



DMAVA

HIGHLIGHTS



DECEMBER 8, 2011

108th Wing Airmen return home just in time for the holidays

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J., -- They have been counting the days until homecoming since the day they departed early this summer. And on Dec. 2, the wait ended for some family members of security forces Airmen from the 108th Wing.

Eight Airmen from the 108th Security Forces Squadron returned home from Iraq to hugs and kisses late Friday night and were finally reunited with their loved ones at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The Airmen served honorably in the Middle East for approximately six months, and they came home just in time for the holiday season as the drawdown of military troops from Iraq continues.

Although she Skyped at least once a week with her husband, Staff Sgt. Donald Bunce, she was happy to finally have him back, said Mary Bunce, a Wrightstown resident.

"We'll plan a trip to the Caribbean



Staff Sgt. Donald Bunce, center, is all smiles as he is reunited with his wife, Mary, and his sister, Ashley Laramai, right, on Dec. 2, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., from a recent deployment to Iraq. The Wri-

gh-town resident was one of eight Airmen from the 108th Security Forces Squadron returning home from an approximately six-month deployment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA)

next year," said Mary Bunce.

But for now they just want to enjoy their reunion and their fifth wedding an-

niversary in February, said Mary Bunce.

In addition, the Airmen are very grateful to be home early for the holiday season.

"I am ecstatic!" said Senior Airman Keri Wanner of Scotch Plains. "It's all so surreal."

With the help of her father, Kevin, Wanner plans to surprise her family. "Nobody knows that I am back except my father," said Wanner. So she will be visiting her family around the state this weekend and giving them a holiday surprise.

"It's always nice to get our Airmen back from overseas," said Lt. Col. Brian Griefer, commander of the 108th SFS. "These are our missions but it feels good when they come back safely, especially from over there."

During their deployment in Iraq, the security forces Airmen conducted air base defense, which consisted of ensuring the security of the base; manning the gates for entry and exit into the base and perimeter patrols.



Eight New Jersey National Guard's Airmen from the 108th Security Forces Squadron returned home Dec. 2, from a recent deployment to Iraq. From left to right, Staff Sgts. Omar Navarro, Newark resident and Miguel Eusse, Linden; Tech. Sgts. Dennis Callan, Philadelphia and Chris Gable, Somers Point;

Staff Sgt. Donald Bunce, Wrightstown; Senior Airmen Errol McCalla, Belle Mead and Keri Wanner, Scotch Plains; and Staff Sgt. James Cervone, Chicago, Ill., pose for a group photo at the 108th SFS building at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA)

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Top left, Tech. Sgt. John Riccio III, right, and Senior Airman Monica Rivera, left, 455th Fabrication Shop, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, go over operating instructions before performing fabrication work on an F-16C Fighting Falcon. Top right, Senior Airman Justino Roman, also with the 455th Fabrication Shop, works on an F-16C. Center right, Senior Airman Monica Rivera works on a panel from an F-16C. Bottom right, Tech. Sgt. John Riccio III, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 455th FS, issues instructions while working on an F-16C. Bottom left, Senior Airmen Ed Fryling and Justino Roman, return tools to the 455th FS tool shop. Center left, Senior Airman Ed Fryling works with a tool in the shop. Riccio, Rivera, Roman and Fryling are currently deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht)

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Staff Sgt Sheila Zelasowski and Spc. Andrew Koniacko from the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, New Jersey National Guard accepted more than 50 handmade holiday stockings on the behalf of deployed Soldiers from the Girl Scouts of Troop 146 out of Jackson, N.J. at the CERDEC Flight Activity building at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on Dec. 2, 2011. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMA-VA Public Affairs)

Airman 1st Class Elizabeth A. Sanders, right, puts the final endorsement stamp on, left to right, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey National Guard pilots, Maj. Matthew T. Crill and Jeffrey A. Rouse and Capt. Brian S. Bradke's orders Dec. 3, before they deploy to Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



The Dr. Adam C. Pfeffer Performing Arts Center at the Cedar Creek High School in Egg Harbor City, N.J. was the site where nearly 100 Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing were honored at a Hometown Heroes Salute on Dec. 4. The purpose of this program is to celebrate and honor the significant contributions of Airmen, their families, communities and those special supporters to the mission of the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard. 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 since 9-11 2001. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Veterans Outreach Campaign
Rockaway Townsquare Mall
301 Mount Hope Avenue, Rockaway

January 17 - 19
Medal Ceremony at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17
Kiosk Hours: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., daily

Veterans Service Officers will be available to provide information on state and federal entitlements



"Serving Those Who Served"



Veterans Job Fair

Sponsored BY:

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
&
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Essex County One-Stop Center


West Orange National Guard Armory
Pleasant Valley Way
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday, December 13, 2011



Employers Attending
Target, Home Depot, Lowe's, Bright Star, NJ Transit, Sovereign Bank, Prudential, Farmers Insurance, Front Line Security, Construction Apprenticeship Union

Bring Your DD-214 & Plenty of Resumes

Outspoken Library



The New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center dedicated an Outspoken Library kiosk to the Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park on Dec. 7. The kiosk is designed to enable veterans who have impaired vision, a physical disability that makes it difficult to hold a book or a learning disability, to download 3,000 audiobooks which they can play on a free listening device.

Photo above, Mary Kearns-Kaplan, right, provides some instructions on the usage of the Outspoken Library kiosk to Walter Tenpenny.

Photo right, Mary Kearns-Kaplan, left, adult outreach services coordinator at TBBC, Adam Szczepaniak, center, director at TBBC, Joseph Brandspiegel, right, chief executive officer at Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, and Walter Tenpenny, seated, a WWII Navy veteran, pose for a group photo in front of the Outspoke Library kiosk computer. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)



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