

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 30, 2014



Mimi Kohdeli, left, minister of defense for Albania, presents Brig. Gen. James Grant, director, Joint Staff with a ceremonial coin during a meeting at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va, Oct. 28, 2014. The presentation was in recognition of the ongoing relationship between the New Jersey Guard and Albania as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. Kohdeli and Grant were meeting to discuss future partnership goals. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy/Released)



Alert Bravo stands down after 10 years of alert missions

By Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs; photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs



After 10 years of providing a refueling bridge for contingency aircraft flying over the North Atlantic Ocean en route to support Operations

Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, aircrew and maintenance personnel from the 108th Wing's Bravo Alert Mission flew their last air refueling mission July 28 in support of the North East Tanker Task Force.

Ethyl 55, the call sign for one of the alert aircraft, provided more than 60,000 pounds of fuel to a deploying RC-135 on that final refueling mission.

The Bravo Alert Mission crew had been flying alert missions as part of the NETTF since July 2004, said Lt. Col. Timothy Burke, operations officer, The 108th Wing was one of four Air Guard units from four states that made up NETTF. The other units were the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Maine; 157th Air Refueling Wing, New Hampshire; and 171st Air Refueling Wing, Pennsylvania.

The alert mission involved having an aircrew and maintenance personnel in an "on call" status, ready to show and fly 24 hours a day. Furthermore, the crews rotated every two to three days and took turns sitting alert over the holidays.

"It was very challenging to juggle schedules and cover the mission as peo-

ple came on and off orders," said Burke. "Being a part of the mission meant having to plan everything around when I wouldn't be on alert. This applied to everyone. We all fulfilled our responsibility to the unit by participating in unit deployments and TDY's, so often a break from the alert mission meant you were on the road away from your family."

Although the mission required stringent commitments from the crew, such as completing unit missions qualifications and training requirements during their days off, the alert mission had its rewarding moments. "One special mission required a short-notice refueling that was evacuating a burnt patient from Germany to Brooks in San Antonio," said Burke. "The 108th had the only tanker available so we launched, got them their fuel and they were able to continue on without stopping for fuel."

The 108th Wing's Bravo alert supported primarily OEF and OIF but also was utilized for Operations Noble Eagle, New Dawn and Unified Protector. The Alert team refueled almost every AR-capable aircraft in the U.S. Air Forces'

inventory, from AC-130's at 10,000 feet over the middle of the Atlantic, to the USAF Thunderbirds.

Over the 10 years of supporting NETTF, the 108th Wing's Bravo Alert team's accomplishments were: 3,681 days of alert, flying 3,538 hours and offloading more than 63 million pounds of fuel. They were assigned with 1,818 missions and flew on 1,040 of them, compiling 580 days of temporary duty assignments.

Unfortunately, a combination of decreased funding and operations tempo forced the 108th Wing's Bravo alert to stand down after more than 3,600 days of continuous support.

"I have been privileged, and I think I can say that for all involved, to have been part of this mission," said Burke. "This mission was the perfect model for the Air National Guard to demonstrate to Air Mobility Command that separate units working in close cooperation, can give AMC the equivalent of an active duty KC-135 wing for just a fraction of the active duty cost."

KEEP FIGHTING

By Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. John Fogarty felt unwell for nearly a year.

“I told my wife, ‘There’s something wrong, but I don’t know what it is,’” the senior New Jersey Air National Guard officer said recently.

A bout of the flu and pressure from his wife finally got Fogarty to the doctor in February of 2012.

The first tests revealed no problems, but the doctor recommended Fogarty get a colonoscopy as a precaution, since he was nearing 50. The technicians told him that test had gone well too, but then added, almost as an afterthought, that they’d found a “tiny little bump,” which they biopsied.

That was on a Wednesday. Two days later, Fogarty was on the phone in his office at the 177th Fighter Wing when he heard the words that changed his life.

“‘Well sir ... you have cancer,’ a nurse told Fogarty.

“That’s not exactly the way you would want to hear that, the middle of the day, with a stranger on the phone,” Fogarty said. “It’s probably the worst thing you ever want to hear. It has so much negative connotation to it. What does it mean? Is it the end of life? What’s going to happen?”

Fogarty, currently the 177th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, cancelled a meeting he was preparing for when he got the news.

“At that point I couldn’t even remember my name,” Fogarty recalled.

He went straight to the doctor’s office, where he was told that while the tumor had been small, it was cancerous, but treatable.

It was already Stage 3, meaning the cancer had spread into adjoining tissues and possibly the lymph nodes.

“The doctor asked if I knew a colorectal surgeon,” Fogarty recalled. “Out of dumb luck I happen to know one of the best surgeons in Philadelphia.”

Fogarty was scheduled for surgery on June 23, 2012 at Drexel University’s Hahnemann University Hospital.

He had hoped the tumor could simply be removed and he could move on with his life.

It wouldn’t be that simple.

The doctors needed to remove six inches of intestines

Continued on Page 4

AIR GUARD OFFICER BEATS CANCER

Continued from Page 3

along with the tumor. The surgery also confirmed the spread of cancer into nearby lymph nodes.

The spread of cancer to the lymph nodes meant seven months of chemotherapy and radiation – and required Fogarty to have a port surgically implanted in his chest to enable those treatments. He also needed a colostomy for the duration of his treatments.

Fogarty went back to work. But battling cancer had become his second job.

“My protocol required a five to six hours of an infusion at the doctor’s office, and a 48 hour drip at home. I got chemo on Mondays, took Tuesday off, and came into work Wednesday,” he said.

With each treatment, he felt himself growing weaker.

He drove on, reasoning: “I have to endure this because I have a lack of options.”

Sleep was elusive because of the side effects of the treatments, including nausea and restless leg syndrome.

He chose to shield his children from learning about the extent of his illness and developed empathy toward older people who battle cancer.

“I can’t imagine how hard it is for older folks, I had enough trouble as a younger person,” Fogarty said.

He was grateful that he didn’t lose his hair.

But surviving chemotherapy was only half of Fogarty’s battle. Radiation was an even tougher opponent.

“Every day I had to leave work for 15 or 20 minutes to get blasted,” Fogarty said. “They gave me small tattoos for alignment purposes. They fire this machine up, and it rotates around hitting you with radiation. I was there for 45 treatments.”

The combination of chemo and radiation

were brutal. Even the simplest parts of the daily routine, like a two block walk, became unbearable.

There are some nights, you have to be honest, you cry. It hurts. It’s painful. But you get through it, because there’s always a better day. And you always figure tomorrow is going to be a better day. It was good when tomorrow was a better day.

LT. COL. JOHN FOGARTY

“I was at the staff meeting, feeling several shades of gray, and had to get back to my office. Two blocks seemed like so far away, every step was like stepping on shards of glass. I had become toxic,” Fogarty said. “The pain was so unbearable, and I was rushed to the doctor’s to have the chemo stopped, and had to rest for a week.”

The desire to tackle things head on and to be strong had served Fogarty well

throughout his military career. But the cancer and the treatments made this approach a challenge.

“I did the best I could, but I wasn’t focused. I was angry, I was short tempered and irritable,” Fogarty said. “Family motivates you. All they knew was daddy is sick.”

As the treatments went on, Fogarty dug in.

“There are some nights, you have to be honest, you cry. It hurts. It’s painful. But you get through it, because there’s always a better day,” he said. “And you always figure tomorrow is going to be a better day. It was good when tomorrow was a better day.”

In March 2013, the cancer treatments ended. Two months later, the colostomy was reversed.

Fogarty said keeping a sense of humor was his best weapon in his fight against cancer.

“All you have to do is laugh,” said Fogarty. “There’s a time and place to be serious, but having humor in your life will get you through it. If you didn’t, it would eat you up. Everyone needs a release and mine was humor.”

Two years and five months later, Fogarty is feeling good, with a great outlook on the future.

“I find myself paying more attention to the little things, little moments. Colors are a little brighter, days are a little better,” said Fogarty.

“We like to feel like we have control of our destiny, and plan it out. I wasn’t going to let this illness derail me,” said Fogarty. “Everybody who has had cancer has their own battle, and you need to know up front that the battle can be successful.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht



DEPARTMENT NOTES

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 Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Editor, photographer
 Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

These lights won't haunt your electric bill!
Did You Know?

As soon as Halloween ends, it seems like decorations for the Holidays start popping up in every store! If you're thinking about putting lights on your house this holiday season, think about buying light-emitting diodes. They can last 133 times as long as incandescent bulbs, use 80 percent less electricity and come in all shapes and colors. You can also recycle your old string lights and save them from a landfill.



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



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 Chuck Robbins, Assistant to DCVA/Outreach Coordinator (609-530-6855)

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Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

Brigadier General Steven Ferrari, Director 609-530-6967 Vacant, Sec 609-530-6766 Ernie Razzano, Health Professions Recruiter 609-530-6767 Vacant, QA Coordinator 609-530-6979 Richard E. Thompson, Admin Analyst 609-530-6940 Fax: 609-530-6970	Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home Joseph Brandsiegel, CEO Jennifer Pajak, Sec 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016	Paramus Veterans Memorial Home Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658	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
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Veterans Services (DVS)

Albert J. Bucchi, Director 609-530-6962 Cheryl A. Henderson, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075	Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Iven Dumas, State Supt - 609-738-2424 Genia DiBella, Sec - 609-738-2404 Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard, - 609-758-7505 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169 <u>Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials</u> Joseph Arroyo, Supervisor Kenneth Smith, Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490	Vietnam Veterans Memorial 1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07033 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	Veterans Haven South Walter Nail, Supt - 609-561-4948 Lonna Remsen, Sec - 609-561-4990 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow, NJ 08095 609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186	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
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State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief - 609-530-6842 Mansel Meyer, Education Prog Asst - 609-530-6849 Vacant, State Admin Lynn Yesalonia, State Admin - 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin - 609-530-6948 Fax: 609-530-7196	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 Lillian Rivera, Sec - 609-530-6868 Michele Johnson, Sec - 609-530-7035 Fax: 609-530-6970	Veterans Service Offices Chris Kulkoski, VSO Training Officer - 609-530-7050 David Walther, 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
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Retiree & Civilian Health & Wellness Fair

Tuesday, November 4th 11:00am-2:00pm
Cannon Gate Catering Center
Free Admission!



Over 20 local vendors!

Health Professionals.
Fitness Programs.
Retiree Services.

Information:
Forge Fitness
Center
973-724-6215

Register Now!



ALL VETERANS CAREER FAIR



LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD

Thursday, November 6, 2014
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
1020 Pattison Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19148

a FREE Hiring Event

FOR VETERANS, TRANSITIONING MILITARY PERSONNEL,
NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS, RESERVE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES

COMPANIES ARE HIRING!

Job Opportunities • Continuing Education Opportunities • Business Ownership Opportunities



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THE STOCKTON COLLEGE Veteran Job Fair

Veterans and Active Military

★ November 14, 2014 • 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ★
Campus Center Event Room

Here are just some of the careers/job fields that will be represented at the Stockton Veteran Fair:

Law Enforcement • Security • Banks • Insurance • Car Rental Agencies • Hotel/Casinos • Energy •
Home Improvement • Military • Investment Securities • Manufacturers • Retail & many more....

Register by emailing

★ Patrick.Shields@stockton.edu ★

(Please provide contact information and branch of service.)

STOCKTON
DISTINCTIVE
Public College

www.stockton.edu/veteranaffairs
Stockton College is an AAED institution.

Regional Veterans Resource & Opportunity Fair

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens • 771 Somerset Street, Somerset, NJ 08873

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Job Fair — 40+ employers ready to hire

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Veterans-only Employment/Resume Writing Workshop
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Veterans-only Job Fair & Resource Opportunities
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. General public Employment/Resume Writing Workshop
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. General public Job Fair & Resource Opportunities

FREE Expungement Workshop — Learn how to have your record expunged

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Expungement Workshop for Veterans
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Expungement Workshop for general public

Resource Opportunities — Learn about:
homeless prevention and affordable housing
mental health, PTSD, and health care • law enforcement initiatives

Veterans Service Providers
Department of Military and Veteran Affairs • Veterans Hospital
VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
NJ State Parole Board • One-Stop Career Centers • American Legion

Register By Using the Appropriate Link

Employers: <http://go.usa.gov/p2Am>
Veterans: <http://go.usa.gov/p2sY> (Veterans, Active Duty, Guard, Reserve)
General Public/Non-Veterans: <http://go.usa.gov/p2sB>

FREE registration! Walk-ins welcome

For registration questions, please contact us at
regionalveteransjobfair@gmail.com or call 609-292-0656

All other general and service provider questions contact
Bob Looby at boblooby@embargmail.com or call 908-894-0746

SPONSORS




E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov



Students from St. Joseph's Regional High School in Montvale, N.J., donated 400 bags of candy to the residents of the

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus Oct. 29, 2014. (Courtesy photo)



Strong Bonds

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

When: 14-16 November 2014

Where: Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club

About: Strong Bonds for Couples strengthens the marital bond, giving couples the tools and information they need for better communication and relationship building.

Workshop Details:
Friday, 14 Nov
Hotel check-in Begins at 1600
Dinner: 1800-1900
Session 1: Breaking the ICE/ Expectations (1900-2000)
Saturday, 15 Nov
Breakfast Buffet provided (0630-0800)
Session 1: 3 Keys to Success- Anger & Stress Management (0800-1200)
Lunch Buffet provided (1200-1300)
Session 2: Poisonous Communication - Fun (1300-1600)
Sunday, 16 Nov
Breakfast Buffet provided (0630-0800)
Session 3: Conclusion & Certificates (0800-1100)

**STRONG BONDS
RELATIONSHIP ENHANCEMENT
WORKSHOP
FOR MARRIED COUPLES
14-16 November 2014**

WHAT IS THE HYPE ON FEARLESS MARRIAGE FOR MARRIED COUPLES?

FEARLESS MARRIAGE is an educational program that teaches you skills and principles that can help you build upon strong and healthy marriages, it is not designed to address serious relationship and individual problems.

Come join us in a casual fun environment to learn new tools in building marital confidence and improving communications.

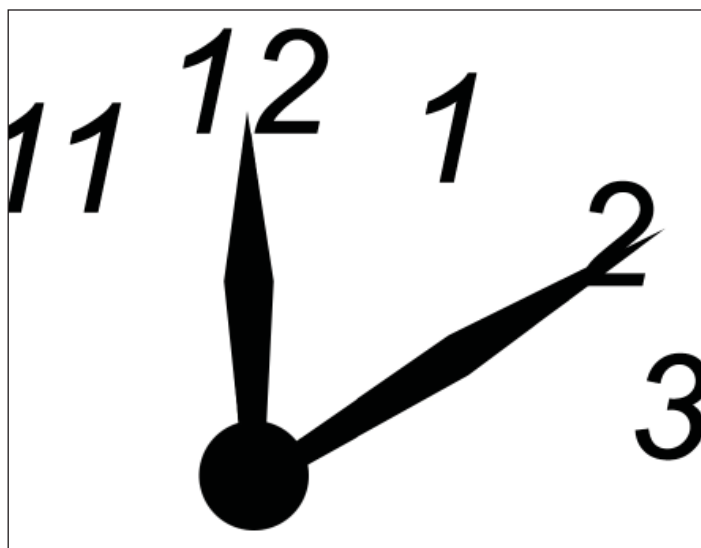
When fully embraced, your marriage can experience rejuvenation, hope, and peace.

Led by:
Chaplain (CPT) Shawn Found
Chaplain Candidate (1LT) Rachel Zarnke

TO REGISTER: Go to www.StrongBonds.org or contact
SGT John Schwartz
John.w.schwartz22.mil@mail.mil

For Active Soldiers & Their Families

AND FINALLY...



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m., Nov. 2 - this Sunday.

So remember, set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

You'll thank us for it.



UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Mount Laurel Library
100 Walt Whitman Avenue
Mount Laurel, N.J. 08054
Nov. 7, 14 and Dec. 12: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

177th Fighter Wing
400 Langley Road
Bldg 229
Egg Harbor Twp, N.J. 08234
Nov. 20 and Dec. 9: 12 - 4 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

DMAVA BLDG
1st Floor/IASD Section
101 Eggerts Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648
Nov. 19 and Dec. 3: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Housing Community Center
Bldg 1134 Hemlock Street
Ft. Dix, N.J.
Nov. 3 and Dec. 1: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Monmouth County Library
Eastern Branch
1001 Route 35
Shrewsbury, N.J. 07702
Dec. 3: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Military & Family Support Center
Highway 547
Building 488 Walsh Road
Lakehurst, N.J. 08733
Nov. 13: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Contact: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Naval Weapons Station Earle
201 Highway 34 South
Building C29
Colts Neck, N.J. 07722
Nov. 5: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact: Pam Kwiat
Contact: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

McGuire Library
2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave
McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641
Nov. 10: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

McGuire Housing
Jim Saxton Community Center
3811 South Boiling Street
McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641
Dec. 2: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

108th Wing Airmen & Family Readiness Office
3327 Charles Blvd
McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641
Nov. 12: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Contact: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Pemberton Community Library
16 Broadway Street
Browns Mills, N.J. 08015
Nov 7: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Toms River Armory
1200 Whitesville Road
Toms River, N.J. 08753
Nov. 4: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Jersey City Armory
678 Montgomery St.
Jersey City, N.J. 07306
Nov. 6, and 13: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Nov. 20: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Dec. 4 and 11, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Dec. 18: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Contact: Darrel Hutchinson, (646) 354-0126

Army Community Service
Bldg 119
Dover, N.J. 07806
Nov. 14 and Dec. 12: 1 - 3 p.m.
Contact: Darrel Hutchinson, (646) 354-0126

Camden County Veterans Affairs
3 Collier Dr.-Lakeland Complex
Blackwood, N.J. 08012
Nov. 3, 17 and Dec. 1, 8, 15: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Wil Acosta, (646) 300-1312



DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Nov. 6: Veterans' Outreach Forum
Davidow Hall Gymnasium
Salem Community College (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

Nov. 14: Veteran Job Fair at Stockton College
Campus Center Event Room (9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)
101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205

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