

# *Guardlife*

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

**NOVEMBER 2011**



**STAFF SGT. JORGE M. OLIVEIRA**

**JANUARY 22, 1978 - OCTOBER 19, 2011**



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### **Cover: Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveira**

Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveira was killed in action in Yahya Khel, Paktika Province, Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device on October 19, 2011. (Graphic by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs)

### **Inside cover: The Competition**

Staff Sgt. Jeffery J. Raine, left, a weapons loader with the 177th Fighter Wing, holds the nose of a GBU-12 Paveway II, 500-pound laser-guided weapon while load crew team chief Tech. Sgt. Keith R. Williams attaches the connecting bolts during the annual Load Crew competition at the 177th on June 12. This is the 30th year the Wing has held the competition. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing)



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# Staff Sgt. Oliveira

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

In April, I travelled to Camp Atterbury, Ind. to spend some time with the Security Forces Platoon of the 113th Infantry before they deployed for a challenging mission in Afghanistan.

I've made dozens of these visits in my time as The Adjutant General, but they never get any easier. The men and women I meet are about to go into harm's way and when I look into their eyes, I want to know they are going to take care of each other.

I got the reassurance I needed when I met Staff Sgt. Jorge Oliveira. He was one of the most seasoned and experienced NCOs on the deployment and when he told me he would look after the younger Soldiers, I knew he would.

Oliveira was a great leader, a great role model, a great Soldier and a great American.

He died on Oct. 19 while conducting route reconnaissance operations in Afghanistan. He died as he served, leading from the front, putting the safety of his troops ahead of his own.

For those of you were unable to attend Oliveira's funeral, I can assure you it was an appropriate tribute to a Soldier who was simply an American hero.

Gov. Christie, who spoke at Oliveira's funeral, may have put it best when he said simply: "He gave it all."

The Oliveira family emigrated from Portugal when the staff sergeant was 7. The family settled in the Ironbound Section of Newark. Oliveira learned English in less than six months, his family said.

Oliveira joined the Army in 1997 as an infantryman, serving three years with the 101st Airborne Division. When he returned to New Jersey after his three-year enlistment, Oliveira took the civil service exam to become a law enforcement officer and scored so well he was flooded with job offers. He chose to become an Essex County Sheriff's officer. In 2003, Oliveira joined the New Jersey National Guard family.

In his time in the National Guard, Oliveira simply did it all.

He served on a detainee operations mission to Guan-



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, right, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveira during the Yellow Ribbon Ceremony at the Lawrenceville Armory on March 6. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs)

tanamo Bay, Cuba in 2004, in response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans the following year and deployed to Iraq with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2008-2009.

Last year, when it became clear that operations in Afghanistan required a New Jersey Army Guard Security Forces platoon for a sensitive mission assisting a provincial reconstruction team, Oliveira volunteered.

Oliveira had been scheduled for leave at Christmas. In a conversation with his mother the day before he died, Oliveira, who was not married, told her he had given his leave slot to another Soldier who has young children.

In that conversation with his mother, Oliveira had talked about why he served.

"Ma, this country has given us so much, I got to give something back," he told her. 🇺🇸



Soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard Funeral Detail prepare to carry the casket of Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveira at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on Oct. 28 as Gov. Chris Christie, right, and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, second from right observe. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

# STAFF SGT. OLIVEIRA: A FALLEN HERO

**New Jersey National Guard Soldier remembered as an outstanding NCO**

*By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

**Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveira died at Yahya Khel, Paktika Province, Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. The Soldier was dismounted and conducting a route reconnaissance when the explosive device detonated.**

Oliveira spent three years on Army active duty with the 101st Airborne Division before joining the National Guard in 2003.

In Afghanistan, Oliveira's unit is assigned to the Sharana Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), which is assisting the Afghan government establish the rule of law and sustainable economic and social development in the region.

In April, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the New Jersey Adjutant General, met Oliveira and other members of the unit during their pre-deployment training at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Rieth said Oliveira was one of the most seasoned non-commissioned officers on the deployment, having served on a detainee operations mission to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in 2004, in response

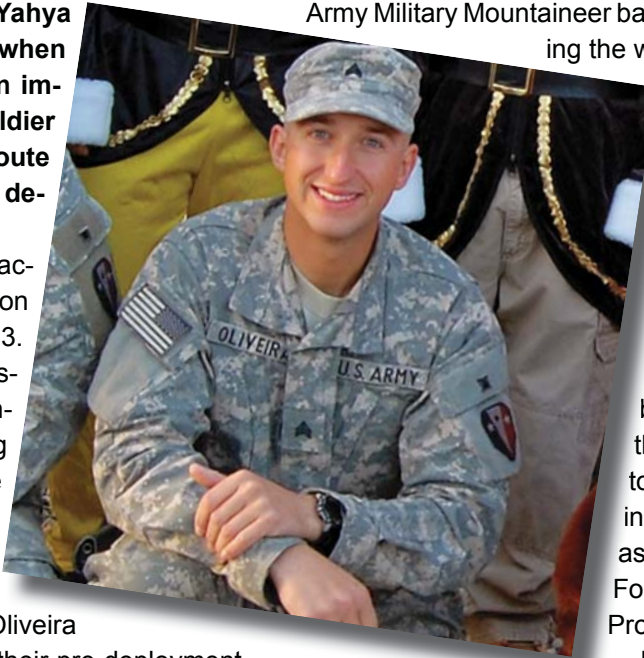
to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans the following year and a yearlong combat tour in Iraq with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2008-2009.

Oliveira had recorded a litany of achievements in his time in uniform. He had been awarded the Expert Infantry Badge; the Air Assault Badge; the Airborne Badge; and the Army Military Mountaineer Badge. He had completed the Primary Leadership Development Course; the Infantry Light Leader's Course; and the Combat Tracker Course and the winter in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Oliveira was awarded the

Army Military Mountaineer badge in early 2011 for completing the winter phase of the Mountain-

eering Course in Jericho, Vermont. In March of 2011, Oliveira along with the other members of the 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry Security Forces Platoon entered the mobilization phase of their deployment in Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Upon completing mobilization training, Oliveira with the other members of his platoon deployed to Afghanistan in June 2011 where he served as a Squad Leader in a Security Forces Platoon attached to the Provincial Reconstruction Team.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous), the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumous), Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserved Medal with "M" Device (3rd Award), Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal with ISAF Clasp, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ram's Head Device.



# ***New Jersey National Guard Honors Staff Sgt. Oliveira***

More than 1,600 Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard crowded the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark to pay their last respects to Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveira on Oct. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



# NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

BY STAFF SGT. WAYNE WOOLLEY  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hurricane Irene did not spare Sgt. 1st Class Marco Chavez. The rising floodwaters swept into the New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier's home in Fairfield, causing massive damage and forcing the evacuation of his family.

But when the storm hit, Chavez was among the nearly 2,400 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen who reported for duty to protect the property, safety and lives of their fellow New Jerseyans. When Gov. Chris Christie met Chavez several days later, the 46-year-old Iraq veteran – and his 20-year-old son, Pfc. Angel Chavez – were still with the mission to help friends and neighbors recover from the devastating storm. When asked why, Chavez simply replied: "This is what we do. This is where we need to be right now."

The most remarkable thing about the National Guard's largest domestic mobilization in more than 30 years was that Chavez's story is not uncommon at all. Scores of Soldiers and Airmen from Cape May to Riverdale left their homes and families in a time of crisis. They are part of an all-volunteer force that reflexively puts the needs of their communities' before their own.

Countless examples of selfless sacrifice formed the backbone of the New Jersey National Guard's unprecedented response to a storm Gov. Christie described as a 100 year event.

As the state's military first responders, Soldiers and Airmen rescued 543 residents imperiled by rising water and conducted hundreds of missions in direct support of civilian authorities on assignments ranging from rescues, to safeguarding property to transporting relief supplies. Young men and women logged thousands of miles in high-wheeled vehicles on treacherous roads with few incidents and no injuries. Helicopter pilots and crews flew dozens of missions to gauge where to best marshal resources. Soldiers and Airmen also played key roles in the op-

**Continued on page 8**

Pfc. James H. Campbell provides assistance to Lawrenceville residents from flooding areas on Aug. 28. Several areas in Lawrenceville have flooded because of the heavy rains and winds caused by the passing of Hurricane Irene. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

# Neighbors helping Neighbors

*Continued from page 7*

eration of the state's emergency evacuation shelters.

To get a fuller appreciation of the National Guard response to the storm, remember that as devastating as this storm was, the initial predictions called for Category II hurricane packing 115 mile winds to make landfall at Cape May and to head due north through the center of the state.

Preparations for that possibility required the redistribution of more than 300 pieces of equipment from armories across the state to both safeguard those items from storm damage and to ensure the broadest statewide distribution of National Guard assets for rapid response. Although the New Jersey National Guard ultimately called up 2,400 troops, contingency plans allowed for the activation of double that number had they been needed. In addition, thanks to an agreement between Gov. Christie and the U.S. Department of Defense, Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Director of the Joint Staff, was empowered to command federal active-duty troops had they been needed here for additional disaster relief.

In the hours after the storm made landfall, it became clear Hurricane Irene's greatest threat would not be destructive winds, but epic flooding in Central and Northern New Jersey.

The National Guard responded to the shifting threat by rapidly reconsolidating Soldiers, Airmen and equipment in Somerset, Passaic, Essex and Bergen counties before the hurricane officially exited New Jersey and long before rivers reached flood stage. From there, it was a textbook example of the National Guard responding to requests for assistance from its partners at the Office of Emergency Management and the State Police.

As the floodwaters receded, the National Guard began its drawdown at a pace commensurate with the remaining threat. The rationale was simple. The overall government emergency response required by storms of that magnitude is expensive. Although the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard are already a great value to the taxpayer because of their part-time pay structure, the National Guard leadership team understood the need to be good financial stewards.

The National Guard's response to Hurricane Irene required intricate planning, preparation for multiple contingencies and a complicated analysis and reaction to an emerging threat.

Even though Soldiers and Airmen drove thousands of miles without incident, the chaotic nature of the storm and an aggressive push by Soldiers led to an incident in which two vehicles became stranded in floodwaters in Manville. Video images of this episode



*Gov. Chris Christie, right, thanks Sgt. 1st Class Marco Chavez, 113th Infantry, for aiding New Jerseyans affected by the flooding on Aug. 30. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*

were posted on a social networking site and received coverage from some news outlets.

A commanders' inquiry and safety investigation was undertaken in response.

But in that case, as in all the hundreds of other missions successfully completed by the National Guard, the Soldiers and Airmen made an aggressive push in response to one of the nastiest storms in memory in a determined effort to save lives and protect property.

Let's remember two other things that happened during Hurricane Irene that didn't make the news.

The first came less than 72 hours after the storm landed, when a large group of Soldiers demonstrated the versatility of today's National Guard, boarding a plane at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to begin a one-year deployment in Iraq and Kuwait. They joined more than 15,000 other New Jersey National Guard troops who have contributed to our nation's defense by serving under combatant commanders around the globe over the past decade.

The second came later that day, in Manville, when a number of Soldiers joined Gov. Christie at a town hall event at a VFW Post surrounded by waist-high water. When this gathering of residents, emergency workers and elected officials spotted the uniforms, a spontaneous chant broke out. It was: "National Guard, National Guard."

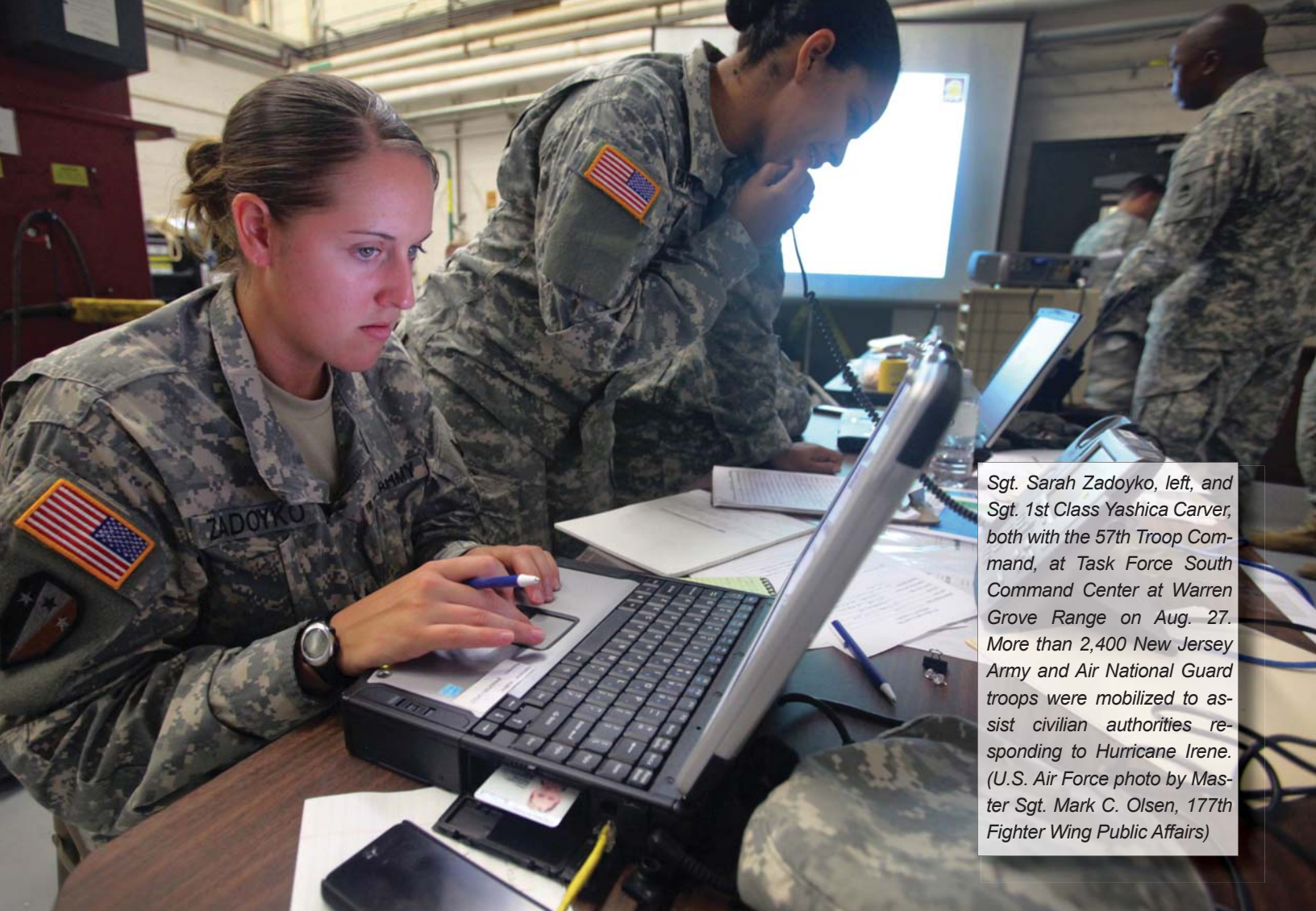
Folks in that VFW Hall that day recognized that the New Jersey National Guard is the Hometown Team. They are their friends and neighbors who volunteered to serve and can be counted on to step up when they are needed most. 🇺🇸

# New Jersey's Guard serving New Jersey's communities



Photo top: Spc. Andy De-Leon, left, and Pfc. James H. Campell provide assistance to Lawrenceville, authorities as they evacuate residents from food areas on Aug. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Photo bottom: Tech. Sgt. Todd Butcher (right) and Staff Sgt. Mark Naughton, both with the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron, remove aluminum trim from a facility damaged by Hurricane Irene's winds at the 177th Fighter Wing on Aug. 27. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)





Sgt. Sarah Zadoyko, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Yashica Carver, both with the 57th Troop Command, at Task Force South Command Center at Warren Grove Range on Aug. 27. More than 2,400 New Jersey Army and Air National Guard troops were mobilized to assist civilian authorities responding to Hurricane Irene. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Gov. Chris Christie, right, thanks Spc. John Patino of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion for providing evacuation and patrol support hours after after tropical storm Irene hit Manville on Aug. 29. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Landis Andrews, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



*Spc. Rickey Piazza, 250th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, works with Lawrenceville authorities as they evacuate residents from flooding areas on Aug. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs)*



*Senior Airman Kane Lawlor, Tactical Air Control Party member from the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing stands next to a dog that he is preparing to transport to a shelter after Hurricane Irene on Aug. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*



*Spc. Andy DeLeon navigates a flooded portion of Lawrenceville in a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle on Aug. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*

# FINANCIERS HAILED

By Sgt. Landis Andrews  
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen  
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**Friends, family and local officials attended a farewell ceremony for the 250th Finance Detachment at the Flemington Armory on July 9.**

The community turned out to support the more than two dozen Soldiers as they prepared to spend a year in Kuwait where they will be performing disbursement operations, commercial vending services, military pay, travel and internal control functions.

"Today we're here to recognize their service and say thanks to each and every one of these Soldiers and their families," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey.

Rieth is certain the 250th is well-trained and well-equipped for the mission at hand.

"The finance community has done phenomenal work and there is no question that these Soldiers will continue the same effort," said Rieth.

U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th Dist.) echoed that with his admiration for the unit.

"I have every confidence in the duties you will perform," Lance said. "We have the best army in the world."



# Airmen deploy in support of New Dawn

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Senior Airman Heather Perez, 108th Security Forces Squadron, climbs aboard a 108th Wing KC-135R Stratotanker on July 12 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

## More than 25 Airmen from the 108th Wing's Security Force Squadron deployed July 12, for a six-month tour in Southwest Asia in support of Operation New Dawn.

Amid family members and senior leadership from the 108th Wing and New Jersey Air National Guard, the 108th Airmen said goodbye to their loved ones during a farewell ceremony held at the Wing's conference room here.

Senior Airman Omar J. Navarro, a Newark resident and recent college graduate, said he was a little nervous about the deployment, but he was also excited at the opportunity.

"My sister and mother have both been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq and they told me I would be alright," said Navarro. "My father is a nervous wreck, though."

After a couple of weeks of training in Nevada to hone their security forces skills, the Airmen will deploy to Southwest Asia to commence the mission.

The 108th Airmen are well-equipped and well-prepared to accomplish their mission, said Col. Robert A. Meyer, 108th Wing vice commander.

Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, told family members that they should be proud of their Airmen for serving in the military.

"They are American heroes," said Falca-Dodson. "Less than one percent of the population in the United States

serves in the military and these are some of them."

During their deployment, the Airmen will conduct air base ground defense missions, which may include perimeter patrols, flight line security, vehicle searches, and processing personnel at base entry points. 🇺🇸



Senior Airmen Omar J. Navarro, right, and Lauren Drennan listen as Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, addresses the deploying Security Forces Airmen and their families.

# New Jersey remembers



The New Jersey National Guard Color Guard, left to right, Sgt. 1st Class Louis Tuck, Senior Airman Dominoe Strong, Senior Airman Sally Pizzo and Staff Sgt. Jerone Scott practice prior to the dedication ceremony for New Jersey Empty Sky Memorial at Liberty State Park, Jersey City on Sept. 10. The Memorial, which is directly across the Hudson River from New York City and frames the location of the World Trade Center towers, is dedicated to the 746 New Jerseyans who were killed in the Sept., 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

# Military life: It's a family affair

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

The military is known for developing a sense of camaraderie within their service members. For Andre, Tiara, Paula and Mecca the sense of family and camaraderie is much stronger. And that's because all four serve in the same unit within New Jersey's Air National Guard, and they are all related.

Master Sgt. Andre Williamson, a chaplain assistant with the 108th Wing, was recently deployed to the Combat Readiness Training Center at Volk Field, Wis., preparing for the Wing's operational readiness exercise there. And there with him were his daughter, Airman 1st Class Tiara Williamson, and his niece, Airman Paula Daniels. Another niece, Airman Mecca Jennings, stayed behind during the exercise, which was held from March 21 – 25.

The Williamson siblings come from a long and rich military tradition that was started by Andre Williamson. He enlisted into the Army 24 years ago, and today he serves with the 108th.

"I grew up a military brat," said Tiara Williamson, a public health technician at the 108th Medical Group.

So making the choice to also join the Air National Guard was not difficult for Tiara Williamson. Aside from the educational and other benefits she would receive from the military, she also wanted to make her father proud, Tiara Williamson said.

And what better way than to serve with the same unit that her Dad is currently serving in.

"She made us proud when she made the decision to join this great unit," continued Andre Williamson.

Today, Tiara Williamson is a student at Essex County Community College in Newark studying Biology and pre-med. She plans on transferring to Rutgers University after she completes her associate's degree.

As if having his daughter serve in the same unit with him wasn't enough, right behind Tiara Williamson's enlistment into the 108th Wing was her first-cousins, Daniels and Jennings.

"It's a family affair," said Tiara Williamson.

Although her interest for the military was started by recruiters, having family and familiar faces at the unit is a plus, said Daniels.

She thought it would feel weird to be around her family at the unit, said Tiara Williamson, but now she is happy and looks forward to spending more time with her family while training for the upcoming operational readiness inspection.

"It's great having my dad give me encouragement and pointers during a training class," said Tiara Williamson.

The same can be said for Daniels, since she now has a dual role with her uncle; an Airman and a niece.

"I address him as Master Sgt. Williamson," said Daniels. "But once in a while, out of habit I'll call him Uncle Andre."



Left to right, Airman Paula Daniels, Airman Mecca Jennings, Airman 1st Class Tiara Williamson and Master Sgt. Andre Williamson pose in front of the 108th Wing shield. The Williamsons, Daniels and Jennings are blood relatives that serve together with the 108th Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Kellyann Novak, 108th Wing Public Affairs)

Although they are all in different sections within the 108th and don't see each other much during the day on drill weekend, they continue the family bond that has brought them together.

"I have the camaraderie of the military, but I also have the family bond," said Tiara Williamson.



## 350th returns from Bosnia

Staff Sgt. Dewey Johnson, left, holds his daughter Ariann, age two, and fellow Soldier Sgt. Kenneth Colon has 22-month old Jadyn in his arms. Returning from deployment in Bosnia the 11 Guardsmen of the 350th Finance Company greeted their family members at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on April 4. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey Public Affairs)

# AVIATION DELIVERS

Crew chief Sgt. Ralph Foy of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, watches as water is released from a bambi bucket suspended below a UH-60A Blackhawk to extinguish a mock fire in support of Exercise Eagle Flag on Aug. 16. Eagle Flag is designed for developing, testing and rehearsing the expeditionary combat support capabilities of a traditional air base opening, irregular warfare, humanitarian operations and other contingencies faced by the United States and its allies. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. De-Noris A. Mickle)





# Wing holds ribbon cutting ceremony

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

"It's a big day for the New Jersey National Guard, specifically the New Jersey Air Guard and the 177th Fighter Wing," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey.

Federal and state officials joined senior New Jersey National Guard commanders and 177th Airmen in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the wing's new Headquarters and 227th Air Support Operations Squadron buildings on Aug. 11.

"This is one of the good news stories," said Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2nd Dist.). "This is the premiere homeland security base in the entire United States of America. No one else can lay claim to that; you do it magnificently."

The headquarters provides space for the commander and staff, conference rooms, and a training classroom, while the 227th facility has offices for flight operations, mission planning, along with maintenance and other storage areas. The 227th is assigned to support to the 50th Brigade Combat Team and Pennsylvania National Guard's 2/28th Brigade Combat Team.

"These facilities are a symbol of the future and the Guard is America's future," said Wing Commander Col. Robert C. Bolton. "This is one cut we'll all look forward to."

Above, from left to right, State Senator James Whelan, Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2nd Dist.), U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, Col. Robert C. Bolton, commander, 177th Fighter Wing, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, cut the ribbon in front of the wing's new headquarters on Aug. 11. Photo below: Staff Sgt. Melissa Cortez recites the Airman's Creed to a crowd of more than 100 at the conclusion of the ribbon cutting ceremony.



# NJNG PREPARES CROATIANS FOR DEPLOYMENT

Story and photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**ZAGREB, Croatia — Twenty-five Soldiers from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team trained with the Croatian Army at a command post exercise here called Immediate Response 2011.**

Serving as the higher headquarters for the Minnesota Army National Guard's 2nd Combat Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, the Soldiers from the 50th IBCT trained at the Croatian Armed Forces Leader and Staff Simulation Center from June 4 – 19.

The exercise, which included a field training exercise at Slun, is a multinational operation hosted by the Croatian military that includes more than 1,000 participants from U.S. Army Europe; Minnesota, New Jersey, Texas and Utah National Guards; the United States Air Force and service members from Croatia, Montenegro, Germany, Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia and Serbia.

The two-week exercise is primarily focused on company level training aimed at improving U.S. interoperability with allied and NATO forces and helping Croatian forces prepare for deployment.

"This is the first time we conducted an exercise like this overseas," said Col. Kenneth Schechter, the 50th IBCT commander.

"While our mission was to exercise the Minnesota battalion and work with our Croatian counterparts, the by-product of what we did was to exercise our own staff," said Schechter.

The exercise was based on counterinsurgency operations in an Afghanistan province using both military forces and civic actions in order to defeat the enemy. The exercise used the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation system, which is used for command level training. Laptops and desktop computers filled brigade and battalion headquarters tactical operations centers. Other systems worked within the exercise included the Command Post of the Future and the Blue Force Tracking systems, which allowed some real-time training for U.S. and Croatian Soldiers.

Croatian Army 1st Lt. Marko Skovrlj served in two roles during the exercise. The first was as a Civil Military Cooperation officer with the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Kaiserslautern, Germany. Within this role, Skovrlj served as a liaison between the military and non-military community leaders and nongovernmental agencies coordinating humanitarian efforts in the simulated war-torn province. The second was to serve as a public affairs officer and track newsworthy events happening



*Cut the cake, left to right, Croatian Col. Drazen Bartolac, commander of the Simulations Training Center, Col., Kenneth Schechter, 50th IBCT commander, Chaplain (Maj.) Jerome Fehn, and Spc. Gabriel Beaufeaux, both of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, celebrate the Army's Birthday June 14, in Zagreb, Croatia, during Immediate Response 11. The chaplain and specialist represent the oldest and youngest Soldier in the ranks for the ceremony of the Army's 236th Birthday.*

around the battle space.

"It was a very good experience and a pleasure to work with people with so much experience," said Skovrlj. "It was interesting to watch American military doctrine."

Capt. Stren Lea, a brigade battle captain, worked directly with a Croatian counterpart during the training event.

"We are very fortunate to be able to share our training experience with our coalition partners," said Lea.

During the exercise, many Soldiers held two positions while serving as a higher headquarters for the battalion. One of the Soldiers, Spc. Matthew Ziegler, served in operations and communications. And during the preparation phase of the exercise, the young Soldier set up or moved computers for the event. Consequently, Ziegler became the go-to guy for technical support during the exercise.

Ziegler said he was most impressed with the training and working in a tactical operations center.

"It was a good experience for those Soldiers who have never worked in a TOC," said Ziegler. "The overall scenarios used for the training were very realistic."

"Working in a multinational military force is very interesting because they learn from us and we learn from them," concluded Ziegler.

# Guardisman connects family roots on deployment

By 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**A patrol notebook containing foreign addresses, social media, and two Croatian Army officers led this New Jersey National Guard Soldier down the road to a family reunion during his Annual Training in Croatia.**

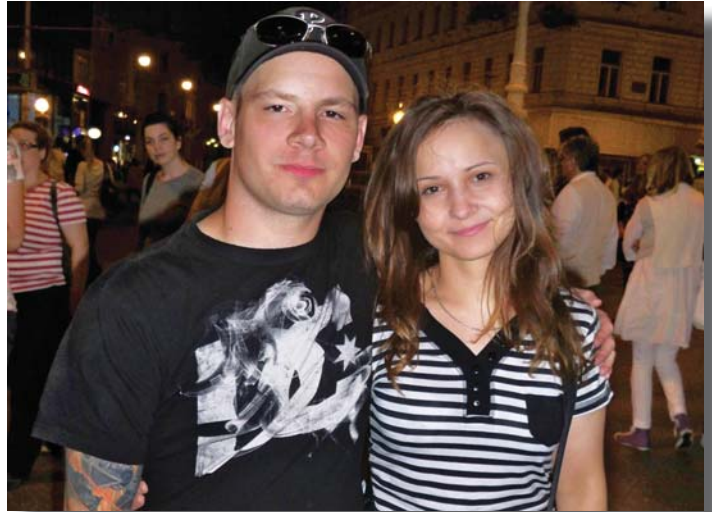
Sgt. Eugene Butkovic travelled to Zagreb, Croatia as part of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's participation in the multinational exercise known as Immediate Response.

Butkovic said his grandfather, Eugene Gvozdenovich, who is now in his 80s, was a Croatian merchant marine from the coastal Dalmatia region as a young man. But when the country was a republic under the former socialist Yugoslavia, the grandfather left in the 1950s because he wanted the opportunity offered in America.

"My grandfather is always talking about the beauty of the country and how the water is so clear," Butkovic said. "When my grandfather found out I might be going to Croatia, he wrote down all our Croatian family members' addresses in my notebook."

He did know one cousin, Kathi Butkovic, an American now teaching at an American international school. He last saw her when he was a teen-ager. But the challenge would be reaching out to another cousin, Nikolina Hobjak. He didn't even know if she spoke English.

When Butkovic arrived at the Croatian Armed Forces Training Doctrine Command's Simulation Center on June 6, the Croatian Chief of Tactical Operations at the simulation center noticed Butkovic's name and started a conversation



*Sgt. Eugene Butkovic meets with his second cousin Nikolina Hobjak for the first time in downtown Zagreb, Croatia. Photo courtesy Sgt. Eugene Butkovic.*

with him about it. The American sergeant told his story to Croatian Army Lt. Col. Mario Zabetovasky, about having family in the country.

"I was really nervous," Butkovic said. "I didn't even know if I would have time to see some of the family."

Butkovic, who operated the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation System during the Immediate Response exercise, said Lt. Col. Zebetovsky called the family on his behalf and the reunion started coming together. A few days later, Croatian Air Force Maj. Danijel Majsec provided transportation so Butkovic could meet Nikolina in downtown Zagreb. "She spoke perfect English," he said.

Lt. Col. Zabetovasky said helping the American Soldier was the least he could do.

"He is a Soldier and his family is here and that is the important thing," Zebetovsky said. "We help one another because we are friends with his family roots in Croatia."

During a professional development day, Butkovic attended a family barbeque in the village of Kebel.

"The Croatian officers jumped through hoops for me to make this happen. The efforts they put in to help me was pretty awesome," he said. "Everyone I talked to in my chain of command was helpful. It seemed like they felt it was really important for me to see my family."

Along the way to meeting his Croatian family, he also found out there were other family members in the country and is finding them on Facebook.

"Zagreb is beautiful city. The country is beautiful. It was a great experience and I plan on going back hopefully to see the rest of my family," he added. 🇺🇸



*Lt. Col. Mario Zabetovasky, left, Croatian Army Chief of Tactical Operations, stands with Sgt. Eugene Butkovic after the two talked of a family barbeque in Kebel, Croatia. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore)*

# THE ORI

Story and photos by  
Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen  
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Senior Airman Nate Harris, positions his MJ-1 lift truck as a F-16 Fighting Falcon passes behind him at "Base X".

**Personnel Superintendent Chief Master Sgt. George P. Gulya stares across the Personnel Deployment Function area, and focuses on the digital clock - large enough that it can be seen anywhere in the open hangar - counting down the time the group of departing Airmen must clear the area.**

The ability of the 177th Fighter Wing Personnel team to process them through the deployment line and on the bus will determine whether the Wing passes the Operational Readiness Inspection. Judging by the expression on Gulya's face, he will personally stuff each of those Airmen on the bus to make that time.

### **The 3 P's – Planning, Preparing and Practicing**

The Air Combat Command inspectors will examine a variety of areas including the deploying personnel and their paperwork, the PDF, logistics, and aircraft generation and regeneration.

The last time the Wing has gone through a Phase I Inspection was in 1996; it is September 2010 - the ORI is scheduled for April 2011.

A major part of the inspection involves delivering to the inspectors "perfect" aircraft – something that is difficult to achieve in the real world. What is testing the crew chiefs and the maintainers' patience is that the Wing has just swapped out their old aircraft for 18 "pre-loved", aircraft. And while these aircraft have more flying hours left on them, they also need a lot of wrench turning and sweat to get them to that "perfect" status.

As the rest of the base goes home at the end of the day, they pass the second maintenance shift coming in. Maintenance is not feeling a lot of love right now.

The date of the ORI creeps closer.

### **Countdown**

it is raining.

On the flightline, maintainers, crew chiefs and weapons loaders are preparing the aircraft for the inspectors. Despite the rain, everyone remains focused; no one wants to do this again.

In the PDF, the chalk of deploying Airmen moves in. The group is a mix of maintainers, crew chiefs, weapons loaders and security forces troops. Each one gets wanded like they are going through an airport checkpoint.

Once the group is finished getting wanded, Gulya steps in front of the microphone and in a rehearsed speech, tells them what to expect as they go through the line.

After the Airmen are processed, Himley steps in front of them and announces that they are leaving. As they head out to the buses, Himley turns around and watches; everything is going smoothly. More importantly, everything is on time.

Gulya watches as the last Airman leaves the hangar. He finally cracks a smile.



Chief Master Sgt. George P. Gulya addresses a group of Airmen during the ORI.



*Left: Weapons Loader Staff Sgt. Sheila Velez-Avila installs a Chaff Module used to counter act radar guided missiles. Below: Lt. Col. Neal A. Snetsky flashes the Devil sign after landing his F-16 Fighting Falcon at "Base X".*



Sunday, April 17, at Base X, the “deployed” maintainers, crew chiefs and weapons loaders check out tools, fuel their MJ-1 lift trucks, or “jammers” – the vehicles used to load weapons on F-16s – and prepare for the arrival of the aircraft.

The F-16s arrive and taxi past the crews and pull into their parking spots. Each location has a white square with the Jersey Devil logo in black spray-painted on the tarmac marking the stopping point for the aircraft.

F-16 pilot Lt. Col. Neal A. Snetsky taxis past and flashes the devil horn symbols. All the aircraft have arrived.

#### **The results**

Everyone files in the main hangar; all evidence that the PDF was there is gone. The Wing is joined by the New Jersey Air National Guard leadership. So much hinges on this inspection and solidarity is shown from the top down.

The IG grades the inspection Outstanding, Excellent, Satisfactory, Marginal or Unsatisfactory. Satisfactory is passing but it is also like getting a C.

The ACC inspector begins by making a joke.

“You got a Sat.”

The joke falls flat; crickets chirp.

He recovers and says the Wing got an Excellent. He then breaks the inspection down hitting the highlights.

The list of sections receiving an Outstanding rating is long as is the list of individual superior performers - a record 45. Several of the wing's sections are cited as the best seen in the Air Force.

Overall, an incredible team effort says the Inspector. 🇺🇸



## **RED FLAG!**

Airmen of the 177th Fighter Wing participated in Red Flag Alaska 11-2, an air combat training exercise sponsored by the United States Pacific Air Forces and held at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska July 7-22. The exercise was part of the wing's training prior to deploying to Afghanistan this year. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs.

# Airman finds luck on her 'unlucky day'

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs

It was a Friday the 13th, a day many consider unlucky. But Airman 1st Class Olivia Roberts believes it was her most fortunate day. She survived a horrific car crash. And then two fellow Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst employees risked their own safety in a mad scramble to pull her out from an overturned car.

"It was my luckiest unlucky day," said Roberts, an Airman with the 87th Logistical Readiness Squadron. "What they did for me is beyond amazing."

The afternoon sky was cloudless as Roberts made

her way down Route 537 in Hanover Township on the way home from the dentist on May 13. Tech. Sgt. Anthony Winfield, an Airman with the 421st Combat Training Squadron, was on an outing with his wife and son, heading the opposite direction on Route 537. He saw Roberts's car make a sudden, sickening swerve, leave the road, go over a small hill and end up several hundred yards away on its side on Sykesville Road, just off the intersection with Route 537.

John Buckley, a registered nurse with the New Jersey Youth Challenge program, was making his way down Sykesville Road, on his way to his daughter's high school lacrosse game when he came across Roberts's 2007 Daytona Challenger with the driver's side down. Winfield had just called 9-1-1 and was inspecting the car.

"One of the tires was still spinning," Buckley said. He pulled over and both men began tearing at the Challenger's sunroof. Roberts was still buckled up and motionless inside. In an explosion of glass, the roof gave way. Buckley climbed inside. From the way Roberts's head was turned, it was unclear if she was breathing.

Buckley realized two things. The first -- If Roberts needed CPR, he couldn't deliver it in the car. The second: If she was still alive, she might not stay that way if she was not moved. Buckley undid her seatbelt, and he and Winfield carefully pulled Roberts through the sunroof opening.

Roberts regained consciousness almost immediately after being pulled from the car.

"I had no idea where I was or what happened," Roberts said. "All I knew is that these guys kept telling me I would be



Airman 1st Class Olivia Roberts, center, poses with rescuers Tech. Sgt. Anthony Winfield and John Buckley in front of the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy building at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Roberts was driving home from a dentist appointment on May 13, when she lost control of her vehicle on Route 537 in North Hanover Township.

OK and I believed them."

The ambulance arrived. Buckley, now sure Roberts was going to be OK, left for his daughter's game. Winfield rode with Roberts in the ambulance to the hospital. Roberts's fiancé, Senior Airman Sean Watkins of the 87th Logistic Support Squadron, met her at the hospital.

Roberts's uniform was covered in blood. It wasn't hers. Buckley and Winfield had cut themselves tearing open the sunroof.

"We were going on adrenaline," Winfield said. "We even tried to push the car back to its tires before going for the sunroof."

Roberts was not found at fault for the crash. Although she was behind the wheel of a muscle car, she wasn't driving it like one.

Police accident investigators calculated her speed at the time she left Route 537 to be between 41 and 43 mph -- well below the 50 mph limit.

Although a medical evaluation continues, doctors told Roberts it's likely she lost consciousness due to a drop in blood sugar. She had major dental work done 10 days before the crash and had been unable to eat much. She returned to duty four days after the crash.

Although she loved car, which was totaled, Roberts knows that's not what matters.

"What matters is that I'm alive," she said. "And people helped me when I needed it most."

Buckley said his first thought when he saw Roberts's face was that she bears a striking resemblance to his oldest daughter.

"Every parent hopes that if their kid is in the same situation, somebody stops to help," he said. 🙏

# I AM AN AIRMAN

Senior Airman Courtney Beard low-crawls through a mud pit on Victory Base Complex, Iraq. Beard, a 108th Wing Airman, became the first female Airman to ever complete the Army's 18-hour Spur Ride after completing a series of physical and mental tests held by III Corps, Task Force Phantom, Victory Base Complex, Iraq. The Order of the Spur is a Cavalry tradition but is open to any service member that serves with a Cavalry unit. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kelly K. Morehouse)



# 108th receives "Excellent"

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

Amid wild applause, cheers and high fives, the 108th Wing learned on June 14 they had received an "Excellent" rating from the Inspector General's Office of Air Mobility Command during their readiness inspections at JB MDL.

Present at the IG out briefing were Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard; Navy Capt. Andrew Butterfield, deputy commander of JBMDL; Brig. Gen. Michael Cuniff, commander of the 108th Wing; commanders from the 108th Wing groups and various Wing Airmen and their families.

During the tough but fair inspection, they found that very strong leadership and teamwork were clearly evident at all levels in the 108th Wing, said the team of inspectors.

With a tough mission to support operation Odyssey Dawn, and other deployments around the globe, the 108th Wing prepared for two years to undergo the IG inspection.

"Team Air National Guard New Jersey; team joint base. I don't know what to call you, except I know to call you 'Excellent!'", said the IG team chief, Col. Andrew Molnar, as he announced the overall grade of the inspection to the 108th Wing personnel. "This is the best inspection I've ever witnessed and you can take that to the bank."

"'Brave and undisciplined will always lose or be killed by valor with discipline', and that is exactly what I saw in the Air National Guard," said Molnar.

"Teamwork from the joint base with you, and a discipline in every step of the operation at every rank, Airmen, NCO, officer, senior officer, leadership, a round of applause for



Col. Andrew Molnar, team chief for the Air Mobility Command Inspector General, briefs 108th Wing personnel about the Wing's performance during the Operational Readiness Inspection at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst theater on June 14. The 108th Wing was inspected by the AMC IG team from June 8 through June 12.

yourself," continued Molnar as he described his overall observation of the 108th Wing during the inspection.

Cuniff thanked the IG team for their professionalism and fairness during the inspection.

In addition, Cuniff said he was proud of the Airmen of the 108th Wing for their hard work and excellent attitude throughout the inspection, and told his Airmen to thank their families for the sacrifices they made during preparations and deployments throughout the year as the Wing got ready for the inspection.

"I am extremely proud to be your commander," said Cuniff. 🇺🇸

## The ability to survive

Airmen of the 108th Wing participate in Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) rodeo on June 11, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst during the wing's Operational Readiness Inspection. ATSO prepares Airmen for real world operations by grounding them in everything from contamination avoidance, basic lifesaving, explosive ordnance reconnaissance and decontamination procedures. (U.S. Air Force by Senior Airman Adrian Rowan, 108th Wing Public Affairs)



# Soldier gets a helping hand

By Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**It's been a rough few years for Sgt. Michael Suplee, a network support technician at Joint Force Headquarters.**

A cancer survivor with mounting medical bills, Suplee has been struggling to support his family- a wife suffering from Lupus and a young daughter.

His main vehicle, a 1993 Ford Thunderbird, had fallen into such disrepair it was no longer safe to drive between his hometown of Maple Shade and Fort Dix. Suplee was praying for a miracle.

Little did he know, just down the hall Sgt. First Class Jorge Vazquez, information technology specialist for JFHQ was working to make those prayers come true. Vazquez had seen the condition of Suplee's vehicle a few weeks prior, and was concerned for his safety.

"I remember walking into the office and saying I think somebody abandoned a car in the back," he said.

It was Suplee's first week working in the shop, and he and Vazquez talked about the car, and quickly bonded over Suplee's story. Vazquez felt a connection with the younger troop and wanted to help.

"I was feeling his pain, I went through that. My first wife passed away in 2008 from cancer," he said.

Recently remarried, Vazquez and his wife Maria wrote into the Advanced Auto Parts Makeover Contest on behalf of Suplee.

Vazquez, a Browns Mills resident, used his prior experience as a mechanic to detail everything the Thunderbird required in the essay, as well as outlining Suplee's struggles over the past few years. In all, he estimated Suplee's vehicle needed approximately \$3000 in repairs.

It wasn't long after that Suplee was notified he was one of the 10 winners of the contest. According to a release from Advanced Auto Parts, the company recognized Suplee as a dedicated husband, father, veteran and cancer survivor whose family car was badly in need of service to return it to safe driving conditions.

"We are so happy to be able to recognize Michael and his family and we hope that this car makeover helps ease the burden and improves their daily lives," said Morgan Schafer, Regional Vice-President for Advanced Auto Parts.

Advanced Auto Parts commercial accounts manager Kevin McClain then made arrangements for the work.



*Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Vazquez, left, and Sgt. Michael Suplee inspect the engine of Suplee's 1993 Ford Thunderbird. Vazquez successfully nominated Suplee to the Advanced Auto Parts Makeover Contest for more than \$3,000 worth of repairs on his vehicle, which now allows him to safely travel back and forth to work. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Robert Neill, Joint Forces Headquarters-New Jersey Public Affairs)*

Now repaired, Suplee said the car runs better than it ever has, and he's certain the owner of the repair shop Jim Loringers put in more than the \$3000 worth of work allocated for the winner.


"He must have put about \$4,000 to \$5,000 worth of repairs into it," he said. "I was extremely ecstatic. I had no idea how we were going to get that car fixed."

And while Suplee is thankful to the men and women of Advanced Auto Parts as well as Loringers for the work he put into his car, he is exceptionally grateful to the man who made it all happen.

"I would definitely say Sergeant Vazquez is a special guy. I would also say that being in the Guard plays a lot into it as well," he said. "We learn leadership traits and to look after each other like brothers and sisters in uniform."

And the Vazquez family wasn't quite finished in their efforts to help Suplee and his family. In December, Suplee was notified that his family would be the beneficiary of the proceeds from 2011's Nutter Run. Once again it was Vazquez and his wife who nominated him.

"I've been praying and it seems like doors are opening up," said Suplee. "This was a complete shock to me and it's a great honor to be associated with the Nutter Run."

"I can only imagine the stress he's under, with bills, and keeping food on the table and his wife's medical problems," said Vazquez. "It feels good to help. That's what we're here for- to take care of each other." 

# NEW JERSEY-ALBANIAN PARTNERSHIP YIELDS COMBAT-READY TRAINING TEAM

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the New Jersey-Albanian Operational Mentor and Liaison Team gather at the Albanian Ministry of Defense and are joined by top officials including, from left, Maj. Gen. Maksim Malaj, Chief of Albania's Defense Forces; Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha; U.S. Alexander A. Arvizu, U.S. Ambassador to Albania; and in blue suit, Arben Imami, Albanian Minister of Defense.



**TIRANA, Albania -- The New Jersey National Guard is poised to make history in Albania -- again.**

A delegation of senior military leaders from New Jersey and Albania joined that nation's prime minister and the U.S. ambassador at a departure ceremony for a combined team of more than two dozen American and Albanian Soldiers who will deploy to Afghanistan later this month.

The Soldiers will serve as an Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) and will be paired with an Afghan Army battalion to train its troops on everything from logistics to combat operations

— the first such pairing since the New Jersey National Guard and Albania launched its partnership more than 15 years ago.

"This is a historic deployment and a testament to the cooperation between New Jersey and Albania," U.S. Ambassador Alexander A. Arvizu said at the ceremony at the Albanian Ministry of Defense.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, said that National Guard team and their Albanian counterparts made the most of the pre-deployment training they received at Fort Polk, La., Germany and in Albania.



*Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, right, and U.S. Ambassador Alexander A. Arvizu promote Operational Mentor and Liaison Team Team Member Eric Heislter to sergeant following the unit's sendoff ceremony in Tirana, Albania.*

"The training and team building has been a success and the team is ready," Rieth said. "It will be a very challenging mission."

Members of the OMLT said the joint training helped build trust and overcome any minor communication barriers between the Soldiers from the partner nations.

"It was a little challenging at first, but we now feel like one unified unit and I think together we're going to hit the ground running and provide the Afghans some good training," said team member Sgt. 1st Class Luis Morales.

The joint team will be led by an Albanian lieutenant colonel and includes an Albanian officer who graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point as well as the Albanian Army's top non-commissioned officer. New Jersey Army National Guard Maj. Keith Mackey is the executive officer.

In addition to the sendoff for the OMLT, the New Jersey delegation visited key training facilities and met with Albanian counterparts who have become friends during the years the two countries have been participants in the State Partnership Program.

# N.J. GUARD TESTS GREM

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Greg McElwain, Joint Forces Headquarters, Pennsylvania National Guard

Featured on the Discovery Channel's "Future Weapons," the Grenade, Rifle, Entry Munition, or GREM is an exciting new weapon that changes the dynamic of the urban breach.

And on May 15, the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, had the privilege of being the first guard unit to fire the GREM at National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Giving the platoon a standoff distance of up to 40 meters away, the GREM is a rifle grenade that works with 5.56mm rifles such as the M-16 and M-4. It uses the momentum of the ball or tracer round to project the grenade into the door.

In a hostile combat environment, the breach has traditionally been done with mechanical breaching tools, shotguns, or (most commonly) a well-placed kick. A successful breach is quick and powerful and allows the platoon to insert themselves into the room instantly. Soldiers being trained for deployment know that the breach is a critical moment. If the door does not give way immediately, the element of surprise is lost.



*GREM makes its presence known. Alpha Company Soldiers tested the new breaching system at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.*

push through the door, but he did not expect the explosion to be so precise.

"It cuts down on the equipment we have to carry for a mission," said Vidal. "It is good to know that I will have my hands on my weapon the whole time."

Company Commander Capt. Jason Mull recognized the importance of this event.

"Training on the GREM is making them more versatile in Urban Breaching environments," said Mull.

When asked how difficult it was to field this new weapon, Sgt. Jacques Mignot of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Pennsylvania Army National Guard Training Center said "It was almost too easy. Capt. Mull went the extra mile to research the weapon system and properly prepare his troops."

Alpha Company has found cost effective ways to practice breaching including creating an adjustable and mobile steel door jamb that can securely hold different sized doors that have been donated by local contractors.

"I envision the GREM becoming an integral part of our Urban Breaching toolkit," said Mull. "Having the GREM as a weapon system provides us with additional options."



*Capt. Jason Mull prepares to fire an inert GREM round.*

Waiting at the ready line, the Alpha Company combat engineers are set to fire the weapon system. Their enthusiasm is not surprising; very few National Guard units have had the opportunity to train on the GREM. In fact, the New Jersey Guardsmen are the first to fire the GREM at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The round is fired and the door splinters into pieces; the Soldiers instantly see the GREM's importance.

"We thought the inert round was cool, but this surprised us," said Pfc. Rogelio Vidal. Vidal knew the round would



*Soldiers of Alpha Company, 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion surveying damage and preparing to fire a new door for next round.*

# Taggart chosen top First Sergeant

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen  
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
Photo courtesy  
Master Sgt. Christopher R. Taggart

**Combat seems to forge exceptional Non-Commissioned Officers at the 177th Fighter Wing.**

For the second time in four years, a 177th First Sergeant was chosen as the Air National Guard's First Sergeant of the Year. And like the previous recipient – Master Sgt. Daniel Mitchell Jr. – served with the 177th Security Forces and had also served in Afghanistan.

Yet nearly a year ago, awards and honors were the furthest things from Master Sgt. Christopher R. Taggart's mind.

As the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron First Sergeant, Taggart had been dealing with various types of issues, ranging from handling emergency leave requests, to managing the convoy operations for a visit between President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Two months into his tour at Bagram Airfield, on the morning of May 19, Taggart found himself in the middle of a major coordinated attack by insurgents.

The attack began like most others, with indirect fire – rocket propelled grenades and mortars, which quickly escalated into small arms fire with the insurgents attacking various points of the base's perimeter.

While under enemy fire, Taggart transported more than 200 Airmen to the fight. In the ensuing hours, Taggart led a group of Airmen in transporting nine armored vehicles to the base defenders.

"Taggart's quick and decisive actions were instrumental in eliminating enemy forces and defending the base," said Maj. Jan J. Burgess, Taggart's Security Forces Commander

at the 177th Fighter Wing.

For 13 hours after the attack, Taggart stayed on duty moving food and water to 106 Security Forces posts to sustain operations.

Lt. Gen. Gilmary M. Hostage III, the commander of United States Air Force Central Command would later assess the assault as "the largest attack on an Air Force defended base in 40 years."

The 455th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron was named Air Force Central Command's 2010 Outstanding Large Expeditionary Security Forces Unit and Taggart received a Meritorious Service Medal for his service.

It did not end there.

It almost seems fitting that the last 177th First Sergeant to be chosen as the ANG's First Sergeant put together the package nominating Taggart for the prestigious 2011 Air National Guard Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year Award – quite an honor considering he was competing against first sergeants from every Air Guard unit in the United States and its possessions.

On April 22, Lt. Gen. Harry A. Wyatt III, Director of the Air National Guard, announced the awardees – Taggart was chosen.

"These Air National Guard outstanding Airmen epitomize the concept of 'Citizen Airmen' and are role models for peers and subordinates alike," said Wyatt.

# Keeping the sand out of their eyes

Story and photo by Spc. Sherwood T. Goodenough, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For military decision-makers, managing the details of a battalion at war can quickly become like counting grains of sand in a sandstorm. In war, a fat tire changes plans, communications, intelligence reports, supply chains. And each second that passes exposes warriors on the battlefield to danger. Col. Thomas Hallowell is the leader of the team that teaches units how to keep the sand out of their eyes.

As director of simulations for the Battle Command Group (BCG) section at the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC), Hallowell leads a team of experienced Soldiers who help train battalion staff on the art and science of controlling chaos.

During a BCG Simulation Exercise held at the JT2DC on June 11, the battalion staff conducted a capstone exercise that began six months ago for the senior staff of the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry.

While Soldiers in the field trained on firing high explosive M203 grenades, the 1-114th tactical operations center trained on the details that make them a more effective nerve center for the unit.

Hallowell said the primary goal of the exercise is increasing the unit's proficiency at information management.

"Communications has to go up, sideways and down," Hallowell said. "I'm going to ask them a million times, 'Who else needs to know?'"

This training is not unique to New Jersey. Large scale training operations like this are routinely conducted at places such as the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., or the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La. But these exercises cost millions of dollars and take years to prepare.

However the simulation exercises at the JT2DC costs nothing more than the regular cost of a unit's monthly battle assembly, Hallowell said.

This approach allows the units that train with the BCG to work on the often-grueling methodology of the Military Decision Making Process in an environment that encourages creative thinking and cooperation. The cost-effectiveness and improved outcomes the BCG has achieved have led to partnerships with organizations outside of the military, Hallowell explained. Civilian Law enforcement have used the resources at the BCG to train on hostage situations; school districts have trained on how to handle shooting incidents; and plans are being developed to model Super Bowl operations at the Meadowlands Sports Complex.

Though this one-of-a-kind facility sets the bar for training simulations in the Army, Hallowell shared his urgency to



Range officer 2nd Lt. Kevin Kuo, left, visually inspects the weapon of Spc. Douglas Hinds weapon during the 1-114 Infantry live-fire exercise on the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst's shotgun range.

always seek new ways to make the training more effective during his tenure as director.

"These are not just little icons on the screens. They're Soldiers," he said. Each of the fatalities he experience while deployed remain tattooed at the front of his mind, he said.

"If I'm leading a battalion of Soldiers I can help 700," Hallowell said. "But if I can push through a battalion of Soldiers a quarter while I'm here, I can help thousands." 🐼

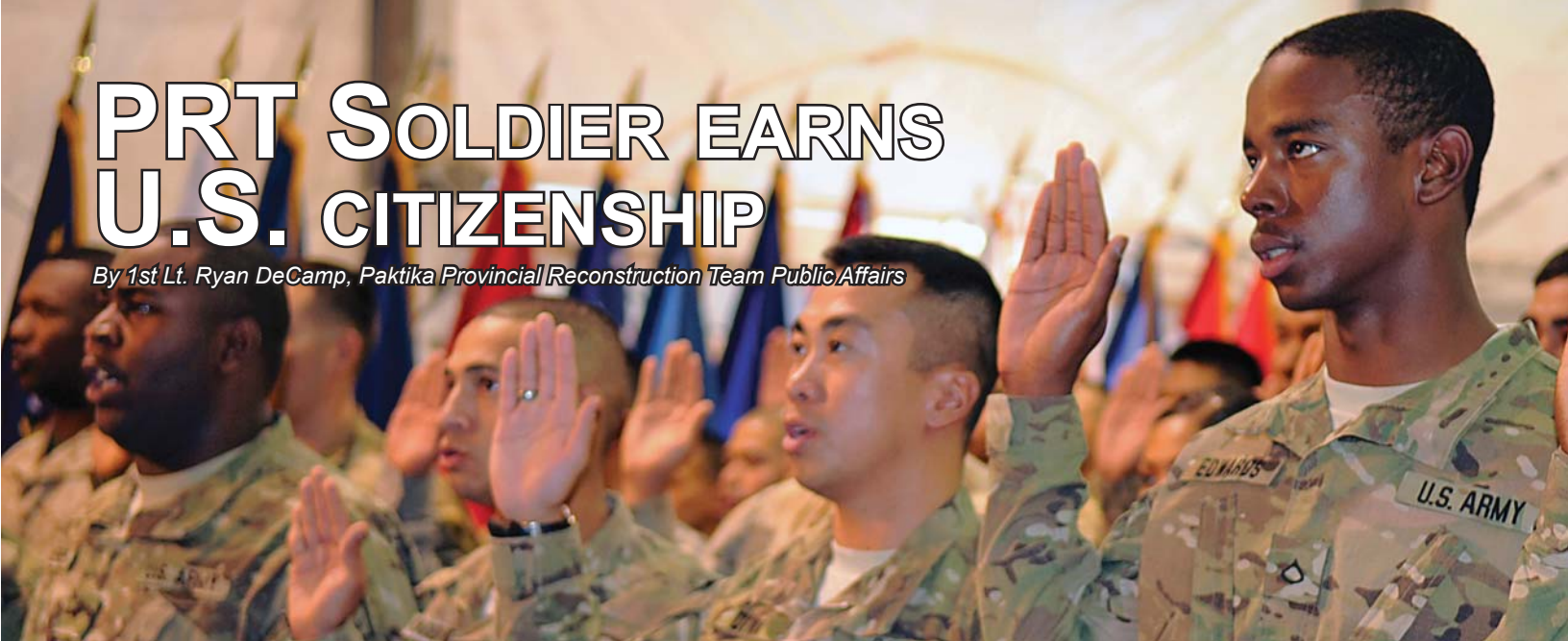


## Tying it all together

Spc. Chris Hall-McRae, left, Spc. Richard Schaber and Sgt. Kyle McNeill, 102nd Troop Command, work together on the battalion node of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) online during an exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on March 19. (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA Public Affairs)

# PRT SOLDIER EARNS U.S. CITIZENSHIP

By 1st Lt. Ryan DeCamp, Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team Public Affairs



**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - When Cardon Edwards came to the United States with his mother from Jamaica, the 13-year-old couldn't imagine he would fight for the country he was heading to.**

Seven years later, the now 20-year-old is doing much more than that. Not only is he a private first class in the U.S. Army, he now has a much greater title – American.

Edwards joined 44 other U.S. Soldiers and Marines from 25 countries in a naturalization ceremony to become American citizens at Bagram Airfield on Sept. 28.

"It's a relief, I'd be lying if I said it wasn't," Edwards said. "My parents are happy to see the steps I've taken and the road I've come down, in joining the Army and becoming a citizen."

His family knows what he's going through. His mother earned her citizenship two years ago. He couldn't go through the same process because he had already turned 18, he said.

The ceremony comes during Edwards' first deployment. The infantryman from the 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry Regiment, is now deployed to Afghanistan as part of the Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The PRT's main job is to help bring the different levels of government and the province's 400,000 residents together. This way, their futures involve peaceful leadership and development, not insurgency under groups like the Taliban.

Edwards and the rest of his security team make sure the meetings that help move the governance process can happen safely for coalition members and Afghans.

"I have worked with Private 1st Class Edwards since August 2010 to train for this deployment and what I've seen is that though he's a younger soldier, he has the maturity of a seasoned non-commissioned officer," said 1st Lt. John Cossolini, 2-113 platoon leader. "He's mentally strong and physically tough. He has unlimited potential and I see him becoming one of our steadfast NCOs very soon."


"There's more opportunities in the U.S. of course, with

*Pfc. Cardon Edwards, right, says the oath of renunciation and allegiance during a naturalization ceremony on Sept. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Makenzie Lang, Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team Public Affairs)*

better jobs, schools and universities," he said. "When the deployment is over I'll head back to school using the G.I. Bill to continue working on an associates in accounting. Then I'll move on to a bachelor's degree."

His platoon leader had nothing but good things to say about one of his most junior soldiers, who was promoted to private first class just six months ago.

"I have never seen his motivation, his trust in his fellow soldiers or his will to fight for his country waiver," Cossolini said.

If anyone had doubt before, that's gone. America is Edwards' country. 



## Guard serving the community

*Saw dust flies as Pfc. Hector De La Cruz, above, cuts out a window with a reciprocating saw while on assignment with the New Jersey Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program. He was among 15 Soldiers who helped rehabilitate two houses in Asbury Park for Coastal Habitat for Humanity on March 19. (Photos by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA Public Affairs)*

# Decorating his way to "Cake Boss" status

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

**"In my senior year of high school, I had a commercial baking class," said 21 year-old Rashawn Robinson. "The first day of class I picked up the spatula and started decorating cakes."**

And for the past three years he has been mastering the art of cake decorating in his civilian life and during drill weekends as a senior airman with the 108th Force Support Squadron at the 108th Wing.

"You can definitely tell he takes pride and enjoys what he does," said Master Sgt. Lauren Holba, base service manager at the 108th Wing, and Robinson's supervisor.

With the use of icing, frosting and other edible decorative elements to make otherwise plain cakes more visually interesting, the art of cake decorating has become very popular in this reality-TV driven culture.

There's the show "Ace of Cakes" on the Food Network; "Amazing Wedding Cakes" on WeTV and New Jersey's own "Cake Boss" on the cable network TLC.



Robinson was well aware of the opportunities that an internship at the "Cake Boss" would open to him. Thus, armed with his portfolio, he met with Buddy's right-hand man, Mauro "Chef Mario" Castano, and was given a tryout, which he passed with flying colors.

Consequently, he was offered a 30-day trial period to bake for the show and displayed his decorating skills.

During his internship, he was able to network with different people and meet new friends, said Robinson. "The experience alone is an amazing opportunity."

"The environment in the show is really fun, and a little crazy with cameras everywhere and people screaming all the time," said Robinson. "My friends bombard me with a million questions about the show, and I gladly answer them with a smile on my face."

"We keep looking for him on TV," said Holba.

Cake decorating was not originally in his career plans, said Robinson. "I never went to culinary art school."

But Robinson said he always listened to what his parents had to say. "My mother and father have always been supportive of what I decide to do. They always say 'just do what you love and everything else will follow'."

And now he finds himself on television and having his work displayed for the world to see. 🍰



## Battalion trains with new howitzers

A gunner from the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery fires a 105 mm round from an M119A2 Towed Howitzer during a training exercise at Camp Grayling, Mich., from June 11 – 25. This was the first time the Soldiers had conducted field artillery training since August 2007. The battalion was able to certify their howitzer sections on the new artillery weapons. (Photo courtesy 3-112th Field Artillery)



## Sharing a life story

Tuskegee Airman retired Tech. Sgt. George Watson Sr. shares his experiences with New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy cadets during the New Jersey National Guard's annual Unity day on June 16. The New Jersey National Guard observed their 13th Annual Unity Day Celebration at Joint Force Headquarters at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Through food sampling, music, entertainment, educational displays, contests and giveaways, the NJNG celebrated the ethnic and cultural diversity of the organization. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs)

# New Jersey Guard serving New Jersey



Pfc. Andrew Chretien, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry assists 87-year-old Kathryn McDonnell as she gets off a New Jersey Army National Guard 5-ton truck that moments earlier had assisted the Lincoln Park Fire Department in evacuating her from her house, which was encircled by rising floodwaters on March 11. Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office)



As Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, watches, Gov. Chris Christie, second from left, congratulates Staff Sgt. Jonathan Yont, right, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, for his efforts in helping New Jerseyans affected by the flooding on March 11. Also in the photo are, starting from Yont's right Spc. Kirk Kirlaw, Sgt. Michael Onembo, Spc. Gerardo Guizar and Sgt. Curvey Purkett. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## HAITI — A YEAR LATER

By Master Sgt. Donald Clarke, NJARNG Recruiting and Retention Command

It has been a year since I witnessed the destruction and devastation of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that took the lives of more than 250,000 Haitians and left the country in distress.


I returned to Haiti a year after the earthquake on a different mission. When I was there in 2010 with a group of volunteers it was an aid and rescue mission, and now we were returning to support the rebuilding mission.

Our mission this time around was to put in a playground and basketball court for a village where displaced Haitians had ended up after the quake. The sponsors had already built more than 350 homes and were in the process of constructing another 150. In between building the playground, placing the basketball court in and conducting numerous food and toy drops; we assisted in the building of some of the homes.

During the eight days we delivered food to more than 1,000 people; we built the playground, and put in the basketball court; we have been told that it is used every day until the sun goes down. I am extremely humbled by the



opportunity that I have been given to assist the country of Haiti and I would go back in a minute if asked.

The mission in Haiti is not over and it will take many more years to get the country back on its feet. The question I ask of you is: Will you help? 

# New Jersey Guard Wrap-Up



## Devery to command Battle Lab

Col. Dennis W. Devery, left, receives the colors of the Joint Training and Training Development Center from Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff, during a Change of Command ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on March 6. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Robert Neill, Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey Public Affairs)



## 254th gets new Commander

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, right, Chief of the Joint Staff, passes the colors of the 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) to Col. James F. Stenson during a Change of Command ceremony at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt on April 3. (U.S. Army photo by Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey Public Affairs)



## 177th Airman earns Chief's Award

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Allen, right, 177th Fighter Wing, receives the Major General Richard "Craig" Cosgrave Chief's Award from former New Jersey Air National Guard commander, retired Maj. Gen. Richard C. Cosgrave, on July 7. The award was developed to honor outstanding chief master sergeants in the New Jersey Air National Guard who demonstrated superior performance, community service, professionalism and leadership in the highest standard. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



## 50th gets new CSM

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael V. Rigby, left, receives the colors of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during the Change of Responsibility ceremony on March 20 at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville. Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy D. Marvian, right, relinquished the position as the senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the largest unit in the state. Rigby will oversee nearly 2,800 Citizen-Soldiers that drill in armories across the state. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey Public Affairs)

# NEWS GUARD FAMILIES CAN USE

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

## Healers and Heroes: Connecting Guardsmen with military doctors

Story by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs

**New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen now have a place to turn when deployment medical issues threaten to overwhelm them.**

The Healers and Heroes Program, also known as 2H, was unveiled by the Medical Society of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs during a news conference at the State House in Trenton on April 5.

The idea is simple, create a network of New Jersey physicians who are in or have served in the military and have them be available to returning service members.


"By using physicians with military experience, the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard will be reassured their doctor understands their needs," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth.

That shared experience of being in the military can serve as the bridge between the service member and the medical community.

Guardsmen will be able to speak confidentially to physicians about their health care issues and in turn the doctors will be able to direct the Soldier or Airman to the proper resource to address their problems.

While the goal of the program is to address any medical issue the service member is suffering from, one area that is receiving special attention is post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

According to the National Center for PTSD website, PTSD symptoms usually start soon after the traumatic event, but they may not happen until months or years later. They also may come and go over many years.

Often referred to as the "invisible wounds", a RAND Corporation Center for Military Health Policy study indicates that approximately 20 percent of returning service members suffer from PTSD and another 18.5 percent are affected by some form of TBI. 

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or call

**1-888-859-0352**

## FRC increases grants


The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has increased the amounts of family and business grants up to \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Both grants are known as TIER I grants.

TIER II family grants are also available to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed servicemembers who served on State



Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Servicemembers meeting

these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500.

Applications are available at all Family Assistance Centers. 

# ***Short Rounds: Target practice and Putting a dent in narcotics***



## **CD dumps six tons of drugs**

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Sbarro, New Jersey National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, pitches a box containing part of the 12,464 pounds of unwanted or expired medications collected during Operation Take Back New Jersey 2011. Law enforcement agencies across the state set up collection points on April 30 where New Jerseyans could drop-off unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal. The drugs were taken to an incinerator where they were destroyed. The Operation is an initiative of the Jersey division of the Drug Enforcement Administration, The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, and the New Jersey National Guard. Nationwide, Americans turned in more than 376,593 pounds of medications. According to the DEA, more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs)



# Practice, Tomorrow's leaders

## Eyes on target

Spc. Joseph Barbato, left kneeling, spots shot patterns for Spc. Johnny Sanchez while qualifying on the M240B rifle at Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 12. In preparation for an upcoming deployment, these Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry Regiment qualify on several crew-served weapons. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Makenzie Lang)



## DARE-ing to make a difference

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young, Visual Information Audio Systems Supervisor, assists Allison Prieto, daughter of New Jersey Army National Guardsman Master Sgt. Joe Prieto, with an M-16A2 on the Engagement Skills Trainer at the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on July 13. NJARNG Soldiers led 139 students from 100 schools, ages 11-12, from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education/Counter Drug Leadership Camp through the Center's various training lanes. The Camp, which is in its twelfth year, is a New Jersey unique program. The program's concept is to build leadership and confidence skills in the students so that they can serve as role models when they return to their communities. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs)

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# ARMY AND AIR ENL

## NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

### To Command Sergeant

**Major (E-9):**  
John R. Hicks  
Edward Santiago

### To Sergeant Major (E-9):

Myles A. Cappiello  
Mark A. Leonard  
Terrence D. Taylor  
Lavona A. Tophy  
Konrad Uldschmidt

### To First Sergeant (E-8):

Thomas W. Christiani  
Gary M. Davidson  
Carmen Giamporcaro  
Steven Katkics Jr.  
Marco Paredes  
John A. Payan  
Stephen G. Stephen  
Brian K. Townsend  
David W. Thurston  
Louis J. Wiersma Jr.  
Earnest Williams Jr.

### To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Ronald M. Ambrose Jr.  
Edward C. Camp  
Joseph Dicola  
Ricardo J. Garcia  
Edward A. Gacsi  
Todd J. Geweke  
John J. Hegyi  
Harrington D. Henry  
Delroy F. McKay  
Douglas W. McNeil  
Anthony Padin  
Michael L. Peterson  
Mark R. Rizzo  
William A. Stuart

### To Sergeant First Class

**(E-7):**

Brandin J. Benson  
John K. Blagojevich  
Paul I. Carradine  
Sandy N. Caul  
Karl E. Cheney  
Daemion A. Clarke  
Richard A. Corte  
Fernando Covagomez  
Robert T. Coyle Jr.  
George H. Dudley  
Donju T. Frazier  
Cesar O. Fuentes  
Nikeisha K. Gayle  
Fred A. Giberson  
Terrick Grace  
Joseph F. Graham  
Edison F. Guerrero  
Daniel Guzman  
Christopher R. Howe  
Jeffrey N. Johnson  
Jeffrey J. Kennedy  
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Dharam Manka  
Vincent E. Mankowski  
William E. McCabe  
Luis A. Morales  
Zbigniew Mroczkowski  
Gregory A. Murphy  
Peter T. Murphy Jr.  
Fernando Ospina  
Benjamin G. Ouckama  
Marlon Palma  
Thomas J. Patterson  
Lisandro Peralta  
Xavier N. Ramirez  
Joel Reyes  
Erica C. Riordan  
Peter Sarini III  
Richard W. Schlack  
Brian C. Tarquinio  
Luis A. Unda  
Mauricio R. Vega  
Daniel Wilson  
Monte C. Wilson

### To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Guenson P. Adolphe  
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Samuel S. Arnowitz  
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Robert E. Baker  
Michael J. Barreca  
Allain V. Batong  
Jacob Benkovski  
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Quincy M. Bloxom  
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Katie E. Cataldo  
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Daniel E. Cunningham

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Joseph G. Delusant  
Zelene E. Diaz  
Larceric M. Diaz  
Americo F. Diprinzio  
Charles L. Dixson  
Kyle P. Dunham  
Dennis Dutton  
Michael R. Dyson  
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Delroy A. Escoffery  
Nicholas P. Faria  
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Gregory K. Field  
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Steven N. Fuquay  
Juana E. Garrett  
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Francisco M. Gonzalez  
Daniel E. Gonzalez  
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Oscar D. Lopez  
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Jenilee I. Mendoza  
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Stephen T. Moore  
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Akinwande A. Oshodi  
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Luis M. Silva  
Oliver J. Sims Jr.  
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Peter L. Taburas  
Lloyd B. Terry  
Ian J. Todd  
Orlando S. Tronco  
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Wendy C. Varner  
Trident G. Villanueva  
Richard J. Webekind Jr.  
Christopher M. Wood  
Wayne R. Woolley

### To Sergeant (E-5):

Jaime S. Abril  
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Frederick J. Adams  
Daniel L. Aiello  
Javed Akhtar  
Germaine B. Alf nez  
Manuel Alvarado-Febrer  
Harrison Andujar  
Andrew R. Applegate  
Crystal D. Arthur  
Robert Ashton  
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Cynthia J. Bengel  
Mitrah Bhimdass  
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James K. Bolek  
Bryant N. Borges  
Jack A. Brady  
Timothy C. Brining  
Tarance Bryant  
Mark A. Camara  
Johnny Cao  
Ana R. Castilloramos  
Victor P. Colon  
Alexis Colon  
Sean M. Conroy  
Brian J. Costigan  
Jossie Cruzalegui  
Adam R. Cutaiar  
Zulay Davila  
Justin S. Davis  
James J. Davis  
Matthew Dickson III  
Mamadou Dosso  
John W. Evans  
Justin R. Eyet  
Orlando Faria Jr.  
Elliott H. Figueroa  
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Proculo F. Fuentes  
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Carol A. Galofaro  
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Alejandro J. Menosampas  
Michael R. Molawka  
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Christopher J. Morgan  
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Wilfredo Ortiz III  
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Elvin Quirindoro Jr.  
Saul Ramirez  
Richard Ramos  
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Marc N. Reinecker  
Efrain E. Reyes  
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Jason D. Sutterlin  
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Wilson T. Utman  
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Terrill Walker

David L. Washington  
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James W. Wicks III  
Kevin A. Wolfe  
Jiunn Y. Wu  
James M. Zoladz

### To Specialist (E-4):

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Martin A. Alternose  
Gabrielle C. Anderson  
Charmaine R.N. Aquino  
Esteban Arias  
Hector R. Arrazola Jr.  
Jessica M. Arway  
Johnny Aviles  
Hector A. Ayala-Rodriguez  
Jim P. Bacon  
Jonathan L. Baez  
Brian T. Baker  
Mark W. Baptiste  
Joshua M. Barber  
Stephen S. Barnard  
Alan B. Barsamian  
Jessie L. Beekhuysen  
Joseph D. Benson  
Nuchus H. Berry  
Krista A. Best  
Kareema M. Black  
Steven L. Bordi Jr.  
Ludmila Bortzova  
Sandro C. Braga  
James W. Brennan  
Thomas D. Brown II  
Lu T. Bui  
Alvin Bui  
Raymond A. Burgos  
Anthony Caballero Jr.  
Kervin E. Calderon  
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Kelene N. Campbell  
Benjamin J. Carter  
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Christopher M. Colon  
Michael P. Comoroto  
Rincon P. Coy  
David A. Cruz  
Robert M. Czech  
Theodore A. Daley  
Jacob J. Daly  
Christopher T. Damrosio  
Janice L. Davila  
Arvel H. Deandrade  
Mark Decker Jr.  
Roberto M. Dela Cruz  
Estevanez O. Delgado  
Johns F. Derienzoparks  
Catherine A. Dietsche  
Justin L. Divenuta  
Deshawn Edmonds  
Brian P. Eromenok Jr.  
William G. Essien  
Portia A. Evans  
Quacy S. Evelyn  
Ijeoma J. Ezenwuba  
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Steven G. Felter  
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Brian J. Frangione  
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Diego Galvis  
Jason M. Garcia  
John S.S. Gebbia IV  
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Devin G. Hourin  
Christopher S. Howells  
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Jonathan S. Hünke  
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Denny D. Kim  
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Karen M. Massey  
Joseph M. McCarthy  
Gregory K. McPherson  
Keith Meadows  
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Matthew T. Merklinger  
Michael D. Milan  
Michael R. Miller  
Michael Miranda  
Michael Miranda  
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Anthony P. Monte  
Andy A. Mora  
Kathleen P. Mora  
Ramos H.A. Mosquera  
Corey A. Mulford  
Renée L. Nash  
Jaime Navaezcocto  
Jesus D. Nolasco  
Jason F. Northedge  
Joseph E. Nygard  
Samuel A. Obasanya  
Noam D. Opitz  
Alexander J. Orban  
Angel L. Otero  
Marie S. Ouckama  
Spenser T. Paige  
Tramar L. Parker  
Javier E. Perezalvarez  
David J. Popick  
David J. Prieb  
Vito P. Quattrocchi  
Catherine E. Quinn  
Ruben Ramirez  
Raymond Ramos  
Nancy S. Reid  
Johnathan F. Ressor  
Joshua F. Richards  
Jermaine D. Richardson  
Jose A. Rivera  
Victor O. Rivera Jr.  
Alexander L. Rodriguez  
Raymond E. Royce  
Brian S. Ruiz  
Marc A. Saavedra  
Samir A. Saba Jr.  
Sandra M. Sampson  
Joseph M. Sams  
Christopher Sanchez  
Alexander J. Santos  
Mercedes P. Santos  
Kwasi Sarfo  
Christopher J. Schiavo  
John O. Scott  
Timothy W. Scott  
Brian G. Scott II  
Jovante D. Searles  
Oscar M. Segui  
Kyle R. Shorter  
Justin A. Signer  
Christopher J. Sippel  
Christopher S. Sladky  
Dyron D. Snipe  
Kenneth J. Soule  
Brian W. Southrey  
Gregory S. Stevens  
Robert F. Stojhn  
Luke Syrek  
Richard J. Tabor  
Louis P. Tarquinio  
Robert C. Teetsell Jr.  
Jason D. Terrill  
Roger F. Thier  
Richard D. Thomas  
William P. Trageser  
Teneka M. Tum  
Robert G. Upfel II  
Joshua D. Urbano  
Julio R. Urena  
Tony M. Vangi  
Gloria E. Vargas  
deVaughan  
Alfonso L. Vasquez  
Analissa Veiga  
Alex N. Velazquez  
Rodriguez  
Franco A. Vergaraburgos  
Stephen R. Vergilio Jr.  
Rogelio W. Vidal  
Jesse J. Violante  
Dorian J. Wallace  
Jonathan A.  
Walterocardo  
Tony H. Warren  
Lekebie Washington  
Gabriel K. Washington

Sydni C. Watkins  
Michael A. Webber  
Ryan R. Weiss  
Larry L. Welch Jr.  
Cheron J. Wesley  
John M. Wilkinson  
Shawn J. Williams  
Cameron K. Williams  
Nicole Witherspoon  
Gregory C. Yetman  
Kella N. Yont  
Daniel D. Young

### To Private First Class

**(E-3):**

Kyle W. Abbott  
Joseph C. Africano  
Daniela A. Agudelogarces  
Zorangelys Alvarado  
Stephanie A. Alvarez  
Stephen Alvar  
Bruno M. Alves  
Kevin M. Andreotta  
Rosa M. Andujar  
Eris N. Aparicio Jr.  
Jose G. Arroyo  
Christopher J. Ashley  
Robert D. Au III  
Marcus B. Auil  
Johnny Aviles Jr.  
Joshua E. Avileira  
Joseph Avola Jr.  
Esteban Babilonia Jr.  
Sebastian M. Barbiero  
Matthew J. Barnes  
Jeffrey Barthelmy  
Austin J. Basco  
Alex Basile  
Shalan P. Bates  
Alberto L. Bayron  
Shonell N. Bender  
Jorge J. Betancourt Jr.  
Yamesha T. Bethea  
Williams A. Biesecker  
David N. Bigelow  
John M. Bland  
Timothy B. Bombace  
Justin G. Brandon  
Rachel N. Brinkley  
Ivan M. Brito  
Hector J. Brown  
Pierre Buchallot  
Andrew J. Bunn  
Donald B. Calamusa  
Steven Cano  
Kevin D. Carbone II  
Stephen L. Carrington Jr.  
Erica L. Caruso  
Mark T. Caruso  
Eduardo L. Carvente  
Daniel S. Castimore  
Marcelo P. Caxias  
Luis C. Cedeno  
Kadeem I. Charles  
Austin L. Charles  
Sonia C. Chen  
Louis M. Chevere Jr.  
Ruben Clintron  
Antonio J. Clemons  
Shannon M. Cobb  
Travis P. Collins  
Horace A. Colon  
Diana Coloncarr  
Francisco R. Concha  
Joseph Conditio III  
Erick O. Corporanvargas  
Jennifer N. Cortes  
Sean M. Crawford  
Glen R. Crawford  
Juan M. Crespo III  
Michael P. Crowley Jr.  
Lamod A. Darby  
Francis J. Davis  
Kyle J. Davis  
Daniel R. Dean  
Andre R. Debrito  
Hector J. Delacruz  
Daniel R. Diaz  
Adam J. Dick  
Johnny A. Dominguez  
Ross A. Dominianni  
Thor G. Draper Jr.  
Harvey W. Drayton Jr.  
Courtney F. Drinks  
Ariel F. Thier  
Robert F. Eckert  
Jared A. Edmonds  
Cardon J. Edwards  
Richard Escobar  
Michael D. Farrell  
Jude Faustyn  
Vincent M. Ferreira  
William A. Fey  
Joseph K. Fiorito  
Naima Flores  
Joseph Flynn Jr.  
Jermaine A. Forbes  
Gaetano F. Foti  
Samuel D. Frank  
Erica S. Furlongue  
Gabriel Garciarobles  
Claire C. Garrison  
Dennis J. Gentile  
Menitza Gil  
Parker B. Goins  
Andrew M. Gonzales  
Luilly J. Gonzalez  
Daniel J. Gonzalez

# LISTED PROMOTIONS

Lawrence E. Grandpierre  
Louis Green  
Lamar J. Greenwood  
Matthew L. Gruber  
Sean W. Hanley  
Clarence B. Harris  
Christopher R. Hartmann  
Courtley R. Hayden Jr.  
Joshua R. Headley  
Gregory J. J. Herbert  
Benjamin R. Hill  
Edward P. Hofferica  
William S. Holland  
Joshua S. Holt  
Janhannah M. Huelgas  
Stephanie C. Immendorf  
Giuli M. Iommazzo  
Tierre L. Jackson  
Saywayne C. Jacksonpope  
Darshan C. Jha  
Jose M. Jimenezbaez  
Kayla C. Johnson  
Devon R. Johnson  
Alisha S. Jones  
Heung J. Kang  
Ioannis V. Karazoupis  
John C. Kavanian  
Kelsey E. E. Kean  
Robert J. Keil III  
Adam S. Knight  
Kelsey L. Knoeller  
Anthony L. Lalone  
Cesar L. Larco  
Ryan C. Lee  
Joohyeng Lee  
Melissa D. Lee  
Gabriel Leon  
Neron K. Lewis  
Kyle P. Lewis  
Santiago D.P. Lewis  
Jonathan A. Lindquist  
Ashley L. Lisboa  
Christopher L. Lobello  
Jacquelyn S. Lombark  
Elizabeth C. Londono  
Melissa A. Long  
Saony Lopez  
Marcelo A. Lopezvasco  
Ryan B. Lubanski  
Peter J. Magsalin  
Joseph N. Margeotes  
Nathalie I. Martinez  
Dangelo M. Martins  
Patrick Q. Marvin  
Thomas S. Marvin  
Robin M. McCray  
Samantha A. McGovern  
Miranda L. Medard  
Christopher P. Menendez  
Thomas J. Menendez  
Douglas J. Meyer  
Victor H. Meza  
Meghan A. Miklas  
Rachelle L. Miller  
William Z. Mineo  
Joshua D. Miro  
Hilario J. Mix  
Zachary A. Moninghoff  
Emmanuel Moreno  
Ryan A. Moroz  
Eric Moschberger  
Cristian Munoz  
Dijon D. Murdaugh  
Gabriella M. Nazario  
Matthew P. Negron  
Cody C. Nelson  
Christina C. Nieves  
Mageline Noelvil  
Angelina M. Normandia  
Yedy R. Nova  
Kenneth E. Novak II  
Wayne D. Okefe Jr.  
Nancy A. Olango  
Tatiana Oleynik  
William M. Omrod  
John M. Ondish  
Lemuel A. Orta  
Juan P. Ortega Jr.  
Matthew P. Ortiz  
Sun Park  
Sean J. Parker  
Elvis Paulino  
Elijah K. Payton  
Sahsha M. Pena  
Jonathan M. Pennisi  
Jorge U. Pereirascarpitta  
Alexander P. Perez  
Steven A. Perez  
Giovanna R. Perez  
Pablo N. Perez  
Josse X. Perez  
Alexis J. Pichardo  
Anthony E. Pierce  
Donald C. Pierce Jr.  
Julio C. Pinedo  
Ryan R. Polny  
Justin M. Potenski  
Michael P. Priford  
Michael D. Purcell  
Edgar M. Quinto  
Francisco A. Ramirez  
Kevin P. Rant  
Grace E. Renz  
Walter P. Ribeiro  
Victor A. Rivera  
Anthony S. Rocco

Thomas F. Rodgers  
Clarence M. Rouse  
Anthony N. Rubert  
Darwin R. Rubio  
Timothy P. Ryan  
Luis E. Sabatini  
Zachary R. Salerno  
Axel D. Sanchez-Castillo  
Christopher J. Santangelo  
Luis M. Santiago  
Dean A. Saportto  
Ebenzezer K. Sarpeh  
Raymond J. Scarpa III  
Jeremiah A. Schenerman  
Michael A. Sclafani  
Robert C. Seay  
Joshua A. Seguire  
Dylan W. Seip  
James F. Servais  
Trevor R. Sherba  
Jong K. Shin  
Johnathan G. Sierra  
Gary A. Silver  
Aaron C. Simon  
Jessica A. Simpson  
Steven R. Smith  
Evan G. Smith  
Laura I. Sosaaldana  
James C. Spain  
Anthony W. Steiner III  
Andrew C. Stern  
Michael R. Storms  
Roy M. Sundstrom  
Michael D. Szalay  
Michael J. Tainor  
Gabriel Z. Thibault  
Sequana D. Thompson  
Hamilton G. Tobararias  
Kyrillos A. Tofles  
Jessica M. Torrandell  
Nicholas Torres  
Patrick L. Troy  
Brandon L. Ullman  
John G. Valencia  
Charles Vega  
Joseph P. Vescio  
Raymond N. Vidal  
Roman Vidrelich  
Amanda E. Viehl  
Bezaleel Villacorta  
Andrea M. Villarroel  
Tony Vo  
Louis E. Wallace  
Mark Washel  
Carlos A. Watson  
Michael R. Weaver  
Kathleen N. Weinstein  
Luksha V. White  
Matthew C. White  
Resheena D. Whittington  
Yolanda B. Williams  
Norman A. Williams  
Vincent E. Williams Jr.  
Deshawn Q. Williams-Tolson  
Nicole E. Wilson  
Thomas E. Wilson  
Lydia D. Wilson  
Sean K.K. Wrafter  
Leonard G. Wright II  
Paul C. Zeballos  
Stephanie K. Zeman  
Luke Zhang  
Paul M. Zinskie

**To Private (E-2):**  
Richard P. Acosta  
Louis A. Alcantaranarvaez  
Jean R. Alecice  
Jimmy I. Alford  
James A. Allick  
Leonard J. Almeida  
Alexander Alvarez  
Steven T. Ambrosino  
Nicholas J. Andersen  
Shawn A. Anderson  
Denis D. Antunes  
Francisco J. Aragon  
Stojan Arangelov  
Benjar Asmat  
Tishawna B. Bailey  
Catherine B. Balino  
Anthony Balon  
John E.M. Barandina  
Thiago V. Barion  
Jennifer Barrios  
Robert T. Berencsi  
Michael A. Binder  
Barry B. Bing  
Ralph D. Bird III  
Christina M. Bishop  
Christopher M. Bishop  
Jordan L. Botvinik  
Oscar A. Bravo  
Sean P. Brenner  
William Bron III  
Deja T. Brown  
Lucas R. Budz  
Vincent A. Buono  
Daniel P. Cahill  
Justin L. Caldwell Jr.  
Anthony J. Cardone IV  
Kaio V. Cardoza  
Manuel A. Carpiopena  
Christopher C. Carr Jr.  
Melissa Carrero  
Luis M. Casablanco  
Maria A. Castellanos

Raymond Castro  
Richard K. Cedeno  
Jessica A. Chica  
Joshua J. Chocolas  
Andre L. Clark  
Jonathan A. Clark  
John S. Cline  
Rafael Colin  
Jason P. Concoy  
James A. Correa  
Humberto Cortazadel-castillo  
Glauciene Couto  
Astrid Y. Cruz  
David R. Daneils  
Taleek D. Daniels  
Robert C. Seay  
Marco A. Dasilva  
Denis M. Dasilva  
Joshua C. Davila  
Desmond A. Davis  
Jacob E. Davis  
Kelsey R. Dejesus  
Alexander Dejesus Jr.  
Louis J. Delvecchio  
Donald D. Dennis III  
Michael A. Deptula  
Ray K. Deschler  
Rodolpho L. Desouza  
Jonathan Diaz  
Jason T. Dorsey  
Erik L. Dunne  
Lora K.A. Duran  
Alex Duszkievicz  
Aaron G. Elliot  
Joel Espinosa  
Maria I. Estrada Suarez  
Javier Fandino  
Ishana F. Faried  
Rosa M. Feliciano  
Kevin J. Fernandez  
William Fernandez  
Kyle A. Fernandez  
Joseph A. Figarella  
Angel M. Figueroa  
Kevin J. Fleschner  
Joshua C. Fontana  
Marquise L. Frasier  
William C. Fritts  
Ruby Fuentes  
Sebastian Gallego  
Frank D. Gara  
Joel A. Garcia  
Louis C. Gelsomini III  
Ariane V. Glenn  
Paris G. Glover  
Wellington Godoi  
Gabriel J. Gonzalez  
Conester Gore  
Jessica Greenleaf  
Stephen P. Gross  
Jeffrey A. Guilbe  
Zachary T. Gumble  
Wilson Guo  
Julian F. Gutierrez  
Megan T. Habins  
Traulant Halilaj  
Herbert H. Hamlin Jr.  
Ahmon A. Hardy  
Paul A. Haskin  
Mark P. Heaton Jr.  
Mike R. Heole  
Matthew R. Hedges  
Scott D. Helwig Jr.  
Henry S. Hernandez-Zambrano  
James M. Hoover  
Christian C. Hoppe  
Dennis R. Huergo  
Simone S. Hunter  
David P. Hynes Jr.  
Alfred K. Inzar  
Anthony J. Irby  
Luz V. Irizarry  
Raymond A. Jachowski  
Samanta Jeanpierre  
Manley S.L. Jennings  
Aseonnia I. Johnson  
Monthy C. Johnson  
Isaiah C. Jones  
Ebony N. Jones  
Joseph M. Kanniard  
Felicia S. Karcher  
Andrew R. Kerwin  
Patrick C. Kiesow  
Jonathan T. Klos  
Edward K. Kosso  
Lashunte S. Lantz  
Christopher D. Lawler  
Juan C. Lazo  
Brian K. Leadley Jr.  
Nikki A. Lenciewicz  
Alexander J. Leone  
Gabriella I. Liaguna  
Adriana F. Longa  
Jamie M. Lugiano  
Felix Ma  
Amanda P. Mack  
Hannah J. Mackay  
Edwin Mancera  
Christopher J. Masin  
Carolyn F. Mateomercado  
Pritpal S. Matharu  
Afungang T. Mboumbo  
John J. McLean III  
Mecca C. McMillan  
Gerard C. Miller  
Jesse N. Montalvo  
Walter E.M. Moore

Joseph R. Morales  
Andres A. Morell  
Rohan R. Morgan  
Kyle D. Morris  
Michael R. Mosca  
Sabrya L. Mosley  
Tuscan R. Murphy Jr.  
Antoine M. Nelson  
Christopher M. Newell  
Makayla S. Newkirk  
Binh T. Nuyuen  
Ruben J. Nieves  
Natalie S. Nieves  
Ahmad A. Nimrouzi  
Jonathan A. Nixon  
Jonathan S. Norton  
Daniel J. Nowak  
Ray V. Ortiz  
Justin Ortiz  
James S. Ortiz  
Joshua OrtizRivera  
Donald A. Owens Jr.  
Markus L. Pabon  
Purnell B. Pagan  
Rolando Pared Jr.  
Michael J. J. Parnigiano Jr.  
Frank A. Patierno  
Christa A. Pearsall  
Adrian A. Penaf el  
Joselito M. Perez  
Israel R. R. Perezmachado  
Richard P. Philip  
Anghine N. Picault  
Seneca J. Pickett  
Daniel P. Pimentel  
Rajeev Popli  
Mackenson Previl  
Anna M. Price  
Jason M. Pustizzi  
Victoria A. Rago  
Hasan M. Ramadan  
Cristina M. Rey  
Paul B. Richter II  
Aniella A. Rinaldi  
Joseph A. Rios  
Jamie L. Rivera  
Rossario C. Robles  
Nicholas Robles  
Travis J. Rodgers  
Julian A. Rodriguez  
Silfredo Rodriguez  
Mark A. Rogow  
James T. Roman  
Luis F. Rosado  
Lennon Ross III  
Andrew Russo  
Nino R. T. Sanchez  
Lance C. Sanford  
Michael S. Santos  
Nina C. Santos  
Giorgio G. Scarpitta  
Gregory P. Schlechter  
Christopher L. Schultz  
Amanda M. Schwegel  
Marley L. Selfridge  
Masalah Sema  
Mohammed S. Shah  
Kevin Shanahan  
Bryan A. Sheehan  
Brandy J. Sicensky  
Justin M. Sidney  
Henderson A. Silva  
Derek T. Silver  
Philip M. Simone  
Hector L. Soto III  
Victor C. Sotosantana  
Edward R. Sperling  
Richard M. Standish  
Jerry Stsurin  
Jonathan N. Suarez  
Miles R. Tarricone  
Stephanie P. Teves  
Ian M. Thorpe  
Daniel C. Tinsley II  
Joseph T. Tomb  
Jacob T. Torres  
Jessica M. Torres  
Steven Torres  
Michael A. Torres  
Miguel R. Valdera  
Brian W. Vanbuskirk  
Allen J. Vanf eet  
Paulino J. Vargas  
Mark H. Veesh  
Jonathan O. Velez  
Marco A. Velez  
Damian S. Velez  
Francesca D. Volloaro  
Christopher S. Walker  
Timothy J. Walker  
Dominic L. Webb  
Steven J. J. Weiseman Jr.  
Dandre J. Whitely  
Terrence L. Williams  
Kyle C. Wilson  
Jennifer M. Winton  
Sequoia C. Wise  
Justin R. Wojcik  
Tavon O. Wright  
Andres A. Wynter Jr.  
Jane Yang  
Patrick W. Yun  
Baruch C. Zepeda

## NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

**To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):**  
Bonnie L. Gaskell  
Randall T. Mason  
David F. Whalen

**To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):**  
James V. Granato  
Francis A. Spence  
John A. White

**To Master Sergeant (E-7):**  
Keith A. Abate  
Samuel D. ARIA  
Dennis A. Barnes  
Stephan Q. Clanton  
Carmine Giangeruso  
Lauren M. Holba  
Jeremy J. Maupin  
John J. O'Keefe  
Joseph E. Pomphrey  
Kirk E. Sherry  
Michael A. Thompson

## To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Chris Anastasiou  
Michael R. Baber  
Heather M. Bartlett  
Paul W. Blazewicz  
Brian T. Brunnell  
Rasha A. Burton  
Tabitha G. Carl  
Nicholas J. Celentano  
Howard M. Chatteley  
Valorie N. Chiola  
Erick A. Contreras  
Theron A. Cropper  
Scott L. Cupples  
Jason T. Feibisch  
Brian J. Franzosi  
Christopher M. Gable  
Phillip A. Geppi  
Lucas G. Gunther  
Valorie N. Haines  
Bryan W. Hicken  
Khalidi V. Hinkson  
Jamal J. Hogan  
Sheila D. Hofman  
Shevaughn T. Jorsling  
Raymond P. Mansfeld  
Michael J. Mastrangelo  
David A. McDonald  
Manuel J. Montiel  
Tabitha G. Moran  
Sean M. Nitzara  
Michael F. Ortu Jr.  
Stephen K. Ritter  
Michael A. Robinson  
Luz I. Rosario  
Japera L.K. Talib-Moore  
Jared L. Whalen  
Heyward D. Wiggins  
Brandon C. Wood  
Arnold C. Young

**To Staff Sergeant (E-5):**  
Erica Aybarmorillo  
Joshua C. Bone  
Joshua P. Bronson  
Rosendo Catala  
Andrew M. Constantine  
Brian T. Cooke  
Bernard O. Cortes  
Kevin M. Costa  
Saywonna N. Cuevas  
Ralph M. DiLossi  
Patrocino Domingo  
Richard A. Elliott  
Jonathan S. Fernandez  
Thomas M. Foulds  
Ada A. Grafals  
Adrienne A. Guagenti  
Omar S. Holt  
Brandon M. Johnson  
Michael C. Jones  
Ada A. King  
Christopher L. Krampitz  
James A. Lombonaco  
Mike McMahon  
Brian J. Monga  
Ying J. Pang  
Anthony M. Paillio  
Hari M. Sangha  
Robert W. Spiegel  
Latoya M. Taylor  
Robert F. Taylor  
Michael P. Walsh  
Saywonna N. Whiting  
John R. Wilson  
Sebastian Zelazny  
Heather J. Zweiback

**To Senior Airman (E-4):**  
Jeffrey D. Montemurro  
Kathleen M. Barton  
Joshua F. Blaney  
David J. Bouthot  
Christian Campaniolo  
Cristin T. Campos  
Misti Y. Cazimero  
Timothy C. Chambers  
Kristopher P. Colley  
Beau O. Deleon

Michael D. Demarco  
Jason T. Dever  
Carl I. Dickey  
Lauren E. Drennan  
Thomas E. Early  
Kelly M. Eilenberg  
Clint A. Ellis  
Testerroy D. Emerson  
Brittany A. Eure  
Emanuel Figueroa  
Gabriel Gutierrez  
Onaie K. Hilliard  
Misti Y. Klessner  
Andrew D. Lee  
Vincent M. Logiisci  
Kellen N. Mazure  
Errol McCalla  
Ruby Jean T. Minoza  
Jeffrey D. Montemurro  
Stephen J. Moore  
Bryan P. North  
Arnold I. Oakman  
Victor T. Pascual  
Cody R. Passaro  
Felix A. Perez  
Denery Phillips  
Sally B. Pizzo  
Joseph Rice  
Naomi Rodriguez  
Thomas J. Sapio  
Ruby Jean M. Scharon  
Dean C. Schwaner  
Katrina M. Shukatis  
Joseph M. Walsh  
Casey D. Weber  
Jasmyne C. Westbrook-Peterson

## To Airman First Class (E-3):

Bernabe Acefaguero  
Eric A. Aranguiz  
Wayne A. Bettis  
Ian A. Brenner  
Raymond J. Buckno  
Josue Cintion-Torres  
Ross E. Cundey  
Thomas M. Ewald  
Brian J. Ferraro  
Ryan V. Flavell  
Karen E. Foulds  
Kylepaul E. Gibson  
Brian J. Gluck  
Lavone D. Graham  
Carol K. Green  
Elizabeth H. Hansbury  
John M. Havey  
Dann D. Hernandez  
Ashley N. Julliano  
Joshua J. Joyce  
Shawn R. Kaminski  
Kevin D. Klingaman  
Laura C. Lemay  
Matthew P. Lopoito  
Alethia J. Martinez  
Joseph W. McCaffery  
Anthony G. Meluso  
Moriah J. Merritt  
Andrew A. Orenyo  
Alexander M. Petrella  
Ashley Q. Reason  
Zachary A. Riseden  
Taina Rosario  
Veronika Y. Sheldon  
Bruno A. Silie  
Nicholas R. Smith  
Keith A. Stanton  
Jacquelyn E. Vasvaritoke  
Jonathan W. Womble

**To Airman (E-2):**  
Mandel A. Delgado  
Bradley O. Garuso  
Paula T. Daniels  
Domenique L. Golden  
Joseph A. Paladino  
Jose R. Pethyung  
Laura I. Piper  
Brianna M. Sims  
Marcedes A. Spence

**New Airman:**  
Andy M. U. Amakihe  
Joshua S. Coleman  
Brandon L. Coley  
Jahi E. Davis  
Shaun M. Ferguson  
Brody D. Frye  
Kerece L. Gopiesaleem  
Francisco Moran  
Korie M. Osvald  
Stacey B. Pareene  
Maurence I. Poole  
Manuel N. Prados  
Amanda L. Richter  
Brittany Robinson  
Kevin R. Rodriguez  
Vincent E. Stokes  
Nelson G. Thivierge  
Steve T. Woo

**Congratulations To All!**  
Compiled by Staff Sgt.  
Kimberly Hankins (Army  
Guard promotions)  
and Master Sgt.  
Paul B. Thompson Jr.  
(Air Guard promotions)



## ***Last Round: I see you Dad***



Sgt. Walner Garcia, 250th Finance Detachment, hugs his son Julian after the Salute to Troops ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Flemington on July 9. Families, friends and elected of-

ficials attended the farewell ceremony for the more than two dozen Soldiers prior to their deployment to Kuwait. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)