



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 23, 2016



Welcome Home, 328th MP's!

Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, Deputy Adjutant General, left, accepts the United States flag from Capt. Matthew Nemand, commander, 328th Military Police Company, New Jersey Army National Guard, as the unit return from a yearlong mobilization to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



MAKING HISTORY

Air Guard gets first woman state command chief

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs

This year, and appropriately enough during Women's History Month, a woman was chosen to serve as the state command chief master sergeant – the highest ranking enlisted position in the New Jersey Air National Guard.

"Anybody can do it," said State Command Chief Master Sgt. Janeen M. Fillari. "It takes time; you have to start early in your career; putting the hard work in." Fillari, a former member of the 108th Wing, succeeds State Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton, also a former 108th member. She is also the first woman to serve as New Jersey's state command chief. "My vision is I want to make sure the enlisted have every opportunity to progress in their careers and to make sure that they are well informed of what's going on, any issues and any opportunities. I want to make sure they are happy."

To Fillari, it's about showing people respect for what they do.

"If you are nice and you say 'thank you,' thank you goes a long, long way with people. Always tell them you appreciate them. I don't take them for granted." That means going out and meeting people.

"I'm going to be getting out to the units, I don't want to do this job from in here [she gestures around her office]; I want to be out and about," said Fillari. "I expect to be start visiting the units as soon as possible, to make sure people know who I am."

"I want to hear what people have to say. I want the E-1s, 2s, 3s, 4s and 5s to know that we work for them."

For Fillari, the key to all this are the chief master sergeants at the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing.

"We all have to work together," said Fillari. "I don't want to solve all the problems; they have to solve the problems. I want them to critically think about what the issues are and be proactive."

For Fillari, everyone is involved in the process from identifying problems to finding solutions.

"What I would like to start doing is have town hall meetings. I want to know if there is something broken; then get ideas, suggestions; if we can do things differently, smarter."

Fillari pinpointed one aspect of her life that prepared her for each successive role she has served during her military career – education.

Her education credentials underscores that point: a paralegal certificate from St. Mary's College of California; an associates in Applied Science Paralegal Studies, Camden County College, N.J.; another associates in Paralegal Studies from the Community College of the Air Force, a Bachelor of Science in Human Services in Legal Studies from Thomas Edison State College, N.J. and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies also from Thomas Edison State College.

"One thing I do want to do is host a contemporary base issues course," said Fillari. "It's a great course and it applies to everybody."

The course, which is taught by the Air National Guard judge advocate generals, brings commanders and supervisors together as a team to identify, analyze and resolve contemporary problems leaders face.

The course covers a variety of topics including standards on- and off-duty, progressive discipline and administrative discharges, unprofessional relationships and ethics in the military.

Fillari joined the Air Force in July 1989 as a services specialist and cross-trained into the paralegal career field in 1994, where she stayed until November 1998 when she transferred to the Reserves where she served as paralegal from 1998 to 2005.

In 2005, Fillari joined the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard as the law office superintendent. And there it might have ended and Fillari would not have been standing in the state command chief's office had it not been for one person.

Fillari credits retired Chief Master Sgt. Maryalice Rebis with where she is today.

"She had always been a role model, a mentor; I used her as an example of this is what I am supposed to do, this is how I am supposed to act."

At Rebis' urging, Fillari applied as the Air National Guard Paralegal Liaison, Northeast Region.

"Had it not been for her, I probably would have retired from the 108th and not gotten involved at the national level."



Instead she applied and was chosen as the Air Combat Command senior paralegal manager for the Air National Guard.

"I'm a critical thinker. You have to be in this job. I like to find out what the issues are; make sure I have all the correct information. And then I like to solve the issues."

As the senior paralegal manager, Fillari assisted the ANG paralegal career field functional manager in providing guidance to Guard paralegals located at ACC wing legal offices.

"I worked a lot with senior leadership, talking out issues with them, addressing concerns."

It turned out to be the perfect training ground for the

state command chief position.

"It was a crash course for this job," said Fillari.

This new duty is a big change from her previous position where she worked strictly with paralegals.

"There's not many of us out there that do this job, so I have deep respect for people that come in, put the uniform on and do what they have to do, work the long hours, put forth their best effort. I want to make sure we're rewarding our people and that we're taking care of any issues that are coming up."

"My motto is 'Your life is a resume.' You can choose if you want it to be half a page or if you want two pages filled. The key is never look back and wish you could have done something. Do it."



The New Jersey Army National Guard held a two-day Best Warrior Competition at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to determine which soldier and coach will be selected to take part in the regional competition hosted by the Connecticut Army National Guard in May. The weekend event judged the candidates on how well they perform on their physical fitness test, weapons qualification, the confidence course, which consists of obstacles that test your strength and endurance and land navigation will be the deciding factors on who goes home and who marches on to the next round.
 Photos by Sgt. Jorge Morales, 50th IBCT-PA and First Sgt. Kryn Westhoven, 444th MPAD



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NEWEST CHAPLAIN

Capt. Rachel Zarnke, center, is promoted to captain by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General, right and State Command Chaplain Lt. Col. Yaakov Bendell at a ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on March 10. Zarnke was also sworn in as a chaplain after having completed the Army Chaplain Candidate Program. A native of Illinois, Zarnke came to New Jersey to attend Princeton Theological Seminary and felt called to join the Army National Guard. "It's an honor to serve," she said. In civilian life, Zarnke is a pastor at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Bagota, N.J.



Two dozen New Jersey Army and Air National Guard chaplains, chaplain assistants and behavior health professionals spent last week at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown attending classes taught by an Army Medical Department mobile training team. The new Combat and Operational Stress Control (COSC) program provided the latest methods to balance family life and military obligations as a Citizen Soldier or Airman.

Photo by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA-PA

MP's Return from Cuba

Photos by Kryn Westhoven, NJDMAVA-PA



More than 100 Citizen-Soldiers from the 328th Military Police Company were Welcomed Home by senior military leadership, friends and family at the Cherry Hill Armory, Cherry Hill, N.J., March 16, 2016. The 328th was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for a yearlong mobilization. The 328th is based out of Cherry Hill.





National Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary President Francisa Guilford visited New Jersey on March 15 with Paula Pinto, President, Department of New Jersey VFW Auxiliary and several other state auxiliary members. Guilford toured the New Jersey Army National Guard's Joint Training and Training Development Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and followed by a visit to the William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, receiving a briefing on state veterans services offered by New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Photos by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA-PA

Soldiers of the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters conduct a Staff Walk of the Monmouth Battlefield with state seasonal historians Pete Michel and Victor Piderman to learn about the tactics and techniques of America's militia during the battle of the war of independence against the British. The battle became the first battle, after two loses and as a result of training during the winter of Valley Forge, the American force led by Gen. George Washington held the terrain as a result of maneuver, artillery and the synchronization of forces. Photo by Master Sgt. David Moore, JFHQ-PA





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More than 100 Citizen-Soldiers were Welcomed Home on March 16 by senior military leadership, friends and family at the Cherry Hill.

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