

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



APRIL 14, 2011

NJ welcomes 350th FMD home



The community joined family members and the New Jersey Army National Guard family as they celebrated the return of the 350th Financial Management Detachment following a one-year deployment to Kosovo at a Welcome Home Ceremony at the National Guard

Armory in Lawrenceville on April 10, 2011. The 14-person team is part of the 50th Financial Management Company and in Kosovo was responsible for a multi-million dollar military payroll and other financial functions. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)

By Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th MPAD

Spc. Stephanie Ospina left New Jersey a year ago as just another U.S. Soldier deploying to a foreign land in support of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) operations, but today she returned home with more appreciation for the freedom and rights entitled to U.S. citizens.

Ospina, a native of Colombia, was one of approximately 15 members of the N.J. Army National Guard's 350th Financial Management Detachment who deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo last April. Now, one year later, the N.J. National Guard welcomed the unit home during a ceremony at the Lawrenceville Armory, April 10.

The Army National Guard has been deploying units to Kosovo as part of the NATO-led international peacekeeping forces that are responsible for establishing a secure environment and freedom of movements for all citizens, irrespective of their ethnic origin within Kosovo.

During the year long deployment to the Balkans in support of KFOR 13, the unit provided core finance functions, including payroll for 950 Soldiers, 200 civilians and foreign nationals. They oversaw the disbursement of \$885,000 in military entitlements, \$7 million in contracts and services, and more than \$6.5 million in casual pay, meal tickets, e-commerce, and other related transactions.

"Bottom line, that is a huge responsibility to disperse that kind

of money, and do it so efficiently, so effectively and balance the books and come back home," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Adjutant General of the N.J. National Guard.

During the ceremony, the unit commander, Capt. Margaret Bundesen thanked her Soldiers for rising to the task of an often thankless job.

"In finance we really don't get thanked a lot," she said. "We only get the nastiness when people don't get paid. We are the ones that feel it all because it's our job to fix it."

But despite the lack of understanding associated with their job, Bundesen said her unit maintained a positive moral throughout the deployment, relying on each other and maintaining a family-like cohesiveness.

She was also happy to report that during the deployment, every single E-4 and E-5 was able to complete Warrior Leadership Course, and become eligible for promotion to the next grade.

For Ospina, the celebration was about more than just returning to her family. It was about coming home to a country that allows so much freedom to its citizens. Freedoms which are not so readily available in other countries and which she was able to observe during her yearlong deployment.

"Now I can say I served my country," she said, as well as understands and appreciates the freedoms to which she is entitled.



Above, William Oliver, left, an Army veteran of World War II and Korean War, is pinned with the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal by Raymond L. Zawacki, NJ Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, during a medal ceremony at Vineland Veterans Memorial Home on April 7. Right, Vito Ferrone, a World War II Army veteran, becomes emotional as he receives the NJ DSM from Zawacki. Below, the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Matthew Hecht, 177th FW/PA)



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.

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Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
CW2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
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Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Monmouth veteran clinic to relocate to Tinton Falls facility

Attention Veterans: the VA New Jersey Health Care System Fort Monmouth Community Based Outpatient Clinic will be moving from its current location at Patterson Army Health Clinic in Fort Monmouth to 55 Gilbert Street in Tinton Falls, N.J.

The timeline for the transfer of operations is expected to be June 30, with a planned opening date of July 5.

The new clinic will provide enhanced services to all Veterans through the addition of women's health, optometry, and expanded TeleHealth care. The CBOC will continue to provide primary care, social work, nutrition, and mental health services.

Seventh annual SGT Nutter Run

The 7th Annual 2011 SGT Nutter Run will be held on Sunday May 15 at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, N.J., at 10:30 a.m.

Sgt. Sam Nutter (1/28/66-1/2/2005) was a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard and served in the U.S. Navy. Each year the NJ ARNG Officer Candidate School holds a benefit 5k run in his memory and 100 percent of the proceeds raised are donated to a NJ ARNG family in need. This year's proceeds will go to the family of Sgt. Michael Suplee, a current NJ ARNG member whose wife was diagnosed with Lupus.

Registration is currently open at the organization's Web site: <http://www.nutterrun.org/registration.html> or you can register on the day of the event beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The SGT Sam Nutter Organization is a registered non-profit organization which exists solely to benefit the lives of National Guard families in need.

Current Guardlife issue available online

The New Jersey National Guard Magazine "Guardlife" - Volume 35 Issue No. 2 is now available on the Internet in a user friendly online Web version at the following Web address:

<http://nj.gov/military/publications/guardlife/volume35no2/index.html>.

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 the DMAVA Publication homepage at:

<http://www.nj.gov/military/publications/>.

**E-mail your Highlights submissions to
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Veterans Outreach Schedule



May 7

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial
PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, N.J. 07777

Outreach Event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NJ Vietnam Veterans Remembrance & medal ceremony 11 a.m.

May 21

American Legion Post No. 65

Lake Ave & Holly Street, Metuchen, N.J. 08840

Outreach Event Only 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 24, 25 and 26

Paramus Park Mall

700 Paramus Park, Paramus, N.J. 07652

Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on May 24

Daily Kiosk hours 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Senator, veterans' office to host Veterans Information Day in May

The office of U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez and the Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs is hosting an event on May 18 at Camden County Boathouse from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., to assist past and present veterans.

The event, Veterans Information Day, will have representatives from Philadelphia VA Medical Center; the Philadelphia VA Regional Office; Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs; New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Camden County College and more.

The intent of this event is to assist veterans with enrolling in any state run veteran programs that are available to them and to find out about any state benefits to which they are entitled.

The Camden County Boathouse is located at 7050 North Park Drive, Pennsauken, N.J.

For more information/questions about this event or to RSVP, please email Richard Locklear at Richard.Locklear@menendez.senate.gov or contact him at 856-757-5353.

NJ Youth ChalleNGe: It's a hairy ordeal



*Class 34 of the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe program in-processed at the Mount Holly Armory on April 11 and for Jeff Washington, a contract barber, there was much work to do. The proprietor of Cutting Edge in Pemberton Township was on hand to help the male candidates meet the requirement that their hair be cut to their scalp – a marked change for many of the young men. For example, Justin Rehrig, 17, of Berlin, watched his Justin Bieber-like hair disappear in a matter of seconds. Then it was time for Dennis Alas, 18, of Elizabeth, to go from looking like Hurley from the television show *Lost* to *Kojak*. Finally, Augustin Cabrera, 17, of Elizabeth, lost any passing resemblance to Carlos Santana. Both Alas and Cabrera turned their locks over to DMAVA's Georgia Gregory, who was collecting hair for a donation to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hair pieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 21 who have suffered long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. (Photos by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA)*

It's raining money

Collecting rain drops can help you save

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

Believe it or not, there is a way to turn the rain running off the roof of your home into money.

And a group of DMAVA employees on Tuesday learned that it's possible to lower summertime water bills, thanks to a presentation from Jim Simon, the food and environment coordinator for Isles, the Trenton nonprofit organization that's responsible for all the small community gardens that have sprung up over the city.

The answer to saving the money and simply conserving water -- a resource that is already on its way to becoming scarce in many parts of the United States -- is rain barrels.

Developing a system that catches water running off rooftops in rain barrels and then rechanneling it to the yard when needed, could result in some serious reductions in a water bill simply by tapping into the tens of thousands of gallons of water that run off a typical home in a year.

Runoff for even an 800 square-foot roof, which would be found on a modest ranch home, can reach nearly 21,000 gallons of water a year. Proper harvesting the water for lawn and plants could result in the savings of at least 1,000 gallons of paid water use in the summer time.

To learn more about how to make rain barrels, check out this site provided by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University.

http://www.water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater_Management/rainbarrels.html.



Museum to exhibit M1911

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. - The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey Lawrenceville Annex recently opened an exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States Armed Forces' adoption of the .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol.

Designed by John Browning and selected in 1911 as the standard sidearm for Soldiers, sailors, and Marines, the Colt M1911 was used in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Today, it remains in use by soldiers of elite Special Forces units.

"This sidearm is considered by many the greatest military sidearm ever produced," said retired Col. Jon Gribbin, the museum's resident expert on firearms. "In fact, at least 56 Medal of Honor recipients earned their medal while using the M1911 in battle."

The exhibit at the Lawrenceville Annex features several historic M1911 variants from the museum's extensive weapons collection. The display also contains a history of the pistol; a biography of the famous designer, weapon characteristics; a field-stripped weapon, holsters and web belts from WWII and Korea, as well as a clip and ammunition; an original manual; and a GI cleaning kit.

The Lawrenceville Annex is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Groups may call retired Col. Donald Kale, Curator Emeritus, at 609-530-6802 to arrange tours by appointment.

For more information, please visit the museum's Web page at <http://www.nj.gov/military/museum/>.

AUSA to hold spring meeting in May

The Association of the United States Army Northern New Jersey Chapter 1502 will host its Spring 2011 meeting on May 17 at the Rutgers Club at 199 College Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J. beginning with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Guest speaker for the event will be retired Col. Stephen G. Abel, Director of Student Services at Rutgers University. Abel will hold discussions on the university's initiatives to serve the new generation of veterans currently attending the university.

The cost for this event is \$35 per person, payable in advance.

If attending this event, please RSVP to retired Col. Richard F. Plechner at 732-549-1535 by May 13.

Payment can be made by sending a check to the attention of retired Lt. Col. Robert H. Hasanoeddin, AUSA, P.O. Box 553, Matawan, N.J. 07747.



Maj. Brian Lapp, Lt. Col. Judie Marranco, Master Sgt. Mark Rizzo, Master Sgt. Rene Sales, and Master Sgt. Luis Arroyo pose for a photo with Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Terry Yonkers, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force on April 7 at the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The JT2DC Staff gave the Assistant Secretaries a tour of their facility, and showcased the various simulation devices, and training aids that are available at the JT2DC. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Nick Young)