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# DMAVA

# HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY 19, 2012

## Getting ready for take-off



*Air Force Master Sgt. Chris Skierski, an F-16C engine mechanic, sweeps the flight line for foreign objects and debris at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 15. Skierski, an Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing in Atlantic City, is currently deployed to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 455th AEW/PA)*

## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Senior Airman Ashley Daraklis organizes paperwork at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 15. Daraklis is an aviation resource manager with the 119th Expeditionary Force Squadron and is currently deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City, N.J. Darakis was chosen as Warrior of the Week, an award designed to recognize hard-working Airmen for their integrity and commitment to excellence. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ericka Engblom)



Cadets from Southern Regional High School's Air Force Junior ROTC program in Manahawkin, N.J., pose in front of a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 108th Wing's fleet at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The cadets were given an opportunity to view a refueling mission by the KC-135 crew during an orientation flight hosted by the 108th Wing's public affairs office. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA)

## *108th Wing provides once-in-a-lifetime experience to local high school children*

**By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA**

Having never seen the inside of a KC-135 Stratotanker, cadets Frank Gradzki and Vincent Giersch were delighted to be able to sit in the jump seat of the aircraft during the take-off and landing of an air refueling mission by the crew of the 108th Wing.

"I saw my house and my old middle school," said Giersch.

"It was awesome to see how the pilots maneuver the plane and how they interact in the cockpit," said Gradzki.

Gradzki and Giersch were among the 19 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets from Southern Regional High School in Manahawkin, N.J., that were provided with an opportunity to experience an orientation flight on Jan. 18, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

The orientation flight was coordinated by the 108th Wing's public affair officer, Capt. April Doolittle.

"The purpose of these flights is to motivate and familiarize Air Force JROTC cadets with the role and missions of the 108th Wing," said Doolittle.

This event introduces the young cadets to general aviation and military opportunities through hands-on interaction with an aircraft, equipment and personnel.

In addition, these flights are an excellent recruiting tool for the New Jersey Air National Guard and possibly the Air Force's active duty component.

After receiving a safety briefing from the flight crew and watching a video on emergency evacuation procedures, Cadets were able to observe the flight and refueling of a KC-10 Extender over the Atlantic Ocean.

## NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

*Photo right, Air Force Staff Sgt. Carlo Lat ties down an F-16C Fighting Falcon at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 15. Lat is a crew chief assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and is currently deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey National Guard. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 455th AEW/PA)*



*Photos left, bottom left and below, Senior Airman Anthony Guddo inspects and F-16C Fighting Falcon at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, on Jan. 15. Guddo is a crew chief assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and is also currently deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 455th AEW/PA)*



## Ordnance Corps top NCO visits New Jersey Guardsmen at JB MDL

By Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Ortiz, Jr., quality assurance NCO

The Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst community was visited by Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan Muhammad, regimental command sergeant major of the Ordnance Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Randall Boss, Army National Guard and Reserve Component Liaison, on Wednesday, Jan. 11, here.

The visit highlights the growing importance of units located at JB MDL and the future role they can provide supporting The One Army School System.

One of the units visited by Muhammad and Boss was the New Jersey National Guard Regional Training Site-Maintenance facility located at the Joint Training and Training Development Center here. Meeting with the post's

distinguished visitors were Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Marvian, regimental command sergeant major for the 254th Regiment; Sgt. Maj. Alexandro Estrada, operations sergeant major for the 42nd Regional Support Group; Capt. Eric Sproesser, senior instructor and Master Sgt. David Porter, chief instructor for the RTS-M.

The JT2DC houses, within its honeycombed training complex, the platform for noncommissioned officer education system, maintenance sustainment and military occupation skill's qualification training, which RTS-M provides.

Course curriculum, facility additions and future NCOES training were some of the topics discussed while touring



From left to right, Sgt. Maj. Alexandro Estrada, Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Marvian and Sultan Muhammad, Sgt. Maj. Randall Boss and Master Sgt. David Porter pose for a group photo at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Jan. 11. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Ortiz, Jr.)

the RTS-M facility. The visit and reiterates the continued confidence the ordnance first of its kind for JB MDL's community has on its enlisted ordnance soldiers corps.

## DMAVA employee awards nomination

DMAVA Human Resources Division is currently accepting nominations for the DMAVA Employee Awards for the Fall Tri-mester 2011 and also for Employee of the Year.

Please forward all nominations by Jan. 31, to Anna Marie Boutchia by using DMAVA 200-61 Awards Nomination form, which can be found on DMAVANet. HRD requests that all nomination be typed when submitted for ease of processing and selection.

Questions regarding the awards process can be sent to [AnnaMarie.Boutchia@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:AnnaMarie.Boutchia@njdmava.state.nj.us).

## State family program office has new office, phone number

The State Family Program's office is now located at the Bordentown Armory on Route 206.

In addition, their new office number is 609-324-7060.

The office's address is 1048 Route 206 South, Bordentown, NJ 08505-2124.

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## CMC ARNG Association breakfast

The Cape May County Army National Guard Association will host a breakfast at the Villas Diner on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 9 a.m. All branches of the military are welcome.

The group looks forward to meeting new members who have been honorably discharged from service, along with those currently serving.

If you have served and would like to regain that camaraderie, please join the breakfast to see your old friends and meet new ones.

The Villas Diner is located at 2100 Bayshore Road in Villas, N.J.

For more information, please call 609-729-1596.

**E-mail your Highlights submissions to [wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us) OR [armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us)**

## New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General (Acting)

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist

Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist