



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



MAY 17, 2012

Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day



Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, and Raymond L. Zawacki, the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, and local elected officials presented the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and other state military awards to more than 55 Veterans at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel May 7. To view more photos of this event, click on this link: [Remembrance Day](#). (Photos by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA)

New state command chief announced

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th FW/PA

The wait is over. Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) has announced that Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton, 108th Wing command chief master sergeant, will become the New Jersey State Command Chief Master Sergeant at a Change of Authority ceremony at JFHQ June 9.

As state command chief, Morton will be responsible for advising the adjutant general and the commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard on mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale, and welfare of the command's enlisted Airmen and how to take action to address shortfalls or challenges.

A board which was comprised of Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard; Col. Wayne McCaughey, Chief of Staff - Air; State Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Francis and State Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Jenkins, reviewed the candidates and made their recommendations to Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey.

Morton began his military career in 1979 when he entered the United States Air Force. After basic training and the Security Police Academy at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, he was assigned to the 45th Missile Support Squadron at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., where he served on security escort team, camper alert team and as a fire team leader.

In December 1982, Morton was assigned to Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, and worked in support of F-111 Aardvark aircraft alert, weapons storage area supervisor and quality control evaluator. In 1986, he was involved in United States bombing of Libya, code-named Operation El Dorado Canyon, which was carried out in response to the 1986 Berlin discotheque bombing. He separated from active military service after returning to the United States in 1987.

In 1989, Morton enlisted in the New Jersey Air National Guard in the 170th Security Police in support of KC-135E aircraft and air base defense.

A year later, Morton deployed to Moron Air Base, Spain in support of Operation Desert Shield. He was subsequently mobilized in support of Operation Desert Storm and assigned to Minot AFB, N.D. in 1991.

Following the merger of the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing with the 170th Air Refueling Group to form the 108th Air Refueling Wing in 1991, Morton was assigned as the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Security Police training section, flight sergeant, security police operations superintendent and the security



force manager. During that period he deployed in support of Operations' Deliberate Guard and Southern Watch.

Immediately following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Morton was mobilized in support of Operations' Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. During his mobilization for Operation Noble Eagle, Morton served as the Air Guard Security Force liaison for Air Mobility Command gained security force units at Scott AFB, Ill. Later on he was assigned as the detainee movement operation NCOIC at Fort Dix, N.J. where he coordinated and participated in detainee movement teams to numerous foreign destinations.

During Operation Katrina he deployed in support of local law enforcement in New Orleans.

From April to October 2010 Morton served as the 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Superintendent at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

**THE SPRING 2012 ISSUE OF VETERAN JOURNAL
IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING
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E-mail your Photo of the Week or Highlights
submissions to
wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us OR
armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us

Local Marine delivers NJ Heroes banner to first lady Christie

TRENTON, N.J. – A New Jersey Marine returning from Afghanistan presented first lady Mary Pat Christie with the New Jersey Heroes banner here May 15.

The banner was originally signed by Christie and a group of volunteers and sent overseas as part of an Operation Shoebox care package in December 2011. Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Sanders, of Somerville, returned the placard to Christie with a photograph of his fellow Marines with the banner.

“Operation Shoebox is such a great cause, and the fact that Zach returned to New Jersey to deliver this banner from the soldiers in Afghanistan really demonstrates how much it means to our military personnel to know they are supported on the home front,” said Christie. “We’re so proud of the courage Zach and his team members have displayed in serving our nation and we are thrilled that they have safely returned to their loves ones.”

Sanders graduated from Somerville High School in 2010. He attended basic training and graduated from Parris Island Nov. 11, 2010. After Marine combat training and military police training, he spent five months at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He then volunteered to join a police advisor team that was attached to 2nd Battalion 4th Marines. On Aug. 26, 2011, Sanders was sent to Forward Operation Base Musa Qala at Helmand Province, Afghanistan to train and mentor the Afghan National Police, as well as recruit local police from the surrounding areas. Sanders returned back to California March 23, and will be joining the Law Enforcement Battalion June 1.

“I joined the military because the older I got, I began to realize all the freedoms we have in America and I knew we didn’t just get them by sitting around,” said Sanders. “I love my job. I loved working with the police in Afghanistan and teaching them some of our techniques and our knowledge of things. I was working with an outstanding team, PAT1 2nd Bat 4th Marines. There were 16 of us, and I thank God everyone on the team made it back safe. It’s great to be back in America.”



Operation Shoebox recipients in Afghanistan with NJ Heroes Banner. Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Sanders is pictured third from left. (Courtesy photo)

Since 2005, Operation Shoebox New Jersey has shipped more than 50,000 total packages to U.S. service members at military installations in the Middle East. The contents of all 50,000 boxes were generously donated by individuals and companies - large and small - in New Jersey. In December 2011, Christie named Rod Hirsh, founder of Operation Shoebox New Jersey as her ninth New Jersey Hero.

At the time, Christie joined Operation Shoebox volunteers in assembling care packages to be sent to military personnel in the Middle East. Several times a year, Shoebox volunteers, ranging from veterans and church groups to corporations and school children, give their time to sort donated supplies and then pack boxes to be shipped overseas. Items needed include lip balm, sun block,

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First lady Mary Pat Christie

moist wipes, bars of soap, small bottles of shampoo, non-aerosol deodorant, powdered drink mixes, cereal/snacks, granola bars, individual packets of instant oatmeal, popcorn and hot chocolate, small cans of fruit with pop tops, gum, candy, athletic socks and batteries.

To learn more about Operation Shoebox New Jersey, visit www.opshoebboxnj.org.

New Jersey Heroes is an initiative of Christie showcasing the positive and unique ways people and organizations impact New Jersey and their communities. To nominate a hero, go to <http://www.newjerseyheroes.org> and follow the application instructions and submit the person you believe is a true New Jersey Hero.



Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Sanders, left, returns the New Jersey Heroes banner to first lady Mary Pat Christie, right, while his father, Lt. Robert Sanders of the Somerset County Sheriff’s Office, second from right, watches proudly. (Courtesy photo)



Open to Veterans of All Branches of Service

Friday, May 18, 2012
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Battleship New Jersey
Camden Waterfront
100 Clinton St.
Camden, NJ 08103



Free Parking at Parking Lot 2 on South Delaware Ave.
across from Susquehanna Bank Center

For details and directions see online at registration at
<https://lwd.state.nj.us/formsapp/form/94>

Chris Christie
Governor



Harold J. Wirths
Commissioner



Wing trains with local area first responders



By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th FW/PA
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA

Emergency response Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing joined forces with South Jersey Transit Authority and the Atlantic County Hazardous Materials units in responding to a simulated threat at the wing May 10.

The responders were faced with the delivery of a simulated letter carrying anthrax spores.

“Having the different agencies respond and operate together creates a force multiplier and ensures emergency responders can work in concert to resolve threatening situations,” said Exercise Evaluation Team Chief, Lt. Col. Jesse Arnstein. “The exercise was valuable in that it revealed some areas for us to improve upon.”

These operations familiarize and combine the skills of military and civilian emergency personnel in an exercise environment as well as identify any potential problem areas. This combined approach will help reduce or eliminate any danger to people and property.

“At the same time, we want to ensure that the flying mission will continue during terrorist threats and attacks to our base,” said Arnstein.

By coordinating before exercises, and practicing during the actual scenario, the wing can learn lessons that will enable it to improve and refine joint operations and be better prepared to effectively respond and operate during real-world emergency events.

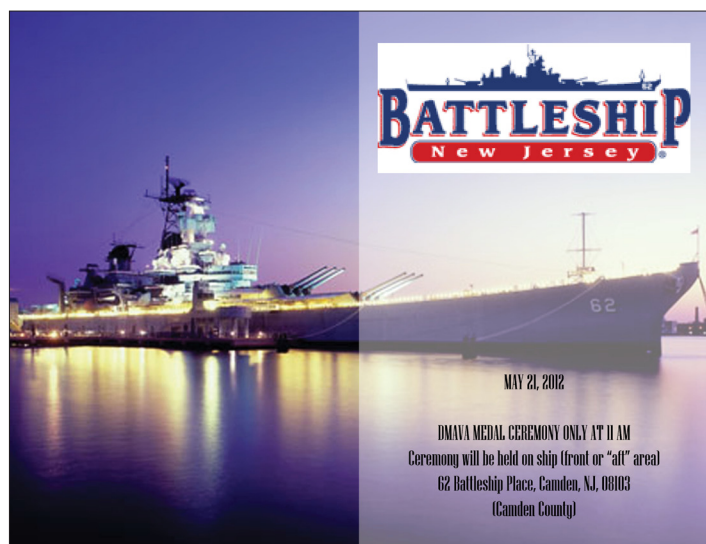
“I’m pleased to see that the situation was resolved in a professional and cooperative manner, which gives me confidence that we can protect our citizens and military personnel if similar real-world events were to arise,” said Arnstein. “The response was effective, thorough and timely.”

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Air Force Col. Jesse Arnstein, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey National Guard, finished the 2012 Lincoln National Guard Marathon held at Lincoln, Neb., May 6. Arnstein finished the race in 3:08:19 and placed third in the Male 40-44 age group. To view more photos of the marathon, please click on this link: [Lincoln Marathon](#). (Courtesy photo)



DMAVA MEDAL CEREMONY ONLY AT 11 AM
Ceremony will be held on ship (front or "aft" area)
62 Battleship Place, Camden, NJ, 08103
(Camden County)

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist