



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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May 15, 2014



## Welcome to New Jersey ... **NOW DROP AND GIVE ME 20!**

NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD AND ALBANIA TAKE NEXT STEP  
IN HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP WITH OFFICER CANDIDATE PROGRAM

STORY BY KRYN WESTHOVEN

PHOTOS BY MARK OLSEN

### Mirëpritur të New Jersey

When you're the first person to accomplish a goal, most folks remember it. Twenty-four officers and enlisted members of the Republic of Albania Armed Forces stepped forward on May 9 to be the first from their country to participate in a National Guard Officer Candidate School (OCS).

The OCS program is being conducted by the New Jersey Army National Guard at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst over the next 12 weeks. It is the first time a state's National Guard will train foreign military officer candidates as part of the State Partnership Program (SPP)

"This is class number one for the United States of America," said Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff, New Jersey National Guard. "New Jersey has the opportunity to make history and you all are part of history."

Grant talked about how five Military Advisor Teams of the New

Jersey Army National Guard have deployed to Afghanistan with members of the Albanian Armed Forces. Since Albania joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2009, the Teams train the Afghan Army as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

This is an outgrowth of New Jersey's mentorship of the Albanian military that began in 2001. The relationship actually goes back two decades when New Jersey Guard legal personnel helped the fledging Albanian government draft its constitution.

"Each and every one of you has shown and displayed determination and desire to come to our nation to learn how we train officer candidates. So you can go back to your nation and make a more proficient military," Grant said. "For that, I salute each and every one of you."

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## Effort to protect military installations ramps up

By Kryn Westhoven/DMAVA PA

New Jersey took the initial step to preserve and enhance the military installations in the state on May 9 as the New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force held its first meeting at the Eden-Stanley American Legion Post 294 in Pemberton.

The task force was created by Governor Chris Christie's executive order to develop a long-term, growth and viability plan to preserve and enhance the state's military bases and Coast Guard installations.

"Beginning today, our work officially begins," said Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, task force chairperson, speaking about the Christie administrations ongoing efforts and commitment to New Jersey military community, veterans and their families.

"New Jersey's military bases and the men and women who live there and the men and women who work there are an indispensable part of our state's ecosystem," added Guadagno. With sequestration constraining military spending, the task force wants to look at all the benefits New Jersey provides to the military and taxpayers. The work within smaller budgets DoD could potentially look at closing military facilities through the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) process.

As a result of the 2005 BRAC, Fort Monmouth was closed with the loss of nearly 10,000 jobs. On the plus side Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst was created at the same time which strengthens the three installations that span two counties.

Holding the first meeting just outside the gates of the tri-serve mega base, the group welcomed its sixth and final member, former Congressman Jim Saxton. While representing the 3rd congressional district for 24-years Saxton was instrumental in promoting the Burlington County joint base, which employs

40,000 and adds nearly \$7 billion dollars to the state's economy.

"The New Jersey bases have served with distinction and safeguard our nation," said Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey. "The task force will

preserve and enhance the state's military installations to promote state-wide jobs and corporate growth." Cunniff serves

on the task force with Guadagno and Saxton; Michael Brown, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Tracey McDaniel, CEO of Choose New Jersey and Paul Boudreau, president of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce.

The task force will look to 2017 as the year DoD could ask Congress for BRAC hearings. The group would provide the ammunition to keep military operations from the Picatinny Arsenal in North Jersey to the Coast Guard training center in Cape May.



## Energy Conservation

### Energy Conservation Tip of the Week

A home energy audit helps you discover where your home is losing energy and is the first step to saving energy and money. During an audit, a professional home energy auditor will assess your home's energy usage and recommend ways to reduce your bills. You could save 5 to 30 percent in energy costs by implementing efficiency upgrades identified during an audit.

### Did You Know?

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities offers the "Home Performance with ENERGY STAR" program where you can get a home energy audit completed for free (depending on which contractor you use). If you choose to implement the recommended efficiency upgrades, you may be eligible for rebates up to \$5,000 and a zero percent interest loan to help offset your costs. Learn more at: <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/residential/home/home>

If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, please contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at [christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov).

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HIGHLIGHTS

# SOUTH JERSEY VETERANS JOB FAIR

aloft

MOUNT LAUREL

558 FELLOWSHIP RD, MT LAUREL, NJ

MONDAY, JUNE 9

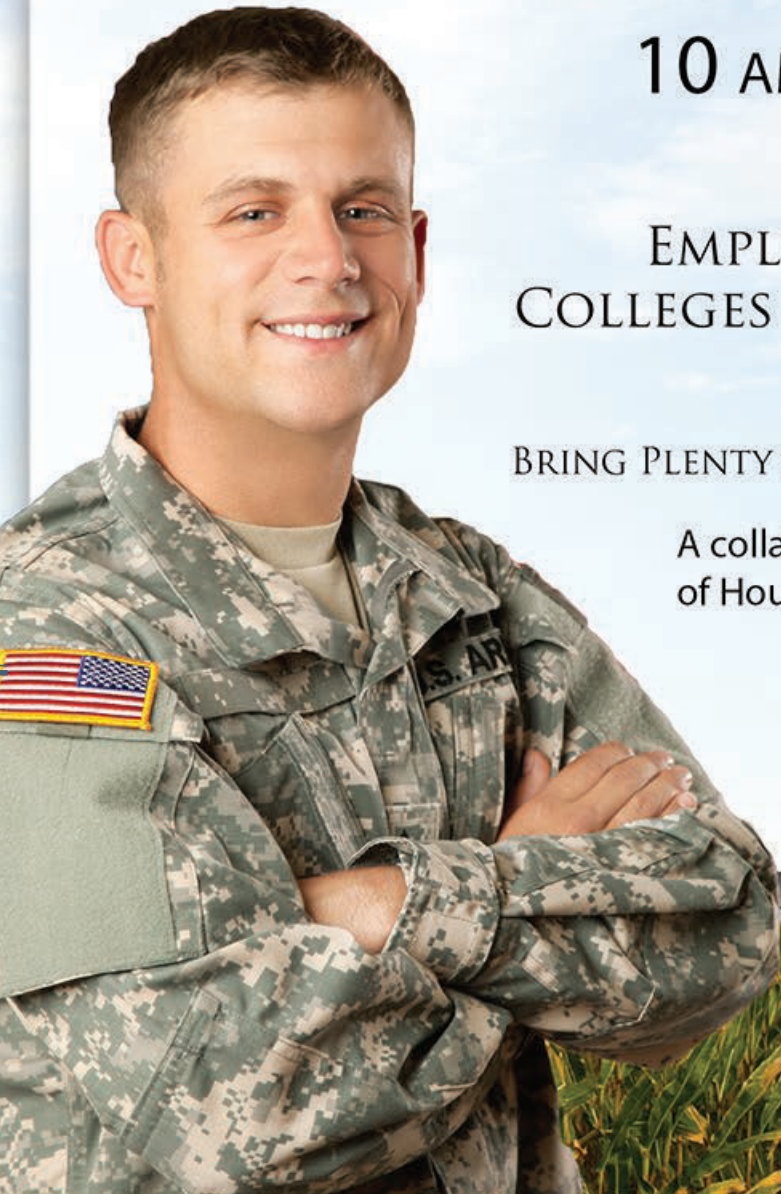
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# HIGHLIGHTS

## NJ-Albania: Historic Partnership



Speaking to the Guard soldiers conducting the training, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno spoke as a mother of an Air Force Academy cadet. “I rely on you to make them the state-of-the-art Soldiers they expect in Albania. So you are the ones that uphold the reputation of the United State in every service,” said Guadagno. “You are the ones that truly have the burden of the country on your shoulders.” Just like the active OCS program at Fort Benning, Ga. the cadets will quickly learn varied facets of military operations, leadership; and have their mental and physical abilities strengthened.



## Handling the roughest crowds

By Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Drumsta

ORISKANY, N.Y. - New Jersey National Guard troops held the line against a mock mob of suffering citizens during a disaster readiness exercise here in early May, and they're now part of the regional Homeland Response Force (HRF).

"They were pretty rough," said Sgt. Giovanni Toro, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry and Elizabeth resident. "They were trying to push right through the line."

About 200 Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, along with other New Jersey Army and Air National Guard troops, make up the Casualty And Security Element (CASE) of the HRF for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region II.

New York and Puerto Rico Army and Air National Guard units make up the other HRF elements that are needed in a disaster: search and extraction, decontamination and medical.

The successful five-day exercise enabled the CASE and other elements to pass their evaluation and take over the HRF mission.

The exercise took place at the New York State Preparedness Training Center.

Along with besting evaluation standards, troops endured days of high winds, frigid temperatures and rain. Temperatures were in the 60s when they left New Jersey for New York, said 2nd Battalion member Spc. Claudio Da Silva, of Kearny. "We got here, and it was nothing but cold, rain and wind," he said.

During a disaster, CASE troops form a perimeter so other HRF teams can do their jobs, said 2nd Lt. Alexis Rodriguez, a CASE platoon leader and Paterson resident. They also control access to the decontamination and medical areas, and ensure victims don't cross the perimeter before being assessed by medical personnel, said Toro.

The troops have been training for the mission, during drill weekends and extra duty days, since September 2013, Rodriguez said. The Soldiers had to learn hazardous material procedures and take federal emergency management courses, added Staff Sgt. Leandro Enriquez of Paterson.

Many of the New Jersey Soldiers were activated for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy,

That experience became apparent during the exercise, which took place in and around a simulated disaster area: a mass of junked vehicles, concrete slabs and culverts referred to here as the "rubble pile." The CASE Soldiers formed their line and other teams searched the rubble pile for non-ambulatory patients. "The CASE has to maintain this line, no matter what happens," said Sgt. 1st Class Tom Yanero, an exercise evaluator from Flatwoods, West Virginia.

Other mock victims - made up with a variety of simulated bloody wounds and injuries - emerged from the ruins and pressed the line, moaning and often howling for medical attention, food, water and other things. That realism took him by surprise, Da Silva said.

"It was a lot more stressful than I thought it would be," he said. "People actually came out screaming."

But the troops had been trained to remember that the mock victims were civilians and not terrorists.



"It takes a lot more to deal with civilians," Da Silva said. "These are Americans trying to get help, so we have to be very sympathetic toward them."

CASE troops were clad in protective boots, gloves suits and gas masks. The masks muted their voices, covered their faces and made the mission more difficult.

"People can't see your expressions," Da Silva explained. "You're trying to say something in a nice way, but they really can't see that."

One of the roleplayers pretended to incite a riot, Da Silva recalled.

"Luckily my sergeant came and helped out with that," he said. "I thought I was prepared for that, but I wasn't."

But with practice, they learned to reassure the civilian roleplayers and calm them down, he added.

"They passed, and they did a good job," Yanero said. "It helps the younger Soldiers see the importance of being in the National Guard."

*Pennington Family Chiropractic has  
volunteered to participate in the...*



The *International Chiropractors Association* has co-sponsored this effort for several years in an effort to allow our returning veterans to receive critical care following active tours of duty. The care provided by Pennington Family Chiropractic focuses on a branch of chiropractic called Structural Correction, and has seen relief and correction for some of the causes of:

- ~ Low back pain
- ~ Headaches
- ~ Persistent muscle aches/strains
- ~ And many other conditions
- ~ Sleep disturbances
- ~ Extremity/joint pains
- ~ Infertility

**For the duration of this program, eligible returning veterans may receive up to 6 months of care without charge.**

*We thank you for your service to our nation and its freedoms.*

For questions or to schedule a consultation, contact:



Pennington Family Chiropractic  
2554 Pennington Rd, Pennington NJ 08534  
(609) 737-3737 [www.familychiropractic.com](http://www.familychiropractic.com)  
*Office hours available 6 days a week*



# 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.

USFHP pushes forward effective Jan. 1, 2014, and they are adding an extra benefit to their already robust benefit package! Eye glasses for \$0 to low cost. To hear more about USFHP and this added benefit, come to one of their upcoming information sessions listed below:

**Fort Dix Housing Community Center**  
Bldg. 1134 Hemlock Street, JB-MDL  
May 12 / 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Contact: Josephine Grey at 347-501-2308

**JB-MDL McGuire Library**  
2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave, JB-MDL  
May 12 / 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

**JB-MDL McGuire Housing  
Jim Saxton Community Center**  
3811 South Boiling Street, JBMDL  
May 6, 22 / 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

**108th Wing Airmen & Family Readiness Office**  
3327 Charles Blvd, JB-MDL  
May 21 / 1 to 4 p.m.  
Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

**Picatiny Arsenal Army Community Service**  
Bldg. 119, Dover, NJ  
May 13 and 30  
Contact Darrel Hutchinson at 646-354-0126

**Pemberton Community Library**  
16 Broadway Street, Brownmills, NJ  
May 19 / 12 to 4 p.m.  
Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

**Mount Laurel Library**  
100 Walt Whitman Ave, Mount Laurel, NJ  
May 15 and 23 / 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Contact: Josephine Grey at 347-501-2308

**Camden County Veterans Affairs**  
3 Collier Dr., Lakeland Complex, Blackwood, NJ  
May 5, 12 and 19 / 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Contact: Wil Acosta at 646-300-1312

**NJDMAVA Bldg**  
IASD Section,  
101 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ  
May 7 and 21 / 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Contact: Josephine Grey at 347-501-2308

**177th Fighter Wing**  
Bldg. 229, 400 Langley Rd., Egg Harbor Twp, NJ  
May 8 and 27 / 12 - 4 p.m.  
Contact: Josephine Grey at 347-501-2308

**NJNG Jersey City Armory**  
678 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ  
May 1, 8, 15 and 22 / 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Contact: Darrel Hutchinson at 646-354-0126

**NJNG Toms River Armory**  
1200 Whitesville Road, Toms Rive, NJ  
May 15 / 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

**NWS Earle**  
Bldg. C29, 201 Highway 34 South, Colts Neck, NJ  
May 14 / 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Contact: Pam Kwiat at 646-341-2545

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

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