



DMAVA

HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER 7, 2012



New Jersey Airmen train at '1,000 MPHs'

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Matthew Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

'Thinking at 1,000 miles per hour', the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron completed a week of grueling training at Fort Drum, N.Y., Aug 24.

The 227th is an Air National Guard unit assigned to the 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City, N.J., and is tasked with providing direct support for the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Pennsylvania National Guard's 2-28th Brigade Combat Team.

"As an ASOS unit, we work with the U.S. Army, which is a fluid entity – they are event driven, and we have to flex to that," said Lt. Col. Albert Danza, commander of the 227th. "On the ground, you have to think at 1,000 miles per hour, because the game is constantly changing."

Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs), and support personnel attended the weeklong training, which helped to

sharpen their skills. JTACs personnel are qualified military service members who, from a forward position, directs the action of combat aircraft engaged in close air support and other offensive air operations.

The training consisted of calling in air strikes, small unit tactics, drop zone coordination, firearms training and combat casualty care.

They got the opportunity to train with



active duty and National Guard aircraft, as well as Soldiers from the 50th IBCT.

"I feel very strongly that we are a force multiplier," said Tech. Sgt. Jose Almeida, one of the squadron's experienced JTAC's. "The things we do; the capabilities that we bring to the fight - utilizing fixed and rotary wing assets are key - and these rigors we encounter in training help us to have a successful outcome on the battlefield."

"When you're in the cockpit, you're insulated," said Danza, as he offered his perspective from an air liaison officer's point of view. "Seeing things from the ground is an eye-opener having been a pilot. I can better relate to what the pilots providing close air support see."

"This is what it's all about," concluded Danza. "Trusting your training; thinking at 1,000 miles per hour."

MEDAL CEREMONY AT BERGEN TOWN CENTER



MORE PHOTOS CAN BE VIEWED AT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: [MEDAL CEREMONY](#)



Photos by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, DMAVA/PA



South Jersey's Version of 'Crop Circles'

Courtesy photo by Alan Barclay

5th Annual
RUTGERS ARMY ROTC
RUN FOR THE WARRIORS®

In Memory of CPL Steven R. Koch, USA

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VETS4WARRIORS
 ★ ★ ★ 1-855-VET-TALK ★ ★ ★

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Goal**
 Vets4Warriors provides 24/7 peer support, information and referrals for National Guard and Reserve service members and their families.
- **Access**
 Rapid access to a variety of services, follow up contacts, 24/7 LIVE helpline. All Vets4Warriors calls are answered by a Veteran peer or clinician within 20 seconds, utilizing sophisticated technology to ensure accurate data collection. This program utilizes University Behavioral Healthcare's Access Center, staffed by individuals with over 15 years of helpline experience who answer more than 10,000 calls per month.
- **Soldier and family peer-to-peer support; combating stigma**
 Who better to understand the challenges of military life than someone who has lived it? Veterans provide support to soldiers and families, engaging them in a personal, non-threatening way, helping to mitigate stigma and concerns about confidentiality.
- **Integrates existing resources**
 The helpline is designed to maximize the use of existing state, federal, academic, medical and community resources; to provide the caller with information to meet their specific need.
- **Soldier and family case management**
 Service members and their families are offered follow-up contacts to assure continued support where needed. Data tracking assures timely follow-up. Outreach to "high risk" service members is also provided.
- **Vets4Warriors is modeled after NJ Cop2Cop and Vet2Vet, programs certified by the American Association of Suicidology & the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) model of Military Suicide Prevention.** Trained peer staff is partnered with experienced mental health staff to provide additional support for callers in crisis.
- **Prevents problems from becoming crisis**
 Offering phone support when questions and concerns arise, along with continued contact while problems are resolved, mitigates crisis situations. Continuous customer satisfaction survey tools help inform quality of care.
- **Employs Veterans**
 Vets4Warriors employs Veterans as peer staff.
- **Web-based services**
 Vets4Warriors – Peer and family support counselors provide live chat for soldiers and their families. Those services are accessed at the following URL: <http://vets4warriors.com>.

Call toll free 1-855-838-8255 to connect to a Veteran who understands.
 You are never alone, anywhere, anytime.
 We have been there...now we are here for YOU.



2012 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event - Trenton NJ
 Sun National Bank Center
 81 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton, NJ
September 12, 2012
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring our Heroes Initiative, Hero2Hired (H2H), the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the American Legion, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, and New Jersey's Employment Initiative Program on **September 12, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, for a job fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses, at the **Sun National Bank Center, 81 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton, NJ**. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers
 Must register for FREE at
HoH.GreatJob.net

Job Seekers
 Register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net
 To guarantee admission.
 Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.

This Hero2Hired (H2H)-sponsored event is being supported by the Sun National Bank Center, US Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training, US Department of Veterans Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, NBC News, New Jersey VET2VET, and Allies Inc.

If you need assistance registering, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com.



WWW.USCHAMBER.COM/HIRINGOURHEROES

monster.com is the official online partner for Hiring Our Heroes | Find Hiring Our Heroes online: [f](#) [t](#)
 Hero2Hired (H2H Jobs) is a comprehensive employment program for Guard and Reserve members that provides job postings from military-friendly employers as well as career exploration tools, military-to-civilian skills transitions, education and training resources, and a mobile app.

RECRUIT MILITARY® HIRING OUR HEROES



This event is for Military Veterans and their families.

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS GET JOBS.

Through our last 11 events, veterans have received over 2,500 interviews and over 1,000 job offers.

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Join the #1 job board
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www.recruitmilitary.com

Produced by RecruitMilitary in cooperation with The American Legion.
 For event details and directions, visit <https://events.recruitmilitary.com>.

DMAVA bike team looking for riders

Join Team DMAVA at this year's Bike MS: City to Shore Ride, Sept. 29-30.

Named by Bicycling Magazine as the "Best Cycling Getaway in NJ," the Bike MS: City to Shore Ride promises to be the best cycling experience on the east coast.

Ride with 7,000 cyclists of all ages and cycling abilities for the challenge of your choice with several route options from a one day, 25 mile ride to a two day, 150 mile ride. Enjoy flat terrain as you travel from Cherry Hill through the quaint towns and back roads of Southern New Jersey. Pedal through the blueberry fields of Hammonton, experience the serene beauty of the Pine Barrens, and listen to the waves as you roll into historic Ocean City.

This ride is fully supported with catered rest stops, bike support, and transportation. Invite your family and friends to cheer as you cross the finish line and enjoy a wonderful evening stroll on the boardwalk.

This is not just a ride, but an experience. The sense of accom-

plishment that you'll feel as you cross the finish line can only be matched by the difference you'll be making in the lives of people affected by Multiple Sclerosis.

To learn more about the Bike MS: City to Shore Ride, visit their website at www.ms-cycling.org.

Contact Team DMAVA captain Bill McBride at william.mcbride@njdmava.state.nj.us or bill.mcbride1@us.army.mil, or 609-530-7136 to learn more or to join the team.



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