

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 13, 2011



'Perfect Storm' allows Jersey Guard to rise to occasion

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley
DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

When he was activated to respond to the post-Christmas blizzard of 2010, New Jersey Army National Guard Spc. Andy DeLeon was afraid there would be no action.

It turned out there was plenty.

In fact, DeLeon and his fellow Soldiers may have ended up saving some lives.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 28, DeLeon and Pfc. Brian Francione found themselves on Route 18 in Monmouth County, forcing their Humvee through five-foot snowdrifts to respond to reports of trapped motorists.

They stumbled across a scene almost from a movie. Scores of vehicles nearly buried in snow. A helicopter hovered overhead, sweeping a spotlight to cut through the darkness and the near whiteout conditions caused by howling winds.

"We started finding people in some of those cars," DeLeon said. "One guy had run out of gas and was getting really cold. In another car, we found two guys who had been driving in



different cars and just decided to stay in one to save gas."

Most had been stuck for hours. As DeLeon and Francione worked, they saw another vehicle on the opposite side of the highway. They tried to force the Humvee across the median, but without any luck. They made their way across on foot, through waist-high snow.

The Soldiers reached the van and found Jessica Furlani, a nurse who had been making her way to her shift at a local hospital. She had been stuck in her car for 23 hours.

They helped Furlani out of her vehicle, gave her a ride to the Tinton Falls police station and then onto a makeshift shelter that had been set up at the AMC Theater at the Monmouth Mall.

She was among five people the Soldiers rescued that morning.

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

In all, nearly a dozen Soldiers responded to the storm, assisting more than a dozen motorists.

DeLeon, a Signal specialist assigned to the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters, 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."

Scholarships money for college-bound

Youth Challenge cadets

Five New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy graduates will have a financial head start on furthering their education after graduating from the program in April.

That's thanks to the National Guard Youth Foundation, which has arranged for the award of five \$1,000 scholarships to the program, according to Director Victoria Ragucci.

The individual scholarships donors are: Jefferies & Company, Attain, and WWE. The two remaining scholarships are funded directly by the National Guard Youth Foundation.

New rollover trainers and cost Savings bound for JT2DC

Spc. Saul Rosa, 444th MPAD

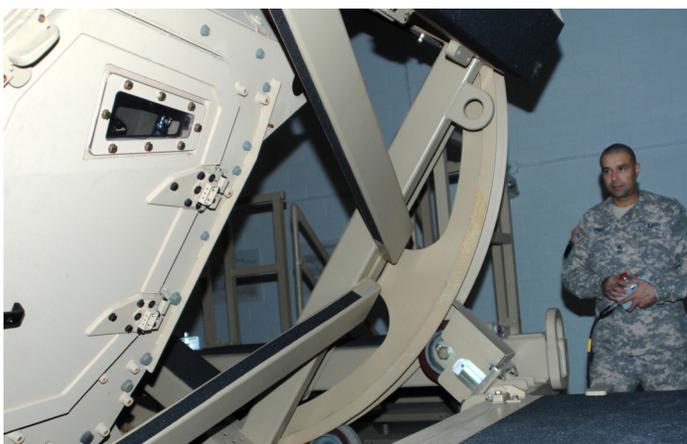
A new Mine Resistant Armor Protected Vehicle Egress Trainer (MET) has been brought to the Joint Base to benefit service members training through a collaborative cost-saving effort by the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) and the training and mobilization site.

Staging the MET in National Guard Bureau'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 New Jersey Army National Guard Master Sgt. Rene Sales, a senior trainer at the JT2DC.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Master Sergeant Rene Sales of the JT2DC staff demonstrates the capabilities of the MRAP Egress Trainer. Photo by Spc. Saul Rosa.

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Jersey Devils to host military Appreciation on Jan. 22

Here's a chance for the entire Guard family to enjoy a night on ice.

On Jan. 22, the Trenton Devils hockey team is having their military appreciation night.

All National Guard members are eligible to buy \$8 tickets for themselves, friends and family for the game against the Wheeling Nailers. That's half off the regular game-day price. And it comes with an added bonus: an hour long post-game skate. So, bring your skates and round out a night of family fun.

Face off is at 7 p.m.

Make your reservations by calling Brian, Megan or Jackie at 609-599-9500 on any weekday.

Snow? A handy list of Where to tune in for DMAVA employees

The following radio stations have agreed to broadcast special announcements in the event that inclement weather causes other than normal operation of State offices during the 2009 winter season:

WSNJ-AM 1240, Bridgeton; WJLK-FM 94.3, Ocean Twp.(Monmouth); WRNJ-AM 1510, Hackettstown; WOBN-AM 1160, Ocean Twp.(Ocean); WFPG-FM 96.9, Atlantic City; WOBN-FM 92.7, Ocean Twp.(Ocean); WPUR-FM 107.3, Atlantic City; WCHR-FM 105.7, Ocean Twp.(Ocean); WMVB-AM 1440, Bridgeton; WIXM-FM 97.3, Millville; WCTC-AM 1450, New Brunswick; WKXW-FM 101.5, Trenton; WMGQ-FM 98.3, New Brunswick; WSJO-FM 104.9, Egg Harbor; WSUS-FM 102.3, Newton; WNJT-FM 88.1, Trenton; WNNJ-FM 103.7 Newton; WNJS-FM 88.1, Berlin; WHCY-FM 106.3, Newton; WNJN-FM 89.7, Atlantic City; WNNJ-AM 1360, Newton; WNJB-FM 89.3, Bridgeton; WINS-AM 1010, New York; WNJP-FM 88.5, Sussex; WPST-FM 94.5, Princeton; WNJM-FM 89.9, Manahawkin; KYW-AM 1060, Philadelphia; WNJZ-FM 90.3, Cape May Courthouse; WADB-AM 1310, Ocean Twp. (Monmouth); WIMG-AM 1300, Trenton; WCMC-AM 1230, Wildwood

Email your Highlights submissions to wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us

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Military reservists asked to Nominate top bosses

Time is running out for Guard and Reserve service members and their families are encouraged to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of military employees. Nominations are being accepted at www.FreedomAward.mil through January 17, 2011.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for the outstanding support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.

The 2011 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington, D.C. at the 16th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on September 22, 2011. Recipients of the 2010 Freedom

Award met privately with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates while in Washington, D.C. Under Secretary of De-

fense, Chief Financial Officer Robert Hale and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Dennis McCarthy presented the awards at a ceremony attended by members of Congress, senior military officials, business leaders and the Guard and Reserve service members who nominated the award recipients.

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 whose mission is to develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members. For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-696-1171, ext. 539 or by email at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.



New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
CW 2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist



Soldiers with the 350th Finance Detachment, 42nd Regional Support Group deployed with the 92nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Multinational Battle Group East, pose for a photo with Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, second from right, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins, far left, during their visit at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

Grantham University's Blue Star Flag program has been providing Blue Star Flags to Service members and their families since 2006. For more information please go to: <http://www.mybluestarflag.com>.

Vietnam Memorial Announces Scholarships for High School Seniors

Graduating seniors have until April 15, 2011, to submit their applications and essays to qualify for one of two scholarships offered by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation.

The scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,500, will be awarded to high school seniors from New Jersey who plan to further their education either at a college or university or trade/technical school.

Winners will be notified in early May and will be awarded the scholarship on Monday, May 30, 2011, during the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

In addition to the scholarship application and proof of acceptance to a college or trade school, all applicants must submit an essay about his/her visit to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, located off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel.

To assist students in writing their essays, the Foundation offers free, veteran-led guided tours of the Memorial. Beginning February 5, 2011, and continuing through April 9, 2011, these tours are held every Saturday at 11 AM and at 1 PM. These tours are also available to the members of the general public who would like to learn more about the memorial. Tours are approximately 45 minutes in length.

The deadline for application and essay submission is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2011. Applications may be mailed, faxed to 732-335-1107 or delivered to the NJVVM Scholarship Program, 1 Memorial Lane, P.O. Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733.

For a scholarship application form or more information about the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, please visit www.njvvmf.org or call (732) 335-0033 xt. 100.

JT2DC, Joint Base team up for training, cost savings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 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.

"Cost saving's was a minimum of \$200,000 for a pad that would have placed the system in the open air in the winter, spring, summer and fall," said Robert Stodnick, an Army Support Activity Training Support officer. "If we had to construct a building it would have been in excess of \$400,000," he added.

The cost to stage the MET at the training development center was nearly \$13,000. The MET's size and weight requires certain conditions to be met in order for it to be operated safely. It is required that the surface the device is on can hold 33,000 pounds, a power

supply and it is recommended that either shade or air-conditioning is provided for the heat in the summer months.

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 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 evacuation training by mixing up which vehicle will flip.

The MET was delivered to JT2DC earlier this year. More than 100 Soldiers have been trained so far.

FDU Vets Vie for Pepsi Refresh Grant

From now thru the end of January, you can vote for vets every day in the Pepsi Refresh Everything Project.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University Veterans Association (FDU-VA) has been selected to compete for a \$250,000 Pepsi Refresh Everything Grant. The money will support the Three Pillar Program of Excellence, which helps student veterans.

To strengthen the Pillar of Service, \$50,000 will be used to support FDUVA events that include service and outreach projects. An additional \$150,000 will be used for scholarships and merit based awards. The remaining \$50,000 will be used to create an Emergency Relief Fund that will assist student veterans in times of financial distress.

This is an excellent opportunity to receive additional financial support for a program that is making a difference. Your help is needed.

Text 105553 to 73774 or vote online at Pepsi Refresh Everything.

Vets outreach comes to Trenton Devils

January 22, 2011

**Sun National Bank Center / Home of the Trenton Devils
Military Appreciation Night**

**Outreach Event only – Outreach Table open 6-9 pm on arena's main concourse
Game starts at 7pm**