

Guardlife

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD

September
2006

NJNG Guarding
Our Borders

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Guardlife

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Cover: Border Watch

Pvt. Wilber Regalado, B Troop, 2-102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance Targeting, Acquisition, scans the New Mexico horizon during his recent tour for Operation Jump Start. Photo by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD.

Inside Cover: Looking South

NJNG members meet with U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents on the U.S.-Mexico border in preparation for New Jersey's participation in Operation Jump Start. Soldiers will man observation posts similar to the one above, utilizing optical and video sensors enabling them to observe individuals crossing the border. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.

TAG's MESSAGE: YOUR HEALTH, THE KEY TO READINESS

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



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (back row, second from left), poses with members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard

contingent that deployed to New Mexico as part of Operation Jump Start. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVA/PAO.

It is every Soldier and Airmen's personal responsibility to stay healthy and be physically fit in order to be ready to answer the call, whether it is in support of the Global War on Terrorism or responding to an emergency in our state.

I am a firm believer that good health is a key factor for our continued success in the many missions we face. I have seen this firsthand during my visits with New Jersey units in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The leadership of the New Jersey Guard shoulders the burden of making sure that you receive the most current training available and that your units are properly equipped. Squarely on your shoulders falls the requirement to maintain your physical, dental and mental health.

With utilization of the National Guard at an all time high, the Department of Defense has stepped up efforts to ensure that every Guardsman returning from a deployment is healthy. The Post-Deployment Health Reassessment, or PDHRA happens several months after a unit returns to home station.

The PDHRA provides education, screening, assessment and access to care for a wide variety of questions and concerns that you may have concerning your health after a deployment. The goal is to identify any health or readjustment issues early to avoid or minimize any negative impact on your deployment status, career or life beyond deployment.

The military has learned from the experiences of past conflicts that the mind can suffer more than the body. We

need to erase the stigma for those who ask for help with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. PTSD is real.

With the mobilization of ever rising numbers of Garden State residents, the State of New Jersey recognized the need for increased emphasis on mental health issues. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is ready to help with a toll-free counseling hotline at 1-866-VETS-NJ4U (838-7654) to provide PTSD assistance.

Also, all members of the Army and Air Guard and their families can take advantage of the resources offered at Military One Source's toll free number 800-342-9647 or by visiting their web site at www.militaryonesource.com.

Commanders, first line supervisors and unit members need to be able to identify the warning signs that one of our Citizen-Soldiers or Airmen is in trouble. Once identified, that member of the Guard team needs to know that we want him or her to get the assistance they need and that we will support them through that process.

At the start of any sports season certain teams are looked upon as potential champions. Time after time a few injuries have dashed those predictions, taking possible champions down to the level of average or worse.

Those that don't prepare, risk failure.

The Guard entered our season five years ago and the battle against those who intend to do us harm continues. Just when the championship will be won is anybody's guess. That is why it is so important that every member of our Home Town Team remains healthy in mind, spirit and body. 🇺🇸

TAG Appoints New State CSM

By New Jersey State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins

When Maj. Gen. Rieth called and advised me that I had been selected as the next State Command Sergeant Major, it was with great pride I accepted the most difficult, challenging and rewarding enlisted position within the State of New Jersey.

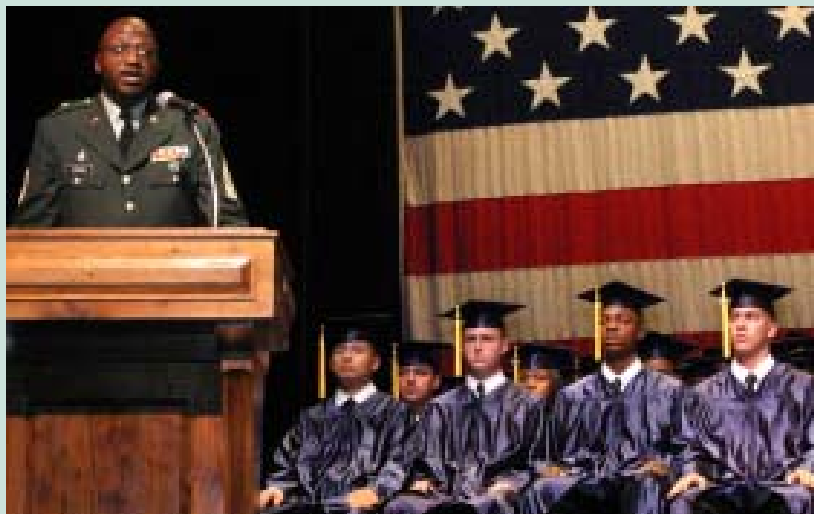
Like my predecessors, as your fifth State Command Sergeant Major, I will continue the tradition of working hard for our joint forces and their families.

Following in the footsteps of Command Sgt. Maj. Adkins is a very difficult task. He was an outstanding Soldier who truly cared for our Soldiers, Airmen and their families. He is the true keeper of the colors and a Soldier who provided strong leadership during our time of need. I am proud to have had him as a senior enlisted advisor and mentor over the years.

Most of you are aware that I had little time to celebrate and/or get comfortable in the position. With an intense transition, including a trip to Afghanistan, my walk-crawl days were quickly over... I am up and running.

As the National Guard transitions, so must we as non-commissioned officers. Every NCO must mentor our Soldiers and Airmen to keep our Guard trained and ready to serve. I will do my part to ensure that we have the right Soldiers in place to run our formations.

After visiting our Soldiers in Afghanistan, I am confident that we have the right Soldier as the senior NCO for the 50th Personnel Service Battalion as Command Sgt. Maj. Vander



New Jersey State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins (left) was the guest speaker at the New Jersey National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy's graduation ceremony on Aug. 26. More than 100 students graduated from the program. Photo by Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD.

Clute accepted the task. The 50th is having a highly successful deployment and continues to put the mark on the wall. Their success is clearly an indication of what good leadership, combined with an outstanding command team can do.

When I came aboard, you immediately saw changes in the Senior NCO ranks at the Major Subordinate Commands. In the near future, there will be more new

faces in units across the state.

As Joint Forces, Army and Air National Guard, we have accomplished a lot when you consider our response to the devastating hurricanes on the Gulf Coast last year and the recently completed deployment of Soldiers and Airmen to the Southwest Border in support of Operation Jump Start.

I am working closely with my counterpart from the Air Guard, Command Chief Master Sgt. Paul M. Gunning and we are working together to make sure that 'Joint Forces' is not just a spoken or written phrase. We want

to insure that 'Joint Forces' means just that, an active partnership between our most important assets, the men and women that wear the green and blue suits. We will continue to leverage our forces and take advantage of the unique skills each entity brings to the mission.

In closing, I am looking forward to working with our leaders in our effort to build and maintain a reliable, relevant and mission ready force. You can count on me to be a strong voice for our enlisted Soldiers, Airmen and their families.

We are working together to make sure that 'Joint Forces' is not just a spoken or written phrase. We want to insure that 'Joint Forces' means just that, an active partnership between our most important assets, the men and women that wear the green and blue suits.

50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team CSM: Implied Duties

By Command Sgt. Maj. William R. Kryscnski

Every enlisted Soldier strives to become a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO). When I talk to young Soldiers about their career goals, inevitably they answer, I want to be a Sergeant or an NCO. They also talk about specific career MOSs and special schools; however, becoming an NCO seems to be their top priority.

It doesn't necessarily mean they want to accept all the responsibilities that go along with the job. So we need to clarify what an NCO's responsibilities and duties really are.

The two most important NCO responsibilities are: mission accomplishment and Soldiers' welfare. NCOs are also responsible for conducting standards based, performance oriented, battle-focused training and providing feedback on proficiency. In addition, Senior NCOs (E-7 and above) also coach Junior NCOs (E-5 and E-6) to master a wide range of individual tasks. Although the definition of an NCO's responsibilities is concise, the job of being an efficient NCO is immense.

The military has many outstanding NCOs who willingly accept their responsibilities and perform their duties extremely efficiently. However, there are also NCOs who do just enough to get by. Soldiers recognize this type of NCO very quickly and morale suffers because of it.

I think the vast majority of NCOs recognize what their responsibilities are. Good NCOs must be able to counsel and coach Soldiers on performance issues and conduct. They must also be consistent in their decisions, enforcing policies and performance.

One duty where most NCOs fail to perform satisfactorily is implied duties. Implied duties often support specified and direct duties, but may not relate to MOS and may not be written. They're duties that improve the quality of the job and help keep the unit functioning at an optimum level. In most cases these duties depend on individual initiative. They improve the work environment and motivate Soldiers to perform because they want to, not because they have to.

Let me tell you what I feel are some "Implied duties" of an NCO.

- Lead by example, be someone that Soldiers want to emulate.
- Enforce uniform, appearance and performance standards



without exception.

- Ensure new Soldiers are properly welcomed into your Unit. Have a sponsor contact a new Soldier prior to drill.
- Let Soldiers know your expectations.
- Conduct After Action Reviews (AARs), focus on learning rather than placing blame for mistakes.
- Know your Soldiers' jobs, this will gain their respect.
- Observe Soldiers' performance; make on-the-spot corrections or adjustments to improve Soldiers performance.
- Be accessible, let your Soldiers know they can contact you on and off duty.
- Counsel Soldiers in private on performance in writing, always maintain a counseling file.

- Give Soldiers added responsibilities. This will build character and leadership skills.
- Create competition. This will enhance camaraderie and improve morale.
- Attend all meetings so you can better plan your mission.
- Know your Soldiers' personalities and treat them fairly.
- Ensure all Soldiers know how the Enlisted Promotions System (EPS) works. Also, make sure your Soldiers are reviewing their 4100 worksheet.
- Ensure your Soldiers have school opportunities.

These are just a few implied duties of an NCO that come to mind. We can probably come up with a hundred more. The point is how many of these implied duties that I have pointed out are you doing now? If you can honestly say that you are doing most of these implied duties, then you are doing a good job. However, if your answer is "None," then you need to make a change.

The job of an NCO is probably the most important job in the military. In order to gain the respect and confidence of your Soldiers you need to display the individual initiative to master the "Implied duties." Field Manual 7-22.7 is the Non-commissioned Officer Guide, or the NCO Handbook. Keep it with you at all times and read it to help enhance your performance.

Many people measure success in the military and in life by awards or finishing first in competitions. Being successful is very simple; set goals for yourself; try your hardest to accomplish those goals; overcome obstacles along the way and continue to move toward your goal. If you do this, then you have been a success. 🇺🇸

CE COOKS AT SILVER FLAG

Story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/P4



"Now it's our turn."

That was one of the comments overheard when the 52 members of the 177th Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron and 13 Services Flight Guardsmen boarded a C-130 and deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for a Silver Flag Exercise.

From July 15 until July 22, the 177th along with the Civil Engineers from other Guard and active-duty Air Force units received four days of contingency training – training geared toward deploying to a hostile environment.

"The equipment and instruction provided by the Cadre was exceptional," stated Chief Master Sgt. Donald E. Harris, NCOIC Civil Engineering. "Everyone got the opportunity for hands-on training on equipment they would see in a deployed location."

All Guard, Reserve and Active-Duty Civil Engineer units must attend a Silver Flag Exercise every 45 months to be tested on their war skills by the 823rd RED HORSE (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers) to ensure that they are worldwide deployable.

One thing that had changed was the involvement of non-CE units. "There were active-duty communications, finance and contracting shops involved in the exercise," noted Maj. James Layton Jr., 177th CE Commander. "This was a reflection of the real world where previous Silver Flag exercises treated CE and Services as working by themselves, when in reality it is just the opposite."

On War Day, beginning at 5 a.m. and ending 15 hours later, every major Civil Engineer function was exercised. It also became an endurance test as well; almost everyone spent at least three hours in their chem gear while the temperatures were in the high 80's.

While Explosive Ordnance Disposal cleared and removed all unexploded bombs, Readiness established a perimeter and performed chemical testing to determine if the site was contaminated. In turn Site Development laid out the entire base camp so all the other sections knew where the different equipment needed to be placed on the airfield and Structures troops built numerous types of Small Shelter System tents to include warehouse size structures. Next, the Utilities Airmen installed the water purification unit, the shower and latrine facilities and performed pipeline repairs to the base fuel supply system.

The Power Production team operated and maintained the different emergency generators needed to provide power to the base. They also installed a Mobile Aircraft Arresting System on the airfield to allow fighter aircraft to



177th Liquid Fuels Airmen repair a fuel line in 80 plus degree heat. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert Campbell, 823RED HORSE.

recover. Electrical workers ran all the primary and secondary cabling and switch gear required to power the facilities including the Airfield Lighting System which allows the planes to land at night, while the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Airmen installed air conditioning and set-up the refrigeration in the dining facility and Morgue.

Meanwhile the Heavy Equipment folks cleared and filled two bomb craters on the airfield – no easy task involving front end loaders, graders, rollers, dump trucks, a water truck and sweepers.

The Firefighters performed aircrew extractions and extinguished numerous aircraft fires.

The 13 Services Flight Airmen were tasked with developing a lodging plan for the 190 personnel involved in War Day; setting up and running the dining facility and food preparation area; operating a Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent; and collecting and processing remains.

Typical of the comments made by the 823rd RED HORSE was the statement: "They completed each step with ease quickly and efficiently. They finished well before the time was up. You can tell this was well-taught in Home Station training."

"It used to be new but now with having so many guys deployed to Iraq and Diego Garcia this has become old school to us now," stated Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Maurer, Operations NCOIC, 177th Civil Engineer Squadron. "We are a lot more familiar with it, so it's to the point where some of us can go to the schoolhouse and start teaching this stuff." 🇺🇸

NEW JERSEY SETS STANDARD FOR OPERATION JUMP START



Photos and story by Capt. Jon Powers, 444MPAD

B Troop, 2nd Battalion, 102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target, Acquisition conduct classes outdoors while stationed

in Las Playas, N.M. The rotation to the border observation sites allowed for unit training and rest between shifts.

More than 200 Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery; 2nd Battalion, the 102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target, Acquisition and the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry along with medical support from Army and Air Guard units volunteered for Operation Jump Start (OJS) in New Mexico, an alternative to the traditional annual training.

From July 21 to August 10, New Jersey provided the first rotational unit for OJS, and as the first, set the standard for other states to follow. While some Soldiers and Airmen stayed for two weeks in Deming, others remained for the full three weeks in Las Playas.

During that time, the Garden State contingent supported the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) effort at established sites as the CBP's "eyes and ears" in the "Boot Heel" of New Mexico (so named for its shape on a map). The Soldiers served on Entry Identification Teams - a mix of personnel, technology and infrastructure providing the CBP more flexibility to apprehend undocumented aliens and drug runners in their effort to improve the quality of life in nearby communities.

The Boot Heel region has a Jekyll and Hyde quality. In the daytime it is sweltering and dead. Only at night does the desert turn cool and alive. A single constant remained, the innumerable footprints from the people trying to illegally

enter the United States. While every Soldier has his own story, these two represent the full spectrum of experiences Task Force New Jersey encountered. One was an active and thrilling pursuit while the other was a lesson on humanity in the framework of duty.

First Lieutenant Vincent Tirri had just begun his shift, "I thought to myself: Oh man, this may be a boring night. Then there they were." Through the FLIR (forward looking infra-red) Tirri saw more than a dozen figures in the illuminated green monitor. The figures on the screen were at least 2,000 meters away. "They looked just like troops in the simulator marching in a line."

"I called the next site with the SINGARS radio and asked them to relay the message," 1st Lt. Chung Lee recalled. Soon, a CBP officer responded and confirmed that the images on the FLIR were people and immediately called for back-up.

The rolling terrain complicated the effort. "We would lose them, pick them up and lose them again as they moved through the hills, they were moving quick," said Tirri. Highway 9, a few miles north of where the UDAs were spotted, offered the chance at escape in a waiting automobile or to cross the road and disappear in terrain rugged enough to hide from both the FLIR and the CBP.

Several CBP officers arrived and parked their trucks

I can't get the look on their faces out of my mind, the sadness that they had to go home – home to nothing. Pfc. Isaias Castillo



First Lieutenant Vincent Tirri, right, from the 2-102nd RSTA discusses a suspicious dust cloud with Senior Border Patrol Agent Adrian Miranda at one of the entry identification sites manned by N.J. Army Guard Soldiers. Tirri was part of the shift that identified 19 undocumented aliens and assisted Border Protection Agents in their detention.

along the highway. Lee continued guiding them onto the image – and then the ghostly green figures were gone.

“We lost them for too long so I moved to a hilltop about 400 meters away,” said Tirri. He and the officer resumed the search using the command laser unit, to recognize the thermal patterns of a human. Lee remained at the FLIR and cooperated with Spc. Anthony Larobina, at a different site, to find the group very near Highway 9.

Now the CBP officers got out of their trucks and began searching acres of desert without success. It was too dark to see anyone. Finally, one of the officers radioed he had found some boot prints and another said he had heard footsteps running south. With the coordinated instructions from the three sites the CBP officers were guided to 19 UDAs hiding in a gully, almost invisible from a distance – except to the military systems used to detect them.

Pfc. Isaias Castillo and Staff Sgt. Gene Kuhar also had an eventful shift, yet completely different from Tirri and Lee. In the hours after sunrise a single man approached their site and asked for help.

“I noticed a man behind us, about 100 yards away walking up the road ... I knew right away who he was, he was muddy, wet and looked exhausted.” Kuhar informed CBP about the contact. The previous day's rain created problems for everyone. “Because of the rain the Border Patrol had to drive to a different point close by and walk to us.”

Speaking Spanish, Castillo ordered the man to stop a safe distance away. “I asked him who he was and what he was doing, he immediately told me he was with a group of people and they needed help. ”The man then signaled to them and like gophers from their holes more than 20 people emerged from the brush. Castillo ordered the group to approach in a single file and face away from the site. Abandoned by their “Coyote” - the human trafficker they paid to lead them into the US - they wandered the desert, lost throughout the night. The Soldiers offered water to the group and waited for the CBP to come and pick them up. Many in the group expressed their thanks for the kindness. “They had no idea where they were, they found a road and followed it, and that brought them to us,” said Castillo. “It was obvious how tired they were, I can't get the look on their faces out of my mind, the sadness that they had to go home – home to nothing.”

“After being down there, seeing that end of the problem, the struggle they go through to get here and realizing they paid their life savings to do it, I understand why they do it but I still don't agree with it,” reflected Kuhar.

Thus more than three dozen people were returned to Mexico, and here is the last contradiction of OJS, the way success is measured. Although it would seem that the numbers of UDAs spotted and turned over to the Border patrol officers stand as the marker of success, the true success lays in the quiet night when Soldiers saw no one at all. The visible deterrence keeping the desert as it should be – deserted. ☹



Sgt. Carlos Sierra (left) using the command laser unit and Pvt. Wilber Regalado (right) with binoculars scan the desert from their vantage point on an Avenger HUMVEE.

FROM OKLAHOMA TO SEA GIRT, THE BAND PLAYS ON...

Photo and story by Lt. Col. James Garcia, NJDMAVA/PAO

Just returning from a unique Annual Training period in Oklahoma the New Jersey Army National Guard's 63rd Army Band played on despite rain at their home station at Sea Girt.

The weather forced the public concert to be moved indoors, as the more than 40 musicians showed diverse talents playing a wide selection of musical styles from classic...to jazz...to rock.

"The band is one of the best jobs in the military, because we get to do something we love to do, all the time," observed Chief Warrant Officer 2 Durinda Garrison, bandmaster and commander of the 63rd. "We get to go out and make people happy and do our mission on a regular basis."

When the rock ensemble ripped into Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" you suddenly realize that every member of the audience - young and old - is feeling the groove and tapping their feet. All thoughts of what a traditional Army Band should look and sound like are cast aside when you hear



Woodwinds (front to back) Spc. Jamie Walsh, Staff Sgt. Marc Winans and Sgt. Christine Crawford perform at Sea Girt.

a jazzy sax solo or see two guitarists brandishing Fender Stratocasters - the same guitar used by such rock legends as Eric Clapton and the late Stevie Ray Vaughn.

According to Garrison, "the 63rd performs throughout New Jersey playing summer concerts, parades, supporting military ceremonies, and performing for the Governor and other dignitaries."

The band doesn't just perform in-state; it recently completed Annual Training at Fort Sill, Okla. While there, they played Morale, Welfare and Recreation concerts, Basic Combat Training graduations and even a Marine Corps change-of-command ceremony. Garrison noted that this was the first time the entire unit left the state for annual training.

Speaking about what the future holds in store, she also added a bit of good news for aspiring instrumentalists: the band is always looking for musicians.

OCS Class Commissions 12 Second Lieutenants



Officer Candidates (l-r) Sarah B. Bernal (recipient of the Honor Graduate - #2 In Class Standing Award), Jon Bryceland and Christopher J. D'Alessandro along with nine others were sworn in as second lieutenants

in the New Jersey Army National Guard at National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt on June 25. This year's Distinguished Graduate - #1 In Class, the National Guard Association of New Jersey Distinguished Graduate and the Association of the United States Army Distinguished Graduates awards went to 2nd Lt. Gregg Livermore. The lieutenants were assigned to various New Jersey Army National Guard units including the 250th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation (Air Assault); 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry and the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery. This class was the 49th group of candidates to be commissioned through the 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) and joins the ranks of 2,795 OCS graduates since the program's inception in 1957. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

NJNG Prepares For Next Hurricane

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

From Guantanamo to the Sinai, from Iraq to Afghanistan and from New Orleans to the Southwest Border, the New Jersey National Guard has been a presence around the world during the last few years. However, recent flooding in the Delaware Valley area has brought home the fact that the Guard is just as important when performing its state mission, which is ensuring the safety of New Jersey citizens.

On May 20, members of the NJNG Aviation Task Force participated in a state-run emergency rescue exercise that included federal, state and private sector aviation personnel. The event, which took place at the Atlantic City International Airport's Emergency Operations Center, was coordinated by the State Exercise Support Team, part of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, and involved helicopters from the New Jersey National Guard, the New Jersey State Police, the U.S. Coast Guard and civilian agencies.

The simulated exercise scenario assumed that a hurricane had struck Cape May County, where a number of civilians had refused to heed warnings to evacuate their homes. The helicopters were used to transport medical personnel and to rescue victims from the disaster scene. In addition, a communications system designed to coordi-



Sgt. Zbigniew Mroczkowski, Aviation Task Force, attaches the cable of a lift basket to a UH-60A Blackhawk during the Hurricane Readiness Exercise at Atlantic City International Airport.

nate radio traffic between the participants was tested.

The Guard provided one UH-60 Blackhawk and two OH-58 Kiowa helicopters for the exercise. The four-seat Kiowas were used to ferry emergency personnel to simulated disaster scenes, while the larger Blackhawk moved large payloads of equipment or personnel as the mission dictated.

"New Jersey's security and preparedness depend on partnerships that unite the public and private sectors, and all levels of government," said Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Richard L. Cañas. "With this exercise we are testing and enhancing our ability to work together during a real emergency."

Col. Jorge Martinez, NJNG State Aviation Officer, echoed those thoughts. "This exercise is another step in the ongoing cooperation between the State Police, State Office of Emergency Management and the New Jersey National Guard to better support the Governor and protect our state and nation during times of emergency."

On Aug. 7, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs leadership held a follow-up meeting with the federal leadership to discuss further coordination in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.



A United States Coast Guard crewmember alerts helicopters to the location of a victim during the exercise.

New Jersey And Albania: Making History Together

Story by Maj. Judie Marranco, International Affairs Officer, National Guard State Partnership Program



Albanian Soldiers observing a Military Police platoon sergeant mobilizing at Fort Dix. Pictured (l-r) Sgt. Lir Nanaj, Capt. Elton Bregu, Lt. Gazmir Pepa and Sgt. 1st Class Alketa Ktona. Photo by Master Sgt. Joseph V. Tatem, JFHQ-NJ.

The National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) started in 1993 with the demise of communism and the Soviet Union. SPP links states with partner countries; hence, the partnership of New Jersey and the Republic of Albania. Because we are the National Guard, we offer civilian-military expertise distinguishing ourselves from the active Armed Forces. Soldiers and Airmen apply both military and civilian skills to foster democracy, encourage economic development and promote regional cooperation and stability.

For four weeks this summer, four groups from the Albanian Armed Forces received familiarization in their fields and experienced very profound cultural exchanges. The majority of these visitors had never been to the United States and a few had never even been out of their country.

The first group was from the Albanian Air Force, which has recently transitioned from fixed wing to rotary wing aircraft, has observation and utility Helicopters. Their focus was on aircraft maintenance. These Maintenance Officers were hosted by Col. Jorge Martinez and the staff of the Aviation Flight Facility in West Trenton. In an e-mail to the Albanian Air Force Executive Officer Martinez writes "It was very pleasing and rewarding how our professionals communicated and got along. Lt. Col. John Scannell's team was very impressed with their (Albanian) counterparts and truly enjoyed having spent the time showing our facilities, records

and procedures. Most important, our fellow soldiers did an outstanding job in addressing current issues with an eye on the future of our programs."

The second group was hosted by Col. Jim Grant and the staff of the National Guard Joint Training and Training Development Center. This event focused on Tactical Operations Center Simulations. Lt. Col. Hysen Hoxhalli, Albanian Army General Staff, Planning Directorate, sent a thank you e-mail that reads in part, "We had a lot of discussions, open ideas and sharing experiences. We felt ourselves like at home during those days...We recognize your contribution and the support of the whole National Guard of N.J. as a twin Army of the Albanian Armed Forces...We do believe that your experience and your achievements will help us in designing similar facilities, techniques and procedures for training our units." It was also mentioned that their visit to Ground Zero was most memorable and will remain in their hearts.

The third group was from Albania's Rapid Reaction Brigade (RRB), which is the nucleus of Albania's land forces, and was hosted by Lt. Col. Nick Chimienti and the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry. The Albanian team observed air mobile training and infantry lanes training which included company attack. Lanes are designed to assist in developing, sustaining, and evaluating a unit's mission proficiency. They are also paramount to the success of the RRB's mission. Chimienti made these three officers honorary Soldiers of the 113th and presented them with regimental crossed-rifles and the battalion crest.

The fourth group was co-hosted by State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins and Master Sgt. Joe Tatem of the Army Guard's Operations and Training Directorate. This event focused on Senior Non-Commissioned Officer duties and responsibilities. The primary objective for Albania's NCO ranks is to produce a professional, Western-type NCO Corps that can assume more responsibility in the day-to-day operations. The event used subject matter experts ranging from the Judge Advocate General, Training, Logistics, Surface Maintenance, Antiterrorism, and Family Support culminating with a discussion with the State CSM.

To the Albanians, the State Partnership Program is an opportunity for their military to contribute to coalition operations throughout the region and to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are Albania's Goodwill Ambassadors. We're not just making history together, we're making a difference. 🇺🇸

114th Takes Aim At FIG

Photos and story by Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD



Drawing a bead during squad-level training at Fort Indiantown Gap.

An Army unit is only as strong as its most unprepared Soldier; if that one person fails in his or her duties, it could spell disaster for the entire mission.

In an effort to eliminate any such weak links, the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry spent their Annual Training practicing squad-level infantry tactics at Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Pa.

More than 200 Soldiers from the 114th and the 250th Forward Support Battalion returned to the basics of Soldiering, honing squad level skills such as Movement to Contact, Deliberate Attack, Conduct a Presence Patrol, and Enter and Clear a Building. They also shot their weapons at the M203, M16, and reflexive-fire ranges, and took part in an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

The objective of the training, according to Capt. Rich Karcher, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, was to educate the younger, lower-ranking and

Due to the fact that we're squad level and we're going to light, Fort Indiantown Gap suits our needs. They're all about training.

Capt. Rich Karcher

less-experienced Soldiers – those who typically form a squad – by teaching them basic techniques using the “crawl, walk, run” method.

“It’s a refresher,” said Pvt. Christian Pettit, an infantryman participating in his first AT. “We’re learning new stuff, little extra details.”

“It’s getting more in-depth,” added Pvt. Christopher Allen, who explained that he is getting to practice, for the first time in a real-world environment, what he learned in school.

Acting as Observer/Controllers (O/Cs) for the training at FIG were the unit’s platoon leaders and platoon sergeants. Though not standard procedure to have a unit O/C its own training, it allowed the platoon-level officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) to observe their squads and mentor their squad leaders.

Although the unit is scheduled to train each year at Fort Drum, FIG has been the training area of choice for the past four years. It’s especially appropriate this year, explained Karcher, as the unit is transforming from heavy infantry to light infantry. The net result of that transformation will be the loss of one company and all track vehicles.

“Due to the fact that we’re squad level and we’re going to light, Fort Indiantown Gap suits our needs,” Karcher said. “They’re all about training.”

The same could be said of the Soldiers of the 114th.



Squad Leader Sgt. James Scanlan (left) and Cpl. Francis Baran (right) plan tactics.

108th Medics Deploy To Iraq

By Senior Airman Robbie Finley, 108ARW/PA



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Long (far left) and members of the Expeditionary Medical Support unit remove a patient from an Army UH-60 helicopter. Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Jennifer Long, 108ARW/MG.

The 108th Medical Group, part of the 108th Air Refueling Wing, has deployed numerous personnel in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Long, a medical technician with the Med Group, spent four months in Iraq, where she assisted in administering medical aide to injured U.S. personnel alongside Staff Sgt. Bridget Fitzsimmons, another Med Group member.

In Iraq, Long gave immunizations, screened sick call patients, ran test labs, administered first aide, went out on ambulance calls, assisted in traumas, taught first aid classes to civilians, headed up the flight line driving program for all Army and Air Force personnel, and sent and received patients through air evacuations and medical evacuations.

"I gave some first aide classes to civilian contractors, and we treated a lot of Army and civilian personnel," she said.

Long had previously spent a year in Iraq while serving in the New Jersey Army National Guard. This time around, she was in a different branch of the National Guard, but her duties were the same.

While Long was busy in Iraq, her coworker Sergeant Fitzsimmons was sent to Pakistan for two months to assist those injured by the earthquake. She ended up receiving an award for her efforts in Pakistan.

"Bridget is a great medic, and did great things out

there," Long said. Despite the dangers and stress of working in a war zone, Long found some things that she could appreciate.

The best part of the deployment was helping to heal the soldiers, and seeing much less serious injuries this time around, Sergeant Long said, adding that they just wanted to go and do their job, and help serve the soldiers and Airmen over there.

While she received a rewarding feeling from doing her job, the whole reason for her job was what she identified as the worst part of the deployment. "That was seeing the terrible injuries to such young, healthy and brave people."

Long worked with a variety of military members at the base's

Expeditionary Medical Support, where the injured were first received.

"We had an Army liaison working with us at EMEDS, and for a short time we had a Navy Corpsmen filling in some shifts with us," she said.

During her free time, Sergeant Long kept active, participating in events with personnel from other branches of the military. "I ran some five and 10K's with people from the other branches," she said.

While Long's deployment, another Med Group team had already gone and come back since then.



Staff Sergeants' Bridget Fitzsimmons and Jennifer Long (both in PT gear) pose after target practice on the firing range.

NEW PROGRAM TO CREATE HOME-GROWN WARRANT OFFICERS

By Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444MPAD

National Guard Soldiers are an indispensable part of today's fighting force, but one undeniable difference between these Citizen-Soldiers and their active-duty counterparts is a relative lack of training time.

Reserve-Component service members typically serve one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer, often while holding a full-time civilian job; Soldiers on active duty have the entire year to train and work in their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).

With that discrepancy in mind, the Army has created the Warrant Officer Candidate School – Reserve Component (WOCS – RC). Open to National Guard and Reserve service members, this nine-month course offers an alternative to the traditional 36-day warrant officer course at Fort Rucker, Ala.

"It's designed for that part-time Soldier who really can't afford to get away from his full-time job," explained Chief Warrant Officer 5 Al Curving, Command Chief Warrant Officer for the New Jersey Army National Guard. Curving also noted that only technical-service warrant officer candidates can attend the WOCS – RC. Aviation warrant officer candidates are still required to complete the full-time course at Fort Rucker.

WOCS – RC is separated into three phases. Phase One consists of distance learning and usually takes about three months to complete. Students can access the coursework on their home computers or from local distance-learning centers.

Phase Two is held during five drill weekends at one of 13 regional training institutes where students learn about topics such as operations, military history and leadership. Soldiers from New Jersey can attend Phase-Two training at Camp Rell, Conn., or Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Finally, students spend Phase Three at Camp Atterbury,

Ind., for a two-week Field Training Exercise to test their physical and mental abilities, as well as their warrior and leadership skills and ends with a six-mile tactical road march.

The first WOCS – RC class (06-500) began in January, and consists of approximately 150 National Guard and 20 Reserve students – including two New Jersey National Guard Soldiers. They are scheduled to graduate Sept. 30. "We're now recruiting for class 07-500, which will start Oct. 1," said Curving.

Recruiting is a key element of this new course, as the National Guard is only slightly above 50-percent strength in technical-service warrant officers. And out of that group, two-thirds are retirement-eligible, according to Curving.

This new course, plus incentives such as a \$10,000 bonus and a possible 8 to 11-percent pay raise in April 2007, is raising hopes that a new, young crop of warrant officers will take the reigns from their aging predecessors.

Of course, not everyone can sign up for WOCS – RC. Candidates must have at least six to eight years time-in-service, with 18- to 24-months supervisory experience preferable. They must also hold an MOS that falls under one of the 17 warrant officer-eligible branches. Other requirements include being between the ages of 18 and 46, scoring a 110 or higher on the General Aptitude Area Test, being a U.S. citizen, and passing the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Also, not every Soldier will want to become a warrant officer.

"If you want to lead troops, you shouldn't become a warrant officer," warned Curving, who explained that the warrant officer's role is that of a subject-matter expert who supports his or her commander. Being a warrant officer is also very hands-on, which isn't true for officers and higher-ranking noncommissioned officers (NCOs).

"The Soldiers need to identify where they can do the greatest good for themselves and the Army," said Curving.

Anyone interested in more information about the next WOCS – RC class should call Chief Warrant Officer 2 Glenn Eckenrode at 562-0721 or send e-mail to glenn.eckenrode@us.army.mil.



50th Finance Overcomes Obstacles

Photos and story by Spc. William Addison, 444MPAD



Members of the 50th Finance Battalion came to Fort Dix in July for a unique field training exercise (FTX). Their mission was to secure two buildings and set up a military pay station in a forward position.

The problem is, they had to do this in the most hostile of conditions, under enemy fire, in an area littered with mines and Improvised Explosive Devices.

The Battalion is not wholly unfamiliar with this type of scenario as the unit spent one year in Iraq facing such obstacles.

"We're trying to recreate the conditions they encountered in Iraq," said Maj. Christopher Eads, executive officer

"I do expect them to be surprised even though they have run across this before. We're gonna hit them with a lot more than they've ever been hit with out in Iraq," he said.



Sgt. 1st Class Fran Watson, 350th Finance, takes up a defensive position during the 50th Finance Battalion's Field Training Exercise at Fort Dix.



Sgt. 1st Class David DeMarco (front), Headquarters, 50th Finance Battalion counts the cash delivered by Pfc. Jamie Harvey (back), 350th Finance Detachment.

"Anytime they moved out on a convoy mission to deliver funds to contractors and other units, and when they did that they encountered enemy fire, either IEDs, small-arms fire, sniper fire, mortar fire, and this is pretty close to that," said Lt. Col. Angelo Capolupo, battalion commander.

While the unit never had to secure their own areas in Iraq and the training seems a bit over the top for a finance unit, the FTX did prepared the Soldiers to be ready for any scenario.

"The bottom line is we're trying to challenge our troops and take it to the limit on this in the event," said Capolupo.

While the Army always tries to keep training as realistic and true-to-life as possible, there are certain factors that will never echo the real thing, according to Sgt. 1st Class David DeMarco, 50th Finance Headquarters Detachment sergeant and leader of the opposition forces.

"It was 90-percent true," said DeMarco. "The only reason I say 90 percent is this scenario is missing a ton of Iraqi civilians that would actually be in the area. There are a lot of little factors, like children running up to Soldiers, and animals. Just the everyday things that distract troops and can get in the way of a mission."

The training the 50th Finance performed is designed to get the Soldiers to react instinctively in spite of distractions. "They cleared the two buildings, had five casualties, consolidated, called their nine lines in, got their wounded out, got reorganized, took the buildings and conducted their pay missions," added DeMarco.

Overall, the 50th Finance was satisfied with their performance including De Marco. "We need to iron some corners out, no doubt, but that's what training's about and that's what we do."

Infantry Follows Transformation

Photo and story by Sgt. 1st Class David Moore, JFHQ/PA



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry continued down the road of transformation while on Annual Training this year at Fort Dix as they evolve from a mechanized force to light fighters.

In those 15 days with some of the hottest and rainiest weather in mid-July, Soldiers completed their various tasks, drills and lanes training.

Capt. John James of Operations said while Soldiers focused on their training for movement to contact the enemy, marksmanship, simulation training with coalition forces, and future Army technologies, emphasis was placed on the Soldiers' physical conditioning.

"We have these Soldiers for 15 days, so it is the command's intent to build up their physical conditioning during this period," explained James.

Capt. Dennis Stiles, Battalion designer and controller for this year's situational training exercise, created three lanes for Soldiers to train that ranged from 2,000 to 6,000 yards through the densely wooded areas of the installation. Soldiers conducted training mounted, as well as dismounted.

Stiles explained that during the training year leading up to the annual training period, Soldiers conducted individual task training that led up to such collective tasks as movement-to-contact with an enemy and moved into air

assault operations conducted by the Guard's 150th Aviation (Air Assault). Many of the aviation unit members on the ground were Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans. Infantry Soldiers were instructed on how operations work when aviators conduct their air assault missions. For example, flight paths and possibly false unit insertions may be critical to an operation. As part of the training, mortar and anti-armor teams were supporting the infantry Soldiers moving through the woods.

The training was to prepare for the Army Training and Evaluation Program at the platoon level.

"This training is pivotal for the National Guard's Transformation Plan from a mechanized infantry to a light infantry unit," noted Stiles.

As Soldiers prepare to move through their lane for an enemy contact mission, a team begins to set-up a 360-degree security, while others begin to plan using a sand table for the unit movement and maneuver areas. Once the plan is complete, the group conducts a rehearsal and then links up with their respective team to move through the lane.

"This year's training offers a good perspective of what the future infantry Guard force will look like, as well as how it will operate. All the training has been great and it certainly established unit cohesion," Sgt. Nick Colletti, Delta Company, said.

News Guard Families Can Use

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

Where To Get Family ID Cards

The Department of Defense (DoD), through the Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS), issues member's, eligible dependents and other eligible individuals a distinct identification card (ID) authorizing them to receive Uniformed Services' benefits and privileges.

Normally, Guard family members and other dependents receive a DD Form 1173-1, the DoD Guard and Reserve Dependent ID Card (red). While these cards do not authorize member's eligibility for medical benefits and commissary privileges, they will assist Guard and Reserve family members in accessing these privileges when accompanied by a copy of the service member's orders to active duty. The cards do authorize access to exchange and certain morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) privileges.

The DD Form 1173-1 also serves as proof that these individuals have been pre-enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS). This is an important first step in obtaining family member and dependent medical treatment when the service member is called to active duty for 31 consecutive days or more.

When the service member is called to active duty for more than 30 days, part of the process for entry on active duty should be the completion of a DD Form 1172, Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card DEERS Enrollment for each eligible family member and legal dependent. This application, along with the surrender of the DD Form 1173-1, will allow family members and dependents to receive the DD Form 1173 (tan) card. These cards will authorize appropriate medical, commissary, exchange and MWR benefits and privileges for the period of active duty specified on the members' orders.

Family members and eligible dependents are required to report to a RAPIDS ID Card issuing site in order to be issued the appropriate ID Card. Lists of RAPID Sites are included below. Be sure to call ahead to confirm specific requirements, documentation and hours of operation.

RAPIDS ID Card Issuing Sites In New Jersey:

US Army, Picatinny (973) 724-4315/4700

By Appointment Only:

US Navy, Colts Neck (908) 886-2444/2574

McGuire Air Force Base, Wrightstown (609) 754-2310

Walk-In:

US Coast Guard, Cape May (609) 898-6340; US Navy, Lakehurst (732) 532-4694; Fort Dix, (609) 562-2177; New Jersey National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters – New Jersey (609) 562-0762 and Fort Monmouth (732) 532-4694.

For additional information logon to <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites/>

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Guard Family Action Plan

GFAP identifies issues of concern to Guard Members, their Families, and Retirees. The Plan also determines actions necessary to resolve issues and determine actions at the State, National Guard Bureau and Department of the Army or Department of the Air Force levels.

You can submit an issue by visiting www.gfap.org and log in, click Issue Submission, then write and submit your issue. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Durling in the Family Programs office at (609) 562-0739.

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DoD Extends Assistance To Severely Injured

By Lt. Col. James Garcia, NJDMAVA/PAO

The Department of Defense has opened the Military Severely Injured Center, a 24/7 service to help severely injured service members find jobs and answer questions they and their families might have.

The Military Severely Injured Center is a family support service tailored to meet a service member's unique needs during recovery and rehabilitation. The Center connects eligible individuals to a multitude of services: financial resources; education, training and job placement; home, transportation and workplace accommodations; and personal, couple and family issues coun-

seling. Its mission is to expedite processes, help families, and alleviate complicated road blocks for severely injured

service members. The Center serves military members and veterans who suffer severe physical or mental wounds from war. Soldiers and airmen who contact the center may be referred to other support components such as the Army

Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) or the Air Force Palace HART (Helping Airmen Recover Together), respectively.

For more information, call the center at 1-888-774-1361 or e-mail at severelyinjured@militaryonesource.com. ☎

To provide "seamless, centralized support – for as long as it takes – to make sure that injured service members and their families achieve the highest level of functioning and quality of life."



Guardmembers, become A Recruiting Assistant and for every person you recruit into the New Jersey Army or Air National Guard you earn \$2,000. Logon to <http://guardrecruitingassistant.com/> pick your branch of service, fill out the application and you are on your way to helping someone make a great career choice and some serious cash for yourself.



SEMINAR EMPHASIZES DIVERSITY BENEFITS

By Capt. Barbara G. Brown-Wilson, State Diversity Officer

Forty-seven Soldiers and Airmen received diversity training at the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Diversity Training Seminar held June 3 and 4.

The majority of the attendees were members of the New Jersey Army National Guard Diversity Committee, who are primary and alternate representatives responsible for implementing the goals of the TAG's Diversity Program. The seminar was designed to inform participants of the various aspects of diversity and how it relates to the Guard's mission readiness. The training was also an opportunity to prepare Diversity Committee members for their upcoming tasks on the committee.

Dr. Samuel Betances, the seminar's guest speaker, covered a variety of topics, such as faulty assumptions about diversity, how diversity promotes mission readiness, demographic realities impacting the mission, and the differences between equal opportunity and diversity and how the two complement each other. He also engaged participants to hear his message and challenged them to make changes based on what they learned. His topics generated discussions during and after the seminar.

"Dr. Betances was very passionate about his work," commented Sgt. Jason Peters, Primary Representative, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 102nd Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Acquisition Targeting. "He brought out that passion to make his seminar very interesting and informative."

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth delivered the closing remarks. He spoke of the number of successes New Jersey has made in diversity including the Command Diversity Directive, which was followed by a Diversity Policy Letter in 2004, as well as the creation of a full-time Diversity Officer at the State Headquarters to supervise the Program with Brig. Gen. Charles A. Harvey Jr, as the Chairman of the Diversity Committee. In addition, Maj. Gen. Rieth stressed the need to "take every opportunity to develop and mentor our future leaders, officers and enlisted, who will come from the communities that we serve. It is the right thing to do."

"The training was great," stated Spc. Marjorie Terilus, Primary Representative, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation (Air Assault). "I would pay out of my own pocket to hear him speak."

108TH ORI, BEST SEEN TO DATE

By the 108th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office



Defending the line: 108th Airmen defend the flightline during a simulated enemy attack. Photo courtesy 108ARW/PA.

After countless weeks of meetings, planning sessions, and Load Exercises/Operational Readiness Exercises, the results came back during the Aug. 10 IG out-brief in the form of strong accolades from Col. Stan Dougherty, the Inspector General Team Chief, and his Air Mobility Command IG team. During the briefing, more than 350 personnel applauded and cheered, as statements of “best seen to date” and “never seen before” peppered the narrators’ speech.

The 108th Air Refueling Wing received an Excellent rating for its execution of Operational Plan 8044; Satisfactory rating for the Operational Readiness Inspection; and Satisfactory for the four Special Interest Items by the IG team during the ORI held July 20-29. Many sections on the IG’s list received high ratings, such as Aircrew Generation, and Command and Control, who received Excellent ratings, as well as CP Controller Testing, Aircrew Testing and Intelligence, all of which received Outstanding ratings.

“Admirable wing leadership directed an effective unit generation, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the wing’s OPLAN 8044 mission taskings and procedures,” observed Dougherty.

Under a simulated wartime environment staged at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich., the 108th ARW was tested in every aspect imaginable for the ORI, which occurs once every five years. The IG team, made up of more than twenty Airmen from Scott AFB, Ill., played the role of inspector and simulated enemy during the week-long exercise.

The Aircrew Generation was praised by the IG for its ability to generate 12 aircrews and two aircrafts ahead of schedule, in addition to their ability to maintain control of

the crew throughout the generation process, and their “exceptional knowledge” of OPLAN 8044. Life Support also received accolades for their ability to “maintain and issue Aircrew Chemical Defense Ensembles and providing solid training to aircrews.”

Command Post controllers, who received an Excellent rating under the Mission Support category, were recognized for “demonstrating strong leadership and effectively communicating directives,” as well as “ensuring a timely response to all OPLAN 8044 mission taskings.”

The IG team was also impressed with the Crisis Action Team personnel, noting that the CAT personnel “maintained adequate direction of aircraft, aircrew generation, and mission support activities throughout the inspection,” adding that they “effectively monitored generations activities and alert force actions in response to the United States Strategic Command taskings and Emergency Action Messages.”

Many unit members were individually recognized for their efforts during the ORI. Senior Master Sgt. Michele L. Evans and Master Sgt. Richard S. Kilgore, 108th Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Jennifer D. Noble-Slaton, 108th Communications Flight; Tech. Sgt. Gerald Leone, 141st Air Refueling Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Luis R. Callazo-Morales, 227th Special Operations Flight; Staff Sgt. Israel Carabello, 108th Operations Support Flight; Staff Sgt. Jamero A. Clark, 108th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Staff Sgt. Lauren M. Paul, 108th Services Flight; Senior Airman Carol E. Guzman, 108th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Senior Airman Jeanie M. Hubbard with the 108th Logistics Readiness Squadron all received coins from the IG team. Capt. Christopher L. Miller, a 108th ARW chaplain, was individually recognized by the IG team. The IG team also recognized the Aircrew Life Support, Aircraft Maintenance, Intelligence Flight, Main Flightline Entry Controller, and North Flightline Entry Controller teams.

“The men and women of the 108th ARW are well trained, highly motivated, and fully equipped,” observed Dougherty.

“Everyone’s hard work, motivation, sense of urgency, and positive attitudes upheld its claim to being America’s Best Refueling Wing. Throughout the past five years, the 108th ARW has proven itself time and time again to be an excellent and outstanding wing,” said Col. Michael L. Cuniff, Commander, 108th ARW.

SHORT ROUNDS: HARVEY STARRED, CDTF HELPS CHILDREN, CST TRAINS AND U.S. VERSUS KOREA



Harvey Receives Stars

Brig. Gen. Charles A. Harvey Jr.'s children, Cheryl (left) and Christopher (right) pin on their dad's shoulder boards as mom, Michelle (far right) watches during the promotion ceremony on July 9 at Joint Forces Headquarters – New Jersey at Fort Dix. Harvey retired as the Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations (J-3) and will assume the role as the Assistant Adjutant General. General Harvey is also the Chairman of the New Jersey Army National Guard Diversity Committee. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, 444MPAD.



Setting The Example

Chief Warrant Officer 4 James DenHartog, 1-150th Aviation (Air Assault) addresses a group of schoolchildren at Little Egg Harbor Elementary as part of the New Jersey National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Aviation Role Model Program. The program uses aviators as role models to talk with children about their life choices. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, NJDMAVA/PA.



CST Goes Back To School

The 21st Civil Support Team trained at Cherry Hill High School East July 18. The Team provided support to local authorities as part of a multi-agency exercise at the school. Students participated in the exercise posing as casualties. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



ROK And USA Softball League

Members of the 50th Personnel Services Battalion and the 10th Soldier Support Battalion pose for a group photo with the South Korean team they play softball against on Sundays. The Soldiers of the 50th are located at multiple forward operating bases in Afghanistan and are responsible for human resource services and postal support to more than 17,000 military and civilians in Afghanistan. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frank R. Albanese Jr., 50PSB.

New Jersey National Guard

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

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Nicholas Cianfrano
Harriet S. Dangelo
Gary M. Davidson

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Andrew P. Glatz
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Derek L. Thomas

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Congratulations To All!

Compiled by
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 (Army)
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 Paul B. Thompson, Jr.
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LAST ROUND - LITERALLY

Story by Spc. Finnbar McCallion, 444MPAD; photo by Spc. William Addison, 444MPAD



The 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery is leading the change as Army Transformation restructures the former field artillery unit into the 112th Fires Battalion, modifies the former battalion from three batteries to two, and rearms its troops with the lighter, leaner 105mm towed howitzers.

So this July's Annual Training (AT) at Fort Dix was the last time the state's Field Artillery fired their cannons and existed in its historical form.

"This has been a labor of love for us," said the Battalion's Commander Lt. Col. Henri Schepens. "We went from not firing for three years together, to starting to work together in January with howitzer crew training teams just learning the basics, to certifying the battalion."

The transition to some is actually huge, it means putting down a system that in many ways is still pertinent today in modern day. "A lot of these guys grew up on these weapons and have used them their whole careers," said Sgt. 1st Class Dilok Boonmema, Readiness NCO.

As a member of the 50th Infantry Brigade (42nd Infantry Division), the Battalion is part of the Army's evolution into a leaner force.

But the story here isn't about transformation; it is about how the unit finally all got together as a group.

This AT was the first time in years that the Battalion has been able to train together as a group. With Soldiers on the border in New Mexico, and deployments in support of operations since Sept. 11, these troops have seen it all.

"When you look back, so much has happened in three years," observed Capt. John Aslanian, Battery Commander. "It all started Sept. 11; bridges and tunnels, power plant security, airport security, deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Germany and Iraq."

"We're glad to be back to our roots and you can't help but look at our accomplishments and losses. I'm proud of what we have accomplished and how relevant the National Guard is in this role today," said Aslanian.

This group of Soldiers is historically rife with pride, so much so that when one reporter covering this battalion's final days asked its commander, "If this weapons system is being put out to pasture, then why would you train and certify on it," his answer was "Because we are artillerymen, because we are Soldiers and this is what we do."

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