





Coming together to train for the worst

Story and photo by Sgt. Sherwood T. Goodenough, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

When 9-1-1 isn't enough, rescuers call on New Jersey Task Force One.

With the help of the New Jersey Army National Guard aviation team, more than 210 members of Task Force One (NJ-TF1) tested their range of expertise on April 15 to 17 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

"It's about coming together in people's worst times and coming together to save lives," said Laura A Connolly, the public information officer for NJOEM. "It's that calling to be part of something remarkable. You have to have the dedication."

The mission of Task Force One is to insure the development and delivery of emergency management programs which will serve New Jersey's community members before, during and after a disaster, she said.

The 150th Assault Helicopter Battalion used a pair of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to airlift 40 members of the urban search and rescue unit from their headquarters on Lakehurst to the range area of Fort Dix. Along for the ride were several live-find canines joining the task force volunteers.

During the exercise, the aviators sling loaded a box of search and rescue equipment for the New Jersey State Troopers assigned to the Office of Emergency Management. A UH-72 Lakota helicopter from the 1-224th Security and Support Battalion flew overhead to provide aerial reconnaissance for the search and rescue exercise.

The sheer volume of preparing for anything, anywhere, anytime is a tremendous obstacle, and it's made more complicated by the fact that the volunteers have to make time for training around their regular occupations.

"We focus on the greatest challenges to the state of NJ," Connolly said. " If we prepare for all hazards and if we can increase preparedness for 'noticed' and 'non-noticed' events then it will put the public in a better position.

New Jersey State Police Lt. Douglas Lemanowicz said that whether it's a hurricane that is coming five days away, a tornado that no one saw coming or an attack that leaves the nation reeling, Task Force One is always getting ready.

"We try to be diligent as well as honest with our capabilities," he said. "We try to prove that we are who we say we are. We are never satisfied, because the next "We are never satisfied, because the next storm, the next terrorist attack...we train as though it's just around the corner."

Lt. Douglas Lemanowicz N.J. State Police New Jersey Task Force One storm, the next terrorist attack... we train as though it's just around the corner."

The weekend event is the first for Operation Derecho as several training exercises are planned for the year.

Cover: Sling load

A Black Hawk helicopter with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, sling loads a container of search and rescue gear as part of a New Jersey Task Force 1 urban search and rescue exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., April 16, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by First Sgt. Kryn Westhoven/Released)



Members of 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Jersey Army Army National Guard, and the New Jersey State Police connect a sling loaded search and rescue gear container to a Black Hawk helicopter as part of a New Jersey Task Force 1 exercise.

Photos By Master Sgi, Mark & Olsen, New Jersey National Guard Affairs Public Affairs



Above: Staff Sgt. Paul Cimino, right, a master gunner observes Sgt. William Harpe, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief, both with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Jersey Army Army National Guard, as he fires on targets with an M240B machine gun during an aerial gunnery training mission at Warren Grove Gunnery Range, N.J., April 15, 2016. Below: Black Hawk crew members reload canisters with 7.62 mm ammunition in preparation for another pass.

HOMES RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS

Photos by Kryn Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs



April is volunteer month and all three veteran memorial homes held events to honor the volunteers that set these homes apart from other longterm care facilities. The Menlo Park luncheon, left, started and finished with the John Basilone Marine Corps League honor guard. In Paramus, Frank Calandrillo, Chairman of the home's Advisory Board, lower left, presented two checks, from the Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 221 in Richfield for \$200 and \$2,000 donations from past Department of New Jersey American Legion commander Mike Wilson. Allyson Bailey, Vineland CEO, below, presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Catherine Sullivan, center, with help from state Senator Jeff Van Drew. In total, volunteers volunteered nearly 70,000 hours, worth more than \$1.5 million in saved wages while civic and veteran organizations donated \$249,781 in goods or services.





Veterans Outreach Campaign

VETERANS COMMANDERS CALL April 25 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lawrenceville National Guard Armory **151 Eggert Crossing Road** Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 **4TH ANNUAL HIRING FAIR** Mav 4 **BB&T Bank Center - Camden** One Harbor Blvd. Camden, NJ 08103 NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY May 7 11 a.m. **New Jersey Vietnam Veterans** Memorial Garden State Parkway Exit 116 Holmdel, NJ 07777 **VETERANS INFORMATION AND OUTREACH FAIR** May 7 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Fair Lawn Community Center 10-10 20th Street Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 "SPIRIT OF THE JERSEYS" **May 14** 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **State History Fair Monmouth Battlefield State Park**

16 Business Route #33 Manalapan, N.J. 07726 **HUDSON COUNTY HEALTH &** HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCE FAIR May 21 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Hudson County Schools of** Technology 525 Montgomery Street Jersey City, 07302 VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN & MEDAL CEREMONY May 24-26 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Daily) DMAVA medal ceremony May 24 at 11 a.m. at Center Court Paramus Park Mall 700 Paramus Park Paramus, NJ 07652 JUNE CONVENTION OUTREACH Elks Convention June 2-3 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., daily American Legion State Convention June 8-10 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., daily Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention June 15-17 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., daily Wildwood Convention Center 4501 Boardwalk

Wildwood, N.J. 08260 SUSSEX COUNTY "BIKE NIGHT FOR VETERANS" June 23 5 – 8 p.m. **Chatterbox Restaurant** 1 State Route 15 Augusta, NJ 07822 **CEREMONY HONORING THE 63RD** ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING **OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE** July 27 11 a.m. New Jersey Korean War Memorial **Brighton Park Amphitheatre and** the Boardwalk Atlantic City, NJ 08401 "VETTE TO VET NIGHT" Sept. 9 5 – 8 p.m. **Chatterbox Restaurant, 1 State** Route 15 Augusta, NJ 07822) **VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN** & MEDAL CEREMONY Sept. 20-21 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Daily DMAVA medal ceremony Sept. 20 at 11 a.m. at Center Court **Bridgewater Commons Mall** 400 Commons Way Bridgewater, NJ, 08807

The Center for <u>Entrepreneurial Studies</u>

RIDER UNIVERSITY VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at Rider University is offering a free Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program beginning in the summer of 2016 that will guide veterans who want to start or expand a business.

Participants will develop a business plan to explore a venture idea or expand an existing business.

The program consists of nine weeks of classroom training taught by professors from Rider's entrepreneurship department, conducted in two phases. Phase one develops the business concept and is a pre-requisite for continuing with phase two, the rest of the program. Each participant will also receive one year of mentoring as they pursue their venture dreams.

Class size is limited to 20 students to allow for instructor feedback and individualized attention.

This program is made possible by a generous grant from **Grand Bank**, **N.A.**, who shares our vision of helping foster veterans' personal and professional growth through entrepreneurial training. Other support provided by the **NJ Bankers Education**

Foundation, Inc., Saul Ewing LLP law firm, and Wilkin & Guttenplan, PC accounting firm

Applications must be submitted online at http://www.rider.edu/university-veteran-entrepreneurial-program For further information please contact: Kyle Anacker | anackerk@rider.edu | 609-895-5468

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RIDER

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Surromaling the Resort are many attractions for a day of exploration. Explore the Appalachian trail through the Kitatimy, for tasting at local warnerse michade glophowood, Westfall, Dennars Hill, Warnek's Abult, Warne's A Dattley on d Gang, Beer tasting at local Distilleris including Orange County Distillery, Duch's Spirits, Jersey Artisan Distilling, Catski Bistilling Company and Tahillown Distillers. Explore the fluorescent mineral capital of the world at the Franklin Minoral bistems Nature Center Jakonemus tion the 4th older time in the courny and the last working underground mine in MJ.



E-mail your Highlights submissions to: <u>mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov</u> by 4 p.m. Wednesday

Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Layout, photographer Kryn Westhoven – Writer, photographer Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht – Photographer, <u>graphic artist</u>