

DMAVA Highlights

April 22, 2010 Volume 12 Number 14



Drill sergeant comes to Jersey Army Guard

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

With his lanky frame as straight as a rod and the imposing brown "Smokey the Bear" hat tilted forward on his head, Staff Sgt. Seth Greer could be the drill sergeant from central casting.

Greer is the first Soldier the New Jersey National Guard has ever sent to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School, a rigorous nine-week academy at Fort Jackson, S.C.

One weekend a month, Greer, 32, of Brick, puts on the drill sergeant hat to train the aspiring Soldiers who come to the Recruit Sustainment Program at the National Guard Training Center getting ready to ship to basic training. New Jersey has managed to keep a 95 percent basic training graduation rate.

Greer and the rest of the recruit sustainment staff want to keep it that way.

"(Greer) definitely raises the bar," said Lt. Col. John Sheard, the state recruiting and retention commander. "His job is to educate our warriors about what a drill instructor is all about. He's here to inspire. But we want a happy medium. The bottom line is to get them ready to ship out."

That happy medium means that Greer, the father of three, spends as much time using measured tones and calmly explaining everything from how to march in formation to the Army rank structure as he does yelling and making recruits do



push-ups when they break the rules.

"I am not here to beat anybody up," Greer said. "I want to give them a taste of a drill instructor, not the whole meal."



New Jersey National Guard Finance Unit Departs For Kosovo For A Year. On April 18, members of the New Jersey National Guard Leadership and elected officials joined family and friends at a departure ceremony at the Flemington Armory for the 350th Financial Management Detachment, New Jersey Army National Guard, which is deploying for one year to Kosovo. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joseph L. Donnelly, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.



While deployed to Iraq, members of the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron, now part of the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, won awards in the base chili cook off. From left to right, Senior Master Sgt. Elliot Adkisson, Staff Sgt. Miranda Converse and Staff Sgt. Carlos Morales, all of the Readiness Shop, show their awards in a recent USO sponsored chili contest at Sather Air Base. The team shows their 3rd place plaque for cooking and the 1st place medal in presentation. Photo by Master Sgt. Louis Conzo, 447th ECES.

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

AF family members can compose a winning song

By Maj. Belinda Petersen, Air Force Services Agency Public Affairs

More than 70 years ago, Capt. Robert MacArthur Crawford, an Airman with the Army Air Corps, won an original song competition that eventually became the official song for the U.S. Air Force. Captain Crawford wrote the lyrics and music to "Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder."

Starting April 5 through May 23, Airmen and eligible patrons of Air Force MWR programs can compete in an original song category at MyAirForceLife.com as part of the Year of the Air Force Family.

While the winning entry will not become the official song for the Air Force, the adult winner will receive a live, one-hour professional coaching and mentoring Skype session with Thom Shepherd, an award-winning Nashville songwriter. In addition, the adult and youth winner will receive a \$2,000 gift certificate to Musician's Friend, an online music store.

Contestants can upload a three to four minute original composition. Go to http://www.MyAirForceLife.com/contests/song_rules.html to choose from four themes.



Submissions can be instrumental or music and lyrics. Songwriters may choose to have someone else perform their original song for the recorded submission. Lyrics are not required for

the instrumental version.

Once uploaded, visitors to the site can view and vote for their favorite compositions. The earlier the compositions are submitted, the more time it can rack up votes.

Even though online voting will determine finalists, Mr. Shepherd will decide the winners of both categories.

Last year, Air Force Services Agency officials launched MyAirForceLife.com to help Airmen and their families stay connected, informed and engaged in programs as part of the Year of the Air Force Family.

"To date, we have awarded over 325 prizes, including Apple Macbook computers, Flip Video cameras, Sony eBook Readers, iPods, Acer netbooks, and more," said Ms. Debbie Karnes, Air Force Services Agency spokeswoman. "A list of winners can be found on the site. For each competition, we add new prizes. During the original song competition, those who register on the site are eligible to win iPod Nanos and iTunes gift cards."

To find details on the competitions and to enter, Airmen and eligible patrons of Air Force MWR programs can log on to <http://www.MyAirForceLife.com>.

Because I have taken the time to go onto my community's Web site and find out what I am permitted to toss into the blue barrel that we place at the end of the driveway for Thursday pick up, I have a pretty good idea what I can "donate" to the recycling bin. But there are some things I have wondered about and finally found some answers. As always, check with your local program, as each one varies.

What about the paper in my shredder? According to one of the non-profit recyclers in the U.S., Eco-Cycle, if computer paper is recycled correctly, it can be recycled six to eight times. But shredding can destroy the length to fibers needed recycle, which is the value of the paper for recycling. They suggest ripping semi-confidential documents into three to four pieces and locating a agency in your area that handles shredding paper for recycling for those documents that must be shredded.

Brightly colored paper can foul up the recycling process too. Similar to washing your red sweatshirt in the white wash – it can "pink" the paper and stop the process. Most recyclers have no problem with pastel paper.

Paper coffee cups usually cannot be recycled. The thin polyethylene plastic coating which prevents the coffee from leaking all over your hands and clothes, makes recycling very difficult. Instead, use your own mug when you purchase coffee at your favorite coffee shop, thereby saving a small part of the environment.

Keep in mind whatever your community recycling rules are for allowable materials – don't use the recycling can for other trash. Wrong things in the in the sorting machines can cause damage or if it is being hand sorted, the job becomes much more difficult for the workers. If the batch gets soured by incorrect items, it could send the whole everything to the landfill – and where did that get us?

Keep sorting and keep green!

Quotes

Whatever is good to know is difficult to learn.
--Greek proverb

Always remember that the soundest way to progress in any organization is to help the man ahead of you get promoted.
--L. S. Hamaker

The true way to soften one's troubles is to solace those of others.

--Mme. de Maintenon

Wealth lightens not the heart and care of man.

--Latin proverb

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- Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
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- Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist
- Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

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

Families

DoD offers interactive education resource

Department of Defense Education Activity's Educational Partnership proudly presents "Students at the Center," an interactive educational resource for everyone involved in the education of the children of our military service members. It has a lot of information for families, military commands, school officials and more. Check out the Web site at <http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter>.

Coping with deployment? Workshop at Picatinny May 3

The American Red Cross will be conducting a two-hour workshop on "Coping with Deployment" at Picatinny Arsenal Army Community Center on May 3, from 9-11:30 a.m. The workshop is open to all military personnel and DoD Civilians living apart from their military or civilian sponsor due to an unaccompanied tour, extended temporary duty, deployment, or other mission requirement. Contact the Army Community Service at 973-724-7247 or e-mail Clarence.lacy@us.army.mil. RSVP no later than April 29.

Check out Blue Star Flag Program

Grantham University's Blue Star Flag program has been providing Blue Star Flags to Service members and their families since 2006. Grantham University is also offering scholarships and grants to Servicemembers and veterans. For further information about the Blue Star Flag program, please go to: <http://www.mybluestarflag.com>.

State Family Programs

101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville
Toll-free number 1-888-859-0352
Family Assistance – 609-530-6834/6884
State Youth Coordinator – 609-530-6836
Military Family Life consultants – 609-530-6835/6886
Yellow Ribbon Program – 609-530-6846/6853/6859
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647; NJ 609-530-6867
Survivor Outreach Services – 609-530-6864
Fax – 609-530-6871

Military and family members health insurance questions should be directed to:

Tricare – Sgt. 1st Class Louis Tuck, 609-562-0865
US Family Health Plans – Pam Worley, 732-977-8531
VA Medical – Michelle Stefanelli, 973-676-1000, ext. 1727

Essex Troop opens 2010 college scholarship program

It is time to apply for the Essex Troop scholarships. Six scholarships of \$500 each will be given to applicants enrolled or accepted to an approved college or university or school of nursing.

Applicants must be members in good standing of the Essex Troop or their spouse, child or grandchild. Applications are also accepted from active drilling New Jersey Guard members currently assigned to the 102d Cavalry Squadron, to include Company D, 250th Support Battalion; and active drilling members of the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

To download an application, visit <http://www.essextroop.org/scholarship.htm>. Questions can be addressed to hilw5307@yahoo.com or call 973-736-0952 Wednesday evenings after 7 p.m.

Applications are due to Scholarship Committee no later than May 26.

Sesame Street show at Joint Base MDL April 23-24

Grover! Cookie Monster! Elmo! And more of those fuzzy, loveable muppets from Sesame Street are coming to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on April 23 and 24.

The Sesame Street/USO Experience for military families will be at building 321 I, dock 11 on the McGuire section of the base at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on April 23 and at 2 p.m. on April 24.

There is free admission for military families and their children, mini shows and giveaways. For more information, visit <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc>. Call 609-754-3050 for details and to sign up for the show.

Mmmmmm....cookies!

Great Adventure discount tickets now available

Discounted tickets to Great Adventure and Hurricane Harbor are available at the State Family Programs Office now through April 30. The tickets are good any day from the day the park opens until the close of season. Call Marie Durling at 609-530-6884 if you want to purchase tickets. Cash only.

Great Adventure/Safari - \$21 – (Regular price \$ 64.19)

Hurricane Harbor - \$15 – (Regular price \$36.99)

Meal Voucher - \$10 – (Regular price \$15)

Parking - \$10 – (Regular price \$ 15)

Guard Youth Camp July 11-17

Applications are now available for the 2010 New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp being held at Sea Girt, July 11-17. To download an application, go to: http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html or contact your nearest Family Assistance Center. **3**

Et Cetera

Free tickets available to PGA golf tournament in Pa.

Hey golfers – here's your chance to see Tiger Woods and more than 100 other pro golfers swing their clubs. The AT&T National Golf Tournament is offering free tickets to members of the military. The tournament will be held at the Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, Pa., June 29-July 4.

Tickets are available to all DoD personnel, this includes active duty military, reserves, retired military, military family members and DoD civilians. There is a limit of 4 tickets per person.

Tickets are good any one day of your choice, Tuesday through Sunday. All tickets must be preordered and picked up at the Picatinny ITR office in building 34, Picatinny Arsenal. You must reserve your tickets with ITR by May 17. Please call 973-724-4014 and speak with Janet or Linda. We will notify you when the tickets have arrived and are ready for pick up.

For more information on the tournament, visit www.attnational.org.

Get your Mets tickets!!

Come watch the Mets play baseball. All seats are section 503, row 15, seats 21-24; all games start at 7:10 p.m.

Mets vs. San Francisco Giants – May 7, \$20

Mets vs. Yankees – May 21, \$35

Mets vs. San Diego Padres – June 8, \$20

Mets vs. Minnesota Twins – June 25, \$28

Mets vs. Cincinnati Reds – July 27, \$25

Mets vs. Arizona Diamondbacks – July 30, \$28

Mets vs. Philadelphia Phillies – Aug. 13, \$28

Mets vs. Florida Marlins – Aug. 24, \$25

Mets vs. Houston Astros – Aug. 27, \$28

Mets vs. Atlanta Braves – Sept. 17, \$28

Mets vs. Milwaukee Brewers – Sept. 28, \$20

Mets vs. Washington Nationals – Oct. 1, \$20

Contact Fort Monmouth Tickets N' Tours directly at 732-532-3077 or stop by our new location in building 702.

Raising funds for a Red Oak tree at DMAVA memorial

Five years ago a memorial was dedicated on the DMAVA campus to honor the four New Jersey Army Guardsmen who gave their lives during two days in June 2004 during their deployment to Iraq. This year plans are underway to plant a red oak tree, the state tree of New Jersey, by the memorial.

If you would like to make a donation to help purchase the tree, please send your checks, made payable to, "Family Readiness Council," to:

Brig. Gen. (ret.) Frank R. Carlini

PO Box 340

Trenton NJ 08625-0340

DISCOM golf outing scheduled for Princeton course on July 8

Golfers, now is the time to sign up for the 17th Annual N.J. Army National Guard DISCOM Alumni Golf outing on July 8 at 8 a.m. It will be held at the Bunker Hill Golf Course, Princeton.

Cost is \$100 per person and includes all your fees, cart, refreshment cart on course, awards, door prizes, burgers and dogs at the turn, luncheon after the 18 holes.

Also available are sponsors for holes - \$50 each – and carts - \$25.

To register to play or to become a sponsor, contact retired Master Sgt. Roger M. Colarusso Sr., at 609-732-446-0283. Registration is due no later than July 1.

Remembrance Day at Vietnam Memorial May 7

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will hold its annual Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day ceremony on May 7 at 11 a.m.

In 1991, New Jersey legislators created May 7 as a unique day to honor all those who served in the military from 1959 to 1975 during the Vietnam Era. More than 200,000 New Jersey residents served in the armed forces during that time.

The guest speakers will include former Governor Christine Todd Whitman and her husband, John Whitman, a Vietnam veteran whose leadership was influential in the completion and dedication of the Memorial.

This year also marks the 15th anniversary of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. On Veterans Day of 1982, a group of New Jersey Vietnam veterans realized the need for a state memorial. The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial was dedicated on May 7, 1995. In attendance were New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, and more than 15,000 veterans, family members, and dignitaries from across the United States. Accompanied by Sen. John McCain, Gov. Whitman also dedicated the Vietnam Era Educational Center on Sept. 27, 1998.

Governor Whitman was the first woman governor of New Jersey, serving from 1994 until 2001. She later served as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 2001 until 2003.

John R. Whitman is President of Sycamore Management Corporation which he helped found in 1995. Whitman graduated from Yale University and received his MBA from the Harvard Business School.

During this year's ceremony the NJDMAVA will be awarding New Jersey state medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Korean Service Medal and Vietnam Service Medal.

There will be free admission for all visitors on May 7 and the Vietnam Era Educational Center will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information call 732-335-0033 or visit www.njvvmf.org.

Veterans & Military

Seminars...for those coming

Hey – are you a new Army or Air Guard technician? Come to the “Getting Started on the Right Foot” seminar for new technicians on May 27 at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix. It will be held from 8 a.m.-noon.

For more information and registration, contact Lorraine Jamison at 609-562-0874 or Lorraine.jamison@us.army.mil.

...And for those going

A technician pre-retirement seminar is scheduled for May 26 to be held at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

For more information and reservations, contact Lorraine Jamison at 609-562-0874 or Lorraine.jamison@us.army.mil.

Troops to Teachers helps military lead in classroom

The Troops to Teachers program is designed to assist separating or retiring military personnel in pursuing a rewarding second career in public education (elementary, secondary or vocational) while also facilitating employment in public schools. Funded by the [U.S. Department of Education](#) and administered by the [U.S. Department of Defense](#) through DANTEs, the long term goal of the program is to help improve American education by providing mature, self-disciplined, experienced and dedicated personnel for the nation's classrooms. New Jersey's Troops to Teachers office has counseled hundreds of interested military personnel, advising them on routes and programs to achieve full teacher certification in New Jersey, and referring them to school districts for employment.



To learn more, consider attending one of the upcoming program briefings at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Contact 800-680-0884 or via

e-mail at tttnj@doe.state.nj.us for briefing and program information. You can also visit the program on the web at: www.nj.gov/education/tttnj.

Dinosaurs ready for Spring Gathering in Bordentown

Calling all Dinosaurs – that's New Jersey Air Guard retirees – the Spring 2010 Gathering at the Town and Country Diner, Bordentown, on May 19 at 1 p.m.

The menu will be salad, main course, coffee/tea and a dessert for \$15 including tip and tax; alcoholic beverages are extra. If you RSVP, you are obligated to pay since the group is charged for the number of lunches ordered. RSVP to Mel Sylvester at 609-298-5970 or NuffSaidMel@aol.com by May 14.

All soon-to-be-retired Air and Army Guard employees and Army and Air Guard retirees are invited to the gathering.

Summer jobs open at armories

The New Jersey Army National Guard will be funding up to 15 summer hires for building/grounds maintenance (Position Description: Laborer WG-03 at approximately \$16 an hour, no benefits) at the following armories:

Cape May – 1; Vineland – 1; Cherry Hill – 1; Hammonton/Tuckerton – 1; Mount Holly – 1; Ft Dix – 2; Lawrenceville – 2; West Orange – 2; Dover/Riverdale – 1; Washington – 1; Somerset – 1; and Teaneck – 1.

The employment period will begin on June 7 and go through pay period ending Aug. 14, with the possibility of extending employment through Aug. 28.

The work schedule will be Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; 32 hours/week, with every Friday off. Minimum age is 18 yrs old prior to start date.

Anyone interested in being considered, must complete an OF 612 and must be available for interviews on May 12 or 13. Applicants may be required to take a physical prior to start of employment.

Applications must be received by close of business April 30, must indicate a first and second choice of location, and include a copy of a current driver's license:

Send applications to:

JFHQ-NJ

Attn: JI-HRO, Ms. Joanne Miller

3650 Saylor's Pond Road

Ft. Dix, NJ 08640

If you have any questions, call Joanne Miller at 609-562-0851.

254th Regiment is flipping pancakes for breakfast May 1

The New Jersey Army National Guard's 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) welcomes you and your family to a pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 1 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the National Guard Training Center.

Suggested donation is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children aged 3 to 11 and kids under 3 eat free. Proceeds benefit the 254th Regimental Association and its families.

Those unable to attend the breakfast but interested in making a donation to the association may make checks payable to the 254th Regimental Association, P.O. Box 277, Sea Girt, NJ 08750.

Memorial Day events

The Marlboro (Township) Memorial Day Parade will take place on Sunday, May 23, starting at noon. The parade route will start in front of the Marlboro firehouse at the corner of Route 79 and School Road West and proceed along School Road West to the Veterans Memorial at the Marlboro Municipal Complex on 1979 Township Drive.

The annual parade honors military veterans, active and reserve service members and all fallen military service members who have paid the ultimate price for our country's freedoms and way of life.

Calendar

Come enjoy the music at the Armed Forces Day concert

The Armed Forces Day Tribute Concert will be held on May 15, noon to 1 p.m. at the Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Ave., Ridgefield. The free concert is sponsored by the Patriot Brass Ensemble to celebrate our Armed Forces and all the music that they have inspired over the last 200 years.

Whether you are a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine or Coast Guardsman, or simply an American, there will be all of your favorite military and patriotic songs.

For more information, visit http://patriotbrass.org/Armed_Forces_Day_2010.html.

Vets group holding 25th annual flag memorial, June 11-13

The Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans are holding the 25th Annual Donald W. Jones Flag Memorial on June 11-13 at Falls Township Park, 9072 Mill Creek Road, Levittown Pa. The event is in honor of all veterans of all wars and the sacrifices they made.

The memorial, which plants more than 58,000 flags in the ground; one each for every American who was killed or is missing in action in the shape of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

The flags are planted on June 14, starting at 9 a.m.; volunteers are always needed.

On June 12, there will be a free concert and a Day of Reflection. The bands, such as Angry Vic, Classic Jurassic, Final Warning, Legend and more, start at noon.

A motorcycle rally will begin at noon on June 13, with a memorial service and repatriation ceremony at 1 p.m. If you wish to participate in the motorcycle rally, contact Sue at 215-783-7456.

For more information, contact Donnie Jones at 267-566-2860 or Jesse Hill at 215-949-2490.

Re-employment seminar begins May 3 in New Providence

The New Providence United Methodist Church is sponsoring a free eight-week re-employment seminar. Held Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning May 3, the seminar will be led by Lloyd Feinstein, founder of Career Marketing Consultants.

The seminar will be helpful to those who are unemployed or who anticipate having to make a job change. Each week will work on a different topic to help those attending prepare for today's unpredictable employment market.

Topics will cover: communicating your value, how to figure where to go in your next career, the resume, mechanics of the job search, and much more.

Feinstein has more than 25 years experience conducting these types of seminars and working as a fulltime career consultant and adviser.

Anyone is welcome to attend. The church is located at 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence. Visit <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/npumcnj/> for more information.

Dash on down to the Nutter Run in Sea Girt, May 22

Get those running shoes ready for the sixth annual SGT Nutter Run on May 22. The 5K run will be held at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt. Sign in is 8-9:30 a.m., race start is 10 a.m.

Cost to run is \$10 if enrolled in JROTC, \$15 if postmarked before May 1 and \$20 on the day of the event. Profits from the run go to benefits the lives of National Guard families in need. This year the benefits will go the Stadelman twins – children of 2nd Lt. John Stadelman, a New Jersey Army Guardsman who passed away on July 9, 2009.

For more information about the prizes, donations to be raffled, applications to participate in the run and more, visit www.Nutter-Run.org.

Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

- April 27** Vineland Veterans Memorial Home Medal ceremony at 1:30 p.m.
- May 7** New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Holmdel Medal ceremony at 11 a.m.

Outreach Events Only

- June 3-4** Wildwood Convention Center Elks State Convention
- 9-11** American Legion State Convention
- 16-18** Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention
- July 30** First Energy State Park, Lakewood Lakewood Blue Claws Veterans Appreciation Night
- August 29** TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater Somerset Patriots Veterans of America Day

Deadline

Want to place an event or article in DMAVA Highlights?

Deadline for articles is noon Wednesday.

Send submissions to barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.