

DMAVA Highlights

August 13, 2009 Volume 9 Number 29



Shadow will soon be part of the Jersey Army Guard

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

Its 38-horsepower engine sounds like a lawnmower as it warms up, but the Shadow 200 RQ-7 is no lowly home appliance.

Instead, it's a state-of-the-art tactical unmanned aerial vehicle that can spot a bad guy from 4,000 feet in the air and send a crystal-clear image back to an operator sitting more than 20 miles away.

And by 2011, the Shadow will be in the inventory of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

To that end, more than a dozen Soldiers from a Minnesota Army National Guard unit that is already fielding the Shadow came to New Jersey this week to help their counterparts here prepare for the new craft.

Part of that preparation was to validate the ability of the Air Guard's 177th Fighter Wing's Warren Grove Range to support the training and operational needs of Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems units from New Jersey and other East Coast states. Several officials from the National Guard Bureau were on hand to observe.

Col. Jorge Martinez, the Assistant Adjutant General of the New Jersey Army National Guard, said feedback from the Guard Bureau about the state's prospects of becoming a regional UAV training center has been encouraging.

In the meantime, the Soldiers of New Jersey's 50th Special Troops Battalion are focused on the steps they need to take to stand up a Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit by 2011. The unit will ultimately have 26 Soldiers and four unmanned vehicles.

The first three New Jersey Soldiers leave next month for the six-month UAV operator's course at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Pvt. Mark Wilson will be among them.

"I really can't wait to go," Wilson said. "The chance to be part of the UAV unit is an honor. I'm glad I got picked."



Wednesday's Child...Philadelphia Channel 10 news anchor, Vai Sihakema (right) and 16-year old Shawn, (center) a New Jersey foster child kid toured the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix, on Tuesday, Aug. 11 with Sgt. First Class Brent Ludlow. Shawn is interested in joining the National Guard. Photo by Kryn Westhoven, DMAVA Public Affairs Office.

Play the pros in 'Guitar Hero' on Aug. 26

Are you a "Guitar Hero®?" Would you like the opportunity to pit your Guitar Hero® skills against other military members? Maybe even some pro athletes or celebrities? Here's your chance.

The organization Pro vs. GI Joe is having a Guitar Hero® showdown at Liberty National Golf Course on Aug. 26, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a bracketed troop tournament from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The winners from the tournament will go on to compete against professional athletes and other celebrities for the next two hours.

Every military member who competes will go home with giveaways, such as video games, from the organization.

Only 20-30 lucky military men and women will be chosen to compete. If you think your skills are ready to go head-to-head against the Joes or the Pros, send your name, rank, branch of service and contact information to Addie Zinone at addie@provs-gi-joe.org. First come, first chosen. Uniform for competition is BDU/ABU/ACU/camouflage.

This competition is part of Military Day at the Barclays Tournament, first step of the FedEx Cup. for more information, see page 2.



New Jersey Army National Guard Spc. Christopher McPherson (left), watches one of his counterparts from Minnesota, Spc. Christopher Storkamp, perform maintenance on a Shadow 200 RQ-7 drone on Aug. 11. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.

We cannot afford in America to have any discontented classes, and if fair wages are paid for fair work we will have none.

--Benjamin Harrison, 23rd President of the United States

DMAVA Highlights

Some Dos and Don'ts when attending The Barclays

Are you planning on attending The Barclays golf tournament at Liberty National Golf Course, Aug. 26-30? The PGA has some recommendations for you.

We **STRONGLY** encourage all spectators who plan on attending The 2009 Barclays to take NJ transit. There will be a limited capacity for general spectator parking during The 2009 Barclays. Please only utilize officially sanctioned parking lots designated by clearly marked PGA TOUR signage.

One of the easiest ways to get to The 2009 Barclays is by using NJ Transit! You can get to Liberty State Park from any of NJ Transit's lines with a quick transfer onto the Light Rail at Hoboken Terminal. Spectators also have the option to take the train to Newark Penn Station, transfer to NJ Transit's PATH train, and transfer again at Exchange Place to the Light Rail.

Taking the Light Rail to Liberty State Park and The 2009 Barclays is simple and easy. Because we are expecting large crowds during the week of the tournament, the Light Rail will be the most convenient method of transportation, to and from the tournament.

For NJ Transit schedules, please visit www.njtransit.com

When you come to The Barclays, there are some items that are prohibited from bringing into the event:

- NO cell phones-including any cell phones with photographic capabilities, PDAs or other portable e-mail devices
- NO noise producing electronic devices
- NO cameras or camcorders (other than Tuesday and Wednesday for personal photographic use only and without their case)
- NO bags larger than 6"x6"x6" in their natural state
- NO cases or covers (such as chair or umbrella covers)
- NO signs, posters or banners
- NO television or radios
- NO food or beverages; containers or coolers
- NO pets, bicycles, or ladders

NO Weapons (regardless of permit, including but not limited to firearms or knives)

You will be required to return prohibited items to your vehicle prior to entering the tournament grounds. Be prepared to submit yourself and personal items for inspection.

While at The Barclays, please observe the instructions of the gallery marshals and stay behind the ropes at all times. Dispose of trash in the receptacles and recycling bins provided throughout the golf course.

For more information, visit <http://www.pgatour.com/tournaments/r027/local-info.html>.

DMAVA Green

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

Combing through a Web site, I found that Americans go through 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps each year. That's a lot of plastic! And only 5.2 percent of the plastic bags were recycled in 2005.

The next time we all visit the grocery, pharmacy or convenience store maybe there is a way to conserve on our bag usage.

Bring a canvas bag or two or three to carry your goodies home from the store. Or purchase several of the reusable bags from the stores where you shop. Once you unpack them, take them back to your car so they are ready for your next shopping trip.

Reuse your plastic bags – carry next week's groceries in the same bags, line your small trash cans, pick up pet waste, packing material for mailing, or go online to find directions to crochet a rug.

Find a local store that recycles plastic bags. Gather up those around the house that are collecting space and place them next to your reusable bags in the car so you remember to toss them in the recycle can on your next trip to the store.

If you are crafty and can use a sewing machine, knit or crochet, here is a Web page that offers free patterns to make bags. <http://www.curbly.com/Chrisjob/posts/4179-35-free-patterns-for-reusable-grocery-bags>. Make a few extra for friends and family to give as gifts.

Here are a couple Web sites that give instructions on how to make shopping bags from T-shirts – recycling those old shirts and saving plastic at the same time - http://www.fashion-incubator.com/archive/reusable_bag_contest_1/ or http://www.fashion-incubator.com/archive/reusable_bag_contest_1/.

Keep green.

Quotes

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

--Benjamin Franklin

It is the studying that you do after your school days that really counts. Otherwise you know only that which everyone else knows.

--Henry L. Doherty

It is difficult to save money when your neighbors keep buying things you can't afford.

--Unknown

Idleness has poverty for wages.

--German proverb

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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Col. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

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Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

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

Families

Blog dedicated to help military families

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 2009 - American Forces Press Service has launched a military blog called "Family Matters" dedicated to helping military families deal with the challenges and situations unique to a military lifestyle. The blog features tips from experts, useful resources and timely responses to comments and questions. Upcoming topics include back-to-school tips, education benefits, dealing with deployments, childcare and more. Read "Family Matters" at <http://afps.dodlive.mil/category/family-matters/>.

DoD conducting survey; wants input on social networking use

By Tim Kilbride, DoD Emerging Media Directorate

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10, 2009 – The Department of Defense is in the middle of a policy review on how to manage Internet-based capabilities like social networking and social media. These applications have a huge impact on certain missions like public affairs, recruitment, internal communication and maintaining quality of life for our servicemembers and their families. At the same time, providing access to these sites from official DoD opens those networks to security threats. To help inform the decision-making process that will balance these concerns, we are seeking your input.

Please consider: To what extent do Internet functions like social networking impact quality of life for military servicemembers and families? Is access more important when servicemembers are deployed? Are there specific Internet-based activities you feel are crucial to family bonding, family readiness and community support?

To capture your responses, DoD created the "Web 2.0 Guidance Forum" blog: <http://web20guidanceforum.dodlive.mil/2009/08/06/use-of-web-20-capabilities-by-military-families/>

Please visit the blog and take the time to share your thoughts, experiences and specific applications of Internet tools in the comments section. Also, please pass on the link to your family, friends and contacts to help provide DoD leaders with the information they need to make informed decisions on Internet-based activities.

Thank you for your feedback and your assistance in this important mission.

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
Fax – 609-530-6871

Marriage Enrichment Seminar has openings for couples to attend

From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

While the Sept. 25-27 Marriage Enrichment Seminar is full, there are six openings for the Aug. 21-23 session.

For an application for the August session or to be placed on the waiting list for the September session, please call me or drop me an e-mail. My contact information is 609-530-6884 or marie.durling@us.army.mil.

Please remember - If you sent in your registration form for either August or September and you cannot make it, I would appreciate knowing as soon as possible so I can go to the waiting list. It is not fair to hold a slot and not show up when we have Soldiers and spouses wanting to attend. If you do reserve a slot and do not attend, you will not be able to attend a future weekend unless I have a cancellation. For those of you who did send it a form for either weekend, you will receive a packet a week or two before the weekend on what to expect.

Money for college

The QuestBridge National College Match helps outstanding low-income high school seniors to gain admission and full four-year scholarships to some of the nation's leading colleges. If you are a student who has achieved academic excellence in the face of economic challenges, you can apply at www.questbridge.org.

QuestBridge works with selective colleges that are actively seeking high-achieving students regardless of family income. You may be concerned about tuition costs, but top-ranked colleges offer generous financial aid packages that cover 100 percent of demonstrated financial need, making them very affordable for students from low-income backgrounds.

Last year, more than 1,000 QuestBridge applicants were admitted to our partner colleges with generous financial aid worth over \$100 million. Of the 1,000 applicants, 260 of these students received College Match scholarships covering:

Full cost of tuition (up to \$40,000 per year)

Full cost of room and board (up to \$15,000 per year)

Most QuestBridge partner colleges also include the cost of books and travel in their scholarship packages and automatically renew the scholarship for all four years of college. All College Match scholarships are loan-free.

Family Readiness Council offers grants

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 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.

State Employees

Keeping your home safe means a safe family

In recent years, nearly 20 million medical visits were made because of unintentional home injuries.

Nearly 20,000 deaths occurred because of home injuries, including 12,000 children. Injuries are the leading cause of death for children.

According to the Home Safety Council, the top five causes of nonfatal, unintentional injuries are:

1. Falls
2. Struck by/against
3. Cut/pierce
4. Overexertion
5. Poisoning

These five causes account for almost 80 percent of injuries. Falls alone account for more than 40 percent of all nonfatal, unintentional home injuries.

Don't go slip-slidin' away at home. Don't stack magazines, tools, laundry, toys, or other items on the floor; and certainly not on steps. DO: Keep floors, and especially halls and stairs, free of clutter.

Good housekeeping is for more than just a good impression. Injuries happen from poor housekeeping. Poorly stacked materials, objects in walkways, materials leaning against the wall, knives and tools improperly stored, etc., can all cause injuries. DO: Stack and store items in kitchen cabinets, storage closets, garage shelves, etc., in a stable manner.

Overexertion dangers in the home can include shoveling, raking leaves, and lifting and carrying furniture and other heavy objects. DO: Lift safely by bending at the knees, hugging loads close to your body, and letting your legs do the lifting. Get help with large and bulky objects. Use material-handling aids, such as hand trucks, furniture dollies, and wheelbarrows.

You can help prevent poisonings in your home. DO: Read labels on all household cleaners, paints, garden supplies, etc., and follow their recommendations for use, storage, and cleanup.

Get more tips about making a "Home, Safe Home" from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyhomes>.

Protect yourself against the flu

Suzanne Miro, MPH, from the Department of Health and Senior Services will be at DMAVA central office on Wednesday Sept. 23, 10-11 a.m. in Conference Room A to discuss Seasonal Flu and H1N1 (Swine) Flu. What it is, how it is spread, and how to protect yourself and your family from it.

Deferred compensation program seminar slated for Sept. 18

A representative from Prudential Financial Services will be at DMAVA Central Office on Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to discuss changes in the current Deferred Compensation program for state employees and give one-on-one consultations. Contact Paul Serdiuk at 609-530-6878 to arrange for a consultation time.

Submit nominations for DMAVA employee awards

From the desk to Loreta Sepulveda, Director of Human Relations

We are accepting nominations for the DMAVA Employee Awards. Please submit nominations for the Winter Trimester (January – April) and the Spring Trimester (May – August) for 2009 by close of business Sept. 4. Forward all your nominations to Anna Marie Boutchia, HR Division, using the template that is available on DMAVANet. Please include the agency, division or group name where the nominee works; this information is needed for the certificates. It is requested that all nominations be typed when submitted for ease of processing and selection. Any questions regarding the Awards process can be directed to Loreta Sepulveda, Director of Human Resources. The awards presentation date (Fall 2009) will be announced in the near future.

Save money with your employee discount!

Instructions to access updated New Jersey State Employee Discount List

1. Go to CSC website at <http://www.state.nj.us/csc/>
2. Click on Information on left side of web page
3. Select employee discount
4. Click on State Employee Discounts on left side

The most recent employee discount list will come up.

State employees reminded of direct deposit convenience

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

This is just a reminder that the convenience of direct deposit is offered to all state employees. It is encouraged that our employees consider taking advantage of direct deposit with all that it has to offer.

Enrolling into direct deposit means having your money directly deposited into your checking or savings account. You're going to be on vacation on pay day? Tired of waiting for Postal Service to deliver your money? Eliminate that with direct deposit. It is a convenient and reliable way to receive your pay and know it is safe in your account, when you need it to be. And the service is free!

To get enrolled you must complete the "Authorization Agreement for Automatic Payroll Deposits" form, and turn it in to your Human Resources Payroll Department. A copy of this form is available on DMAVANet under "Human Resources – Helpful Forms." Just print, fill out and send to Human Resources. Please allow up to three pay periods (six weeks) for your direct deposit to take effect.

To request a form or more information, contact Lisa Dandrea in Human Resources at 609-530-6888.

Veterans & Military

Unity Day celebration slated for Sept. 17 at JT2DC



Come join in the New Jersey National Guard 11th Annual Unity Day celebration on Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

Celebrate our ethnic and cultural diversity through music, food sampling, giveaways, homemade dessert contest, scavenger hunt and line dancing.

There will be a Fun Walk/Run at 8:30 a.m. starting at the JT2DC and a blood drive 10 a.m.-3 p.m. also at the JT2DC.

For more information, contact Capt. Barbara Brown-Wilson, Barbara.g.brown@us.army.mil or 609-562-0856.

Free job seminar open to all; help in making career moves

The New Providence United Methodist Church is sponsoring a free eight-week re-employment seminar. Held Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 21, 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 to everyone from college graduates up to and including senior management executives and entrepreneurs.

Anyone is welcome to attend. The church is located at 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence.



Join the Warrant Officers Association



The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter, is looking for members. For membership information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Nancy E. Rowbotham at nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil.

Military gets in for free at Somerset Patriots game

Operation Jersey Cares will host the seventh annual Veterans of American Day at the TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, on Aug. 30 when the Somerset Patriots play the Camden River Sharks. Tickets for military and veterans are free, family and friends cost \$5 each.

Guest of honor will be Sgt. Maj. Edward F. Neas Sr, who will part of the audience to welcome home the Iraq War veterans. There will be a small medal ceremony and a DMAVA veterans outreach table at the game.

A parade will be held on the ball field at 4 p.m. and the game begins at 5:05 p.m. To purchase the discounted friends and family tickets, contact Marc Russinoff of the Patriots at 908-252-0700, extension 215 or mrussinoff@somersetpatriots.com.

ADA reunion picnic will be held Sept. 4 in Sea Girt

The Air Defense Artillery reunion picnic will be held at The Pavilion, Sea Girt, on Sept. 4, at noon. Cost is \$20 per person.

All prior ADA members and their families are invited.

Contact retired Col. Larry Stroud, 609-239-6911, LSSR@prodigy.net or retired Col. Bill Walsh at 732-928-1704 to RSVP if at all possible – it will be appreciated.

Veterans Organizations contact information

State Veterans Service Council
 Richard Clark, RJClark21@msn.com
 BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council
 William Rakestraw, warjrnj@msn.com
 Veterans Hotlines
 Benefits and Entitlements
 1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)
 Mental Health
 1-866-VETS-NJ4 (1-866-838-7654)

Calendar

When – Aug. 15

What – Six Flags Military Day

Where – Great Adventure and Wild Safari

More info – Call Liberty USO, 215-365-8010

When – Aug. 16-17

What – 50th IBCT Yellow Ribbon 30-Day Reintegration

Where – Atlantic City Convention Center

More info – 609-530-6846

When – Aug. 19

What – Youth program trip

Where – Franklin Institute, Philadelphia

More info – Amanda Balas, amanda.balas@us.army.mil or (609) 530-6884



When – Aug. 19, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

What – Atlantic City Air Show

Where – The beach and boardwalk, Atlantic City

More info – www.atlanticcitynj.com/acairsho.aspx

When – Aug. 21-23 and Sept 25-27

What – Marriage Enrichment Seminars

Where – TBD

More info – Marie Durling, marie.durling@us.army.mil or (609) 530-6884

When – Aug. 22

What – Teaneck FRG/FAC Welcome Home and Back to School picnic

Where – Fountain Springs Country Club, Ringwood

More info – 201-833-0632 or 201-833-8356

When – Aug. 23

What – Poker Run, for scholarship funds

Where – The Pub, Browns Mills

More info – www.rollingthunder-nj2.org



When – Sept. 21

What – 114th Inf Regimental Assoc. Golf Tournament

Where – Pitman Golf Course, Sewell

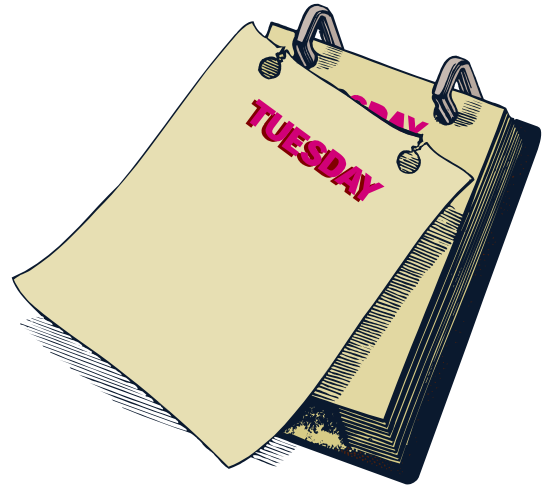
More info – royceray@comcast.net

When – Sept. 26

What – 22nd annual New Jersey Friends of the Guard and Reserve golf outing

Where – Falcon Crest golf course, McGuire Air Force Base

More info – 609-562-0156 or 609-562-0157



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.

Aug. 20***

Mercer County Waterfront Park,

Home of the Trenton Thunder

Aug. 30****

TD Bank Ballpark,

Home of the Somerset Patriots

Sept. 22*, 23, 24 Rockaway Town-square Mall

Oct. 20, 21, 22** Jersey Gardens Mall

Nov. 9*, 10 Woodbridge Center Mall



*Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

**Medal ceremony at 1 p.m.

***Outreach program only, 7:05 p.m.

****Outreach program only, 4:05 p.m.

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.