

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



JUNE 30, 2011

Soldiers from 50th IBCT train with Croatian Army during Immediate Response 2011 exercise



Croatian Col. Drazen Bartolac, commander of the simulations training center, Col., Kenneth Schechter, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, Chaplain (Maj.) Jerome Fehn, and Spc. Gabriel Beaufaux, both of the Minnesota's Army National Guard, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, cut a cake to celebrate the

United States Army's birthday June 14, in Zagreb, Croatia, during the Immediate Response 2011 exercise there. The chaplain and specialist represent the oldest and youngest Soldier within the ranks for the ceremony of the Army's 236th Birthday. In addition to the cake cutting ceremony, American Soldiers sang the Army Song.

Story and photos by 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th MPAD

ZAGREB, Croatia — Twenty-five Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) trained shoulder-to-shoulder with leaders from 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 here from June 4 – 19.

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

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“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 staff, as well,” said Schechter, a Toms River, N.J. resident.

The scenario driven exercise was based on counterinsurgency operations being conducted in an Afghanistan province by using both military combat force 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 with chat capability, filled tactical operations centers for brigade and battalion headquarters. Other systems interfaced 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.

While the Croatian military hosted the exercise, soldiers from Albania, Serbia,



Staff Sgt. Mauricio Acosta, left, of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and Croatian Army Capt. Miroslav Vagner track the simulated Afghanistan training event using the Army Command Post of the Future system during Immediate Response 2011 exercise at Zagreb, Croatia. In the background, Col. Kenneth Schechter, 50th IBCT brigade commander, and Lt. Col. Robert Jarvis checks out additional information on the battlefield during the exercise.

Montenegro, and Bosnia Herzegovina participated in the exercise that included a field training exercise at Slunj.

Croatian Army 1st Lt. Marko Skovrlj wore two mission hats during the exercise: the first mission was as a Civil Military Cooperation officer working 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 mission was to perform the duties of a public affairs officer and track newsworthy events happening 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.”

Skovrlj joked that in the first couple of days it was somewhat difficult to learn the U.S. Army’s acronyms, but it didn’t take long to “catch on” he said.

At the operational hub of the exercise for the brigade, the battle captains track training injects and then communicate and track injects for further reporting to the battalion and the brigade.

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, a New York City resident.

During the exercise, many Soldiers held two positions while serving as a higher headquarters for the battalion. One of the Soldiers, Spc. Matthew Ziegler, a West Hampton, N.J. resident, 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, at times, Ziegler was the go-to guy for technical



Flag bearers from the countries of Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia stand together in formation for the opening ceremonies of Immediate Response 2011 held in Zagreb, Croatia. The Immediate Response exercise is a multinational operation that includes more than 1,000 participants from across U.S. Army Europe; Minnesota, Texas and Utah National Guards; the United States Air Force and service members from Croatia, Montenegro, Germany, Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia and Serbia.

support during the exercise.

But Ziegler said he was most impressed with the operations of the training and working in a tactical operations center (TOC).

“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.

The Immediate Response exercise is a multinational operation that includes more than 1,000 participants from across U.S. Army Europe; Minnesota, Texas and Utah National Guards; the United States Air Force and service members from Croatia, Montenegro, Germany, Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia and Serbia. Croatia has had service members deployed in support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan since 2003 and currently has more than 300 service members serving there.

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New procedures for New Jersey state employees to report accidents, incidents on the job

Attention New Jersey State employees, effective July 1, the procedures for reporting an accident on the job have been changed.

The following information is provided for your guidance. Please pay close attention to the following changes:

All required documentation must be submitted to the Human Resources Office.

When an accident on the job occurs, the accident must be reported immediately to your supervisor and you are responsible for filling out the RM-2 form which should be available at a central location at all facilities. If the accident is of an emergency nature your supervisor can fill out the form for you but you and your supervisor will be required to sign a waiver form, which must be submitted with the RM-2. The RM-2 form must be submitted to the Human Resources Division or your local Employee Health Nurse as soon as possible after the occurrence in order for Human Resources to obtain a claim number and to insure your medical bills and follow up care is covered. If you have any questions please contact Irene Sokolowski at 609-530-7038 or Cindy Leese at 609-530-7056.

If you require treatment you must be treated by a state authorized physician, listed on the Horizon Authorized Physicians list maintained at your facility. You should go to the closest facility to where you work. You will no longer be allowed to go to an emergency room for treatment, unless it is for an extreme emergency injury and you must go to one of the Horizon Authorized Hospitals listed. You may not go to your own doctor, it will not be covered and you stand a chance that your health benefits will not pay the bills. Should you require further treatment you will be contacted by a claims adjuster from Horizon Casualty Insurance Company.

Effective June 30, Sick Leave Injury will expire and employees will be placed on Leave Without Pay for worker's compensation

if eligible. Worker's compensation cannot be requested until you have been out of work for more than seven calendar days. You will be required to use your own leave time for the first seven days. Should you not have any accumulated leave time you will be charged Leave Without Pay. You may be required to pay your employee share to continue your health benefits if you are out of work for a full pay period. Should you be required to be out of work for more than seven days, you have the option of using your earned sick leave in lieu of being submitted for worker's compensation payments which is only a percentage of your salary. Should you exhaust your earned sick leave; Human Resources will then be required to submit you for worker's compensation payments. The Bureau of Risk Management makes the final determination whether you will be entitled to compensation.

If the injury prohibits you from performing your job duties, you must obtain a physicians note from a State authorized physician stating that you cannot perform your job duties and it must include an approximate return to work date. The note must be submitted to the Human Resources Division or local Employee Health Nurse at your facility. If you are returned to work with restrictions, you will be given ADA paperwork to complete to determine if the restrictions can be accommodated. You will be advised by Human Resources. Failure to submit a doctor's note will result in your absence not being covered and you will be charged Leave Without Pay Unauthorized and could be subject to disciplinary action.

If physical therapy is required, appointments must be scheduled before your work day begins or at the end of your work day or as close as possible. Any physical therapy appointments scheduled during the work day will be charged to your own sick time if available. Should you not have leave time to use you will be charged Leave Without Pay and will be provided Family Leave Paperwork to complete.

State of New Jersey to conduct ethnicity survey soon

The New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action, will be conducting a voluntary Employee Race/Ethnicity survey.

As a result of the federal government's recent revision to race and ethnic categories, the state of New Jersey wants to be consistent and has also revised race and ethnic categories to mirror that of the federal government.

The survey will be administered electronically through the on-line Learning Management System at the central office and paper copies will be available at the three veterans' memorial homes.

The results of the survey are strictly confidential and will be part of your personnel record.

If you have any questions regarding the survey please contact your local Human Resources Office or DMAVA's EEO/AA officer, Dorinda Sapp at 609-530-6749.

Fourth of July celebration at JBMDL

Happy Independence Day! Come celebrate the 4th of July at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on Monday, July 4 from 5 to 10 pm at Dix Doughboy Field.

Celebrate this summer holiday with a spectacular evening of unlimited family fun. The community is invited to come together to enjoy live music, food vendors, activities for adults and kids, and topped off with the greatest fireworks display in south Jersey.

Live music during the celebration will be provided by the Billy Walton Band and food vendors will be serving up everyone's favorite summer eats such as sausage and peppers, hamburgers, hot-dogs, cheese steaks, pork roll and cheese, fried fish, funnel cake, cotton candy, peanuts, popcorn, kettle corn, zeppoles, roasted corn on the cob, ice cream and shaved ice.

Parking and shuttles will be provided and please remember pets and coolers are not permitted on the premises. Photo IDs are required for guests age 18 and older. Please note that all hand carried items will be subject to inspection.

For more information, please call 609-754-2830

New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe cadets bring past to life



By Victoria Ragucci, New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy director

The Monmouth Battlefield State Park hosted on June 18 – 19, the 233rd anniversary re-enactment of that historic battle there with a little help from some friends.

That help came from the cadets from the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy.

On June 3, with guidance from park maintenance staff members, Kenny Genieczko and John Perrone, the cadets reconstructed the battlefield setting there by erecting several hundred yards of 18th century-style fencing.

In addition, during their lunch break, the cadets were treated to an interactive history lesson from park historian, Garry Stone, about the equipment and weapons of the Revolutionary Soldier.

Though putting up the fence was enjoyable work, the cadets were most excited when they were invited by Jim Noe, maintenance supervisor, to attend the reenactment of the battle.

The cadets had a great time mixing education with fun and seeing how their hard work was put to use in helping to add to the experience for visitors and re-enactors alike.

The cadets' efforts were so appreciated they have been invited back to the State Park on July 8 to help dismantle the fence.

Veteran opportunity expo at Philly

RecruitMilitary, a top full-service military-to-civilian recruiting firm, in cooperation with the American Legion, are sponsoring Veteran Opportunity Expo in Philadelphia on July 28.

The free event will be held at Lincoln Financial Field, which is located at 1020 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia on Thursday, July 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To register for the event, please visit RecruitMilitary's candidate information Web page at www.recruitmilitary.com/expos/375-Philadelphia/candidates/information or contact Dana Kenyon, marketing coordinator, at 513-683-5020.

Sea Girt to host clam bake in July

Come to the clam bake at the Sea Girt National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. on Saturday, July 9 starting at 2 p.m.

This event will be hosted by the National Guard Association of New Jersey and will include clams, corn on-the-cob, barbecue chicken, hot dogs, burgers, water and soda.

The cost for this event is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

Make checks payable to NGANJ and send them to NGANJ – Clam Bake, P.O. Box 266, Wrightstown, NJ 08652, or contact Connie Cisek at connie.cisek@ang.af.mil for additional information.



Rosenthal: Post commander of the year

The New Jersey Department of the Jewish War Veterans selected Larry S. Rosenthal as Post Commander of the Year at its 80th Annual Convention, which was held at West Long Branch on June 26, 2011.

Raymond Zawacki, the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, was the guest speaker at the event.

Rosenthal is Post Commander of SPC Mark Seiden\Benjamin Kaufman Post # 444. The group currently meets in East Windsor on the third Thursday of the month, except during the summer. In addition, Rosenthal is a Hamilton Township resident and served 26 years in the New Jersey Army National Guard. He retired in May of 2009 as a Sergeant 1st Class with his last duty station being at the 57th Troop Command in Atlantic City.

During his military career in the National Guard, Rosenthal was activated for various missions that included hurricanes, snowstorms, flooding and a deployment to Afghanistan in 2006.

Furthermore, during the attacks on 9/11, Rosenthal worked as chaplain assistant for a short period of time.

Currently he works for Hamilton Township as the Director of Neighborhood Preservation Program.

Rosenthal became commander of Post 444, on Dec. 17, 2009. While in his leadership, the post increased membership in 2010 by 28 percent and this year after some persistent effort merged Post 156 into Post 444.

The post currently has 72 members and is always looking for new members. To join Post 444 please contact Larry Rosenthal. He can be reached at home at 609-888-0646 or on his cell phone at 609-954-8075 or email at LSR1950@hotmail.com.

E-mail your Highlights submissions to wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us OR armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us

Saint Barnabas Health Care job fair

On Tuesday, July 12 and Thursday, July 14, the Saint Barnabas Health Care System is hosting Veterans Health Care Job Fairs to show how proud they are of all New Jersey veterans.

These job fairs will be exclusively to veterans and will feature current opportunities for all levels of skill and experience available throughout Saint Barnabas' network of hospitals, programs and services.

Veterans will have the opportunity to meet with recruiters and current employees who are veterans themselves, and learn why a career with Saint Barnabas Health Care System is ideal for a veteran.

The Northern New Jersey event will take place on July 12, from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., at the Saint Barnabas Corporate Office, which is located at 95 Old Short Hills Road, West Orange, N.J.

The Southern New Jersey event will take place on July 14, from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m., at the Monmouth Medical Center, which is located at 300 Second Avenue, Long Branch, N.J.

For more information about the Veterans Health Care Job Fairs and career opportunities at Saint Barnabas Health Care System, please visit <http://www.sbhscareers.com/veterans>.

GT enhancement training program

Looking to become a warrant or commissioned officer in the New Jersey National Guard but your GT score is too low?

Don't sweat it. The NJNG will help you raise your score to the minimum required score of 110 for admission to officer or warrant candidate school through their GT enhancement training program.

If you are a current New Jersey National Guardsmen you may be able to attend the one-week training session at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt from Aug. 8 – 14, and then re-take the ASVAB test on Aug. 15 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Soldiers will be required to take the Armed Forces Classification Test prior to class, and submit a DA 4187 through Sgt. 1st Class Robert Freeman no later than Aug. 3.

Funding for Soldiers must come from the parent unit.

Interested Soldiers should contact Sgt. 1st Class Robert Freeman at 609-703-8686 or via email at robert.freeman6@us.army.mil as soon as possible as spacing is limited.

Desert Storm veterans reunion

The 144th Supply Company of Hammonton is holding its 20th Reunion on Aug. 20 at the VFW Post 1026 in Hammonton, N.J.

Those soldiers who served with the unit overseas from January to August 1991 are invited to reconnect with their long, lost war buddies.

Cost is \$15 per person and children age eight and under eat for free.

RSVP no later than Aug. 10 to Carl Palmer at 609-561-9423 for more details or email 144thSupplyCo@gmail.com.

VFW Post 1026 is located at 390 South Egg Harbor Road in Hammonton.