

# NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 4, 2015



# AIRMEN DEPLOY TO SUPPORT OVERSEAS OPERATIONS

Story by Tech Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs



JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., -- Approximately 50 Airmen from the 108th Wing departed aboard several KC-135 Stratotankers June 2, 2015.

In total, more than 140 Airmen mostly from Burlington, Mercer, Ocean, and Union counties, as well Bucks county Pennsylvania and Brooklyn, N.Y., will rotate in and out of the CENTCOM area of operations during the next couple of months, ensuring mission readiness and a successful completion of their tour in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel.

The deployment, which is the largest aircraft tasking for the Wing since 9/11, will consist of aircrews, maintenance and logistics support personnel who will provide support with mid-air refueling missions, aircraft maintenance, and logistics operations. "This is what it's all about," said Col. Robert A. Meyer Jr., 108th Wing commander. "All of your hard work, training, long hours in your shops, and weekends away from your family is what has prepared you for this mission."

For Senior Airman David Abreu, who has a goal of becoming a fireman in his hometown, the opportunity to deploy

will help his goal. "There are a couple of emotions going through me," said Abreu, a Union county resident. "I'm excited, scared, but I'm also ready to fulfill my obligation and earn my veteran's status, which will help me with my goal of becoming a fireman."

For Staff Sgt. Michael Escott this deployment is another mission to add to his already distinguished military career. The Ocean county resident deployed to Dubai and Kuwait as a Sailor with the Navy. After more than eight years in the Navy Reserves, his unit was moved to another area too far to commute, allowing Escott to bring his skills to the 108th Wing over a year ago. His experience as a policeman in Northern New Jersey and in the Navy ensures that his fellow Airmen are in good company. "I'm not sure what I'll be tasked with over there," said Escott, a materiel management specialist with the 108th Logistic Readiness Squadron. "But all I want to do is complete the mission and return home safely to my wife and children."

The New Jersey National Guard has mobilized nearly 16,000 Airmen and Soldiers in support of overseas contingency operations since 9/11. With military spe-

cialties such as aircrews, maintenance, personnel, security forces and others, the New Jersey based 108th Wing has contributed to this effort by covering more than 5,000 positions in support of these operations.

"These Airmen never cease to amaze me," said Meyer. "When the call to duty is made, it doesn't matter how tough the mission is, these Airmen will answer the call. They know they will leave jobs and families behind. But they live by the Air Force core values of 'Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do,' and these values will drive these Airmen to complete their mission and make our state proud."

## Cover photo

A 108th Wing Airman marshalls a departing KC-135 Stratotanker at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 2, 2015. Approximately 50 Airmen from the 108th Wing deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

# FIRST DEPLOYMENT

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



There's a first time for everything.

In a person's life there will be the first time you ride a bicycle or the first time you drive a car without your parent riding shotgun, and of course, your first kiss.

The military is no different: Except the most significant first is your first deployment.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Senior Airman David G. Abreu. "I'm a little anxious, excited, nervous; it's a mix of emotions."

When news of the 108th Wing's deployment first came out, everyone in the shop wanted to go. Abreu had just finished his associates' degree in criminal justice and was planning on getting his bachelors in criminal justice at Kean University.

For the 108th Wing hydraulic mechanic, deploying to the United States Central Command area of operations (CENTCOM AOR) in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel, gives him the opportunity to put his skills to the test in a combat environment.

"I was told 'just be ready to do the job and do it right,'" said Abreu.

For his role in the operation, Abreu

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do it right'***

***Senior Airman  
David G. Abreu  
Hydraulic Mechanic  
108th Wing***



will be responsible for everything on the KC-135R Stratotanker that deals with hydraulic and pneumatic systems, especially the boom. The KC-135R, which can carry up to 200,000 pounds of fuel, uses the boom to transfer fuel to American and coalition aircrafts. The mid-air refueling gives fighters and bombers longer reach on combat missions.

"The boom is exclusively the hydraulic shop's responsibility," said Abreu. "It's what makes this aircraft special."

Operation Freedom's Sentinel is the new United States military mission in support of operations in Afghanistan and is the United States' part of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission. This particular deployment will also include support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the all-encompassing war on terrorism operation in the CENTCOM AOR.

Abreu will not be alone for his first deployment. More than 140 Airmen will be deploying in and out of the AOR in support of Freedom's Sentinel during the summer.

And because this is a new operation, this will be their first time in support of this new mission as well.

# CST EVALUATED AT CHERRY HILL

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, New Jersey National Guard

The New Jersey National Guard's 21st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team kicked off a no-notice evaluation exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. June 3, 2015.

The team was alerted to a scenario that centered around a possible weapons of mass destruction event at the National Guard Armory at Cherry Hill, N.J.

The 21st WMD CST is one of ten weapons of mass destruction Civil Support Teams that were established to deploy rapidly to assist a local incident commander in determining the nature and extent of an incident, to provide expert advice on weapons of mass destruction response, and to support the arrival of follow-on state and federal military units.

The no-notice training is part of strict validation process, with their certification exercise coming early next year. U.S. Army civilians from U.S. Army North were on hand to evaluate and educate the team.



*Sgt. Nick Lam from the 21st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team scans a building for radioactive material during a weapons of mass destruction response exercise at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, N.J., June 3, 2015. The 21st Civil Support Team is made up of both Army and Air National Guard members, and is located on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.*

***It's a fully encapsulated suit, so it gets pretty hot. With body heat plus near 100 percent humidity, it can get so wet in the suit it looks like it's raining.***

**SGT. CHRISTOPHER MAUDE**  
21ST WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM



*Staff Sgt. Jeff Whalen pulls a wagon filled with detection gear during a weapons of mass destruction response exercise in Cherry Hill, N.J.*

"The evaluators are playing the role of the Cherry Hill Fire Department," said U.S. Army North member Ricky Martin. "The civil support team will be in a support role assisting the local authorities in detecting any hazardous materials. We'll be looking at that whole process."

After setting up the tactical operations center, the team had a safety/mission brief, and suited up to enter the hot zone scanning for hazards.

"It's a fully encapsulated suit, so it gets pretty hot," said Sgt. Christopher Maude, a Soldier with the team. "With body heat plus near 100 percent humidity, it can get so wet in the suit it looks like it's raining."

Despite the hardships of being in the suit for extended periods of time, Maude finds the experience of being part of the 21st to be rewarding.

"It makes me feel really proud to know that myself and my team members, should the time come, we can go and help the civilian responders or whoever else needs us, to make sure our communities are safe," said Maude.

"It is a proud and humbling experience."

# STATE EVENTS

In honor of Sergeant Samuel Nutter, a former member of the New Jersey Army National Guard.



## NUTTER RUN

**5K at Sea Girt, NJ**

**6 June 2015, 11am at Sea Girt, NJ**

**National Guard Training Center**

Registration 8:00 - 10:30 am. Race starts 11am.

Join us for a day of music, entertainment, food, refreshments, games, activities, raffles and prizes! All proceeds to benefit member(s) of service.

Register Online Today!  
[www.sgtnutterrunk.org](http://www.sgtnutterrunk.org)

The SGT Samuel Nutter Organization, Inc  
 Headquarters 254th Regiment  
 P.O. Box 277 Sea Girt, NJ 08750  
 Contact email: [njocclass58@gmail.com](mailto:njocclass58@gmail.com)

## Military Appreciation Day

**Place:** Casino Pier, Seaside Heights  
 800 Ocean Terrace  
**Date:** Saturday, June 27, 2015  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. for bracelet pick-up  
 Waterpark opens at 10 a.m.

**Rain Date:** Please check "NJ State Family Programs" on Facebook for information. Changes will be made by the State Family Programs Office and will be posted on their Facebook page. Please **DO NOT** call the Casino Pier.

Soldiers/Airmen and Family members of the N.J. National Guard are cordially invited to attend "Military Appreciation Day" at the New Jersey Shore.

You will be required to show a Uniformed Services Military ID to obtain waterpark bracelets **for you and your dependants only**. Friends and extended family members **will not** receive bracelets.

\*\* Check in through the side entrance of the Breakwater Beach Waterpark on 800 Ocean Terrace off Grant Avenue between 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

\*\* Waterpark opens at 1000 hours.

\*\* **Each Military Family will receive a debit card (one) worth \$25.00 to be used to play games at the Casino Pier. (slot machines, ski ball, pin ball games)**

**Thank you for serving our Country!**

## PLEASE JOIN US!

*In a Ride Where All Proceeds Benefit...*

**THE HOMELESS  
 AT VETERANS  
 HAVEN NORTH**

**7-18-15**



**When:**  
**JULY 18TH**  
 rain or shine

**Registration:**  
 10:00 - 10:45 AM  
 WILLIAMS HARLEY DAVIDSON,  
 1100 US 22, LEBANON, NJ

**Kick Stands Up:**  
 11:00 AM:  
**SCENIC RIDE THRU HUNTERDON COUNTY**

**Arrival:** 12:30 PM @ VETERANS HAVEN NORTH,  
 200 SANATORIUM RD, GLEN GARDNER, NJ



Live Band & BBQ!

Donation:  
**\$30.00 PER BIKE**



**REGISTER NOW!**

**NGAUS 2015**

**137<sup>th</sup> General Conference**

**Gaylord Opryland Resort**

**Nashville, TN**

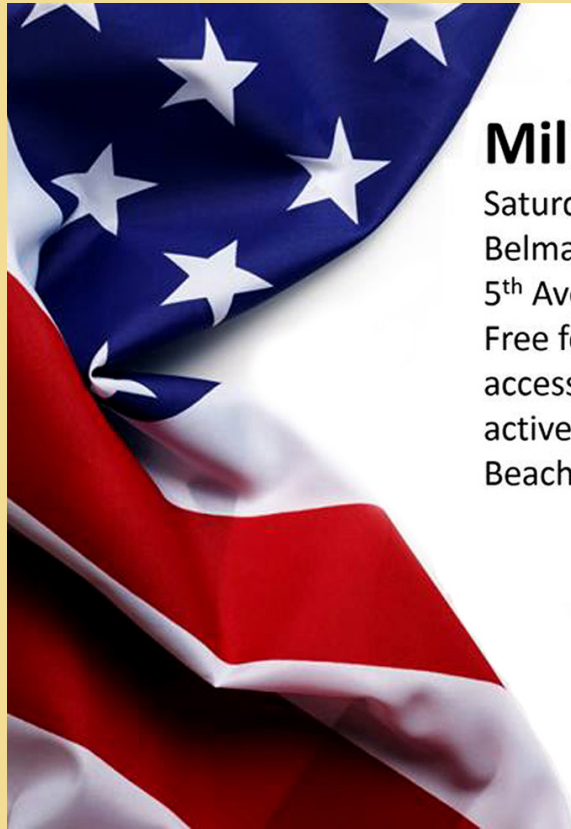
**September 10-13, 2015**

## Veterans Outreach Campaign

Wildwood  
Convention Center  
Outreach Events  
Only

June 11-13:  
American Legion  
State Convention,  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Daily

June 17-20: VFW  
State Convention,  
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Daily  
Wildwood  
Convention Center,  
4501 Boardwalk,  
Wildwood,  
NJ 08260



## Military Appreciation Day

Saturday, June 27, 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Belmar, New Jersey

5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Beach

Free food, drinks, music, parking, beach access, volleyball, giveaways and more for all active military and their families.

Beach chairs & umbrellas for your use.

**Note: Please bring your military ID**



## ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

### Use windows to bring cool air in and keep the heat out!

By using your windows and blinds, you can reduce your electric bill and save money! In New Jersey, our temperate climate means that it typically gets considerably cooler at night during the summer. During the night, turn off the cooling system in your home and open the windows to bring the cool outside air inside. When you wake up in the morning, you can shut the windows and blinds to capture that cool air, which will reduce the amount of cold air your cooling system needs to produce during the day.

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

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

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The US Family Health Plan has been a trusted partner of the Military Healthcare System for more than 30 years.

We provide the TRICARE Prime option to service families and retirees.

US Family Health Plan contracts with over 12,000 physicians.

For more information on our plan, visit us @ [usfhp.net](http://usfhp.net)