



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



MARCH 14, 2013

# DIG IT!



Ground was broken for the New Jersey National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., by, left to right, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, Rep. Christopher Smith (R-4th Dist.), Rep. Jon Runyan (R-3rd Dist.) and project manager Dave Everett, Jacobs Engineering March 8, 2013. See Page 2 for the story and more photos. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

## NJ AVIATORS TO GET STATE-OF-THE-ART AVIATION FACILITY

Story by Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard have flown their fleet of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters on combat missions in Iraq and to support humanitarian relief operations in Panama and Kosovo. They've flown dignitaries from Vice President Joe Biden to the federal agents investigating the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. They've battled forest fires and were the first aircraft launched for search and rescue operations following hurricanes Floyd, Irene and Sandy.

Consequently, a ceremonial ground breaking was held March 8 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst for a 143,000 square-foot aviation facility that will house, maintain and dispatch New Jersey's fleet of UH-60s from a central facility, replacing two smaller and outdated flight centers in West Trenton and the Joint Base.

"This is going to be a first-class flight facility for first-class Soldiers," said Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the commander of the National Guard and Adjutant General of New Jersey. "We will finally have the caliber of building that matches the caliber of Soldiers who are part of New Jersey Army Guard aviation."

The new facility is scheduled to be completed in October 2014 and will feature an energy efficient design and 10 maintenance bays. The \$43 million facility will be home to 60 full-time and 200 Traditional Drilling Guardsmen of the 1st Battalion of the 150th Aviation, which flies the state's UH-60s as well as the smaller OH-58 Kiowa Warrior.



**Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, at podium, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, speaks during the groundbreaking ceremony for the New Jersey National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., March 8, 2013. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)**

Cunniff was joined in the ceremonial groundbreaking by the 150th Aviation leadership, the leadership of the Joint Base, including the commander, Col. John Wood as well as U.S. Reps. Jon Runyan (R-3rd. Dist) and Chris Smith (R-4th Dist).

Smith, who led the successful 1995 effort to remove Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst from the Base Realignment and Closure List, noted that the vision of a consolidated aviation facility for New Jersey Army aviation

dated back nearly 20 years.

His brother, Mike Smith, a now retired Army National Guard colonel, was among the Army aviation commanders who saw a need for one aviation facility.

Smith credited the leadership of the National Guard for convincing the Department of Defense and members of Congress of the need for the facility.

"Co-location and consolidation will ensure that the vital security and humanitarian missions of the New Jersey Guard continue to be performed with world class excellence," Smith said. "Today the work begins on the Army Aviation Support Facility resulting in new construction jobs for a struggling local economy and when completed, a substantially better place for army guard aviation to perform its critical missions."

Runyan, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee and helped secure funding for the project, said it would be used by Soldiers who have demonstrated their value.

"The men and women of the 1-150th Aviation Battalion have proven their capabilities and commitment to service both at home and abroad," he said.



**Artist rendering of the Army Aviation Support Facility at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.**

## Albanians gain insight into NJNG OCS program

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

Looking to build an Officer Candidate School program within the Albanian military, five officers from the Albanian Ministry of Defense and Albanian Armed Forces visited the New Jersey National Guard's Training Center at Sea Girt, March 9, through the NJ State Partnership Program.

The five delegates' goal is to emulate the OCS program of the NJNG. They hope to accomplish this by visiting an OCS orientation being conducted at the Training Center and discussing future training opportunities for their officer candidates.

Brig. Gen. Bardhyl Hoxha, AAF Training and Doctrine commander, wants to incorporate the NJNG OCS program and the U.S. military's doctrines into their armed forces. In addition, Hoxha said one of the most important aspects he would like Albanian officers to learn from the U.S. and OCS is a change in mentality and a better understanding of the U.S. military's way of life.

OCS is an intense leadership training ground where the mission is to train, educate, branch, and commission the best qualified officers in order to produce agile and adaptive junior officers capable of leading soldiers upon arrival at first unit of assignment. The state OCS is a 16 to 18 month program, one weekend a month, but the plan for the Albanian candidates would be to follow the Federal OCS program, training every day for three to four months. There are numerous details to be hammered out within the program to allow the Albanian candidates to benefit the most from OCS. Hoxha said the AAF would like to look at the U.S. program and eliminate some information that may be of no practical use to an Albanian officer and possibly add other training that would be valuable to their candidates.

Cultural differences play a huge role in preparing Albanian officer candidates to come to the U.S. and participate in training. Hoxha said the candidates would be university students graduating with a bachelor's degree and would be required to have education in the English language. They would attend basic training first and then approximately two months' worth of additional training before being selected



**Brig. Gen. Bardhyl Hoxha, Albanian Armed Forces Training and Doctrine commander, and four other Albanian officers attend the Officer Candidate School orientation at the New Jersey National Guard's Training Center at Sea Girt, March 9, 2013.**

for OCS in the U.S.

Col. Vladimir Avdiaj, Strategic Policies Director, was one of the first Albanian officers to participate in training in the U.S. He is interested in how the U.S. OCS will change the AAF's way of training and educating young officers. In addition, Avdiaj said he would like to see Albanian non-commissioned officers training in the U.S. in the future if all goes well with the OCS program.

The National Guard's 65-nation,

20-year-old State Partnership Program provides unique partnership capacity-building capabilities to combatant commanders and U.S. ambassadors through partnerships between U.S. states, territories, the District of Columbia and foreign countries.

The SPP supports U.S. national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political and economic conduits at the local, state and national level.



**Brig. Gen. Hoxha talks with Soldiers from the current officer candidates at the National Guard Training Center.**

## 'Main Street Money' Radio Talk Show Hosts Pledge Support

By Donna Clementoni, New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

New Jersey radio show hosts put pen to paper in their support for the National Guard and Reserve following their participation in the 1st Annual Veterans Round Table Briefings held at the Blackwood Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Partners on the Saturday afternoon talk show Main Street Money and their company Next Step Solutions, signed a "Statement of Support" that recognizes that the Guard and Reserve as essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense, mostly volunteer organization, that seeks to create a culture where all American employers value the military service and sacrifice of their employees.

The Veterans Round Table Briefing was held Feb. 27 and was sponsored by the Camden County Board of Freeholders and the Camden County Veterans Advisory Committee. The panelists provided information on programs such as benefits, housing, medals, counseling, education and employment.

Panel members Traci Kelly and Joe Yocavitch provided information on healthcare options available to veterans. Kelly and Yocavitch are partners in Next Step Solutions, a financial management company that specializes in counseling veterans on Medicare choices that wrap around various VA benefits and helps them with their retirement planning.

For more information on Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve or to sign a 'Statement of Support' visit [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil)



Displaying recently signed statements of support are Traci Kelly, second from right and Joe Yocavitch, right, of "Main Street Money" and Next Step Solutions. Also pictured left to right are: Sgt. Frank MacGregor, Spc. Tiffany DiSanzo, Donna Clementoni, Director of Employer Outreach, New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

## TAG PROMOTES FARRELL

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General, right, was at Joint Force headquarters last Friday for the promotion of Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Rae Farrell to master sergeant. Farrell joined the Guard in 1997 and has worked in several full-time positions. She was joined in pinning on the new rank by her husband 1st Sgt. Sean Farrell, 16-month old son Tyler and family. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs





**2013 Hiring Our Heroes – Lawrenceville, NJ**  
**STUDENT RECREATION CENTER – RIDER UNIVERSITY**  
 2083 Lawrenceville Road  
 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
 March 21, 2013  
 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us Thursday, March 21, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a job fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military, members of the National Guard and reserve components, and military spouses at the Rider University's Student Recreation Center. This event will be FREE for both employers and job seekers. From 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., this event will be open to the public.

<b>EMPLOYERS</b> Must register for FREE at HOH.Greatjob.net	<b>JOB SEEKERS</b> Register for FREE at HOH.Greatjob.net <small>to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.</small>
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This veteran career fair and military expo is sponsored by Rider University and the American Legion and conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; New Jersey Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News, and other local partners.

**[rider.edu/veterancareerfair](http://rider.edu/veterancareerfair)**  
**609-896-5033 or [ccs@rider.edu](mailto:ccs@rider.edu)**



**Veterans Job Fair & Seminars**  
**Open to Veterans & their Families**  
 Employers from many industries are participating  
(Note: employer list not available prior to event)

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013**  
 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Army National Guard Armory**  
 1200 Whitesville Road  
 Toms River, NJ 08753

**SEMINAR:**  
 How to Search for a Government Job

**FREE**  
 Resume Writing seminar and critiques

Veterans pre-register online at  
<https://lwd.state.nj.us/formsapp/form/94>  
 Employers pre-register online at  
<https://lwd.state.nj.us/formsapp/form/76>

Click on link, complete form, submit, and print confirmation.

Chris Christie, Governor  
 Harold J. Withers, Commissioner



**Bring Your Resume and Dress For Success!**

## NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY

March 20, 2013  
 13:00-16:00 EST

### VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

**Meet Live With Employers from Anywhere in the World**  
[WWW.VETCAREERFAIR.COM](http://WWW.VETCAREERFAIR.COM)

Finding a job after serving in the military can often be quite challenging, and knowing where to find the jobs can often be one of the biggest hurdles. We can help you connect live with employers even before you leave the service by utilizing our virtual career fairs. Whether you are deployed to Afghanistan, or a veteran who has been out of the service for 30 years, you will benefit from registering and attending.

We allow you to meet and interact in real time with military friendly employers from anywhere in the world provided you have a computer and internet access. This is an outstanding way to look for opportunities across the country, but without having to be in each location.

#### How does it Work?

- Register at [www.vetcareerfair.com](http://www.vetcareerfair.com)
- Once registered, complete your profile and upload your resume
- The environment is always open so go in right away
- After completing your profile, visit the skills translator in the locations area
- Search for jobs by location, keyword and even your MOC
- Research each employer by visiting their booth
- When you find a job, you can apply directly
- If you apply, visit the employers booth to let them know
- If you apply when a career fair is not happening, use the email a recruiter button in each booth
- If a career fair is happening, you can chat live with the recruiters in each booth

#### After the Virtual Career Fair

- Be sure to ask each recruiter for their email when you chat with them
- Wait a day and then send them a thank you email and remind them what you are interested in
- Employer's will reach out if they see a fit for the jobs they have available
- Employer's will conduct in person or live video interviews

**Take the First Step by Registering Today [www.vetcareerfair.com](http://www.vetcareerfair.com)**



**We Bring the Career Fair to You**

**More Than  
 18,000  
 Hired Since 2011**

#### Partial List of Career Fair Dates for 2013

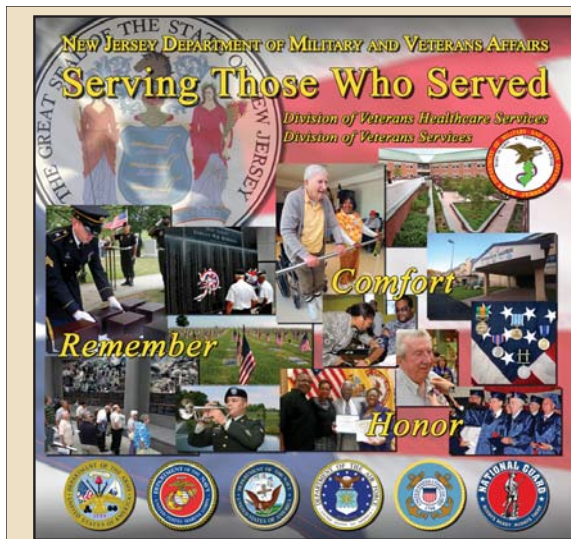
- **March 20-** National Hire a Veteran Day
- **April 25-** Retail Industry (Not just in store)
- **May 6-** Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- **May 29-** All Industries
- **June 26-** Government Jobs
- **July 30-** All Industries
- **September 11-** All Industries 9/11 Tribute
- **October 23-** Healthcare Industry
- **November 11-** All Industries Veterans Day
- **December 11-** Technology Industry

# HIGHLIGHTS



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, fourth from left, poses for a photo with, left to right, Maj. Richard Karcher, State Partnership Program coordinator; Lt. Col. Altin Kurti, chief, Education and Qualification Section, Albanian Armed Forces; Maj. Mark Berlenbach, bilateral affairs officer; Brig. Gen. Bardhyl Hoxha, commander, Training and Doctrine Command, Albanian Armed Forces; Col. Vladimir Avdiaj, Defense and Strategic Policies Directorate, Albanian Armed Forces; Lt. Cmdr. Everest Haxhi, acting defense attaché, Albanian Armed

Forces and Col. Sokrat Prifti, deputy commander, Landforces, Albanian Armed Forces, at the New Jersey State House in Trenton, N.J., March 11, 2013. Members of the Albanian Armed Forces met with the New Jersey National Guard leadership in Lawrenceville to discuss future training opportunities for their officers at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Outreach Campaign MONMOUTH MALL

March \*19, 20 & 21

\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, March 19

Kiosk hours 10 a.m. – 8p.m.

180 Route 35 South, Eatontown, NJ 07724

(Monmouth County)

## LIVINGSTON MALL

April \*9, 10 & 11

\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, April 9

Kiosk hours 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

112 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston, NJ 07039

(Essex County)

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### 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