



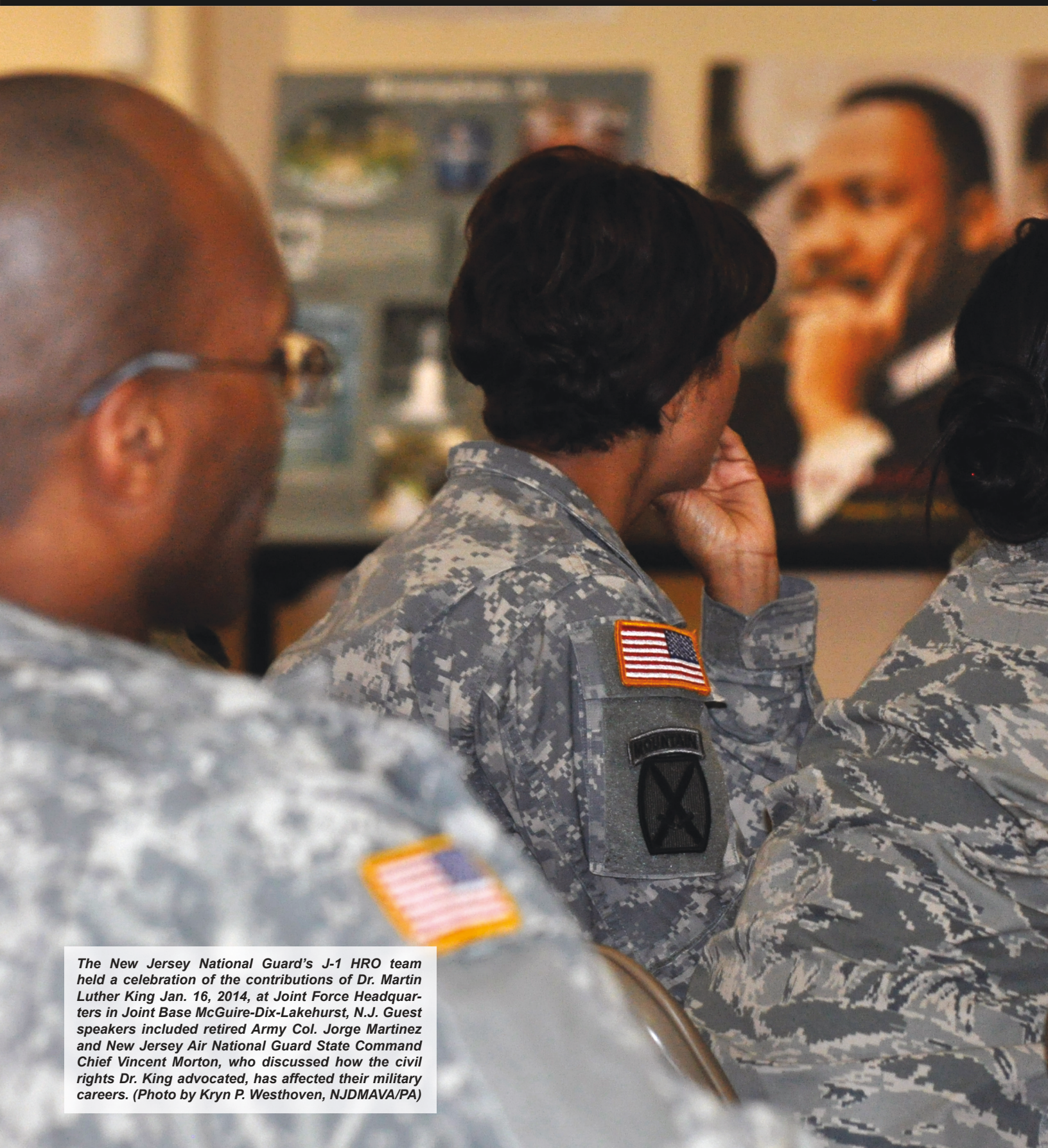
# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

flickr



Like us on  
Facebook

January 16, 2014



*The New Jersey National Guard's J-1 HRO team held a celebration of the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jan. 16, 2014, at Joint Force Headquarters in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Guest speakers included retired Army Col. Jorge Martinez and New Jersey Air National Guard State Command Chief Vincent Morton, who discussed how the civil rights Dr. King advocated, has affected their military careers. (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA)*





# Giving the Gift of Life



Recently promoted Army Staff Sgt. Shannon Schoudt, New Jersey National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, looks away from the needle drawing blood from her arm at the Super Community Blood Drive at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, N.J., Jan. 14, 2014. The signal support systems specialist was doing her part in helping alleviate the severe blood shortage in the state of New Jersey. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Emanuel Cobar from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing donates blood at the Super Community Blood Drive at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, N.J., Jan. 14, 2014. The event was created to help alleviate a severe blood shortage in the state of N.J. Cobar is assigned to the 108th Communications Flight. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Joshua Derins from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing donates blood at the Super Community Blood Drive at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, N.J., Jan. 14. The event was created to help alleviate a severe blood shortage in the state of N.J. Derins is a tactical air control party airman assigned to the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



Katherine Howard, left, a phlebotomist with the Community Blood Council of New Jersey, prepares to draw blood from the left arm of Sgt. Julio Soberal, 254th Regiment, New Jersey Army National Guard, at the Super Community Blood Drive at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, N.J., Jan. 14, 2014. The supply sergeant was doing his part in helping alleviate the severe blood shortage in the state of New Jersey. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)





*Pfc. Bianca Francis, center, from Patterson, N.J. and a member of Alpha Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, learns about the entry requirements for the Officer Candidate School program during a briefing held in the New Jersey Army National Guard Training Center.*

**SEA GIRT, N.J.** – Think you have what it takes to be a leader? Do you possess the courage to start something challenging and the dedication to see it through? The nearly 100 enlisted National Guard Soldiers from across New Jersey who filled the seats for the Officer Candidate School (OCS) briefing at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt think they do.

The state of New Jersey OCS training program is an intense leadership training ground that is both physically and mentally challenging. It consists of four phases spanning 16 months of weekend and summer drilling, a combination of field and classroom environments and the completion of a final, graded exercise. Upon completion of

the program, cadets earn their commission as a second lieutenant.

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Director of the Joint Staff to The Adjutant General of New Jersey, delivered a speech during the briefing and asked the Soldiers to think about leadership and their long-term military goals. He stressed that they should not just think about today and tomorrow, but that they should give serious thought to starting on a path that will elevate them to success.

“Leaders have a vision,” said Grant. “Where do you want to be in five years?”

That journey begins with the first phase of OCS, Phase 0, in early February. Cadets will complete their administrative requirements while receiving training that

is specific to each graded task they’ll be asked to perform during the next phase. Cadre are especially critical of the cadets during this phase to ensure each person has the proper skills and knowledge to succeed in the program.

Officer Candidate Jennifer Wain, currently in Phase 2 of the OCS program, is already beginning to see the benefits of OCS in her own life. “We all have weaknesses that we don’t know about. The OCS program and cadre help you to identify them and motivate you to grow stronger as an individual and become a successful leader,” Wain said.

**CONTINUED ON PG 5**

“ Leaders have a vision. Where do you want to be in five years? ”

*Brig. Gen. James J. Grant*



# HIGHLIGHTS



Ray L. Zawacki, right, the Deputy Commissioner Veterans Affairs at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, presents several centennial letters from the offices of the Adjutant General of New Jersey and Governor Chris Christie to Ralph Barchetto, left, at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus, Jan. 10, 2014. Barchetto's son, Gabe, center, was in attendance along with family and friends to celebrate the World War II Army veteran's 100th birthday. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez/NJDMAVA/PA)



Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, fourth from right, and Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, right, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, presented state military awards to 28 veterans from Middlesex, Burlington and Mercer counties at a medal ceremony at Quaker Bridge Mall in Lawrence, N.J., Jan. 14, 2014. The veterans were honored for service in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm / Desert Shield, Kosovo, Somalia and Operations Iraqi or Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA)



## OCS

CONTINUED FROM PG 3

The remaining three phases are a blend of both physical and academic leadership tasks that help develop Soldiers into future officers. While every candidate is responsible for bringing themselves across the finish line, that never happens without the help and guidance from fellow cadets. "We're in this together; no one does this alone. This is the ultimate team sport," said Grant.

A major benefit to National Guard Soldiers entering the state OCS program is the training schedule. Soldiers continue

to train on weekends and for two weeks over the summer. This removes the barrier to Soldiers with civilian jobs or with full-time academic programs. Spc. Israel Perez, from Little Ferry and a member of the 50th Chemical Company, is in his third year of a five-year degree. "I prefer to do the New Jersey State OCS program so I won't miss class time and delay my graduation date. This schedule allows me to continue taking classes and I can focus on education at the same time," said Perez.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, reassured the Soldiers sitting in attendance by letting them know that every graduate will have a position upon graduation. Even with budgetary concerns and the current military draw down, every Soldier will have a chance. "My job is making sure that these cutbacks are as minimal as possible. Opportunity will be there for everyone," said Cunniff.

## DOTTING THE 'I'S AND CROSSING THE 'T'S BEFORE MILITARY RETIREMENT

Story by Army Master Sgt. David Moore, JFHQ PAO

Sixty-five Army National Guard Soldiers eligible to hang up the boots and retire attended a seminar Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Lawrenceville National Guard armory, to receive the latest information and consider options for the next phase in their lives.

Led by Marie Durling, the New Jersey National Guard's Retirement Officer, officers and enlisted alike were given a financial planning briefing by the New York Life Insurance Company, education options, archiving military records, medical insurance, and most importantly how to determine the right Soldier's medical and family options before they retire.

"First and most importantly, the individuals should have a checklist that includes everything they need to do to retire," Durling said. "They should first evaluate their points found on their Retirement Point Accounting System (RPAS) statement that includes points for their years of National Guard service."

"Every point is worth money. So if you decide to retire and think just because you think you have 20 good years that may not be the case. Your first step before you apply for retirement is to review your statement to make sure your record is correct," Durling added about National Guard Form 23.

At this time, a new system is being deployed for RPAS to automatically update service history. This has not delayed anyone's retirement from the Guard since the present system can be manually updated. The new system is expected to be implemented in the March-April timeframe, Durling said.

The key to a Soldier having a good year is 50 points of performance of duty during a training year. Another key ingredient for retirement is having the 20-year letter that notifies a Soldier's eligibility for retirement. A Soldier should also receive a certificate of discharge.

If there are any irregularities in a Soldiers records it is the Sol-

diers responsibility to have a leave and earning statement or a certificate of completion to correct the record, Durling added.

In short, most of the presenters at the retirement program recommended Soldiers should always keep a copy of their records on hand.

Mark Preston, bureau chief for the Information and Services Division, New Jersey Department and Military Affairs, Lawrenceville, recommended Soldiers go to IPERMs (interactive Personnel Electronics Records Management System) and download all their

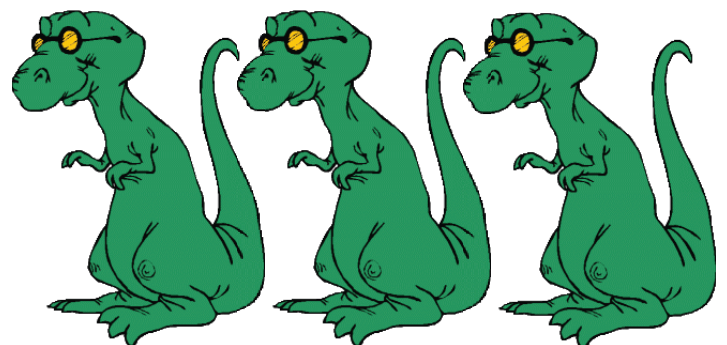
records. Also secure a copy of your medical and line of duty records.

"Once you have done that I can only take hard page copies of your records which will be turned into a Microfiche," he added. "I understand there other technologies, but state law requires me to do it this way."

Preston explained the differences between the state services, benefits and

those provided by the federal Veterans Administration offices.

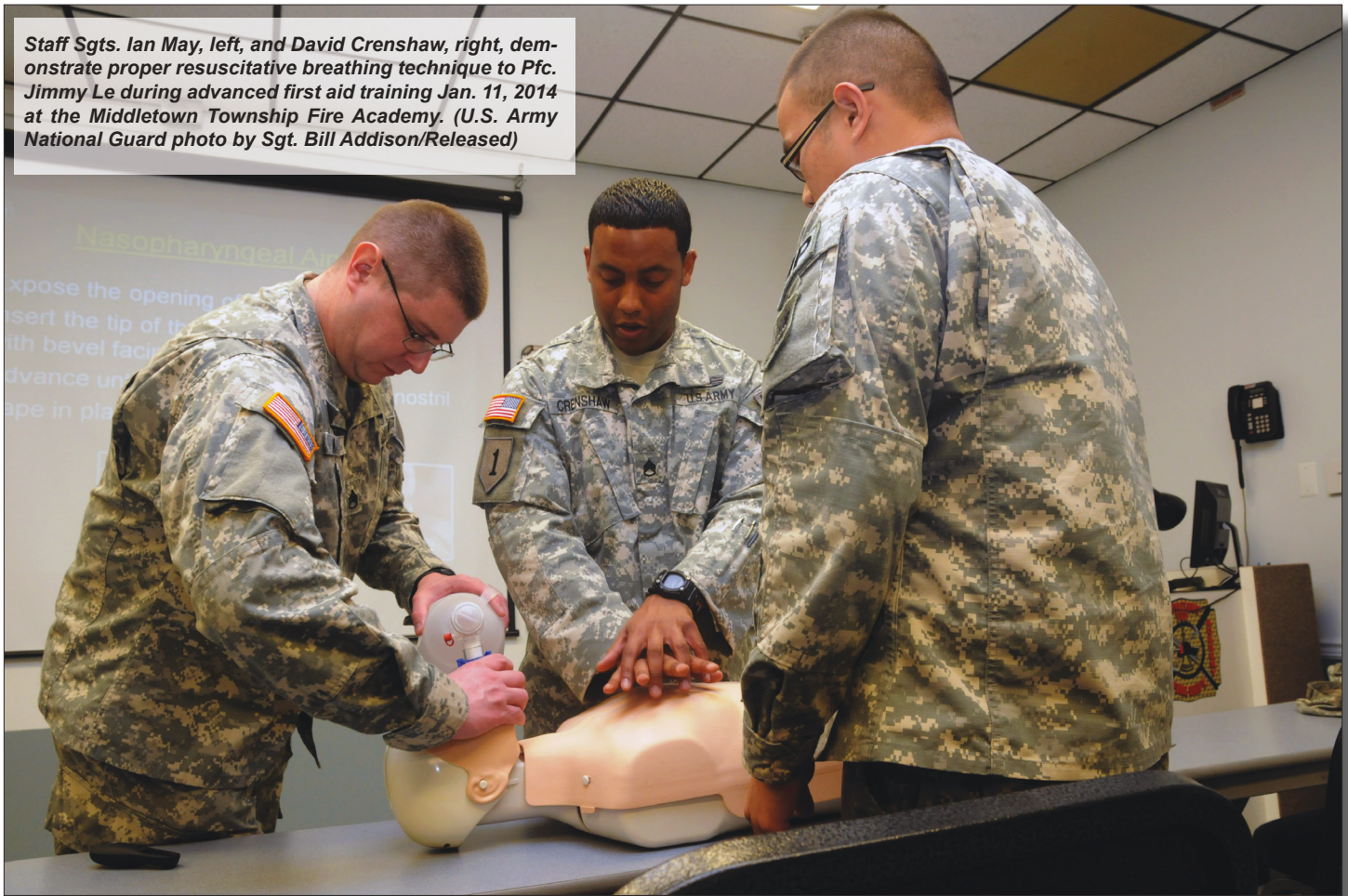
"Once you have determined the time is right for retirement before starting the process you need to make sure all your information and times of service are correct before you begin the process. This way you shouldn't have any problems in the future," Durling said.





# *MPs forge bond with civilian law enforcement*

Staff Sgts. Ian May, left, and David Crenshaw, right, demonstrate proper resuscitative breathing technique to Pfc. Jimmy Le during advanced first aid training Jan. 11, 2014 at the Middletown Township Fire Academy. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Addison/Released)



### **By Spc. Nicole Richardson, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Municipal police officers helped their brothers and sisters in military law enforcement hone their life-saving skills during a day of training at the Middletown Fire Department Training Academy on Jan. 11.

The training with the Middletown Police Officers and Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard's 328th Military Police Company was developed to foster relationships between civilian and military first responders.

During a state of emergency, the National Guard works in support of civil authorities and often alongside law enforcement officers. Consequently, the civilian and military ties already exist in Middletown.

Two of the military police Soldiers, Staff Sgts. Ian May, 328th Military Police Company, and David Crenshaw, 2nd Modular Training Battalion, 254th Regiment (Combat Arms), also work as

Middletown police officers and helped set up the training.

Crenshaw said the training reinforced basic and advanced first aid and CPR.

Certified as a CPR and first aid instructor, Crenshaw also trains other law enforcement officers. They're skills he put to use in combat during a tour in Iraq, when he helped save the life of a fellow Soldier.

May said that in addition to the training, another key mission was accomplished: "Everybody learns what the National Guard and what the local municipalities do ... In the event of a natural disaster we have to work together...without that partnership it would never come to fruition."

During Superstorm Sandy, the Middletown Township police training officer, Sgt. 1st Class William Colangelo, saw the benefits of having the National Guard ready to assist local law enforcement. The training at the township's facilities was a way to further develop the relationship.

**DMAVA Highlights** is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at [pao@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:pao@njdmava.state.nj.us).

### **New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cuniff – The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley - Public Affairs Specialist

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez – Public Affairs Specialist