



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

March 22, 2013



*The New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy cadets class No. 37 graduate March 15, 2013 at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton, N.J. The Challenge program is a rigorous 22-week National Guard program that provides a disciplined academic environment and instills leadership, physical training and community service for at-risk youths. (Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Nick Young/NJDMAVA/PA)*

## NCO STEPS UP TO BECOME WARRANT OFFICER

Story and photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert A. Barea

New Jersey Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Yetzabel Palma of the Joint Task Force Headquarters and a personnel sergeant for the Family Readiness Group became an official Warrant Officer Candidate March 13.

Her family and other members of the unit stood in attendance as Command Chief Warrant Officer Guy Remig and along with her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Marlon Palma, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, pinned on the WOC rank on her uniform. However, as meaningful as this ceremony was, now Yetzabel Palma must complete Warrant Officer Candidate School and finalize her training by completing Warrant Officer Basic Course.

Palma's path to becoming a Warrant Officer began in May of 2012, when she attended the Warrant Officer Symposium. There she was motivated by the many warrant officers in New Jersey and was particularly moved by the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the National Guard Bureau, Gary Nisker, as well as Remig. Both Nisker and Remig spoke to the many noncommissioned officers who attended the symposium and urged them to step forward and take on the challenge of becoming a warrant officer.

Building on that platform, Remig saw fit to "grow" warrant officers from the State's NCO ranks and established the New Jersey Pre-WOCS course where NCOs like Palma can be trained in leadership, mentorship, and knowledge needed to succeed at WOCS. When asked what his vision was for the pre-WOCS, Remig stated, "my intent for pre-WOCS is to set the candidate for success, not only in WOCS, but throughout their career as a warrant officer".

During the first drill in March, seven NCOs, all in differing phases of the warrant officer selection process, began their training in preparation for becoming a warrant officer. All of the NCOs in attendance appreciated the "wake-up call" from the WOCS cadre and realized that WOCS will be a challenging yet rewarding experience.

Palma said, "the pre-WOCS program is a great program to set the eligible Soldiers back into the training zone with a great cadre team...I am eagerly looking forward to the next drill weekend where we will face



more challenges."

The path to becoming a warrant officer is not a simple one. Ideal candidates must have stellar performance records, military and civilian education, and have the desire to lead and train Soldiers in their respective

career management fields. The New Jersey National Guard needs qualified NCOs to become members of the Warrant Officer Corps and fill critical positions. For more information about becoming a warrant officer, go to [www.njarmyguard.com/warrant](http://www.njarmyguard.com/warrant).





**Frank Cuccia, right, a World War II Army veteran, celebrates his 105th birthday at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home March 20, 2013. Fellow resident Mary Hunter shared a slice of cake with Cuccia. (Photo by Vineland VMH activities department)**



**Private 1st Class Kayla Johnson, second from left, and Spc. Jaylin Thomas, both with the 508th Military Police, New Jersey National Guard, pose with female members of Afghan Uniform Police. Johnson and Thomas are members of the 508th MP Female Engagement Team (FET) that go out almost every day to assess the standards of the 30 Police Districts in and around Kabul, Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 1st Sgt. Joe Prieto/Released)**

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## The Hunterdon County Hope For Heroes Walk and Run

**Walk, run, just get there to help our Veterans!**

**When:** Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Check in at 8:30 am.  
**Where:** Deer Path Park, West Woodchurch Road, Flemington  
**Featuring:** A 5K walk and run for homeless male and female veterans of Hunterdon County, New Jersey

**Reasons to Participate:** Come and join us for our first annual "Hope for Heroes" walk and run. By participating, you will help raise money for our homeless veterans of Hunterdon County. Our veterans did so much for our country, and now it is time for us to help them in their time of need, and show our appreciation.



**Staff Sgt. Christopher Richardson, center, 508th Military Police, shows embassy security officers how to conduct a proper search on a person, while Spcs. Eric Wieboldt and Alex Duszkievicz look on. The 508th MP is conducting Police Advisory Mission and Force Protection at Kabul bases. (Photo courtesy of 1st Sgt. Joe Prieto/Released)**

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