



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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January 10, 2014



DEEP FREEZE

Tech. Sgt. Greg Mascaro from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing, poses for a photo at the South Pole, Antarctica, Jan. 6, 2014. Mascaro is deployed as a Safety Manager with the 109th Air Wing, New York Air National Guard, as part of Operation

Deep Freeze, a joint operation between the military and the National Science Foundation. LC-130's from the 109th are specially modified with skis and rocket assisted takeoff, and transport supplies to remote science outposts. (Courtesy photo)

By Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

While we deal with inches of snow here in New Jersey courtesy of winter storm Hercules, the 177th's own Tech. Sgt. Greg Mascaro has been measuring snow in feet at the bottom of the world.

Mascaro, a safety manager who works at Warren Grove Gunnery Range, is currently deployed as part of Operation Deep Freeze, a joint mission that sees the LC-130's from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing transporting supplies to remote science outposts in Antarctica.

"The most challenging aspect is dealing with the weather," said Mascaro. "Warmer days pose a challenge for the ice runway. The slushy conditions make it very difficult for the planes to get airborne. Colder days with high winds also have a unique challenge here. Many times planes can't take off because of the whiteout conditions.

In addition to the tough working conditions, Mascaro deals with the difficulty of resting. "Currently, it is also austral summer so the sun never sets,

which makes sleeping a challenge as well," said Mascaro.

The 109th Air Wing's unique aircraft, the U.S. military's only planes equipped with skis, have been performing this mission at the South Pole since 1999.

"The Airmen of the 109th are a very talented group of people, from those who are repairing the planes to those who are landing on nothing but ocean ice," said Mascaro. "It has been a truly rewarding experience."

HIGHLIGHTS



Capt. Shawn Found, a military chaplain, delivers the benediction at the Salute to Troops ceremony for Military Advisor Team V at the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown, N.J., Jan. 4, 2014. The 12 Soldiers and one Airman of MAT V will be tasked to

coach, teach and mentor Afghan National Army units, provide the conduit for liaison and command and control and, when required, support the operational planning and employment of the ANA. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



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**Yellow Ribbon
Reintegration Program**

For Those Who Serve and Those Who Support

- Are you a service members or a Veteran looking for a employment?
- Are you a military spouse looking for employment in the local area?

Now is the perfect time to start looking and visit our Mobile Job Store on **January 15-16 at 10am!!** We will be located in the **parking lot of the BX on JBMDL McGuire Side**, all are welcome! There will be representatives from H2H there to assist you with questions, career advice, how to manage your profile and so much more!!



Any questions please contact Janice Livanos H2H Rep at 609-332-8380 or email: janlivanos@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS



Lt. Col. Jerome Hatfield, retired Deputy Superintendent, New Jersey State Police, was honored Jan. 7, 2014, for his support of the New Jersey National Guard during Superstorm Sandy. Hatfield was presented an eagle head statue at the Joint Chief of Staff meeting. (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA/PA)

AMERICA'S HEROES THE WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEES VS THE 1ST RESPONDERS TO 9/11 & NFL ALUMNI TRIBUTE & CHALLENGE



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014
FROM 6:00PM - 9:00PM**

**CODEY ARENA
560 NORTHFIELD AVE
W ORANGE, NJ**

**COST: \$20 18 AND UP
\$10 AGES 13-17
CHILDREN (12 & UNDER) FREE**

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Codey Arena box office and/or on line at WWAFT.org
All Proceeds to be Shared by the WWAFT and 9/11 1st Responders Charities

This game is being presented by Essex County, the Military Benefit Association, Humana and the AFL's 2013 champion Philadelphia Soul and is being hosted by NY Jets star Joe Klecko, NY Giants star (and US Naval Academy grad) Phil McConkey and by four time Pittsburgh Steeler Super Bowl champion and decorated Vietnam veteran, Rocky Bleier.



FDNY & NJ Heroes of 9/11 and more than 40 NFL Alumni will also attend and participate in this tribute including a number of former Giants and Jets.

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Football Team is composed of men and women who lost a limb serving this country in Iraq or Afghanistan.



* The Village People will be making a special appearance at half time.

* Free photo opportunity and autographs prior to the game.

* Raffle prizes will include NY Giant and Jets Hall-of-Fame memorabilia.



For more information on this game please visit www.WoundedWarriorAmputeeFootballTeam.org
Or call the WWAFT at (703) 923-3000



Two New Jersey National Guard Soldiers discuss security while an Armenian army commander, replicating a soldier of the Afghanistan National Army, reviews notes during a Military Advisor Team (MAT) and Police Advisor Team (PAT) training exercise

at the Hohenfels Training Area in Hohenfels, Germany, Dec. 7, 2013. The training prepares MATs and PATs for counterinsurgency, combat advisory, and force enabling support operations in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sara Hering/Released)

DoD SecDef Freedom Award nomination deadline is January 20th

The Freedom Award honors exceptional employers that support Guardsmen and Reservists

ARLINGTON, Va. – The January 20, 2014 nominations deadline for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is fast approaching. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, is encouraging National Guardsmen, Reservists or a family member acting on their behalf to visit www.FreedomAward.mil and nominate their civilian employers.

The Freedom Award is the nation's highest recognition for employers supporting Guard and Reserve members. Past recipients have met with the President of the United States, Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Recipients of the 2014 Freedom Award will be announced in early summer and honored in Washington, D.C. during a ceremony in the fall.

“As the military continuously evolves to meet ever changing national security challenges, the flexibility and efficiency provided by Guard and Reserve members will take on an even more critical role,” said ESGR National Chair Paul Mock. “The Freedom Award gives Guard and Reserve members an opportunity to acknowledge exceptional employers that support them as they serve our nation.”

“Employers of every size and industry, who have not previously received the honor, are eligible to receive the Freedom Award. Service members who have nominated

non-selected employers are encouraged to do so again”. The Department of Defense will recognize nominees, semi-finalists and finalists.

Examples of past recipient support include continued benefits and healthcare for deployed service members, home maintenance and childcare support and veteran hiring initiatives.

About ESGR and the Freedom Award:

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 190 employers have been honored with the award. Established as a DoD office in 1972, ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

For questions or interviews regarding the Freedom Award, please contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 571-372-0705 or by email at OSD.ESGR-PA@mail.mil.



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