in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom June 4, 2004.*

# Training the trainers

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

**PEZE HELMES, REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**—There have been many firsts in the 21-year State Partnership Program relationship between New Jersey and the Republic of Albania.

The New Jersey National Guard assisted the Albanian military in preparing themselves for NATO membership.

The first Albanian officer candidate class trained by the NJNG was also the first State Partnership Program country to ever have its officer candidates trained in the United States.

The New Jersey Army National Guard and Albania conducted five successful deployments to Afghanistan to train that nation's army.

And now training an Albanian explosive ordnance disposal class to become trainers for a future Albanian EOD school.

For three-weeks, members of the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard EOD team led by Master Sgt. David Niedzwiadek, Tech. Sgt. John Hurley and Staff Sgt. Joe Coates have been training a core group of Albanian Army EOD experts to become level 1 EOD trainers.

According to Hurley the purpose of this training is two-fold: "Albania has munitions that date back from 1950s through the 1980s that they have been disposing of for the past several years — they need more EOD technicians to help in this process. Additionally, Albania wants to create their own EOD curriculum, this class is the first step toward that goal."

"This course is helpful because it builds our future instructors," said Capt. Vladimir Pica, commander, 1st EOD Group, Albanian Army.

This class is an extension of the Humanitarian Mine Action program. The 177th EOD team is also teaching unexploded ordnance disposal practices to the Albanian EOD technicians. Prior to that training, in July, Airmen from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing Medical Group came to Albania to instruct the Albanian EOD medical center soldiers on advanced lifesaving techniques. Airmen from the 108th and the 177th will return to Albania next year to evaluate the progress of both groups in developing their own curriculums.

"These Airmen have shared their experiences in Afghanistan," said Pica. "They know what to stress, what to focus on for our students."

"This benefits both EOD teams," said Niedzwiadek. "It reinforces our ability to train, especially working with a foreign class of trained EOD technicians."

After the students have demonstrated their ability to safely dispose of munitions, the next step is to teach them to become trainers.

This is the big leap for the future trainers. Again a munition is placed somewhere in the training area, but this time the person



**Tech. Sgt. John Hurley, center, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, 177th Fighter Wing, watches as Lance Cpl. Dorjan Isuf observes Cpl. Hajredin Istref's progress during a practical problem — an EOD process that uses munition replicas to test future EOD technicians.**

being tested is not the technician, but the trainer. A student is chosen to disarm the unexploded ordnance. The trainer must observe them going through the disposal process, which includes interviewing the person who found the UXO, talking with the incident commander, finding the UXO, measuring it, identifying the device, determining the proper disposal method and executing that procedure.

During the last week of the class, Hurley and Niedzwiadek train the future trainers using a drill called practical problems — an EOD term where a replica of an unexploded ordnance device is

placed in the field.

This time the students who are responding to the UXO are prepped by Hurley or Niedzwiadek to make specific mistakes; the key is for the trainer to identify those mistakes, write them down and then at the end of the session when they "grade" the student on their performance, explain whether they passed or not. If the student failed, the trainer will explain what additional training the student must do before they can retest and advance to the next level.

This process is used in the field with trainer Sgt. Servet Lika recording "student" Sgt. Marjan Alhysa's description of what safety procedures he is going to take while measuring the UXO.

As Alhysa clears debris from the UXO, he slightly moves the UXO; Lika catches this mistake and records it. At the end of the test, during the feedback session, Lika explains to Alhysa, Hurley and Pica what Alhysa did right and where he made mistakes.

Hurley reviews Lika's presentation and sums up his performance as a trainer.

"Perfect job," said Hurley.



**Tech. Sgt. John Hurley, left, watches as Staff Sgt. Joe Coates, both members of the 177th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, presents Albanian Army Capt. Klodian Nuredini a certificate of completion at Peze Helmes, Republic of Albania, Sept. 26, 2014.**



## Veterans organizations hailed as 'Force Multipliers'

Master Sgt. David Moore, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

*Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, speaks at the Veterans Commander's Call at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Sept. 28, 2014. The Commander's Call, which is held every year prior to the Military Review, is an opportunity for members of the state's veterans' communities to meet with the DMAVA leadership. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)*

Top leaders from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs credited Garden State veteran organizations with being a 'force multiplier' to help those who have served.

"You are always there when we need you," Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, said during the Veterans Commander's Call, held Sunday, at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt.

Cunniff said each one of the state's veteran organizations has contributed to the state department by providing large donations and thousands of volunteer hours.

"If you weren't here we could only do one-third of what we do," he added.

The annual commander's call rallies leaders from all the veterans organization's in the state. It provides the organization's leaders with insight of the state's veteran services and benefits, as well as insight into the department's annual activities and future plans. It is traditionally held on the same day as the Governor's Annual Military Review.

According to the veterans latest report set to be posted Sept. 30, there are 408,883 veterans living in New Jersey, of which 32,791 are women.

At least once a month, the department, known as DMAVA, issues service medals to thank Veterans for their service. The ceremonies are often held in shopping malls for greater public visibility. DMAVA's veterans' service officers open information kiosks following the ceremonies and remain for several days to provide Veterans with information about benefits for which they may be entitled.

DMAVA also operates three veteran homes in Paramus, Menlo Park and Vineland, as well as two transitional housing centers in

Glen Gardner and Winslow to assist homeless veterans transition back to the workforce.

"We are proud of our veteran homes and the high quality of care. We have a 97 to 98 percent occupancy rate. Your (veteran) organizations involvement really enhances our ability to be successful," said Raymond L. Zawacki, state deputy commission of veterans affairs.

Albert J. Bucchi, director of the Division of Veteran Services, reported on the construction status of the Public Information Center and the main entrance road realignment to the Brig. General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, North Hanover Township.

He asked veterans leaders to bring information back to their members regarding the realignment and rehabilitation of 20,405 grave sites at the cemetery. The rehabilitation program focuses on six older sections of the cemetery. Markers have sunk or become misaligned in these areas. As part of the program, there will be the installation of a new grid system and irrigation system to stabilize the designated areas.

"We need you to get this information out to your members. The area may become very muddy during the renovation process, but we will work with individuals to visit the area," Bucchi said.

Bucchi also provided details of some future projects at the cemetery that include updating the facility map which includes recent projects; review burial rates and emerging trends, identify all areas that can accommodate burial by type and quantity, as well as forecast the probable date when primary burials at the Doyle cemetery will be exhausted and develop a strategy for the timely development of the next department veterans cemetery upon the cessation of primary burials at Burlington county cemetery.



**2014 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event – Toms River, NJ**  
 The American Legion Post #129  
 2025 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 02857  
 Wednesday, October 22, 2014

**EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 8:30 A.M.**

**HIRING FAIR: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

This American Legion-sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Toms River-Ocean County Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the New Jersey Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Goodwill Industries International, NBC News, and other local partners.

**EMPLOYERS**

Must register for FREE at [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org)

**JOB SEEKERS**

Register for FREE at [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org) to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.

A workshop for veterans and other military job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 8:30A.M. To register for the Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshop, visit [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org). For registration questions, please contact us at [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202-463-5807.



[HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG](http://HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG)

Find Hiring Our Heroes online:

Download the free Hiring Our Heroes mobile app! All our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips.



**CONTACT:**  
 Bob Looby: (908) 894-0746  
[Boblooby@embarqmail.com](mailto:Boblooby@embarqmail.com)

\*\*\* Reach Veterans in South Jersey \*\*\*

**Join the American Legion and Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian at the South Jersey Regional Veterans Resource & Opportunity Fair**

Services will be expanded to include vendors that provide assistance with Employment, Homelessness, PTSD, and Criminal Justice initiatives

Atlantic City, NJ – The American Legion and Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian will host a Veteran Resource and Opportunity Fair to bring together South Jersey Veterans with service organizations and employers that can assist and enhance the lives of the brave men and women that defend our freedom.

This event, tailored to Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and their families is looking for vendors and providers to join the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and many others that provide services for homelessness, mental health issues, and veterans' affairs in general. The NJ State Parole Board will be present to discuss various criminal justice initiatives that will benefit veterans. The NJ Division on Civil Rights, under the NJ Office of the Attorney General, will present on the NJ Law Against Discrimination as it pertains to the veteran's community. Also invited to present from the federal government are the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the US Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP), under the US Department of Labor.

**WHAT:** Veterans job and opportunity fair  
**WHO:** Sponsored by The American Legion, Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian, The State of New Jersey  
 Co-sponsored by the New Jersey Parole Board and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 9, 2014  
 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**WHERE:** All Wars Memorial Building (Old Soldiers Home)  
 1510 Adriatic Ave., Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

**RSVP – EMPLOYERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS** - Employers with current job openings or entities that can offer services MUST PRE-REGISTER With Martin Houston, State Parole Board, at [VeteranReentry@spb.state.nj.us](mailto:VeteranReentry@spb.state.nj.us) or call 609-984-4588.

**RSVP – VETERANS** - All Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and their spouses are encouraged to pre-register but "WALK-INS" are welcome!

**Mr. & Ms. New Jersey Veteran** – The event will include competition and judging for the title of Mr. & Ms. New Jersey Veteran. The participants will be the finalists from the three previous Resource & Opportunity Fairs' competition.

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT NO LATER THAN 10/03/14 AS SPACE IS LIMITED!**

**WINE TASTING EVENT**  
 HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL GUARD  
 ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY  
 Featuring Vermeil Wines

October 24, 2014  
 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
 Lawrenceville Armory  
 101 Eggert Crossing Road • Lawrenceville NJ 08648

National Guard Association of New Jersey - NGANJ and Rival Sports present this exciting fun-raiser!

The evening will include Coach Dick Vermeil with special NGANJ guests and NFL Legends. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and a wide selection of fine Napa Valley wine from Vermeil Wines including:

- 2010 XXXIV Proprietary Red Wine
- 2011 Integrity Red Wine Blend
- 2010 Jean Louis Vermeil Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2013 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay
- 2010 Luvisi "1908" Zinfandel
- 2013 Sauvignon Blanc

General Admission tickets are \$60. VIP Admission Tickets are \$125.

VIP tickets include a meet and greet with Coach Dick Vermeil, NFL Legends and the NGANJ dignitaries; plus receive a signed bottle of Vermeil Wines to take home!  
 To purchase tickets or to become an event sponsor, visit [www.NGANJ.org](http://www.NGANJ.org).  
 For questions or information regarding this event, please email [sharonpster@gmail.com](mailto:sharonpster@gmail.com).



[www.VermeilWines.com](http://www.VermeilWines.com)  
 1-855-VERMEIL (837-6345)  
 Calistoga Tasting Room • 1255 Lincoln Ave., CA 94515 • (707) 341-3054  
 Napa Tasting Room • 1018 First Street, Napa, CA 94559 • (707) 254-9881



JT2DC Association is sponsoring Halloween Fun for Soldiers and their families Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014.

**Activities include:** Mask Making, Pumpkin Painting, Halloween shows with the Peanuts Gang, Children's rides, Scavenger hunts, and Petting Zoo.

**Ticket cost is: \$40.00**

per person (includes children 2 and above)

Parking Fee: \$15.00 per vehicle / Paid at Park

**Ticket price also includes a 2 hour unlimited buffet: Hamburgers/Hot Dogs, Fixin's Bar, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Potato Chips and Cold Beverages.**

Contact for ticket sales: Trudi Deyoung 609.847.5325

[Trudi.c.deyoung.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:Trudi.c.deyoung.ctr@mail.mil)

SFC Paul Rein 609.562.0644 [paul.j.rein@mail.mil](mailto:paul.j.rein@mail.mil)

**ID CARDS AT BORDENTOWN**

ID Cards are available at the Joint Military Family Assistance Center in Bordentown. To schedule an appointment, call (609) 324-7027.

# William Tell '84: 30 Years Later



Story and digital art by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

T

hirty years ago this month, the 177th Fighter Wing – then known as the 177th Fighter Interceptor Group – competed for the first and only time at the William Tell Weapons Meet at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Fifty-five Airmen and five aircraft competed for 23 days and won multiple awards.

Officially known as the United States Air Force Air to Air Weapons Meet, William Tell was first held in Yuma, Ariz., in 1954. In 1958, the competition was moved to Tyndall AFB. Held every two years, William Tell would originally see units from Air Defense Command compete, but this was later expanded to include the Air National Guard as well as Canada. The competition not only included aircrew, but also weapons loaders, weapon controllers and maintenance personnel.

William Tell '84 would be the last year the Convair F-106 Delta Dart would compete.

Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Baggstrom, then a Staff Sgt. working as a Fire Control Systems Technician, looked back on William Tell '84 as an amazing experience.

“It was an awesome feeling of pride and honor being invited to attend such a prestigious event, only the best would attend and we were the best the Air National Guard had to offer with the oldest jets and some of the oldest maintainers,” said Baggstrom. “As a young staff sergeant, I was relied upon to represent the Guard and perform to exacting standards. Looking our sharpest, we choreographed launch and recovery procedures and worked for months as a tight knit team, tweak-

ing the selected jets and looking out for their every need to make sure they met the highest degree of reliability, performance, and ascetics.”

The 177th FIG competed in Category III, the F-106 Delta Dart heat, and in the air side of the competition flew in 5 different profiles to score points. The Jersey Devils won the overall F-106 team award, which recognized the unit as the best in its category in the world. Maj. Lynn Robinson picked up the top gun award, scoring 8,020 out of a possible 10,000 points.

“The entire team did extremely well,” said Robinson in a 1984 interview. “We had about three minutes to accomplish the mission or to fall flat on our face. There was a lot of pressure on everybody and I’m thankful our efforts paid off.”

The Jersey Devils also won three special achievement awards – Professional and Competitive Spirit, Overall Best Looking Aircraft, and Best Looking Individual Aircraft. The team also picked up three Industrial awards for being the best F-106 unit in the Air Force.

“It was an amazing life experience that few get to enjoy in their professional careers,” said Baggstrom. “We competed in a world class event and performed to world class standards. It was truly an honor to be a member of the maintenance team that represented the 177th.”



*Graduates of the New Jersey National Guard's first ever SUAS Course – 001. Front row, left to right; Spc. Alberto Bayron, Pvt. Trevor Zampese, PFC. Paul Kolb, PFC. Michael Soto, PFC. Garrett Kohn, Pvt. Cristian Ramirez-Hernandez, PFC Daniel Stemmer, Pvt. Adonis Blackwood and Spc. Devin Valentine. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young/Released)*

# 50th Quoth the Raven...trainers, more!

**By 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Once upon a midnight dreary... actually, it was a very nice day. Nine New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers graduated from the state's first Raven unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) course Sept. 26, leading the way for future operators.

"It's a big year for us," said Col. Ed Chrystal, commander, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). "We're an Army in transition, and now we're more ready for every mission."

Raven UAVs are used for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition (RSTA) capabilities, and are rapidly deployable to a field environment. A Soldier launches a Raven UAV by throwing it, like a glider. Then, the aircraft is controlled via laptop computer.

"It was fast-paced training," said honor graduate Pvt. Trevor Zampese, a military police Soldier of the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "We got a lot of flight time."

Among the class's graduates was New Jersey's first female Raven operator, Spc. Devin Valentine of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion. She is the second woman Army-wide to graduate from the course. All nine Soldiers were presented with 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) coins and training certificates.

"National Guard Bureau said we were the fastest to ever stand up a Raven course," said New Jersey Raven instructor Staff Sgt. Chris Schaefer, of the 50th IBCT Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "We did it in a month. It usually takes a year."

"We have five master trainers now," added Sgt. 1st Class Travis Lovell, of the 112th Field Artillery. He and Schaefer were

awarded the Army Commendation Medal for their swift implementation of New Jersey's Raven training.

"We hope to double the next class," said Maj. Joseph McNamara, IBCT Training Officer.

Quoth the Raven... okay, no more literary puns.



*Pvt. Trevor Zampese of the New Jersey National Guard's 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion accepts a certificate and commemorative plaque for being the Honor Graduate in New Jersey's first ever Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Class at Fort Dix, N.J. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young/Released)*



# DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

## OCT. 9: SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL VETERANS RESOURCE & OPPORTUNITY FAIR

All Wars Memorial Building in Atlantic City  
(9 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

1510 Adriatic Ave., Atlantic City, NJ 08401

## OCT. 11: "STAND DOWN" OF NORTH JERSEY

JFK Recreation Center (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)  
211 West Kinney St., Newark, NJ 07102

## Oct. 22; "Hiring Our Heroes" Veterans Event

Toms River American Legion Post #129  
Employment Workshop for Job Seekers: 8:30 a.m.  
Hiring Fair: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
2025 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 08753

## Nov. 6: Veterans' Outreach Forum

Davidow Hall Gymnasium, Salem Community Col-  
lege (9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)  
460 Hollywood Avenue, Carney's Point, NJ 08069

## Nov. 12: Medal Ceremony & Outreach Event Conference Center, Johnson & Johnson World Headquarters (11 a.m.)

1 Johnson and Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ  
08901

A DMAVA Medal Ceremony will be a part of J&J Em-  
ployees Veterans Day Ceremony

**DMAVA WILL HAVE A VSO PRESENT AT EACH  
EVENT TO HELP AND ASSIST ANY VETERAN**



## La Puz receives NJDSM

*Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, director, veterans healthcare services, left, presents the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal to Paramus veterans Memorial Home resident John La Puz on Sept. 24 2014. The Army World War II veteran received a Purple Heart earlier this year. (Courtesy photo)*

E-mail your Highlights submissions to: [mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov)

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, The Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the State of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. E-mail at: [pao@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:pao@dmava.nj.gov)

### New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General  
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff  
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer  
Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Editor, photographer  
Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer

## ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

### Did You Know?

October is National Energy Awareness Month! Each year the U.S. Department of Energy declares October as Energy Awareness Month in an effort to raise awareness about energy conservation and other energy issues such as renewable energy. This year's theme is "Transition to a Clean Energy Reality" with the goal of raising awareness about how important energy is to national prosperity, security, and environmental well-being.

If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, please contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at [christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov).

