

NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 12, 2015



JTAC RECEIVES BRONZE STAR

By Senior Airman Shane S. Karp, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A member of the 177th Fighter Wing received the Bronze Star Medal Feb. 8, 2015 in recognition of their meritorious service in a combat zone.

Tech. Sgt. Christopher W. Donohue, a joint terminal attack controller with the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, received the Bronze Star in connection with a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Jan. 4, 2014 through Sept. 2, 2014.

Donohue worked in support of the joint U.S. and Albanian mission as an advisor for the Afghan National Army's 1st Mobile Strike Force, and was the first U.S. Airman to ever complete the Joint Security Forces Assistance Course and be deployed with an Army National Guard military advising team.

Under Donohue's leadership, his team was able to accomplish dozens of flight missions accumulating hundreds of kilometers of safe expedited movement throughout the theatre, which directly enhanced his team's ability to contribute to the mobile strike force strategy through Afghanistan.

Donohue participated as a gunner and scout in more than 100 out-side-the-wire missions throughout the combat zone, comprising of hundreds of kilometers of known danger zones, which included Donohue personally coming under enemy fire.

The ceremony took place in front of a standing-room only crowd which included U.S. Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo, 177th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Kerry M. Gentry, friends and family



Tech. Sgt. Christopher Donohue, right, is congratulated by Col. Kerry M. Gentry, 177th Fighter Wing commander after receiving the Bronze Star Medal at Atlantic City Air National Guard Base, N.J., Feb. 8, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

Chris just sums up the ASOS mentality. His ability to go far above and beyond is really what we strive for.

CHIEF MASTER SGT. ROBERT ZANIEWSKI
227TH ASOS SUPERINTENDENT

of Donohue, and fellow Airmen.

"What we did overseas is important, and it is great to be recognized, but what it's all about is being able to come home to my loved ones, and a wing and an ASOS that is like my second family," said Donohue.

"Chris just sums up the ASOS mentality," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Zaniewski, 227th ASOS superintendent. "His ability to go far above and beyond is really what we strive for."

Cover: Bronze Star

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Donohue received the Bronze Star Medal at Atlantic City Air National Guard Base, N.J., Feb. 8, 2015. Donohue, a Joint Terminal Attack Controller with the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, was recognized for his efforts in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht)



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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Layout, photographer
Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer
Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht – Photographer, graphic artist

TURNING GREEN INTO PLATINUM

BY SPC. DEVON BISTARKEY, 444TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

IN A DIMLY LIT STUDIO, TWO SPOTLIGHTS SHINE ON STAFF SGT. NICK YOUNG, A COMBAT DOCUMENTATION AND PRODUCTION SPECIALIST WITH THE NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



(Courtesy photo)

Poised and confident, the 13-year veteran finds himself on the other side of the camera. The role reversal is something Young is getting used to as his music career takes off. The accomplished soldier never expected to be recognized for his outside ambition.

"I have become more comfortable about being public with my talent and what I do," says Young, whose urban pop duo Epoch Failure's break through EP will be featured in a new movie starring Jessica Alba and Samuel L. Jackson.

Young describes Epoch Failure's genre as mash up of electronic, pop and rock with a message of perseverance and drive.

"I'm very glad I can put something positive into the world," says Young, who creates music he feels comfortable playing in front of his two-year-old daughter and grandmother. Lyrics from the single *Champion* encourage listeners to pursue dreams and overcome challenges:

Obstacles are only rocks for the climbing

It's a race against the clock and you've got the perfect timing

I've got the heart of a champion and I will not give up
(Champion)

Raised in Trenton, Young and his music partner, Billy Joe, met through a military friend. Two young artists trying to make their way as soloists joined forces in 2011. Both grew up in impoverished neighborhoods and dreamed of success in a cut-throat business.

The fledgling group overcame the typical music-business hurdles: crooked managers, empty ballrooms and even emptier bank accounts.

But they forged forward, Young says, believing the music deserved their best effort, whether they had one fan, or a million.

With the release of their self-titled EP and its increasing digital retail sales, the fan base is growing.

Young isn't sure what the future holds.

"I feel like this is where I'm supposed to be. Now that I'm here, I'm thinking of the next place I'm supposed to be."

Council digs deep into diversity for Guard's future

Story and photo by Master Sgt. David Moore, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The more the New Jersey National Guard looks like the state it serves, the stronger it gets.

And the better the diverse voices of its 8,500 Soldiers and Airmen are heard within the organization, the healthier it will become.

To reach these aims, the National Guard Diversity Council met Feb. 8 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to consider policies aimed at making sure the organization reflects the racial, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds of the Garden State.

"I want to make sure our military matches our civilian population," said Brig. Gen. Robert Bolton, the New Jersey Air Guard commander and council chairman. "When everybody has a voice ... we are much stronger."

The diversity council was formed in June 2014 and one of its first projects was the development of a survey, which the entire force will complete by the end of next month. During the meeting, the council members representing each of the Army and Air Guard's major commands also reviewed historical data, including the racial makeup of previous officer candidate classes.

Another of the council's initiatives is the development of a mentorship program within the Guard.



Army Guard Col. John E. Langston, commander of the Joint Training and Training Development Center serves at the council deputy chairman and he believes the mentorship program is critical.

When Langston, who is African American, first joined the military, he said he didn't focus on issues such as equal opportunity and essentially tried to learn everything on his own. But he noticed that as he rose in the officer ranks, subordinates of color began asking him for career advice.

"I felt by serving on the council and developing a solid mentorship within the Guard was a way for me to give back to the people for their military service," Langston said.



Congressmen visit to safeguard installations

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, briefs congressmen and local military officials on the capabilities of the New Jersey National Guard during a congressional visit to

safeguard military installations at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Feb. 6, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

NJ NATIONAL GUARD CHAPLAINS, ASSISTANTS TRAIN FOR TRAUMA

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun, 108th Wing Public Affairs

“In our field, we’re given a lot of training on counseling and pastoral skills,” said Capt. David Kahler, a 108th Wing chaplain. “This training was specific to taking care of our Airmen. It helped me to look back on some traumatic events that have happened over my time as a chaplain. Going forward, I have the tools now where I can create better traumatic event management plans for whoever I might be serving under.”

From Jan. 12 to Jan. 16, Kahler and other chaplains and chaplain assistants, both Air Force and Army from all over New Jersey, participated in the Army’s Traumatic Event Management course held here at the Joint Force Headquarters building.

The TEM course has been around for four and half years and was created by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in San Antonio. The facility researched and gathered data to create a model for managing crisis situations.

“The goal is to enhance unit cohesion and effectiveness, said Val Wilson, a training specialist for the TEM course. “Feedback received said it was extremely beneficial, when bad things happened, individuals who took the course had a plan and knew what was going on with the military members.”

Annually, the class holds six resident training courses in San Antonio and four scheduled mobile trainings to places such as Germany, Hawaii and Korea. They will go to units who have requested for the course, but not all units know about it.

“Word spreads. Other folks will talk about this training and say, ‘Hey this was excellent because it prepares us for crisis management,’” said Wilson. “The National Guard is always called upon to respond to natural disasters. This training fits that requirement for them.”

Lt. Col. Yaakov Bindell, the 108th Wing chaplain and the state support chaplain, was the one to coordinate this training session. He contacted all the units in New Jersey and notified them of this training. From there, anyone available and motivated showed up on the first day. The class had 24 members who were separated into four groups.

“We do a lot of small group work,” said Michael J. Hagan, another training specialist. “The focus is applying their knowledge to our program versus us teaching them something brand new. We try not to do a lot of lecture.”



Chaplains, left to right, Army Lt. Col. Wilfredo Santiago, Air Force Lt. Col. Yaakov Bindell and Army Capt. Joshua Cox, from the Army Support Activity Fort Dix, the 108th Wing and the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade respectively, discuss their lesson list of things during the Traumatic Event Management Course Jan. 14, 2015, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun/Released)

The groups had many assignments involving discussions to come up with plans or solutions. A lot of emphasis was put on being active and preparing for the unknown.

“Start training for trauma before it happens not waiting until it happens and trying to figure out what to do then,” said Hagan. “The more preparation you have beforehand, the easier it is to manage and go through the trauma when it does happen.”

Each member had the opportunity to voice their opinion and input their experience. Role playing was the key way to incorporate hands on learning. Immediate feedback between classmates reinforced the ideas discussed during the week.

“I enjoyed the group work, especially the role-playing,” said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Robledo, a 108th Wing chaplain assistant. “My absolute favorite part was when we got to come together as a group and teach the class. It was so much fun.”

“Each group was given a different assignment from sleep hygiene class to stress management,” said Hagan, another training specialist. “They’ll take these general topics and have an hour to put together a 12 minute presentation. Not just briefing someone, but really training them.”

At the end of the week, the training proved to be very beneficial.

“This woke up the importance of really knowing your resources,” said Robledo. “You’ll never know when you might need to pull them out for someone or even yourself. Something so simple can make the greatest difference. I feel confident that if there was an event to happen, we’ll be able to respond.”

“We challenged them from day one,” said Wilson. “This group got really involved, the training has been excellent.”

177th participates in outbreak exercise

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Powell, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Capt. Lisa Robinson with the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing at Atlantic City International Airport, N.J., checks Airmen in during the base's Ebola-like disease containment exercise on Feb. 8, 2015.

The 177th Fighter Wing has taken action against the threat of disease by conducting a Ebola-like virus exercise.

The Air Force instructs each Wing to conduct a Public Health Emergency exercise each year and this year's emergency was exposure to the Ebola virus while deployed.

As Airmen entered the gates of the wing Feb. 8, 2105, those participating in the exercise were given cards identifying them as infected or exposed to Ebola. The exercise was of dual use. Those infected would be receiving their Hepatitis B shot and those who were exposed, a flu shot. They were to report to the on base clinic immediately.

"In the real world this could happen," said Capt. Lisa Robinson with the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group. "These are diseases we could see and it's necessary we're prepared for it, especially the Medical Group."

Those who were exposed were briefed on the signs and symptoms of the disease. This prepares the Airmen in case

THE INCUBATION PERIOD, THAT IS, THE TIME INTERVAL FROM INFECTION WITH THE VIRUS TO ONSET OF SYMPTOMS, IS TWO TO 21 DAYS.

symptoms appear later. Infected Airmen were quarantined.

"The Disease Containment Plan is put into place to mitigate the effects of the disease while enabling mission recovery and sustainment," said Lt. Col. Jamie Ruffing, the 177th's Fighter Wing's Public Health Officer. "It is intended to provide a generalized assessment of the wing wide understanding of the importance of disease containment and mitigation of disease impact while ensuring the wing retains a high level of readiness."

"The results of this exercise will influence changes in the Wing's response to both naturally occurring and man-made disease threats to the base and increase our readiness posture should a real world event occur," said Ruffing.

According to the World Health Organization, the incubation period, that is, the time interval from infection with the virus to onset of symptoms, is two to 21 days.

AROUND THE STATE



Tight spaces

Senior Airman Ryan Hanrahan, Aerospace Ground Equipment, 108th Maintenance Squadron, replaces the brake cables on a MC-20 low pressure air compressor Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Feb. 8 2015. The 108th Maintenance Squadron is part of the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Veterans receive medals

Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, deputy commander, 42nd Infantry Division, center, presents the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and the New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal to Navy veteran Daniel Viveiros of Gloucester. Ferrari, who serves as the director of veterans health services for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, presented state medals to thirteen veterans at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1616 in Williamstown. Viveiros is scheduled to become the New Jersey VFW state commander this spring. (NJDMA-VA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven)



NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

A DMAVA VSO will be present at each event

Feb. 19 - 20

DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign
Monmouth Mall, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
180 Route 35 South
Eatontown, NJ 07724

March 5 - 6

DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign
The Outlets at Bergen Town Center
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
One Bergen Town Center
Paramus, NJ 07652

March 16

Newark Veterans Job Fair
Rutgers University, Newark – Paul Robeson Campus
Center, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
350 Martin Luther King Blvd., Newark, NJ 07104

March 19

Veteran Career Fair & Military Expo
Rider College, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrence Township, NJ
08648

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

Upgrade your water heater and get \$500

Did You Know...

Did you know that your water heater is one of the biggest consumers of energy in your home? Your water heater could be contributing to a quarter of your monthly energy bill!

One of the most energy efficient water heaters on the market today is an Energy Star qualified heat pump water heater. Replacing your old water heater with one of these can significantly lower your monthly energy bill. In some households can cut water heating costs in half! Savings can add up to \$250 annually for some homes, or more if your family uses a lot of hot water.

The New Jersey Clean Energy Program is currently offering a rebate of \$500 through the WARM Advantage Program for heat pump water heaters purchased between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov



UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Mount Laurel Library

100 Walt Whitman Avenue
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Feb. 13: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly)

177th Fighter Wing

Building 229, 400 Langley Road
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
Feb. 19: 12 – 4 p.m.

Pemberton Community Library

16 Broadway Street
Browns Mills, NJ 08015
Feb. 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Toms River Armory

1200 Whitesville Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
Feb. 18: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Jersey City Armory

678 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Feb. 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

E-mail your Highlights
submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov by close of
business Wednesday

STRONG BONDS TWO EVENTS

When: March 13, 2015 – March 15, 2015

What: 7 Habits of Highly Effective Soldiers (Singles)

What: Active Relationships (Couples)

Where: The Hotel ML
915 Route 73
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

* Childcare is not provided.

*To find out more on Strong Bonds, contact SGT John Schwartz (609) 324-7039 or visit www.strongbonds.org (ALL DEPENDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED IN DEERS)