

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



JULY 14, 2011

Friends, family bid farewell to deploying Guardsmen



Capt. Susan Branson, commander, 250th Finance Detachment, addresses families, friends and elected officials during a Salute to Troops ceremony for the more than two dozen Soldiers from the 250th Finance Detachment at

the National Guard Armory in Flemington, N.J., on July 9. The unit will deploy to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

By Sgt. Landis Andrews/ 444th MPAD

With less than a month away from an overseas deployment, friends, family and local officials attended a farewell ceremony for the 250th Finance Detachment of the New Jersey Army National Guard at the Armory in Flemington on July 9.

The community gave praise to more than two dozen Soldiers as the Guardsmen prepare to spend a year in Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Adjutant General of New Jersey, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, praised the Soldiers and their families during the ceremony for their commitment and patriotism.

"Each and every Soldier that raises their right hand knows they are going to spend time overseas," said Rieth. "Today we're here to recognize their service and say thanks to each and every one of these Soldiers and their families."

Rieth is certain the 250th is well-trained and well-equipped for the mission at hand.

"The finance community has done phenomenal work and there is no question that these Soldiers will continue the same effort," said Rieth.

U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance, R-N.J., has a special admiration for what this unit is about to undertake, as the seventh district congressman served on the House of Financial Services Committee during his previous congressional term.

"I have every confidence in the duties you will perform," Lance said. "We have the best army in the world, and it would not be possible without those who are experts in financial matters; in health care; in linguistics; in computer science; in construction; in human resources and in many other aspects of the human condition."

During their deployment, the 250th Soldiers will be performing disbursement operations, commercial vending services, military pay, travel and internal control functions for U.S. Armed Forces, U.S. government civilians, Department of Defense contractors and many others.

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Cadets from the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy, Class 34, made several Service to Community trips to Allaire State Park to clean and maintain the park for the enjoyment of visitors. On their latest trip, the Cadets helped to remove felled trees from the camp grounds. The NJYCA has had a working partnership with Allaire State Park since 2009. (Photos courtesy of NJYCA)



On July 6-8, Cadets from New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy assisted at the Food Bank of South Jersey in sorting out food donations, restocking the shelves of usable products, and packaging parcels of food for delivery. Thanks to the help of Dan Getman, volunteer coordinator at Food Bank of South Jersey, Cadets received an inside look at how donated food is processed so that it can be redistributed to community hosted kitchens to help those suffering from hunger. (Photos courtesy of NJYCA)



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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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Airmen deploy in support of Operation New Dawn

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing / Public Affairs Office

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., -- More than 25 Airmen from the 108th Wing's Security Force Squadron deployed from here Tuesday, July 12, for a six-month tour in Southwest Asia in support of Operation New Dawn.

Amidst family members and senior leadership from the 108th Wing and New Jersey Air National Guard, the Airmen said goodbye to their loved ones during a farewell ceremony held at the 108th Wing's conference room here.

Senior Airman Omar J. Navarro, a Newark resident and recent college graduate, said he was a little nervous about the deployment, but he was also excited at the opportunity.

"My sister and mother have both been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq and they told me I would be alright," said Navarro. "My father is a nervous wreck, though."

After a couple of weeks of training in Nevada to hone their security forces skills, the Airmen will deploy to Southwest Asia to commence the mission.

The Airmen are well-equipped and well-prepared to accomplish their mission, said Col. Robert A. Meyer, vice commander for the 108th Wing.

Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, com-



Senior Airman Heather Perez climbs aboard a 108th Wing KC-135R Stratotanker on July 12. Perez is part of a group of more than 25 Security Forces Squadron Airmen from the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, that deployed from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to Southwest Asia in support of Operation New Dawn. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

mander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, told the family members that they should be proud of their Airmen for serving in the military.

"They are American heroes," said Falca-Dodson. "Only one percent of the population in the United States serves in the mili-

tary and these are some of them."

During their deployment, the Airmen will conduct air base ground defense missions, which may include perimeter patrols, flight line security, vehicle searches, and processing personnel at base entry points.

DMAVA curator to receive Monmouth County award

Bilby recognized for dedication in preserving Monmouth County history

SEA GIRT, N.J., – M. Claire French, Monmouth County clerk, has announced that historian Joseph G. Bilby of Wall Township has been selected for the 2011 Jane G. Clayton Award to be presented at Archives Day this October.

Bilby serves as assistant curator of the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey and is a prolific historian of the Garden State.

According to Monmouth County, the Clayton Award honors individuals who, over a substantial number of years, have made exceptional contributions to an awareness, understanding, and/or pres-

ervation of the history of Monmouth County.

Bilby, who served in Vietnam as a lieu-



tenant with the 1st Infantry Division, has worked at the museum since 2005.

Admission to the museum is free and open to the public.

The main museum is located at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt and is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the Lawrenceville Annex is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, please visit the museum's website at <http://www.nj.gov/military/museum> or contact 1st Lt. Vincent Solomeno, historian of the New Jersey National Guard at 732- 974-5966.

Calling all veterans with military tattoos

On Saturday, July 16, veterans with tattoos can have their photo taken at the historic Battleship New Jersey for a new book by photojournalist Kyle Cassidy.

For two years, Cassidy, a photojournalist, has been traveling across the country photographing veterans' tattoos and collecting their stories for a coffee table book titled "War Paint", scheduled to come out this fall.

The book will feature military tattoos of veterans from all military branches and any era.

Cassidy will be on the forecastle of the battleship (wardroom if inclement weather) photographing tattoos from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition, veterans from New Jersey can enjoy a complimentary self-guided tour of the Battleship. Just show some proof of military service at the Battleship's ticket office.

All other veterans with tattoos may go to the forecastle only to get their photo taken. If you'd like to take a tour, a tour ticket must be purchased.

Portraits take about 15 minutes, while stories take as long as you want to talk. Arrangements can be made to visit the homes of vets who can't make it out. Find out more about the book here: www.kylecassidy.com/warpaint.

For information about the Battleship New Jersey, please visit their website at www.battleshipnewjersey.org.

Veterans event in Lawrenceville

A job fair and information for veterans will highlight the annual VA New Jersey Health Care System event this year.

On Saturday, August 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Lawrenceville Armory will host the Annual Homecoming Event in honor of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn veterans at the Armory, which is located at 101 Eggert Crossing Road in Lawrenceville.

All military veterans and their family members are invited to attend.

The event will feature a job fair for veterans; VA Mobile Vet Center; VA Mobile Health Unit; information on numerous Veterans Service Organizations and college information.

In addition, special guests, door prizes, refreshments and fun for the entire family will be available.

Representatives from several regional colleges and dozens of public and private sector employers will provide information on educational benefits and employment opportunities for veterans and family members at the job fair, which is sponsored by G.I. Go Fund.

Also, veterans will be able to receive free health care screenings and gather information on agencies that provide outreach support to veterans and their families.

For more information on the event, contact June Mayer, acting OEF/OIF/OND program manager, at 973-676-1000, ext. 2369.

For information on the VA New Jersey Health Care System, go to www.newjersey.va.gov.



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young, Visual Information Audio Systems Supervisor, assists Allison Prieto, daughter of New Jersey Army National Guardsman Master Sgt. Joe Prieto, with an M-16A2 on the Engagement Skills Trainer at the Joint Training and Training Development Center on July 13. NJARNG Soldiers led 139 students, ages 11-12, from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education/Counter Drug Leadership Camp through various training lanes at the Center, which is located on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA)

Veterans needed for research study

The VA Pacific Islands Health Care System is looking for veterans who smoke cigarettes to test a program designed to motivate veterans to improve their health by reducing or quitting smoking.

The research program is non-clinical, completely online, and can be incorporate into the busy lives of veterans while they juggle their time with work, family, and other responsibilities.

Participation is confidential and anonymous, and participants will receive up to \$75 in online gift cards for their time and input.

If you have questions regarding this research, contact Patricia J. Jordan, principal investigator, at 808-781-4330.

To participate in the research program, please visit www.hawaii.va.gov/services/Active_Research_Projects.asp.

Veterans Journal available on Internet

The Spring 2011 edition of New Jersey's "Veterans Journal" is now available on the world wide web in a user friendly online version at the following web address: <http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/journal/spring2011/index.html>

The Veterans Journal is intended to serve New Jersey's veterans, their families, friends, and concerned individuals and groups. The journal provides up-to-date information on veterans' events, news, entitlements and services.

Take a look at the new edition today.