

Guardlife

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD



DISCOM
Returns

January
2006



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Cover

42nd DISCOM Returns

Lt. Col. Roche Switlick and Command Sgt. Maj. Richie Bammart lead the way as members of the 50th Main Support Battalion return to New Jersey from Iraq. For more return coverage turn to page 8. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVPAO.

Inside Cover

Home At Last

Soldiers of the 50th Main Support Battalion shake hands with the New Jersey Army National Guard leadership as they return to the United States after a year in Iraq Nov. 1. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

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TAG's MESSAGE - HOMELAND SECURITY

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



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (left) during a briefing to the media on the capabilities of the 21st Civil Support Team (CST). Also pictured are Lt. Col. Gerard Gagnon (center), Commander, 21st CST and Master Sgt. Lisa Homan, First Sergeant, 21st CST. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

As the dedicated and patriotic citizen-soldiers of our National Guard remain fully involved in both homeland defense and homeland security operations, we continue to move forward in the direction a new, more modern, leaner, meaner, more capable military organization.

The latest addition to our joint force structure is the newly certified, fully functional 21st CST (Civil Support Team). New Jersey is one of the first states to have a level IV rated and qualified Civil Support Team (Heavy) capable of responding to potential threats from WMD (weapons of mass destruction) or other emergencies caused by floods, storms, natural disasters, or other catastrophes.

During their extensive and lengthy qualification procedure, the 22 members of the CST had to prove their mettle in a variety of extremely realistic and demanding simulated emergencies. Their individual skills and training were sorely tested, as was their overall ability to communicate and work effectively as a team. I'm proud to say they performed admirably during the entire process. New Jersey now has a highly specialized, state-of-the art emergency response resource ready and able to react quickly to local emergencies as well as potential terror threats.

There are no more important missions than homeland defense and homeland security. We must be both well prepared and vigilant. The CST also elevates the close cooperation and the good working relationship we've enjoyed with the Office of Emergency Management, the NJ State Police, the Office of Counter-terrorism, and other law enforcement/counter-terrorism organizations to a new level. Under the direction of the J-5/7 at HSCOE (Homeland Security Center of Excellence) the CST is fully capable of responding to any threat situation. Headquartered at Fort Dix and able to operate out of 8 vehicles and three trailers, the unit is completely mobile and can be airlifted to deploy quickly to areas beyond driving range.

The CST brings highly skilled, professional personnel and a wide array of equally specialized equipment into our Guard. The Analytical Lab is capable of identifying more than 150,000 different toxic industrial chemicals and toxic industrial materials to include weapons grade nuclear material. The Lab has microscopic equipment capable of identifying biological threats. The Unified Command Suite can provide 24/7 "real-time" communications with incident commanders or the Center for Disease Control (CDC) via satellite, UHF or VHF radio.

The CST already has proven its value to the people of New Jersey in TOP OFF 3, the recent nation-wide homeland security, simulated terrorist attack exercise, and during previous deployments in support of security operations at the Hudson River bridges & tunnels, New Year's Eve celebrations in New York City's Times Square and during the recovery efforts at the Fresh Kills landfill following the terror attacks of September 11th.

The 21st CST's personnel, comprised of both Army and Air National Guard members, are all in title 32 status, providing our "Hometown Team" with an extremely useful and very specialized security resource and the people of the Garden State with additional levels of security and protection. 🇺🇸

50th Brigade Command CSM: Growth

By Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins, 50th Brigade

The past couple of years have been very busy and a exciting time for the Soldiers that I serve with in the 50th Infantry Brigade. A tempo that has touched every member of the Army and Air National Guard around the State.

Just to think that 12 of the 13 New Jersey Battalions have been involved in the Global War of Terrorism is a sure indication of how well New Jersey has supported the current military efforts to keep our nation safe.

It is no secret that the Brigade Soldiers were deployed in many areas of operations from Iraq to the Sinai Peninsula and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

We currently have Soldiers from the 112th Field Artillery in Germany and Italy who will have missed a second holiday season as they answer our nations call to duty. These Soldiers are doing an outstanding job safe guarding our military communities in Europe.

Soon elements of our newest formation will be joining Operation Iraqi Freedom, as the transformed troop of the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry became the 117th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition for their mobilization.

In September, the NJNG was called upon to assist to our great nation and the citizens of New Orleans in their time of need. The Katrina mission was an example of teamwork and jointness as the Army and Air worked together to assist our fellow Americans in the Gulf region.

Although there have been many highs and lows, our Soldiers and Airmen continue to stay on course.

Throughout this period, I was fortunate to be able to visit many of the Brigade units and witness a



significant growth in our Soldiers, more specifically, corporals, specialists and their front line leaders. Senior NCOs have done an outstanding job preparing our junior enlisted members to function individually, or as a part of a team. In many cases these Soldiers can take charge in the absence of their leaders.

I witnessed NCOs like Staff Sgt. Winston Ouckama provide specific guidance to his Soldiers regarding the Enlisted Promotion System. He addressed all of their individual concerns and gave them a road map of the courses that they need to con-

tinue their progression.

Having the necessary guidance is just the first step. Personal responsibility is just as important.

The future of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps and our state militia depends on our senior NCOs continuing the process of cultivating our Soldiers and Airmen into steady and reliable junior leaders.

Whether it is signing-up for correspondence courses or making sure that paperwork has been submitted for enrollment in a residence course, Soldiers must follow-up and follow-through with their plans.

Soldiers and Airmen must take charge of their career path. Guard members should be taking advantage of the education benefits our state offers us. Earning a degree ultimately benefits you in

uniform, in the workplace and in the community.

The future of the NCO Corps and our state militia depends on our senior NCOs continuing the process of cultivating our Soldiers and Airmen into steady and reliable junior leaders.

Institutional knowledge, proper use of the evaluation systems and intense training on various platforms will assist us in this process.

However, individual guidance, along with care and concern at all levels will provide a foundation to reinforce the process. §

NEW JERSEY GUARDS EUROPE

Photos and story by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA

Imagine being alerted and told you were deploying to Europe. Not bad, you say. But then imagine being told it would be for more than 18 months, that you would be working with a large number of Soldiers from different units whom you've never met, that you would be cross-training as Military Police (MP) and that you would be utilizing these brand new skills in a country where you did not speak the language.

That's exactly what happened to the 248 members of the 50th Brigade, New Jersey Army National Guard as they deployed to Germany and Italy to perform their newly acquired force protection skills both on and off post.

"Going through a mobilization process for the first time is always a new thing," says newly-promoted Maj. Robert Hughes, company commander of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery. "Transitioning to a new branch, a new job was something else. It took a little getting acclimated to, but the Army asked us to do a job, and we're here to do it."

The Soldiers, who deployed under the flag of the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, were comprised of members of Alpha and Charlie companies, as well as volunteers from the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor; and the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry. There was also one Soldier from outside the brigade, who had already deployed to Iraq for a year with the 253rd Transportation Company.

"The majority are Artillerymen, with a mix of Cavalry, Tankers and Infantrymen, who were all trained and awarded the 31B MOS at Ft. Leonard Wood prior to the overseas deployment," notes Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Slowinski, Battalion CSM of the 3-112th. "While some will opt to remain in the 31B (MOS) Military Police career field, many others will return to the Artillery or their original MOS, but all will have that second MOS."

While performing in a brand new MOS has its challenges, the Soldiers on this deployment had their



Sgt. Edward Moore of Charlie Company, 3-112th Field Artillery motions to a car at a checkpoint outside Patton Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany. Behind him is the Company Commander Maj. Robert Hughes.

own unique situation, according to Spc. Brad Farmer, of Charlie Troop, 5-117th Cavalry, who was stationed with the 3-112th at Camp Darby, Italy.

"At first it was pretty rough - the language barrier was one of the key factors in getting around," noted Farmer.

The Pennsville, N.J. native added that the transition went well after the first thirty days as the unit learned the language and had additional training.

Spc. Robert Francis of Charlie Company, 3-112th, stationed in Vicenza, Italy, noted that while school training was one thing, the real world offered

“What we’ve accomplished to date has been all about you guys. On a daily basis you guys have gone out there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, doing this job.” Maj. Bryant Albert, 3-112th, Field Artillery.



Members of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery stand in formation outside their barracks in Heidelberg, Germany.

the chance to gain important knowledge about the job. “I’ve learned a lot since I’ve been here, a lot of hands-on training, working the road,” commented Francis. “We learned a lot at Fort Leonard Wood, but we learned a lot more here, actually doing the job. The training was good, but it was a real kick in the butt when we came over here and had to do everything without the classroom setting.” Francis, a Union, New Jersey native who was recently promoted to specialist, particularly enjoyed working the school zones with the military dependent school children.

In addition to performing their MP mission, many of these NJ Guard Soldiers have had an opportunity to fulfill their Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) requirement and two Soldiers even earned the Air Assault badge at the base in Grafenwoehr, Germany, according to Slowinski. “All told, the overall feeling was that these Soldiers are making the best of the year-long deployment.”

Given all they have been through, their performance has been extraor-

dinary, according to Maj. Bryant Albert, Alpha Company commander.

“What we’ve accomplished to date has been all about you guys,” Albert noted during his recent promotion ceremony. “On a daily basis you guys have gone out there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, doing this job. Especially in the midnight hours, when you’re out there by yourself day in and day out. It gets quite boring sometimes, but that’s just when all hell breaks loose. Just keep doing the great job that you guys are doing, we’ll be out of here in a couple of months, and hopefully it’s been a positive experience for everybody that’s been here.”

His comments were reinforced by Provost Marshall Lt. Col. Shawn T. Driscoll at Vicenza, Italy. “These guys are the professionals. They’re one hell of a unit. I’d sign them up here. They could fall in right under the Area Support Group or the garrison. They’re good Soldiers. I appreciate their work.”

These “good” Soldiers will remain on duty in Europe for the next three months before returning home in the spring. 🇺🇸



Pfc. Robert Francis stands before 50th Brigade Commander Col. Frank Caruso moments before being promoted to specialist.

NEW JERSEY SOLDIERS RETURN

By Lt. Col. Roberta Neidt, NJDMAVA/PAO; photos by the Guardlife Staff

Dec. 11 marked a historical day for the New Jersey Army National Guard. The final group of Soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom III returned to American soil – just in time for the holidays.

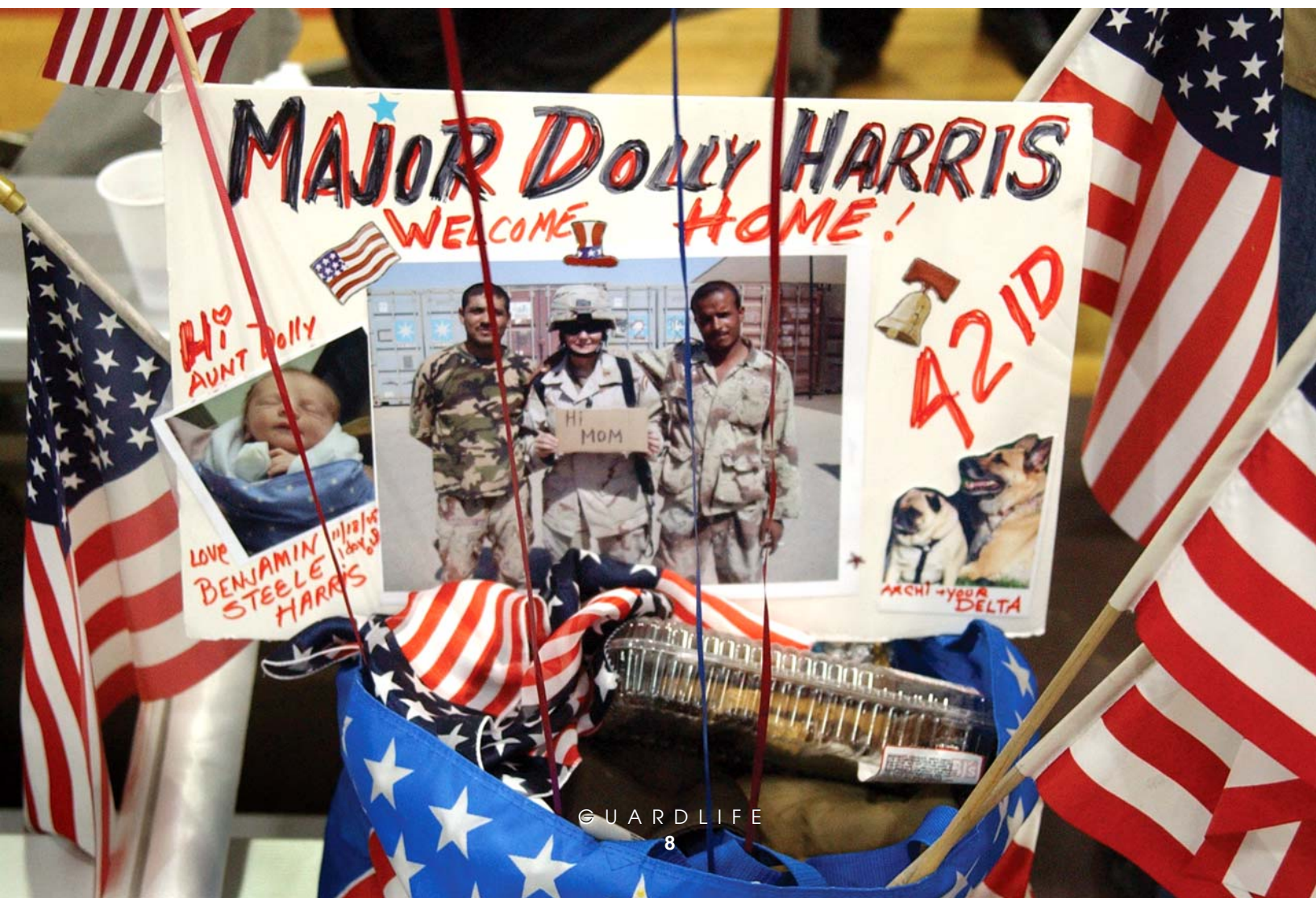
On Nov. 1, the 42d Infantry Division began returning home and for the next six weeks, New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers continued to return home to family and loved ones.

Elements of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Division Support Command; 1st Battalion, 150th General Support Aviation; 50th Main Support Battalion; 250th Signal Battalion; 119th Corps Support Battalion; Detachment 2, Company B, 642nd Division Aviation Support Battalion; 150th and 350th Finance Detachments; Detachment 2, 42nd Military Police Company; and Detachment 2, 42nd Infantry Division; returned to Fort Dix and Fort Drum for demobilization. National Guard leaders met each

aircraft that arrived at McGuire Air Force Base, anxious to greet our Soldiers and thank them for an outstanding job. Soldiers bused to Ft. Dix from Ft. Drum were also greeted upon arrival.

Family members, friends and loved ones, along with Family Readiness Groups and American Recreational Military Service (ARMS) greeted the Soldiers at the Doughboy Gym in a heroes welcome. Banners were displayed, balloons were flown and food was aplenty. There was no shortage of tears as the Soldiers entered the gym and loved ones spotted their Soldier walking across the gym floor.

There is no greater gift to a family than having a Soldier return home in time for the Holiday Season!





42ND DISCOM - FIRST IN SUPPORT





150TH & 350TH FINANCE DETACHMENTS - TO SUPPORT AND SERVE





150TH GENERAL SUPPORT AVIATION BATTALION - THE VANDALS





250TH SIGNAL BATTALION - THE SOUND OF MIGHT





119TH CORPS SUPPORT BATTALION - WE'LL FIND A WAY





50TH MAIN SUPPORT BATTALION - THE ARM OF ARMOR



TRANSFORMATION AND YOU

By Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVA/PAO

Transformation is a process in which the Army is reconfigured to increase its capability of conducting rapid offensive, defensive, stability and support operations in the context of Joint and Combined Operations. It creates a leaner, more agile, self-sustaining force. Divisions will no longer own combined arms brigades and battalions. The new modular force will realign units that are usually separated in peacetime into a permanent organization that mirrors their wartime structure.

The Active Duty Army has already begun the transformation process. The New Jersey Army National Guard's (NJARNG) transformation is part of a nationwide shift in vision of how the reserve component fits into the total Army concept. Overall, the NJARNG will still have many of the same units we currently have, but they may be smaller. In addition we will gain units that we currently do not have. The end result is that the new authorized strength of the NJARNG is equal to the current assigned strength.

Following are a series of questions that our readers have asked about the transformation. The senior leadership has provided answers to the questions based upon information available as of Dec. 15.

Q: Will the change affect my MOS?

A: Because N.J. will still have many of the same type of units, many of our current MOSs will still be available. For instance, we are maintaining an infantry brigade headquarters and two infantry battalions, an aviation battalion, finance and personnel units, as well as transportation and logistical units. While the authorized strength of these units change, many of the MOSs associated with these units will still be available – but reduced in numbers (ie: MOSs in the 11, 15, 41, 42, 63, 88 and 92 series). However, the new force structure eliminates or substantially reduces strength in other units – resulting in less slots for those MOS's. Field Artillery will be reduced by approximately 50 percent and the Signal Battalion becomes a company with almost 400 fewer spaces. While we maintain force structure in logistical support units, the new structure combines the MSB and the FSB into a Brigade Support Battalion, resulting in a reduction of approximately 400 positions. The Cavalry and armor combine into a RSTA – reducing a combined strength from 1,400 to 300.

The new structure also adds new units with skills that we currently do not have. We gain a Military Intelligence Company, a Law and Order Detachment, two MP Companies, a Chemical Company and a Water Purification Company. The strength in our Engineer Company increases. These new units will allow Soldiers to reclassify into new MOSs if they choose to.

Q: Is my unit going to move to another Armory?

A: The goal of the NJ National Guard is to limit displacement of Soldiers. When the re-stationing plan was developed, the Soldiers' commute was a first priority. However, in some cases, units will move to a different armory. Soldiers may choose to move with the unit. If a Soldier's priority is location, MOS reclassification is an option.

Q: Is this transformation going to affect my Bonus?

A: No, as the units of the New Jersey Army National Guard transform, a soldier's bonus will NOT be affected

Q: Do I have to go to school again to stay in the Guard?

A: If your MOS is affected by a reduction or elimination in authorized strength, you may be asked to reclassify your MOS. If you elect to pursue a new MOS you will have to reclassify. This will require you to attend an MOS producing school. Depending on the skill, you may be able to do this through a combination of correspondence and residence courses. Sometimes it can be done in lieu of your Annual Training. However, some MOS's do require a longer, more intense active component course to become MOS qualified. Your own career goals and personal circumstances will help you decide which is best for you.


Q: Will I have to extend my enlistment to reclassify?

A: The current policy on attendance at MOS producing schools will not change. You must have more than one-year left on your current enlistment in order to enroll in a school. If you have less than one year, you will be required to extend your enlistment. Extensions may be done in one, three and six-year increments.

Q: What is the likelihood that I will be deployed/redeployed under the new organizational structure?

A: New units may be mobilized once implemented. However, likelihood will depend on the unit's readiness status and the current world situation. Individual Soldiers who have already deployed are protected under federal law - they cannot be mobilized for more than 24 months in a five-year period unless the President declares war and implements full or total mobilization of the force.

Q: When will the new structure be implemented in New Jersey? When will I have to make a decision about my future with a new unit?

A: Implementation of the new Force Structure began on June 1, 2005. It is a three-phase process. Phase 2 will be conducted between October 1, 2005 and September 30, 2006. Phase 3 will be conducted between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007. For unit specific information, visit the NJDMAVA Homepage at: www.state.nj.us/military/ Decisions on MOS and unit changes will coincide with the implementation process. 


News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Freedom Award Nominations Open

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) will accept nominations through the ESGR website from Jan. 9 to Feb. 28 for the 2006 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards.

To nominate their employers, National Guardsmen or their family members need only to visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil, and complete the 2006 Freedom Award nomination form online.

ESGR will review the nominations and will select up to 15 award recipients. 

2006 Youth Camp

From Family Programs


The 2006 New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp will be held July 16-22 at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt.

You can get camper, counselor and volunteer applications from Family Assistance Centers; by calling the Family Program Office at (609) 562-0668 or online at: www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html.

The one week resident camp is for children, grandchildren and legal dependents between the ages of 9-12, of active and retired New Jersey National Guardmembers. There is a fee of \$100 per camper.

FRC Offers Grants


The State Family Readiness Council has established a Grant Program that will provide both Family and Business Grants to deserving New Jersey National Guard families impacted by deployment.

Business grants are up to \$5,000 and family grants \$2,500. Those interested should contact Family Assistance through the hotline at 1-888-859-0352. More information is available by e-mail at help@njguardfamilies.com or through the FACs or FRGs. 

Following The Lewis And Clark Trail

Would you like to or do you know a teen that would like to go on vacation this summer? Would you like to win a FREE trip to North Dakota for five days?

Well, you can. Read on to get more information... NGB is sponsoring a trip for 540 teens (10 from every state and territory) to be a part of a hands-on educational and historical journey throughout North Dakota in August 2006. This program is an outreach for youth to learn about Lewis and Clark and how the military has evolved since the 1800s.

The contest is open to any high school junior or senior during the 2006-2007 school year (provisions will be made for those with special needs). Entry requires a 1,000-1,500 word essay submitted through the www.lcyouthrendezvous.com website. 

Guardlife Subscriptions


If you know a retiree or would like to receive Guardlife send your name and full address to:

NJDMAVA

ATTN: PAO-BJH


101 Eggert Crossing Rd.

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2805

Note to Guardmembers: Guardlife gets your address from your unit records, so no special notification is required. 


Marriage Enrichment Seminars

Marriage Enrichment Seminars have been scheduled for 2006 at the East Windsor, Ramada Inn. Classes are limited to 26 couples and are open to all NJNG Soldiers and Airmen and their spouses. Soldiers and Airmen that have returned from deployment have first priority.

Seminar dates are: February 17-19, March 24-26, April 21-23, June 9-11 and September 15-17. For registration forms or more information, call Marie Durling at 609-562-0739. 

177TH Hosts 9/11 FLAG

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA



Senior Airmen Lakia Smith (front) and Corey McPherson (back), both of the 177th Fighter Wing, look at the 177th and the 108th Air Refueling Wing unit patches on the 9/11 Memorial Flag following a ceremony at the 177th Dec. 10. During the ceremony, Thomas W. McBrien IV, the 9/11 Memorial Flag project leader; Maj. Gen. Eugene Chojnacki, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard; Col. Brian Webster, 177th Commander and Lt. Col. Robert Meyer, Jr., 108th Support Group Commander affixed the 177th, the 119th Fighter Squadron and 108th unit patches to the flag. The Flag, which measures 22x32 feet and was created by the group *United We Stand United We Sew*; is comprised of 2,972 miniature American flags, inscribed with the names of the individuals who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The flag has been displayed at the Pentagon, in New York City and 72 locations across the United States.

Rabbi Aids Katrina Troops

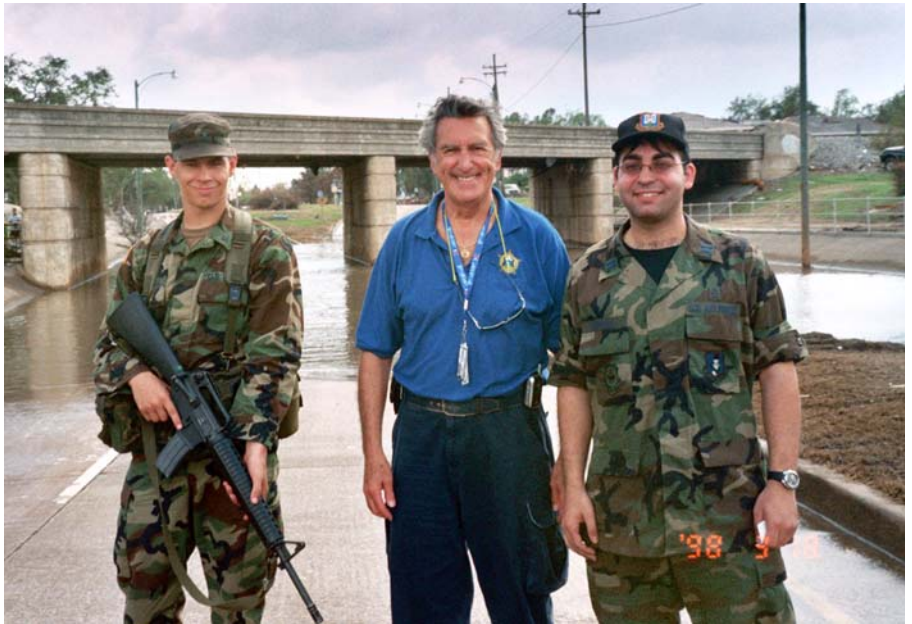
By Senior Airman Robbie Finley, 108 ARW/PA

Capt. Yaakov B. Bindell, a chaplain with the 108th Air Refueling Wing spent the month of October in Louisiana where he provided spiritual support for the Jewish members of the armed forces during the “High Holy Days” – Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Upon arriving at Belle Chase Naval Air Station, New Orleans, La., Chaplain Bindell began providing religious services and counsel for all the troops, a mission he was proud to be a part of.

“It was a very fulfilling mission,” Chaplain Bindell said.

Chaplain Bindell worked with everyone from Air National Guard members to local authorities to New Jersey state troopers who were there helping as well. Many troops spoke to Chaplain Bindell of how important they felt their mission was.



Capt. Yaakov B. Bindell (right) poses with Chaplain's Assistant Spc. Hans Widig (left), West Virginia Army National Guard and Philadelphia Police Chaplain Alan Edward (center). Photo courtesy Capt. Yaakov B. Bindell, 108ARW/HC.

“(They said that) this was the most fulfilling, giving mission they had ever been involved with. They

all had gleaming eyes. They felt like heroes,” he said. 🙏

108th Dedicates Medical Building

By Senior Airman Robbie Finley, 108 ARW/PA

The 108th Medical Group dedicated its new medical building Oct. 23 in a ceremony held at McGuire Air Force Base.

The new building was dedicated to the memory of Col. Aldo G. Baldi, a former 108th Medical Group commander and the New Jersey state air surgeon.

Among Col. Baldi's family members attending were Maj. Michael Baldi and Capt. Alessandro Baldi, who are 108th members.

Speakers included retired Maj. Gen. Richard Cosgrave, former commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Deputy Adjutant General for New Jersey.



“He firmly believed the United States was the most generous country in the world,” said. Gen. Falca-Dodson. She also noted that the new medical building is the only Air National Guard medical building designed as a joint building, which was part of Colonel Baldi's vision for the new facility.

Col. Baldi's widow, Marilyn, with her family beside her, and Col. Michael Cuniff, 108th commander, removed the veil to reveal to the world for the first time the new name of Building 34-66: *The Col. (Dr.) Aldo G. Baldi Medical Building*.

The 108th, the 514th (Reserve) and the 305th (active-duty Air Force) Air Mobility Wings will share the new medical facility. 🙏

Short Rounds: Free Computers And CST Trains In Tunnel



Ready to head out to her vehicle, Spc. Jackie Bertrand, (center, wearing beret), 250th Adjutant General Detachment, picks up a free computer from Operation Homelink at the McGuire AFB Family Support Center on Dec. 8. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA/PA.

Computers Keep Troops In Touch

On Dec. 8, 42 members from the 250th Adjutant General Detachment and 50th Personnel Services Battalion, which were on annual training at Fort Dix in preparation to deployment, received free personal computers in order to keep in e-mail contact with their families. Operation Homelink, a Chicago based non-profit organization, held the computer giveaway at the McGuire Air Force Base Family Support Center. A total of 100 computers were distributed by Operation Homelink, whose mission is to facilitating email communication between service members and their families back home, that particular day. Oftentimes families are not able to afford a computer and must rely on expensive phone calls or slow postal service to stay in touch. Operation Homelink provides a free refurbished computer to the spouse or parents of troops up to the rank of E-5.

21st CST Participates In Largest Response Exercise

From Oct. 10-13, the 21st Civil Support Team (CST) trained at the Memorial Tunnel, Center for National Response, near Charleston, W.V. This exercise, which combined the CST with urban search and rescue firemen from nine New Jersey counties, was the largest the 21st CST had been involved in. The exercise, which simulated a tunnel explosion and collapse, was located in a half-mile long tunnel filled with destroyed cars, trucks and semi trailers along with simulated victims, that had to be stabilized before being extracted. The Center is a flexible WMD training complex that provides multiscenario exercises, which include a post blast rubble area, subway train station, chemical, biological and drug laboratories; a highway WMD HAZMAT incident that can be configured with chemical, biological and radiological sources and a cave and a bunker complex for military or joint operations with military and first responders.



Sgt. John Klewicki (left, New Jersey Army National Guard) and Staff Sgt. Cliff Giampietro (right, New Jersey Air National Guard) prepare to set up remote wireless monitoring units during the 21st Civil Support Team's (CST) training at the Memorial Tunnel. The exercise was meant to simulate a weapons of mass destruction incident at the Holland Tunnel. CST team members monitored for chemical, biological and radiological elements during the exercise. Photo by Maj. Paul Devers, 21st CST.

Short Rounds: Medics Aid Katrina Survivors, New 2 Star, 3-112 COC And 150th Salute



Medics Provide Support

Tech. Sgt. Sam Ciriaco (right) applies a cast to a Katrina victim. From Sept. 20 to the end of October, 12 members of the 177th Medical Group deployed to Belle Chasse Naval Air Station and Camp Shelby in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Photo courtesy 177FW/Medical Group.



Chojnacki Gets 2nd Star

Brig. Gen. Eugene R. Chojnacki (second from right) has his major general insignia pinned on by his children (l-r) Casey, Bryan and Darin during a promotion ceremony held at the Joint Force Headquarters – New Jersey building at Fort Dix on Nov. 20. Maj. Gen. Chojnacki is the Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard based at Fort Dix. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



3-112 Gets New Commander

Col. Frank Caruso passes the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery colors to Lt. Col. Henri R. Schepens during a Change of Command ceremony at the Morristown Armory on Dec. 18. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.



150th Freedom Salute

Sgt. Daniela Talharim (right), 150th Adjutant General Detachment, shares a moment with her mom, Maria (center), and sister, Danayta (left), during the 150th's Freedom Salute ceremony at Fort Dix on Dec. 11. The unit was deployed to Fort Dix to support the mobilization mission from Jan. 2003 to July 2004. Photo by Spc. Sherwood Goodenough, 444 MPAD.

Short Rounds: Groundbreaking, 1-114th, AEF And ICE Awards



Wing To Get New Alert Facility

Dig In! (l-r) Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Brig. Gen. Eugene Chojnacki, Congressman Frank A. Lobiondo, N.J. 2nd District, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth and Col. Brian Webster, Commander, 177th Fighter Wing, break ground for the 177th's new alert crew complex, scheduled for completion in 18 months. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



1-114th In Iraq

First Lieutenant Vincent Caliguire (front), one of the 26 members of the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry; who volunteered to serve with a Pennsylvania Army National Guard unit, is seen here during a lull in a battle with insurgents. Photo courtesy 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry.



Wing Prepares For AEF

Lt. Col. Thor Himley (left), 177th Operations Group, receives help sorting through supplies from Staff Sgt. Anthony Branca (right), 177th Logistics Readiness Squadron, during the wing's preparation for the upcoming Air Expeditionary Force deployment. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



Troops Receive Awards

Three members of the New Jersey National Guard (NJNG) Counterdrug Task Force, (starting second from left) Sgt. 1st Class John Figueroa, Staff Sgt. Pedro Pena and Sgt. 1st Class Willie Johnson were given Eagle statues by Kyle Hutchins (left), Special Agent in Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Newark, in appreciation for their service in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Also shown in the photo is Lt. Col. John Sheard (right), NJNG Counterdrug Coordinator. Photo courtesy New Jersey National Guard Counterdrug Task Force.

New Jersey National Guard

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

To Sergeant Major (E-9):

Michael J. Zelenski

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Roxanne M. Martin

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Leopold S. McDowell
Peter J. Quinlan, Sr.
Scott R. Ridgway
Lloyd A. Scott
Jose D. Tejero
Robert G. Thompson

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Landy J. Chapman, III
Ricky M. Clark
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Joseph L. Donnelly
Leonard D. Hall
Patrick E. Hegarty
Joseph B. Maguire
Dale E. McTighe
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Christopher T. Nettleton
Winston G. Ouckama, Jr.
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Graca M. Ruivo
Tyshon Russell
Andrew J. Vanderplaats
Timothy D. Vermillion
Seron T. Verrett
Keith C. Vreeland
Timothy R. Watkins
Charles D. Whitaker

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Andrew J. C. Masin
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Katie E. Meisenbacher
Johann J. Ovalles
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Dale E. Quick
William F. Quigley
German A. Roa
Reymundo Rodriguez
Francis L. Roettger
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Patrick M. Tamasi
Dallas L. Tharp
Oscar C. Tracey
Michael J. Traenkner
Mark S. Ussery
Domingo Vargas
Brian S. Venerick
Randall D. Williams

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Raphael E. Baez
John S. Barbagallo, III
Buxbaum J. R. Barber
Pedro Barreto
Alejandro J. Beasley, Jr.
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Diana E. Torres
Michael Torres
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Carl Carite, III
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Matthew W. Kube
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Angela M. Maldonado
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 Andrew P. Meyrick
 David Morales
 Phillip O. Mosher
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 Carrie A. Oakes
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 Donald R. Riley
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 Emmanuel Sanchez
 Jesuale Sanchez
 Darius Simkunas
 Nicholas J. Soper
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 Bryan J. Vanartsdalen
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 Eugene Butkovic
 Ronald H. Cardenas
 Ki Hun Cha
 Richard L. Chamberlain, Jr.
 Nicole A. Cleary
 Michael M. Colglazier
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 Brian J. Costigan
 Alexis A. Cruz
 Gonzalez C. Cruz
 Anthony F. Decario
 Nicholas J. Duden
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 Kenneth J. Schultz
 David J. Spencer
 Matthew M. Studley

Jonathan Tineo
 James M. Zoladz

NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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 Severn K. Jackson
 Joseph Lamantia
 Martin W. Schellhas

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 Jeffrey T. Bennett
 Gary D. Brown
 Richard H. Burkhart
 Scott V. Henry
 Michael Krizauskas
 Kevin M. Moore
 Richard J. Sheehan

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 Joel C. Blake
 Stephen L. Diambrosio
 William G. Force, Jr.
 Thomas R. Halle
 Richard P. Miller
 Mark W. Ney
 Joseph E. Pomphrey

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 Bridget M. Fitzsimmons
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 Karen M. Henry
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 Dawn A. Newell
 Lauren M. Paul

Elizabeth S. Pritchard
 Jose A. Sanchez-Morales
 Robert V. Schreiner
 Christopher F. St John
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 Adnardo Garcia, Jr.
 Andrew M. Gerdeman
 Robert J. Gould
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 Ryan T. Pickett
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 Colleen M. Shea
 Jonathan J. Straub
 Joshua W. Travis

To Airman (E-2)

Maurice L. Brown

To Airman Basic (E-1)

Matthew M. Ordille
 Kelly L. Caldwell
 Anthony M. Parillo
 Jennifer S. Santos

CONGRATULATIONS To All!

**Compiled by Master
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 (Army) and Master Sgt.
 Paul B. Thompson, Jr.
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LAST ROUND: TAG REAPPOINTED

Story by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

On January 3, Governor-elect Jon S. Corzine renamed Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth as The Adjutant General of New Jersey and head of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

"During the past four years, our team has been a shining beacon of excellence in support of our veterans, fellow service members, and their families," said Gen. Rieth. "I am humbled to be surrounded by thousands of dedicated and patriotic Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian employees."

Gen. Rieth has served as The Adjutant General of New Jersey since 2002. During that time he has commanded over 9,000 soldiers and airmen of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard.

"Governor-elect Corzine has witnessed our commitment to the residents of New Jersey and is counting on the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

to continue this tradition of service to the community, state and nation," added Gen. Rieth.

"Some decisions are very tough and some are very easy. The fact that General Rieth has been reappointed...is about as easy of a decision I ever had to face in public life," said Corzine, as he spoke at the Farewell Salute held two days after the reappointment announcement.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, the employees of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Veterans community and its leaders for your support and hard work," said Gen. Rieth. "I am confident that we will continue to lead by example while providing unwavering support to those who wear or have worn the uniform – past, present, and future."



Flags For Deploying Units

Maj. Gen Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General watches as Governor-elect Jon S. Corzine presents the Stars and Stripes along with a New Jersey state flag to 50th Personnel Service Battalion (PSB) Commander, Lt. Col. Walter J. Alvarado during a Farewell Salute held at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville on Jan. 5. The ceremony honored more than 100 Soldiers from the 50th PSB, 250th Personnel Detachment and a group of N.J. Guard members chosen to be part of the Afghan National Army Embedded Training Team. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

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