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# DMA Military Newsletter

June 17, 2026



**Military**  
NJ Department of  
Military Affairs

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## Commissioner's Corner



Minister of Defence Ermal Nufi, Lt. Gen. Arben Kingji, Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays and Governor Mikie Sherrill celebrate 25 years of partnership.

## Twenty-Five Years of Partnership with Albania

Last week, the New Jersey National Guard had the honor of welcoming senior leaders from the Albanian Armed Forces to New Jersey as we marked a milestone that means a great deal to our Soldiers, Airmen, civilian teammates, and the Albanian-American community: 25 years of partnership between the New Jersey National Guard and the Republic of Albania.

From June 8 to June 10, we welcomed a delegation including Minister of Defense Ermal Nufi, Ambassador Ervin Bushati, Lt. Gen. Arben Kingji, Chief of the General Staff of the Albanian Armed

Forces, and Command Sergeant Major Mustafa Kucuku for a series of engagements across New Jersey.

Their visit included meetings with our New Jersey National Guard leadership, a visit to the New Jersey State House with Governor Mikie Sherrill, a UH-60 Black Hawk flight, and discussions with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's Office of Strategic Defense Investment on opportunities to connect Albania with New Jersey's defense-related industries.

The visit culminated on June 10 at the Lawrenceville Armory, where we held a ceremony recognizing the 25th anniversary of the State Partnership Program between the New Jersey National Guard and the Republic of Albania. It was a proud day for our organization, but more importantly, it was a reminder of what long-term partnership really means.

Since 2001, New Jersey and Albania have grown from early cooperation to more than 500 joint engagements, interagency collaboration, and five shared deployments to Afghanistan. Today, Albania is a valued NATO ally with expanding capability in aviation, cyber defense, and readiness. Our Soldiers and Airmen have benefited from this partnership just as much as we have contributed to it.

The State Partnership Program also strengthens ties beyond the military. This visit highlighted opportunities for collaboration across government, industry, and community, especially through engagement with the NJEDA and through the support of New Jersey's vibrant Albanian-American community.

Partnerships like this are built steadily, over years of exercises, deployments, exchanges, conversations, and friendships. After 25 years, we can look back with pride and forward with confidence.

The challenges ahead will require readiness, resilience, and trusted partners. New Jersey and Albania have spent a quarter-century building exactly that.

To our Albanian partners, thank you for your trust and friendship. To the New Jersey Soldiers, Airmen, civilians, and community members who have strengthened this relationship, thank you for carrying it forward.

The next chapter of the New Jersey-Albania partnership is already underway, and it promises to be as meaningful as the first twenty-five years.

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](mailto:outreach@dma.nj.gov).

**Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays**  
**Adjutant General & Commissioner**



## Events

**SGT SAM NUTTER INC.**  
Working For Our Veterans

# 22ND ANNUAL 5K NUTTER RUN

**RUN • WALK • HAVE FUN**

**NEW THIS YEAR - YOUTH RACE/WALK**

**SUPPORT SPC MITCHELL, GREGORY**

**JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 • 8:30-12:30PM**  
**National Guard Training Center • 100 Camp Drive, Sea Girt, NJ**  
**[www.sgtnutterrun.org](http://www.sgtnutterrun.org) • [ocssgtnutterrun@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:marie.s.durling.civ@army.mil)



# Service Academy Information Day

Presented by Senators Kim and Booker



Saturday, June 27, 2026

9am - 12pm

(doors open at 8:30am)

Brookdale Community College

765 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738

Join us to learn about service academy opportunities and best practices for seeking a nomination to a service academy. Sign up at [sen.gov/W8QKW](https://sen.gov/W8QKW) or use the QR code below.

*Andy Kim*  
SENATOR

Sign up here:





**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://form.s.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](#)

## NJ National Guard



### **1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion**

Albanian Defence Ministry leadership along with New Jersey National Guard leadership took an orientation flight onboard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion on June 9, 2026.

[View Images](#)



## 508th Military Police

Soldiers assigned to the 508th Military Police Company, [42nd Regional Support Group](#), NJ Army National Guard, conducted M17 pistol qualification at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ on June 3, 2026.

The SIG Sauer M17 is the standard-issue sidearm for military police across the U.S. Armed Forces. Qualification with the weapon system is essential to maintaining proficiency and supporting military police duties.

[View Images](#)



## 2-113th Infantry Regiment

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment, [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#) conducted a re-enlistment ceremony at the New Jersey Air National Guard base in Egg Harbor Township, NJ on June 12, 2026.

The Soldiers toured the [177th Fighter Wing](#), learning about the equipment and capabilities of the wing. Following the tour, Lt. Col. Joseph D. Grillo administered the Oath of Enlistment to the re-enlisting Soldiers.

[View Images](#)



## 140th Cyber Operations Squadron

The 140th Cyber Operations Squadron, NJ Air National Guard, conducted an annual capture the flag activity at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ on June 7, 2026. This activity had personnel accomplish various cyber challenges to hone their personal skills.

[View Images](#)

## Join Our Team

**Service to Community & Country**

**100% Free College Tuition**

**Bonuses | GI Bill**

**Student Loan Repayment**



## Servicemember Spotlight



### **SSG Taj Lumanog**

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Taj Lumanog of the New Jersey Army National Guard for winning NCO of the Year in the 2026

## Region I National Guard Best Warrior Competition.

This year's competition was held in Rhode Island from June 8-12, 2026. It brought together the best Soldiers and NCOs from across the Northeast, testing their physical endurance, tactical proficiency, warrior skills, and mental resilience.

Congratulations to all the competitors from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

[View Images](#)



### Passaic High School

Congratulations to PV2 Alanna Rojas Montero, PVT Yoselin Escamilla and PVT Kimberly Vega on your graduation from Passaic High School.

We are proud of you and eagerly await the great things you will do in your career as Citizen-Soldiers in the New Jersey Army National Guard.

## DMA Departments

### *The Next Checkpoint*



#### **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.

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# 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](https://njyca.gov/admissions)



[rpm@dma.nj.gov](mailto:rpm@dma.nj.gov)



(732) 974-6500





## **NJ MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE**

\* /njarngfac



## **NJNG Child & Youth Program**

\* /njngcyp



## Employee Spotlight



**Jamie Lucchesi**  
**Personnel Assistant**

Jamie Lucchesi serves as a Personnel Assistant in the Administrative Services Division and has been with DMA since 2015. With nearly two decades of public service experience, she has built a career centered on administrative operations, personnel support, and organizational effectiveness.

Prior to joining the department, Lucchesi worked for the New Jersey Department of Corrections as a Communications Operator with the Special Operations Group. In that role, she managed payroll, deployment logistics, and operational documentation in support of statewide emergency response and special operations activities. The experience provided a strong foundation in coordination, recordkeeping, and working in fast-paced environments.

After joining the former Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Lucchesi began in Facilities Management and advanced through several administrative positions before transitioning to the front office, where she provided executive-level administrative support. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a commitment to professional growth and continuous learning, earning an associate degree from Mercer County Community College while working full-time.

In her current role within Human Resources and Administrative Services, Lucchesi supports personnel operations across the department, assisting with a variety of administrative and human resource functions that contribute to the agency's mission and workforce support.

In addition to her state service, Lucchesi established the Capital K9 Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting law enforcement and military working dog programs by helping provide essential equipment and safety resources.

Lucchesi values teamwork, public service, and professional development. Her career reflects a dedication to supporting both employees and the organizations they serve.

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## **Victoria Chadwick**

### **NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy**

Congratulations to our Lead Counselor, Ms. Victoria Chadwick, on receiving the Community Service Award on State Employee Recognition Day!

Ms. Chadwick works tirelessly to coordinate volunteer opportunities and build valuable community partnerships that provide our Cadets at the [NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy](#) with meaningful experiences and opportunities for growth.

We are grateful for her dedication and the positive impact she has on our program. Congratulations, Ms. Chadwick, and thank you for all that you do!

## State Partners



### **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



### Princeton University

Every spring, a group of Princetonians travel to France on what's known as a "Leavenworth-style Staff Ride" - an immersive program that bolsters leadership and military strategy skills while studying historic battlefields and campaigns. This year's theme was "From the Beaches of Normandy to the Gates of Paris."

The week-long trip is coordinated through a partnership between Princeton Army ROTC and Princeton's history department. This year's cohort included eight [Princeton Tiger Battalion Army ROTC](#) cadets, eight civilian students (three of which are veterans), two history faculty members, and two Army ROTC Cadre.

In addition to battle sites, memorials, and museums, the group laid a wreath at the grave of Princeton alumnus 1st Lt. Jerry Schaefer

'40, 320th Field Artillery, 82nd Airborne Division, who was killed in action at Sainte-Mère-Église, a commune in Normandy that was one of the first towns liberated during the invasion.

*Image an caption courtesy [Princeton University](#).*



## **Atlantic County Institute of Technology JROTC**

Cadets and instructors from the Atlantic County Institute of Technology, AF JROTC visited the [177th Fighter Wing](#) and got to see and learn a little bit about the operations and personnel with the New Jersey Air National Guard.

The group was given a mission brief, met and spoke with an F-16 pilot and several maintainers, received a brief demo on the aircrew flight equipment the pilots rely on to fly safely, met with 177th Firefighters, where they were able to interact with fire personnel and equipment, and met with NJ Air National Guard recruiters, to learn about some of the benefits they can earn while serving.

It was our pleasure having you visit our Wing. We hope you received some valuable information about what its like to serve in the greatest Air and Space Force on the planet!

## In Memoriam



### **PFC Vito Luceno Jr.** **December 8, 1921 - 1944**

Vito Luceno Jr. - of Bayonne, died in the Battle of Myitkyina in 1944 in Burma while serving his country proudly as a Private First Class during WWII.

Vito served in the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) better known as Merrill's Marauders. Vito was declared missing in action until a

recent breakthrough in DNA testing was able to finally identify his remains and bring him home.

Vito was born on December 8, 1921, in San Vito, Italy and immigrated to the United States on June 30th, 1938, and resided in Bayonne, NJ.

A memorial gathering for Vito was held on June 6th followed by interment with full military honors at Holy Name Cemetery in Jersey City, NJ.

[Full Obituary](#) | [DPAA Profile](#)

*Image and caption courtesy [Migliaccio Funeral Home](#).*

## 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



The seven Weeks brothers.

### **June 18, 1812**

America declared war on Great Britain. New Jersey's subsequent role was largely relegated to militia duty in coastal defense, although several New Jerseyans of note, including Zebulon Pike, William Bainbridge and James Lawrence, served in the army and navy, and

### **June 25, 1776**

General William Howe arrived off Staten Island with a fleet and an army prepared to capture New York and subdue the rebellion there and in New Jersey.

### **June 25, 1947**

a regular army regiment, the Fifteenth United States Infantry, was raised in the state.

### **June 23, 1899**

Paterson-born George Henry Wanton, an African-American soldier serving in the Tenth United States Cavalry, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in saving stranded soldiers from his regiment in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

### **June 23, 1943**

United States Marine Corps Sergeant John Basilone of Raritan, NJ was awarded the Medal of Honor in Washington. A news report noted that "firing a machine gun and also using a pistol, Basilone piled up 38 Japanese bodies in front of his emplacement on Guadalcanal, October 24, 25th 1942."

The seven Weeks brothers - Robert, Edward, Albert, John, LeRoy, James and Joseph of Jersey City - showed up to enlist in the 309th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battery of the New Jersey National Guard's 50th Armored Division. All but Joseph, an underage fifteen years old, were sworn into the organization, in the largest recorded group family military enlistment in New Jersey history.

### **June 25, 1950**

North Korea invaded South Korea, beginning the Korean War. More than 190,000 New Jerseyans served in the U.S. military during the war between 1950 and 1953, and 836 lost their lives. New Jerseyans Nelson V. Brittin of Audubon, Hector A. Cafferata of Montville and Samuel F. Coursen of Madison were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their heroism during the conflict.




## 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

On June 15, 2017, the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was officially reflagged as the [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), reviving the historic name and insignia of the 44th Division, which served in the New Jersey National Guard from 1924 to 1946.

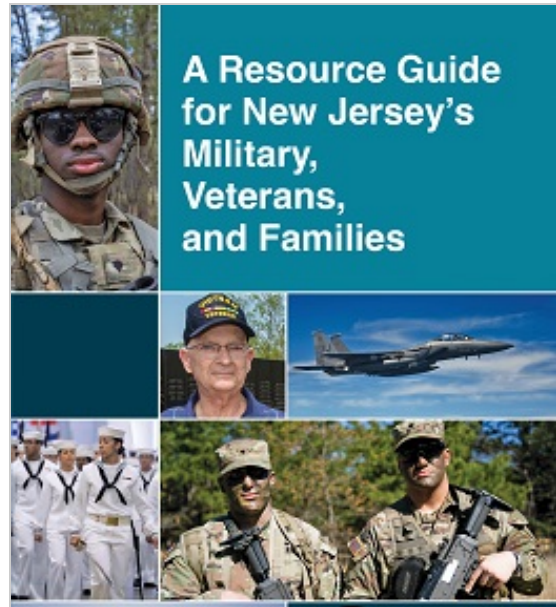
After 1946, the maneuver elements of the New Jersey National Guard primarily served under the colors of the 50th Armored Division, the 50th Brigade, and later the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team - until the return to the flag blue and golden orange of the 44th.

## Resources

# NEW JERSEY VETERANS BENEFITS GUIDE



## A Resource Guide for New Jersey's Military, Veterans, and Families



# NJ VETERANS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



**THIS PROGRAM OFFERS RIDES TO:**

VA MEDICAL CENTERS	PRIVATE PHYSICIANS
CLINICS	VA REGIONAL OFFICES
OTHER HOSPITALS	VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES

# GUARDLIFE

JULY - DECEMBER 2025




**NJ  
VET2VET**

**24 hour support to**  
NJ National Guard, Military,  
Veterans Families, and caregivers  
statewide.

# Veterans Crisis Line



**DIAL 988 then  
PRESS 1**

## 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



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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](http://military.nj.gov) to get contact information.

## Contact DMA

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Please email us at [outreach@dma.nj.gov](mailto: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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