

DMAVA Highlights

September 30, 2010 Volume 12 Number 37



A field of 'dreams'

State employees overwhelm Guard HQ on softball diamond

Lawrenceville, N.J. (AP) -- The sun was setting and the last out of the epic softball battle between team DMAVA and JFHQ had been recorded. As the players, coaches and managers gathered in the Garden Room for a post-game celebration, the crowd hushed as the Director of the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, proudly declared the DMAVA team victorious.

The starting pitcher for the JFHQ, Col. Steve Ferrari, was relieved in the last inning by Lt. Col. John Sheard. It was rumored Ferrari was taken out of the game due to an injury running the bases and management was concerned about the long-term impact to his pitching career. Unfortunately, Ferrari was required to pitch additional innings when the team's planned long reliever, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Paul Sleeper, "pulled a hammie" running the bases.

It is widely believed Lt. Col. Brian Scully will place additional emphasis on conditioning at next week's physical fitness testing based on the large number of hamstring injuries occurring on the JFHQ team.

Although Sheard struggled with control, he was eventually able to obtain the three outs necessary to end the game.

The DMAVA team was able to use a trio of pitchers successfully with starter John Hastings being relieved by Kathleen McGuinn and the closing innings pitched by Terry Dearden. It is worth noting the DMAVA team used all women pitching and catching combinations with McGuinn teaming up with Maj. Patricia Richter and Dearden pairing with Janet Dillon. McGuinn was especially effective, using pin-point control to strike out a swinging Maj. Bill Whitehurst with runners in scoring position.

It was the only strikeout in the entire game.

It was rumored the batter was distracted by the multicolored, vibrant socks being worn by the pitcher. The Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, Raymond Zawacki, was overheard commenting: "Damn, those DMAVA guys and gals are really great team players."

Warrant Officer David Snedeker exemplified the hustle and attitude of the team by diving head first into first base. Unfortunately, Snedeker was called out. There was speculation Snedeker "ran out of gas" and collapsed before he could cover the 60 foot sprint. Although a part of DMAVA, Snedeker will also be subject to the aforementioned physical fitness test.

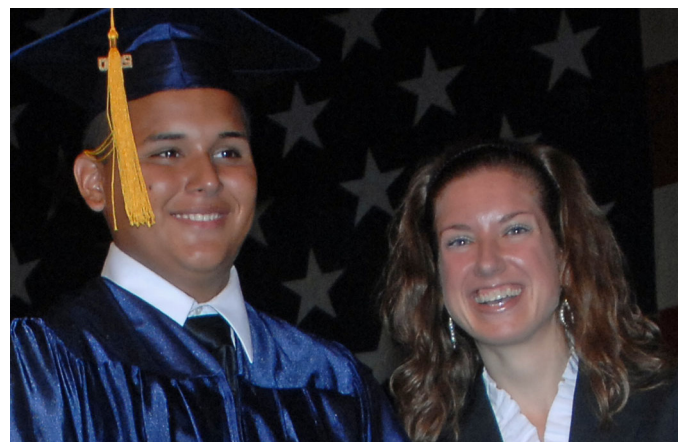
There was a significant home field advantage to the DMAVA team with the overflowing spectator crowd vigorously cheering.

The DMAVA infield, at one point with the game hanging in the balance, consisted of Col. Kevin Hegarty at third base, Juan Lopez at shortstop, Linda Croteau at second base, and Maj. Tracey Phillips at first base. Brig. Gen. (ret.) Frank Carlini, a member of the DMAVA team, noted "that it only takes a couple of swings to bring back the muscle memory and you are back in top form."

The JFHQ team is considering entering the Joint Base softball league to sharpen their skills and be better prepared for future contests against the DMAVA team.

A final score was not available at press time. Runs scored in the final inning were still being tabulated and verified to confirm the final score.

The captain of the DMAVA team, John Hastings, and manager, Lt. Col. Mike Lyons, declined comment, expressing concern about revealing the in depth game strategy that was used to prepare the team for victory.



The New Jersey National Guard ChalleNGe Youth Program saw 85 cadets cross the stage at the War Memorial in Trenton during the 32nd class graduation ceremony. Cadet Gerardo Bazen of Cateret poses with the new ChalleNGe director, Victoria Ragucci during the event on Sept. 25. Photo by First Sgt. David Moore, 444th MPAD.

This just in ...

Can't wait for the new edition of Guardlife to hit your mailbox?

The latest edition of the New Jersey National Guard magazine is now online.

Go to: <http://www.nj.gov/military/publications/guardlife/volume35no1/> for all the latest news about the "Hometown Team."

Past Guardlife issues are also available in Web-friendly format at <http://www.nj.gov/military/publications/>.

A man should always consider how much he has more than he wants, and how much more unhappy he might be than he really is.

--Joseph Addison, poet, playwright, politician

Vineland worker needs your assistance

From the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home

One of the food service department employees at Vineland Veterans Home, Evelyn Acevedo, suffered a house fire recently and lost almost everything. While she is receiving assistance from the Red Cross, she does have three school age children and is in need of food and clothing.

Anyone who would be willing to help should contact Myong Dawson in the Vineland Home Food Service Department at 856-405-4314.

Some of the clothing needs are:

Boy – 34 inch waist pants/XL shirts

Girl (8 years old) – size 12; girl (11 years old) – size 3; girl (14 years old) – size 0-1.



Husband – 40 inch waist pants/2XL shirts.

Evelyn – size 11 pants/XL shirts
Bed linens – queen, full and twin.

Whatever the amount you can contribute, remember every little bit helps. Thank you.

Program open to loan money to women vets to start business

Women veterans who are interested in starting up their own business can find an advocate in the New Jersey Women's Micro-Business Credit Program for Women Veterans.

Meant for women with a low income, the program will provide up to \$5,000 loans at .5 percent interest with up to five years for loan repayment.

Qualifications include: business must be independently owned and operated by a woman or women in the state of New Jersey; applicant must be a woman veteran; must attend the "Start Right!" seminar or five hours business consulting on business plans prior to applying; and must have little or no prior business experience.

Funds may be used for working capital, inventory, supplies, furniture, machinery, equipment and fixtures for a new business.

If interested, contact the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners Women's Business Center at 973-507-9700 or e-mail Penni K Nafus, Director, at pnafus@njawbo.org.

DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, Public Affairs Specialist

Last week I wrote about no-cost or very low cost ways to save on your heating bills this coming fall and winter. Here are some more hints but most of them have a low cost to them. But the low price of these tips are certainly less than what your heating bill could be.

The experts recommend a professional cleaning of your furnace yearly, but regular replacement of the air filter is also very important. Clogged filters mean it takes more work to get the air through the system. More work=more energy=more money.

Keep your feet warm. Warm air rises meaning the cold air is flowing around your feet and if your feet are feeling the cold, so are you and the temptation is there to hit the thermostat. So buy a pair of slippers (or ask for a pair for Christmas) and keep your body warmer and your heating bill lower.

While you putting slippers on your feet, why not put socks on your doors? Well, not on your doors but at the bottom of your doors. Buy or make them to keep that cold air and the drafts outside. Or if you need something more permanent, try door sweeps on your exterior doors. Year-round they will work to keep the outside weather where it belongs: outside.

This may be a few more dollars, but a programmable thermostat can save you money. How many times have you been half way to work only to realize you forgot to turn down the temperature at home? Preset and forget!

Check the weather stripping on your exterior doors. Look for gaps between the exterior surface of the door and the weather stripping on the frame. If it is worn, replace. Also check your windows, especially those older than 10 years to make sure the stripping is not worn. Also check out your storm doors to make sure they are secure and working well.

Electric outlets on exterior walls are often full of air leaks. Seal with inexpensive CSA-approved insulation. A few minutes later and your wallet will be giving you high fives. Another help on exterior outlets is to put those inexpensive child proof covers in the outlets not being used.

Put an area rug down on cold floors, especially unfinished poured concrete basement floors. The cold concrete floor will cool the air in the basement making your heater work more.

Check the caulking around the dryer vent, another place for air to seep in and out.

Install plastic wrap window kits either inside or outside your windows (your preference) to keep the winter winds from coming in.

Grab a bottle of window cleaner and some rags and wash those windows. It will allow the UV rays to come in and heat your house much easier.

And last – buy a hot water bottle to keep your feet warm. Keep Green!

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Families

A night on the Great White Way

Love Broadway, but don't like the cost? Well, if you are a veteran, current member of the military or a family member – here is a treat for you.

A new non-profit, ARTS in the ARMED FORCES (AITAF) is attempting to bridge the gap between the military and theater companies by providing quality troop entertainment.

Free tickets will be given to veterans, current military members and their families to see an evening of monologues and jazz with performances by John Goodman, Eric Bogosian, Lauren Ambrose, Dianne Wiest, Lili Taylor, Jay O. Sanders, Jesse Perez and the John Batiste Jazz Trio.

The performance will be held on November 8 at 8 p.m., at The American Airlines Theatre, 227 West 42nd Street, New York.

To reserve free tickets go to www.aitaf.org, go to the "Contact" page, e-mail your name, rank, unit, and number of guests. There is no guest limit. The evening will be general seating, so first come, first served.

Note that the material performed is of an adult nature. No unattended minors may attend. There are six wheelchair-accessible seats available.

AITAF is run by former Marine and current actor, Adam Driver, and his fellow Juilliard graduate, Joanne Tucker.

More PERS workshops scheduled

All state employees who are members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and planning to retire before the end of 2011 are invited to take advantage of the retirement workshops scheduled over the next four months.

The workshops are being held at the New Jersey Forensic Science Technology Center in Hamilton Township, Mercer County. During the workshop, representatives will explain topics including retirement benefits, beneficiary options, group life insurance, pension taxes and health benefits during retirement.

Register for the workshop date and time of your choice. Go to www.nj.us/treasury/pensions and click on the link for "Retirement Workshops."

Classes will be held at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and are scheduled for Sept. 15, 24, 29; Oct. 4, 21; Nov. 3, 22, 29; and Dec. 10, 17.

When attending, members must bring along a printed version of their Estimate of Retirement Benefits, which they can get using the Member Benefits Online System. To register for MBOS, go to www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml and follow instructions.

DoD offers interactive education resource for military families

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.militarykl2partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter>.

Lending a helping hand



Story and Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

The Army National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill saw more than 200 veterans in need visit the 14th annual Stand Down on Sept. 25. The 177th Fighter Wing provided medical support as Maj. Wendy Cordrey (above) draws blood from a homeless veteran. DMAVA works with the Stand Down of South Jersey Committee, Inc. to co-host the Stand Down to provide homeless veterans with access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services (food stamps and unemployment), legal services, religious counseling, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing.

Since 1996, the South Jersey Stand Down has served as a catalyst that enables homeless veterans to re-enter mainstream society. Last year, nearly 400 homeless veterans and their families attended Stand Downs in Cherry Hill and Newark. This year's event in Newark will take place on Oct. 16 at the JFK Recreation Center.

Stand Down comes from the military term referring to exhausted combat units that were removed from the battlefield to a place of security and safety for rest and recovery. Today Stand Downs are grass roots, community-based intervention program to help veterans' battle life on the streets.

If your armory needs photos for the Chain of Command "wall," contact Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison at barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-7088. Tell us which photos you need and we will mail them to you or get them ready for pick-up.

Et Cetera

Picatinny Patriot Motorcycle Lime Run set for Oct. 3

It's time for the third annual Picatinny Arsenal Patriot Motorcycle Lime Run to support veterans and the Toys for Tots Foundation.

The ride starts at noon on Sunday, Oct. 3, at the arsenal's main gate and ends at the same location.

Cost is \$15 per rider and \$10 per passenger and includes a commemorative pin.

Please bring an unwrapped toy (no stuffed animals) or a \$10 donation.

Questions: Contact 1st Sgt Kevin MacCheyne at kevin.maccheyne@usmc.mil or 973-724-4701 or Walt Wurster at walter.wurster@us.army.mil or 973-724-4770.

Dinosaurs' Fall Gathering, Oct. 20

The New Jersey Air Guard Dinosaurs (those are retirees to all you working folk), are holding their Fall 2010 Gathering on Oct. 20, 1 p.m. at the Town and Country Diner, Bordentown.

The full luncheon menu will have salad, main course, coffee/tea and a dessert for \$20, including tax and tip. Those who RSVP will be obligated to pay even if they do not attend since the group is charged for the number of diners who reserved.

To reserve your space with the Tyrannosaurus Rexes, contact Mel Sylvester at 609-298-5970 or NuffSaidMel@aol.com no later than Oct. 15.

All current ANG/ARNG employees (soon to be retired) and ANG/ARNG retirees are invited.

Joint Base M-D-L access to require DBIDS signup

Don't wait until Jan. 1, 2011. You will be denied access to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst after that date if you have not registered with DBIDS.

Yes, it is another thing to put on your to-do list, but once completed, will allow you and your dependents safe, quick access to JBMDL and other bases using the system.

What is DBIDS? It is the Defense Biometric Identification System; a DoD identity authentication and force protection tool for physical access control at DoD installations. It uses bar codes and biometrics to identify cardholders.

The objective of this system is to use positive identification to ensure a safer, more secure environment at DoD installations.

All active duty, civilian employees, DoD contractors, retirees and dependents can register at the registration center; the process takes about five minutes.

The registration centers are located at --
McGuire Welcome Center: 6 a.m.-10 p.m., every day
Dix Welcome Center: 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday
Building 1738/Badging office: 9 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday
Building 2903/Military Personnel Flight Room 6: 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Lakehurst Welcome Center: 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday

State retirement system election

The Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is holding an election for members of the board of trustees. There are four positions opening. One state, one county and one municipal representative will be elected for a three-year term as of July 1, 2011. An additional municipal representative will be elected for a two-year remaining term, effective July 1, 2011, to fill a position that is currently vacant and expires June 30, 2013. Candidates for all positions must qualify by nomination. Nominations are now being received for these positions.

The general responsibility for the operation of the PERS is vested in the Board of Trustees under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:15A-17. The Board meets monthly at the Division of Pensions and Benefits in Trenton. The statute provides that no employee shall suffer loss of salary or wages because of serving on the Board. A member who wishes to be a candidate for one of the above positions must be an active member of the PERS and must be nominated by at least 500 active PERS members. Only State employees may petition for State Representative, only County employees may petition for County Representative, and only Municipal employees may petition for Municipal Representative.

Instructions for the nominating process are available upon receipt of a written request to the Secretary of the PERS Board of Trustees. Nominations must be registered on or before 4 p.m. Jan. 14, 2011. Election ballots will be mailed to employers on or about

April 1, 2011 for prompt distribution to their employee members of the PERS. All qualified candidates will be invited to attend the drawing by lot for position on the ballot, if necessary, and/or the selection of term for the Municipal election on Feb. 16, 2011.

The PERS Board of Trustees has the responsibility for the proper operation of the Retirement System. The Board consists of six employee representatives, the State Treasurer, and two private citizens appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board meets once per month. Within the limits of legislation, the PERS Board has a certain amount of discretion in the solution of problems confronting the Retirement System in cases where complications exist that legislation alone cannot properly address.

PERS BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Adopt rules and regulations to provide for the payment of benefits and collection of monies as required by the statute.
- Establish rules and regulations within the limitations of statutes and opinions of the Courts and the Attorney General, designed to prevent injustices and inequities that may arise in the operation of the Retirement System.
- Resolve individual questions on the merits of each case in terms of statutes, opinions of the Attorney General, advice of the Actuary and cases cited by counsel as deliberated by the Courts.
- Review monthly and annual reports setting forth data such as assets and liabilities, income and disbursements and statistical summarization of membership as documented by the Actuary.

Veterans & Military



Col. Kenneth S. Schechter, 50th Infantry Battalion Combat Team commander hands over the colors of the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion to Lt. Col. James Moore on Sept 25. Moore took command from Lt. Col. Chris Schrieks in the ceremony held at the West Orange armory. Photo by Sgt. Ray Reyes, 444th MPAD.



The Menlo Park Memorial Home hosted a POW/MIA ceremony on Sept. 18 with special guest, Edison Mayor Antonia "Toni" Ricigliano joining with residents. Above, members of VFW Post 4410 present the colors at the ceremony. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist.

ESGR now offers award to spouses' employers for their support

During the past year, ESGR volunteers have heard a number of stories telling them about military spouses' employers providing outstanding support to families of service members, along with recommendations to include employers of military spouses for Patriot Award consideration.

ESGR has answered the call; the Outreach Subcommittee recommended and executive director, Ronald Young approved, spouses can now nominate their supervisor for the Patriot Award.

It's easy for a spouse to nominate their employer. A separate nomination form has been added to the ESGR website – www.esgr.org/PA.

For one Wichita, Kansas spouse, her supervisor shifted her nursing schedule at Wesley Medical Center. When her husband deployed, her supervisor allowed the mother of three to continue working, but also to be at home for their children during the school year. When babysitter options became too difficult to coordinate, she was granted a leave of absence with no questions asked. In Clarinda, Iowa, Teresa Johnson says Goldenrod Manor helped her with lawn care and sent care packages to her deployed husband. Teresa's supervisor is always willing to listen and work with her to accommodate her needs. This support is invaluable because not only is Teresa's husband deployed, but both of her sons are also overseas.

ESGR wants to capture more great stories like these and ask that you help spread the word that all spouses of Guard and Reserve members are now eligible to nominate their employers for the Patriot Award. To nominate their employer, they can go directly to www.esgr.org/PA and fill out the spouse nomination form. Each nominated supervisor will receive a Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation and a Patriot lapel pin. The certificate can be provided to the spouse for presentation to his or her employer, or presented to the employer by the ESGR State Committee.

Sell your vehicle without an ad

Do you have an RV, Truck, Automobile, Motorcycle or Boat that you want to sell? Well you are in luck....announcing the brand new Picatinny Arsenal FMWR Resale Lot. This is better than a classified advertisement -you can see what you are about to buy!

Located near the gas pumps, corner of Farley Ave. and Reilly Road, we offer six lanes for our active duty military and three for civilians, retired, on-post contractors. You can place your insured and inspected vehicle in this lot for up to 30 days. The cost is \$10 for civilians and free for all active duty military.

Contact Leisure Travel Services at 973-724-4014 to sign up.



Calendar

Tough Mudder, Nov. 20 and 21

How tough are you? Tough enough for a Tough Mudder?

A Tough Mudder is the TOUGHEST one day event on the planet. This is not your average mud run or boring spirit-crushing road race. The seven mile obstacle courses are designed by British Special Forces to test all-round toughness, strength, stamina, fitness, camaraderie and mental grit. Forget about your race time, simply completing the event is a badge of honor. Not everyone will finish, but those who do make it to the post-race party will have truly earned the right to call themselves a Tough Mudder.

The race is 12 miles long with 19 military-style obstacles and an estimated completion time of two hours and 30 minutes.

A Tough Mudder will take place on Nov. 20 and 21 (your choice of days), at the Tri-State, Raceway Park, Englishtown, N.J.

The National Guard partners with the military-style race with obstacles. For those Guardsman who think they are tough enough for the event, there will be a \$30 discount for the fee on Sunday only of the event. If interested, e-mail info@toughmudder.com to get the code for the discount.

Register at www.toughmudder.com

The Tough Mudder is also asking for those interested to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior project. For more information contact Tough Mudder or visit <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>.

Costume Social, Oct. 16

The National Guard Association of New Jersey will host the New Jersey National Guard Costume Social on Oct. 16, 6-10 p.m. at the Lawrenceville Armory.

The event is limited to 200 people, so RSVP your space to dress in your silliest, scariest or sharpest costume at the social. Cost for the social is \$20 for adults and includes beer, wine, soda, appetizers and dessert.

Make your check payable to NGANJ and send to NGANJ-Costume Social, PO Box 266, Wrightstown, NJ 08652.

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

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.

Picatinny Haunted House Dates set for October

Ready to be frightened?

It's time for the Picatinny Haunted House 2010. The spooky place is open Oct. 23, 29 and 30. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children aged 6 to 12. Children aged 6 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Not recommended for kids under 6.

Entrance to the Haunted House is through the Navy Hill Gate off Lake Denmark Road in Rockaway Township. Detailed directions and updated hours can be found at www.pica.army.mil/mwr/cys/cyshomepage.htm.

Graveside dining will be available at the Cemetery Café, with a menu featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and chili.

All proceeds benefit the Picatinny Youth Program, the Military Unit Fund and the Civil Air Patrol.

Joint Base Career Fair set for Oct. 25

Here's a military job fair that's tailor-made to your career aspirations and geographic location.

The Civilianjobs.com Career Expo at Club Dix on Joint Base-McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Thursday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. allows for online pre-registration to try to match current military members and veterans with the right job.

To register online, go to www.CivilianJobs.com. Or for more information the old-fashioned way, call 1-678-819-4170.

To gain access to the Joint Base, it is imperative that veterans who are not military ID-card holders submit the following information by noon on Oct. 6 via email to vashington@civilianjobs.com: last name, first name, middle name, state of residence, state of driver's license, driver's license number, or date of birth for those without a license.

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.

- Oct. 5*, 6, 7** Brunswick Square Mall
- Nov. 4**** Belleville Public Library
- Nov. 8*, 9, 10** Ocean County Mall

*Medal ceremony 10:30 a.m.

**Medal only ceremony, beginning at 1 p.m.

