

# Guardlife

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### **Cover: Heroes Welcomed**

On July 11, more than sixty 108th Wing Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen returned from a six-month tour in Iraq. From bottom to top, Tech. Wilmont Griffin, Senior Airman James Rice and Airman 1st Class Kiera Clark descend from the aircraft to be met by their loved ones. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108W/PA.

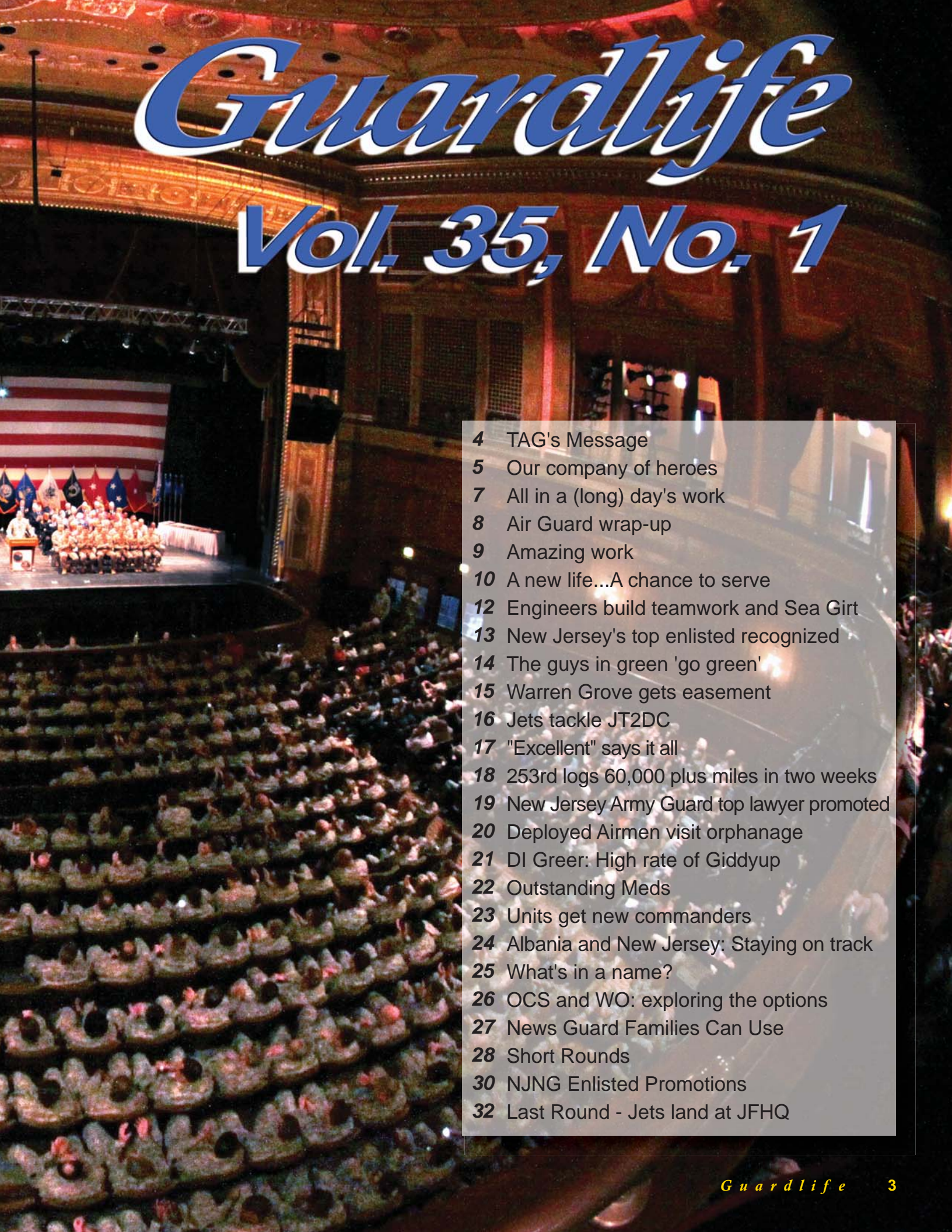
### **Inside cover: Aviators honored**

On Jan. 16, civic leaders to include Governor-elect Chris Christie and his family joined the families of the more than 250 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion at a Welcome Home event at the War Memorial in Trenton, which brings to a close a one-year Operation Iraqi Freedom mobilization. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



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# New Jersey - the 'Green State'

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

## I feel the energy.

Every member of the New Jersey National Guard should be proud to belong to an organization that has become a national leader in the production of alternative energy.

That's right. The New Jersey National Guard is 'going green.' The Department of Defense has lauded our organization for its energy production and conservation efforts because we're saving taxpayers millions of dollars – and working to further a national defense goal of taking military installations off the power grid wherever possible.

You don't have to go far to see this in action in New Jersey.

On your next trip to the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt, take a look at the array of solar panels over the parking lot near the headquarters building. Those photovoltaic panels generate 240,000 kilowatts of electricity a year, nearly enough to power the headquarters building year round.

That that's just the start at Sea Girt. By the end of next year, we expect to have a second array of panels that will boost production there to nearly 750,000 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power 70 homes for a year.

Here's what that kind of power production will do for the environment: eliminate enough carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over a decade as a grove of 13,000 trees. Or reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that 103 cars send into the atmosphere in a year.

But the most exciting project at Sea Girt may be yet to come. Funding has been approved to construct a 320-foot wind turbine there -- a project that along with the solar panels there would produce enough electricity to power the

entire Training Center complex. Work will start if we obtain environmental approvals.

Sea Girt is far from the only place we are going green. You will find solar panel arrays on the roof at our Joint Training and Training Development Center and at the Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Lawrenceville. Combined, the two projects save taxpayers nearly \$100,000 in utility costs each year.

And anyone who has visited the Joint Forces Headquarters Building at Fort Dix has seen the impressive array of solar panels that has taken shape over the parking area over the last few months. When those panels come on line, they will produce enough to power Building 3650.

The New Jersey National Guard's embrace of solar energy has led Guard officials from more than a dozen other states to ask for our advice on how they can start or improve their own alternative energy programs.

New Jersey's status as an innovator within the DoD has given us the opportunity to become one of the first states to take possession of a fleet of more than 70 all-electric vehicles. The vehicles will ultimately be positioned at all of our major installations and will be perfect for local deliveries and maintenance crews.

All of these things add up to the fact that we are all part of an organization that is protecting both the environment and the taxpayers' wallet while maintaining our focus on our Number One job: protecting our homeland and being ready to answer the call to defend freedom anywhere on the globe.

*Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, The Adjutant General along with Soldiers, Airmen, veterans and elected officials watch as Gov. Chris Christie, seated, signs bills recognizing New Jersey's Soldiers, Airmen and veterans on August 23. Bills signed were A-1945, which creates a New Jersey Honor Guard Ribbon. Also signed were A-515, which expands Operation Recognition to include Korean and Vietnam veterans. Another bill, A-1944, increases the Veteran's Services Council membership from nine to 12 and requiring there be at least two women members. Gov. Christie also recognized S-795, which pays tribute to the sacrifices of Vietnam Veterans from South Jersey by naming a portion of Route 47 as the "South Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Highway". Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.*

## GOVERNOR HONORS SOLDIERS, AIRMEN, VETERANS



# OUR COMPANY OF HEROES



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. MARK OLSEN, 177TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**In a scene reminiscent of a graduation ceremony, wives, husbands, parents, siblings and friends crowded into the main hangar at the 177th Fighter Wing and watched as more than 420 New Jersey Citizen-Airmen marched across a stage on June 13.**

In the first Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony in New Jersey, the Airmen, along with their families, were honored, for their sacrifices in supporting this nation since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"When it's time to take care of the skies over New Jersey – the Northeast sector, it's the 177th there 24/7," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey. "Whatever the nation has asked of the 177th, you've stepped up and done it in a phenomenal way."

The Airmen recognized in this ceremony included those who have deployed for more than 30 consecutive days in support of Operations' Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and other peacekeeping operations across the globe.

"Words just don't come close to describing what a debt of gratitude we owe you as a nation and as a community," said U.S. Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2nd Dist.). "It is a very special thank you from all of

us to you, our veterans; our heroes. Hometown heroes yes; more importantly, American heroes."

As the Airmen crossed the stage, their names were called out and each was thanked by the members of the official party.

Among those honoring the Airmen were LoBiondo, Rieth,  
**Continued on Page 6**



*Medical Services Specialist Senior Airman Luz Rivera, center, grins at the camera during the Hometown Heroes Salute.*

# OUR COMPANY OF HEROES



Family members of fallen Airmen were honored during the ceremony. Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, left, watches as Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth crouches to shake the hand of Jake Green while Lori Green, right, whose husband Master Sgt. Jack Green died in an accident following his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; is thanked by New Jersey Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2nd Dist.) during the Salute.

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Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard; Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff; Col. Robert C. Bolton, 177th Commander; Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, who serves as the enlisted advisor to Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, Director of the Air National Guard at the National Guard Bureau; New Jersey State Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Francis and 177th Command Chief Master Sgt. Raynaldo Morales.

"You made a choice to defend America's way of life," Rieth said. "For that I want to say thank you."

In August 2008, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, former Director of the Air National Guard, initiated the Air National Guard Hometown Heroes Salute Recognition Program. The program's purpose is to celebrate and honor the contributions of Air National Guard Airmen, their families, communities and those special supporters to the mission of the U.S. Air Force and the Air National Guard.

"We procured this (program) from our

Army Guard brethren," Muncy said. "It was time and well overdue to stop and say thanks. We need this for our Airmen; we need this for their families."

The ceremony was timely because more than two hundred 177th Airmen had just returned from a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We can't thank you enough from D.C.; from the State House; your families can't thank you enough; this nation can never, ever thank you enough," Muncy said. "God bless you and God bless the New Jersey Guard."

Each Airman received a framed letter signed by Gen. McKinley and Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith along with two Hometown Heroes Salute coins. The Airman's spouse or significant other received an engraved pen and pencil set, while the children were presented with a set of personalized dog tags. The Airman also received a Center of Influence medallion, which they could present to any non-family member who significantly supported them before, during, or after their deployment.

In the documentary Band of Brothers, one of the Easy Company Soldiers was asked by his grandson if he was a hero. He had replied that no, he wasn't a hero, but he had served in a company of heroes.

"Today we honor all of you," Muncy said. "Our company of heroes." 🇺🇸



Displaying their congratulatory letters from Gen. Craig R. McKinley, left to right, Master Sgt. Michelle Pierce, Staff Sgt. Angela G. Ward and Senior Master Sgt. June I. Kelly pose for a photo in front of a 177th F-16.



ROUND-THE-CLOCK IN IRAQ

# All in a (long) day's work!

Story by Master Sgt. Louis Conzo, 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

**BAGHDAD – Here begins a story about how some New Jersey Airmen beat equipment woes, horrific weather and a seemingly impossible deadline to complete a mission in a war zone half a world away.**

It all started on May 7 when word came down that the New Jersey Air National Guard's 447th Civil Engineer (CE) Squadron needed to move an aging trailer through the maze-like terrain on the grounds of Baghdad International Airport.

They had 48 hours to complete the job.

The team leapt into action. The structures shop worked into the night to prep the trailer for the move. The engineering assistants planned and marked roads as well as access and security points for the new location.

At 'o'darkthirty,' the task force hit the trail, grading a road and moving a crane to hoist the trailer onto a flat bed truck. The morning turned to afternoon and the temperature climbed into the low 100's. Crews went to work with graders, a bulldozer and front loaders to smooth the route and a crane was moved in place to lift the trailer. Then came the first snag: the



*Heavy Equipment Supervisor Master Sgt. Patrick Basnett directs the placement of a "T-wall" barrier in place.*



*Staff Sgt. Anne McKenzie, Electrician, installs an overhead light fixture in the new Gryphon Air facility.*

trailer was far heavier and could not be safely moved. It would have taken several days to acquire a larger crane. But the team didn't have days.

In the can-do spirit of their New Jersey roots, Capt. Eric Balint and Chief Master Sgt. Tim Grover started working up an alternate plan. With the help of Master Sgt. Pat Basnett, the team convinced an Army unit to give up a different trailer. While some team members went to secure the new trailer, the rest of the crew began prepping the site.

That night, fueled by the heat of the day, the worst rain storm of the year struck undoing all the prep work at the site.

Immediately part of the team began redoing the prep work; the rest set about moving the new trailer. Master Sgt. John Krzewski oversaw the move but the team still had much to do and the clock was ticking.

Electricians went to work not just connecting, but upgrading the equipment in the trailer; HVAC put new units in place and wired them up, while Structures performed a quick rehab of the interior.

The 14-hour ballet dragged into the night. The troops used every available form of illumination, including vehicle headlights to complete the job. By the time Security Forces had placed the concertina wire, 57 CE members had sacrificed their down-day, constructing 1.5 linear miles of road, moving and placing 300 concrete barriers, fabricating and installing a security gate, moving furniture from the original office into the new one, and finally setting up and installing phones and computer systems -- making the trailer operational for its occupants the following morning.



# AIR GUARD WRAP-UP



Top left photo: Staff Sgt. Carlos Morales and Senior Airman Samie Leigh, both with the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, perform operational checks on detection equipment used to check mail that is routed through the Iraqi postal system at Sather Air Base, Iraq. U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Louis A. Conzo, 447ECES. Top right: Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, left, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Hecht, right, both with the 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, claimed awards in the 2009 Air National Guard Broadcast Contest and the 2009 Air Force Media Contest. Moseley took first place in Television Spot Production and third in Television News Report categories in the Broadcast competition and third place in the Air Force Media Contest in TV Spot Production. Hecht claimed second place in the Art/Graphics category,

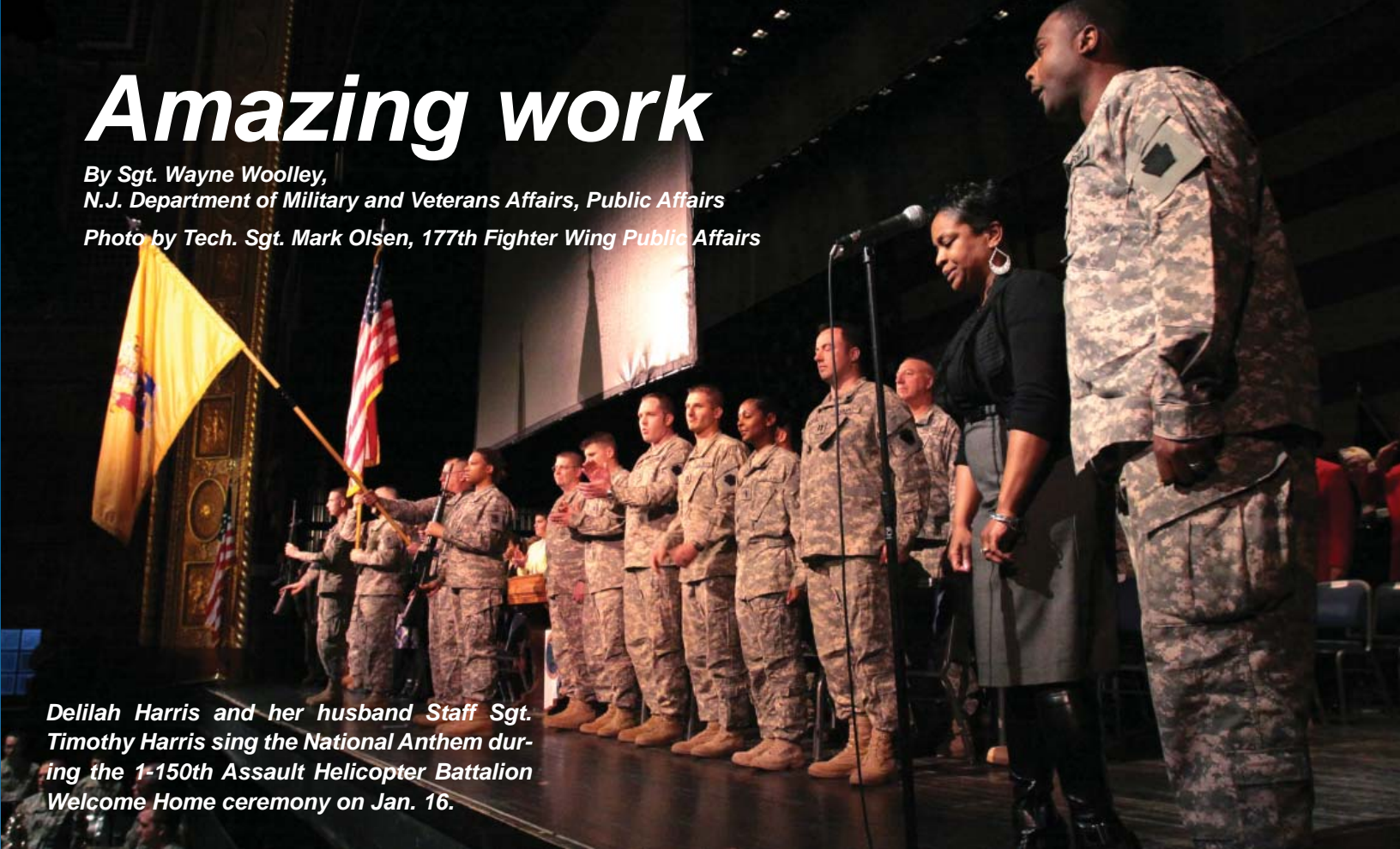
third place in Combat Documentation photo and third place in Video Field Production. U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley and Staff Sgt. Matthew Hecht, 177FW/PA. Bottom right: Senior Airman Jonathon Fernandez, Pest Management Supervisor, inspects for signs of vermin in the rafters of the U.S. Army's 28th Combat Support Hospital. U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Louis A. Conzo, 447ECES. Bottom left: Aerospace Medical Technician Tech. Sgt. Kate L. Hucaluk, second from right, works on Airman 1st Class Caitlin R. Green, while Medical Services Specialist Senior Airman Krysta N. Ramsey, right works on a 177th Fighter Wing Student Flight member during a South Jersey Transportation Authority Major Accident Response Exercise on May 15. U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



# Amazing work

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley,  
N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



*Delilah Harris and her husband Staff Sgt. Timothy Harris sing the National Anthem during the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion Welcome Home ceremony on Jan. 16.*

**The hoopla of their War Memorial homecoming over, the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion and Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 628th Aviation Support Battalion, have settled back into life in New Jersey and shaken away those last bits of Iraqi dust.**

In the days after the troops from both units went through demobilization at Fort Dix, the two commanders, Col. John W. Scannell and Capt. John Pellington, looked back on the deployment.

Scannell said the Battalion overcame big hurdles to be ready for the Iraq deployment. After the unit deployed to Iraq in 2005, attrition had left it with a severe shortage of pilots in command, air mission commanders and door gunners. At one point early in pre-mobilization, trainers gave the unit's leaders this blunt assessment: "You guys will never be ready."

"I knew on paper, they were correct, we had a lot of holes," Scannell recalled.

He knew something else: "We had the kind of people who would develop a plan then make it happen."

He was right. The unit finished its Iraq deployment with kudos spanning the various chains of command and from all components and branches.

In the end, the Jersey aviators were able to transport more than 11,000 Soldiers and Marines and give them a

break from navigating Iraq's dangerous roads. The unit had a 96 percent mission launch rate, a major accomplishment in a place that's synonymous with sandy grit.

Scannell said he was most proud that the battalion, which numbered about 250 troops, helped other units that came through its base near Al Kut, about 80 miles southeast of Baghdad. The battalion helped other units track down their mail, fix their equipment as well as use their medical clinic.

"We took in a lot of stray cats," Scannell said. "Anybody who came to our door, we helped out."

The 31-Soldier aviation support detachment also enjoyed plenty of success, according to Pellington.

That unit overcame inexperience among its ranks and went on to perform several maintenance feats no one in Army aviation had seen in Iraq in a long time.

The unit completed full salvage operations on three downed aircraft – the first in Iraq since 2004. The full salvage operation meant collecting the wrecked helicopters from the desert floor – and then transporting the birds to a depot and then orchestrating a complete mechanical overhaul. All three of the aircraft – UH-60 Blackhawks – flew again. Two of the Blackhawks, which had collided, needed the entire rear portion rebuilt, a feat the Jersey troops performed in less than two months.

"They did some pretty amazing work under some real tough conditions," Pellington said. 🇺🇸

# A new life...A chance to serve

Story and photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs

The room full of recruits preparing to ship to basic training sat motionless as Sgt. Patricia Beecher asked the question one more time.

"Come on people, who knows the Soldier's Creed," the New Jersey Army National Guard recruiter asked. Silence. Finally Pfc. Saif Odah's hand shot up; again.

With precise, swift motions, the reed-thin recruit strode to the front of the class room at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt.

"I am an American Soldier," he began.

After Odah finished without missing a word, Beecher smiled. "You all should talk to Pfc. Odah a lot to get your heads ready for basic training."

They probably should.

One year ago, Odah, 25, was living in Iraq as a man marked for death. He spent nights sleeping with an AK-47 to fend off the insurgents who vowed to kill him and his days on dismounted patrols with American Soldiers, serving as an interpreter for the troops who called him Sonny.

Odah's journey to America is a testament to his will to survive and his enduring bond with Sgt. Edgardo Torres, a New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier who spent \$17,000 of his own money to help his friend make a perilous journey to safety. The work by Torres, 36, and several other Soldiers from his unit allowed Odah to become one of only 28 former interpreters to earn a Special Immigrant Visa for Iraqi and Afghan Translators and Interpreters in 2009, the last year of the program's existence.

Torres didn't feel he had much choice.

"I love the guy," Torres said. "He is one of the smartest, loyal hardest working guys I've ever met. No matter how



Pfc. Saif "Sonny" Odah hoists Pvt. Phillip Sardinha during an injury evacuation exercise held at the New Jersey Army National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt. Odah was one of only 28 Iraqi interpreters who served with American forces to receive a visa to enter the United States in 2009. Odah decided to enlist in the New Jersey Army National Guard shortly after coming to the United States.

bad things get Sonny smiles."

By the time Torres's unit arrived at Camp Ashraf in August 2008, Odah had already been working as a military interpreter for more than five years. He immediately caught Torres's attention because Odah as one of the few interpreters who wore no mask when he went outside the wire.

When Torres asked, Odah said simply: "It doesn't matter; they already know who I am and where I live."

Within a few weeks, Torres started talking to Odah about coming to America.

"I was like 'That's a nice dream, but I didn't think there was any way he could be serious,'" Odah said.

Odah realized his friend wasn't joking a short time later when Torres and another Soldier from the unit, Sgt. David Brimmer, began the massive paperwork project involved in

**Continued on Page 11**

*"This is what I want to do. This is what I need to do. These guys gave me everything I have."*  
**Pfc. Saif Odah**

# Iraqi intrepereter joins Guard

*Continued from Page 10*

obtaining the visa. Torres fell ill in January 2009 and was shipped back to the United States for treatment for a benign tumor in his back. From his hospital bed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, he kept at it.

Back in Iraq, life grew more dangerous for Odah; he received death threats nearly every day.

He was in Baghdad for a visa interview on May 29, 2009 when he learned that his brother, Khalid al-Saad, who was working with the United Nations, was killed by a roadside bomb that hit his convoy.

His brother, a published poet, had been his role model and best friend.

It was then that Odah decided that if he ever made it to the United States, he would do everything he could to join the military. But first, he needed to escape from Iraq. His visa arrived in October. His plane landed at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport a month later. In April, he enlisted in the New Jersey Army National Guard. He ships to basic training in September.

As he waits to ship to basic training, Odah has been living in Elizabeth with Torres and Torres's wife and son. Odah has spent his nights working at a warehouse and

his days volunteering at the Elizabeth recruiting office. His recruiter, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Malave calls Odah the best accession he's ever made.

"You can just tell that Sonny's desire to serve comes from the bottom of his heart," Malave said. "So smart, so dedicated – I mean the guy should have a combat patch – and he even turned his only weakness into a strength."

That would be pushups. Odah could manage five when he first met his recruiter. Now he can knock out 75. He wants to go to Airborne and Ranger Schools. Although his ASVAB scores qualify him for any specialty, and his language skills make him a natural for a linguist, Odah insisted contracting as a 19-Delta, a cavalry scout, just like Torres.

Torres admits he worried when Odah insisted he was going to join the Guard, saying simply his friend had already sacrificed enough to help American Soldiers.

Odah says he hasn't even started.

"This is what I want to do. This is what I need to do. These guys gave me everything I have," Odah said.

And that would be a new life in a country he loves.

Odah, who dabbles in poetry, put it this way: "Iraq is silence. America is beautiful, orchestral music that is played every day." 🇺🇸



## FINANCE DET BIDS FAREWELL

*Story by Spc. Saul Rosa with photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joseph L. Donnelly  
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

The 50th Financial Management Company held a farewell salute on April 18 at the Flemington Armory for the 350th Financial Management Detachment's deployment to Kosovo. Although the 50th is a small detachment, it is receiving a lot of support from the community as U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th Dist.) and state Sen. Leonard Lance attended the send off. "I'm very comfortable," said Detachment Commander, Capt. Margaret Bundesen. "They are giving us as much support as the brigade." The detachment left to complete their training with the 92nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Camp Atterbury, Indiana before arriving at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

While at Bondsteel, the 50th will be supporting the international NATO-led Kosovo Force, also known as KFOR 13, with core finance functions such as military pay, commercial vending services and travel related activities. This deployment is a first for more than half of the 14 soldiers being deployed. "To go on a peacekeeping mission on their first deployment is a good experience," said Bundesen. "We are all excited." Kosovo may not have the political attention that Iraq or Afghanistan has, but it is equally as important. "It's the sort of deployment that fills people around the world with admiration and gratitude for the United States of America," said Holt.



# Engineers build teamwork and Sea Girt

By 2nd Lt. Amelia Thatcher, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Sea Girt is getting a facelift, thanks to engineers from the New Jersey Army National Guard.**

This June, three units teamed up to improve the training areas used not only by fellow Guardsmen, but also state and local police, the Department of Corrections, Youth Challenge, and Officer Candidate School, among others.

“Anyone who trains here will benefit,” said 1st Lt. Jeff Hager, the acting commander for the project. “This is a high-visibility project.”

Improvements to be completed by the 150th Engineer Company include sidewalks and wheelchair access to some of the barracks, grading and excavating for an urban combat training site, a new review stand for the parade field, and gravel roadway access to the ranges. The 160th Engineer Detachment is also undertaking some roofing, electrical, and plumbing work. The units are joined by combat

engineers of Alpha Company, 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, which Hager says is a good sign. The improvements make up the annual training periods for the 150th, 160th, and A/50th.

“It’s great to get several units together on one project,” he said. Hager is optimistic that they will work alongside each other again on future projects, such as a possible UAV landing site at Warren Grove Gunnery Range.

The Soldiers aren’t the only ones getting a workout. Staff Sgt. Lee Christensen, an electrician on the civilian side, praised the Soldiers in the earthmovers he was supervising.

“They’re doing great work,” he said, and tapped his chest, joking, “But with more stripes, I can’t play anymore!”

This was Pfc. Jose Rivera’s first AT and he was all too happy to get out of the house and out of the armory.

“There’s always something to be fixed,” he said. 

## TRANSITIONING FROM PHASE ZERO TO PHASE ONE

Story and photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

**The long road to becoming a commissioned officer in the New Jersey Army National Guard begins with Phase Zero – months of drill weekends devoted to paperwork, classroom instruction and physical training at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt.**

But the hard work, the hours of pushing the body to its limits and beyond – and the first real understanding of what it takes to become a leader – comes to the candidates during a 15-day training period known as Phase One at the Niantic Readiness Center at Camp Rell, Conn.

On July 28, Col. Walter Alvarado, commander of New Jersey’s 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) led a contingent of leaders to check on the progress of the candidates of Class 55 as they neared completion of Phase One.

He complimented the class on their fortitude. Twenty one of the 22 candidates who began Phase One were still hanging in, a better ratio than all of the neighboring states that also sent their officer hopefuls for the same block of training.

“It’s my hope I will see all of you a year down the road when you’re receiving your commission as second lieutenants – future leaders of our great organization,” Alvarado told the candidates when they gathered from a break in land navigation training.

The candidates said the most difficult part of Phase One has been the land navigation courses. They’re held at Stone Ranch, a hilly, overgrown wilderness area just




Capt. Margaret Brescio, center, talks to New Jersey Army National Guard Officer Candidate Class 55 about career fields during a break in their Phase One training at Readiness Center at Camp Rell, Conn.

north of Camp Rell. The courses are dotted by steep tree-covered hills and traversed by ravines that drop more than 70 feet, terrain features that are especially dangerous in the black of night.

“It gets so dark here at night you don’t see the tree branches until it’s in your face,” said Candidate Jay Falcon.

But the candidates said they’re making it by learning to rely on each other.

“We’re really sticking together as a team,” said Candidate Najib Nabi. “We know that we need to work as a group to make it through this.” 

And the winner is...

# New Jersey's top enlisted recognized

New Jersey's top Army and Air Guard enlisted were recognized at the 36th Annual Enlisted Conference. Picture with Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hughes, right, are, left to right, Staff Sgt. Jason Montgomery accepting for Sgt. Monica G. Montgomery assigned to the Joint Training and Training Development Center was the recipient of the SGM Harry Arbeitman Outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer (Army) award; Master Sgt. June I. Kelly, 177th Fighter Wing, received the CSMSgt Edward W. Wolbert Outstanding First Sergeant (Air) awardee; Senior Airman Darnell A. Holmes with the 108th Wing was awarded the MSgt John F. Bodine Outstanding Airman; Spc. Randy Pearce of the 328th Military Police



Company was the SFC Robert G. Vuinovich Outstanding Soldier; and 1st Sgt. Mark Rizzo with the 102nd Reconnaissance, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition was the CSM Wilfred Z. Lea Outstanding First Sergeant (Army). Not pictured is Master Sgt. Malakatu Saleem-Maing of the 108th Wing who received the CMSgt Richard W. Spencer Outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer (Air) award. Courtesy Photo.

## ENZ COMPLETES ALBANIAN TOUR

In September 2010 Capt. Derek Enz will wrap up his 24-month tour of duty in Albania as the Bilateral Affairs Officer to Albania.

During his tenure, Enz worked alongside a career Foreign Affairs Officer in reshaping U.S. policy in the small country located just east of Italy. The partnership between New Jersey and Albania saw the execution of more than 60 military-to-military and civilian-to-military engagements with a budget just under \$750,000 making this one of the most cost effective, high impact programs in the European Command theater of operations. The Program has been realigned to meet Albania's growing requirements as the newest member of the NATO Alliance.

Enz's contributions to the U.S. Embassy and the Office of Defense Cooperation include realigning and restructuring the State Partnership Program by partnering the needs of Albania with the strengths of the New Jersey National Guard in the areas of military and civilian medical and law enforcement, coastal security, counter-drug awareness, recruiting and retention, non-commissioned officer development, excess munitions demilitarization, and disaster response management. He also played pivotal roles in the humanitarian assistance, foreign military sales and financing, defense reform, and political election observation programs during his time with the State Partnership Program Country Team.

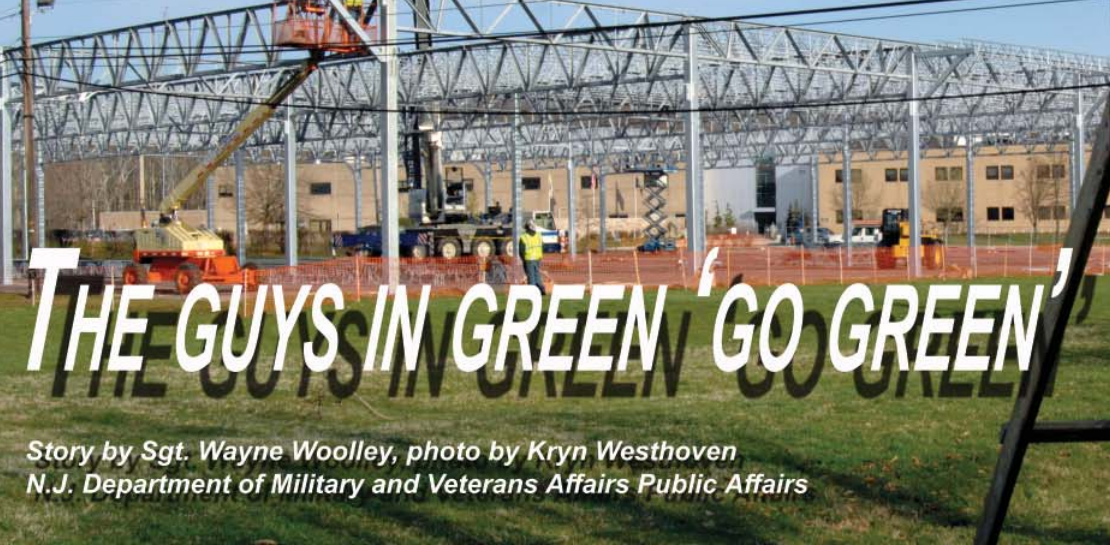
Albania's commitment to the NATO Alliance has been well received. Albania has provided more than 1,500 soldiers in support of the U.S. efforts in Iraq since 2003 and Afghanistan since 2001. Further cooperation between New Jersey and Albania will continue with agreements to conduct



Capt. Derek Enz, left; Idriz Konjari, center, Director of International Engagement and Lt. Col. Jeanne C. Wessel, right, State Partnership Program Coordinator during a meeting with the Albanian Minister of Defense on June 19, 2009. U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams in the near future.

The State Partnership Program between Albania and New Jersey allows New Jersey National Guard members to embed themselves in the partner country for the purpose of supporting the security cooperation objectives of the Combatant Commander. New Jersey and Albania recently celebrated their 15-year anniversary of security cooperation in December 2008. Enz will be replaced by Maj. Yvonne Mays of the New Jersey Air National Guard.



# THE GUYS IN GREEN 'GO GREEN'

Story by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, photo by Kryn Westhoven  
N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

Design and Construction Supervised by



US Army Corps of Engineers  
New York District

## Construction of Photovoltaic Carport

Fort Dix, New Jersey

Architects:  
US Army Engineer District  
New York, New York

Contractor:  
Turtle Associates LLC  
Cherry Hill, NJ

Project being constructed for the  
**New Jersey National Guard**

## Rusty surplus military vehicles, leaking fuel tanks, unexploded ordnance.

Those are the environmental nightmares some people imagine when they think about the military and its installations.

But the New Jersey Army National Guard and the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs are turning that antiquated image on its head by using their facilities to become one of the Garden State's largest producers of clean, cheap renewable energy. The Department has four major solar projects completed, two more under construction and plans on the drawing board for a wind turbine. Oh, and the first of several of what will become a fleet of more than 70 all-electric cars begins arriving at DMAVA facilities in August.

In short, the guys in green have 'gone green' with an almost messianic fervor.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, says his department embraced alternative energy for many reasons -- and not all ones you might expect.

First, the most obvious.

"In this economic climate, saving tax dollars is a big driver," Rieth said.

And DMAVA's efforts amount to more than small change. So far, the Department's green efforts have saved more than \$350,000 in utility costs since 2005. It's forecast the savings could be 10 times that during the next decade. And that's just for starters. At the current energy prices, DMAVA has the potential to earn more than \$38 million under New Jersey's Solar Renewable Energy Certificate Program

"We need to do this because it's the right thing to do," Rieth said.

The New Jersey National Guard wants to be in the forefront of a Pentagon initiative to safeguard installations critical to the nation's defense by moving them off the electrical grid, Rieth said.

To that end, the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt is expected to become one of the first military installations in the nation to produce its own power and thereby insulate itself from power disruptions caused by mechanical

failures and terrorist attacks.

As it is, 80 percent of the energy used at the headquarters building at Sea Girt comes from an array of solar panels that produce 240,000 kilowatts of electricity a year. A second array of panels expected to come on line within the next year will boost annual production there to nearly 750,000 kilowatts of electricity. That's enough electricity to power 70 homes for a year. Or eliminate enough carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over a decade as a grove of 13,000 trees. Or eliminate the equal amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere that 103 cars would produce in a year.

And that's only the beginning at Sea Girt.

DMAVA is currently conducting studies to determine any potential environmental impacts created by the installation of a 320-foot wind turbine. Funding for the \$5.1 million project has already been approved by the Department of Defense.

The Department's first solar project in 2005 was an array of 952 photovoltaic panels that covers a portion of the National Guard's Joint Training and Training and Training Development Center on Fort Dix. The project produces 281,000 kilowatt hours a year and saves taxpayers at least \$35,000 in electric costs each year.

Within 30 years, those panels will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2,000 tons. That's the equivalent of planting 590 acres of trees or not driving 5 million miles on the state's highways.

And speaking of driving, the New Jersey Army National Guard's next green acquisition will be a small fleet of 25 all-electric vehicles.

The first cars of a fleet that will ultimately number 70 are slated to arrive in August. They'll have a top speed of 35-miles-per-hour, room for two passengers as well as some light equipment and they'll be assigned to five National Guard facilities around the state. They will be perfect for local deliveries, maintenance crews and anyone who needs a quick way across some of the sprawling installations.

The best part of the cars? They can be charged directly from outlets in the parking lot solar structures. 🌱

# Warren Grove gets easement

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

"This is a win for all parties concerned," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey.

Representatives of the New Jersey Air National Guard, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey Pinelands Commission and state Green Acres Program met at the 177th's Warren Grove Range on March 24 to sign a Deed of Easement between the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the 177th Fighter Wing and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the State of New Jersey, to use on behalf of the 177th Fighter Wing and the New Jersey Air National Guard.

"Through partnering with the Air Force and conservation organizations, we were able to come together to meet common goals of preserving the habitat, preventing encroachment, and creating buffers around military installations," said Bob Moore, Director of the Air Force Real Property Agency.

This easement preserves the 107-acre Oswego Gun Club located in Bass River Township and a nearby five-acre property.

The Club, which is surrounded by the Range and the Bass River State Forest, is the first in the state to be preserved by a nonprofit group using funding from the Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Preparedness Initiative (REPI), which provides funds to preserve land surrounding military installations.

The Foundation purchased the Oswego Gun Club property for \$106,000, using \$30,000 from REPI, \$35,310 from the Pinelands Conservation Fund and \$40,667 from the



Warren Grove Range Commander Lt. Col. Thor O. Himley, left at podium, addresses a crowd of elected officials, conservationists, members of the New Jersey National Guard and the media during a signing ceremony at the Range on March 24.

state Green Acres Program. In turn, a conservation easement will be held by the United States Air Force. An additional property was purchased for \$21,000, using \$11,000 from REPI and \$10,000 from Green Acres.

"We're proud to be part of this conservation 'first' in New Jersey, and we're looking forward to partnering again with the military in the near future," said Michele S. Byers, Foundation Executive Director.

"The purchase and conservation easement ensures this land is managed in the most cost-effective and environmental friendly way while ensuring the Warren Grove Range is able to continue as a vital East Coast training facility for combat aviation," said Rieth. 🇺🇸

## CST TEAMS WITH MULTIPLE AGENCIES

Sgts. Brandon Botley, left and Michael Issenman, right, of the 21st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) take samples during a joint exercise with multiple local, state and federal agencies including the United States Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, the Environmental Protection Agency from Regions 2 and 3, and the Burlington County Hazardous Materials Response Unit at the Burlington County Fire Academy from Feb. 16 to 19. The exercise enabled all the units to practice their skills and more importantly, to test the coordination of efforts between multiple agencies working within an Incident Command System to protect our state and nation. Photo by Stan Fayer, Senior Investigator, Burlington County Environmental Crimes.





# JETS TACKLE JT2DC

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

When four buses arrived at the Joint Training and Training Development Center on May 14, 65 players with the New York Jets football team and six of their coaches, piled off. They spent the day discovering what Soldiers do training for war and working together themselves training in teamwork and communication.

As with the military, the football players work on leadership and communication skills. According to Jets Assistant Strength Coach Kyle Thorne, these players had just spent a mini-camp working on strength. This year the players had voted on four leaders, who had then drafted their team members onto their personal teams – talk about fantasy football!

As the various camps go on, competitions ensue, with teams getting points for their performance. The winning team will get perks. A barbecue at the end of this camp; special dinner, movie night, evening off during summer camp could be part of the winnings for the top team.

The visit to JT2DC had the NFL members training in the desert, firing weapons in the Engagement Skills Trainer and Virtual Interactive Combat Environment as well as learning how to evacuate a Humvee after a rollover. Because the teams were in competition, a point system was assigned for time and accuracy in the various scenarios.



Sgt. Lenny Johnson, left, a Premobilization Trainer at the Joint Training and Training Development Center prepares Jets rookie receiver Vic Hall for the Humvee rollover simulator.

Linebacker Bart Scott, leader of Team Scott, said he developed a new level of respect for his father who had been a soldier in Vietnam.

“We practice all the time, like the military, to prepare for our jobs,” he said. “But this is humbling. The military puts themselves on the line for their jobs.”

## Read Across America

Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran Spc. Stephanie Alvarez, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, reads to a group of elementary students during the Read Across America event on March 4. Five New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers and one New Jersey Air National Guard Airman participated this year at the event at the Triangle School, located at Hillsborough. Read Across America is a 13-year-old national initiative sponsored by the National Education Association to encourage young people to read and is held each year at more than three million schools nationwide. The one-day celebration coincides with the birthday of noted childrens’ author, Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.





# “Excellent” says it all

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**More than a year’s worth of hard work was summarized by a single word: “Excellent.”**

This word and grade ensures the 177th Fighter Wing’s future and means it is fully capable of performing its wartime mission – keeping jets flying and taking the fight to the enemy.

The 177th went through its first Operational Readiness Inspection in 13 years by the Air Combat Command Office of the Inspector General from Oct. 2-8.

Normally these inspections are held every five years.

September 11 changed that and as a result the 177th fell out of the inspection cycle.

The IG rates wings on three areas: Employment, which is about mission effectiveness – keeping the aircraft flying and putting bombs on target; Mission Support, which covers everything from logistics to engineering, command and control to medical, and finally the Ability To Survive and Operate – how wing personnel react to an attack, and more important how quickly they recover in order to get back to the primary mission of refueling, loading weapons and launching aircraft to continue the fight.

These areas are then broken into sub groups; failure in any one can be catastrophic to the entire wing.

The IG grades all these areas and sub groups either as Outstanding, Excellent, Satisfactory, Marginal or Unsatisfactory.

In preparation, the Jersey Airmen travelled nationwide to observe how other Guard wings were training; then watched them perform during their ORIs.

The stakes were high: units that fail ORIs risk losing their missions; loss of mission could equal unit closure.

Unfortunately many units have failed – the inspection is that tough.

The 177th pooled the lessons learned from those



Master Sgt. Anthony C. Henchinski, center, and Senior Airman Justyna M. Janasik, right, along with Airmen of the 177th Fighter Wing applaud after hearing the news that the Wing received an “Excellent” rating on the Operational Readiness Inspection. Janasik was one of two Airmen to be coined by Inspector General during the inspection. U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

visits and for the six months prior to the inspection, ran operational readiness exercises, which replicate the inspection’s mission requirements and stress.

It paid off.

The IG recognized 33 Airmen and 12 teams, which represent the entire range of Wing functions for their performance during the inspection.

Excellent work 177th. 🇺🇸



A 177th Fighter Wing Security Force Airman prepares for an attack during the Operational Readiness Exercise on Oct. 5, 2009. U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA.

# 253rd logs 60,000 plus miles in two weeks

By Staff Sgt. John T. Crankshaw III, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. - Soldiers of the 253rd Transportation Company logged more than 60,000 miles and moved more than 260 pieces of equipment into and out of Letterkenny Army Depot near Chambersburg, Pa. during their annual training period from July 17 through the 31.**

Their missions began at Cape May Courthouse, where the 99 Soldiers and 36 military transport vehicles departed for the 179-mile convoy to Letterkenny, Pa.

"The convoy up here is like a real world mission," said Spc. Keith McKeivitt, a second platoon truck driver.

One of the first missions was to deliver six refurbished high mobility, multi-purpose wheeled vehicles to Lake Conneaut in Northwestern Pennsylvania, 179 miles away. The sixteen Soldiers then returned four damaged vehicles to Letterkenny Depot, said Staff Sgt. Dallas Bohn, a truck driver.

Sgt. Christine Czaja, a truck driver, took part in a three-day mission to move 48 trailers from Letterkenny Depot to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., 76 miles away.

"We don't get to drive the trucks much during the year so this was an excellent opportunity to gain proficiency," Czaja said.

Thirteen Soldiers used six trucks to accomplish the task and on day two, they made history, she said.

"We're the first unit operating out of Letterkenny that's been able to make two trips to FIG in one day," said Second Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Samuel Waltzer.

While the FIG mission was going on, third platoon was conducting a grueling mission to deliver water pumps to Red River Army Depot near Texarkana, Texas, said Waltzer.

The 18-person team drove 1,200 miles in 84 hours, dropped off the equipment, and was reunited with the rest of their unit seven days later. That's 2,400 safely-driven miles in one week.

In addition to these missions, the company also conducted movements to West Virginia, Pittsburgh, Fort Dix, and Tobyhanna, Pa., during their two-week annual training period, said Waltzer.



Spc. Javier Vega, a truck driver with the 253rd Transportation Company, advances during an exercise simulating a blocked ambush. U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Allen Robinson, 444MPAD.

## SOLDIERS TRAIN WITH UAVs AT WARREN GROVE RANGE

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen  
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Spc. Christopher McPherson, left, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator in training, 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, listens to Spc. Christopher Storkamp, right, UAV Maintainer with the 1-34th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Minnesota Army National Guard perform maintenance on a Shadow 200 RQ-7 drone on August 11, 2009. New Jersey and Minnesota Army National Guard Soldiers trained at the 177th Fighter Wing's Warren Grove Range to validate the Range's capabilities to support the training and operational needs of Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (TUAS) units. This training will enable the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion TUAS Platoon to be better prepared to receive its Shadow 200 RQ-7 fielding in 2011. NJARNG Soldiers got to work with the equipment and benefit from the learning of the Minnesota Soldiers,



who are among the most proficient TUAS operators in the Army and have significant deployment experience. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

# NEW JERSEY ARMY GUARD TOP LAWYER PROMOTED

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

## You won't find too many JAGs like Col. Eugene Ingrao.

The first thing you notice about the New Jersey Army National Guard's full-time attorney is the Combat Action Badge and Airborne Jumpmaster badges on his uniform. He's got the steely eyes of someone who's deployed with Special Operations forces. That's because he has.

Dig a little deeper and another distinction emerges: Ingrao is the first Judge Advocate General Corps officer in the history of the New Jersey Guard to command a battalion.

But the bottom line is that Tabernacle resident loves being a military lawyer.

"Every day when I come to work, there is a different and exciting issue that I get to learn about being a JAG officer," Ingrao says.

His enthusiasm, dedication and willingness to put himself in harm's way to do his job played a big role in the 46-year-old lawyer's most recent distinction, becoming one of the few full-time New Jersey Army Guard JAG officers ever to be promoted to full colonel.

On the drill floor surrounded by his family – many of whom traveled from Michigan -- Ingrao credited his mentors, peers and legal team for giving him the support that allowed him to rise as the top attorney for the state's Army and Air Guard.

Ingrao, a graduate of the Wayne State University School of Law in Detroit, joined the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1999 and said one of the highlights of his career was the opportunity to serve in Afghanistan with the Green Berets.

The chance came when he volunteered for service in 2004 as a legal officer with the 3rd Special Operation Group during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. His time with the special operations troops helped him earn the coveted Combat Master Jumpmaster Wings with a Combat Star.



Col. Eugene Ingrao's children Gene Jr., left, and Jenna, right, pin on colonel's epaulets while his sister-in-law Jennifer Harcer, back, watches during his promotion ceremony at Joint Forces Headquarters - New Jersey on March 6. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Raymond Reyes, 444MPAD.

"I will always be grateful for the New Jersey command, particularly (Maj. Gen. Glenn) Rieth, for providing me the opportunity to deploy with 3rd Group and to provide the latitude to learn how to become a well rounded officer," Ingrao said.

Ingrao's loves the fact that no two days as a JAG are the same. One day, he might provide legal counsel for commanders on a Uniform Code of Military Justice matter. The next day, he might give advice about environmental law to officials who are facing an issue at an armory.

"When I visit my civilian lawyer friends," Ingrao said. "They usually want to know how my day went because they believe my job is more interesting." 🇺🇸

## Songfest hits vets home

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen  
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The resident's faces lit up as the sound of voices singing Holiday carols could be heard in the halls of the Vineland Veterans' Memorial Home on Dec. 15.

Nineteen Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Wing were joined by 71 fourth graders from the Seaview School in Linwood for the ninth Annual Holiday "Songfest" at the Home. Upon arrival, Airmen and fourth graders were issued candy canes and holiday greeting cards, assigned to groups and sent out to spread cheer to the residents.

According to one of the residents, despite the challenge of being accompanied by the Airmen, the students performed admirably. 🇺🇸



Master Sgt. Liz Stefanoni, left, 108th Wing, and Senior Master Sgt. Paul Thompson, center, Joint Forces Headquarters-New Jersey (Air), greet Vineland Veterans' Home resident Curtis Washington.

# Deployed Airmen visit orphanage

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs; photos courtesy Master Sgt Jill Kovak, 177th Fighter Wing Services Flight

**Deployed 177th Services Flight Airmen joined forces with the Manas Area Benefit Outreach Society to visit an orphanage in the village of Niz, Kyrgyz Republic.**



"I was asked to go to the orphanage, and I fell in love with the children from the first visit," said Lodging Specialist Tech. Sgt. Kim King.

The Airmen are deployed at the Transit Center

at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Master Sgts. Dean Burlew, Jill Kovak and Harry Steele, Tech. Sgt. King, and Senior Airmen Vanessa Torres and Tamikia Hart visited the orphanage where the children's ages ranged between six and 12.

"We participated in outdoor activities; played soccer and tag," said Services Sustainment Superintendent Master Sgt. Kovak. "We also brought them shoes which they were in need of."

"I saw that something can be done to make a differ-

ence in the children's lives and help build a relationship between America and with the Kyrgyz community," said Food Operations Superintendent Master Sgt. Steele.

The orphanage is one of 10 organiza-

tions, which include schools and children's heart and cancer centers supported by MABOS, a non-profit base community service organization. During the visits, Airmen bring toys, clothes, school supplies and textbooks. MABOS holds fund raisers to purchase items for the visits, as well as raises money for the children's heart surgeries. So far, MABOS has paid for more than 200 heart surgeries.

"The amount of joy and happiness I have received from MABOS volunteering is tremendous, and I will be taking home life-lasting memories," said Kovak. 🐾



Master Sgt. Jill Kovak and a new friend at an orphanage in Niz, Kyrgyz Republic.

## TASKING THE TASKERS

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**After six months of distance learning, 42 New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen defied the elements to complete the Joint Force Headquarters/Joint Task Force Staff Training Course on Feb. 7.**

The training, which is geared toward dealing with natural or manmade disasters, ended up mirroring reality when snows inundated New Jersey making it nearly impossible to hold the class. Defying the elements, 31 Soldiers and 11 Airmen, along with two Airmen from the New York Air National Guard traveled from across the state to Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Lawrenceville to attend the final training segment.

Hosted by National Guard Bureau and North American Air Defense-Northern Command personnel, the training combined table-top exercises and traditional classroom instruction to bring together the various elements covered in the distance-learning portion of the class.

The training is geared toward Joint Force Headquarters/Joint Task Force Staff members supporting State, Federal, and dual status missions.



Lt. Col. John N. Metzler, standing, Operations and Training, Army Aviation Support Facility, presents his group's findings during Joint Force Headquarters/Joint Task Force Staff Training Course.

While the group was a small compared to the greater population of New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, with the increase in dual missions, this training will become more important and widespread.

"Everyone will eventually be getting some form of this training," said Col. Kevin C. Hegarty, HSCOE Operations and Training. 🐾

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley  
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen  
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

With his lanky frame as straight as a rod and the imposing brown “Smokey the Bear” hat tilted forward on his head, Staff Sgt. Seth Greer could be the drill sergeant from central casting.

And on a recent Saturday morning, as buses filled with new enlistees to the New Jersey Army National Guard arrived at the state training center in Sea Girt, Greer, 32, more than acted the part.

He bounded up the steps of each arriving bus with his voice blistering the recruits as they struggled to fill out paperwork before exiting the bus as fast as they could. None moved fast enough for Greer.

“Get off my bus! Get off my bus! Get off my bus and move with a high rate of giddyup!” Greer bellowed.

Greer is the first Soldier the New Jersey National Guard has ever sent to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School, a rigorous nine-week academy at Fort Jackson, S.C.

One weekend a month, Greer puts on the drill sergeant hat to train the aspiring Soldiers who come to the Recruit Sustainment Program at the National Guard Training Center. The once-a-month program exists to prepare new recruits to ship off for eight weeks of basic training at an out-of-state military installation.

Every new member of the Army National Guard must complete basic training before they go on for additional training to learn a military skill. If they don’t graduate from basic training, they can’t stay in the Guard.

Nearly 95 percent of the recruits the Jersey Guard sends to basic training graduate.

Greer and the rest of the recruit sustainment staff want to keep it that way. Greer’s sole job in working with recruits is to make sure they’re ready for the rigors of basic training. And yes, part of that preparation is to get them used to having a barking drill sergeant in their faces. But Greer’s job is far more than that.

“He definitely raises the bar,” said Lt. Col. John Sheard, the state recruiting and retention commander. “His job is to educate our warriors about what a drill instructor is all about. He’s here to inspire. But we want a happy medium. The bottom line is to get them ready to ship out.”

That happy medium means that Greer, the father of three, spends as much time using measured tones and calmly explaining everything from how to march in formation to the



Army rank structure as he does yelling and making recruits do push-ups when they break the rules.

“I am not here to beat anybody up,” Greer said. “I want to give them a taste of a drill instructor, not the whole meal.”

Still, recruits who make mistakes get a pretty good helping of Greer.

Pvt. Jeffrey Barthelemy, 18, learned the hard way that trying to hide his cell phone from the instructors would draw Greer’s wrath. Barthelemy ended up doing pushups for nearly four minutes with Greer’s nose practically touching his and the drill sergeant’s voice booming in his ears. Another recruit arrived at Sea Girt with her long hair flowing down her back instead of pinned up off her neck. Greer noticed her instantly.

“You look like a soup sandwich,” Greer told her. “You need to fix that now!”

Greer joined the Army in 1997 and served four years on active duty before joining the National Guard full time. From the day he went to basic training, he’s had two goals: become a qualified drill instructor and attain the rank of sergeant major, the highest enlisted rank.

He’s now accomplished goal one and his peers figure he’s well on his way to his second.

“He’s a good Soldier and a great part of his team,” said Staff Sgt. Peter Sarni III, a member of the recruit sustainment staff. “He cares about these kids. We all do. We understand that we’re not the future of this organization. They are.”

# OUTSTANDING MEDS

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



## The 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group was presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award on Dec. 12, 2009.

This is the second time the Medical Group has received the award. The first was in 2003 as a subordinate unit with the Wing. The award was created in 1954 and is presented to any Air Force unit which performs exceptionally meritorious service.

"This prestigious award is a testimony to the outstanding and dedicated service by the men and women of the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group," said Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard. "Your contributions have made the difference – both here and abroad. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment, dedication and resolve to our great state and nation."

The Medical Group joins an elite group of 36 Air Guard units nationwide in receiving the award. The Medical Group received the award for the period from March 30, 2006 to March 30, 2008. During that time, the Group provided support for Operations' Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Jump Start, Arctic Care and Task Force Grizzly. Medical Airmen have supported the State Partnership Pro-

gram between New Jersey and the Republic of Albania by training numerous Albanian doctors, nurses, and technicians in emergency medical technician certification courses.

"These organizations enable the Air National Guard to fulfill its commitment to the missions of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, domestic improvement, and most important of all – defense of America," said Lt. Gen. Wyatt.

In addition to their support for national and international operations, the Group also received their second consecutive "Outstanding" rating during their March 2008 Health Services Inspection. To add to this accomplishment, they put together an HSI Consultation Team to assist other Air Force units in preparing for these inspections, which are considered among the most rigorous medical inspections in the Air Force. The 177th Team visited four other units; three of which have been inspected and attained either "excellent" or better ratings on their inspections.

"These Airmen are true professionals who have taken an interest in helping out other units and ensuring that they succeed," said Col. Robert C. Bolton, 177th Wing Commander. 🇺🇸



## Airman saves life

Master Sgt. James F. McCloskey, 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Nursing Services saved a fellow Airman's life on June 7, 2009. During the June Operational Readiness Exercise, McCloskey came to the rescue of an Airman who was choking to death and losing consciousness. Realizing that the individual was in distress and unable to breathe, McCloskey charged past barriers and others in the way, removed the choking Airman's flak vest and chemical warfare protective equipment and conducted the Heimlich maneuver. His quick response and strength were the critical factors in saving the choking Airman. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

## Changes in Command

# Six units get new commanders

In a flurry of change-of-command ceremonies beginning in March and running through June, The 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; the 1st Battalion of the 150th Assault Helicopter Battalion; the 1st Battalion of the 114th Infantry; the 2nd Battalion of the 113th Infantry; the 3rd Battalion of the 112th Field Artillery; the 42nd Regional Support Group all got new leadership.

### 50TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

**Incoming:** Col. Kenneth Schecter, **Outgoing:** Col. Steven Ferrari

### 1-150TH AIR ASSAULT BATTALION

**Incoming:** Lt. Col. John Metzler, **Outgoing:** Col. John Scannell

### 114TH INFANTRY BATTALION

**Incoming:** Lt. Col. Gregory Saunders, **Outgoing:** Lt. Col. Joseph Boucher

### 113TH INFANTRY BATTALION

**Incoming:** Lt. Col. Paul Nema, **Outgoing:** Lt. Col. Mark Pieterski

### 3-112TH FIRES BATTALION

**Incoming:** Lt. Col. Robert Bryan, **Outgoing:** Lt. Col. Brian Scully

### 42ND REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

**Incoming:** Col. Joseph Cowan, **Outgoing:** Col. Roch Switlik



Col. Kenneth Schecter, left, incoming commander of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, returns the units colors to Command Sgt. Maj. David Kenna during the 50th's Change of Command ceremony on March 7. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. John T. Crankshaw, 444MPAD.



The 177th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office has had, to put it mildly, an incredibly successful year. Col. Robert C. Bolton, second from left, and Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Raynaldo Morales, second from right, pose with 177th Recruiting Team, displaying a selection of their awards; left to right, Staff Sgt. Christina Noriega, Master Sgts. David Diaz and Christina Vidro and Tech. Sgt. Susanne Faucett during the Wing's promotions and awards ceremony on April 18. Not pictured is Tech. Sgt. Cris Delestre. Vidro was presented with the Region V Large State Top Accession, the Bronze Club Award in recognition of 201 enlistments for the year

of 2009 and the Bronze Club Level Award for 100 accessions; Diaz was the Recruiting Supervisor of the Year while Faucett won the Production Recruiter of the Year, the Century Club Award for more than 100 Accessions and 1st Quarter Award Winner Recruiter with the Most Accessions. Finally, the Recruiting Office received the Region V Fiscal Year 10 1st Quarter Award Winner Wing with the Highest Average Accessions; the FY 10 1st Quarter Award Winner Wing with the most Critical Accessions and the Region V FY 09 3rd Quarter Award Winner Wing with the most Critical Accessions. U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren, 177FW/PA.

# ALBANIA AND NEW JERSEY: STAYING ON TRACK

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Sbarro answers a student's question during the Stay on Track presentation at Memorial Upper Middle School, Willingboro on Jan. 28.

Senior members of the Republic of Albania's Department of Education and National Police observed the New Jersey National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force's Drug Education Team perform their Stay on Track presentation at Memorial Upper Middle School, Willingboro, on Jan. 28.

The delegation came to New Jersey to study the Drug Education program from Jan. 25 to the 29. Albania is implementing a similar program to educate Albanian children on the hazards of drug abuse.

Stay on Track is a comprehensive approach to substance abuse prevention composed of 45

minute interactive lessons in classrooms, after-school and other youth settings. The research-based curriculum, which is sponsored by the National Guard, is designed for classroom implementation by National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, as well as teachers, administrators and guidance counselors for middle school students.



Besnik Ahmetaj, center, Head of the Sector for Control of the Territory and Service to Third Parties - (community policing), Albanian Police Headquarters observes Pfc. James Kube, left, during a Stay on Track presentation at Memorial Upper Middle School.

The Stay on Track program was initially piloted in the 2006-2007 school year in eleven states. Since then, it has grown to include 49 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Using motorsports as a theme, Stay on Track provides students with lessons teaching the problems of drug abuse, the effects of different drugs, and the effect of drug abuse on one's ability to function effectively. Other issues addressed are health, decision-making, communication, refusal skills, teamwork and peer and media influences. Students are encouraged to work on the activities at home and discuss the lessons with their parents or guardians.

It's all about staying on track. 🏎️



## Top of their field

Col. Robert C. Bolton, center, 177th Fighter Wing Commander, presents Staff Sgt. Rusty L. Litterer, left, and Tech. Sgt. Anna C. Ayars, right, of the 177th Legal Office the Chief Master Sergeant Larry E. Councilman Award for Outstanding Air National Guard Paralegal of the Year for 2009 and 2008 respectively. This is the first time that paralegals from the same unit have received the award in successive years. During this period, with new judge advocates, Ayars and Litterer, both assuming roles that far exceeded those normally expected of their career fields, acted as the law office supervisor and maintained the continuity and quality of legal service by ensuring that hundreds of legal documents were prepared and that many others received the assistance they needed. In addition, they both contributed to a successful Unit Compliance Inspection, Operational Readiness Inspection and Air Expeditionary Force rotation. U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren, 177FW/PA.



# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108th Wing Public Affairs

**When William Shakespeare wrote the famous quote that started, “What’s in a name?” he might have been talking about the 108th Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard.**

The wing traces its heritage back to September 1917 as the 119th Aero Squadron formed during World War I as an active duty training squadron.

Since then it has been through many names – 119th Observation Squadron, 490th Fighter Squadron, 119th Fighter Squadron, 108th Tactical Fighter Wing, 348th Fighter Group, 108th Fighter Group, and 108th Air Refueling Wing.

The planes and missions have changed with the names – planes with names such as Thunderbolt, Thunderstreak, Thunderchief, Phantom and Stratotanker have filled their flightlines. Their pilots have flown in both World

Wars, served during the Berlin Crisis, flew airlift missions to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, Operations Northern and Southern Watch and flown numerous refueling missions in support of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield and the current Operation’s Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

But the Base Realignment Commission’s decision in 2005 for re-alignment of the 108th gave it a whole new mission in life.

Going from a “super tanker wing” with 20-plus KC-135E aircraft assigned and a primarily air refueling mission to its current mission has put the wing through some growing pains. The wing, although it has reduced its numbers to eight KC-135R aircraft flying the skies of the world, is stronger from the process.

On Dec. 1, 2009, the 108th was redesignated as the

108th Wing in acknowledgement of its new missions. The 108th Contingency Response Group was added to the wing as was the 204th Intelligence Squadron.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, commander of the 108th Wing, said, “The excellent people that make up the 108th continue to stand out and show the Guard and the Air Force what a great job we do.”

The 108th CRG is only one of two such groups in the Air Guard – the other is in Kentucky – and one of eight in the continental U.S., with three more spread throughout the world.

The CRG is the Air Force’s rapid entry force designed to assess and open an air base, perform initial airfield operations and ensure a smooth transition to combat sustainment.

According to Col. Robert Brazel, commander of the 108th CRG, the group will do non-combat evacuations, humanitarian relief

operations, and disaster response as well as full spectrum war airbase opening.

The 204th Intelligence Squadron is the first Air National Guard Squadron that is solely dedicated to providing intelligence instruction and training products to the Air Force Air Mobility Command. It is also the first course of its kind in the intelligence community that integrates active duty, National Guard and reserve students.

“Due to active duty deployment rotations, the 204th will be able to provide a level of continuity to AMC,” said Lt. Col. David Zink, 204th Intelligence Squadron commander. “The 204th instructor staff will lend stability through our teaching and training requirements.”

As Shakespeare wrote, the object is still the same no matter what the name. The 108th Wing proves that whatever its name, it will continue to do its part for the Air Guard. 🇺🇸



Graphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

# OCS and WO: exploring the options

By Spc. Landis Andrews and Spc. Saul Rosa, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from all over New Jersey packed into the Sea Girt National Guard Training Center theater for a meeting on the Officer and Warrant Officer Candidate Schools.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, spoke to the group of candidates about the benefits and responsibilities of becoming a commissioned officer.

"It will give you a tremendous foundation," said Maj. Gen. Rieth. "To be a leader in our National Guard is an honor and privilege."

Whether by command or by choice, 87 soldiers attended the meeting and every one of them left with some good information.

Pfc. Ebenezer Sarpeh did not want to attend the briefing, but is glad that he did. He walked away with guidance on how to fulfill a childhood dream.

"I found the information on Warrant Officer School to be very interesting," Sarpeh said. "I have always wanted to fly and this could be a way for me to make it happen."

Tech. Sgt. Lloyd Terry found himself surrounded by Army guardsmen for a different reason.

"I am trying to explore other options that I have," Terry said. "I have aspirations of being an officer and this program that the Army National Guard offers is something that I can do."

When asked why he considered crossing over into the Army for a commission, one word quickly came to mind.

"Opportunities," Terry bluntly stated. "There are more opportunities for me over here."

Pfc. Rasheema Waters felt a call to action while listening to the current officer candidates speak.

"It really motivated me to start my own PT regimen," Waters said. "Even though I don't have an active position, this makes me want to wake up, go to the park and run. I want to prepare for what they have in store for me."

Within the New Jersey National Guard there are three branches a candidate can enlist in; Combat Arms, Support and Service.

Maj. Ronald Deloatch, 254th Regiment Combat Arms then explained the Macro schedule of training. There are three courses in becoming an officer; Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) one, two and three. BOLC 1 is OCS and a 16 month program comprised of three phases of instruction.



Newly minted 2nd Lt. Ana Bolanos has her second lieutenant's rank pinned on by her mother Teresa, top left, and her sons Emanuel, left, and Gabriel, right, while Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, right, observes. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

**Those interested in either program should contact the 254th Regiment Combat Arms at (732) 974-5900.**

Phase one focus on Land navigation, a five mile road march and a training management exam. Phase two emphasizes on a seven and ten mile road march, examinations, a three mile formation run and a field leadership exercise. Phase three deals with combat water survival test, leadership reaction course, field leadership exercise two and leadership evaluations.

To apply to OCS a candidate must have at least 60 credits, a GT score of over 110, an SAT score of over 850, be less than 42 years of age.

Preparation is something that Spc. Nadia Santiago does not lack.

"I have 11 years in the military," Santiago said. "I know I have the experience and leadership abilities that it takes. With OCS, I know I can offer more."

There were women, men, Air Force, Army and even a civilian in attendance. Their ranks ranged from private to two-star general. But they were all there for one reason that Terry summed up in one sentence.

"One team, one fight."

# NEWS GUARD FAMILIES CAN USE

Compiled by the GuardLife Staff

## Savings Program part of military preparedness

**Today's economic climate underscores how important sound financial management practices are to Guardsmen and their families.**

Personal financial health is essential to the National Guard's military preparedness.

The Department of Defense has launched the 2010 "Military Saves; Start Small, Think Big," campaign which is conducted in coordination with the non-profit partner, the Consumer Federation of America.

The goal of this year's campaign is for members of the military and their families to make a personal commitment to save a portion of their hard-earned income for emergencies and to meet their near and long-term financial goals including retirement.

To help National Guard members and spouses improve their financial preparedness, the National Guard

Financial Management Awareness Program (FMAP) has partnered with the Military Saves Campaign ([www.MilitarySaves.org](http://www.MilitarySaves.org)) to provide free resources and education.

FMAP has developed a 2010 Financial Management Health Assessment Survey, found at [www.jointservices-support.org/financialawarenesssurvey](http://www.jointservices-support.org/financialawarenesssurvey). Upon taking the survey, participants are encouraged to "Take the Saver Pledge" to help change our National Guard culture to one that promotes financial wellness.

Additional information on FMAP's partnership with MilitarySaves.org can be found on the Joint Services Support System at [www.jointservicesupport.org](http://www.jointservicesupport.org).

Now is the time to develop a personal savings plan, establish an emergency fund and for those who are eligible, enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan.

## FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

### 108TH AIR REFUELING WING

3327 Charles Blvd.  
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641  
POC: Doug Ridgway  
(609) 754-4479  
[douglas.ridgway@ang.af.mil](mailto:douglas.ridgway@ang.af.mil)

### JERSEY CITY ARMORY

678 Montgomery Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07306-2208  
POC: Bernard Sims  
(201) 915-3589  
[bernard.sims@us.army.mil](mailto:bernard.sims@us.army.mil)

### LAWRENCEVILLE ARMORY

151 Eggert Crossing Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2897  
POC: Jane Hackbarth  
(609) 671-6681  
[jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil](mailto:jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil)

### MORRISTOWN ARMORY

430 Jockey Hollow Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960-0499  
POC: Robert Kraemer  
(973) 656-3592  
[robert.kraemer@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.kraemer@us.army.mil)

### POMONA NJNG FAC

400 Langley Road  
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234  
Air POC: Jean Perry  
(609) 645-6248  
[Jean.perry@ang.af.mil](mailto:Jean.perry@ang.af.mil)

Army POC: Michael Hughes  
(609) 272-6546  
[michael.hughes.3@ang.af.mil](mailto:michael.hughes.3@ang.af.mil)

### SOMERSET ARMORY

1060 Hamilton Street  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
POC: John Hales  
(732) 937-6290  
[john.a.hales@us.army.mil](mailto:john.a.hales@us.army.mil)

### TEANECK ARMORY

Teaneck & Liberty Roads  
Teaneck NJ 07666-0687  
POC: Janis Shaw  
(201) 833-0632  
[janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil](mailto:janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil)

### TOMS RIVER ARMORY

1200 Whitesville Road  
Toms River, NJ 08753  
POC: Maria Morro  
(732) 341-9102 ext 13  
[maria.morro1@us.army.mil](mailto:maria.morro1@us.army.mil)

### WOODBURY ARMORY

658 North Evergreen Avenue  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
POC: Michele Daisey  
(856) 251-6893  
[michele.daisey1@us.army.mil](mailto:michele.daisey1@us.army.mil)

or call

**1-888-859-0352**

## FRC increases grants

**The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has increased the amounts of family and business grants up to \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Both grants are known as TIER I grants.**

TIER II family grants are also available to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed servicemembers who served on State

Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Servicemembers meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500.

Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers.



# Short Rounds: Operation Scout joins band, Haitian earthquake

## Thinking inside the box

Staff Sgt. Dominic Francesco, center, 177th Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants Technician and Cubmaster of Pack 254, Mays Landing, poses with Cub Scouts' Dawson Lerner, left, and Jonathan Rider in boxes that will hold supplies for deployed Airmen. Francesco and his pack ran a collection called "Operation Scouting for Troops". The idea was to get items that the deployed Airmen would need that were not readily available in theater. With heavy community support, more than 3,000 items were collected ranging from sunscreen, lotion, wipes and even Girl Scout cookies were collected. The boxes are being sent over thanks to Support Arms. Photo by Tracy Cain.



## Seventeen days in Haiti: a Guardsman's journey to fulfillment

By Master Sgt. Donald Clarke, NJANG R&RC

**The question struck me as I looked out the window as the plane descended into Port-au-Prince on March 25. It was simply: How can anyone on earth live like this?**

I had come to Haiti with members of my congregation from Lifechurch in Allentown, Pa. Our destination was a Lifechurch orphanage in Croix-des-Bouquets, Santos 19, a community within Port-au-Prince.

Our mission on this 17 day visit was to help as many Haitians as possible as they struggled with the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquake that struck the island on Jan. 12.

We went to work right away, heading to a village where most of the 147 families were living under bed sheets and struggling to find shelter from the sun under scrawny trees.

I came across a young mother who had a baby boy who couldn't have been a few months old. When I asked to hold the baby, I noticed his entire back had been bitten by mosquitoes and it had started to scab over. My translator explained the boy slept on the ground with no protection from bugs.

We went out to look for supplies to build a makeshift home. We came back about an hour later with two-by-fours, and a shovel. We dug holes and placed the wood in the ground and then wrapped the tarps around the poles to create a bed.

Soon after, we met a boy no older than three who had been burned. With no medical attention, the burn had become infected. We promised the mother we would return to help the boy and went to find some supplies. My congregation member cleaned the burn and patched up the boy. We returned 10 days later and the burn was nearly healed.

The entire trip was filled with scenes like this. This type of help was needed everywhere I went, and not once did we turn anyone away. If we had it, it went to the people of Haiti.

I cried for most of the four hour flight home. I kept thinking how much more I could have done if I had only been able to stay a few more days. They were the most depressing – and fulfilling – 17 days of my life.



# Scouting for Troops, Piscopo e assistance, newest CSMs

## Article 15 gets new vocalist



Joe Piscopo, fourth from right, performed with the 63rd Army Band jazz group, Article 15, at the National Guard State Family Readiness Council banquet at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville on March 25. Appearing with Piscopo are, from left to right, bass guitarist Sgt. Steve Higgins, pianist Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bose, drummer Staff Sgt. Zachary Appleton, trombonist Sgt. John Day, on trumpet is Staff Sgt. Dexter Hendricks, baritone saxist 1st Sgt. Marc Winans, alto sax Sgt. Christopher Brown and on tenor sax is Staff Sgt. Ishwann Dixon. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVAPA.



## The top 2 percent

For every 100 Soldiers that enlist, only two will ever go on to make it to Sergeant Major. So in recognition of the New Jersey Army National Guard's two most recent graduates of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Sgt. Maj. Jonny Hannigan and Master Sgt. Alex Estrada, some of the Jersey Guard's senior leaders traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas, for their April 27 graduation. Pictured from left, they are; Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Maskery, Brig. Gen. James Grant, Hannigan, Estrada, State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins, and Lt. Col. Edward Chrystal. Photo courtesy Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Maskery.



# ARD ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

Prem A. Madlangbayan  
Alexander Makarucha  
Oscar Maldonado  
Kory M. Malone  
Kyle J. Marr  
Ronald S. Martin  
Luis A. Martinez Jr.  
Anthony W. Martinez  
Manoo Marwatie  
Nicholas M. Matteo  
Erik J. McCarroll  
Jason A. McCarthy  
Chad M. McCarthy  
Kyle P. McCausland  
Cernico D. McCreight  
Nicholas E. McDonald  
Michael L. McGovern  
Davis J. McKinley  
Gregory K. McPherson  
Edwin G. Medina  
Matthew T. Merklinger  
Rodolfo D. Meyo  
Yvette E. Middleton  
Elizabeth D. Miller  
Robert M. Miller II  
David M. Miller  
Joquann M. Montgomery  
Shiniecia T. Moore  
Andy A. Mora  
Andrea P. Morales  
Fredrick J. Morgan Jr.  
Joseph P. Morse  
Sabrya L. Mosley  
Alan Mucha Jr.  
Jeremy J. Muller  
Tercel M. Murray  
Andrew J. Muscarelle  
Arad S. Namin  
Moses D. Negron  
Hillary A. Newcomb  
Gregory T. Nicholas  
Calvin W. Novak  
Lisa M. Orellana  
Edward M. Orr  
Luis G. Ortiz  
Luis A. Ortiz  
Kyle J. Ostertag  
Angel L. Otero  
Mireya E. Ovalles  
Marco X. Paez  
Daniel W. Peirce  
David Peratta  
Michael Pereira  
Giovanni M. Perez Garcia  
Roy L. Pierson Jr.  
Brian J. Pilaar Jr.  
Michael S. Pisetelli  
Wood J. Polynice  
Carolina Posso  
David J. Priebs  
Hoa K. Quach  
Ivan D. Quinones  
Cesar V. Quirumbay  
Alfredo G. Ramirez  
Charles A. Ream  
Edwin R. R. Vergara  
Randy M. Rhoades  
Jermaine D. Richardson  
Eddie A. Rios  
Matthew V. Rivera  
Christian F. Rivera  
Victor O. Rivera Jr.  
Juan F. Rodriguez  
Angel L. Rodriguez  
Alexander L. Rodriguez  
Michael X. Rogers  
Nelson N. Roman  
William E. Romero Jr.  
Raymond E. Royce  
Angel Rubbet  
Ramirez Ruben  
James A. Rueter  
Samuel I. Russell  
Clarence F. Ryan III  
Maria C. Sanchez  
Griffin R. Sargent  
Matthew G. Selems  
Edgar F. Sepulveda  
Ahmed F. Sesaty  
Xavier L. Shellman  
Jacob P. Sherry  
Justin A. Signer  
Christopher S. Sladky  
Stipin J. I. Small  
Edward C. Smith  
Mark E. Spinelli  
Robert A. Stanko  
Philip A. Stefanowicz

Piotr Stelmach  
Lomar R. Stevens  
Matthew J. Stinsman  
Philip S. Stout  
Allen T. Strack  
Rory N. Sullivan  
Jessica R. Swenson  
Roger F. Then  
Richard D. Thomas  
Alcibiades Santiago Torres  
Jonathan Torres  
Jason B. Trerotola  
Bryant J. Tuhez  
Darrin B. Turner Jr.  
Esamuel C. Tutt  
Yoelvis Valdez  
Tiffany G. Vasquez  
Alexander Vazquez  
Alfonso L. Vazquez  
Mahickol A. Velasquez  
Munoz  
Joshua J. Velazquez  
Alex N. Velazquez-  
Rodriguez  
Sergio I. Velez  
Jose M. Veloz-Bencosme  
Jan M. Venturadaley  
Rogelio W. Vidal  
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Jamie F. Wagher  
Sean J. Wagoner  
Tony H. Warren  
Matthew L. Watson  
Michael A. Webber  
John M. Wei  
Larry L. Welch Jr.  
Cheron J. Wesley  
Travis L. White  
Michael R. Whitehead  
Jason D. Williams  
Charles R. Wolfe III  
Andrew D. Wood  
David Wood Jr.  
Charles A. Woodkotch  
Dominique J. Worsley  
Gregory C. Yetman  
Matthew E. Yetman

**To Private (E-2):**  
Amy Afanador  
Michael A. Amador  
Alicea Angel  
Frank C. Antonucci  
Jaime A. Apgar  
Mauricio Ascuas  
Johnny Aviles  
Esteban Babilonia Jr.  
Michael P. Bambrick  
Peter C. Kolev  
Sebastian M. Barbiero  
Tracee C. Barham  
Thomas M. Barnes  
Matthew J. Barnes  
Jailii E. Baxley  
Alberto L. Bayron  
Jessie L. Beekhuysen  
Joseph P. Beitel  
Michael R. Bensley  
Portia L. Bethae  
Steven J. Bettini  
William E. Black  
John R. Bock  
Alec M. Bogda  
Steven L. Bordi  
Russell E. Bramble  
Daniel E. Bretton  
Matthew J. Brewer  
Christopher T. Calabrese  
James F. Calderero  
Wilson Canelavalero  
Manuel A. Carpiopena  
Richard W. Carson III  
Jerome J. Carter  
Jeffrey D. Castillo  
Marcelo P. Caxias  
Walter Charleston  
Angel L. Chavez  
Sara I. Chojna  
Robert E. Clark  
Jason M. Colon  
Eduardo J. Constante-  
Escobar  
Jennifer N. Cortes  
Derek J. Couillard  
Sean M. Crawford  
David A. Cruz  
Francis J. Davis  
Roberto M. Dela-Cruz

Hector J. Delacruz  
Tony M. Denaro  
Ryan J. Denos  
Szalay M. Derrick  
Alexandro Diaz  
Adam J. Dick  
Timothy M. Dobson  
John C. Donatucci  
Daniel W. Double IV  
Herrera F. Duluc  
Adam J. E. Nelson  
Cardon J. Edwards  
William G. Essien  
Vincent M. Ferreira  
Annamarie Flores  
Chassity O. Folks  
Ashley C. Ford  
Brian J. Frangione  
Thomas L. Funk Jr.  
John A. Garza  
Marian A. Gayle  
Sheanean P. Gilson  
Scott D. Godwin  
Christian F. Goines  
William Gonzalez  
Vicente T. Gonzalez-  
pazmino  
Maurice B. Goulbourne  
Douglas A. Green  
Luis E. Guerrero  
Castro F.V. / Guzman  
Shane P. Hall  
Anayah M. Hall  
Lara R. Hamade  
Sean W. Hanley  
Justin T. Harris-Bennett  
William P. Hartlage  
Eric W. Heide  
Jennifer M. Heist  
Patrick W. Helms  
Michael D. Henderson  
Christopher D. Hill  
Benjamin R. Hill  
Christopher S. Howells  
Jia Y. Huang  
Alexis J. Hurtado  
Stephanie C. Immendorf  
William C. James  
Delacruz Jesse  
Devin R. J. Johnson  
Eboni N. Jones  
Joseph F. Jordan IV  
Carmelo Rivera Jr.  
Raul Mendez Jr.  
Rivera Juan Jr.  
Hee Y.Y. Jung  
Kelsey E. Kean  
Adam S. Knight  
Peter C. Kolev  
Kevin S. Konopka  
Adam J. Kraus  
Sang B. Lee  
Blake G. Lichtenberger  
Christian D. Linhares  
David J. Loughmiller  
Jessica M. Arway  
Erik T. M. Figueroa  
Stephen J. Macchiorola  
Silveira Marcio  
Carlos Marmeolejos  
Nancy J. Marroquin  
Chrisnelson Marte  
Jesús K. Martell  
Kieran T. Maye  
Keith Meadows  
Astrid R. Menicucci  
John M. Miller-Thomas  
William Z. Mineo  
Keith J. Mollett Jr.  
John F. Monaco  
Jorge A. Morales Jr.  
Christopher M. Morris  
Keosha L. Muhammad  
Sherron A. Murphy  
Joseph M. Muztafago  
Dion M. Nettles  
Michel A. Nicolas  
Necko R. Nieves  
William M. Omrod  
John M. Ondish  
Noam D. Optiz  
Yefferson M. Ortega  
Matthew P. Ortiz  
Joshua Ortiz-Rivera  
Brian Osoria  
Natalie Pagan  
Nicholas M. Palazzolo  
Kandarp P. Patel

Matthew A. Pentlicki  
Jorge U. Pereirascarpitta  
Steven A. Perez  
Josse X. Perez  
Elizabeth S. Phillips  
James W. Pierce Jr.  
Rodney E. Pierce Jr.  
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Jose M. Ramirez Jr.  
Raymond Ramos  
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George C. Renner Jr.  
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Jared M. Rich  
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Joshua Rios  
Javier Rivera  
Michaelangelo Rivera  
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Lagamont D. Robinson Jr.  
Scott W. Rockwell  
Isain Rodriguez Jr.  
John M. Romyns Jr.  
Steve J. Rosario  
Angel Rosas Jr.  
Alec G. Routhier  
Alan C. Ruiz  
Brian S. Ruiz  
Luis E. Sabatini  
Dubiel J. Salazar  
Christopher Sanchez  
Rosa D. Santiago  
Phillip M. Sardinha  
Jeremiah A. Schenerman  
John W. Schwartz Jr.  
Kourtney A. Scott  
Deanna J. Scott  
Timothy W. Scott  
Oscar M. Segui  
Keishawn D. Singleton  
Bryan M. Smith  
David R. Smith  
Latoya S. Sotomayor  
Ryan D. Spivey  
Robert F. St. John  
David P. Stetser Jr.  
Amy L. Stolberg  
Derrick J. Stuart  
Roy M. Sundstrom  
Louis P. Tarquinio  
Larry D. Taylor  
Ramez F. Teriak  
William J. Thompson Jr.  
Luis E. Torres  
Paul S. Vandergriff Jr.  
David A. Veale  
Timothy Vega  
Gisselotte M. Ventura  
Franco A. Vargaraburgos  
Alan M. Vetusch  
Charlie D. Vidal  
Michael A. Villafante  
Russell B. Vincent  
Jonathan W. Hall  
Joseph A. Wagner  
West D. Wan  
Carlos A. Watson  
Paige A. Waugh  
Michael J. Wercocch Sr.  
Chiara A. White  
David M. Willenbrock  
Cameron K. Williams  
Justin H. Williams  
Ryan P. Wilmot  
Thomas E. Wilson  
Lawrence Yang  
Daevon M. York  
Christian A. Zapata  
Paul C. Zeballos

**NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

**To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):**  
Michael Allen  
George Gulya  
Lawrence Malone  
Raynaldo Morales

**To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):**  
David Beun  
Kathy Freed  
Jason Gioconda  
Mellernese Harris  
James McCloskey

John Overstreet  
William Perkins  
Jeffrey Redrup  
David Reimer  
Mellernese Wilson

**To Master Sergeant (E-7):**  
Howard Achilles  
Joel Blake  
Jamie Damico  
Jamie Decosta  
Joshua Egbert  
Bruno Egizi  
Keith Elliss  
Shannon Fallen  
Gordon Hill  
James Laney  
Jeffrey Lee  
Michael McAleavy  
Kenneth McCay  
Christopher Mock  
German Sandovalvalle  
William Scott  
Christopher Smith  
Randel Thompson  
Margaret Tribolètti  
Robert Wharton

**To Technical Sergeant (E-6):**  
Gilberto Alicea  
Jordan Benjamin  
Michael Bishop  
Jeffrey Bock  
Charles Bogdan  
Jennifer Bowen  
Bradly Brazile  
Cynthia Cano  
Brian Clark  
Katherine Connor  
Sean Cooper  
Katherine Daube  
Desiree Delagarza  
Andrew Eberwine  
Neal Espin  
Bridget Fitzsimmons  
Christopher Foy  
Andrew Hambleton  
Brian Hammell  
Chaz Landrum  
Lucas Lopez  
Jeffrey Magahan  
Jason Mell  
Katherine Miller  
James Pastore  
Shawn Reilly  
Jacinto Rivera  
Anthony Rodig  
Richard Ryan  
Daniel Salfas  
Ralph Salvina  
Edward Stipa  
Jennifer Thompson  
Keith Williams  
Jennifer Zulawski

**To Staff Sergeant (E-5):**  
Fabio Alonso  
Kenneth Autea  
Alicia Balseiro  
Vanessa Beaulieu  
Michael Blackburn  
Daniel Byrne  
Jonathan Cameron  
Andrea Cantatore  
Samantha Carnevale  
Brian Carney  
Joshua Carvajal  
Josue Carvajal  
Raven Christmas  
Jennifer Clay  
Melissa Cortez  
Lynne Dettloff  
Nicholas Ferreri  
Vanessa Frohlich  
Eric Fuller  
Germaine Gibson  
Wayne Hassall  
Nathan Hollander  
Justyna Janasik  
Robert Jentsch  
Qiaxian Johnson  
Edgar Krampitz  
Nicholas Loglisci  
Vincent Maiaorato  
Kevin Manning  
Cody Martin

Kerry Martin  
Christopher Miller  
Maria Mina  
David Molina  
Jhon Mosquera  
Conal Murphy  
Shawn Naiduk  
Jasin Nesmith  
Anthony Nguyen  
Ian Nicholas  
Mark Paranto  
Deesha Patel  
Jennifer Price  
Rolando Ramos  
Jennifer Ranev  
Nestor Rivas  
Jose Santiago  
Sidney Dos Santos  
Vanessa Schuetz  
Justin Sheppard  
David Sigwart  
Rachel Simmonds  
Brandon Slatter  
Robert Slocum  
Jonathan Straub  
Damaine Threatt  
Brian Trinidad  
Nicole Del Valle  
Alexander Woodman

**To Senior Airman (E-4):**  
John Amendolia  
Michael Balnis  
Scott Bulmer  
Thomas Capito  
John Caporaso  
Raymond Casanova  
Gary Chamberlin  
Sean Clark  
Jordan Dalbenzio  
Drew Darrow  
Dustin Darrow  
Glenn Davis  
Anthony Ditzio  
Kevin Dugan  
James Early  
Brandon Foster  
Roy Godersted  
Daniel Gonzalez  
Justin Hendrix  
Wayne Higgins  
Wesley Kiliwinski  
Henry Lanier  
Hung Le  
Britani Lee  
Biju Malieel  
Robert Manoff  
Walter Massa  
Tarell McLean  
Amanda Niwore  
Lynda Noonan  
Bryant Obando  
George Oliver  
Richard Ortiz  
Heather Perez  
Jeffrey Pharo  
Nicole Piccolo  
Ronald Rodriguez  
Carlos Santana  
Melissa Santiago  
Stardust Santiago  
Fanourios Seindanis  
Gregory Spezzano  
James Townsend  
Melissa Ubillus  
Berish Weistein  
Lynda Wiegens  
Anthony Wollie  
William Wylie

**To Airman First Class (E-3):**  
Giancarlo Alarcon  
Dustin Allen  
Elliot Alterio  
Steven Anderson  
Blake Baker  
Ilya Barankevitch  
John Beates  
Erica Beaulieu  
Ameera Blake  
Nicholas Bolton  
Chanis Brown  
Carlos Carcamo  
Derrick Cash  
Swapneel Chhaya  
Ian Coloconto  
Bonitto Daley

Jeannine Davies  
Shane Devlin  
Timothy Doogah  
Drew Eckert  
Alysha Faulknor  
Everett Ferreira  
Richard Ford  
Amanda Forziati  
Aaron Fuentes  
Jessie Goetchius  
Eric Graham  
Stacey Grapentine  
Matthew Guerra  
Robert Hagel  
Braun Hurley  
Kelvin Ithier  
Leon Jackson  
Guss Jenkins  
Jonathan Kane  
Marius Kelsey  
Nicholas Klimgamer  
John Koster  
Joseph Lagreca  
Stacey Lech  
Justin Loutfy  
Marie Madara  
Katherine Mandis  
Kenneth Mancho  
Clifford McCourt  
Lukas Montanez  
Tristin Moody  
Meghan Mulrooney  
Brittney Nicholson  
Harry Panagiotidis  
Edward Park  
Elizabeth Perreault  
Vaughn Price  
Joseph Primavera  
Delvin Reneau  
Richard Rivera  
Omar Riveraandujar  
Elizabeth Sanders  
Kyle Santos  
Adam Schwegel  
Vincent Shaw  
Jeffrey Silver  
Patrick Snyder  
Janelle Stokes  
Miguel Velaz  
Nathan Volkening  
Joshua Wagner  
Katrina Watt  
Sterling Williams-James  
Kevin Yearsley

**To Airman (E-2):**  
Christine Fryling  
Matthew Lopinto  
Davaughn Palmer  
Kristina Reinhard  
Douglas Sim  
Latisha Spencer  
Jacquelyn Vasvaritoke

**New Airman:**  
Deric Adams  
Jerome Billups  
Raymond Buckno  
Bradley Caruso  
Jerilyn Co  
Christopher Cruz  
Paula Daniels  
Breanna Gagnon  
Domenique Golden  
Devon Harris  
Danny Hernandez  
Sandra Kudrich  
David Link  
Troy Nienberg  
Joseph Paladino  
James Sheridan  
Brianna Sims  
Craig Thompson  
Jeremy Yacone

**Congratulations To All!**  
Compiled by Sgt. 1st Class Rafael Nolasco (Army Guard promotions) and Master Sgt. Paul B. Thompson Jr. (Air Guard promotions)



## LAST ROUND: JETS LAND AT JFHQ

After a grueling day at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, the Jets landed at Joint Forces Headquarters-New Jersey on May 14. Here Warrant Officer 1 Katherine Bendel, left, watches as Jets Quarterback Mark

Sanchez signs an autograph for her. All 65 Jets team members signed autographs and posed for pictures with the Soldiers, Airmen and family members. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.