



DMAVA

HIGHLIGHTS



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NJ Air National Guard welcomes new state command chief

Former 108th Wing top enlisted NCO assumes position with visions, goals for NJ Airmen

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Kellyann Novak, 108th Wing Public Affairs

On a sunny day in June, Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., was the scene of the end to one Airman's career and the beginning of another.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton, until recently the 108th Wing command chief master sergeant, assumed responsibility as the state command chief from outgoing Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Francis during a Change of Authority ceremony at JFHQ June 9.

It was a sad farewell to Francis - who has served in this position from 2009 until 2012 - as he relinquished his authority by handing the guidon over to Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard. But Francis leaves his post with a small piece of wisdom from the Greek historian, Thucydides, stating that "the nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors, will have its thinking done by fools."

Accordingly, Francis encourages each and every enlisted member to, "do your PME and get your CCAF!"

In addition, special "thanks" was given to Francis for his many years of service in the armed forces as well as to his family for their continued support and sacrifices over the years.

Following tradition, Falca-Dodson presented Morton with the guidon, conferring



Photo Illustration by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez

him as the New Jersey State Command Chief in front of his peers and family members.

As the new state command chief, Morton will be the senior enlisted representative for the enlisted members of New Jersey Air National Guard. He will be responsible for giving advice to the adjutant general and the commander of the NJANG on several issues, to include: mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale, and welfare of the command's enlisted Airmen.

Morton also has personal objectives while serving in his new capacity.

"One of my main goals will be to take care of Airmen and build a more resilient enlisted core for the adjutant general, governor, and President," said Morton.

Furthermore, as the future of the NJANG is unpredictable, Morton has a vision for the Airmen of New Jersey's two Wings, the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing.

"I would like to see an increase in education, a more technology oriented guard, and a more resilient core by eliminating the stigma of asking for help and instead use the resources made available through family and airman programs," said Morton.

As he assumes authority over his new post, it may seem as though Morton is saying goodbye to friends and coworkers at the 108th Wing, but that is not how he feels.

"I'm not leaving the 108th, I'm now in a better position to serve our Airmen," said Morton.

“...my main goals will be to take care of Airmen and build a more resilient enlisted core for the adjutant general, governor, and President. Chief Morton

TAG visits NJ service members at GITMO



Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, center, visited Soldiers from the 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, who are serving with the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Bay, June 12-13. Pictured left to right are Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Grant, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty, State PAO; Sgt. 1st Class Kryn

Westhoven, Navy Capt. Robert Durand, JTF-PAO; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, Cunniff, Maj. Jon Powers, unit commander; Sgt. Landis Andrews, 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher and Sgt. Saul Rosa, not pictured is Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn, JTF-PAO)

By 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher, 444th MPAD

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff visited New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers last week at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, as well as other Joint Task Force Troopers, who hail from the Garden State.

Cunniff toured JTF and naval station facilities on his two-day trip, which is his first as the Adjutant General of the state of New Jersey. He was confirmed in March 2012 as the commander of the more than 8,300 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen.

"This is the best part of the job, seeing the troops and where they work," he said.

Cunniff expressed gratitude for all reservists' sacrifices and willingness to deploy. A longtime reserve component officer, he recalled the

time when the focus on the hometown mission rarely took Guardsmen overseas.

"In 10 years, we deployed once to Ecuador for a training mission," Cunniff said. "But now, the Guard has moved from a strategic reserve to an operational force."

National Guard units will continue to rotate in and out as an essential part of the JTF Guantanamo mission, and include the Base Emergency Engineer Force (Prime BEEF), the external security company, and elements of the Joint Detention Group and joint staff.

Since 2001, New Jersey National Guardsmen have served around the world, some on multiple tours to Iraq and Afghanistan.





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Aviator's from the 1-150th Helicopter Assault Battalion assisted Mount Olive and local town emergency workers become more prepared to deal with a crisis involving mass victims, chemical contamination and a helicopter crash as a result of an all-day drill held June 6, on the grounds of the Morris County Transfer Station. To view more photos of the training, please visit our Facebook page at [New Jersey National Guard](#). (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, DMAVA/PA)

The War of 1812



Militia Museum to host “War of 1812” symposium

SEA GIRT, N.J. – In commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812, the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey will host a War of 1812 symposium from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Sunday June 24.

“The War of 1812 has been called one of America’s ‘forgotten wars,’” said 1st Lt. Vincent Solomeno, museum curator and Command Historian of the New Jersey National Guard. “The intent of the symposium is to offer the public an opportunity to hear from subject matter experts and educate young and old alike about our state’s contribution to the conflict.”

Joseph Bilby, the museum’s assistant curator, will kick off the symposium with a lecture outlining the causes of the war and the Garden State’s military response. Robert Silverman, a museum trustee and archivist, will offer a presentation on naval engagements, “The Forgotten War at the Jersey Shore.” In addition, James Madden, historian, will present “Paulus Hook: New Jersey’s War of 1812 Headquarters,” while Solomeno will discuss the influence of politics and the role of the New Jersey’s War of 1812 governors. Docents will also conduct a scavenger hunt and education program for K-8 students.

In June 1812, the United States declared war on Great Britain. Battles raged throughout the continent for more than two years before peace was negotiated.

Since 1980, the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey presents the role of the New Jersey Militia and the National Guard within the context of the larger history of the state. Collections include original and reproduction uniforms, weapons, photographs, artifacts and art from the period of Dutch, Swedish and British colonization through the War for Independence, Civil War and World Wars I and II to the present day, with particular attention paid to the diversity of the New Jersey citizen soldier and his or her experience.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit the museum’s web site at <http://www.nj.gov/military/museum> or call 732- 974-5966.



Lt. Col. Peter F. Rapetti Jr. executive officer of the 57th Troop Command passes the unit guidon to the incoming commander of the 119th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, Lt. Col Jeffrey J. Eget, during the battalion change of command ceremony, June 9, at the Joint Training and Training Development Center. (Photo by Sgt. Sherwood Goodenough, 444th MPAD)



Command Sgt. Major Scott C. Lewis, left, receives the colors of the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 9, from the organization’s commander, Col. Robert J. Jarvis, and assumes responsibility as the highest noncommissioned officer of the high-tech training center. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th MPAD)



Incoming commander for the 1-150th Assault Battalion, Lt. Col. Glen A. McElroy, left, receives the unit’s colors from Lt. Col Peter F. Rapetti, 57th Troop Command executive officer, at a change-of-command ceremony June 9. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th MPAD)



The 1-150th Helicopter Assault Battalion assists West Point cadets rappel from a Black Hawk June 14, at the Military Academy. Three Black Hawks provided the aerial support as cadets in groups of four rappelled from more than 80 feet in the air on to the practice field at West Point Military Academy. To view more photos of the 1-150th annual training, please visit the New Jersey National Guard's Facebook page by following this link: [New Jersey National Guard](#). (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, DMAVA/PA)

Congratulations Sgt. Leonardo Betancur for Receiving the 2011 Chief of Staff Army Combined Logistic Excellence Award



New Jersey National Guard 14th Annual Unity Day

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

More photos @ our Facebook page: [New Jersey National Guard](#)



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