## NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 5, 2015

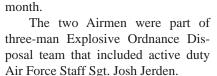
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WING CHOOSES ARMEN OF THE YEAR

THE CAELUM VICTORIAL

## PRESENTED BY THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE Air Force highlights **177th Airmen** The 177th Fighter Wing's Master Sgt. Michael Sears and Tech. Sgt. John Hurley were featured in the Air Force's Portraits in Courage series this



On Sept. 29, 2012, the team found itself in the middle of an ambush in Ghazni province, Afghanistan. During the two-hour firefight, Hurley delivered cover fire from the EOD vehicle's turret while Sears provided life-saving aid to a fallen coalition soldier from Poland. Jerden moved the EOD vehicle to provide cover for Sears and the wounded soldier.

Twice. Sears escorted medics to the wounded soldier across 100-foot wide open area while under continuous fire.

The attacking insurgents were foiled and the wounded soldier was moved to Bagram Airfield Hospital.

Sears received the Silver Star and Purple Heart. Hurley and Jerden were both submitted for the Air Force Com-

# **PORTRAITS IN** mendation with Valor. COURAGE



MASTER SERGEANI MICHAEL SEARS JOSE

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TECHNICIANS

NJDMAVA HIGHILIGHTS is published weekly under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for all members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, their families, the New Jersey veterans community, retirees and civilian employees. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard Bureau, Veterans Affairs or the State of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, NJDMAVA, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. E-mail at: pao@dmava.nj.gov

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 Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Layout, photographer Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley - Writer, photographer Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht – Photographer, graphic artist

# 108th Wing chooses Airmen of the Year

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs

## Master Sgt. Amanda L. Marotta, Tech. Sgt. John C. Hoffecker and Senior Airman Tyshawn G. Jenkins.

Marotta serves with the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron as an emergency management specialist.

Hoffecker is a senior intelligence analyst with the 204th Intelligence Squadron. Jenkins works as a fuels systems technician with the 108th Maintenance Squadron. What do they have in common?

They were chosen as the 108th Wing's Airmen of the Year.

These individuals' skills, training and volunteerism epitomizes the 108th.

According to 108th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello, Marotta is a motivational leader, who transformed an inexperienced Emergency Management Shop into a premiere flight that was lauded by the Air Mobility Command inspectors during the Unit Effectiveness Inspection where the Wing received a highly effective rating. In addition, she was handpicked as the Ancillary Training Tiger Team subject matter expert. Marotta also works with Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst units to improve emergency management capabilities base-wide.

Hoffecker, notes Lt. Col. Robert Kelly, the 204th Intelligence Squadron commander, was specifically chosen for a Title 10, active duty tour where he served as an intelligence instructor. During the tour, he trained 300 intelligence and security forces Airmen. He also served as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 607th Air Operations Cell in Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian in South Korea. Finally, Hoffecker was chosen to develop the National Guard Bureau's 20 lesson, 40-hour anti-terrorism level II mobile training course, which filled a national level need for force protection training certification for the Air National Guard.

Maintenance Squadron commander Col. Steven F. Jamison said that Jenkins is an outstanding role model for peers and demonstrated his organizational skills by creating new safety books for all shops assigned to the Wing's Accessory Section. He assists in the training of newly assigned personnel and in retraining personnel. Jenkins was part of a group that created an annual confined space training program that emphasized emergency procedures.

In addition to these accomplishments, the Airmen embody the characteristics that define how the Air National Guard and specifically, the 108th is an integral part of the community.

Hoffecker volunteers with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs support program by driving five veterans who have no means of transportation to their appointments at VA hospitals.

Marotta was recognized during National Volunteer Week for dedicating more 100 hours to the Salvation Army of Mercer County.

Jenkins is a member of the Wing's Honor Guard, which is serves as a visible example of the Air Force in ceremonies ranging from change of commands to funerals for veterans.

They also represent what is unique to the Guard – a dedication to education.

Jenkins is working on his master of business administration degree. He currently has a 3.7 grade point average, all while at the same time passing the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test.

Marotta not only earned a bachelor's in work force education, but also made the dean's list with a 4.0 grade point average. She is currently working on her master's degree in homeland security. To top that off, she completed the senior non-commissioned officer correspondence course and was selected for the SNCO academy class.

Hoffecker has four associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force, the fourth being in intelligence studies. While attending the Defense Intelligence Agencies Counter Terrorism Analysis Course, he was the honor graduate.

These three individuals have set an impressive benchmark.

Congratulations Master Sgt. Marotta, Tech. Sgt. Hoffecker and Senior Airman Jenkins.

Top and middle: Master Sgt. Amanda L. Marotta and Tech. Sgt. John C. Hoffecker. (U.S. Air National Guard photo illustrations by Tech. Sgt. Carl Clegg/Released) Bottom photo: Senior Airman Tyshawn G. Jenkins. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun/Released)







# **Recruiters get new leader**

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

e began his military career as an Army field artilleryman and then joined the New Jersey Army National Guard, where he held nearly every non-commissioned officer position in the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

But when word came to Sgt. Maj. Thomas Dwyer that the promotion his career had been build-

ing to had arrived, he was in the dentist chair. He didn't stay there for long. Dwyer made his way immediately to Joint Force Headquarters, where he met with top leaders, who broke the news that Dwyer would be taking over as the supervisor of all of the state's field recruiters.

"I wouldn't be in this position without you," Dwyer told the state's two dozen recruiters who gathered Feb. 4 for his promotion ceremony at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt.

Dwyer will report to Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Huster, who took the battalion's top enlisted spot in August.

Dwyer is taking over an important job in a state that's had one of the most successful sustained recruiting efforts in the National Guard.

"He's got the future strength of the National Guard on his shoulders," said Maj. Andrew Lazarchick, the commander



Master Sgt. Thomas Dwyer is promoted to sergeant major, with his wife, Connie, affixing his new rank at a ceremony at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Feb. 4, 2015.

of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General, said recruiting is the lifeblood of the National Guard.

"The recruiting battalion makes the National Guard work," Cunniff said.

# ASO Control Con

ASOS trains in England

New Jersey Air National Guard Airmen from the 227th Air Support Oper-ations Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, trained at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, for two weeks in January. The training included close air support for coalition aircraft. Tactical air control party members with special Army and Marine units to bring firepower to the battlefield in the form of directed air strikes through close air support. The 227th is supports both the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, as well as the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. (Courtesy photo)

# VA medical centers and clinics

OF

**New Jersey** 

East Orange Campus, 385 Tremont Avenue (973) 676-1000 Lyons Campus, 151 Knollcroft Road (908) 647-0180 Brick, James J. Howard Clinic 970 Route 70 (732) 206-8900 Camden Clinic, 300 Broadway, Suite 103 (877) 232-5240 Cape May Clinic, 1 Munro Avenue (800) 461-8262 Ext. 2850 Elizabeth Clinic, 654 East Jersey Street. Suite 2A (908) 994-0120 Fort Dix Clinic, 5437 8th & Alabama Street (609) 562-2999 Hackensack Clinic, 385 Prospect Avenue (201) 487-1390 / (201) 342-4536 Hamilton Clinic, 3635 Quakerbridge Road (609) 570-6600 Jersey City Clinic, 115 Christopher Columbus Drive (201) 435-3055 Morristown Clinic, 340 West Hanover Avenue (973) 539-9791/9794 Northfield Clinic, 1909 New Road (800) 461-8262 Ext. 2800

Paterson Clinic, 11 Getty Avenue, Bldg. 275 (973) 247-1666

Piscataway Clinic, 14 Wills Way, Bldg. 4 (732) 981-8193

Sewell Clinic, 211 County House Road (877) 823-5230

Tinton Falls Clinic, 55 N. Gilbert Street, Bldg. 4 (732) 842-4751
Vineland Clinic, 1051 W. Sherman Avenue, Bldg. 3 (800) 461-8262
Ext. 6500

PHILADELPHIA

University & Woodland Avenue (215) 823-5800/ (800) 949-1001 Coatesville-1400 Black Horse Hill Road, (610) 384-7711

**DELAWARE** 1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington (302) 994-2511 / (800) 461-8262

www.va.gov/directory/ will provide you with an explanation of available benefits. For eligibility and additional information visit: www.va.gov/healtheligibility

# SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations assist veterans through the VA system and advocate for veterans' rights. They are not affiliated with the government

#### AMVETS

(877) 7-AMVETS email: amvets@amvets.org www.amvets.org

> American Legion NJ Headquarters: (609) 695-5418 www.legion.org

> > Veterans of Foreign Wars (800) VFW-1899 www.vfw.org New Jersey Headquarters (609) 393-1929

Vietnam Veterans of America (973) 297-3227

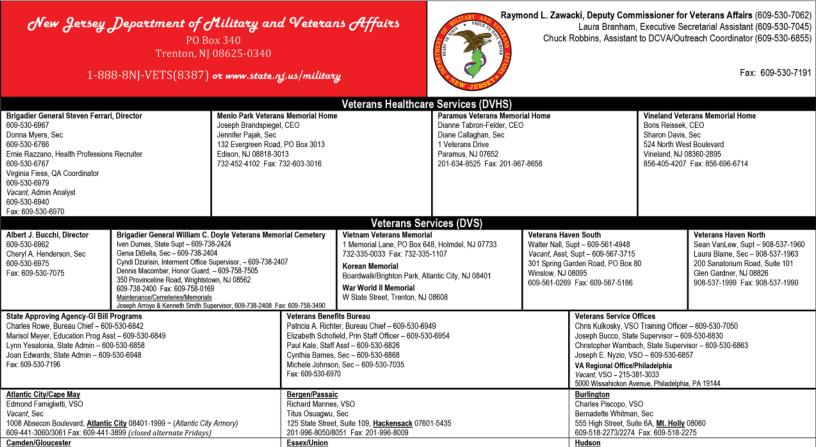
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) (212) 982-9699 www.iava.org Disabled American Veterans (877) 426-2838 www.dav.org

> Jewish War Veterans (609) 396-2508

Wounded Warrior Project (877) 832-6997 www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Salvation Army (908) 851-9300

USO (United Service Organization) Provides information and recreation services to uniformed military personnel. (888) 484-3876 www.uso.org



Lorena Huggins, VSO Joseph Frost, VSO Diane Rosci, Sec Helen Banks, Sec 658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 ~ (Woodbury Armory) 20 Washington Place, Room 431, Newark 07102-3174 856-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays) 973-297-3336 Fax: 973-642-0830 Middlesex/Somerset Mercer William McDonnell, VSO Joseph Battito, VSO Vacant, Sec Theresa Tomecheck, Sec 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 ~ (Lawrenceville Armory) 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 ~ (Somerset Armory) 609-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698 732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (closed alternate Fridays) Newark Liaison/VA Regional Office Ocean Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO Robert Maulano, VSO Michael Dorobis, Sec Iris Perez, Sec 20 Washington Place, Newark 07102-3174 James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic 970 Route 70, <u>Brick</u> 08724-3550 732-840-3033/3034 Fax: 732-840-0399 973-297-3230 Fax: 973-648-2356 Sussex/Morris Warren/Hunterdon Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman William Robinson, VSO 479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 ~ (Dover Armory) Lisa Szymanski, Sec 973-366-0245/8347 Fax: 973-366-0360 550 A Route 57 Port Murray 07865-9482 908-689-5840/5845 Fax: 908-689-5879

NJ VETS LIST - (October 2014

678 Montgomery Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Jersey City 07306 ~ (Jersey City Armory)

201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed alternate Fridays)

630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904

732-775-7009/7005 Fax: 732-775-3612

524 Northwest Boulevard, Vineland 08360-2895 856-405-4388/4390/4389 Fax: 856-696-6499

Vacant VSO

Vacant, Sec

Monmouth

Robert Brown, VSO

Salem/Cumberland Leigh R. Pottle, VSO

Catherine Raniolo, Sec

Vacant, VSO

Rita Hyland, Sec



E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov



## Upcoming information sessions

#### Mount Laurel Library

100 Walt Whitman Avenue Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 Feb. 13, Mar. 6, 20 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly) POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

#### Egg Harbor Township

177th Fighter Wing Building 229, 400 Langley Road Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234 Feb. 19, Mar. 12 and 26 12 – 4 p.m. POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

#### Lawrenceville

DMAVA IASD Section 101 Eggerts Crossing Road Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 Feb. 11, 25; Mar. 18 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

#### Fort Dix

Housing Community Center Building 1134 Hemlock Street Ft. Dix, NJ Mar. 30 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

#### Cape May (New Location)

AAFES (storefront) Coast Guard Base Cape May Training Center Cape May, NJ 08204 Feb. 27, Mar. 24: 12 – 3 p.m. POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

#### Shrewsbury

Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch 1001 Route 35 Shrewsbury, NJ 07702 Feb. 24, Mar. 19: 11am-2pm POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

#### Lakehurst

Military & Family Support Center Highway 547 Building 488 Walsh Road Lakehurst, NJ 08733 Feb. 26, Mar. 26: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

#### **Colts Neck**

NWS Earle 201 Highway 34 South Building C29 Colts Neck, NJ 07722 Feb. 12, Mar. 25: 10am-2pm POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

#### McGuire Air Force Base

McGuire Library 2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave McGuire AFB, NJ 08641 Feb. 25: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mar. 16: 4-7pm POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

#### **McGuire Housing**

Jim Saxton Community Center 3811 South Boiling Street McGuire AFB, NJ 08641 Mar. 3: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

## 108th Wing Airmen & Family Readiness Office

3327 Charles Blvd McGuire AFB Feb. 11, Mar. 11: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

#### **Browns Mills**

Pemberton Community Library 16 Broadway Street Browns Mills, NJ 08015 Feb. 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mar. 30: 4 – 7 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

#### **Toms River**

Toms River Armory 1200 Whitesville Road Toms River, NJ 08753 Feb. 18, Mar. 5: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

#### Jersey City

Jersey City Armory 678 Montgomery Street Jersey City, NJ 07306 Feb. 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Feb. 26: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Mar. 5,12, 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mar. 26: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. POC: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126

#### **Picatinny Arsenal**

Army Community Service Building 119 Dover NJ 07806 Feb. 24, Mar. 24 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. POC: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126

#### **Newark Armory**

120 Roseville Avenue Newark, NJ 07107 Feb. 11, 25: 12 – 5 p.m. Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25: 12 – 5 p.m. POC: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126

#### Blackwood

Camden County Veterans Affairs 3 Collier Dr. Lakeland Complex Blackwood, NJ 08012 Feb. 23, Mar. 9, 23 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly) POC: Wil Acosta, (646) 300-1312

#### SERVICE MEMBER & VETERAN EMPLOYMENT, RESOURCE & OPPORTUNITY FAIR AND WORKSHOPS

Conducted By The American Legion, ESGR, NJ State Parole Board and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Thursday, February 12, 2015

9:00 am – 1:00 pm, including Resume Writing and Interview Skills Workshops

#### Woodbridge Armory, 625 Main Street Woodbridge NJ 07095

Employers and vendors that provide assistance with, Homelessness, PTSD, and Criminal Justice Initiatives will be present.

RSVP – EMPLOYER &, SERVICE PROVIDERS - Employers with current job openings or entities that can offer services MUST PRE-REGISTER by Feb. 6, With Paul McIntyre, State Parole Board, at <u>VeteranReentry@spb.state.nj.us</u> or call 609 777 0181.

<u>RSVP – SERVICE MEMBERS & VETERANS</u> - All Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and their spouses are encouraged to pre-register, also on <u>VeteranReentry@spb.state.nj.us</u>, but "WALK-INS" are welcome!

This employment and other veteran-related services event is for Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and military spouses.

This event will assemble employers with current job openings and service providers, as well as our standard partners the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), NJ LWD, DOL – VETS, the Sansone-Woodbridge Military Assistance Center, and many others that provide services for homelessness, mental health issues, and veterans' affairs in general. The NJ State Parole Board will be present to discuss various criminal justice initiatives. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will have service officers, outreach managers, and homeless veteran representatives.

CONTACT: Ron Davie, 732-429-4248, rgdavie@gmail.com







## ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

## Have a chimney? Save money by blocking it.

#### Did You Know...

All this snow and cold weather might be making you want to snuggle up to a cozy fire.

But always remember to block you chimney after you're done using it!

If you forget, heat will go up the chimney, and your heating bill will go up with it. If your chimney isn't blocked, you could lose more than \$200 worth of heated air during the course of a year. If you never use your chimney, you can cap it, or if you use it occasionally, you can block the draught with an inflatable chimney balloon.

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

## NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

A DMAVA VSO will be present at each event to assist any veteran

Feb. 11 DMAVA Medal Ceremony Williamstown VFW POST #1616, 11 a.m. 1940 North Blackhorse Pike Williamstown, NJ 08094

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

April 14 - 16 Woodbridge Center Mall Kiosk Hours 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., daily Medal Ceremony 14 a.m., April 7, Sears Court 250 Woodbridge Center Drive, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

#### May 7

N.J. Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Ceremony, 11 a.m. New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Celebrating the Memorial's 20th anniversary A DMAVA medal presentation will be included in this ceremony PNC Bank Arts Center, Garden State Parkway Exit 116, Holmdel, NJ 07777