



JULY 28, 2011

# DMAVA

# HIGHLIGHTS



## First round down range

The Redlegs of the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, New Jersey Army National Guard, recently conducted new equipment training on the M119A2 Towed Howitzer at Camp Grayling, Mich., from June 11 - 25.

This was the first time the Soldiers from the unit conducted field artillery training since the 112th FA's annual training period in August 2007.

In July, the unit was converted to a light field artillery battalion and now fields 16 new M119A2 Towed Howitzer artillery weapons.

According to Maj. Joel Martin, executive officer of the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, the Soldiers of the battalion had a very successful annual training period and were able to certify all the howitzer sections on their new system.

In addition, the Soldiers are extremely excited to field the new howitzers and to be back in the artillery operations.



A gunner from the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery fires a 105 mm round from an M119A2 Towed Howitzer during a training exercise at Camp Grayling, Mich., from June 11 - 25. Soldiers from the New Jersey National Guard unit were able to certify their howitzer sections on the new artillery weapons. (Courtesy photo)

## NJYCA cadets learn big lesson from small teachers

**Story & photos by Paul Wityk, social studies instructor**

On Saturday July 9, Cadets from the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy went on a field trip to Valley Forge, Pa, to get an education on history.

The Cadets had the opportunity to visit the historic winter encampment location of Gen. George Washington's revolutionary army.

After some hands-on education about the revolutionary soldier's life at the encampment site, the Cadets were invited to the Valley Forge Convention Center by Bob Giglio, convention director for Historicon, which is hosted by the



Historical Miniatures Gaming Society and whose mission is to educate military history through tabletop war gaming.

This was a great chance for the Cadets to not only see another fun and interactive way to learn, but also to be taught

the importance of positive hobbies. The HMGS members gave the Cadets a tour of the convention, and introduced them to the different aspects of the hobby such as good sportsmanship; positive social interaction; educational research and helped them tap into their artistic abilities. The Cadets were able to play in games ranging from ancient times and the American Civil War all the way through World War II.

By the end of the trip, the Cadets had learned that there are many more ways to get an education than just through a book.

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## Veterans event at Lawrenceville

A job fair and information for veterans will highlight the annual VA New Jersey Health Care System event this year.

On Saturday, August 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Lawrenceville Armory will host the Annual Homecoming Event in honor of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn veterans at the Armory, which is located at 101 Eggert Crossing Road in Lawrenceville.

All military veterans and their family members are invited to attend.

The event will feature a job fair for veterans; VA Mobile Vet Center; VA Mobile Health Unit; information on numerous Veterans Service Organizations and college information.

In addition, special guests, door prizes, refreshments and fun for the entire family will be available.

Representatives from several regional colleges and dozens of public and private sector employers will provide information on educational benefits and employment opportunities for veterans and family members at the job fair, which is sponsored by G.I. Go Fund.

Also, veterans will be able to receive free health care screenings and gather information on agencies that provide outreach support to veterans and their families.

For more information on the event, contact June Mayer, acting OEF/OIF/OND program manager, at 973-676-1000, ext. 2369.

For information on the VA New Jersey Health Care System, go to [www.newjersey.va.gov](http://www.newjersey.va.gov).

## Big Bass Association to host fishing event

As a "Special Thank You" to the military members of New Jersey, the Big Bass Association will host a bass tournament on Sept. 10 at the Wawayanda Lake that will allow a Soldier or Airmen to fish on the tournament with an experienced bass fisherman.

The event will be held at the Wawayanda State Park and participating members will need to arrive between the hours of 5 – 5:30 am for a boat launching time of 6 a.m.

Please contact Raymond Verheek at 201-290-0399 or via email at [rverheek@harsco.com](mailto:rverheek@harsco.com) for tournament information.

New Jersey National Guard participants will require a fresh-water fishing license, which can be obtained by contacting Edward Turrian at 609-530-6866 or email at [ed.turrian@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:ed.turrian@njdmava.state.nj.us).

Lake Wawayanda is located at 885 Warwick Turnpike in Hewitt.

## LTC Savino golf tourney

The 15th Annual LTC Dave Savino Memorial golf tournament will be held on Aug. 29 at the Falcon Creek Golf Course in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The tournament will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start and will be played in a two person scramble format (best ball).

Cost is \$100 donation per person and includes greens fees, cart, refreshments and door prizes. A buffet lunch will be served after the tournament at the course.

Send your payments to 108th WG/MXQ, ATTN: SMSgt Mike Balas, 3333 Wonnacott Blvd., JB MDL, NJ 08641 or to Connie Cisek, JF HQTRS, Bldg. 3650, Saylor's Pond Road, JB MDL, NJ 08640.

Make checks payable to LTC Dave Savino Memorial Fund. All payments should be received no later than Aug. 23.

Questions regarding this event should be directed at Balas at 609-894-4692.

## Veterans Journal available on Internet

The Spring 2011 edition of New Jersey's "Veterans Journal" 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/spring2011/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.

## DEERS/RAPIDS services at Bordentown Armory

The New Jersey National Guard's Family Programs office will provide services to all military service members requiring registry into the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) at the Bordentown Armory.

To schedule an appointment please contact Staff Sgt. Yatzabel Palma at 609-298-9734.

**E-mail your Highlights submissions to [wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us) OR [armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us)**

**DMAVA Highlights** is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at [pao@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:pao@njdmava.state.nj.us).

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FOR NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVISTS, VETERANS & THEIR SPOUSES

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**August 8**

**Brookdale Community College**

**August 23**

**Bergen Community College**

Don't miss this special opportunity to meet and connect with hiring employees; get career transition coaching; resume feedback and tips from human resources professionals and learn from recruiting experts on how to gain a competitive edge on your job search.

Register today to participate in one or both events, which will feature:

- Career transition workshops delivered by military transition experts
- Special morning workshops for employers and HR professionals offering HRCI recertification credits
- Networking lunch
- Job fair exclusively for actively hiring employers

For details, registration and support opportunities visit <http://esgrnj2011tour.eventbrite.com/>



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**NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN**

**American Legion Night - Outreach Event**



**WHEN:** Friday, August 5, 2011 from 6 - 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** First Energy Park - Home of the Lakewood BlueClaws

**DETAILS:** An outreach event will be hosted by the American Legion at First Energy Park on the main concourse - first base side. Discounted tickets available for all Veterans at the BlueClaws box office.

## DMAVA, NJNG is now on Facebook, Twitter

Attention fans of Highlights! The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey National Guard have launched their official Facebook and Twitter pages.

So help us achieve our goal of expanding our Facebook fan base by 100 fans per month. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-Department-of-Military-and-Veterans-Affairs/245085018841687> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-National-Guard/185017611554223> and press the

 button and become one of our fans.

To receive notification wherever you are, follow us on Twitter @NJDMAVA and @NJNationalGuard! You'll get our news headlines, upcoming events, photos and much more.



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## Vets Haven receives new furniture for facility addition



**Story by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez / Photos by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA**

With the generosity from the American Legion of New Jersey and assistance from Cadets from the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy, the Veterans Haven in Winslow Township, N.J. received on Tuesday, July 19, much needed furniture for their nearly completed addition.

Volunteers unloaded several pieces of furniture and then carried them up several flights of stairs to their final destination inside the Veterans Haven.

Veterans Haven assistant superintendent, Sean P. VanLew, was extremely grateful for the donated furniture and help during the unloading of the furniture.

“The Cadets that arrived were respectful, polite, motivated and well prepared,” said VanLew in an email. “They assimilated themselves into the existing work detail, and attacked the project with a vigor and voraciousness that it seems only ChalleNGe cadets bring to the table. They represented themselves and the

academy very well. I am proud of them, and grateful to them for their hard, back breaking work.”

New Jersey has among its homeless population an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

The Veterans Transitional Housing Program (Veterans Haven) is a New Jersey State operated facility for homeless veterans. After being medically evaluated at a VA Medical Center, eligible veterans must agree to a long-term program focusing on psychological, social and vocational rehabilitation.

Veterans admitted to Veterans Haven come to a 55 bed, addictions free program with staff that are sensitive to the multiple needs they present.

With the new addition to the facility, the Veterans Haven will expand its program by an additional 44 beds.

Follow this link to view a quick video of this event: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-Department-of-Military-and-Veterans-Affairs/245085018841687#!/video/?id=245085018841687>



## New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Photo Ops



Cadets from the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy proudly wear recently donated BDU pants during one of their community service outings at Fort Mifflin on the Delaware, Pa. The BDUs were donated to the NJYCA by several organizations and military service members. (Courtesy photo)



Family members of Cadets from the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy take photographs of their loved ones during the family picnic event held at the Lawrenceville campus of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)