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DMA Military Newsletter

June 4, 2026



Military

NJ Department of
Military Affairs

Ready to serve ★ military.nj.gov

Commissioner's Corner



New Jersey Lt. Gov. Dr. Dale G. Caldwell, Retired Brig. Gen. Frank R. Carlini and Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays honored New Jersey's fallen during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial on the NJ Department of Military Affairs campus on May 21, 2026.

Remembering Our Fallen

In late May, our department gathered at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial on the Lawrenceville campus to honor the New Jersey service members who gave their lives in defense of our nation.

The ceremony brought together Lieutenant Governor Dr. Dale G. Caldwell, Lawrence Township Mayor Christopher Bobbitt, leaders from across the New Jersey National Guard, and members of our community who came to pay their respects. It was a solemn reminder of the courage and commitment of those who gave the last full measure of devotion. Their sacrifices continue to shape our state and our nation, and their legacy remains alive in the service of those who wear the uniform today.

This year's ceremony reminded us that the story of service in New Jersey spans every era and every generation. We honored those who gave their lives in the Global War on Terrorism and reflected on the long line of New Jersey service members who have answered the call in conflicts throughout our history. Though separated by time and circumstance, their experiences are bound together by devotion to duty and a willingness to stand for others.

From the battlefields of the last century to the missions of our modern force, the sacrifices of New Jersey's fallen reflect a shared commitment that continues to guide us today. Their service forms a continuum that remains at the heart of our mission and inspires the work we do for our service members and their families.

As we move forward from Memorial Day, I hope we continue to carry the example set by our fallen heroes. Let us honor them through our daily commitment to supporting the men and women who serve and strengthening the communities they protected. Their stories remind us that the responsibility of service is carried not only by those in uniform, but by all of us who support them. When we care for our service members and work together to build resilient communities, we advance the mission of DMA and help ensure that the legacy of our fallen continues to inspire everything we do.

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at outreach@dma.nj.gov.

Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays
Adjutant General & Commissioner



Invitation



Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays

The Adjutant General of New Jersey
and
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Military
Affairs

cordially invites you to attend the

**25th Anniversary Ceremony of the State
Partnership**

between

**the State of New Jersey and the Republic of
Albania**

Wednesday, June 10, 2026
1100-1145 Ceremony

at the

New Jersey National Guard Armory
Building 151
151 Eggerts Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Uniform/Attire: Class B's

[RSVP by June 5, 2026](#)



22ND ANNUAL 5K NUTTER RUN

— RUN • WALK • HAVE FUN —

NEW THIS YEAR – YOUTH RACE/WALK

SUPPORT SPC MITCHELL, GREGORY



JUNE 20TH, 2026 • 8:30-12:30PM

National Guard Training Center • 100 Camp Drive, Sea Girt, NJ

www.sgtnutterrun.org • ocssgtnutterrun@gmail.com

REGISTER

DONATE

OUR HONOREE



Open to National Guard and Reserves

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



JOIN US AT CASINO PIER
800 Ocean Terrace, Seaside Heights, NJ 08751
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026
Rain Date: Sunday, June 28, 2026

BRACELET PICK UP

Casino Pier
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

PARKING

Attendees are responsible
for their own parking.

WATER PARK HOURS

Water Park Open: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Rides Open: 12:00 PM - 11:00 PM

MILITARY ID REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES

Please do not bring extended family members,
neighbors, or friends without Military ID Cards.

Point of Contact • Ms. Marie Durling • marie.s.durling.civ@army.mil

child & youth program
new jersey national guard

JOIN US FOR A

FIELD TRIP

TO

LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER

SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH 2026

This event is exclusively for New Jersey Army & Air National Guard Youth

PICK UP LOCATIONS & ITINERARY

STOP 1 **WOODBURY ARMORY**
DEPARTING AT **8:00 AM**

STOP 2 **BORDENTOWN ARMORY**
DEPARTING AT **9:00 AM**

Spend the day exploring exhibits, hands-on activities, and exciting science!

RETURN TIMES

BORDENTOWN ARMORY 4:00 PM

WOODBURY ARMORY 5:00 PM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CHAPERONES NEEDED!
We are looking for chaperones over the age of 18.

LIMITED SEATS!
There are limited seats, so please keep that in mind when registering.

NO COST!
Transportation, admission, and lunch is covered. We will send out lunch orders.

SCAN TO REGISTER

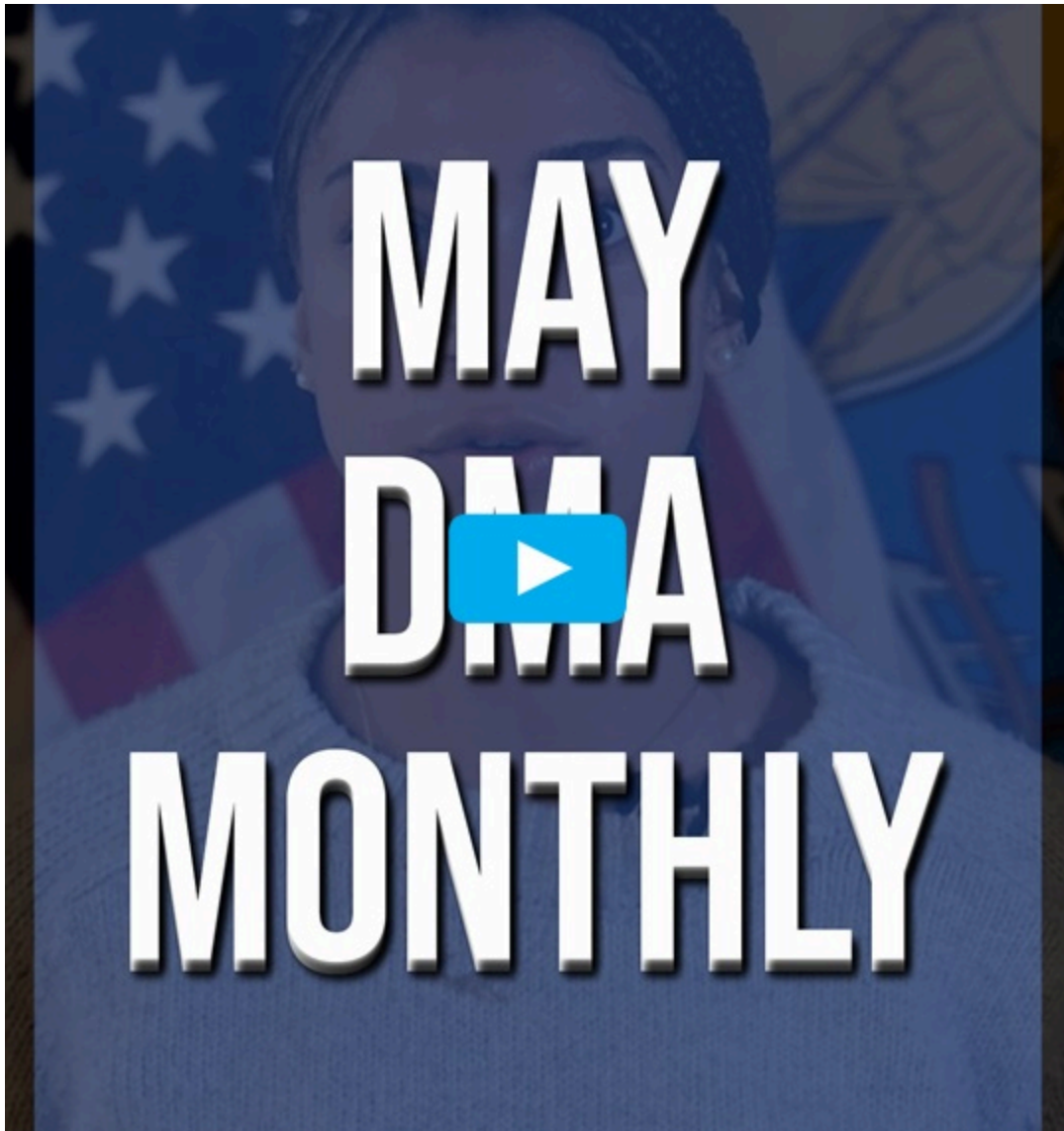
Or Visit:
<https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/ty29tH1aqx>

Community Calendar

New events are added to the calendar on a daily basis so please bookmark and check back often.

[View Full Calendar](#)

Month in Review Video



Memorial Day 2026



Honor New Jersey's Fallen

The NJ Department of Military Affairs honored New Jersey's fallen service members during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial on the NJ Department of Military Affairs campus in Lawrenceville, NJ on May 21, 2026.

[View Images](#) | [Watch Video](#)



BG Doyle Cemetery

Over 1,000 New Jersey Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, and family members placed 55,000 American flags on graves at the [Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#) in Wrightstown, NJ on May 22, 2026.

The cemetery is the final resting place for more than 92,000 veterans and family members.

[View Images](#)

NJ National Guard



Operation Eagle Strike 2026

New Jersey and New York Officer Candidates and Cadets from the Albanian Armed Forces Military Academy received an operations order during Operation Eagle Strike at Rreth-Greth, Albania on May 14, 2026.

During Operation Eagle Strike, Officer Candidates trained alongside Cadets from the Albanian Armed Forces Military Academy in movement to contact, squad attack, squad ambush, destroying a bunker, reacting to ambush, and squad reconnaissance.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the [State Partnership Program](#) between the New Jersey National Guard and the Republic of Albania as they continue to strengthen NATO interoperability through joint-training efforts.

[View Images](#)



177th Fighter Wing

A massive thank you from all of us at the [177th Fighter Wing](#) to everyone who packed the beach and followed the action online for this year's Soar & Shore Airshow on May 29-31, 2026.

We were thrilled to share the skies with incredible performers like the [Warbird Thunder Airshows](#), U.S. Marine Corps F-35B [Lightning II Demonstration Team](#), and the U.S. Air Force [F-22 Raptor Demo Team](#).

Our Jersey Devils had an incredible time helping to bring the ultimate display of air power right to the Atlantic City coastline.

Join Our Team

Service to Community & Country

100% Free College Tuition

Bonuses | GI Bill

Student Loan Repayment



Servicemember Spotlight



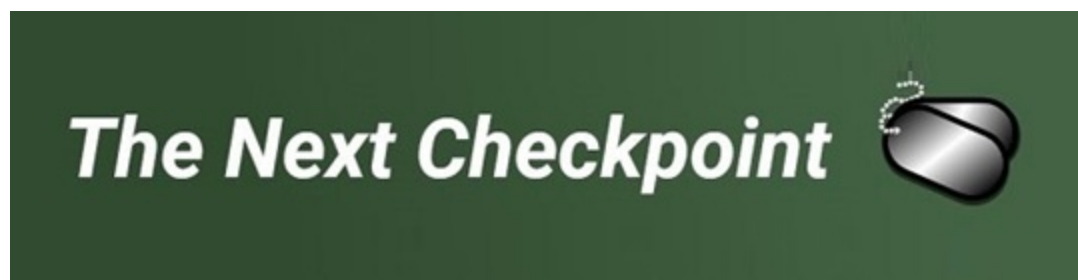
SSG Jazmin Segarra & SSG Brian Kerr

The New Jersey Army National Guard is proud to congratulate Staff Sergeant Jazmin Segarra and Staff Sergeant Brian Kerr on the completion of their master's degree programs.

The New Jersey Army National Guard offers numerous benefits to its service members designed not just to support education, but to sharpen professional skills, build leadership, and promote personal growth. Investing in Soldiers both on and off duty is something the Guard takes pride in, strengthening the force as a whole.

SSG Kerr utilized the state tuition waiver program to complete his degree at William Paterson University while SSG Segarra leveraged Federal Tuition Assistance to pursue her education at Liberty University showcasing the flexibility of Guard benefits to meet individual goals.

DMA Departments



Retirement / Transition Seminars

These seminars are held quarterly at the Bordentown Armory. They benefit service members who are near retirement or transitioning to the "Gray Area" waiting to apply for their pension.

Seminars start at 0900 hours and end at approximately 1230 hours. Several vendors are in attendance. Tricare and US Family Health Plan also brief.

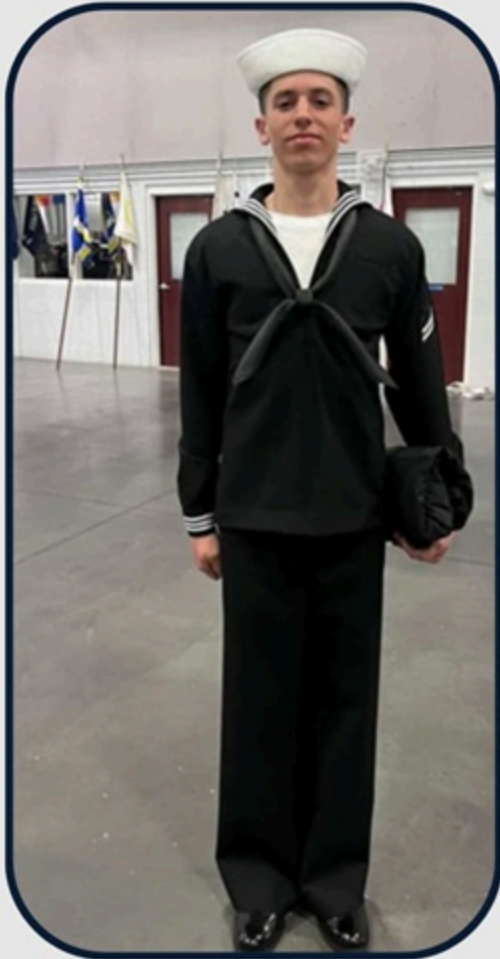
Please use the [Registration Form](#) to learn more and register for these seminars.

- 24 June 2026
- 19 September 2026
- 9 December 2026

Retirees can stay informed by subscribing to [The Next Checkpoint](#) newsletter.

NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy Testimonial

NJYCA
ALUM LOPEZ-SOTO



“Thank you to the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy for changing the life of my son.

As a parent of an at-risk young man, I cannot fully express how grateful I am for the impact you have had on his life.

Through your guidance, structure, support, and dedication, you helped transform his outlook and steer him toward a positive path for his future.

Thank you for believing in him, challenging him, and helping him see the potential that was always inside of him.”

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



TUITION
FREE


Now accepting applications
for Class 62 - July 2026!

APPLY
NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 njyca.gov/admissions

 rpm@dma.nj.gov

 (732) 974-6500



NJ MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE

* /njarngfac



NJNG Child & Youth Program

* /njngcyp



Employee Spotlight



Jessica Nielsen

HR Manager

Jessica Nielsen has served our department since 2016. She brings nearly a decade of Human Resources experience and a strong commitment to supporting employees across the organization.

A native of Levittown, Pennsylvania, Nielsen graduated from Conwell-Egan High School and began her studies at Bucks County Community College before earning an associate degree and later a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources from Temple University. Growing up in a Navy family has helped her build a natural rapport with service members and their families.

Nielsen began her career in state government as a temporary employee in the Department of Community Affairs before joining the former DMAVA as a Personnel Trainee on July 25, 2016. Her early administrative work provided a solid foundation in office operations, and she has since developed into a reliable HR professional known for her adaptability and practical problem-solving.

Her notable achievements include helping resolve a long-standing classification and retirement-system issue affecting the 177th Fire Department, ensuring firefighters received appropriate benefits after decades of effort.

Nielsen approaches Human Resources with professionalism, accessibility, and a sincere focus on helping others. She encourages a workplace grounded in respect and support and strives to guide employees to the resources they need to succeed.

State Partners



State Medals Ceremony

The NJ Department of Veterans Affairs held a State Medals Ceremony at the New Jersey Forensic Science & Technology Center in Hamilton, NJ on May 20, 2026.

The Adjutant General of New Jersey is the approving authority for the award of [New Jersey State Service Medals](#).

[View Images](#)



NJ State Agencies

- [NJ Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families](#)
- [The New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards](#)
- [Bringing Veterans Home](#)
- [Vote For Valor](#)
- [Career Services for Veterans](#)
- [Tax Resources for Military/Veterans](#)
- [Educator Certification for Military Spouses and Veterans](#)
- [Civil Service Preference for Veterans](#)
- [NJ National Guard Hunting / Fishing Licenses](#)
- [NJ Special Hawker and Peddlers License](#)
- [Veterans Designation for Drivers License](#)
- [Military CDL Skills Waiver Program](#)
- [Disabled Veteran / Purple Heart Recipient Placards](#)
- [Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing Licenses](#)
- [Veteran and Disabled Veteran-Owned Business](#)
- [Division of Consumer Affairs Military Outreach & Support](#)
- [Professional & Occupational Licenses for Veterans and Spouses](#)

- [Military and Overseas Voting](#)
- [Veterans & Spouses Entering the Educator Workforce](#)
- [Journey Through Jersey](#)

Federal Partners



Community Spotlight



New Jersey Mission of Honor

Soldiers with the NJ Army National Guard's Funeral Honors Team participated in the 40th New Jersey Mission of Honor ceremony held at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Wrightstown, NJ on May 27, 2026.

The cremains of ten World War II Army and Navy Veterans were honored during the ceremony.

The mission of the [New Jersey Mission of Honor](#) is to identify, retrieve, and inter the Veterans' cremains. Since 2007, 730 Veterans have been located and 378 cremains have been reunited with their families.

[View Images](#)



Lenape High School JROTC

CW3 Timothy Jardinico was invited to Lenape High School to present the prestigious US Army Warrant Officers Association JROTC Award to outstanding cadets in recognition of exceptional leadership, academic achievement, military excellence, and dedication to service.

A special thank you to CW3 Ricky Kovats for the invitation and for his continued dedication to developing future leaders through the JROTC program at Lenape High School.

Congratulations to all the cadets recognized for their hard work and accomplishments.



ROTC Commissionings

Congratulations to the new officers who commissioned at Princeton, Seton Hall and Rutgers.

In The News



Kearny hero killed in Korean War receives long-overdue silver star recognition

Jennifer Portorreal | News 12 | May 24, 2026

A Kearny soldier killed in action during the Korean War is finally being recognized for his heroism more than 70 years after his death.

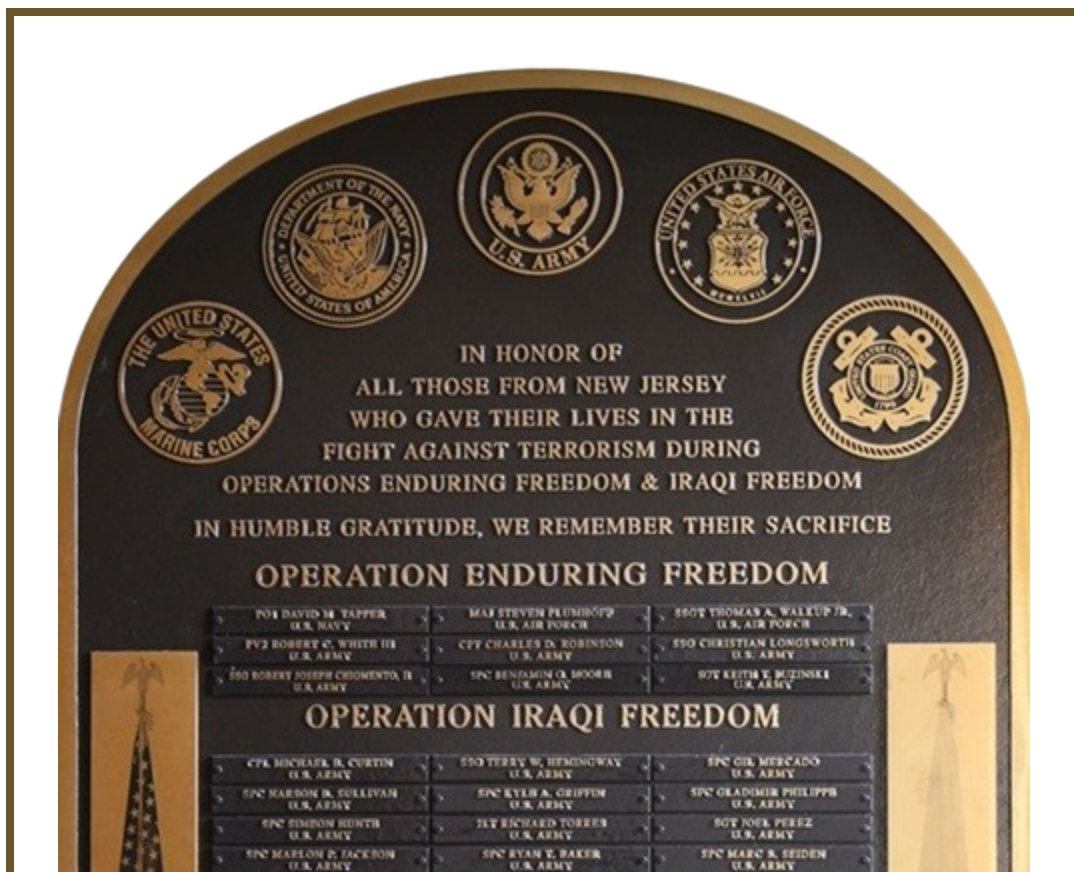
Private First Class James G. Davidson was honored this Memorial Day weekend with the installation of a new Silver Star grave marker at Arlington Cemetery in Kearny.

The ceremony was led by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1302 and local community leaders, who say the recognition corrects a decades-long omission in Davidson's military record in his hometown.

Davidson was killed in action in 1952 after reportedly manning a machine gun and defending his platoon during combat.

[Read and Watch Full Story](#)

Never Forget



New Jersey Fallen Heroes Memorial

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during

Operation Enduring Freedom & Iraqi Freedom.
In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

Memorial Inscription

"But on the battlefield their feet stood fast, and in an instant at the height of their fortune, they passed away from the scene, not of their fear, but of their glory."

~ Pericles

NJ Fallen Heroes Memorial

History



Princeton Battle Monument Dedication in 1922.

June 6, 1780

June 9, 1922

The Princeton Battle Monument, created by sculptor Frederick MacMonnies and architect Thomas Hastings to commemorate General George Washington's January 3, 1777 victory over the British, was dedicated by President Warren

Hessian General Wilhelm Von Knyphausen crossed from Staten Island to Elizabethtown with 6,000 British and Hessian troops at midnight, intending to push through Hobart's gap to Morristown the following day.

June 6, 1862

The First New Jersey Cavalry was ambushed in the Shenandoah Valley and suffered forty casualties, including Colonel Percy Wyndham, who was captured, and Captain Thomas Ryerson Haines, son of former New Jersey governor Daniel Haines, who was killed in action.

June 6, 1878

John P. Holland of Paterson tested his first submarine design in the Passaic River. Although he claimed it seaworthy, the U.S. Navy rejected his plans.

June 8, 1944

The men of the New Jersey National Guard's 102nd Cavalry, who had floated offshore for two days, landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day plus two, as the beachhead had been expanded enough to accommodate the unit's vehicles. In the ensuing months, the 102nd fought its way across Europe, on the way gaining the honor of being the first United States unit to enter Paris in August 1944.

Harding. The sculpture depicts Washington leading his troops to victory and the mortal wounding of General Hugh Mercer, for whom Mercer County was later named.

June 14, 1917

Two months after the United States entry into World War I, the first troop transports headed for Europe left Hoboken, which became the leading port of embarkation for American soldiers for the duration of the war. Of the approximately 2,000,000 American troops who sailed to Europe, 1,600,000 left from the Hudson County port city.

June 15, 1864

The Twenty-second United States Colored Infantry, a regiment composed mostly of New Jersey African-American soldiers, was part of a force that broke through the Confederate defenses of Petersburg. The Twenty-second captured an enemy fort and artillery pieces, but their army corps commander, Major General William F. "Baldy" Smith, halted the victorious advance. When Confederate reinforcements arrived, Petersburg was saved and a ten month siege of the critical rail junction began.



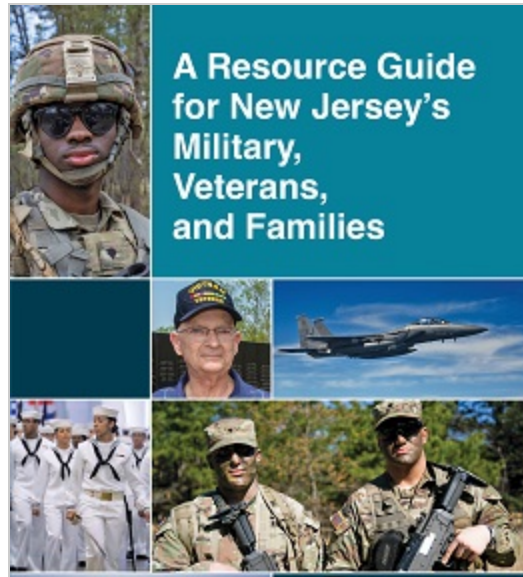
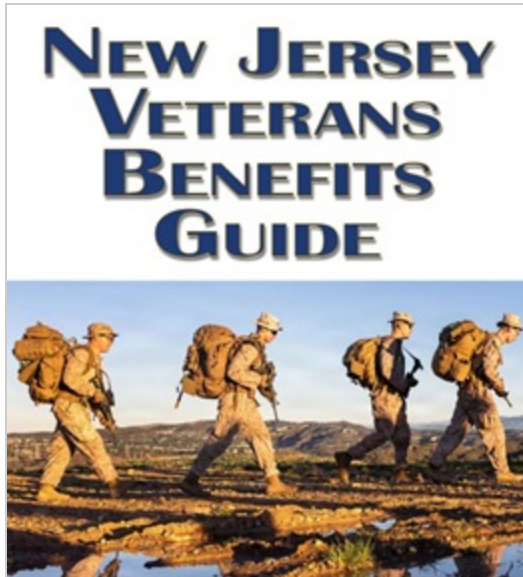
Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America, offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve.

The 2026 program runs from Armed Forces Day on May 16, 2026 through Labor Day on September 7, 2026.

[Learn More](#)

Resources





DMA Careers



We Are Hiring!

At the New Jersey Department of Military Affairs we take our work in support of Servicemembers and their families very seriously. The Department provides valuable services and can offer rewarding career opportunities to members of the public.

In addition, we have job openings for members of our military to serve in AGR and Federal Technician roles.

Subscribe to the [MilVets Jobs Bulletin](#) to stay updated on job openings.

Vacancies

Stay Connected



We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter and find it both educational and engaging. If you have questions about our department, please visit our website at military.nj.gov to get contact information.

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Please email us at outreach@dma.nj.gov with feedback and comments regarding the newsletter. If you would like to contribute with an item of interest to our subscribers, please email us your proposal.

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