



82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, Inc.

North Jersey "All Airborne" Chapter  
21 YEAR NATIONAL AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER



## The "Jump In"

Fall Issue October 2021

*The lifeline for Paratroopers and Glidermen*

Bob Dritschel, Editor

**North Jersey Chapter**  
PO Box 82  
Milltown, NJ 08850

**Chapter Website:**  
[www.njc82abnassociation.org](http://www.njc82abnassociation.org)

**Chapter Email:**  
[northjersey@82ndairborneassociation.org](mailto:northjersey@82ndairborneassociation.org)

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### CHAIRMAN:

Vic Balint  
[Ah1kobra@aol.com](mailto:Ah1kobra@aol.com)

#### VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Dave Chelak  
[dchel@aol.com](mailto:dchel@aol.com)

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Bob Dritschel  
[dritschel@earthlink.net](mailto:dritschel@earthlink.net)

#### CHAPLAIN:

Charles Moe

#### SGT at ARMS:

Henrik Moe

#### TRUSTEES:

Don Martin  
[donalbcmartin@msn.com](mailto:donalbcmartin@msn.com)

Henrik Moe

Rich Allen  
[randr1226@aol.com](mailto:randr1226@aol.com)

### 2022 National Convention

The Association's 2022 national convention is scheduled to take place at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, Florida, on August 10- 13. Look to the Association webpage for more information.



### North Jersey Chapter Renaming Ceremony

The North Jersey Chapter will be renaming the Chapter in honor of one of the local 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division paratroopers who had lost his life in Afghanistan. Cpl Steven Koch was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 508<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division's 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade. Cpl Steven Koch was killed by an IED on March 3, 2008.

The Chapter will be identified as the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch Chapter. The Chapter will conduct a renaming ceremony at the American Legion in Milltown on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. The Chapter requests that all who could attend to make the trip to the Legion to honor CPL Stephen Koch and his family at this event.

The Chapter Facebook page has been re-established for the members. Please visit the "82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association North Jersey Chapter" Facebook page for recent news and articles. Posts are always welcome.

The Chapter is requesting donations from its members to support the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association's Wounded Warrior Fund. A donation would be greatly appreciated. Forward any donation to the Chapter PO Box.

### NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

|                         |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| #1-Fayetteville<br>1472 | #2- North Jersey<br>443 | #3- Washington DC<br>419 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|

### AIRBORNE LICENSE PLATES (825 Issued)



Contact Henrik Moe at 732-721-3997 for Information

### 2022 All American Week

The 2021 All American Week activities sponsored by the Association have been cancelled. The 2022 activities are expected to occur next year and the Association will begin to take reservations in October 2021. The Association apologizes for any inconvenience. Please look for details in the Association bulletin.

### CHAPTER MEETING PLACE

AMERICAN LEGION  
Post 25  
4 J.F. Kennedy Drive  
Milltown, NJ 08850

### MEETING TIME

Officers Meeting  
12:00 PM  
Members' Meeting  
12:15 PM

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of  
every month

### MEETING DATES 2021

January 16  
February 20  
March 20  
April 17  
May 15  
June 19  
July 17  
August 21  
September 18  
October 16  
November 20  
December 18

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Annual Veteran's Day  
Activities**  
November 11-14, 2021  
Washington, DC

**Chapter Christmas  
Luncheon**  
December 18, 2021

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Troopers,

Today is October 5, 2021. The Country seems to be getting over the Covid Virus, but there are still problems we must resolve. Hopefully, things will transition to normal as time goes by.

The U.S. Military is still reeling from the tragic withdrawal from Afghanistan in August. The media continues to report the KIAs as 12 Marines and 1 Sailor. The actual count is 11 Marines, 1 Sailor, and 1 Combat Veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division. The Trooper's name is SSG Ryan C. Knauss who was assigned to the 9th Battalion, 8th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces Command. He was 23 years old and was from Corryton, Tennessee. There was also a considerable amount of people left with devastating wounds. Their lives will be forever changed. The North Jersey 82nd Airborne Chapter sent a condolence card along with a donation to the family. Please keep all of these people and their Families in your thoughts and prayers.

At October's Airborne meeting on October 16, the Milltown First Aid Squad conducted a CPR class prior to the meeting. All in attendance took part to learn this life-saving skill.

November's Airborne meeting has been moved up to the second Saturday of the month, November 13. We will be officially changing the Chapter's name from the North Jersey Chapter to the New Jersey Cpl Steven Koch Chapter. Cpl Steven Koch was Killed In Action in Afghanistan in 2008. He is from a local Milltown family who will be present during a short ceremony to commemorate this event. There will also be local dignitaries in attendance. Please come out to this ceremony if you are able.

As, always, please conduct yourself as the U.S. Paratrooper we all aspire to be. The Public will judge others by our behavior.

Airborne, All The Way, Vic Balint

## News & Views from the Secretary

As you are seeing throughout this newsletter, the North Jersey Chapter is officially changing its name to the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch Chapter. This is being done to honor a local paratrooper who lost his life in Afghanistan. You can read about CPL Steven Koch in the member highlight section adjacent to this column. Also, North Jersey is being replaced with New Jersey as the designation of the Chapter due to the Central Jersey Chapter folding due to lack of participation. It was realized that the North Jersey nomenclature may have dissuaded some individuals from connecting with the Chapter. And as you can see from the Chapter meeting place in Milltown, NJ, it is centrally located in the state. It is hoped that our Chapter does not follow the path of the Central Jersey Chapter and have to fold due to a lack of participation. I encourage all who are able, to attend a meeting of the Chapter and reconnect with your fellow paratroopers. I would like to request that if you are able, to attend the Chapter renaming ceremony that will take place on November 13. Please help us honor this local hero.

Airborne. Bob

## Chapter Member Highlight Steven Koch



Steven was born 10-25-1984 and was youngest of three children to Christine and William Koch. Steven entered the Army in 2006 after seeing how much his brother Bill had been affected by terror attacks of 9-11-2001 in NYC. Bill was working there at that time, right across from the world trade center. Steven enlisted in the Army via Fort Dix (Their Ceremony Room is now named in Honor of Corporal Steven Koch), assigned to Army basic training, and then jump school at Fort Benning in Georgia. After graduating basic and paratrooper training, he was assigned to Fort Bragg in North Carolina into the 82nd Airborne Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 508th Infantry Regiment. Steven deployed to Afghanistan in January of 2007 to the Sabari District. Steven's platoon was situated in deep hostile territory in the early stages of the Afghanistan War, seeing action daily and taking back much of the lost territory from the Taliban in the process. An improvised explosive device hidden in a car that forced its way thru the army checkpoint, detonated outside the government building where Steven had been located. Steven was killed on March 3, 2008 along with Sgt Robert Rapp of California as a result of the explosion. There were also 4 others killed in the 508th during this deployment.

There is a Memorial at Our Lady of Lourdes School, (Steven's childhood school), honoring CPL Steven Koch and our POW-MIA's, along with paver stones at the East Brunswick Memorial Park and the Milltown American Legion.

## Veterans Administration Help Line

The Veterans Administration has established a contact number for all veterans that need assistance with any type of issue. They have stated that they are willing to help. The number you can reach them at is 1-800-MYVA-411 (800-698-1411). If you need any assistance with anything related to the Veterans Administration, give them a call.

## **SICK CALL**

Please take time to call or write to your Airborne Brothers...

Ed Busch 46 Yates Rd Manalapan, NJ 07726 732-303-0357

Ray LoLargo 68 Worden Ave Hopelawn, NJ 08861

## **TAPS**

A final salute to our departed Airborne Brothers

**Knauss, Ryan SSG, (1998 – 2021)**

Killed by the bomb blast near the Kabul, Afghanistan airport while providing security during the withdrawal.

## **82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division News**

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division had the privilege of welcoming BG Brandon Tegtmeier, the new Deputy Commanding General for Operations, to the All American Division. BG Tegtmeier previously held the position of Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

## **Army's "Scarlet Dragon" uses AI to destroy targets.**

The Army recently scanned 7,200 km across four states on the eastern seaboard and used artificial intelligence to find and destroy specific simulated targets in an area the size of a 10-square-foot box. It was all part of the Army's XVIII Airborne Corp artificial intelligence enabled live-fire target identification exercise on Thursday that used nearly 20 platforms and units from each of the other branches. The event was the fourth of its kind for the Scarlet Dragon program, which began in 2020. The Corps, assisted by elements of the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, worked with various platforms in all domains. A key ingredient was the National Geospatial-Intelligence Center, which provided satellite imagery for the computer software to find targets.

Due to safety concerns with weather conditions, no steel struck any targets, but Col. Melissa Solsbury, chief data officer for the Corps, told Army Times that the event "achieved machine to machine learning at a scale" previously unseen.

## **Chapter News**

The Chapter sincerely thanks all of the Chapter members that have purchased the raffle tickets.

The raffle winners from this year's raffle are:

First Prize – Joe Holley (\$550)

Second Prize – Mike McGaughey (\$250)

Third Prize – Chris Balint (\$135)

The Chapter officer elections are to take place at the December meeting of the Chapter. The current slate of candidates are as follows: Chairman – Vic Balint, Vice-Chairman – Dave Chelak, Secretary/Treasurer – Bob Dritschel, SGT at Arms – Henrik Moe, Chaplain – Charlie Moe.

## **National Association Website & Email**

Website: [www.82ndairborneassociation.org](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org)

Email: [execdir@82assn.org](mailto:execdir@82assn.org)

[execsec@82assn.org](mailto:execsec@82assn.org)

## **PARAGLIDE Website Address**

[www.82ndairborneassociation.org/paraglide.html](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/paraglide.html)

Take a look at these new format of the Paraglide, as it is much easier to read.

## **82<sup>nd</sup> Division News**

After nearly two decades of war in the Middle East, the last American troops withdrew from Afghanistan on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, was one of the last of American forces to leave. Earlier, Department of Defense officials announced that MG Donahue would join a brigade and battalion under the 82nd Airborne Division that was sent to support the mission of withdrawing Americans and eligible nationals. It was a mission that brought Osama Bin Laden to an end.

MG McKenzie said it was not a cheap mission, costing the lives of 2,461 U.S. service members and civilians, most recently 12 Marines, a sailor and a Fort Bragg soldier — [Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss](#) — killed by an ISIS-K suicide bomber last week.

## **Army Times Statistics**

### **Global War on Terror**

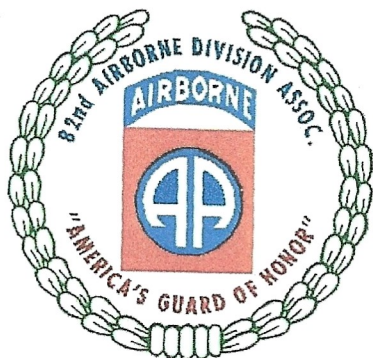
KIA – 2369      WIA – 20,245

Please note that recent casualty information is not included in these numbers. The *Army Times* does not update these figures anymore. As known to all, these numbers increase and will be updated as formal numbers are given.

## **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

Please contact the editor with any information pertinent to the chapter. Members can always contribute to the newsletter or the Facebook page. Updates of Chapter and Association records can be made by using the application on the newsletter or by the association website.

North Jersey Chapter  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div. Assoc.  
PO Box 82  
Milltown, NJ 08850



JOIN US AT OUR MEETINGS



**82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association Membership Application**  
**NORTH JERSEY "All Airborne" CHAPTER**



**Personal Information;**

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ (M.I.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (No email address will restrict your access to information)  
Chapter Preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate Chapter (Active Duty Only): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_  
SSN (last four only)/ASN: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one** \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership (\$35.00) \_\_\_\_\_ All American Life Member \$350.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Reinstate \_\_\_\_\_ Transfer \_\_\_\_\_ New Card (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ New Certificate (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Update  
**I would like to donate** \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other Amount  
To \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund to benefit the Association's Programs \_\_\_\_\_ Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Wounded Warrior Fund

**Service Information:**

Current Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired Military/Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty/Reserve/National Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Rank  
\*\*\*\*Time In Service: Entered Service (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ ETS Date (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_\*\*\*\*  
Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ from month/yr \_\_\_\_\_ to month/yr \_\_\_\_\_  
Combat Tour/Conflict \_\_\_\_\_ from month/yr \_\_\_\_\_ to month/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_