



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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August 15, 2013



Nearly one hundred motorcycle riders escorted the more than 100 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers to the Wrightstown gate of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., August 11, 2013, to start the 150th Engineer Company deployment to Afghanistan. The Hammonton-based unit flew Monday from JB MDL to Camp Shelby, Miss. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)

## 150th Engineers: Guard construction unit going overseas to deconstruct

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ/PA

When you mention Army engineers, most people think of them as building roads or constructing buildings. For the New Jersey Army National Guard's 150th Engineer Company, their mission in Afghanistan will be the opposite. They will be deconstructing.

The 113 Citizen-Soldiers received a sendoff at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., August 10. Among the well-wishers was New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno.

She addressed the capacity crowd, recalling how these engineers were on the frontlines during Hurricane Sandy replenishing protective berms. Now they are going to a different frontline.

"You are the generation that gives us hope that tomorrow will be truly better than today," said Guadagno.

The unit's mission this time is not restoring dunes, but returning areas in Afghanistan back to how they look prior to the military buildup.

"It is important, not only important in the respect that we are closing down FOBs (Forward Operating Bases) and reducing our nations footprint in Afghanistan, but also has the implied mission that we are helping to bring our brother Soldiers home," said Capt. Jeffrey Hager, commander of the horizontal engineer company.



**Spc. James D'Amico shakes hands with New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, bottom right, as Citizen-Soldiers of the 150th Engineers, New Jersey Army National Guard, enter the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., August 10, 2013.**

*“You are the generation that gives us hope that tomorrow will be truly better than today.”*

**LT. GOV. KIM GUADAGNO**

Hager, of Pemberton Township, has been an officer in the unit since it was a detachment. He sees the mission ahead will not be easy. "But I know the 150th will take it all in stride," added Hager.

"The important work of the 150th in Afghanistan...will allow all of our troops to come home faster and our entire nation wants to thank you for that," said Guadagno.

She expressed her mixed emotions as a parent whose son is attending the Air Force Academy when Guadagno told the parents: "I can't imagine how hard it also is to let them go."

"They are heroes, they want to go," said Guadagno.

The final farewell was on Sunday as a pair of busses rolled out of Hammonton with a police and motorcycle escort. Nearly one hundred riders brought the soldiers to the gate of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst where the motorcyclists dismounted and saluted the engineers as they entered the installation.

"Missing your loved one gets easier every day because even though it is one day further from the last time you saw them, it is one closer to next time you will," said Hager.

The 150th Engineer Company includes Citizen-Soldiers from 19 of the state's 21 counties. Four-dozen soldiers from Delaware will deploy with the New Jersey Guardsmen as they leave for mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss.



**Rocco Jones, 3, left, cheers for his older brother Pvt. Joseph Jones, far right, at the end of a departure ceremony for the 150th Engineers, New Jersey Army National Guard, at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., August 10, 2013.**

★  
**JOIN US FOR GREAT  
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**BE A HERO HIRE A HERO VETERANS CAREER EXPO**

Military who have served, are serving and their family members, are invited to attend this event to learn about employment opportunities.

**DATE:** Monday, August 19  
**LOCATION:** United Fairway Club (18 Fairway)  
at Liberty National (Follow signs to Lot 3)  
100 Caven Point Rd, Jersey City, NJ 07305  
**TIME:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



For more information, please contact Noritza Perito: [nperito@hireds.com](mailto:nperito@hireds.com) | 845.624.3278



**2013 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Trenton, NJ**  
Lawrenceville Armory  
151 Eggert Crossing Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
September 12, 2013

**HIRING FAIR: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 9:00 A.M.**

This American Legion-sponsored hiring event is being hosted by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA); conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; NJ Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development; the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); the NJ State Parole Board; NJ State Libraries; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News, and other local partners.

**EMPLOYERS**

Must have available jobs.  
Register for **FREE** at [HOH.Greatjob.net](http://HOH.Greatjob.net)

**JOB SEEKERS**

Veterans, Active Duty Military, Members Of Guard And Reserve Components, Military Spouses  
Register for **FREE** at [HOH.Greatjob.net](http://HOH.Greatjob.net)  
WALK-INS WELCOME

A workshop for veterans and other military job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 9:00 a.m. To register for the GE Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshop, visit [hohworks.eventbrite.com/](http://hohworks.eventbrite.com/)

For registration questions, please contact [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202463-5807.



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**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS  
POST 414  
PRESENTS**



**COACH BAG  
BINGO**



**Ladies Night Out**

Prizes will be Coach Bags. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Ticket price includes 15 BINGO Games. Additional games can be purchased at the event. Specials are not included. BYOB - ABSOLUTELY No one under 21 years of age admitted. ID may be required

**\$30.00**

Tickets are limited and must be paid in full within 14 days of order.  
Ticket includes 15 games of bingo

**Friday November 1, 2013**

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. - Games start at 7:00 p.m.  
National Guard Unit, 101 Eggerts Crossing Road Lawrence N.J.  
**FREE Refreshments \* 50/50 \* BONUS GAMES**

For Tickets and Information Call 609-947-3014 or email [Sticker513@AOL.com](mailto:Sticker513@AOL.com)



**Wounded Warriors  
Baby Shower**



The South Jersey Region is proud to announce that we are partnering with Marines Care to support the families of wounded warriors at Walter Reed Medical Center. Marines Care has a history of working closely with the staff at Walter Reed to provide morale boosting programs for the injured men and women of our military.

This September the organization will expand their assistance by reaching out to a particular group of wives of wounded warriors: Mothers-To-Be. Currently 108 pregnant wives are staying at their husbands' bedsides, far from other family members and friends. In an effort to prevent any of these women from missing out on the baby showers that they each deserve, we will be running a Baby Shower Drive over the next two weeks. On August 14th the items will be delivered to Marines Care so that they can bring it down to Walter Reed and throw a Virtual Baby Shower for 8 of these parents who are expecting in September.



The items we are hoping to collect and ones that the nurses at Walter Reed feel would be best include:

- Bibs
- Onesies
- Blankets
- Pacifiers
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Lotion
- Baby Shampoo
- Small Stuffed Animals

We also welcome any other donated items that have not been listed above and just ask that all items be new and unwrapped. All items can be dropped off at one of the following locations in the designated drop-box, Monday to Friday any time between 9am and 5pm. Please do not leave any items outside. The last day of the drive is Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Jersey Coast Chapter**  
1540 West Park Avenue  
Ocean, NJ 07712  
(732) 493-9100

**American Red Cross of Camden & Burlington Counties**  
5425 Route 70 West  
Pennsauken, NJ 08109  
(856) 365-7100

**Southern Shore Red Cross**  
850 North Franklin Boulevard  
Pleasantville, NJ 08232  
(609) 646-8330

**South Jersey**  
3 Parke Place Boulevard  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
(856) 256-8300

If you have any questions or need more information please contact Jessica Richardson at [Jessica.Richardson@redcross.org](mailto:Jessica.Richardson@redcross.org)

## NJ National Guard Soldiers graduate War College

Story by Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Five New Jersey Army National Guard officers crossed the podium at the U.S. Army War College as graduates during the commencement ceremony for the Army War College class of 2013 distance education program ceremony July 27 at the Carlisle Barracks.

Friday's graduation marks the largest class of New Jersey Army National Guard Officers to attend the course in recent history, according to Col. Walter L. Alvarado, Joint Forces Headquarters Chief of Staff.

Alvarado said the New Jersey Army Guard normally only receives three seats for the War College per year.

"It's important, because this helps us develop our strategic thinkers for the future," he said.

The U.S. Army War College educates and develops leaders for service at the strategic level while advancing knowledge in the global application of landpower. The course seeks to empower senior leaders to be skilled critical thinkers and complex problem solvers. Graduates of the course are also granted a master's degree in strategic studies.

For the graduates, the commencement marked the completion of a two-year ordeal, which tested their time and talents.

"It's a big relief, like taking off a ruck sack after a long road march," said Lt. Col. Edward Chrystal, recent graduate and deputy commander of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "The biggest challenge of this non-residence course is balancing the course requirements with your full-time job and family."

For Chrystal and his fellow graduates, the course offered a chance to step outside of their comfort zone and experience the challenges they would face in the next level of leadership.

"I think critical thinking and strategic leadership are foundational for senior leaders, and I think we've all been taken out of our box, so to speak, and how to think as a total force instead of just a tactical unit," said Lt. Col. Brian Scully, executive officer for the Joint Training and Training Development Center.

"It's been a really wonderful and broadening experience," he said.

Scully said the course is designed to help senior leaders develop strategies to combat new and unprecedented challenges. Students of the course are presented with scenarios which have no traditional or tried-and-true solutions.

"Campaign planning at the end was particularly challenging," he said. "We were presented with problems where there was no solution, so you had to be willing choose the least bad option and really look at your priorities."

During the ceremony, keynote speaker, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley, Chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, encouraged the class of 348 military officers and civilian leaders to take the lessons they learned there and seek assignments outside of their comfort zone.

"Figure out how you can be a better, broader leader," he said, "Serve in the interagency ... serve out of your regiment ... serve outside of your component ... serve outside of your Service – and America and the armed forces will be better served for you doing so."

Alvarado, a 2009 graduate of the school, echoed Talley's advice, encouraging the recent graduates to seek more challenging positions, and to expect to be challenged by their leadership more.

"We do expect more out of them now that they've graduated, we do expect them to be strategic leaders. With the Army constantly changing, we need adaptive leaders who are able make sure that we have an organization to successfully lead in the next 10-15 years."

The 2013 Army War College distance education program graduates are:

- Col. Mark Piterski
- Lt. Col Edward Chrystal
- Lt. Col John Langston
- Lt. Col Christopher Schrieks
- Lt. Col Brian Scully

Lt. Col David Majury graduated as part of the 2013 Army War College residents' course.



New Jersey National Guard's newest lieutenants render a salute during the playing of the National Anthem at the graduation ceremony for Officer Candidate School Class# 56 at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt, N.J., August 11, 2013. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Jon Powers/Released).



Col. Michael A. Lyons receives the 57th Troop Command guidon from Brig. Gen. John DiNapoli during a ceremony Aug. 10 at the New Jersey Army National Guard unit's headquarters in Atlantic City. Lyons replaces Col. Daniel J. Dreher, who led the unit since February 2012. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley/Released).

## 119th CSSB mechanics keep AT rolling along

Story and photo by Army National Guard Sgt. Michael J. Davis, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. — Scorching rays from the unyielding early morning sun illuminate the scores of steel soldiers in the maintenance yard standing motionless in formation. Their plain, uniform color steel coats create a proud military display, while the way they are positioned seems as if they are eagerly waiting for their next set of orders to come. In the distance, the metal facade of the half raised 30-foot bay doors and a faint, rag-tag symphony of clanging metal tools, humming hydraulic instruments and colorful mechanic language fills the air.

“We keep the vehicles moving,” said Sgt. Jeff Turner, acting motor pool sergeant and light wheel mechanic with the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), New Jersey National Guard, while standing in an open bay near a torn-down high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle, or more commonly known as HMMWV.

Turner, a 16-year veteran and mechanic with the Army National Guard, has been with this unit for more than six years and is currently on his sixth Annual Training (AT) period with them. For Turner, this two-week training period presents an opportunity to continue honing his technical skills as well as develop his team by responding to both actual and simulated scenarios.

“On AT, we get to do our MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) most of the time,” said Turner. “We maintain all the vehicles for the unit.”

Pfc. John Bayers, a generator mechanic with the 119th CSSB, has been in the New Jersey Army National Guard for more than a year and is in the throes of his first AT period.

“This is what I’ve been waiting for,” said Bayers.

Bayers felt confident and prepared for his first AT as a result of the intense preparation they completed in the preceding months. He



Sgt. Jeff Turner, acting motor pool sergeant and light wheel mechanic with the 119th CSSB, New Jersey National Guard, inspects the engine compartment of a HMMWV on July 18.

said they focused heavily on familiarization and learning the technical specifications for all the vehicles in use during AT.

Bayers said, “we’re only on day three and we already have two vehicles that need to be up and running as a priority for AT.”

All the mechanics in the 119th CSSB understand that having operational vehicles is critical and that it takes more than just training to complete a successful mission. It’s the culmination of classroom knowledge and real-world application that has grown the level of experience and talent in the 119th CSSB.

“We do what we do to get the job done; we always find a way,” said Turner.



Col. Lisa Hou accepts the command guidon of the New Jersey Army National Guard Medical Command from Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 10, 2013 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Hou, a physician who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, replaces Col. Debra Burr. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley/Released).



Defense Contract Management Agency employee and New Jersey Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Heather Zweiback tossed the “first pitch” during a military appreciation night baseball game between the Quebec Capitales and Newark Bears July 30, 2013, at Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium. Zweiback is a member of the 108th Contingency Response Group, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. (Courtesy photo from Picatinny Arsenal public affairs office)

## HIGHLIGHTS

US Family Health Care, a Tricare Prime option providing a civilian based managed care network, will be holding Question and Answer sessions to provide information for servicemembers and families.

### **Joint Military and Family Assistance Center**

1048 US Highway 206, Bordentown  
August 15 and 22  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **NJ DMAVA**

101 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
August 21  
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **177th Fighter Wing**

400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234  
August 20  
12 to 4 p.m.

### **JB-MDL McGuire Library**

2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave, JB-MDL  
August 28  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Pemberton Community Library**

Brownmills, NJ 08015  
August 19  
2 to 7 p.m.

### **Mount Laurel Library**

100 Walt Whitman Ave, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054  
August 23  
12 to 4 p.m.

### **Camden County Veterans Affairs**

3 Collier Dr., Lakeland Complex, Blackwood, NJ 08012  
August 19  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### **Warfighter and Family Readiness Center**

Bldg. 488, Highway 547, Lakehurst, NJ 08733  
August 21  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Call 1-800-241-4848 option 3 or visit [www.usfhp.net](http://www.usfhp.net) for more information.

## **New Jersey Military**

### **Family Assistance Centers**

**Toll Free: 1-888-859-0352**

### **Joint Military and Family Assistance Ctr**

1048 US Highway 206 South

Bordentown, NJ 08505

(609) 324-7030

[michael.t.hughes\\_ctr@mail.mil](mailto:michael.t.hughes_ctr@mail.mil)

### **Toms River Armory**

1200 Whitesville Road

Toms River, NJ 08753

(732) 341-9102 Ext 13

[maria.d.morro\\_ctr@mail.mil](mailto:maria.d.morro_ctr@mail.mil)

### **Woodbury Armory**

658 N Evergreen Ave

Woodbury, NJ 08096



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