

# DMAVA Highlights

February 4, 2010 Volume 12 Number 04



## DMAVA solar energy program praised

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

The Army's top alternative energy official said the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs should be commended for its efforts to harness the power of the sun to cut energy costs and reduce the agency's dependence on the electrical grid.

Ronald Diehl said the Pentagon has already recognized the fact DMAVA has already created four high efficiency solar systems at its facilities. He said the solar project at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt should be a national model for the Department of Defense.



"Sea Girt drew a lot of attention and a lot of approval from people," Diehl told officials from DMAVA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at a meeting in Lawrenceville on Tuesday. "It was a picture perfect job. So good. So clean. So nicely done."

Diehl travelled to New Jersey because he wants to grant expedited funding approval solar expansions at the DMAVA facility in Lawrenceville and at Joint Forces Headquarters at Fort Dix.

Tapping alternative sources of energy is a Department of Defense priority – and the Pentagon's rationale goes far beyond dollars and cents.

"It's a matter of national security," Diehl said. "If the grid goes down, we will have a lot of problems meeting our defense needs."

That's why the Sea Girt training center is a model, Diehl said. In addition to two solar projects, the facility has won Defense Department backing for a \$5.1 million wind turbine. All together, the alternative energy projects will generate far more electricity than activities at the installation require.

### *Governor's official photos are ready*

The official photos of Gov. Chris Christie are ready for the armories. Please send an e-mail to [Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us) with the unit, address and person to whom the picture should be mailed. If you need more than one for your facility, let us know.



On Tuesday the Monmouth Mall food court hosted a New Jersey medal ceremony to start a three-day visit of the veterans outreach kiosk at the Eatontown shopping center. Retired Army Col. Stephen G. Abel, right, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, presents the Distinguished Service Medal to Charles Manger of Tinton Falls as fellow World War II veteran Isaac Kassin and his son, Sam look on. State military awards were presented to 14 veterans from Monmouth County who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA-PA

## *GI Go fund sponsoring job fair in Lawrenceville March 5*

The GI Go Fund and the New Jersey National Guard invite you to participate in the "Year of the Vet" Transition Fair to provide jobs, education opportunities, and support services.

The "Year of the Vet" Transition Fair will be held at the Lawrenceville Armory at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Headquarters in Lawrenceville, on March 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For detailed information visit the website at <http://www.gigofund.org/veteransjobfair.html>. There is no cost to participate in this event.

This event is only for members of the 50th IBCT; however, all veterans are encouraged to register with GI Go so you can be notified about future events. Veterans who would like to register with GI Go Fund should go to <http://www.gigofund.org/veteran-sjobfairvets.html> and submit the form.

*Common looking people are the best in the world:  
that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them.*

--Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of United States

### *DA photo appointments now online*

Officers and NCOs can now schedule their DA photo appointment online for the N.J. National Guard photo studio at Joint Force HQ, Fort Dix.

Just visit fill out a work order, DA 3903, online at [www.vios.army.mil](http://www.vios.army.mil), but you must log in with your CAC card. For assistance or more information registering on VIOS, contact Staff Sgt. Jorge L. Vazquez, G6 Network Control Center at 609-562-0333.

The studio accepts appointments for any week day from 8-10 a.m. or anytime during JFHQ drill weekends. For more information on studio hours contact Kryn P. Westhoven at (609) 847-2215.

## DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs

The next time you get a haircut, check to see if your salon or barber shop participates in the Matter of Trust charity. This organization recycles hair!

According to their Web site, <http://www.matteroftrust.org/programs/hairmatsinfo.html#1hair>, Phil McCrory, a hair stylist from Alabama, first discovered how hair can help. He was watching CNN coverage on the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. He noticed the fur on the Alaskan otters completely soaked with oil. He began testing how much oil he could collect with the hair clipping from his salon. Phil then invented the hairmat.

With help from Matter of Trust, thousands of volunteers are deployed after oil spills to clean up beaches using the hairmats.

The US has over 300,000 hair salons and each cuts an average of a pound of hair per day. That leads to lots of hair and if it can soak up oil from spills instead of ending up in the local landfill – what a way to Reuse and Recycle.

You can log onto the Web site for more information and to find ways to encourage your salon to send their cuttings to help soak up oil spills.

Other ways to recycle or reuse your hair:

Compost it – throw it in your compost bin. While it takes time to break down, it is full of nitrogen.

Spread it around your garden – it will scare away many unwanted creatures such as snails, rabbits and raccoons. Added bonus: the protein and calcium in the hair will feed your plants.

Donate it – if it is longer than 10 inches, donate it to Locks of Love. Visit [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org) for information.

Give it to the birds – place your clippings in bushes and tree branches as birds use many different materials to build their nests.

Keep Green!

## Learn how to make your home greener

Representatives from Clean Water Fund and EarthShare New Jersey will present a seminar on what you can do to make your home “greener” and more environmentally friendly. Find out what chemicals in your home may be considered toxic and what you can do to eliminate these common hazards. The speakers will suggest more earth “friendly” products and cleaners that surprisingly do not cost more. You can discover how to save on energy consumption and other tips that will help save the environment. After the seminar a question and answer session will be held.

The Seminar will be held on Feb. 24, 10-11:30 a.m. in Conference Room A, DMAVA Central Office. Please contact Paul Serdiuk at 609-530-6878 or [Paul.Serdiuk@NJDMAVA.State.NJ.US](mailto:Paul.Serdiuk@NJDMAVA.State.NJ.US) to reserve a seat.

## Overview, consultations on State Differed Compensation

By Paul Serdiuk, HR Training Coordinator

Mike McConnell, from Prudential Financial, will be at DMAVA Central Office on Feb. 17, in Conference Room A, to discuss some new changes in the State Differed Compensation Program.

A short overview will be given starting at 9:30 a.m. and finishing at 10 a.m. Scheduled 30 minute one-on-one consultations will be available from 10 a.m. until noon and then from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please contact Paul Serdiuk at 609-530-6878, to reserve a time slot.

## Quotes

*Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it.*

--Charles R. Swindoll

*When I hear someone sigh that “life is hard,” I am always tempted to ask, “Compared to what?”*

--Sydney J. Harris

*None are more apt to praise others extravagantly than those who desire to be praised themselves.*

--Anonymous

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**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Maj. Yvonne Mays – Public Affairs Officer

Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

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

# Families

## Family programs announces upcoming events

*From the desk of Marie Durling, Deputy Director, Family Programs*

We have three Strong Bonds Marriage Enrichment seminars coming up. The first is Feb. 12-14 at the Sheraton in Atlantic City. The second will be at a to-be-determined location in Central Jersey on April 8-11 and the one after that will be somewhere in North Jersey on May 14-16. We will announce the locations as soon as they become available. Seats are available for Soldiers and Airmen and their significant others, but priority goes to personnel returning from deployment and those who have not attended in the past. Contact me at [marie.durling@us.army.mil](mailto:marie.durling@us.army.mil) or 609-530-6884 for registration forms.

In other news, Family Programs is holding a deployment briefing for the finance unit in Flemington on Feb. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Amici Milano's hall.

We are also working on getting tickets for Great Adventure at the reduced rate of \$21.

## Tricare University opens classes for benefits knowledge

If Tricare has you wondering about your benefits, one way to find out the program is to attend Tricare University. NO, you don't have to sit in a big classroom with a professor droning on and on. Nor is your syllabus or book list part of the university's program.



Tricare University offers free online courses 24/7/365 at [www.tricare.mil/tricareu](http://www.tricare.mil/tricareu). Of the different courses, Tricare Public Course provides the quickest and easiest way to get a general overview and basic knowledge of the Tricare programs. There is no registration for this course and it is accessible to anyone who wants to know more about Tricare.

To take one of the offered courses, go to the Web site and click on "online training" for a list of options.

### 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  
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647; NJ 609-530-6867  
Fax – 609-530-6871

## July 11-17 slated for 2010 NJ Guard Youth Camp

Applications are now available for the 2010 New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp being held at Sea Girt, July 11-17. To download an application, go to: [http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth\\_camp.html](http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html) or contact your nearest Family Assistance Center.

## Get help with your utility bills

New Jersey SHARES assists income-eligible households throughout New Jersey to pay their energy bills. The program also administers Verizon New Jersey's Communications Lifeline and Link Up America programs. New Jersey SHARES also provides assistance to United Water customers with their water bills.

For more information or to see if you are eligible for these programs, visit [www.njshares.org/otherPrograms/communications-lifeline.asp](http://www.njshares.org/otherPrograms/communications-lifeline.asp) or call 1-866-657-4273.

## Registration open for 9-week summer camp at Picatinny

Picatinny Arsenal offers a nine-week summer camp program for military families, DoD civilians and contractors. Children need to have finished kindergarten and up to middle school ages are eligible for the program.

There are weekly field trips, swim lessons at Frog Falls, free swim time, 4-H clubs, and Boys and Girls Club activities, sports, arts and crafts, computer time, special events, team building activities and more.

Military family registration began Jan. 13 and DoD civilian/contractor started Jan. 27 for the lottery. The 2010 lottery will be drawn Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. at the teen center, building 3228. For more information call School Age Services at 973-724-5555.

## Check out Blue Star Flag Program

Grantham University's Blue Star Flag program has been providing Blue Star Flags to Service members and their families since 2006. Grantham University is also offering scholarships and grants to Servicemembers and veterans. For further information about the Blue Star Flag program, please go to: <http://www.mybluestar-flag.com>.

Military and family members health insurance questions should be directed to:

Tricare – Sgt. 1st Class Louis Tuck, 609-562-0865  
US Family Health Plans – Pam Worley, 732-977-8531  
VA Medical – Michelle Stefanelli, 973-676-1000, ext. 1727



# Sports & More

It's time to start thinking about VACATION!!!!

## Disney World Armed Forces Salute

From January 3 to July 31, 2010, active and retired U.S. military, including members of the U.S. Coast Guard and active members of the National Guard or Reserves, may purchase 4-day Walt Disney World Armed Forces Salute Tickets for themselves and up to five family members and/or friends for \$99.

The base ticket is valid for four days of admission into one of the four Walt Disney World theme parks. The Park Hopper option allows guests to visit more than one park each day. The Water Park and More option gives guests a total of four visits to a choice of a Disney water park, DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive theme park or certain other attractions.

During this offer period, active or retired U.S. military personnel may make a one-time purchase of up to a maximum of five 4-day companion tickets (one theme park per day) for \$99 per ticket, for family members (including spouse) or friends. Although this ticket for family members and friends does not include either the Park Hopper or Water Park Fun & More options, this ticket can be upgraded to add either such option, or both, for an additional \$25, per option. All tickets and options are non-transferable and must be activated by Sept. 26, 2010. Block out dates March 12-April 9 in all locations; July 3-4 in Magic Kingdom only. Tickets are available for purchase at Shades of Green beginning Jan. 3.

## Busch Garden program for military

"Here's to the Heroes," a program sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, provides free admission in 2010 for any active duty, active reserve, National Guardsman or ready reserve servicemember representing any of the five service branches and as many as three of his or her direct dependents. All servicemembers need to do is register online at [www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com) or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense (DoD) photo identification. Each pass is valid for a one-day admission per person per year to five of Anheuser-Busch's seven theme park brands.

## Waterpark opens May 29

Opening May 29 is Frog Falls Waterpark. The waterpark, located at Picatinny Arsenal boasts over 520,000 gallons of water adventures. The facility includes two high-velocity slides, six 25-yard lap lanes, a zero-depth entry leisure pool, a lazy river and a child activity pool with its own activities for our littlest guests.

Frog Falls is a membership only facility open to active duty, Reserve and National Guard military personnel and their dependents; Picatinny civilian employees and their dependents, contractors working on Picatinny as well as members of our partner communities residing in Rockaway Township, Rockaway Borough, Jefferson, Wharton, Denville, Dover, Roxbury, Mine Hill, West Milford, Sparta and Boonton. Through the Army's "Always a Soldier Program," military veterans as well as Morris County First Responders and their dependents are also authorized membership.

For membership information and more, visit <http://www.picatinny.army.mil/mwr/MWR/AquaticPark/FrogFallsSite/home.htm>. Military personnel and their dependents are allowed to pay a daily fee of \$3 a person with valid ID card. Sponsorship and care giver memberships are also available.

## Sea World tickets

Explore the wild world of animals at Sea World with more than 200 acres of world-class shows, thrilling rides and unforgettable animal adventures. There are new state-of-the-art rides such as "Kraken" and "Journey to Atlantis" to twist, turn and drench guest with unprecedented thrills while amazing the family with encounters with killer whales, dolphins, sea lions, stingrays and more.

For discounted tickets for military members, visit the Picatinny Arsenal ITR "Take Off" Center in building 34 or call 973-724-4014/4186. They are open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Ticket prices for Sea World are \$64 for adults and \$56 for children ages 3-9.

## Universal Orlando Military Salute

Universal Orlando's Military Salute offers one free 2-Park Unlimited Admission ticket to all U.S. active duty (including all National Guard and Reservists) and retired military service members with valid military IDs at all base Morale Welfare and Recreation travel and ticket offices. In addition the military member or their dependents can purchase additional 2-Park Unlimited Admission tickets at a substantial discount for family members and friends. Offer expires March 26, 2010.



## Military Appreciation special rates for skiers, snowboarders

Military Appreciation ski and snowboarding specials are available from the Big Boulder and Jack Frost Ski areas for all military, spouse, dependents (under age 18), reservists and retirees with current military ID, current military spouse ID, and a current military dependant ID for ages 10 and up. A current military ID is required for all persons purchasing a snow pass and/or rentals. Military rates are:

- Monday-Friday (Non-holiday): \$20 snow pass, \$20 rentals
- Weekend and Holiday: \$30 snow pass, \$20 rentals

All Military snow passes must be purchased at Guest Services. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts. The Big Boulder and Jack Frost Ski resorts are operated by Peak Resorts and are located in Lake Harmony and Blakeslee, Penn., within minutes of each other. For more information about hours of operations, facilities, directions and events you can visit their website online at: <http://www.jfbb.com>.

# Veterans & Military

## Post extends invitation to Jewish war veterans

An invitation is extended to any Soldier or Airman of the Jewish faith to join the Specialist Marc Seiden Post 444 of the Jewish War Veterans. The veterans meet on the third Thursday of the month at the Twin Rivers library located in East Windsor, N.J. Spc. Seiden was a resident of Twin Rivers and the first Jewish soldier to die in the Iraq War. The post was renamed last April in his name.

Post 444 covers Mercer County and some of the surrounding areas. Anyone interested in joining this post or a similar post should contact Larry Rosenthal [Larry.S.Rosenthal@us.army.mil](mailto:Larry.S.Rosenthal@us.army.mil), [LSR1950@hotmail.com](mailto:LSR1950@hotmail.com), or 609-888-0646.



## Unwind with Chill Drills offer from Military OneSource

Military OneSource is offering an audio of relaxation routines called *Chill Drills* designed specifically for service members. The stress-easer is provided on a self-contained "Playaway" listening device.

Prepared by a therapist who has worked with the Army, Family Readiness and volunteers for her husband's military unit in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, the drills are specifically designed to keep service members calm and focused on deployment and help ease the stresses of returning home after combat.

The Playaway is as small as a business card so it fits easily in a pocket. It doesn't require a computer, CD player, MP3 player or electrical access. Controls, battery and content are built right in. Just plug in the earbuds, press power and "chill."

For more information on Chill Drills go to [www.MilitaryOneSource.com/chilldrills](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com/chilldrills).

### Veterans Organizations contact information

State Veterans Service Council  
Richard Clark, [RJClark21@msn.com](mailto:RJClark21@msn.com)  
BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council  
William Rakestraw, [warjrnj@msn.com](mailto: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)

## Warrants, mechanics needed

*From the desk of Command Chief Warrant Officer Robert Richardson*

The New Jersey Army National Guard has a key opportunity for aspiring Warrant Officers. The Signal Corps has a need for Warrant Officers. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Warrant in this MOS, contact me at: [Robert.j.Richardson@us.army.mil](mailto:Robert.j.Richardson@us.army.mil). In addition, there are openings for full-time employment on the Reset Team for 63 Bravo mechanics. Contact me if you hold the MOS and are interested.



## Armed Forces Vacation Club offers accommodations around the globe

*by Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs*

As I sit in my cubicle warm months are seemingly way too far in the future. Names such as Belize, St. Maarten, Malta, Spain, Ireland, Israel, Tahiti, and Thailand where I would love to make my escape, dance through my head. I highly doubt I will be off to any of those exotic ports but dreaming is always fun.

I have found a way to make a trip to those places and many more around the globe and in the United States easier to go to through the Armed Forces Vacation Club. Visit [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com) and find more than 200,000 space-available accommodations in more than 100 countries. Oh, and the prices start at \$329 per unit, per week.

You will find beachfront, mountainside, town, rural, resorts and spas. Places around the globe to take your family for some well-deserved R&R.

The program is open to members or adult dependent of the uniformed services – Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard; active duty and both active and inactive reserve and National Guard; retired members of the uniformed services or an adult dependent; civilian employees of the DoD; disabled veterans with 100 percent disability (with a 2765 ID card); and a few other groups of individuals. Check the Web site to see if you are eligible.

Call 1-800-724-9988 to enroll in the program or make a reservation. And dream of your next escape.

## Pictures for your "wall"

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

# Calendar

## FDU offers entrepreneur classes for veterans

The Rothman Institute of Entrepreneurship at Farleigh Dickinson University announces the inaugural class of Veterans Launching Ventures. If you are a veteran looking to start your own business, this is for you.

The free eight-week certificate course will be taught at an undergraduate level. Following a half-day introductory workshop and dinner reception, the intensive program is presented online and facilitated by an FDU instructor. There will be a one-day workshop midway through the program and on the final day students will attend a workshop where faculty and experienced entrepreneurs will help you refine your feasibility/business plan.

For more information and an application, e-mail or call John Howlett at [johnhowlett@homeshoreamerica.com](mailto:johnhowlett@homeshoreamerica.com) or 908-338-0043. More information about the Rothman Institute of Entrepreneurship can be found at [www.fdu.edu/rothman](http://www.fdu.edu/rothman).

## Catch the Jersey Devils icing the competition

Picatinny Arsenal Family Morale Welfare and Recreation Events has tickets to see the New Jersey Devils at the Prudential Center, Newark.

Tickets are \$36. That includes upper level seats – exact seat location is unknown but usually near the ends – and a \$10 food & beverage card. That's a \$66 value for only \$36!

See the Devils skate against the Philadelphia Flyers on Feb. 10. Reservations are by paid sign up only. The sooner you sign up, the better. You may stop by the "Take Off" Center in building 34 at Picatinny or call 973-724-4014 and put your order on your Visa or Mastercard. Deadline is Feb. 3, 3 p.m. Call 973-724-4014 for more information.

## Guard families holding Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run

The families of the four New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers who were killed in Iraq in June 2004 are honoring the memory of their fallen heroes with the Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run which will be held on June 6, 2010.

The families are asking for their friends' and communities help and support with the event. All donations – monetary or otherwise – will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged on the day of the event. All donations are tax deductible. Individuals or organizations donating \$1,000 or more will have their names listed on the Run T-shirt.

All profits will be divided among the Friends of Frank Carvill Foundation, the SGT Ryan E. Doltz Memorial Foundation and the Duffy and Timoteo families.

For more information visit [www.RememberingRyan.org](http://www.RememberingRyan.org).

## USO offers free tickets to Atlantic 10 championship games, March 12-14

The USO of Penna. and South Jersey is offering free tickets to the Atlantic 10 2010 men's basketball championships being held in Atlantic City on March 12-14 for military members only and their family members.



If you are interested in tickets, e-mail [mjflammer@libertyuso.org](mailto:mjflammer@libertyuso.org) as soon as possible giving the following information: Name, number of tickets needed, non-work contact number (you will be contacted as to where and when to pick up the tickets), service component, unit assigned and unit location. Put MARCH MADNESS in the subject line of the e-mail.

Anyone requesting tickets must use them and all tickets must be signed for. All requests must be received no later than Sunday, Feb. 7.

## 117th Cav Association meets Feb. 5

Join the 117th Cavalry Association at their meeting in the Heritage Room of the Westfield, NJ armory on Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Show'em the Way! Visit [www.117th-cav.org](http://www.117th-cav.org) for more information.

## 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.

**March 2\*, 3, 4** Bridgewater Commons Mall

**April 6\*, 7, 8** Paramus Park Mall

\*Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.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](mailto:barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us).