



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



July 31, 2014



*Congratulations Albanian  
OCS Class 001!*

**Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, left, Chief of the Joint Staff, and Maj. Gen. Jeronim Bazo, center, Chief of General Staff of Albanian Armed Forces, presents Albanian officer candidate Ismet Pepa his graduation certificate during a ceremony at the National Guard Armory, Lawrenceville, N.J., July 29, 2014. Albania is the first State Partnership Program country to send its officer candidates to its partner state – New Jersey – to attend Officer Candidate School. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)**

# Graduation marks milestone between NJNG and Albania

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. – Twelve weeks of torturous ruck marches, harsh physical training and mind-bending problem-solving drills ended on Tuesday for Albanian Officer Candidate Class 001.

But for the first foreign officer candidates to ever graduate from an American officer candidate school run by the National Guard, their new challenge will be to return to their homeland and re-shape their nation's military.

"It is your turn to bring change to the Albanian Armed Forces," said Maj. Gen. Jeronim Bazo, Chief of General Staff for the Albanian Armed Forces. "History is being written right now, and we are all a part of it."

Bazo told the 24 candidates to apply everything they learned at the New Jersey Army National Guard Officer Candidate School, especially the values that guide American Army leaders: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"A perfect leader is not one who makes no mistakes," Bazo said. "A perfect leader is one who learns from his mistakes."

The Albanian officer candidates arrived in the United States in May as part of a long-standing partnership under which the New Jersey National Guard has served as mentors for the Albanian Armed forces. The relationship developed through the State Partnership Program, which pairs National Guard forces with the militaries of 74 developing nations around the world.

The partnership between Albania and New Jersey has been especially fruitful. Under New Jersey's guidance, Albania, a former communist dictatorship, joined NATO in 2009. Since then, five Military Advisor Teams comprised of New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and members of the Albanian Defense Forces have deployed to Afghanistan.

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff of the New Jersey National Guard, said the Albanian officer candidates' graduation was a milestone in the partnership.

He said the Albanian officer candidate class was re-



The 24 members of Albanian Officer Candidate Class 001 congratulate each other after receiving their graduation certificates at a ceremony at the National Guard Armory, Lawrenceville, N.J., July 29, 2014. The candidates were selected from the Albanian Army, Navy and Air Force. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

## It is your turn to bring change to the Albanian Armed Forces. History is being written right now, and we are all a part of it.

*Maj. Gen. Jeronim Bazo  
Chief of General Staff for the Albanian Armed Forces*

markable in that every member of the class passed the physical fitness test and land navigation course on the first try. The class began with 24 candidates and all graduated.

"I have never seen a class graduate 100 percent," Grant said. "You are truly the best and brightest your nation has to offer."

To emphasize, Grant noted some statistics. All of the officer candidates are fluent in at least three languages and one member of the class speaks and writes five languages. All have undergraduate degrees and one third have masters' degrees in either engineering or informa-

tion technology. Seventeen of the candidates were already commissioned officers and the rest were non-commissioned officers. Eight of the candidates are women.

Grant said the most defining characteristic of Albanian Officer Candidate Class 001 was its tenacity.

"One cannot teach heart and desire. You proved you have it," Grant said. "You have made lifelong friends here. Don't forget us. Use us as a resource."

One of the candidates, 2nd Lt. Anita Gruda, said the graduation was the highlight of her military career so far.

"It was a challenge, a tough challenge," she said. "But what I learned here will make me a better leader at home."

# SANTA ARRIVES EARLY AT MENLO PARK

During the month of July, the Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park experienced a tremendous increase in donations.

"It seems like Christmas has arrived early at Menlo Park, donations are coming in from all directions," said Joseph Brandpiegel, chief executive officer of the Home.

"We are delighted in the amount of support that we are receiving and our veterans who live here are also delighted," said Brandspiegel. He attributes the increased number of donations to the excellent relationships that the Home maintains with a larger number of organizations.

Some of the groups donating are listed below:

- Rotary Club of Sayreville
- Knights of Columbus 4th degree, Iselin
- Union County Bowlers
- Women's Club of Fords
- Jewish War Veterans #609, Monroe
- Mayor David Stahl of East Brunswick



*Photo above: Jen Schneider, center, present five tablets to Joseph Brandpiegel, right, chief executive officer, Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park and chaplain Jan Koczera. Schneider raised the money to purchase the tablets as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project.*

E-mail your Highlights submissions to: [mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov)

## KOREAN WAR VETERANS HONORED

*Story and photo by Master Sgt. David Moore, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

New Jersey Korean War Veterans and representatives of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs gathered at the state's Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City to mark the 61st Anniversary of the cease fire of combat operations and award medals to those who served in the war.

Thirteen Korean War veterans, three posthumously, were recognized for their military service and awarded the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and the New Jersey Korean Service Medal at the memorial at Brighton Park where the Boardwalk meets Park Place.

To mark the occasion, the event was a combination of American and Korean patriotic songs mingled together, as well as music featured by Hae-In Kim playing the Hae-Geum, and cultural dances by the South Jersey Korean Dancing Troop. Veterans of the New Jersey Korean War Veterans Association also held a wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial Wall.



*Korean War veterans salute during the playing of the National Anthem as part of the 61st Anniversary of the Signing of the Korean War Armistice Commemoration and Medal Ceremony on July 28 at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City.*

# 177th trains at Operation Kriegshammer

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

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany - In the hills of the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Bavaria, Germany, Airmen from the 177th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) received training on emergency close air support (ECAS) on July 16, 2014.

The ECAS scenarios were developed by the tactical air control party (TACP) Airmen from the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) as part of Operation Kriegshammer.

Using maps and compasses, the security forces Airmen plotted their location as well as potential target areas.

"This stuff is awesome," said Master Sgt. Walter Kienzle, a security forces combat arms, training, and maintenance specialist.

"We don't get to use maps like this out in the field very often, and it's a perishable skill so this has been a great refresher," said Kienzle.

Airman 1st Class David Denesha, a tactical air control party airman from the 227th ASOS, observed and assisted with the map and compass training.



Chief Master Sgt. Robert Zaniewski, right, 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, points out a direct hit to Tech. Sgt. Jack Baum, 177th Security Forces Squadron, after coordinating emergency close air support from a German air force Tornado on July 16, 2014, at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Bavaria, Germany.



An F-16C Fighting Falcon flies over Grafenwoehr Training Area, Bavaria, Germany, on July 16, 2014, during Operation Kriegshammer, a joint training mission.

"It's important to know basic map reading skills in case our global positioning system devices have batteries that give out," said Denesha.

"No one in security forces expects to have to jump on the radio to talk with aircraft, but it has happened," said Senior Master Sgt. John Sacchetti, 177th SFS operations superintendent. "Being able to communicate with aircraft is an incredibly valuable training opportunity."

The Grafenwoehr Training Area, with more than 83

square miles of ranges, provided an ideal location for ECAS training.

U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcons, German air force Tornados, and French air force Mirage 2000s came on station to provide close air support.

"It was a rush talking to the German pilots," said Master Sgt. Stan Carroll, from the 177th SFS. "The key was being calm on the radio, and enunciating for the foreign pilots."

"Grafenwoehr has been a great experience for us," said Sacchetti. "The TACP have shown us what they do with ECAS, and we will be showing them how we handle active shooter situations and perform small unit tactics. As far as joint training goes, it does not get any better than this."



Bombs dropped from a F-16 Fighting Falcon supporting 177th Security Forces Squadron Airmen impact targets at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Bavaria, Germany, on July 16, 2014.



US Family Health Care, a Tricare Prime option providing a civilian based managed care network, will be holding Question and Answer sessions to provide information for servicemembers and families.

USFHP pushes forward effective Jan. 1, 2014, and they are adding an extra benefit to their already robust benefit package! Eye glasses for \$0 to low cost. To hear more about USFHP and this added benefit, come to one of their upcoming information sessions listed below:

**Fort Dix Housing Community Center**

Bldg. 1134 Hemlock Street, JB-MDL  
Aug. 11 and Sept. 15 / 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Contact: Josephine Grey at 347-501-2308

**JB-MDL McGuire Library**

2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave, JB-MDL  
Sept. 8 / 3 to 7 p.m.

Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

**JB-MDL McGuire Housing**

**Jim Saxton Community Center**  
3811 South Boiling Street, JBMDL  
Aug. 22 and Sept. 25 / 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

**108th Wing Airmen & Family Readiness Office**

3327 Charles Blvd, JB-MDL

Aug. 7 and Spet. 17 / 1 to 4 p.m.

Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

**Picatinny Arsenal Army Community Service**

Bldg. 119, Dover, NJ

Aug. 19 and 26 / 10 am. - 12 p.m.

Contact Darrel Hutchinson at 646-354-0126

Call 1-800-241-4848 option 3 or visit [www.usfhp.net](http://www.usfhp.net) for more information.



**HIRING OUR HEROES®**  
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

2014 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event – Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 316<sup>TH</sup> ARMY RESERVE OPERATION SUSTAINMENT WARRIOR  
The Navy Hanger, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 64  
3370 Wonnacott Ave, Joint Base MDL, NJ 08641

Friday, August 1, 2014

**EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM;  
11:00 AM - 1:00PM; 1:00 PM - 3:00PM**

**HIRING FAIR: 9:00AM – 4:00PM**

A Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair for all veterans, military members and spouses will be proudly hosted in conjunction with the 316<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Operation Sustainment Warrior. This job fair is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the New Jersey Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, Goodwill Industries International, NBC News, and other local partners.

**EMPLOYERS**

Must register for FREE at [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org)

**JOB SEEKERS**

Register for FREE at [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org) to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.

Three workshops for veterans and other military job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 9:00AM, 11:00AM and 1:00PM. To register for the Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshops, visit [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org).

For registration questions, please contact us at [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202-463-5807.



[HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG](http://HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG)



**Santas visit Vets Haven**

On July 17, 2014, Veteran's Haven South was visited by Santa's from Arc of Gloucester, Franklinville Adult Training Center located in New Field. The group did arts and crafts by making Cheerio chains for the birds. They also played pool, checkers and other games. During lunch the volunteers presented the veterans with gifts.

**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. Cunniff – 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
- Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen
- Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley