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DMAVA Highlights » 26 February 2009

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Volume 9, Number 7

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NJ Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth
 The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson
 Deputy Adjutant General

Col. (Ret) Stephen G. Abel
 Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Contacting us is easy!

Public Affairs Office

Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison
barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us
 Or

Phone: (609) 530-7088
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Please submit any articles and all information for DMAVA Highlights to:

PAO Office DMAVA Highlights
 ATTN: Staff Sgt. Barb Harbison

Deadline is noon Wednesday

Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison
barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us
 Or Call 609-530-7088

DMAVA Highlights Archive

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Veterans' Organizations Contact Information

State Veterans Service Council
 Mr. Richard Clark
RJClark21@msn.com

BG Willam C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council

Mr. William Rakestraw
warjrj@msn.com

News For Your Views

2009 is the Army's Year of the NCO

The Secretary of the Army announced that 2009 will be the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO). With more than 200 years of exemplary service, the U.S. Army's NCO Corps has distinguished itself as the military's most accomplished group of professionals. Throughout history, Army NCOs continually display acts of courage, possess a keen ability to adapt and improvise, and are extremely technically and tactically proficient. All these attributes combined with their genuine sense of duty ensure mission accomplishment and success. In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, Secretary of the Army established 2009 as "Year of the NCO." Throughout 2009, the Army will celebrate and honor NCOs through initiatives and events that enhance and accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership development initiatives. Additionally, by showcasing the NCO story to the Army and the American people, this recognition will enhance awareness of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO and honor the sacrifices and contributions of the NCO Corps, past and present. For more information visit the Year of the NCO website at <http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php>.

March 20 is COOP-COG exercise for DMAVA Lawrenceville staff

From the desk of Loreta Sepulveda, Director of Human Resources Division

All DMAVA personnel will participate in the March 20, COOP-COG Field Exercise. All employees are to report to Lawrenceville and then will be bused to Sea Girt for a briefing on the exercise and site orientations. Lunch will be available at Sea Girt for approximately \$4, or employees can bring their own lunch. Employees will be bused back to DMAVA to complete the workday.

Guard, Reserve retirement seminar at Fort Dix on May 9

Retirement from the Guard and Reserve can come after twenty years of service, but the retirement checks for traditional or M-day service members don't come until their 60th birthday. The years between are often referred to as being a gray-area retiree. If you are in that area or are getting close to that point and wonder if you have any benefits, mark May 9 on your calendar.

A Guard and Reserve Retirement Benefit seminar will be held on May 9 at the Timmerman Center, Fort Dix, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. It is free to ALL Guard, Reserve, spouses and retirees. Civilian attire is authorized.

Presenters from military service centers, Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, and various military transition organizations will cover topics from Guard and Reserve perspective such as: Survivor Benefit Plan, Tricare/Dental, Veterans benefits, VA disability and more.

Contact Chief Petty Officer (Navy Counselor) Everett Currie at 757-445-7295, extension 2205 or Everett.currie@navy.mil for more details.

Marines looking for former Lejeune residents

Veterans Hotlines



Benefits & Entitlements

1-888-8NJ-VETS
(1-888-865-8387)

Mental Health

1-866-VETS-NJ4
(1-866-838-7654)

Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline

1-800-984-8523

NJ World War II Memorial



For information or to make a donation,
call 609-530-7049

[WWII Memorial on the web](#)

ESGR Office

JFHQ 3650 Saylors Pond Road Fort
Dix, NJ 08641

Hank Pierre, 609-562-0156,
hank.pierre@njdmava.state.nj.us
Tammy Cartagena, 609-562-0157,
tammy.l.cartagena@us.army.mil
Fax 609-562-0158

Phone numbers and Web sites to remember

Directory Assistance:

1-602-293-4907

Verizon Super Pages:

<http://www.superpages.com>

AT&T:

<http://www.anywho.com/>

SBC Yellow Pages:

<http://www.yellowpages.com/>

Telephone and contact
information on state employees
can be found at

<http://njdirect.state.nj.us/>

DMAVA Emergency Hotline:

1-866-232-5798

Did you live or work at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune 1987 or before? If so, please register with the Marine Corps by visiting www.marines.mil/clsurvey or by calling the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at 877-261-9782, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.

In the early 1980's, two solvents, trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), both unregulated at the time, were found in two water systems serving the Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point areas. Certain drinking water wells were identified as the source of the chemicals and were taken out of service in 1984 and 1985.

The Department of the Navy is funding two independent research initiatives. The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is conducting a health study to see if there is an association between exposure to the water and certain adverse health effects. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is conducting a comprehensive review of scientific literature and potential health risks related to exposures at Camp Lejeune.

Upon completion of the research, the Marine Corps will directly notify those on the registry through direct mail and e-mail.

Camp Lejeune water meets or exceeds all environmental standards today.

Drinking water wells at Camp Lejeune are tested four times a year for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), in addition to monthly drinking water sampling. The base is in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations to ensure safe drinking water.

Free tickets for military to Rockhoppers ice hockey game

If you enjoy a few hours of watching guys racing around the ice on skates whacking a puck, trying to get it into a net at either end of the ice rink, then you will probably enjoy the Military Appreciation Night with the Jersey Rock Hoppers on March 15.

The game will be played against the Brooklyn Aces at 5:30 p.m. in the Richard J. Codey Arena at South Mountain, West Orange.

Any military ID – active duty, retired, spouse – will receive a free ticket with presentation of ID at the box office. Family and friends will be able to purchase tickets for \$8. If your unit or group is attending, let the team know ahead of time; they would like to recognize you during the game.

Visit www.JerseyRockhoppers.com to see more about the team. Call Joe Matrale at 973-419-6194, extension 8057 or e-mail JMatrale@jerseyrockhoppers.com for information or to pre-order tickets.

NG Family Programs conducting child care use survey

The National Guard Family Program Division announces the National Guard: Child Care Use During Deployment Survey.

Our target audience is National Guard families with children who are currently preparing for deployment, in a deployment phase, or recently returned from deployment (up to 2 months after return).

Information collected in this survey will be used to research perceptions and child care needs of military members. This information will assist in the formulation and improvement of policies for programs that benefit military families. Reports will be provided to the National Guard Family Programs Division. Findings may be used in reports and testimony provided to Congress and other Government Agencies. Some findings may be published in professional journals, or presented at conferences, symposia, and scientific meetings. In no case will individual identifiable survey responses be reported.

Providing information on this survey is voluntary. Most people take 10-15 minutes to complete the survey.

Survey link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228AQH9A7LQ>.

Picatinny holding Annual Egg Hunt on March 21

Children 11 and under are invited to the Annual Egg Hunt at the Picatinny Teen Center on March 21, 1:30-3 p.m. There will be an egg hunt, games, prizes, refreshments, arts and crafts and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

State Family Programs
101 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville

Toll-free number
888-859-0352

Family Assistance
609-530-6884

Teen Youth Group
609-530-6836
Fax: 609-530-6871

Call a Chaplain
24/7
609-694-0635
609-802-8125

**Get your VA benefits as a Direct
Deposit into your checking or
savings account**

call 800-333-1795
or visit www.GoDirect.org

Quotes for the Week

Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.

-Abraham Lincoln

Necessity never made a good bargain.

- Benjamin Franklin

Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, called conscience.

- George Washington

On the human chessboard, all moves are possible.

- Miriam Schiff

Hope is putting faith to work when doubting would be easier.

- Anonymous

The egg hunt begins at 1:30 sharp so participants are asked to arrive early. The teen center is located in building 3228.

Everyone is asked to RSVP by March 13; call 973-724-5555/7183 for reservations. This is a BYOB event – that is bring your own basket for the younger crowd!

Commissaries coming to the armories

Here is an opportunity to get out there and capitalize on some great bargains on canned goods and other items offered by the commissary and not have to make the trip to Ft Dix or Ft Monmouth. You will need your Military ID to prove eligibility and the sale is open to all military ID holders (dependents, servicemembers, active, retired). They will accept cash or credit cards.

The McGuire Commissary will be having an "On Site Sale" on April 4 at 10 a.m. at the Cherry Hill Armory, Grove Street and Park Boulevard. For more information about the event, contact Michele Daisey, Woodbury FAC, 856-251-6893.

The Fort Monmouth's Commissary will hold their On Site Sale on March 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and March 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Freehold Armory, 635 State Highway 33. For more information, contact Maria Morro at 732-341-9102.

Avalon now has drop off for "Cell Phones for Soldiers"

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

Avalon, N.J., is joining the effort to support the brave men and women in the United States military by providing a "Cell Phones for Soldiers" drop off location at the Avalon Public Safety Building, on Dune Drive between 30th and 31st Streets, in Avalon. "Cell Phones for Soldiers" is a collection drive for used, unwanted cell phones. A collection box for the unused cell phones has been placed in the lobby of the new Avalon Public Safety Building. "Cell Phones for Soldiers" was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist from Norwell, Mass., with \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501c3 non-profit organization has raised almost \$1 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas. The donated phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays "Cell Phones for Soldiers" for each phone; enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad.

Sesame Street will air special on April 1 for military families

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

Sesame Workshop will air a Public Broadcasting Service special on April 1 that is aimed at helping military families cope with changes. Actor/singer Queen Latifah and singer John Mayer will join Elmo to present, "Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change." The special carries a message for children whose parents suffered a physical or psychological wound in combat. The half-hour special, which will air at the beginning of the "Month of the Military Child," is a part of Sesame Workshop's "Talk, Listen, Connect" initiative, which began two years ago. The special is scheduled to air April 1 at 8 p.m. EST. Please check your local listings for the exact air time in your area. Visit <http://www.military.com/military-spouse-network> or <http://archive.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/> for more information.

Shades of Green offers Disney for military

Now that the summer is just around the corner, thoughts of how to spend your next vacation week are probably starting to pop into your mind. "Can we go someplace better or different, nearer or farther from home, all without breaking the bank?"

One place for military members to consider if Florida is one of your next vacation places is Shades of Green in Orlando. Minutes from the Disney attractions, this resort is also close to golf, dining and other Florida attractions.

Their web site, www.shadesofgreen.org can give you tours of their rooms and family suites, the local attractions and other amenities that are offered by the resort. The rates are reasonable and will be an opportunity to visit Orlando with your family.

DMAVA Green

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

Plastic Recycling Facts from Earth911.com

- In 2006, Americans drank about 167 bottles of water each but only recycled an average of 23 percent. That leaves 38 billion water bottles in landfills.
- Bottled water costs between \$1 and \$4 per gallon, and 90 percent of the cost is in the bottle, lid and label.
- According to the Beverage Marketing Corp, the average American consumed 1.6 gallons of bottled water in 1976. In 2006 that number jumped to 28.3 gallons.
- It takes over 1.5 million barrels of oil to manufacture a year's supply of bottled water. That's enough oil to fuel 100,000 cars.
- Eight out of 10 plastic water bottles become landfill waste.
- In 2007 we spent \$16 billion on bottled water. That's more than we spent on iPods or movie tickets.
- Plastic bottles take 700 years before they *begin* to decompose in a landfill.
- If everyone in NYC gave up water bottles for one week, they would save 24 million bottles from being landfilled. One month on the same plan would save 112 million bottles, and one year would save 1.328 billion bottles from going into the landfill.

If you have a green tip or a site to recommend, drop me a line at
Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Calendar

Career fair for military, Guard, family members on March 12

RecruitMilitary will be hosting a career fair in cooperation with HireVets First and the American Legion on **March 12** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Citizens Bank Park (Home of the Philadelphia Phillies). It is being hosted to benefit all veterans, transitioning military personnel, members of the Guard and Reserve and military family members in the greater Philadelphia area.

Job seekers who would like to pre-register for the event can go here:
<http://careerfaairs.recruitmilitary.com/cf/181-Philadelphia/candidates/information>

A flyer that you can print, post, and forward to anyone that may benefit from this free event can be found here: <http://careerfaairs.recruitmilitary.com/cf/181-Philadelphia/candidates/poster.pdf>.

Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council selling Palm crosses for Easter season

The Brig. Gen. William Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council is selling Easter Season Palm Crosses to be placed on graves at the cemetery. For those who wish to purchase the crosses for their loved one's graves, the cost is \$15 and orders must be placed by **March 23**.

Send your name, phone number, address, name of the deceased with their grave number and section with the check made payable to "BG Doyle Cemetery Memorialization Fund," 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown NJ 08562. The crosses will be placed on the graves by April 3. One cross per grave.

This is a fundraiser and profits benefit the beautification of the cemetery.

Vietnam traveling wall coming to Cherry Hill, N.J., in April

"The Wall That Heals", a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will bring the message of The Wall to Cherry Hill, N.J., from **April 16-19**. The exhibition features the dramatic replica – stretching nearly 250 feet in total length – as well as an Information Center and traveling museum displaying memorabilia left at The Wall in Washington, D.C.

Local sponsors and volunteers are sought to help with this worthwhile and historical event. Sponsorship and Volunteer forms can be filled out online by going to www.alch372.com. Alternatively you can e-mail squinn9807@aol.com, call 856-665-3889 to have a form sent to you or stop by American Legion Post 372 located at 1532 Martin Ave, Cherry Hill (behind Cherry Hill West High School).

Schools, Training

254th Regiment provides class schedule for 2009 training year

The following courses will be conducted by the 254th Regiment, New Jersey Army National Guard, at Sea Girt and Fort Dix during training year 2009.

INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING COURSES (IDT):

- The Army Basic Instructor Training Course: April 4-June 13, 2009
- Small Group Instructor Course: July 11-Sept. 19, 2009 (must complete Army Basic Instructor Course first)
- Pre WARRIOR Leadership Courses (3 weekends per class): April 4-June 14, 2009; and July 11-Sept. 20, 2009
- Officer Candidate School: Phase 0 Class 53 begins March 7, 2009
- Officer Candidate School: Phase 2 Class 53 Aug. 1, 2009-June 14, 2010
- Company Level Command Team Course (for new Commanders and their 1SGs): Sept. 19-20, 2009

ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING COURSES

- 13F10 MOS-T Fire Support Specialist (8 days): March 14-21, 2009
- 11B10 MOS-T Infantryman (15 days): May 9-23, 2009
- 11B2/3/4 (T) Infantryman Transition (15 days, E5 and above): May 9-23, 2009
- 11B40 Advanced NCO Course (ANCOC) Phase II (15 days) Fort Dix: Possibly in Sep09.
- 68W10 Medic Sustainment (10 days): July 13-22, 2009.
- Combat Lifesaver Course, various locations: Send unit request to Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Cosmanic at Stephen.r.cosmanic@us.army.mil for scheduling.

Questions should be addressed to 1st Sgt. Gary Davidson, 732-974-6312/5900 or gary.davidson@nj.ngbarmy.mil. ATRRS School Code: 1004.

Retirements, Reunions

JFHQ's Hail and Farewell at Dix on March 21

JFHQ is holding an Officer and Enlisted Hail and Farewell dinner – Spring Fling and a Little Gambling – on **March 21** at 5:30 p.m. on the Fort Dix drill floor. Dress is business casual. Retirees and all former members of STARC/JFHQ's and other DMAVA employees are welcome to attend. Cost is \$25 per person. There will be casino games (no real money will be used) and a DJ for dancing following the dinner and presentation of awards. For information and reservations, call Chief Warrant Officer Paul Sleeper, 609-562-0331 or e-mail: paul.sleeper@us.army.mil. Money and reservations need to be in no later than March 8.

Gala reunion planned for former, current 170th/108th personnel

Come one, come all – active or retired – for a fun-filled weekend with trips down memory lane. A Gala Reunion is being planned for all of the faces of the 170th and 108th Air Refueling Wing on **April 25, 2009**.

The elegant semi-formal will be held at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, 200 Atrium Drive, Somerset, NJ, 6-11 p.m.

A deposit of \$50 is required per person as soon as possible. Hotel reservation, rates and activities will be announced at a later date.

For more information, contact Gloria A. Smith, 732-752-8263/732-991-9102 or Phyllis Jackson-Rackley, 908-451-7147/908-730-6377.

Say Again?



CD for downloading as gift to military, veterans

Isaac Hayes, Alan Jackson, Roy Orbison, Daughtry, Good Charlotte, Joe Perry and eight more artists and groups have come together and each donated one song to the CD, "For the Troops II."

John Ondrasik of Five For Fighting, led the project for the second time. The original CD, "For the Troops," was downloaded more than 350,000 times and 200,000 hard copies were distributed to service members and veterans.

The new CD, which can be downloaded for free at www.aafes.com, will continue to be available until mid-March. Those with valid military identification will be eligible to download the CD.

To get a complete list of the artists and songs on the CD, go to www.cdforthetroops.com.

Military OneSource offers free tax preparation, filing

Just in time for tax season – Military OneSource is offering free preparation and filing of both your Federal and State taxes.

This program is available for all DoD components, Guard and Reserves and their families.

To get started or find out more information on this valuable benefit, call 1-800-342-9647 or visit www.militaryonesource.com.

Don't let a tax preparer take even more of your money with tax preparation fees. Maximize your refund or minimize your tax bill by visiting Military OneSource today!

Take the next step, become a Warrant Officer

Are you 18-33 years old? Any MOS. Make the next step in your Army career a Warrant Officer. You may qualify to become a 153A Rotary Wing Pilot.

First, review the prerequisites for the MOS on the Web site: www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/index.htm Next, call Warrant Officer Mercedes Devarie, the new Warrant Officer Strength Manager for more information.

The New Jersey Army National Guard is looking for individuals to fill the following MOSs: 153A, 152B, 153D, 155E, 210A, 250N, 251A, 254A, 350F, 351M, 420A, 882A, 890A, 914A, 915A, 919A, 920A, 920B, 922A.

Contact WO Devarie at 609-562-0721 or mercedes.devarie@us.army.mil.

Earn up to \$8,500 for officer accessions in G-RAP

From the desk of Warrant Officer Misty L. DiGangi, AMEDD Recruiter

Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting ARNG recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the ARNG. RAs may earn up to \$8,500 for each select Officer Candidate who accepts a Commission.

As a G-RAP RA you will cultivate quality Officer Candidates from within your spheres of influence and work with an Officer Strength Manager (OSM) or Warrant Officer Strength Manager (WOSM) to process the Officer Candidate and move them towards accession.

The total amount of payment for an Officer Accession is determined by the ARNG's current critical needs and the GRAP-O payment chart. There are four categories by which RAs will receive payment for Officer Accessions. RAs can earn up to \$2,000 for

each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training or for each prior service member.

G-RAP is available to Traditional Guard members and National Guard retirees. For more information, go to <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/>.

Sign up for G-RAP, bring in friends and make \$\$\$\$

Sign up today and earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists into the National Guard and reports to basic training.

The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply to become eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiting Assistant (RA).

G-RAP is available to Traditional Guard members and National Guard retirees. This opportunity is open to both Army and Air Guard members. For more information, go to <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/>.

Information for N.J. state employees

Important information regarding state health benefits eligibility audit

Recently a letter was mailed to many State employees requesting that by Feb. 20, 2009, documents be submitted to verify the eligibility of dependents who are receiving State health care benefits. You may have received or heard of this letter. The letter is part of an eligibility audit program of the State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) that is required by law. The letter states that if you do not provide the information by Feb.20, your dependents will not be covered.

Please be advised that no eligible dependent will be removed from the State Health Benefits Plan on Feb. 20, 2009. While we had originally asked that the documents be submitted by Feb. 20, we recognize this may present a hardship. We are asking those of you who received the letter to get the documentation as soon as possible so that the audit process moves forward. We will send a reminder to those who received the mailing in the next few weeks establishing a deadline for submission.

For those of you who did not receive a letter, please be advised you will also be receiving a written notice requiring that you verify the eligibility of dependent coverage. This will be an individual notice sent to your address and it will include a deadline for response and instructions.

Because the letter has generated questions among many recipients, the Division of Pensions and Benefits soon will prepare and post on its Web site a special "FAQ" page that will provide detailed information and address concerns about the eligibility audit and its requirements.

Audit programs are important and are used by many businesses and governments to ensure that only those eligible are covered and we look forward to implementing the audit in a way that satisfies our legal obligation but is still fair and with adequate notice to our State workforce.

Please do not hesitate to contact the SHBP Dependent Eligibility Verification Service Center at 1-866-641-5651 if you have any additional questions.

State has new time sheets for employees

From the desk of Cindy L. Leese, Human Resources manager

For state employees, effective pay period 4 there are new timesheets that are on DMAVA Net under Human Resources. Click on the timesheet that pertains to you – manager, standard or shift differential – go to Save As, name it as your timesheet and save it to your Z drive.

These are the only timesheets that should be used from this point. If you submit an old timesheet it will be returned back to you.

These timesheets are not to be used by the three memorial homes.

If you have any questions, please call Cindy Leese at 609-530-7056 or Irene Sokolowski at 609-530-7038.

State employees who move, marry must contact HR department

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

If you are a state employee, working for DMAVA, Vets Haven, and the Cemetery, and you have an address change and/or a name change, it is *extremely* important that you contact Lisa Dandrea in the Human Resources Office. There have been a lot of issues with tax W2s, pension statements and pay checks being returned to our office, as well as some employees not receiving their new health cards, all due to incorrect addresses. Your address change is not automatic and it is not limited to completing a new W4. There are specific forms for employees to complete that updates their new information statewide. Your change of address or name affects your paycheck, your pension statements, W2s, loans, any information sent out by your health care provider, promotional announcements from Dept. of Personnel, etc. If you have had an address/name change and have not updated your information, please make sure you contact Lisa Dandrea in HRD-ESB at 609-530-6888 or e-mail Lisa.Dandrea@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Discounts offered for State employees

Are you a state employee looking to save a few \$\$\$?

Visit www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm and you can find a number of businesses who offer discounts to New Jersey state employees. From amusement parks to fitness to computer to phones and lots of other discounts between, you will find many ways to save money. For more information, please contact Cindy Leese at cindy.leese@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-7056.



For the Families

Youth Camp applications now online

From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator

Youth Camp 2009 is on the calendar for July 19-25 at Sea Girt. Applications for 2009 N.J. National Guard Youth Camp are now online. The applications have changed, so read carefully when choosing and filling out your application. You can find the three applications in blue at the bottom of the NJNG Family Programs Web site at http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Amanda Balas at 609-530-6836 or amanda.balas@us.army.mil.

Join the online Guard Family

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

An invitation is extended to join the online Guard Family Portal community! Our goal is to make this website your "one-stop shop" for everything Guard! Here is the link to join:

- Visit <http://www.guardfamily.org>
- Click the Join link on the top right
- Complete the form and click Submit!

The website will provide up-to-date, relevant and state-specific content, including announcements, news, events, discussion forums, documents, surveys and reports.

In addition, you can learn about Family Readiness, Program Services and Plans & Operations, take on-line training, and the site keeps you informed and involved about your benefits as a serving family. FRG Leaders and volunteers are strongly encouraged to enroll on the site and log in your volunteer hours.

During the Deployment Information

Our Military Kids grant program recently expanded

Our Military Kids, a program that provides grants to children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard military, has expanded its program eligibility in two ways. The program which had been open to children in grades K - 12, will now be offered to 3- and 4-year-olds. Additionally, children may be eligible for a second grant award if their parent is deployed for 365 days or more. Our Military Kids grants cover six months of an activity to a maximum award of \$500. Children who have a parent deployed for 365 days or more will now be eligible for a second grant award provided the parent has 60 days remaining on the deployment orders and six months has elapsed since the first grant award. Our Military Kids provides grants for sports, fine arts and tutoring so that children may start or continue participation in an activity while the parent is away or recovering from serious injury. To date, over 3,000 children have received awards from Our Military Kids.

To find more information on the program or to download an application, go to www.ourmilitarykids.org.

Reunion briefing schedule announced for family members

From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

We know it is early to mention reunion briefs but we wanted to get the dates and locations out now so you can make plans to attend the one most convenient for you. All briefs are the same - they are not unit specific. Attend the one that is most convenient for you.

Soldier & Family Reunion Brief Schedule

Date	Armory	Time
March 21, 2009	Port Murray	9:30 a.m.
March 22, 2009	Lawrenceville	1 p.m.
April 4, 2009	Jersey City	9:30 a.m.
April 5, 2009	Vineland	1 p.m.
April 16, 2009	Cherry Hill	6:30 p.m.
April 19, 2009	Toms River	1 p.m.
April 27, 2009	Woodbridge	6:30 p.m.
May 6, 2009	Somerset	6:30 p.m.
May 11, 2009	Mount Holly	6:30 p.m.
May 16, 2009	Woodbury	9:30 a.m.
May 21, 2009	Teaneck	6:30 p.m.

N.J. Family Readiness Council increases grants to families, businesses

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 what 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.

Give parents a break

Child Youth Services at Fort Dix and many other active duty posts provide 16 hours per child per month of free hourly/respite child care to relieve family stress during deployment. Respite care begins 30 days prior to deployment and ends 60 days after return. Drop off the kids while shopping at the commissary or PX or just to get some quiet time to yourself. For additional information, contact Cathy Spiegal at Fort Dix Outreach Services 609-562-2242.

Child care \$\$\$\$ available for spouses of deployed military

From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator

Child care money is available for spouses of Title 10 Army National Guard activated Soldiers only. If the spouses are employed, seeking employment (for 60 days) or going to school, they can qualify for a \$100 per month per child stipend for fulltime care (licensed child care provider required). Call the National Guard Child Care Program today to apply 1-888-642-2799 or ngccp@guardfamily.org.

FRG volunteers needed

Family Readiness Groups (FRG) play an important role during deployments.

Yet, in order to be successful, these groups rely on the support of volunteers.

FRGs are comprised of volunteers who donate their time to make sure our Soldier's "Homefront Heroes" are supported through networking with other family members and mutually offering support to one another.

If you would like to be a volunteer or a participant please contact your local Family Assistance Center. You can reach them by calling our toll free number 888-859-0352 and selecting the prompt of the Family Assistance Center near you.

Reserve Aid gives support to families of deployed service members

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

Reserve Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing financial support to the families of Reserve Service Members called to active duty in all five branches of the Armed Forces. Reserve Aid makes unrestricted, need based grants to military families who have a Reserve service member on full-time deployment to a combat zone or homeland security position. Their goal is to alleviate the emotional and financial burdens placed on the men and women called to serve our country by supporting their families at home. For additional information and application procedures go to: www.reserveaid.org.

N.J. licenses, registration extended for deployed troops

New Jerseyans who are on active duty military, in [the National Guard](#) or the military reserves, serving in the war on terrorism, are eligible for automatic extensions of a valid driver license, registration or inspection expiration dates. Go to www.nj.gov/mvc/ for more information.

Morris County offers program for military families

From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator

Family Service of Morris County in partnership with the Family Programs Office, New Jersey, would like to announce its Military Families Outreach Program. Based on a community effort, the Military Families Outreach Program strives to support Morris County military personnel and their families, including extended families, pre-deployment, during deployment and post-deployment.

We realize the pressures and problems that may occur when a family member is called to duty, and we want to assist with any services that you may need to ensure quality of life. Social services, support services and mental health services are some of the resources that will be available to Morris County residents. All services offered in this program are free of charge to you and your family and are bound by the highest consideration for complete confidentiality.

For more information about the Military Services Outreach Program, contact Valerie Hart, Military Families Outreach Case Manager at vhart@fsmc.org or call 973-538-5260, extension 326. You can also contact Tammy Rosenthal, Director of child and Adolescent Services at trosenthal@fsmc.org or 973-538-5260. We are privileged to work with you who have given so much for your country!

Travel Help, Ideas

Disney offers Armed Forces Salute with great offers, passes



For those military families planning a trip to a Disney Resort this year, you picked a good time to go – Disney Parks are offering active and retired U.S. military personnel, including active and retired members of the U.S. Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard and Reserves, a complimentary, multi-day admission into their U.S. theme parks.

The "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" also includes great rates at select Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort hotels and additional special ticket prices for family members and friends.

Visit www.disneyworld.com/military for information on the offerings. You can find detailed information on all the offers at http://wdwibc1.wdpromedia.com/ibc_wdw_v0101/media/en_US/content/nextGen/resorts/MilitaryOffer2009WDPRO2.pdf

Visit your local ITT office for details and to book or get your tickets; there is one located at the Fort Dix/McGuire PX/BX.

When visiting Disney World, don't forget the resort hotel, Shades of Green which is available only to service members and their families, retirees and civilian employees of the Defense Department. Find out more at www.shadesofgreen.org.

Armed Forces Vacation Club offers affordable lodging

The Armed Forces Vacation Club is a "space available" program offering Department of Defense affiliated personnel affordable condominium vacations at over 3,500 resorts around the world. Visit www.afvclub.com/ for more information.



Scholarship, Education News

SSG Frank T. Carvill scholarship for Jersey Guard kids

Friends and family of Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill, a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard who was killed while serving in Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom, have established scholarship in his name.

According to those close to him, Carvill was a strong advocate of education and he felt it was important to help his fellow Guardsmen and their families.

The SSG Frank T. Carvill Memorial Scholarship Award is designed to honor and remember Frank Carvill. Applications are available by contacting Peggy Carvill-Liguori at drpeg639@aol.com. Deadline for submitting applications is **April 30, 2009**.

These are the eligibility requirements for the scholarships –

- The applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of the New Jersey National Guard.
- The applicant may apply for the scholarship while attending high school or presently be in or accepted by a college/vocational program as a full-time student.
- The applicant must volunteer time to the community.
- The applicant must have a minimum GPA of 2.75

- The applicant must compose an essay stating:
- How volunteerism affects your life
- How the U.S. military has influenced your life

N.J. Vietnam Vets Memorial Foundation announces 2009 scholarships

Graduating seniors have until **April 17, 2009**, to submit their applications and essays to qualify for one of two scholarships offered by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. The scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,500, will be awarded to high school seniors from New Jersey who plan to further their education either at a college or university or trade/technical school.

Winners will be notified in early May and will be awarded the scholarship on Monday, May 25, during the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

In addition to the scholarship application and proof of acceptance to a college or trade school, all applicants must submit an essay about his/her visit to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, located off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel.

To assist students in writing their essays, the Foundation offers free, veteran-led guided tours of the Memorial. Beginning February 7, and continuing through April 11, these tours are held every Saturday at 11 a.m. and at 1 p.m. These tours are also available to the members of the general public who would like to learn more about the Memorial. Tours are approximately 45 minutes in length.

The deadline for application and essay submissions is 5 p.m. on April 17, 2009. Applications may be mailed or delivered to the NJVVM Scholarship Program, 1 Memorial Lane, P.O. Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733.

For a scholarship application form or more information about the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, please visit www.njvvmf.org or call (732) 335-0033.

Education news for NJARNG

Education Services Brochure Booklet (ESB2)

Access the New Jersey Army National Guard's ESB2 at www.nj.gov/military/education. The ESB2 is a comprehensive guide with links and shortcuts to civilian education benefits available to New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers.

G.I. Bill Notice of Basic Eligibility

New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers can print their Eligibility of Mobilized Soldier notification letter for CH 1607 as well as Notice Of Basic Eligibility for CH 1606 at For Army National Guard Education Benefits, please use <https://www.nationalguardbenefits.com>; click on G.I. Bill Home Page.

American Legion offers scholarships, booklet on their Web site

The American Legion has scholarship information on their Web site – www.legion.org – including the 152-page booklet, *Need a Lift*, which is a complete financial aid reference guide for veterans, family members and the American Legion family. When you get on the site, click on "Scholarship Information" in the "Useful Links" block.

Association News

Annual business meeting for NGANJ scheduled for April 25

By Capt. Paul Koester, Acting Secretary, NGANJ

Attention all National Guard Association of New Jersey Officers and Warrant Officers – The NGANJ annual meeting will be held on **April 25** at Timmerman Theater on Fort

Dix. Sign-in will start at 7:30 a.m. with the meeting starting at 8 a.m. Breakfast items will be provided. Dress is business casual, (elected officers - coat and tie). All members are highly encouraged to attend as this year is an election year. For more information or questions, contact Capt. Paul Koester at 609-754-2128.

NGANJ announces executive council meeting dates for 2009

Here is a list of the National Guard Association of New Jersey Executive Council meetings for 2009.

Date	Host Command	Location
April 7	108th ARW	McGuire AFB
April 25	NGANJ Annual Business Mtg	Timmerman Theater, Fort Dix
July 7	50th IBCT	McGuire AFB
Sept. 11-13	131st NGAUS General Conf.	Nashville, Tenn.
Oct. 6	177th FW	McGuire AFB
Jan. 5, 2010	42nd RSG	McGuire AFB

All meetings will be held at the 108th ARW Conference Room, McGuire Air Force Base unless otherwise noted. All Executive Council meetings begin at 7 p.m.; food will be provided at 6:30 p.m. The annual business meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and sign-in starts at 7:30 a.m. If there are any questions, contact Capt. Paul Koester at 609-754-2128.

Join the Enlisted Association, make your voice heard

Now is the time to join the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey.

The Association started out in 1965 as a chapter of the Active Army Association (NCOA) but membership was limited to NCOs of the Army National Guard. Six years later they reorganized as the Army and Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer's Association. In 1992, a change to their current name expanded the membership to all enlisted Soldiers and Airmen.

Benefits of joining the EANGNJ include subscriptions to the New Patriot and Enlisted Voice newsletters, eligibility to apply for six \$1,000 scholarships, inexpensive term insurance, national membership with EANGUS and a voice on legislative issues.

The association holds four executive council meetings in February, May, August, and November. They will hold their annual business in Gettysburg, Pa., on **Oct. 9-11, 2009.**

Drop by the Association's Web site, www.EANG-NJ.org, and check out the page on the Annual Business meeting on Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 9-11 at the Eisenhower Conference Center Gettysburg, Pa. Check out the conference center at <http://www.eisenhower.com> and <http://www.gettysburg.travel>

Information on the meeting, including a registration form, flyer about the Friday Night Social, package plan sheet and three tier payment flyer are all available on the site.

Join EANGNJ and help make your voice heard. EANGNJ has helped to get state tuition assistance for Guard members attending state institutions, up to 15 credits per semester with continuation through a master's degree. Their voice on a national level has helped to get increased educational benefits, additional TRICARE benefits and eliminated increased premiums to TRICARE.

Upcoming legislative goals include reducing the retirement age to 55 and continued funding for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Membership is open to all enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, with associate memberships for officers, warrant officers, and DoD, state and federal employees. Cost is \$15 for E1-E4, \$20 for E5-E7 and \$25 for E8-E9. All associate memberships are \$10. You can find a membership application at their Web site: www.eang-nj.org.

Veterans Information

VA Suicide Hotline



To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a national suicide prevention hot line for veterans. VA's hot line will be staffed by mental health professionals in Canandaigua, N.Y. They will take toll-free calls from across the country and work closely with local VA mental health providers to help callers. The toll-free hot line number is 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255).

Web site provides support to separating military members

TurboTAP (Transition Assistance Program) is an easy to use, interactive Web portal that provides life-long support to separating military service members (Active Duty, Guard and Reserve) and their families. It is a single source starting point for accessing key resources available for servicemembers transitioning out of the military at any point in their military career. Resources include Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Education, Small Business Administration, the National Veterans Corporation and the National Guard Bureau. For more information go to www.TurboTAP.org or email TAPHelp@military-inc.com.

DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues

The DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues with kiosk displays at selected malls throughout New Jersey. The schedule is as follows:

March 3*, 4, 5	Monmouth Mall
April 21*, 22, 23	Quaker Bridge Mall
May 7**	New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial

*Medal ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on these dates. The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Medal Ceremony only; begins at 11 a.m.

N.J. Vietnam Veterans Memorial

N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center's upcoming events:

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Free guided tours of the Memorial are offered on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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For further information call 1-800-648-VETS or visit www.njvvmf.org.

NJ Vietnam Memorial, Brookdale CC hold writer's events

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation and Brookdale Community College present "An Afternoon With Tim O'Brien" on March 8 at 1 p.m. There is a \$5 suggested donation for the Memorial Foundation for this event.

Then, on March 9, the two groups will also host "Visiting Writers Lecture by Tim O'Brien" and BCC Visiting Writings Series at 7 p.m. A \$3 suggested donation will be for the BCC Creative Writing Club.

Both events will be held at the Lincroft campus of Brookdale Community College in the Warner Student Life Center, Navesink Rooms I and II.

The author of eight books, Tim O'Brien received the National Book Award in Fiction in 1979 for his novel *Going After Cacciato*. In 2005 *The Things They Carried* was named by the *New York Times* as one of the twenty best books of the last quarter century. It received the *Chicago Tribune* Heartland Award in fiction and was a

finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. The title story was selected by John Updike for inclusion in The Best American Short Stories of the Century. *In the Lake of the Woods*, published in 1994, was chosen by *Time* magazine as the best novel of that year. O'Brien's other works include *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, *Northern Lights*, *Tomcat in Love* and *July, July*. His short fiction has appeared in numerous journals, including *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, and *Harper's*.

For more information call 732-335-0033 or visit www.njvvmf.org.

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