

Guardlife

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Cover: Godspeed

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, right, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, shakes hands with guidon bearer Spc. Christopher M. Danze as Soldiers of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion board an aircraft at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Jan. 4. The Battalion is deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Inside cover: Showing the Colors

Airmen from the 108th Wing, right to left, Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, Senior Airman Omar Navarro and Master Sgt. Christopher Schmidt, along with members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, and their active-duty counterparts unfurl a massive American flag during the practice session before the New York Jets 11th annual Military Appreciation Day on Nov. 21, 2010. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.

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The worth of the Guard

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

New Jersey has a long military history. From the Revolutionary War to present day, the state of New Jersey and its Citizen-Soldiers have supported our state and nation's military efforts.

During the Revolutionary War, New Jersey played a pivotal role. Numerous battles were fought in all 21 counties and Gen. George Washington spent more time in New Jersey than anywhere else during the war. New Jersey's strategic location, between New York City and Philadelphia, made it a center of Revolutionary War activity.

In World War II, New Jersey citizens contributed mightily to the war effort, providing critical materials and manpower as more than a half-million New Jersey citizens enlisted. More than 13,000 made the ultimate sacrifice.

As a result of our long military history, New Jersey is home to more than 465,000 veterans representing all components and branches of service.

The heirs of our proud military history can be found in the men and women who comprise our New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. You stand ready to leave the comforts of your home to help fellow New Jerseyans, and to defend our nation's interests, bringing peace and hope to people throughout the world.

The Guard is no longer a strategic reserve, but an operational force directly integrated into active duty deployments and missions. The role of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard is to meet the needs of the future force, giving us an enhanced capability to respond to any state and federal mission.

Despite our operational tempo, we continue to remain at more than 100 percent strength. This demonstrates your commitment and understanding of the significant contributions and sacrifices made by you and your families. Each one of you and your families are a valuable asset to current and future military operations.

From our inception as a recognized organized militia in 1668 to present, Citizen-Soldiers of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard continue to have a positive impact on our state and nation. From the beginning, our ranks



Signing Statements of Support for the Guard and Reserve are, front row left to right: State Senator Donald Norcross, Assemblyman Gilbert Wilson, State Senator Diane Allen, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Jim Lalena, Harris Tea Company. Back row, left to right: Col. Steven Ferrari, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert J. Richardson, State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, retired Col. Carmen A. Venticinque and Col. Walter Alvarado. The signing ceremony took place at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., on Dec. 8, 2010. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.

were filled by volunteers who relied on their communities for support. Today, nothing has changed. We continue to rely on volunteers and community support. Make no mistake, our volunteers and communities are our greatest strength and the source of our obligation to duty.

By teaming with professionals, civic leaders and our communities, our organization has been expertly assisting our Soldiers and Airmen transition back to civilian life after deployment cycles. The entire organization continues to work tirelessly to improve the lives of the men and women willing to sacrifice everything for our state and nation. I will continue ensuring that each Soldier, Airmen, and their families receive the support they deserve with the same respect and honor in which it was earned.

Reflecting on this past year, I would like to thank you and your families for playing vital roles in the New Jersey National Guard. Your collective efforts are directly linked to the accomplishments and successes of this great organization. Moving forward, I'm eager to continue our partnership as we begin the New Year.

Salute to the Troops

By 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs



Three generations of former and present service members joined together with family and loved ones on Dec. 18, 2010 at Rowan University's Wilson Hall for the Salute to the Troops program recognizing 67 New Jersey Army National Guard soldiers of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion who will be heading to Afghanistan.

William Ray Miller, a Vietnam War Navy veteran and grandfather from Turnersville, looked down several aisles of auditorium seats and pointed to his son-in-law, Staff Sgt. Jeff Johnson, from there, he pointed to the stage where his grandson, Spc. Jeffrey Johnson, was sitting. He will be going to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., for training and then to Afghanistan.

"The military is a good honorable profession. I did not particularly care for what they threw at us in Vietnam, so I hope they throw nothing at my grandson. I have six people in the family now serving in the military. Right now I am looking at a very faithful grandson who I am sure will do well with his missions," Miller said.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, told the Soldiers to make the most of their training and to look out for each other when they land in the combat area.

"Be responsible for your 30 days of training. Be responsible in Afghanistan," he said.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Johnson is a recruiter. When he looked at the 119th's formation, he could spot six Soldiers he enlisted into the Jersey Guard, including his son, Jeffrey.

"I'm proud of him. He is willing to step up and take care of us and our nation," the recruiter said. "He is also setting the example for his brother, Timothy, who is coming home from Army Advance Individual Training tomorrow."

For Master Sgt. Daniel McCracken, of Little Egg Harbor Township, the event marks the fourth time he will serve on active duty. After serving on a homeland defense mission, he deployed to Iraq from 2004 to 2005, when it was known as the 119th Support Battalion. He spent three years as a mobilization trainer at Fort Dix, before deploying to Iraq with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from 2008 to 2009.

"You cannot look at a subordinate soldier in the eye and ask them to do something that you don't have the experience of doing yourself," he said.

Lt. Col. Walter R. Nall, Commander, 119th CSSB, and Sgt. Maj. John H. Humphreys, received an American Flag from congressional leaders Rep. Robert E. Andrews and Congressman-elect Jon Runyan. A state flag was also presented to the unit leadership by state Sen. Stephen M. Sweeney. 🇺🇸



Salute to the Troops



Photos clockwise starting top left: Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth addresses the crowd. Above, two well wishers watch as the Soldiers march in. Bottom: Sgt. Matthews Nufable, fourth from right, poses for photo with his family. Photo left: Lt. Col. Walter R. Nall, left, Commander, 119th CSSB receives an American Flag from congressional leaders Rep. Robert E. Andrews, second from right, Congressman-elect Jon Runyan, second from left, and State Senator and New Jersey Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, right. Photo credits: top photo: Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ/PA; remaining images: Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.



URBAN OPS

More than just kicking down doors

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Sgt. Timothy R. Gallagher, 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, checks out an enclosed space during urban operations training at the National Guard Training Center's Military Operations on Urban Terrain site at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Soldiers of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion spent three weeks – from the end of November through December at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Of the numerous Soldier skills the 119th received schooling on while at FIG, none would compare to the intensity of the urban operations training at the NGTC's Military Operations on Urban Terrain site.

At the MOUT site, the 119th Soldiers learned everything from how UO is integrated into the overall campaign to kicking down doors, capturing the bad guys and securing buildings.

UO operations are prime examples of the asymmetrical battlefield and encompass all mission aspects ranging from offensive, defensive to civil support.

Former Marine Corps Commandant General Charles C. Krulak described urban operations as "The Three Block War."

"In one moment in time, our service members will be feeding and clothing displaced refugees—providing humanitarian assistance. In the next moment, they will be holding two warring tribes apart—conducting peacekeeping operations—and, finally, they will be fighting a highly lethal mid-intensity battle—all on the same day...all within three city blocks."

The 119th troops spent their days at the MOUT site in-



Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Hatcher, right, covers the door as Spc. Shawn E. Smith, second from right, covers Sgt William T. Eckstein, second from left, as he apprehends a role-player during urban operations training.

teracting with role-players and while in the background the Muslim call to prayer and other sounds associated with villages in Afghanistan were broadcasted over speakers.

This immersion training not only gave the Soldiers a sense of what to expect but more importantly, how to stay alive. 🦋

The Kupplers

BROTHERS IN ARMS

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

Sgt. Andrew Kuppler began his New Jersey Army National Guard career a step behind his younger brother, Spc. Eric Kuppler.

The younger brother enlisted first and had already begun Advanced Individual Training as an MP before the older brother finished basic training.

But in the years since, the brothers have been side-by-side when it mattered most, on deployment into a combat theater. It's already happened once, Iraq 2008 with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and now, Afghanistan with the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

On Jan. 4, the brothers were among the 67 Soldiers from the unit who boarded a plane bound for Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., where the Cherry Hill-based troops will train for 30 days before shipping out.

As the Kuppler brothers made the final checks of their gear before boarding, they reflected about what it means to be able to serve together.

"Deployments are lot easier with him along," Andrew Kuppler, 27, said, nodding toward his brother.

"And a lot easier on our families, they worry less because they know we're taking care of each other," Eric Kuppler said.

Both were wearing a second set of Survival Bracelets made by their family.

The brothers wore their first bracelets on their year in Iraq as members of the 328th Military Police Company. Although they worked opposite shifts in detainee operations, they saw each other every shift change and spent most of the few hours both had off together.



Spc. Eric Kuppler, front, and his brother Sgt. Andrew Kuppler. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.

This time, it's unclear where exactly in Afghanistan they'll end up, although they expect they may remain in close proximity because they both do the same job.

"We'll have each others' backs," Andrew Kuppler said. 

Hometown Team - High School salutes Soldiers

Timber Creek High School graduates Spcs. Jeff Johnson (2008) and Randy Pearce (2005) and Pfc. Stephen Bordi (2009) salute during the National Anthem at the start of the annual Thanksgiving Day rivalry against Triton High School in Runnemede. The three 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Soldiers had just completed pre-mobilization training at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. A fourth 119th CSSB Soldier, Staff Sgt. Lisa Hatcher, a Triton grad was not able to attend the football game to receive a certificate and T-shirt from the Black Horse Regional School District, which oversees the two high schools. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PAO.



Afghanistan bound

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



They poured out of the Joint Base Passenger terminal into the icy morning air, duffel bags in their hands and M4s slung over their shoulders.

For the 67 members of the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the journey to Afghanistan began by boarding a plane on Jan. 4 bound for Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. After a month of training, the unit will deploy to support Special Operations troops in theater.

"We will rise to the challenge," said Lt. Col. Walter Nall, the commander, as he gathered his gear to join his troops.



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, right, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, shakes hands with Sgt. Piacenta M. Jackson, left, before she boards the plane. Rieth was joined by the New Jersey National Guard leadership in wishing the departing Soldiers a safe journey and a successful deployment.

GUARD KEY TO OPERATION'S SUCCESS

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs
Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

The New Jersey National Guard Counter Drug Task Force was a key player in a recent U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency operation to collect and dispose of more than seven tons of unused, unwanted and expired medication to prevent the drugs from changing hands and being abused.

Operation Take Back New Jersey allowed state residents to rid their homes of drugs they no longer need as a way of ensuring they weren't diverted and abused or sold by young people with access to the medicine cabinet.

Over a four-hour span on Sept. 25, people turned in drugs, including widely abused narcotics such as Vicodin and Oxycodone, to collection points operated by 365 of New Jersey's law enforcement agencies.

Members of the National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force transported the drugs for safekeeping at a DEA office in South Jersey and then on to an incinerator several days later.

"The National Guard was among the agencies that were

instrumental in making this operation such a success," said John G. McCabe Jr., the acting Special Agent in Charge of the DEA's New Jersey Division.

Master Sgt. Joseph Prieto and 1st Lt. Alex Ramirez of the Counter Drug Task Force were on hand for McCabe's announcement.

DEA officials say the most important aspect of the drug collection program is to raise public awareness of the dangers of prescription drug misuse. Officials cited statistics compiled by the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future, which found a 111 percent increase in emergency room visits associated with the non-medical use of narcotic painkillers between 2004 and 2008.

"The majority of young people who abuse (prescription) drugs get it from a family member, a friend and the home medicine cabinet," he said.

"With this program, we are trying to eliminate the home medicine cabinet as a potential source of abuse for our youth." 🇺🇸

"The National Guard was among the agencies that were instrumental in making this operation such a success."

**JOHN G. McCABE JR.
DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
NEW JERSEY DIVISION**

JT2DC gets new MRAP Trainer

Story and photo by Spc. Saul Rosa, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle Egress Trainer (MET) has been brought to benefit service members training through a collaborative cost-saving effort by the Joint Training and Training Development Center and the training and mobilization site.

Staging the MET at the New Jersey National Guard's JT2DC offers many benefits to the service members who use the trainer and is a cost-effective alternative for training and mobilization missions.

"I need to get the best training available for my Soldiers and to get the Soldiers to know their training will save their lives and their friends," said Master Sgt. Rene Sales, a Senior Trainer at the JT2DC.

Besides the great training environment, JT2DC offers it's also a cost-effective and green solution to the escalating cost of training the nation's war fighter.

The MET itself offers a realistic simulation to develop the proper skills and confidence in all service members' ability to safely egress from an overturned vehicle and survive on a battlefield. The MET's ability to spin 360 degrees allows personnel to familiarize themselves with the 29 degree tipping point and the 34 degree definite flip point of a real tactical vehicle.

The training center offers a unique training environment for the MET and service members, because of its convoy layout with other Humvee Egress Assistance Trainers (HEAT). This combination allows trainers to practice advance egress scenarios and incorporate battle drills and medical evacua-



Master Sgt. Rene Sales an operator/instructor and training developer/writer for Joint Training and Training Development Center watching the cabin of the MRAP Egress Trainer.

tion training by mixing up which vehicle will flip.

"This is where they get to touch the equipment before they go to a theater of operation and have to learn it there," said Sales.

The MET has provided realistic and hands-on training to about 100 Soldiers in the last training year and more than 900 service members are now scheduled to receive the training that increases the survivability rate on the ground in such places as Afghanistan and Iraq. 🇺🇸

NEW JERSEY PARTICIPATES IN ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN '10

By Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young, Joint Training and Training Development Center, Visual Information

Thirty-five New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers led by Lt. Col. Mark Piferski participated in the joint warfighter simulation Ulchi Freedom Guardian '10 at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan from Aug. 16 – 26, 2010.

The New Jersey team consisted of 21 Soldiers from the Joint Training and Training Development Center and 14 Soldiers from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the Joint Force Headquarters – New Jersey. This team was assigned an Infantry Brigade Combat Team mission task organized to support the III Marine Expeditionary Force during UFG '10.

UFG is a CFC-led warfighting exercise. It provides the opportunity to evaluate, train, and improves combined and joint coordination, procedures, plans, and systems necessary for the conduct of contingency operations by the Republic of Korea and U.S. forces.

While in Japan, Pvt. Teresa Jara of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 50th IBCB and Pfc. Christopher

Caamano of the 102nd Cavalry, were promoted by Piferski and the III Marine Expeditionary Force Chief of Staff, Col. Craig Timberlake. The two Soldiers served as intelligence analysts, and received accolades from all levels of the intelligence community that were involved in the exercise.

"The team was successful in its operations due to the robust intelligence section with bright, energetic and focused analysts like Spc. Caamano and Pfc. Jara," said Piferski.

This year marked the exercise's 34th anniversary. In July 1976, ROK forces combined Exercise Ulchi with the United Nations Command and its U.S. allied forces Exercise Focus Lens. Exercise Ulchi-Focus Lens, as it was called until its name was changed in 2008, was designed to enhance ROK-U.S. interoperability by training both countries' commanders and staff in wartime planning, command and control operations, intelligence, logistics and personnel procedures required for defending the Republic of Korea.

Jersey Guard responds to storm

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

Daybreak was hours away and the state remained paralyzed by the post-Christmas blizzard of 2010 when Jessica Furlani left home for her 12-hour shift at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch. For a labor and delivery nurse, there are no snow days, only babies to deliver.

She only made it half of the way to work before she found herself among a half-dozen other motorists who got stranded in mountainous snow drifts along an unplowed section of Route 18 in Tinton Falls. It was 5 a.m. Dec. 27.

Hours passed. Cars ran out of gas and motorists doubled up in cars. By the 12-hour mark, Furlani had given out most of her food and water. By 23 hours, Furlani and two people who had migrated to her car were desperate.

"Out of nowhere, we see these guys in Army uniforms coming to rescue us. It was amazing," Furlani recalled. "I'm not sure what would have happened if they hadn't gotten there soon."

The guys in uniforms turned out to be New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers -- Spc. Andy DeLeon and Pfc. Brian Francione. The 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers had volunteered for snow duty and spent several uneventful hours in Hamilton before getting in a Humvee to respond to reports of stranded motorists.

"When we got out there, it was crazy. The snow was waist high even in the road and there were cars everywhere," said Francione, a combat engineer assigned to Alpha Company of the 50th Special Troops Battalion. "Some had been out there for a day ... the nurse, an EMT, even a plow driver."



Spc. Andy DeLeon, left, and Pfc. Brian Francione

The Soldiers transported Furlani and the two other people waiting in her car to the Tinton Falls police station and then returned for two other people.

"It was amazing how all these people kept going that long. I'm sure that was something they didn't expect," said DeLeon said.

DeLeon, a Signal specialist assigned to the Brigade Headquarters Company, said his duty during the storm was the most gratifying he's had in his two years in uniform.

"It was an experience I won't forget. I'm glad I went ahead and took the duty," he said. "It was a good feeling to help people. You could see the joy on people's faces when we got to them." 🍷



SPREADING CHEER

Senior Master Sgt. Freddie D. Lavan Sr., center, 177th Fighter Wing Traffic Manager, shakes hands with Norman Baker, left, while Thomas Sholders, right watches. Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Wing were joined by fourth graders from the Seaview School in Linwood and the St. Augustine School Choir for the 10th Annual Holiday "Songfest" at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home on Dec. 15, 2010. Upon arrival, Airmen and students were issued candy canes and holiday greeting cards, assigned to groups and sent out to spread cheer to the residents. Congregating in cafeterias, day rooms, as well as serenading individuals in their rooms (those residents that are bedridden), the carolers passed out cards and candy canes, sang and chatted with the residents. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.

GUARD SWEEPS SEA GIRT'S BEACH

Story and photo by Sgt. William Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Pvt. Jan Hanna Huelgas joined the Army National Guard to protect her state and nation. She never expected to spruce up her favorite vacation destination.

The Soldier from Passaic was among 22 Recruit Sustainment Program members who spent Oct. 23, 2010 cleaning the beach at Sea Girt as part of a widespread effort to clean up the coastal waters of the Garden State.

"New Jersey is known for the shore. To keep it clean, and keep the community clean – with so many people coming here from other states – it makes us look good," Huelgas said as she sifted through the sand.

She had plenty of company. In all, more than 75 other volunteers including the Boy Scouts and members of community and environmental groups pitched in to help clean up the beach in Sea Girt.

In all, the volunteers collected more than 100 pounds of trash and recyclables – enough to fill 60 trash bags.

The beach sweep was one of dozens held up and down the Jersey Shore by the environmental group Clean Ocean Action (COA), a nonprofit organization that has conducted beach clean ups for a quarter century.

The recruits were there as part of Guard the Environment; a grass roots movement within the recruiting and retention community. Guard the Environment is a chance to showcase National Guard members participating in environmentally friendly activities and giving back to their local communities.



Staff Sgt. Peter Sarni, right, oversees Recruit Sustainment Program members as they comb Sea Girt beach for trash and recyclables during a beach sweep.

"The National Guard presence was most appreciated. What a great way to connect with the local community," said Tammy Schwier, a local realtor and beach sweep captain for COA.

Pfc. Dylan Averack, a recruit from West Windsor said he was proud to be a part of the beach sweep.

"It's great, we're cleaning up a beach that needs to be cleaned and we're helping out the local people," he said. "When I come out here fishing I'll see a clean beach and know that I was a part of that," he said. 🐟



Stand Down 2010

Maj. Wendy L. Cordrey, Chief Nurse with the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group collects information from a homeless veteran during Stand Down 2010. The event, which was held on Sept. 25, 2010 at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, was co-hosted by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Stand Down of South Jersey Committee, Inc. Stand Downs provide homeless veterans with access to health-care, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services (food stamps and unemployment), legal services, religious counseling, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing. Since 1996, the South Jersey Stand Down has served as a catalyst that enables homeless veterans to re-enter mainstream society. Last year, nearly 400 homeless veterans and their families attended Stand Downs in Cherry Hill and Newark. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PAO.

EIB - NOT FOR EVERYONE

Story and photo by Sgt. Landis Andrews, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

After high intensity training under the Fort Indiantown Gap sun, and nights spent trekking through the woods and hills of central Pennsylvania, New Jersey has awarded eight soldiers the Expert Infantry Badge, one of the highest honors an infantryman can earn.

On day one of the competition, 40 Soldiers from all over New Jersey had eyes on the badge. However, as each event came to an end, so did the hopes of some candidates.

"It's called the Expert Infantry Badge for a reason," said 1st Sgt. Brian Townsend, the president of the committee that organized EIB 21. "The thing that knocked most people out was the small details. It's not the Everybody Infantry Badge. It's the Expert Infantry Badge."

This particular expert infantry competition returns to New Jersey with a brand new feel. In previous competitions, candidates displayed their competence in a round-robin fashion, with each of the 40 events being timed.

In EIB 21, there are fewer events to complete; however, it is now done in a combat setting, adding a completely new element to the process.

"When the blood got pumping and the adrenaline was flowing, it made it more difficult to execute the tasks that you're sure you know how to do," said 1st Lt. Andrew Stevens, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/114th Infantry. "With the amount of preparation I put in to this, it was all muscle memory, but the combat element made it a bit more difficult."

Though difficult, it did not stop Stevens from enjoying the tasks.

"The lanes were my favorite part," he said. "Once we got passed the preparation, I had a really good time."

Preparation was a huge part of EIB 21.

When the day was over and all of the competitors gathered for dinner, normal chow chatter was nowhere to be found. Instead, tips for the next day's event feverishly bounced off the walls. Terms like left and right limit, call for fire, SALUTE report, check for shock and SPORTS filled the dining facility, leaving little room to discuss anything else. It sounded like these Soldiers just stepped off of the battlefield.

That is what the planning committee intended.



Sgt. Mark Recinos, right, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-113th Infantry Battalion, on the homestretch for the Expert Infantry Badge.

"In the old style, you didn't get as much battlefield experience, but it was a little harder," Townsend said. "But the EIB 21 adds the element of combat stress to make it more challenging."

That new level of stress was felt prior to each event.

"Everyone was nervous before the lanes," said Capt. Timothy Sorrentino, Commander, HHC, 1/114th Infantry and EIB recipient. "Doing all of the tasks over and over again prior to the competition was easy. But, executing them under the pressure situation was different."

Sgt. Thomas Fisk, EIB 21 staff and trainer, said this is how Soldiers of today should be learning.

"It's good that they see a scenario and it's battle focused," he said. "They know what they are supposed to do with their training and can immediately incorporate it with their mission."

Fisk enjoyed this opportunity to teach Soldiers the skills needed to earn the prestigious badge that he received several years prior.

"I like to teach younger guys, any of the Soldiers coming

Continued on page 15



Expert Infantrymen, left to right, 1st Lt. Andrew Stevens, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-114th Infantry Battalion; Sgt. Mark Recinos, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-113th Infantry Battalion; Capt. Timothy Sorrentino, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-114th Infantry Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Kirkpatrick, A Company, 1-114th

Infantry Battalion; Staff Sgt. Joseph Kern, A Company, 1-114th Infantry Battalion; Staff Sgt. Ethan Letz, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-113th Infantry Battalion; 1st Lt. Myan Colatat, A Company, 1-114th Infantry Battalion and Spc. John Finamore, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

Continued from page 14


up,” Fisk said. “That way, when they get to be sergeants, they can teach the guys coming up. That way we can have a better Army for the future.”

The future is something that Townsend is also looking toward.

“We wanted something to build from since this is the first time we are running EIB 21,” he said. “We mirrored a lot

of what was going on at Fort Benning. What I wanted to do was give the state something to build off of, so we can make this competition something great for the state.”

Sorrentino expects a number of his Soldiers to take part in next year’s event.

“It’s something that every infantryman should have,” the commander said, a sentiment that all infantrymen competing at FIG echoed. 

Guard helps students stay on track

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

The closest Gunnar Larson ever came to the cockpit of an UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter was an Xbox game. That got the Freehold Intermediate School 7th grader thinking some day he might want to fly one.

Then Larson sat in the Blackhawk’s cockpit and any doubt went away -- now he’s a kid with a dream.

“These National Guard (pilots) told me how to do it,” Larson said. How?

“Stay in school, study hard, keep out of trouble and stay away from drugs,” Larson said.

And that was the message the New Jersey National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and officials of CentraState Healthcare System hopes was received by the 150 middle school students who took part in the DEA’s Red Ribbon Campaign event in Freehold last week.

For most of the students, the highlight of the event was the two Blackhawks, a Humvee and a Counter-Drug display that allows the students to try on goggles that create the same vision impairment as alcohol intoxication.

The students weren’t the only ones impressed.

“Having the Soldiers and equipment here and having



Eighth grade students of the Somerdale Park School get a tour of the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Joint Base MDL on January 10. Master Sgt. Luis Arroyo talks about the mock Iraqi village to the graduates of the Drug Demand Reduction’s “Stay on Track” program. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PAO.

the students absorb the whole positive message about the dangers of drugs helps me do my job,” said Nelson Ribon, the principal at Freehold Intermediate School. “The whole message they can give the students just reinforces everything we try to teach in the classroom. It’s great stuff.”

CLTF opens

By Sgt. Landis Andrews, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Congressman-Elect Jon Runyan, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, cut the ribbon, officially opening the Consolidated Logistics Training Facility, located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., while

left to right Chief Warrant Officer 3 Douglas Hartley, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs Ray Zawacki, Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff; State Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert J. Richardson, Mayor of Lakehurst Timothy

The inside is big enough to play a professional football game and its maintenance bays are crammed with enough gleaming new equipment to keep the New Jersey National Guard's massive fleet of vehicles ready to roll in a moment's notice.

But Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno said the National Guard's \$58 million Combined Logistics Training Facility on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is far more than an impres-

sive new structure that was 12 years in the making.

"This building was built with blood, sweat and tears and the hope that all of America will be safer because of the work that will go on here," Guadagno said on Dec. 1, 2010.

The first phase of the project, which includes 16 maintenance bays and more than 110,000 square feet of work space opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The state-of-the-art building will improve productivity for me-



Borsetti, John Baker, State Adjutant, American Legion; Lt. Col. Michael Lyons, retired Col. Charles Ragucci, Harvey Fox, American Legion; Col. Steven Ferrari, Army Chief of Staff; Mary Bencivenga National Junior Vice Commander, Disabled American Veterans; Lt.

Col. Wayne M. McCaughey, Air Chief of Staff; Col. Gina M. Grasso, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and 87th Air Base Wing Commander; Lt. Col. Daniel T. Mahon and Col. Walter L. Alvarado watch on Dec. 1, 2010. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.

chanics across the New Jersey National Guard. The facility will consolidate operations from two smaller, aging facilities. A second phase of construction will add an additional 56,000 square feet of work space. Combined, the projects are one of the largest military construction projects in New Jersey in the last 15 years.

Sgt. Lauano Bell said he couldn't wait to start work at his new duty station.

"I was there when they first started planning this build-

ing, and they really had the technicians in mind," Bell said. "Looking at the finished product, they really got it right."

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General said Soldiers like Bell will have no shortage of work.

"Over the past five years, we have received 565 new, state-of-the-art military vehicles," Rieth said. "This building is going to allow us to maintain those vehicles to the highest standard." 🪄

Soldiers go through Reconstitution

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

It was a small group of Soldiers, but they illustrated the vast reach of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

On Wednesday, nearly two dozen Soldiers returning from deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Djibouti underwent a reconstitution at Joint Forces Headquarters at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Although the Soldiers normally serve with units across the New Jersey National Guard, they served overseas with a variety of units. The largest group, 50 Soldiers, spent their yearlong deployment in Afghanistan with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Vermont Army National Guard. Others had returned from a year as an eight-man detachment that flew fixed wing aircraft missions for U.S. AFRICOM in across eastern Africa. The remaining Soldiers were among five New Jerseyans who served in Iraq with The Louisiana Army National Guard's 256th Brigade Combat Team.

Even the group that served in Afghanistan found itself spread across the vast country, with its Soldiers running missions ranging from humanitarian assistance, to hunting Taliban fighters to training the Afghan army and police forces.

"All of us were out there doing something different," said Col. Dennis Devery, who spent the tour overseeing the training of Afghan army and police forces from the NATO Headquarters in Kabul. Devery said the forces are making substantial progress, but that the country as a whole is still plagued by a lack of infrastructure and abject poverty.

Spc. Jesse Violante, 23, spent his time serving with an infantry line company in the restive region near the border with Pakistan. He and the other three New Jersey Soldiers with that company were award-




Spc. Jesse Violante with State Command Sgt. Major Jerome Jenkins, left, and New Jersey Army National Guard Chief of Staff, Col. Steven Ferrari during the reconstitution for more than two dozen Soldiers returning from deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq and Djibouti. Violante served as an infantryman in Afghanistan.

ed Combat Infantry Badges on the tour.

"We did the full spectrum of combat operations and we had our fair share of action," Violante said. "I think the Afghan people are coming around. They know what we're trying to do for them."

The pilots who went to Djibouti ended up flying missions to more than a half dozen eastern African countries. Most flights involved transport of high-ranking U.S. AFRICOM staff.

"We got a chance to see a lot of the continent," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brett Berlinger.

The pilots also supported missions to vaccinate livestock and to help the local people develop sanitary water wells. 

We are the champions

108th Wing Men's Softball Team claimed first place at the 45th Annual Air National Guard Softball Tournament held Aug. 12-14, 2010 at Panama Beach City, Fla. The 108th Wing Women's Team placed second. Front row, left to right: (Manager) Senior Master Sgt. Mike Balas, Pat Marshall, Tech. Sgt. Sean Nitahara, Batboy Jared Marshall, Ken Donelson, Senior Airman Elay Oakman and Staff Sgts. Rob Jentsch and Tyress Presley. Back row: Tech. Sgt. Dave Fortin, Master Sgt. Greg Stevens, Maj. John Swift, Senior Airman Jason Balas, Staff Sgts. Gary Sills, George Wutsch and Steve Leddy, Senior



Airman Nate Schaefer, Bobby Schreiner Jr., and Tech. Sgts. Jim Maribo and Bob Schreiner Sr. The team also won the McGuire Softball Championship in 2010 for the fourteenth time out of the last 17 years. Photo by Allison Maribo.

108th CE to get new complex

Story by: Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs



With white hard hats and silver shovels, the 108th Wing held a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 21, 2010 to begin the construction of the 108th Wing Base Civil Engineer Complex on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

In attendance for the event was Army Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey; Air Force Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, the Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard; Air Force Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Commander of the 108th Wing; Air Force Col. Gina Grosso, Commander of the 87th Air

Base Wing; delegates from Senator Robert Menendez' office, Ms. Scarlett Rajski and Mr. Richard Locklear, and other distinguish visitors.

After thanking everyone in attendance, both Rieth and Cunniff told all in attendance that this was a long and overdue project and a most deserved one for the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello, Commander of the 108th CES, also thanked everyone attending the ceremony and stated how he has been waiting for this new complex since his enlistment into the 108th Wing back in the '80s.

After having won the Major General Robert H. Curtin Award for the Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit Award in 2008 and then deploying to the Middle East from December 2009 through June 2010, there is no more deserving group of Airmen, said Novello about the new complex.

The \$5.9 million project will replace the 108th CES' current facilities, which include four World War II temporary wood frame structures.

The 108th Wing Base CEC will support daily activities associated with maintaining/repairing base infrastructure and facilities for the 108th Wing, as well as the 108th CES' mobility and readiness requirements.

The contract for this project was awarded to Puente Construction Enterprises Inc., which is located in Woodbury, N.J., and is expected to take approximately 18 months for completion and be operational by April 30, 2012. 🇺🇸



Breaking new ground, left to right, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, far left; Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard; Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, 108th Wing Commander; a Puente Construction official and Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello, 108th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, start the process for the new 108th CE complex. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ray Knox, 108W/PA.

MITOLA: LIBERIAN LEGAL MENTOR

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs; photo courtesy Lt. Col. Daniel Mitola, 177th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate

Imagine laying the legal foundation for a country.

That is the case for Lt. Col. Daniel Mitola, 177th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate General, who is currently serving in the Republic of Liberia as the Senior Legal Mentor in support of Operation Onward Liberty.

“There are about 50 of us here helping to guide a brand new Armed Forces of Liberia as the country attempts to rebuild after many years of civil war,” said Mitola. “We are assisting the first law clerks and legal officers ever appointed to the AFL in administering a military justice system very similar to ours.”

The list of the team’s accomplishments is broad: They assisted in drafting a plan for providing logistical support for the national elections, they also helped in drafting military police standard operating procedures, and creating officer and enlisted leadership courses, which included courses on ethical decision making. They helped draft the AFL’s Standing Rules of Engagement, which are the basis for their emergency response plan to aid civilian authorities during natural or man-made disasters. The team has also helped guide the Liberians through several major investigations.

Liberia has adopted the Uniform Code of Military Jus-



Lt. Col. Daniel Mitola, second from left, with his Armed Forces of Liberia legal team.

tice and Mitola’s team helped train the first ever legal officer and legal clerks in administering military justice.

“Prior to implementing the military justice program, punishment and incarcerations were imposed in an arbitrary fashion, adversely affecting good order and discipline,” said Mitola.

In his time-off, Mitola and his team visits a local orphanage to help out.

“There are about 50 children there from infants to teenagers,” said Mitola. “We helped them with rebuilding their roof, but mostly bring candy and play with the children.”



RSP IN TOYLAND

The nearly 230 Soldiers of the Recruit Sustainment Program at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, wanted to make sure that no child wakes up on Christmas Day without a toy. These young Guard members reached out for help from Cub Scout Pack #62, Toms River; Daisy Troop #1114, Brick; New Jersey Dept of Corrections, Sea Girt; and Brick Township and Manchester high schools Bowling Clubs. Pvt. Andrew Bunn came up with the idea that saw a total of more than 680 toys, clothing items and canned food goods being donated to the Epiphany House program of the New Hope Foundation in Monmouth County. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ/PA.

NGB recognizes 108th Airman

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108th Wing Public Affairs

Around the 108th Wing, when one hears the name Master Sgt. Lisel White, the first thought that often pops into mind is, “singer of the national anthem.” But she has a job in the 108th that touches every Airman and was recently given an award by the National Guard Bureau for her contributions.

White was the recipient of the Equal Opportunity Professional of the Year Award that was presented at the 2010 NGB Equal Opportunity training workshop held in California on Sept. 2. This prestigious award is given to the Equal Opportunity Officer or non-commissioned officer who has distinguished themselves through human relations and equal opportunity in the Air Guard.

A graduate of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, White has returned to the schoolhouse on a number of occasions to be an adjunct instructor for the reserve component course. The intense coursework focuses on many topics that make the students look at themselves and recognize



their own personal issues and prejudices.

She said that it is exciting to see students get the “Ah Ha” moment – when they finally understand social issues from another student's perspective. “At that point, I feel like I have done my job,” she said.

White says she was always one who looked out for people who had been mistreated; she believes in god and fair for all people.

“I got into a career field that I strongly believe in,” she said. “I have a passion for it.”

When being presented with the award, White's mother, who flew in from Georgia

for the special occasion and her sister and brother-in-law, who live in California, joined her on the stage.

When she isn't busy singing at Wing events or working in the EO office, White is actively involved in the music ministry at her church, Living Faith Christian Center in Pennsauken. She is also the mother to three grown children, Elise, and twins, Salina and Steven. Steven is a master sergeant in the Air Force stationed at Wright-Paterson Air Force Base in Ohio. 🇺🇸

108TH DOES ITS PART

Staff Sgt. Ariel Hansen, an Aerospace Ground Equipment Operator with the 108th Contingency Response Group relaxes and squeezes a sponge ball as she donates blood during the blood drive held on Oct. 5, 2010. The blood drive was held in conjunction with the Community Blood Council of New Jersey, Inc., in an effort to raise low levels of blood supplies throughout the state. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs Office.



AIRMEN PARTICIPATE IN FAM 10



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

Iraq, Kuwait or even Afghanistan – these are names we in the military associate when we talk about the desert.

One that doesn't come as quickly to mind is the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which is where Col. Robert C. Bolton and Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley deployed in support of Falcon Air Meet 2010, or FAM 10, from October through November.



The U.S. Team, which was led by Col. Robert C. Bolton, front row right; poses for a high-spirited group photo. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Wolfram M. Stumpf, 140W/PA.

Bolton served as the commander of the U.S. Air Force forces - the first New Jersey wing commander to do so and only the second Air Guard commander in the exercise's history. The unit he commanded was comprised of more than 340 Guard and active duty Airmen, including Moseley who served as a videographer with the Colorado Air National Guard Public Affairs video production team that covered the event.

"FAM 10 provided realistic combat training scenarios for air force pilots and maintainers from Jordan, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America," said Bolton.

The two-week exercise, which was held at the Royal Jordanian Air Base in Azraq, began on Oct. 19 and brought together the various teams from the region to share doctrine and procedures, strengthen relationships and improve regional security. Jordan is located directly east of Israel, south of Syria and west of Saudi Arabia.

A friendly competition is also the highlight of the exercise that provides unique training experiences. The event previously focused more on the F-16 competition, but has evolved into an exercise, concentrating on tactics and close-

air support operations. The event has been judged by the 140th Wing Colorado Air National Guard for the past five years due to their strong friendship with Jordan and their State Partnership Program.

"The Public Affairs team worked day and night to videotape and photograph the event," said Moseley. "We also produced a video, which captures the essence of the event and serves to foster interest and participation from other countries." The video can be seen on YouTube.

The grand finale included a special forces' hostage rescue demonstration and bombing competition featuring jets from all involved countries and two B-52s from the U.S. Air Force.

FAM 10 culminated with a series of closing ceremonies where each of the team commanders spoke.

"I videotaped the closing ceremonies and listened to Col. Bolton's closing remarks, where he suggested that the Falcon Air Meet be renamed the Brothers for Life Exercise," said Moseley.

"I would also like to echo the (Air Force commander's) remarks," said Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein of Jordan. "This meet is all about relationships. It has been a fantastically successful exercise because it is all about getting together, learning to work together, getting to know one another." 🇺🇸



Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein, left, presents Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley with a plaque during the closing ceremonies on Nov. 2, 2010. U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Darin Overstreet, 140W/PA.

**Catch the video on YouTube by typing Falcon Air Meet 2010 or copy this URL on your browser:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2X7o9Vh1Qw**

ESGR visits CSSB at FIG

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

The four-member bicycle patrol unit of the Gloucester Township Police Department will be short one officer for the next year.

Officer Lisa Hatcher will become Staff Sgt. Lisa Hatcher and will be serving in Afghanistan with the New Jersey Army National Guard's 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Her absence will leave a noticeable gap in the 99-member department.

"She is a great officer who has a real strong presence on the street," said her boss, Capt. Jeffrey Weiserth. "We'll just pull together when she's gone. Everyone knows what she's going off to do."

Weiserth took the opportunity on Dec. 8 to see exactly what his officer will do as a Soldier when she arrives in Afghanistan in February. He was among 19 New Jersey employers who traveled to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. on New Jersey Army National Guard helicopters for a trip sponsored by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The federally-funded organization works to strengthen the bonds between employers and military reservists and organizes trips known as "Boss Lifts" to get employers to training sites where National Guard and other reserve units are making final preparations for combat deployments.

Lt. Gov. Christine Guadagno and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, were on the trip along with state Sens. Diane Allen and David Norcross and Assemblyman Gilbert Wilson.

Rieth, the commander of the 8,300-member New Jersey National Guard, told the employers and lawmakers that Boss Lifts are a critical part of the effort to raise awareness among community leaders about the sacrifices made by Citizen Soldiers and Airmen.

"We are an all-volunteer force in a conflict that has lasted nearly 10 years and will likely continue in some form for the rest of our lives," Rieth said. "In order to be able to serve, our Soldiers



Staff Sgt. Lisa Hatcher listens to her boss Capt. Jeffrey Weiserth at the National Guard Training Center, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.

and Airmen need the support of their employers. It's critical."

Hatcher has the support of her entire department.

"They've been great," said Hatcher, who has been on the force in Gloucester Township for three years.

It will be her second deployment to a combat zone. A logistic specialist, she spent 2004 in Iraq.

"This will be a whole different environment with new challenges," Hatcher said. "But we're doing the kind of training we need to do to get ready."

At one point during the training, as her civilian boss, Weiserth watched, Hatcher led a squad of her fellow Soldiers at full sprint into an urban warfare training structure to practice techniques for how to enter a building filled with suspected insurgents.

"That's how she is on the street, no-nonsense," Weiserth said, after watching his officer bark orders and kick in a door to enter the building. "To see the training she and all these other Soldiers do to get ready, it's impressive." 🇺🇸

EMPLOYERS LEARN AIR DEFENSE

Senior Airman Anthony R. Guddo, left, a Flightline Mechanic with the 177th Fighter Wing, shows his employer Chuck Goushian the F-16 Fighting Falcon - the aircraft he works on at his other job. The 177th and the New Jersey Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve hosted a Bring Your Boss to Work Day on Oct. 1, 2010. Nineteen employers learned about the Wing's mission and the role that they as employers can play in supporting their Citizen Airmen and other members of the New Jersey National Guard. After the briefings and a base tour the Airmen took their employers to their work areas to learn about what they do on drill weekends. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.



AIR GUARD VISITS ALBANIA

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Through the State Partnership Program, New Jersey's Citizen Airmen and Soldiers have travelled to the Republic of Albania to train their counterparts. In turn, Albania has sent Soldiers and Airmen to New Jersey to receive specialized training.

Lt. Col. Richard Reitberger and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Francis, Joint Force Headquarters – Air and Master Sgt. Anthony Boccelli, a Fire Chief with the 177th Fighter Wing, visited Albania in September 19-23, 2010.

“The State Partnership Program is an exchange of ideas among equals and will continue to be a benefit for both Albania and New Jersey,” said Reitberger.

The mission's focus was on joint Air Guard – Albanian Armed Forces training, combined officer/NCO training and wildfire prevention – an issue important to arid Albania.

The Air Guard team met with Col. Arqile Kokedhima and Lt. Col. Halil Kucama, commanders of the Training and Doctrine Command and the Noncommissioned Officer Academy respectively. Providing the Albanian input on overall NCO training was Albanian Armed Forces Command Sgt. Maj. Proletar Panxha.

Discussion centered on education, the possibility of New Jersey sending over instructors and combined training for officers and NCOs at the schoolhouse. The Air Guard contingent toured the schoolhouse during which, Reitberger addressed a classroom of newly minted NCOs.

Driving to Tirana International Airport, the team met with Rinas Air Base commander Col. Raqi Qarri whom Boccelli presented a binder of materials that he had prepared based on his experiences preventing and combating wildfires.

The Jersey Guardsmen then drove to Farke Air Base, where they met with base commander Col. Frederik Beltoja



Albanian Armed Forces Command Sgt. Maj. Proletar Panxha, left, translates as an Albanian Air Force firefighter talks about the capabilities of the Farke Air Base firefighting equipment with New Jersey Air National Guard members, State Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Francis, second from left, Joint Force Headquarters – New Jersey and 177th Fighter Wing Fire Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Boccelli, second from right.

who proudly showed off the newly completed control tower and fire station, as well as the new construction at the base.

The next day Reitberger and Boccelli attended wildfire meetings at the Interior Ministry while Francis traveled with Panxha to Kucova Air Base to meet with the base commander Col. Flamur Hoxha who spoke about his wildfire concerns and how they could impact the base's mission.

While some of the equipment at the base was not as modern as that found in New Jersey, the runway easily rivaled its American counterparts in length and size.

Despite the visit's short duration, the team was able to identify numerous potential unit and individual training missions, as well as other needs that the Office of Defense Cooperation and possibly New Jersey might be able to address.

Albanian Armed Forces Sgt. Gezim Hoxha, left standing, discusses the NCO class's curriculum at the NCO Academy with, right to left, Albanian Armed Forces Command Sgt. Maj. Proletar Panxha, Lt. Col. Richard Reitberger and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Francis.



108TH AIRMAN TAKES TOP HONOR

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Photos by Master Sgt. Kurt Skoglund, McGhee Tyson Public Affairs

A 108th Wing Airman took the Air Force's top education award at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy on Nov. 11, 2010.

The highest honor went to Tech. Sgt. Carmine Giangeruso who received the John L. Levitow Honor Graduate Award, which is named after Medal of Honor recipient Airman 1st Class John L. Levitow and is presented to the top professional military education graduate from Air Force Airman Leadership Schools.

New Jersey pulled in three additional awards: Tech. Sgts. Shane A. Clark and John P. Asure of the 108th and Tech. Sgt. John A. Salayda Jr., of the 177th Fighter Wing each claimed a Distinguished Graduate Award, which is presented to the top ten percent students in the class. It is based on objective and performance evaluations, demonstrated leadership and performance as a team player.

Graduation from the NCO Academy, which is located at I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, located near Knoxville, Tenn., is required in order to get promoted to master sergeant.

The New Jersey contingent was comprised of 177th Fighter Wing Tech. Sgts. Melissa P. Blackledge, Lauren A. Humphrey, Kenneth D. Johnson, Joann Jones, Suzanne M. Knight, Brian G. McDevitt, John A. Riccio, John A. Salayda Jr., Michael A. Thompson and 108th Wing Tech. Sgts. John Asure, Miguel Badillo, Dennis Barnes, Shane Clark, Keith Czczuga, Porfirio Diaz, Bryan Fernandez, Eugene Fletcher, Carmine Giangeruso, Jeremy Maupin and Jose Periera.

"To all the graduates, I hope each of you accept the challenge and compete for a seat in the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy," said State Command Chief Mas-



Tech. Sgt. Carmine Giangeruso, right, receives the John L. Levitow Honor Graduate Award for Satellite NCO Academy Class 11-1 from Chief Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy, Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant, on Nov. 11, 2010.

ter Sgt. Michael R. Francis. "You will have the opportunity to interact with senior NCOs from active, guard and reserve at Gunter Annex (Montgomery, Ala.)"

The NCO Academy curriculum is approximately 223 hours, and includes 22 hours in the military profession, 38 hours in combat leadership, 56 hours in unit management and 57 in managerial communication. All while working with NCOs with similar experiences, preparing to lead and manage while gaining new friends to call on when facing leadership challenges. 🇺🇸



108th Wing: front row, left to right: Tech. Sgts. Jeremy Maupin, John Asure, Keith Czczuga, Carmine Giangeruso, Miguel Badillo and Bryan Fernandez. Back row, left to right: Tech. Sgts Porfirio Diaz, Eugene Fletcher, Shane Clark, Jose Periera and Dennis Barnes.



177th Fighter Wing: front row: left to right, Tech. Sgts. Melissa P. Blackledge, Joann Jones, Suzanne M. Knight and Lauren A. Humphrey. Back row, left to right: Tech. Sgts. John A. Riccio, Michael A. Thompson, John A. Salayda Jr., Kenneth D. Johnson and Brian G. McDevitt.

Jersey State Wrap-Up



Covenant signing

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, left, Chief of the Joint Staff, signs the Army Community Covenant while Picatinny Arsenal Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Herb Koehler, right, watches during the Morris County Chamber of Commerce meeting on Sept. 13, 2010. Morris County community leaders joined military representatives from the New Jersey National Guard and Picatinny Arsenal to pledge their support to uniformed personnel and their families by signing the Covenant. The Covenant program is designed to foster and sustain state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life to Soldiers and Families of the Army - Active, Guard and Reserve. Photo by Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.



Sweeping the Meadowlands

Spc. Christopher Maute, center, 21st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), searches for simulated suspicious objects during a weapons of mass destruction exercise at New Meadowlands Stadium on Sept. 14, 2010. The 21st CST was joined by the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Office of Emergency Management, the United States Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, Meadowlands Fire Department, and the New Jersey State Police to train at the stadium located in East Rutherford. The units familiarized themselves with the stadium in the event they have to respond to a chemical/biological/radiological or nuclear event at the facility. Photo by Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.



I am an American Airman...

Airman 1st Class Andrew Balint recites the Airman's Creed during the 108th Wing's Hometown Heroes Salute at the Timmerman Conference Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, which honored more than 500 of New Jersey's Citizen-Airmen on August 15, 2010. The Airmen recognized included those who have deployed for more than 30 consecutive days in support of global operations since Sept. 11, 2001. The program's purpose is to celebrate and honor the significant contributions of National Guard Airmen, their families and communities. U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

...PATRIFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE
...OF HONOR,
...OR.
...MAN.
...JUST
...SHIELD
...ANGER.
...WITH MY
...FOR AN AMERICAN AIRMAN
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN
I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.

NEWS GUARD FAMILIES CAN USE

Compiled by the Guardlife Staff

New GI Bill Carries Different Eligibility, Benefits

Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Recently, about two dozen Soldiers filled the conference room at Joint Forces Headquarters eager to hear how their recent deployment could mobilize their education opportunities through state and federal education programs.

The overview of the federal Veterans Administration latest GI Bill was provided by Capt. Ben Stoner of the New Jersey Army National Guard's Education Office. Stoner called Chapter 1607, the new Post 9-11 program, transformational and how it is the biggest change in the funding of post-secondary learning since the original GI after World War II.

Unlike Montgomery GI bill programs, Chapter 1607 provides three separate types of benefit payments to those who have at least 90 days of aggregate active service after Sept. 10, 2001.

The VA will directly pay schools for tuition and fees equal to what each state's most expensive state-run school

charges for in-state, undergraduate study.

Students who are attending school more than halftime, seven credits or more, and are physically in a classroom setting at least for one course per semester are entitled to a monthly basic housing allowance for an E-5 with dependents for the zip code the school is located.

The third benefit is a stipend of up to \$1,000 a year for books and supplies.

Service members with 36 or more months of active duty will receive 100 percent of the three payments and those with less than three-years will receive a prorated amount. For example, the majority of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers would be at the 60 percent level for the 12 plus-month deployment.

For more information contact the state Education Office at 1-888-859-5999 or 609-562-0711 or visit them on the web at www.nj.gov/military/education/index.html.



FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

108TH WING

3327 Charles Blvd.
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
POC: Douglas Ridgway
(609) 754-4479
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

LAWRENCEVILLE ARMORY

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

SOMERSET ARMORY

1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
POC: John Hales
(732) 937-6290
john.a.hales@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
Army POC: Michael Hughes
(609) 272-6546
michael.t.hughes@us.army.mil

TOMS RIVER ARMORY

1200 Whitesville Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
POC: Maria Morro
(732) 341-9102 extension 13
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

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: Vests bow Covenant, Medal of Honor and



Vested interest

Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Baker, front, packs bulletproof vests while Staff Sgt. Toby Tirrito, back, both with Joint Force Headquarters - New Jersey Homeland Security Center for Excellence, removes donated vests from their boxes on Oct. 14, 2010. The vests, all of which have expired, were donated by the New Jersey State Police; part of a larger vests donation of approximately 2,000 vests from various state and local agencies under the Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training and Assistance Program. These vests despite having past their expiration dates are still useable and will be shipped to the Republic of Albania under the civilian to civilian portion the State Partnership Program. The vests have been sent by container ship to Albania and are due to arrive there mid-January. New Jersey and the Republic of Albania have been partners in the State Partnership Program for 17 years with New Jersey providing Albania critical assistance to help it join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on April 1, 2009. Photo by Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.



nd for Albania, Leaders sign Lt. Governor flies with 177th



Community Covenant signed by key Army and civilian leaders

Displaying signed copies of the Army Community Covenant are, left to right, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General; Robert J. Maguire, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; John Newman, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; Jon Runyan, Congressman-elect, Third District; Vicki Baker, Gold Star Mother; Timothy Borsetti, Mayor of Lakehurst; Tom Kelahar, Mayor of Toms River and Violet Elaine Marigliano, U.S. Army One Source during a ceremony at the National Guard Consolidated

Logistics and Training Facility, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Nov. 9, 2010. The Community Covenant program is designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families. While the Community Covenant is an Army program, it extends to the other Military Services as well, recognizing that many community efforts support all Service Members and their Families regardless of the uniform they wear. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Honored company

Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard, from left to right, Staff Sgt. James Linnus, Senior Master Sgt. Paul Thompson, Master Sgt. Earnest Williams, Master Sgt. Christopher Schmidt, Staff Sgts. Frank Dobos and Anthony Seay, Senior Airman Omar Navarro, Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Jensen, Master Sgt. Bobbi Panger and Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, pose with Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, center, as part of the New York Jets 11th annual Military Appreciation Day on Nov. 21, 2010. At both the game's beginning and halftime show, Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen unfurled a massive flag on the field. F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 177th Fighter Wing performed a fly-over at the beginning of the game. In addition, a ceremony in honor of Giunta, the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since three service members from the Vietnam War were honored in 1976, was held. Also in attendance was Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.



177th's newest pilot

Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno was given an orientation flight on an F-16D Fighting Falcon at the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, on August 12, 2010. U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

ARMY AND AIR ENL

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

To Command Sergeant Major (E-9):

Thomas E. Alexander
Thomas J. Clark
Michael R. Comier
Thomas S. Decker
Gene L. Jones
Jeffrey C. Pels

To Master Sergeant (E-8):

Danny Colon
John Z. Deseignora
Clinton A. Drummond
William H. Myers II
Antonio A. Pritchard
Eliezer A. Viera

To Sergeant First Class (E-7):

Janet Fowler
Calvin Homes Jr.
Michael E. Hughes
David M. Long
Travis S. Lovell

To Staff Sergeant (E-6):

Randolph F. Aguilar
Jamile Barrera
Brian R. Cooper
Christine M. Czaja
Kairo E. Fuffin
Dawan Ginn Jr.
Jose L. Gomez
Terrio A. Jenkins
Brian B. Kofky
Andres S. Lebron
Andy J. Marte
Rosalind M. Merkerson
John C. Panepinto
Harry R. Peles
Luis G. Santiago
Luis R. Trencherivera
Jason W. Vaughn
Robert C. Williams
Sheila I. Zelaskowski

To Sergeant (E-5):

Andres Arroyavebermudez
Edward C. Bennett
Gilbert J. Beriso
James E. Booth
Bryan A. Breza
Lia C. Cater
Laura J. Garcia
Giseth L. Gomezmejia
Anayah M. Hall
Charles C. Harrison
Teresa Laporte
James P. Martin Jr.
Arturo Martinez
Jose A. Morales
Sarah A. Nothdurft
Conrad Protzman IV
Jose Rivera Jr.
Luis A. Sanchez
Glenn A. Siegman II
Michael T. Suplee
Frank E. Suydam
Francisco E. Thomas
Brian H. Tomasek
Sarah F. Zadoyko

To Specialist (E-4):

Martin A. Altomose
James E. Anderson
Esteban Arias
Matthew S. Baker
Okeris S. Bautista
Joseph P. Beitel
Aaron S. Bennett
Jason M. Booth
Daniel T. Bui
Michael J. Buttros Jr.
Ricardo Byanille
Christopher A. Caamano
Christopher J. Cardaci
Andres F. Cardona
George M. Cartiglia
Matthew J. Chasey
Oscar O. Chrinso

Eric M. Colondres
Ryan J. Connell
Joseph D. Costa
Brian J. Cumiskey
Keith A. Davis
Charles J. D. Griffin
Paul W. Delorenzo Jr.
Brian W. Deveraux
Chynna M. Dietrich
Celeste M. Dowe
Nicholas B. Enochs
Luckson Exume
Pedro M. Ferreira
Sean K. Fritz
Taisha Gerez
Pedro A. Giboyeaux
Gabriel A. Godart
Robert C. Goldberg
Arthur A. Gonzalez
Sherwood T. Goodenough
Gerardo Guizar
Shannan L. Harris
Jeffrey T. Herrmann
Andrew C. Jankowski
Bobby M. Joseph
Patrick R. Kayser
James S. Kube
Edgar C. Leonsalinas
Chad M. McCarthy
Patrick J. Mostyn
Nhat M. Nguyen
William S. Nugent II
Bryanparra
Richard M. Patire
Roy L. Pierson Jr.
Nicole Pineda
Wood J. Polynice
Cesar V. Quirumbay
Michael A. Raub
Robert V. Rehill
Robert F. Renuart
Christopher Restrepo
Michael A. Rivera
Kyung R. Ryu
Timothy L. Shay
Stiphin J. Small I
Shawn E. Smith
Karim H. Smith
Mark E. Spinelli
Anderson St. Espinozaramirez
Aaron F. Stanton
Gregory S. Stevens
Benjamin L. Stiefel
Michael J. Treacy
Jason B. Trerotola
Marvin M. Vasquez
Alexander Vazquez
Jennifer Waisempacher
Daniel Walker
William Wan
Wayne C. Werner
Michelle M. Williams
David Wood Jr.
Raquel M. Wynter
Alvarado P. E. Zamora

To Private First Class (E-3):

Derek A. Adair
Amy Afanador
Adolfo F. Aguirre
Terron Alers
Carillo G. Alvarez
Frank C. Antonucci
Scott R. Arons
Jessica M. Arway
Betty J. Bailey
Bassil E. Bassil
Alberto L. Bayron
Russell E. Bramble
James W. Brennan
Justin I. Bruno
Vivian Bryant
Eduardo L. Carvente
Carlos A. Castro-Martinez
Robert E. Clark
Erick O. Corporanvargas
Sean M. Crawford
Jovany Cruz
Daniel G. Czerepak
Jesse Delacruz
Ervin Dine
Bradley Dumeny

Malcolm Eddington
Glen G. Gianello
Nathan C. Gilmore
William Gonzalez
Eudy Guarenoabreu
Kaheem L. Hunt
Alexis J. Hurtado
Eboni N. Jones
Alexander G. Kerr
John M. Kurzum
Lenny Lara
Jospeh P. Lomonico
David J. Loughmiller
Zachary T. MacKinnon
Simone A. Mcenough
Yiesena E. Nunez
John M. Ondish
Brian Osoria
Jorge U. Pereirascarpitta
Joshua S. Pierce
Anothony F. Piscopobann
Ryan R. Polny
Justin M. Potenski
Raul J. Retamoza
Joshua F. Richards
Emmet E. Ridd Czynzewski
Marilyn Ruiz
Kleisley A. Sime
Bryan M. Smith
Jessica A. Tallant
Joseph R. Tepfenhart
Ryan A. Thiel
Xavier S. Torres
Marie V. Tozer
Brandon L. Ullman
Felix Valencia
Roman Vidrevich
Suksha V. White
Nicole E. Wilson
Marcus A. Yasenchock
Christian A. Zapata

To Private (E-2):

Thomas C. Ables
Jean R. Alectice
Anthony V. Aliotta
Stephen Alvear
Rosa M. Andujar
Johnny Aviles Jr.
Kevin Belalcazar
Williams A. Biesecker
Jordan L. Botvinik
Nina C. Cabrale-Santos
Marc A. Cadet
Steven Cano
Johnny Cao
Kaio V. Cardoza
Amanda A. Castellano
Austin L.W. Charles
Brian A. Cirone
Brandon P. Convery
Courtney F. Drinks
Robert F. Eckert
Christopher A. Fell
Erica S. Furlonue
Zavier J. Garcia
Dennis J. Gentile
Wellington Godoi
Parker B. Goins
Andrew M. Gonzalez
Carmen S. Griffinbenitez
Christopher R. Hartman
Michael D. Henderson
Kyle D. Hoffman
Joshua S. Holt
Janhannah M. Huelgas
Shayne F. Hybrid-Love
Saywayne C. Jacksonpope
Darshan C. Jha
Heung J. Kang
Michael N. Kelly
Joseph C. Koszyk
Duli Lee
Santiago D.P. Lewis
Ashley L. Lisboa
Jacquelyn S. Lomberk
Christopher J. Luke
Peter J.R. Magsalin
Miguel R. Marilicic
Patrick Q. Marvin
Terence S. McDonald
Terelle M. McMillian

Fabio L. Medeiros
Matthew T. Merkle
Clarissa E. Nazon
Matthew P. Negron
Yeudy R. Nova
Kenneth E. Novak II
Juan P. Ortega Jr.
Anthony E. Pierce
Ricky L. Pierce Jr.
Julio C. Pinedo
Bryan S. Polo-Escobar
Joshua I. Reyes
Jonathan O. Robles
Thomas F. Rodgers
Tamikia T. Rowe
Ivo E. Sales
Darline L. Sanchez
Christopher J. Santangelo
Joshua A. Seguire
Raymond L. Sippel Jr.
Qwanean T. Smith
Dean P. Spadavecchia
Joshua D. Stecher
Ronald A. Stewart Jr.
Michael R. Storms
Nicholas E. Swanson
Nicholas G. Tierno
John G. Valencia
Yashira B. Velez
Jamie F. Wagher
Travis L. White
Resheena D. Whittington
Chase A. Williams
Deshauq Q. Williamstolson
Luke Zhang
Omar S. Zunaga

NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

To Chief Master Sergeant (E-9):

John A. Early
Jose A. Gonzalez
Pedro I. Indio
Jacqueline R. Jackson
Harry J. Johnson
Carl V. Scrivani
Donald E. Taggart

To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8):

Brian K. Alexander
Mark A. Bajada
Luis R. Collazomoraes
David M. Falkowski
Joseph T. Hammell
Michael C. Jones
June I. Kelly
Wayne R. Miller
Diana J. Samborski
Lisa R. Sylvester
Robert M. Zaniewski

To Master Sergeant (E-7):

Anna C. Ayars
David J. Bailey
Sheryl A. Dickinson
Joseph K. Downey
Randall L. Flipping
John K. Greis
Sheryl A. Hazel
Damon K. Jackson
Stephen R. Johnson
Michael R. Mimler
Edward F. Nickel
Mark C. Olsen
Marie L. Paggi
Gary K. Parker
Christopher E. Parr
Thomas L. Paulin
Christian Skierski
William W. Sturgeon

To Technical Sergeant (E-6):

Thomas B. Atkinson
Sherri A. Bauer
Brent L. Beale
Ryan J. Carlson
Eduardo J. Cornier
Ashley B. Dahl
Patrick M. Donohoe

LISTED PROMOTIONS

Eric W. Erbe
Bruce G. Eveland
James M. Ferretti
Theodore A. Fischer
Michael D. Glover
Anthony Gonzalez
Stephen G. Greenwood
James P. Jaconski
Joann Jones
Justin E. Kaenzig
Kara L. Kauffman
Justin M. Kelley
Michael Klein
Sean M. Latimer
Jeffrey P. McGrath
William P. McKenna
David J. Niedzwiedek
Christina A. Noriega
Christina A. Rodriguez
Charles F. Sharp
Gerard P. Sheehan
Richard M. Szerbin
Ashley B. Townner
Angela G. Ward
Robert W. Weaver
Keith W. Wilson

To Staff Sergeant (E-5):

Rafiq M. Abdul Ghafur
Desiree E. Aragon
Joseph M. Bartlett
Sara J. Bateman-Lightfoot
Kyle P. Brier
Lawrence C. Broadway
Jason C. Brunson
Donald E. Bunce
Brian L. Calhoun
Desiree A. E. Duffy
Benjamin L. Ellis
Thomas C. Fishill
Christopher A. Galluccio
Randy D. Garrison
Wayne J. Grobblinghoff
Jonathan E. Harris
Tamikia L. Hart
Stephen W. Hillmann
William H. Holmes
Frederick J. Hornig
Alexander Hunter
Robert D. Johnson
Brandon M. King
Kurtis A. Kuhle
Melvin U. Laramore
Samie S. Leigh
Matthew T. Martino
Alan R. Morin
Aasim A. Muhammad
Matthew M. Ordille
Ryan A. Osmola
Jordan A. Padula
Christopher N. Palm
Angela M. Perkins
Gerald T. Piatnochka
Jeffery J. Raine
Deverron M. Ramcheran
Sean T. Riley
Wilfredo Rodriguez
Byron Romero
Jamie L. Rudy
David S. Sales
Ryan W. Sendrick
Damarces L. Sharkey
Peter C. Spahn
Vanessa L. Torres
James R. Torres
Sheila Y. Velezavila
Ahniesha C. Wallace
Christopher L. Wetzel
Angela M. Youpa
John B. Zeller
Eric M. Zweiback

To Senior Airman (E-4):

John W. Allen
Patricia A. Arias
Jane A. Bartholomew
Joshua F. Blaney
Brett A. Bucsak
Ava M. Buonacuore
David P. Cox
Willie Cruzmoya
Jason M. Cullen

Ryan R. Curcio
Jonathan J. Dambrosio
Mark A. Darcangelo
Danessa Duverce
Jorge L. Echevarria
Jasmine E. English-Mitchell
William D. Fairbanks
Emanuel Figueroa
Aimee D. Figueroa
Cory J. Fikes
Jason B. Fischer
Anthony J. Foster
John F. Franze
Gregory P. Gablin
Michael F. Garcia
Kellyn A. Grau
Samantha J. Hardy
Ethan J. Hugg
Patrick R. Ireland
Andre J. Jackson
Harry J. Johnson
Ashley V. King
Nicholas E. Kligmann
Noel F. Krail
Robert P. Kurzydowski
Kane L. Lawlor
David A. Lazaro
Rocco D. Lazaro
Ryan M. Lenegan
Brittany A. Lovett
John M. Madara
Christopher R. Maryinuk
Cody D. McNaughton
Maurissa S. Miller
Alison J. Mortensen
Thomas R. Moss
William A. Munoz
Robert C. O'Neal
Kyle D. Paparteys
Donald L. Pearson
John C. Presner
Catalina Prieto
Christopher J. Raine
James T. Rice
Daniel L. Rodriguez
Jamal N. Roy
Ava M. Sachleben
Morgan A. Sanchez
Matthew I. Sandorfi
Dominick J. Santopietro
Justin M. Savine
Rebecca C. Serulle
Thomas A. Shea
Folami A. Shorter
Sean R. Smith
Rebecca C. Solomita
Dominoe K. Strong
Brian K. Taylor
Marion C. Tomlin
Jason F. Valleley
John R. Vasta
Carl M. Walls
Nyapaula A. Washington

To Airman First Class (E-3):

Deric I. Adams
Kevin E. Aguiar
Jordan C. Andrade
Nicole A. Apel
Joshua C. Armstrong
Vincent J. Avallone
Felicity R. Bailey
Shannon T. Bass
Keith C. Bates
Raymond S. Bradley
James T. Brady
Tatiana Cabarcas
Michael Calabrese
Anthony L. Caramiello
Desmond A. Charles
Daniel M. Clement
Jerilyn S. Co
Ezekiel Z. Conover
Christopher M. Cruz
Heather A. Delcollo
Patrick M. Deopp
Vladimir Derbinsky
Zachary M. Downey
James E. Dzierwinski
Amilcar Y. Escobar
Jacob A. Ficken
Michael A. Finger

Christophergiles P. Fox
Steven K. Frank
Christine L. Fryling
Gabrielle A. Gagliardi
Breanna M. Gagnon
Garrison N. Gilman
Kristopher V. Gleason
Joseph Gonzalez-Rodriguez
Marques L. Hayes
Patrice N. Henson
Bradley A. Hibbert
Michael W. Hirschfeld
William M. Hood
Edwin K. Jimenez
Matthew W. Kaplan
Samantha R. Koenig
Ashley S. Linney
Earl M. Ludwiczak
Justin R. Lynch
Sean T. Mabbitt
Thomas J. McCoy
David McCrary
Harry J. McGrattan
Michael A. Mercadante
Stephen E. Merlock
Charles H. Michel
Christian H. Mirande
Bryant R. Mitchell
James P. Mohr-Murphy
Bruce W. Monroe
Anthony M. Moore
Christian A. Morera
Anthony M. Morrone
Michael A. Morrone
Steven C. Moylan
Ruddy N. Narvaez
Andy Nguyen
Dennis P. Novello
Jonathan D. O'Brien
Brandon M. O'Brien
Adrian J. Ortiz
David C. Pang
Steven E. Pangia
Louis D. Parrott
Kyle S. Patterson
Chase R. Petrella
Danielle Piccolo
Tracie K. Praul
Henry M. Ramirezramirez
Miguel A. Ramos
Kristina M. Reinhard
Gregory A. Rhoads
Edward A. Roberts
Rick T. Robinson
Thomas F. Rubino
Guillermo M. Santillana
James D. Sheridan
Jessie Silva
Ryan N. Sosnoff
Tyler J. Spohn
Justin S. Taylor
Katrina A. Tenor
Lakivia J. Thomas
Rupert F. Tiangco
Jaime Torres-Rivera
Tatiana V. Moreira
Christopher L. Whitehurst
Paul C. Winters
Justin R. Young

To Airman (E-2):

Manuel A. Delgado
Jerome J. Francis
Brian J. Gluck
Mecca L. Jennings
Kevin D. Klingaman
Shannon M. Peterson
Marcus J. Roberts
Seth L. Schoenfeld
Christopher T. Sierra
Tiffany N. Williams

New Airman:

Kyle E. Battle
Michael V. Caramiello
Dennis P. Chesney
Cordero Colon
Peter M. Coppola
David J. Faralli
Zachary S. Franzo
Lavone D. Graham
Tyler D. Hayes

Peter M. Olio
Joseph C. Paretti
Anastacio Perezortiz
Veronika Y. Sheldon

Congratulations To All!

Compiled by Master Sgt. Darron D. Beatty (Army Guard promotions) and Master Sgt. Paul B. Thompson Jr. (Air Guard promotions)



The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey announced the Enlisted Award winners on Sept. 20, 2010.

Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfred Z. Lea Outstanding First Sergeant Award (Army)

1st Sgt. Kevin Lewis
253rd Transportation Company

Chief Master Sgt. Edward W. Wolbert Outstanding First Sergeant Award (Air)

Master Sgt. Christopher Taggart
177th Fighter Wing
Security Forces Squadron

Sgt. Maj. Harry Arbeitman Outstanding NCO Award (Army)

Staff Sgt. Anthony Seay
1-254th Regiment (Combat Arms)

Chief Master Sgt. Richard W. Spencer Outstanding NCO Award (Air)

Tech. Sgt. Lauren Holba
108th Wing Force Support Squadron

Sgt. 1st Class Robert G. Vuinovich Jr. Outstanding Solider Award (Army)

Spc. James Nelson
A Company, 50th Brigade
Special Troops Battalion

Master Sgt. John E. Bodine Outstanding Airman Award (Air)

Senior Airman Michael Walsh
177th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron



LAST ROUND: FORE

Sgt. James Rickey, right, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, prepares to drive the ball down to the 11th hole at TCP Jasna Polana in Princeton while, left to right, Spc. Robert McCallister, Capt. Sean Combs, PGA golfer Jim Colbert, Senior Airmen Kane Lawlor and

Ethan Hugg, Staff Sgt Jarod Gatson, Spc. Christian Alvarez-Lopez and Sgt. 1st Class Juan Plata-Santos watch during the Birdies for the Brave fundraiser on Oct. 25, 2010. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.