



DMAVA Highlights

October 23, 2008

Volume 8, Number 43

*NJ Dept of Military
and Veterans
Affairs*

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth
The Adjutant General

**Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-
Dodson**
Deputy Adjutant General

Col. (Ret) Stephen G. Abel
Deputy Commissioner for
Veterans Affairs

**Contacting us
is easy!**

Public Affairs
Office

Tech. Sgt. Barbara
Harbison
Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us

Or

609-530-6951

News For Your Views

Tribute to the Greatest Generation

On Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, Governor Jon S Corzine and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth will be dedicating the New Jersey World War II Memorial. Veterans Day is a fitting occasion to honor the men and women of the Greatest Generation for the sacrifices they made on behalf of our country more than 60 years ago. The ceremony will take place at 2:30 p.m. at the Statehouse Plaza across from the Memorial.

Please save this date on your calendar and pass the information onto everyone who would like to join us for this momentous event. The tribute promises to be an occasion that will make every Veteran and all New Jerseyans proud.

Mindful that a great many of you are having your own parades and ceremonies to honor local veterans on Nov. 11, we have planned our ceremony for later in the day. We hope that this will allow everyone to attend the dedication.

For additional information or to RSVP please call Ms. Angela Como at 609-530-6780 or visit our website at www.nj.gov/military/veterans/wwii_memorial/index.html.

Deployed member of 177th FW is recognized

Staff Sgt. Kara Kauffman, a member of the 177th Fighter Wing who is deployed to Iraq with the 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron, was recently recognized as Warrior of the Week. Only two Airmen are chosen each week from the more than 1,300 people that make up the 447th Air Expeditionary Group.

Among the things that Kauffman was cited for was the hours that she has volunteered to the Good Neighbor Program which helps local Iraqi families.

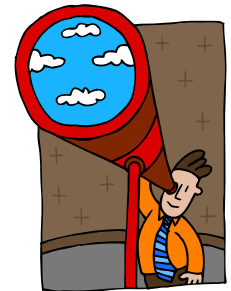
"Be a Star in Someone's Life"

The New Jersey National Guard Combined Federal Campaign has officially kicked off its 2008 Campaign which will run until the last week of November 2008.

The CFC provides each of us with an annual opportunity to voluntarily help others and ourselves by donating to the community, National and International level human, health and environmental organizations. This year there is the addition of an organization which may interest you: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard (EANGUS) "We Care for America" Foundation, Inc., CFC Donor ID #11859. This organization provides support to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and their families, through various programs such as The EANGUS Scholarship Program; Emergency Relief Program; The EANGUS Awards Program; Patriotism Awareness, and Veterans Against Drugs. Monies raised are also used to help families of mobilized Guard soldiers pay their mortgages, rent and hospital bills.

Contributions may be made via easy payroll deductions each year or by check.

Over the years, our Department has been most successful in this endeavor because of



We're on the Web!
www.nj.gov/military



Veterans' Organizations

Contact Information

State Veterans Service
Council
Mr. Richard Clark
RJClark21@msn.com

BG William C. Doyle
Cemetery Advisory
Council
Mr. William Rakestraw
warjrnj@msn.com

Veterans Hotlines



Benefits &
Entitlements
1-888-8NJ-VETS
(1-888-865-8387)

Mental Health
1-866-VETS-NJ4U
(1-866-838-7654)

your personal generosity and concern. We urge every employee to support this worthy cause. Catalogs and payroll deduction forms will be going out to all full time Federal Technicians and AGRs.

The CFC Coordinator for this year's Combined Federal Campaign is Jo Anne Miller, of the J1-HRO Office. For more information, please call 609-562-0851.

Find the latest "Guardlife" on the Web

The New Jersey National Guard Magazine "Guardlife," Vol. 34 No. 2 is now available in a user friendly online web version at the following address: <http://www.nj.gov/military/publications/guardlife/volume34no2/>. The "Hometown Team" magazine Guardlife provides up to date information on the happenings within the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. For all the current news on our soldiers and airmen take a look at the new issue today. To view past issues of Guardlife magazine online you can visit <http://www.nj.gov/military/publications/> on the DMAVA Publications homepage.

Veterans Journal Fall 2008 edition now available on the Web

The New Jersey "Veterans Journal" Fall 2008 edition is now available on the world wide web in a user friendly online version at the following web address: <http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/journal/fall2008/index.html>. The Veterans Journal is intended to serve New Jersey's veterans, their families, friends, and concerned individuals and groups. The journal provides up-to-date information on veterans' events, news, entitlements and services. Take a look at the new edition today.

Youth Camp 2009 dates set

From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator

The dates for 2009 Youth Camp are July 19-25, 2009 at Sea Girt.

Applications will be posted on the website, www.guardfamily.org/Youth, mid-December 2008. Please stay posted for more information.

HRD's Paul Serdiuk combines outdoors, matchmaking

If you are a single person looking for that special someone and have an interest in the outdoors, you might stop Paul Serdiuk of the Human Relations Division and sing the song from "Fiddler on the Roof,"

Matchmaker, Matchmaker,
Make me a match,
Find me a find,
Catch me a catch
Matchmaker, Matchmaker
Look through your book,
And make me a perfect match

Serdiuk leads hikes and kayak excursions for the Outdoor Club of South Jersey. While these are social outings and do not discriminate against couples, the outings are meant to provide a singles-only experience for men and women.

In a recent article in the Courier Post, Serdiuk told the reporter that he counts 22 marriages and more people who have become couples during his 11 years of leading the outdoor activities.

According to Serdiuk, the events tend to average around 30 people; a recurring moonlight hike and campfire is a favorite that has had as many as 80 participants.

Anyone who is interested in participating in activities run by the Outdoor Club of South Jersey, visit <http://www.ocsj.org/>. There are events for families as well as singles.

If you wish to read the entire article about Serdiuk, visit <http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008809040305>.

Veterans Day ceremony in Alliger Park on Nov. 8

NJ World War II Memorial



For information or to
make a donation, call
609-530-7049

Check out the Web site
to RSVP for the
Memorial's dedication on
Nov. 11 -
http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/wwii_memoorial/contact.html.



**Please submit
any articles
and all
information for
DMAVA
Highlights
to:**

**PAO Office
DMAVA Highlights
ATTN:
Staff Sgt. Barbara
Harbison**

**DEADLINE IS
NOON
WEDNESDAY**

**Tech. Sgt. Barbara
Harbison
Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us**

The Hopewell Valley Veterans Association is hosting a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. at Alliger Park. The event honors area veterans and features keynote speaker retired Col. Stephen Abel, New Jersey Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs. The ceremony also includes a benediction, unveiling of bricks donated in honor of veterans and military displays. Naval Sea Cadets will present national colors and refreshments will follow. The public is invited to attend this free event. Alliger Park is located on Washington Crossing- Pennington Road, adjoining the Hopewell Township municipal building. For additional information, visit www.HopewellValleyVeterans.org.

104th Engineer Association will hold holiday party

From the desk of retired 1st Sgt. Alfred Roberts

The 104th Engineer Association will hold its annual Christmas party on Dec. 11, 2008. All former members of the 104th Engineer Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, are invited to attend. Contact retired 1st Sgt. Roberts at 973-776-1364 during duty hours for further information.

Mercer County One-Stop holds vets job fair on Nov. 10

To celebrate Veteran's Day and to honor the hard working men and women who have served our country, the Mercer County One-Stop Career Center is sponsoring a Veterans Career Fair on Nov. 10, from 1-4 p.m. at the Lawrenceville Armory, Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville.

The Veterans Career Fair is open to all veterans and those who were recently released from active duty.

Dress professionally and bring 20 copies of your resume. Employers who will be seeking qualified candidates at the fair include Bank of America; Eastern Armored Services, Inc; Federal Air Marshall Service; AutoZone; Hyatt Regency Princeton; School Tyme Transportation; Securitas USA; Liberty Healthcare Services and many more.

Veterans representatives will also be available as well as the VA mobile health screening unit.

For information on the Job Fair or Resume and Interviewing Workshops, contact Lois Bunch, 609-292-3059, lois.bunch@dol.state.nj.us or Al Stahl, 609-292-0656, albert.stahl@dol.state.nj.us.

Veterans job fair in Philly on Nov. 20

RecruitMilitary will be hosting a Career Fair in cooperation with HireVets First and the American Legion on Nov. 20, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Citizen Bank Park. It is being hosted to benefit all veterans, transitioning military personnel, members of the Guard and Reserve, and military family members in Philadelphia and surrounding area.

To print a flyer about this free event, go to www.recruitmilitary.com/brochures/11-20-08_philly_candidate_pr.pdf.

Job seekers who would like to pre-register for the event can go www.recruitmilitary.com/careerfairs/careerfairs3.asp?CFID=152.

Picatinny holds Haunted House for Halloween

Come to the Picatinny Haunted House, Oct. 24-25, 6:30-9:30 p.m., tickets will be sold at the door. Cost is adults \$7, children (6-12) \$3, Graveside Dining and Cemetery Café seating available with hamburgers, hot dogs and chili.

Entrance to the Picatinny Haunted House will be through the Navy Hill Gate off Lake Denmark Road in Rockaway Township. Detailed directions can be found on the Picatinny Child and Youth Web site:

<http://www.pica.army.mil/mwr/cys/cyshomepage.htm>.

Children ages 6-12 must be accompanied by an adult. Not recommended for children under 6 years old. Proceeds benefit the Picatinny Youth Program, Military Unit Fund and Civil Air Patrol. No backpacks, large purses or cameras.

Wounded
Soldier and
Family
Hotline
1-800-984-
8523

Phone
numbers and
Web sites to
remember

Directory
Assistance:

1-602-293-4907

Verizon Super Pages:
<http://www.superpages.com/>

AT&T:
<http://www.anywho.com/>

SBC Yellow Pages:
<http://www.yellowpages.com/>

Telephone and
contact information
on state employees
can be found at
<http://njdirect.state.nj.us/>

DMAVA
Emergency
Hotline:

1-866-232-5798

Vets Haven receives more vehicles for residents

From the desk of Robert Sauselein, Superintendent of Veterans Haven

The State of New Jersey American Legion donated \$6,000 to Veterans Haven for the purchase of two vehicles to be raffled off to current residents of the program. On behalf of both the residents and staff I would like to thank the organization and especially Frank Calandrillo, State Commander, Dolores Gonzalez, State President American Legion Auxiliary and Frank Jiosi, Jr., Detachment Commander, Sons of The American Legion.

Judy Morris, a member of Rolling Thunder #2, donated at SR40 Suzuki 2005 motorcycle to the program. Since only one resident has a motorcycle license and a motorcycle we are going to trade in the bike for a car from a dealer in the area.

We also received a \$300 donation from N.J. Homeless Veterans Inc., located in Atlantic City.

State employees - saving for retirement

State employees – this is National Save for Retirement Week. For you, this means the New Jersey State Employees Deferred Compensation Plan.

If you are not already participating, now is the time to enroll. If you are already participating, consider increasing the amount you contribute.

Remember, no one has ever complained about having too much money in retirement but many have wished they saved more when they had the opportunity.

For information call toll-free 1-866-NJSEDCP (1-866-657-3327) or visit www.prudential.com/njsedcp. You can get help through your local NJSEDCP education consultant.

North Jersey - Rocco Attanasio - 609-571-5532 - rocco.attanasio@prudential.com
Statehouse/ Mercer County - Michael McConnell - 609-334-5202 - michael.mcconnell@prudential.com

Central Jersey - Karen Repmann - 609-273-6115 - karen.repmann@prudential.com
South Jersey - Patricia Scherer - 609-462-1239 - patricia.scherer@prudential.com
Various - Susan McAleavey - 609-472-1634 - susan.mcleavey@prudential.com

Pass on your BDUs, black boots to Civil Air Patrol cadets

Now that the ABUs and ACUs are filling your closet, what's happening to the BDUs and black boots that you used to wear? Before you start to tear the uniforms up for rags to wash the car, there is a worthy cause that can use them. The New Jersey wing of the Civil Air Patrol is a civilian, non-profit organization and an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. There are more than 1,100 members in the N.J. Wing, about half of them are cadets between the ages 12-21 and will wear the BDUs as part of their training.

The CAP program can give cadets a step up into their adult life – the first female pilot on the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration team, Maj. Nicole Malachowski, and the first female solo pilot in the Thunderbirds, Maj. Samantha Glinski Weeks, both got their start in CAP.

Uniform items can be dropped at the CAP N.J. Wing headquarters on McGuire Air Force Base, building 3412 on Neely Road (around the corner from the McGuire Medical Clinic). Duty hours are Monday and Wednesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesday noon to 9 p.m. For more information, call (609) 723-8200 or e-mail hq@njwg.cap.gov.

For more information about the Civil Air Patrol in New Jersey, visit www.njwgcap.org.

Red Cross offers presentation on services

From the desk of Lauren Gill, American Red Cross, Sussex County Chapter

Serving active-duty military personnel and their families for more than a century, the Sussex Chapter of the American Red Cross continues its outreach to the community-based military of Sussex County and invites members of the U.S. military and their

ESGR office
JFHQ
3650 Saylor's Pond
Road
Fort Dix, NJ 08641
Hank Pierre, 609-
562-0156,
hank.pierre@njdma
va.state.nj.us
Tammy Cartagena,
609-562-0157,
tammy.l.cartagena
@us.army.mil
Fax
609-562-0158

families to attend a free, one-hour presentation, "Get To Know Us Before You Need Us" for information on the services provided to military members and their families.

Please join the Red Cross and other military families on October 22 at 7 pm for this free presentation. Registration is required. Children are welcome and light refreshments will be served. Contact Lauren at 973-579-1600.

Roger Williams University holds Open House on Nov. 13

The New Jersey Army National Guard Education Office is sponsoring an Open House for Roger Williams University on Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. in the Main Conference Room, B119, New Jersey National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters, Building 3650, Fort Dix.

RWU Distance Learning Program offers seven undergraduate degrees, six undergraduate certificates and a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Up to three years of credit (90 credits) may be granted for: transfer credits from other colleges, military service and training, CLEP examinations, and credit for other elected learning experiences. The program features no-cost Educational Assessment and valuation, no-cost application process, along with year-round enrollment program and reduced tuition rates for military students.

All military branches and DA Civilians are welcome to attend (and bring your spouse). Call 609-562-0975 to reserve your seat.

DoD, YMCA team up to offer free memberships

Stars and Stripes--The Department of Defense has announced free family memberships for many servicemembers and their families at participating YMCAs. The new program is effective immediately.

The free YMCA memberships for Guard and Reserve families will be available while the servicemember is deployed for a minimum of six months. The deploying servicemember will also be eligible for three months pre- and postdeployment membership to promote family participation, according to a Friday news release.

Active-duty families assigned to independent duty stations, such as recruiting and ROTC assignments and not currently receiving support from the service component will also be eligible for free memberships. Single servicemembers are eligible for fitness center memberships worth up to \$50 a month.

Active-duty families at select bases will also be eligible as part of a pilot program. Memberships will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis with 300 to 450 family memberships available per joint base location, according to the news release. One of these bases is McGuire AFB/Ft. Dix/ Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station, N.J.

Additionally, 32 hours a month of free respite child care will be available for families of deployed National Guard and Reserve and geographically dispersed active-duty servicemembers in 10 states with YMCA child care programs preapproved by DOD.

Signing up for the program requires a YMCA/DOD eligibility form, a copy of deployment orders and military ID. The YMCA/DOD eligibility form is available at www.militaryonesource.com.

Campaign helps veterans battle mental health stigma

EDISON – The New Jersey Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma launched a public outreach initiative to help veterans battle mental health stigma and also announced special training for counselors who are working with the returning soldiers.

"Life Doesn't Have to Be a Battlefield...Don't Let Stigma Stand in Your Way" is a grassroots outreach campaign aimed at veterans who often suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and other mental illnesses.

"The sad truth is that our soldiers are having a difficult time getting the support they need when they come home," Governor Jon S. Corzine said. "We can't let this go on. It is our moral obligation to those who stand up for the rest of us. We must do everything we can to make sure we serve the people who serve our nation."

QUOTES

*Only
Americans can
hurt America.*

-Dwight D.
Eisenhower

*He that won't
be counseled
won't be
helped.*

- Benjamin
Franklin

*Victory has a
hundred
fathers but
defeat is an
orphan.*

- Galeazzo Ciano

*Whatever you
may be sure
of, be sure of
this: that you
are dreadfully
like other
people.*

- James Russell
Lowell

*When
elephants
fight it is the
grass that
suffers.*

- African saying

"These veterans should not have to fight any stigma when they seek help for the stresses that they suffered because of everything they have seen," said Council Executive Director, Celina Gray. "They have should not have to face another battle at home."

DHS Commissioner Jennifer Velez said collaboration between the Council, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs PTSD Task Force and the Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS) resulted in a campaign that should help educate veterans and the general public about the need to eradicate stigma and promote treatment.

"Governor Corzine continues to show his commitment to mental illness and to veterans by promoting this important initiative," Commissioner Velez said. "In this time of war and dire economic times, we need to do all we can to make sure that people get the proper treatment that can help them in their struggles."

"This initiative is so important in our efforts to meet the mental health needs of our veterans" said Major General Glenn K. Rieth, Adjutant General, DMAVA. "It is particularly significant in light of the fact that next year, we will also face the challenge of supporting three thousand troops currently deployed who will be returning to New Jersey."

Posters and other literature with the anti-stigma message – Life Doesn't Have to be a Battlefield...*Don't Let Stigma Stand in Your Way*– will be distributed throughout the state at the local level through community events and partnerships with mental health providers, veterans organizations, and other groups committed to this issue.

The Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma has initiated the training for New Jersey community mental health providers on the specific mental health care needs and issues of veterans. The training will focus on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and veterans benefits.

<http://www.nj.gov/mhstigmacouncil/index.shtml>

Haunted Farm offers Armed Forced Night Oct. 30

Active Acres Haunted Farm, 881 Highland Road, Newtown, Pa., is having an Armed Services Night at the Farm on Oct. 30. Buy two tickets and get one free with a military ID. The farm is open from 7-10 p.m. and features live bands, hayrides, bonfires, a haunted corn maze, laser game and refreshments. For more information visit www.activeacresfarm.com or call 215-860-6855.

For Your Calendar

Cherry Hill armory flea market, craft show, pancake breakfast, Oct. 25

The Cherry Hill 328th MP Family Readiness Group is holding a Flea/Craft Market on **Oct. 25**, 8a.m.-3 p.m. at the armory. Sell your crafts or stuff from your garage. Cost is \$10 a spot and it is BYOT (bring your own table). All money raised will go to support the families and Soldiers of the 328th.

The Gibbsboro-Voorhees Lions Club will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, 8:30-11 a.m.; all proceeds go towards care packages for the Soldiers.

For reservations or information, call 856-435-3717. Leave a message and you will get a call back.

Cherry Hill armory is haunted!!

From the desk of Michele Daisey, Woodbury Family Assistance Center

The 328th Military Police Family Readiness Group is having a "safe" trick or treat Haunted Armory on **Nov. 1**, 3-8 p.m. There will be two rooms set up for kids to enjoy. One room will be for the little guys and gals with friendly effects, while the other will be scary for the older crowd.

Cost is \$1 plus donations for the soldiers. Cherry Hill armory is located at the intersection of Park and Grove streets.

Here are items from the Soldier's wish list: beef jerky, powered drink mixes (single serving size), pretzels, trail mix, sunflower seeds, cup of soup, breakfast or granola bars, candy (no chocolate), white socks (100 percent cotton), foot powder, gel inserts for shoes, corn pads, eye drops, eye glass cleaner, commercially sealed lip balm, DVD movies, music CDs, PSP games, Lego's, models, calling cards (international), bandana coolers/Cool-Ties*, mini battery-operated fans, or other personal cooling products and neck warmers.

Schools, Training

254th Regiment provides class schedule for 2009 training year

The following courses will be conducted by the 254th Regiment, New Jersey Army National Guard, at Sea Girt and Fort Dix during training year 2009.

INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING COURSES (IDT):

- ❖ The Army Basic Instructor Training Course: April 4-June 13, 2009
- ❖ Small Group Instructor Course: Jan. 10-March 7, 2009 (1st); July 11-Sept. 19, 2009 (2nd)
- ❖ Pre WARRIOR Leadership Courses (3 Classes, 3 weekends per class):
- ❖ Jan. 10-Mar 8, 2009; April 4-June 14, 2009; , and July 11-Sept. 20, 2009
- ❖ Officer Candidate School: Phase 2 Class 52 Aug. 9, 2008-June 14, 2009
- ❖ Officer Candidate School: Phase 0 Class 53 begins March 7, 2009; Phase 2 is Aug. 1, 2009-June 14, 2010.

ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING COURSES

*NOTE: There will be no Inactive Duty Training (IDT) BNCOC this year. There will be an Active Duty BNCOC Course running for two weeks in December 2008. This is a Phase I Common Core Course.

- ❖ Basic NCO Course: Dec. 6-20, 2008
- ❖ 91W10 Medic Sustainment: Feb. 9-18, 2009
- ❖ 13F10 MOS-T Fire Support Specialist: March 14-21, 2009
- ❖ Company Level Command Team Course (for new Commanders and their 1SGs): April 18-19, 2009
- ❖ 11B10 MOS-T Infantryman: May 9-23, 2009
- ❖ 11B2/3/4 (T) Infantryman Transition: May 9-23, 2009
- ❖ 11B30 Basic NCO Course Phase II: June 6-20, 2009
- ❖ 31B10 MOS-T Military Police: Feb. 22-March 6, 2009

Combat Lifesaver Course: Send unit request to Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Cosmanic at Stephen.r.cosmanic@us.army.mil.

Questions should be addressed to 1st Sgt. Gary Davidson, 732-974-6312. ATRRS School Code: 1004.

Retirements, Reunions

112th Field Artillery Association holding reunion, Nov. 8-9

The 112th Field Artillery Annual is holding a reunion on **November 8-9** at the National Guard Armory, Lawrenceville, N.J.

Festivities on Nov. 8 are a reception at 4 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m., and dancing at 7 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person and the attire is semi-formal.

On Nov. 9, services will be held at 11 a.m. and a lunch will be served at noon. There will be no cost for the day's activities and the attire is casual.

Reservations must be received by Nov. 5. Send money, seating preference and meal selection – chicken, beef or fish – to 112th FA Assn, 151 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. Checks should be made payable to the 112th FA Assn.

Essex Troop will hold holiday party on Dec. 13

The Essex Troop Christmas party will be held at Zeris Restaurant, 372 Route 46,

Mountain Lakes, on **Dec. 13**. Details will follow.

Gala reunion planned for former, current 170th/108th personnel

Come one, come all – active or retired – for a fun-filled weekend with trips down memory lane. A Gala Reunion is being planned for all of the faces of the 170th and 108th Air Refueling Wing on **April 25, 2009**.

The elegant semi-formal will be held at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, 200 Atrium Drive, Somerset, NJ, 6-11 p.m.

A deposit of \$50 is required per person as soon as possible. Hotel reservation, rates and activities will be announced at a later date.

For more information, contact Gloria A. Smith, 732-752-8263/732-991-9102 or Phyllis Jackson-Rackley, 908-451-7147/908-730-6377.

Say Again?



DMAVA emergency hotline is up and running

Winter is just around the corner and with that comes weather that can make driving to work difficult. There may be times that the department may have a delayed opening or even closures. If there is a question, call the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Hotline:

1-866-232-5798

You will then hear the following message:

You have reached the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Information Number. Please list to the following menu choices and select an appropriate option:

- ❖ State employees – press 1
- ❖ Federal employees – press 2
- ❖ National Guard employees – press 3

Select the appropriate selection and you will hear a pre-recorded message providing further instructions or details regarding the emergency and/or inclement weather reporting instructions.

Earn up to \$8,500 for officer accessions in G-RAP

From the desk of Warrant Officer Misty L. DiGangi, AMEDD Recruiter

Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting ARNG recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the ARNG. RAs may earn up to \$8,500 for each select Officer Candidate who accepts a Commission.

As a G-RAP RA you will cultivate quality Officer Candidates from within your spheres of influence and work with an Officer Strength Manager (OSM) or Warrant Officer Strength Manager (WOSM) to process the Officer Candidate and move them towards accession.

The total amount of payment for an Officer Accession is determined by the ARNG's current critical needs and the GRAP-O payment chart. There are four categories by which RAs will receive payment for Officer Accessions. RAs can earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training or for each prior service member.

G-RAP is available to Traditional Guard members and National Guard retirees. For more information, go to <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/>.

Company looking for Desert Storm vets who saw Super Bowl XXV

Were you deployed to the Desert Storm /Desert Shield area of operations AND watched the Super Bowl in January 1991 from the AO? If so, a production company creating a video about that Super Bowl would like to talk to you.

It was Super Bowl XXV, played in Tampa, Fla., between the New York Giants and the Buffalo Bills. The Giants won the game in the closest score in Super Bowl history, 20-19. Buffalo's placekicker Scott Norwood missed a field goal wide right with three seconds left in the game.

If your living room seat was in the theater of operations for the first Iraq war, call Steve Palgon, 646-246-5697 as soon as possible.

NJARNG looking to fill their soccer team

From the desk of Master Sgt. Alex Estrada

The New Jersey Army National Guard is looking for soccer players to play during the (FY) 2008-2009 indoor season at the International Sports Center at Cherry Hill, N.J. For anyone interested in joining the team, contact Sgt. Jose Castro at 609-562-0234 or jose.castro4@us.army.mil or Master Sgt. Alex Estrada at 609-562-0568 or alexandro.estrada@us.army.mil for further information.

Sign up for G-RAP and make \$\$\$\$

Sign up today and earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists into the National Guard and reports to basic training.

The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply to become eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiting Assistant (RA).

G-RAP is available to Traditional Guard members and National Guard retirees. This opportunity is open to both Army and Air Guard members. For more information, go to <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/>.

Federal absentee voting open to military, family

The Uniformed And Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) allows the following U.S. citizens to vote absentee:

- ❖ Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services (on active duty) and merchant marine,
- ❖ Their family members, and
- ❖ U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.

Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services or merchant marine and their family members may vote absentee while away from their place of voting residence, wherever stationed, inside or outside the United States.

U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories may vote in the state or territory where they last resided immediately prior to departing the United States, even if many years have elapsed and the citizen maintains no residence in the state or territory and the intent to return to that state or territory may not be certain.

1. <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpcapca.pdf>
2. <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html#ch3>

Army has new Web site to aid those who want to help

The U.S. Army has put up a web site to facilitate donations from the public to help soldiers and their families at <http://giftstoarmy.army.mil>. While the Army states very clearly that they are not soliciting contributions they are providing lots of information on how to make donations in areas of concern, such as Soldiers and families, Wounded Warriors and Army installations.

Joyce Morrow, the administrative assistant to the Secretary of the Army, explained: "Many individuals have asked how they can help the Army. We appreciate how generous the public is and the concern they have for the welfare of our soldiers and families. We've developed this Web site to provide information on how to contribute money, goods or services to benefit Soldiers and their Families." [Source: TREA Washington Update, Aug. 29, 2008]

Honor Guard program wants YOU!

Looking for a way to serve and get some satisfaction at the same time? The Honor Guard program is looking for members of the Army and Air Guard to join the team to perform honor guard duties at the funerals of veterans. There is an initial eight hours of training for all new enrollees, with on-going sustainment training. As an honor guard member, you will receive a day of pay for each day's mission, minimum of \$50, and traditional drilling Guard members receive a retirement point for each day's duties.

If you are interested in applying for the Honor Guard program, call retired Sgt. Maj. Ed Goetschius at 609-530-7090.

Reduced rates on NJ Transit for military, dependents

Here is another benefit offered to military members, retirees and their dependents by the state of New Jersey.

Eligible passengers may ride at reduced fare rates on any NJ Transit bus, rail or light rail service at all times, without restriction, upon presentation of authorized identification.

All military personnel and their dependents will be permitted to purchase transportation at the senior citizen/passengers with disabilities reduced fare rate upon showing their military or military dependent ID card. The following military personnel are entitled to this fare: Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard or Retired for Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard.

Information for N.J. state employees

Flu shots for state employees being scheduled

From the Division of Veterans Healthcare Services

DMAVA will again be administering flu shots to STATE employees. Each directorate should forward the names of their personnel interested in receiving the vaccine to Karen Wallace, 609-530-6766.

Send each person's full name, division and work location where they will receive the vaccination, no later than **Oct. 31**.

Flu shots will be administered at Central Office, the Veterans Cemetery, and the three Veterans Memorial Homes. The tentative date for the vaccination is Nov. 18 or 19.

Pension loan applications to be submitted through MBOS

From the desk of Lisa Dandrea, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant

NOTICE from the Division of Pensions and Benefits:

Effective Nov. 1, 2008, an eligible member who wishes to borrow against their pension account, **MUST** submit the loan request through the Pension Loan Application accessible through a personal account with the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS). Please note the following changes:

- ❖ The *Loan Application* will no longer be available as a printed form or through the Division's Web site.
- ❖ Paper *Loan Applications* that are received by mail as of Nov. 1, 2008, will be returned to members with instructions on submitting the loan request through MBOS.
- ❖ The loan fax number, which has been phased out of use since the introduction of loans through MBOS, will be completely disabled.
- ❖ Limited access to a computer or a member's reluctance to use MBOS **will not** be considered sufficient circumstances to allow manual loan processing.

Employees who are already registered MBOS users currently have access to the online loan application through their MBOS account.

Employees who are new to MBOS can access MBOS after they register with both the *MyNewJersey* Web site *and* MBOS. Registration is free; however, the registration process requires several steps and new users should carefully follow the MBOS registration instructions. Visit <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/>

[mbosregister.htm](#) for a complete list of instructions. If, after following the MBOS Registration Instructions, you still need assistance registering for or using MBOS, please contact the MBOS Help Desk at (609) 777-0534 or send an e-mail with the subject line "MBOS E-mail" to: pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us

Looking for volunteers to assist in emergencies at DMAVA offices

From the desk of Paul Serdiuk, Training Coordinator

We are looking for volunteers within the DMAVA Central Office complex who would be willing to be trained in Adult CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) application should an emergency arise within offices. You would receive this free training and, in turn, agree to apply the skills learned if an emergency situation should arise at the central office. Training would be held sometime in the latter part of September. We would like to train at least two individuals from each section in CPR/AED. Contact me at 609-530-6878 if you are willing to volunteer for this life-saving training.

If you have not yet noticed, the AED units are up and ACTIVE on the first and second floors in the fire hose cabinets. Please do not touch the units as an alarm will sound when they have been disturbed.

Employees required to register for MBOS

From the desk of Lisa J. Dandrea, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant

MBOS is the Member Benefits Online System. Through MBOS, employees may review their pension contributions, loan status, health benefits information, update their beneficiary information, apply for retirement, as well as many other applications. It has been encouraged that all employees register for this helpful tool. However Pensions is now working on MBOS being a requirement in order for employees to make certain updates to their personal information.

Effective immediately, in all cases where an employee is eligible to become a member of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), the employer will be required to submit all enrollment information to Pensions via online. Important to note is that the online PERS Enrollment Application does not include the Designation of Beneficiary page. Instead, once the member is enrolled and issued a pension number, they must register for a MBOS account at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.htm and complete the online Beneficiary Designation form. Until the member completes his or her Designation of Beneficiary, the member's "Estate" will be the beneficiary of record.

Current employees –note, even if you are already enrolled into PERS, if you wish to make any changes to your beneficiary information, you too will need to be registered for MBOS. Members will not be able to submit the Change in Beneficiary Designation paper form since this will no longer be acceptable through the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Visit the link above for complete instructions to register for MBOS. If you encounter any problems with registration, you may e-mail Pensions and Benefits with your questions/concerns and they can assist you through the process. You may also obtain a tri-fold brochure with MBOS instructions from your Human Resources Office.

No handbooks available for NJDIRECT

Inquiries about NEW handbooks and directories for NJDIRECT has prompted this reply from Pensions and Benefits:

"Unfortunately, we do not have NJ Direct Handbooks to give to members and will not be receiving a supply. Members may visit the NJ Direct website www.horizonblue.com/shbp. Members without computers are encouraged to use their local library or a relative's computer or call the plan directly".

You may also look up benefit information and visit the Unified Provider Directory on the Pensions and Benefits website under State Health Benefits Program.

State employees who move, marry must contact HR department

From the desk of Lisa Dandrea, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant

If you are a state employee, working for DMAVA, Vets Haven, and the Cemetery, and you have an address change and/or a name change, it is *extremely* important that you contact Lisa Dandrea in the Human Resources Office. There have been a lot of issues with tax W2s, pension statements and pay checks being returned to our office, as well as some employees not receiving their new health cards, all due to incorrect addresses. Your address change is not automatic and it is not limited to completing a new W4. There are specific forms for employees to complete that updates their new information statewide. Your change of address or name affects your paycheck, your pension statements, W2s, loans, any information sent out by your health care provider, promotional announcements from Dept. of Personnel, etc. If you have had an address/name change and have not updated your information, please make sure you contact Lisa Dandrea in HRD-ESB at 609-530-6888 or e-mail Lisa.Dandrea@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Discounts offered for State employees

Are you a state employee looking to save a few \$\$\$?

Visit www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm and you can find a number of businesses who offer discounts to New Jersey state employees. From amusement parks to fitness to computer to phones and lots of other discounts between, you will find many ways to save money. For more information, please contact Cindy Leese at cindy.leese@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-7056.

For the Families

Click and find out which FAC supports your armory

If you are not sure which Family Assistance Center supports your armory, here is the way to find out. By going to the new and growing New Jersey FAC Web site you will be able to locate the FAC nearest you. It also gives you a place to e-mail your questions and concerns. Just go to <http://www.nj-fac.org>.



Additional dental cleaning allowed during pregnancy by Tricare

The TRICARE Management Activity announced an enhancement to maternity dental benefit through United Concordia. An additional cleaning in a 12-month period will now be allowed at no additional cost for all pregnant TRICARE Dental Program enrollees. The additional cleaning is in response to research indicating there is an increase risk of dental disease during pregnancy. For more information about dental health during pregnancy, go to: http://www.ada.org/public/topics/pregnancy_faq.asp.

Support for military children of deployed and injured Guard members

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance specialist

Our Military Kids (OMK) provides tangible support to the children of deployed and severely injured National Guard and Military Reserve personnel through grants for enrichment activities and tutoring that nurture and sustain the children during the time a parent is away in service to our country. OMK grants are made to honor the sacrifices military parents make and to ensure that the children have access to activities and support that help the children better cope with challenges arising during a parent's deployment or injury recovery. For additional information go to www.ourmilitarykids.org

No-cost prescription savings plan available

From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

Here is a no cost to you prescription savings program. This program offers discounts on all generic prescription medications at your local pharmacy. You do not have to do anything special to qualify. There is no income, residence, employment, age, citizenship or any other qualifications to meet. Not even an application to fill out. The

Family State Programs Office at Joint Force Headquarters, Fort Dix has the group ID cards. Call Marie Durling at 609-562-0739 and one will be mailed to you. For more information check out www.mediservrx.com.

During the Deployment Information

Federal grant for spouses of deployed military

Grants from a funding from the Department of Community Affairs are available for spouses of deployed or recently deployed military (all branches across the state). Typical awards are \$2,500 each and are available for financial difficulties (such as past due rent and childcare) as well as for recreational and stress relieving activities for kids. For more information contact Rene Mainor, Military Grant Liaison, Women's Opportunity Center, YMCA of Burlington County by calling 609-543-6200 Ext. 235 or by email at fawnm@ymca-bc.org.

N.J. Family Readiness Council increases grants to families, businesses

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has increased the amounts of family and business grants up to \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Both are what are known as TIER I grants. TIER II family grants are also available to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500. Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers.

Hero Packs to children of deployed military

From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator

Hero Packs are Operation Military Kids backpacks filled with a variety of items from the OMK partner agencies, which are given to military youth as a "Thank You" for the sacrifices that they make while their loved ones are deployed.

Across the nation, OMK has presented Hero Packs to more than 45,000 military youth since 2004. Hero Packs contain a variety of items intended to provide children with fun activities and ways to stay connected to their deployed parents. In addition, information is provided to parents regarding local support programs for children and families.

Here in New Jersey we will be having Hero Pack Ceremonies for children and youth who have a deployed loved one starting this month at various armories across the state. Youth will be presented with a certificate and Hero Pack and then will be able to enjoy a snack and juice after the ceremony with their friends and family. There are four events scheduled, with more to be added.

Nov. 5, 7 p.m. – Morristown armory

Nov. 17, 6 p.m. – Toms River armory

If you would like your child to participate and receive a Hero Pack, contact Amanda Balas at 609-562-0742, 1-888-859-0352, Amanda.balas@us.army.mil or amandabalas@hotmail.com. Permission slips for the event must be completed and sent to the office no later than two weeks prior to the event.

Picatinny "Waiting Family Support Group" open to new members

From the desk of Doris Clark, Picatinny Arsenal

The Hearts Apart Support Group known as Waiting Family Support Group is sponsored by Picatinny Arsenal Army Community Service to help families cope with geographical separation due to deployment, accompanied tour or extended temporary duty. The group meets monthly and provides emotional and moral support to its members in a friendly relaxed atmosphere. This group is open to all branches of service. Come join us for great information, laughs, tears and be a part of the Waiting Family. The group meets monthly at 7 p.m. in the Community Center (building 3225) Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

Point of contact for this group is Doris Clark, Relocation/Deployment Readiness, 973-724-5219. RSVP in case non-identification holders need permission to access Picatinny Arsenal. Mark your calendars. Please join us for great evening each month. Call with any questions regarding the group.

The remaining schedule for 2008 is: **Oct. 23, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.**

Give parents a break

Child Youth Services at Fort Dix and many other active duty posts provide 16 hours per child per month of free hourly/respite child care to relieve family stress during deployment. Respite care begins 30 days prior to deployment and ends 60 days after return. Drop off the kids while shopping at the commissary or PX or just to get some quiet time to yourself. For additional information, contact Cathy Spiegall at Fort Dix Outreach Services 609-562-2242.

Dog Tags for Kids program

Dog Tags for Kids is a grassroots project which enables service members to send engraved dog tags to their children. The dog tags are provided free and are sent directly to the service members who personally send them to their children at home. The dog tags are engraved with "With Love From Dad/Mom" and include the branch of service, deployment location, and the year. To donate to the project or to request a dog tag for your children, please go to <http://www.dogtagsforkids.com/>.

Child care \$\$\$\$ available for spouses of deployed military

From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator

Child care money is available for spouses of Title 10 Army National Guard activated Soldiers only. If the spouses are employed, seeking employment (for 60 days) or going to school, they can qualify for a \$100 per month per child stipend for fulltime care (licensed child care provider required). Call the National Guard Child Care Program today to apply 1-888-642-2799 or ngccp@guardfamily.org.

FRG volunteers needed

Family Readiness Groups (FRG) play an important role during deployments.

Yet, in order to be successful, these groups rely on the support of volunteers.

FRGs are comprised of volunteers who donate their time to make sure our Soldier's "Homefront Heroes" are supported through networking with other family members and mutually offering support to one another.

If you would like to be a volunteer or a participant please contact your local Family Assistance Center. You can reach them by calling our toll free number 888-859-0352 and selecting the prompt of the Family Assistance Center near you.

Reserve Aid gives support to families of deployed service members

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

Reserve Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing financial support to the families of Reserve Service Members called to active duty in all five branches of the Armed Forces. Reserve Aid makes unrestricted, need based grants to military families who have a Reserve service member on full-time deployment to a combat zone or homeland security position. Their goal is to alleviate the emotional and financial burdens placed on the men and women called to serve our country by supporting their families at home. For additional information and application procedures go to: www.reserveaid.org

N.J. licenses, registration extended for deployed troops

New Jerseyans who are on active duty military, in the National Guard or the military reserves, serving in the war on terrorism, are eligible for automatic extensions of a valid driver license, registration or inspection expiration dates. Go to www.nj.gov/mvc/ for more information.

Financial counseling available for deployed service members

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

The Military Housing Assistance Fund (MHAF) helps military families to become homeowners by providing them with grants to assist them with purchasing a home. The Fund also provides financial counseling to members of the National Guard and Reserves, deployed and serving in combat zones overseas, which are having problems meeting their monthly obligations due to their deployment and activation. Learn more at <http://www.militaryhousingassistancefund.org>. The Fund is a project of the Financial Counselors of America (FCA), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to help Americans manage their finances and get out of debt. Visit the FCA website at <http://www.financialcounselors.org>.

Order a complimentary Blue Star Flag to show your family's service

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

The Blue Star Flag first appeared in 1917, when Capt. Robert L. Queissner, who had two sons serving on the front line, designed it as a tribute to their dedication and service. He proudly displayed this flag in the front window of his home and the flag quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service. Also known as a Service Flag, the blue star stands for hope and pride. Order a complimentary Blue Star Flag to honor your loved ones in the service by visiting: www.grantham.edu/promo/freebluestar.php.

Morris County offers program for military families

From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator

Family Service of Morris County in partnership with the Family Programs Office, New Jersey, would like to announce its Military Families Outreach Program. Based on a community effort, the Military Families Outreach Program strives to support Morris County military personnel and their families, including extended families, pre-deployment, during deployment and post-deployment.

We realize the pressures and problems that may occur when a family member is called to duty, and we want to assist with any services that you may need to ensure quality of life. Social services, support services and mental health services are some of the resources that will be available to Morris County residents. All services offered in this program are free of charge to you and your family and are bound by the highest consideration for complete confidentiality.

For more information about the Military Services Outreach Program, contact Valerie Hart, Military Families Outreach Case Manager at vhart@fsmc.org or call 973-538-5260, extension 326. You can also contact Tammy Rosenthal, Director of child and Adolescent Services at trosenthal@fsmc.org or 973-538-5260. We are privileged to work with you who have given so much for your country!

Post Office offers boxes, discount rate to FPO/APO addresses

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

Now the U.S. Postal Service is making it easier for families to send care packages with a larger flat rate box and a special discount to FPO/ APO addresses. They are 50 percent larger than the current flat rate box and can be sent to any domestic address for \$12.95. A special military version of the box will carry the "America Supports You" logo and can be shipped to any FPO/ APO address for \$10.95. The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box is "12 x 12" x 5½". For complete guidelines on mail services to military members overseas visit the USPS website at: www.usps.com/supportingouttroops/welcome.htm?from=household &page=troopsupport.

Sports

Jack Green 5K run/walk slated for Oct. 26

The second running of the Jack Green Memorial 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for Oct. 26. Starting at 8:30 a.m. from the base gym, building 229, the race will be held at the Air Guard Air Base, Egg Harbor Township. The first 250 participants will receive a commemorative coin; which is a new design for 2008.

Early registration – if received by Oct. 25 is \$15 – day of event will be \$20. Race day registration will be held at base gym from 6:30-8 a.m.

For more information contact MSgt Frank Heath at 609-645-6109; to request an application e-mail to: frank.heath@njatla.ang.af.mil. Completed applications can be mailed to: Master Sgt. Frank Heath (MXQ), 400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234.



Sixers offering special on tickets for Veterans Day

Come watch the Philadelphia 76ers play the Utah Jazz on **Nov. 11** at 7 p.m. in the Wachovia Center and enjoy the Sixers special Veterans Day offer.

The offer includes 50 percent off discounted tickets available to all service members, veterans, family and friends, special on-court recognition for any service member ordering 50 tickets or more and a Veterans Day theme throughout the night.

Cost of the tickets ranges from \$15 for mezzanine corner seats, \$22.50 for mezzanine center and \$27 for lower level end seats.

For more information contact Marie Durling at 609-562-0739 or marie.durling@nj.ngb.army.mil.

Travel Help, Ideas



Guard history lessons for family at Sea Girt museum

Looking for a local place to take the family for a history lesson? Try the National Guard Museum of New Jersey in Sea Girt.

The museum had a recent face-lift and upgraded its exhibits which tell the story of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guards and the Naval Militia of New Jersey from the Revolutionary war to the Global War on Terrorism.

The four gallery rooms feature diaries, uniforms, vehicles, weapons and even a Civil War submarine built in 1865.

Open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday and the same hours on the first and second weekends of the month, admission to the museum is free of charge, but a donation is requested. Groups who would like to make arrangements for tours should call 732-974-5966.

Free tickets to Busch Adventure Parks for military, families

Any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission to a Anheuser-Busch Adventure Park under the Here's to the Heroes program. He or she need only register, either by going to this Web site <http://www.herosalute.com/> and submitting his or her information or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependent ages 10 and over must present valid dependent I.D. Busch Gardens Williamsburg and SeaWorld San Antonio are seasonal operations that will remain closed until spring 2008. Military personnel interested in visiting those parks should check operating schedules. The remaining parks, SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld San Diego are

open year round.

Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Water Country USA, Adventure Island. Not valid at Discovery Cove and Aquatica.

Armed Forces Vacation Club offers affordable lodging

The Armed Forces Vacation Club is a "space available" program offering Department of Defense affiliated personnel affordable condominium vacations at over 3,500 resorts around the world. Visit www.afvclub.com/ for more information.

Scholarship, Education News



Help available to students studying for SAT/ACT

In cooperation with the Department of Defense, eKnowledge Corporation, a leading supplier of interactive test preparation products for college entrance exams, along with a group of NFL players, have donated more than \$16 million worth of multimedia SAT/ACT Test Preparation products to service members and their families worldwide.

Now in its fourth year, the eKnowledge/NFL player sponsorship effort has shipped more than 90,000 free SAT/ACT test preparation programs, valued at \$200, to military servicemembers and their families.

The eKnowledge SAT and ACT test prep programs come in either a single DVD or two CD-ROM set that include more than 11 hours of high quality video training/instruction with up to 40 hours of student interactive learning participation. The SAT and ACT test prep programs can be used as a stand-alone instruction tool to prepare thoroughly for the SAT and ACT, or as a supplement to other SAT and ACT preparation materials. Each student can select the areas where they need additional or special training/instruction, and can then study at their own pace using the 120 video lessons which comprise the SAT and Act test prep programs. The program also provides the student with feedback on their learning progress, test readiness and more.

Those military families interested in receiving free eKnowledge products under this sponsorship can complete an online request form at <http://eknowledge.com/military> or visit the Department of Defense <http://militaryhomefront.dod.mil> Web site for more details. Copies can also be requested by calling 951-256-4076 or via e-mail at support@eknowledge.com.

Education news for NJARNG

Education Services Brochure Booklet (ESB2)

Access the New Jersey Army National Guard's ESB2 at www.nj.gov/military/education. The ESB2 is a comprehensive guide with links and shortcuts to civilian education benefits available to New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers.

G.I. Bill Notice of Basic Eligibility

New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers can print their Eligibility of Mobilized Soldier notification letter for CH 1607 as well as Notice Of Basic Eligibility for CH 1606 at <https://www.nationalguardbenefits.com>; click on G.I. Bill Home Page.

American Legion offers scholarships, booklet on their Web site

The American Legion has scholarship information on their Web site – www.legion.org – including the 152-page booklet, *Need a Lift*, which is a complete financial aid reference guide for veterans, family members and the American Legion family. When you get on the site, click on "Scholarship Information" in the "Useful Links" block.

Association News



117th Cav Association announces meeting schedule

The 117th Cavalry Association, whose mission is to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country, announces its upcoming meetings. They will be held at 7:30 p.m., at the Westfield Armory's Heritage Room. The next meeting will be on **Nov. 7**.

NGANJ group life insurance available to members

Are you covered by the NGANJ Group Life Insurance Program? As a member of either the Officers or the Enlisted Association, you are entitled to enroll in your Association Life Insurance Program. This special program provides from \$5,000 to \$50,000 of Life Insurance for you, "round the clock". Premiums range from as little as \$2 per month and may be payroll-deducted from your drill check. Family coverage is also available at low rates designed for you as a member of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. Think of it!! No aviation exclusions...No hazardous duty restrictions...No war clauses...No checks to write. Family coverage includes spouses and all children. Information can be obtained by contacting retired CWO Jack Petrosilli at 609-530-6843, or retired Brig. Gen. Robert S. Dutko Sr. at 609-273-1004. Enrollment forms can be obtained by calling retired Col. Frank L. Carlone, Program Coordinator at 732-249-8335.

Veterans Information

VSO starting outreach on Monmouth University campus

Starting Sept. 16, DMAVA Veterans Service Officer Donald McNamara will be doing outreach work at Monmouth University on the third Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. He will be there to provide assistance to veterans and their families, helping them to apply for the benefits for which they are eligible to receive.

Help for small business owners

If you are ready to start your own business, grow or expand, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) can help. The SBA offers many programs and services to help Veteran entrepreneurs succeed. For more information on how SBA can help you start, grow and build your business, contact: Frank Burke at 973-645-6049 or e-mail frank.burke@sba.gov Visit the SBA New Jersey website at www.sba.gov/nj

VA Suicide Hotline

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a national suicide prevention hot line for veterans. VA's hot line will be staffed by mental health professionals in Canandaigua, N.Y. They will take toll-free calls from across the country and work closely with local VA mental health providers to help callers. The toll-free hot line number is 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255).

DoD develops compensation and benefits handbook

DoD announced today it has developed a comprehensive handbook describing compensation and other benefits service members and their families would be entitled to upon separation or retirement as a result of serious injury or illness.

"The Compensation and Benefits Handbook is the one source of information that covers everything a seriously ill and injured service member will need during his or her recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration," said Ronald A. Winter, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs.



The handbook was compiled in cooperation with the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and the Social Security Administration. Additionally; there are references to assistance provided by other governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations.

"The handbook describes the disability eligibility process, various program qualifications, application procedures, and numerous resources with associated contact information," said Sharon Gunselman, policy and resource analyst for the Department of Defense.

Web sites and toll-free numbers are provided, and the electronic version includes hyperlinks. The electronic version of the handbook will be updated frequently and the hard copy of the compensation and benefits handbook will be updated annually.

The electronic version of the handbook can be found on the five Web sites listed below:

<http://turbotap.org>

<https://www.nko.navy.mil>

<http://www.npc.navy.mil>

<https://www.aw2.army.mil>

<https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/AFP40/d/1073755231/Files/C&BHandbook>

Helmets to Hardhats

The New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council's Helmets to Hardhats Program (NJ H2H) is designed to help transitioning military personnel, National Guardsmen and Reservists find the careers in the building and construction industry. The program seeks to help military members find a career in one of 15 affiliated trades, such as electrical workers, carpenters and painters.

They work in cooperation with the national Helmets to Hardhats program, adding a personal component to the program's on-line services. NJ H2H offers veterans preparation for successful application to any of New Jersey's registered apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades. Services include career counseling, entrance test preparation and referral to supportive services.

For program registration and information, visit online at www.njbctc.org/h2h or contact at 732-499-7295 or at H2H@njbctc.org.

Web site provides support to separating military members

TurboTAP (Transition Assistance Program) is an easy to use, interactive Web portal that provides life-long support to separating military service members (Active Duty, Guard and Reserve) and their families. It is a single source starting point for accessing key resources available for servicemembers transitioning out of the military at any point in their military career. Resources include Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Education, Small Business Administration, the National Veterans Corporation and the National Guard Bureau. For more information go to www.TurboTAP.org or email TAPHelp@military-inc.com.

DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues with kiosk displays at selected malls throughout New Jersey. The schedule is as follows:

November 5*, 6, 7	Deptford Mall
December 4*	NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland
January 6*, 7, 8	Moorestown Mall
February 3*, 4, 5	Paramus Park Mall
March 3*, 4, 5	Monmouth Mall

*Medal ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on these dates. The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



N.J. Vietnam Veterans Memorial

N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era
Educational Center's upcoming events:

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Free guided tours of the Memorial are offered on the
first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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For further information call 1-800-648-VETS or visit www.njvvmf.org.