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# Benefits Guide



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## Mission



### Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

The mission of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is to provide trained and ready forces prepared for rapid response to a wide range of civil and military operations, while providing exemplary services to citizens and Veterans of New Jersey.

## Events



### Event Quick Links

- [DMAVA Veterans Outreach & Medal Ceremonies](#)
- [VA Veterans Outreach & Events](#)
- [VA New Jersey Healthcare System Events](#)
- [VA Philadelphia Healthcare System Events](#)
- [VA Wilmington Healthcare System Events](#)

## Quick Links



[NJ Veterans Benefits Guide](#)

[NJ Veterans Transportation Guide](#)

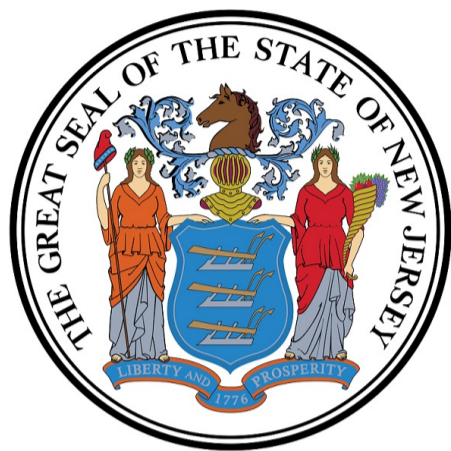
[NJ Military Veterans Families Resource Guide](#)

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[Family Programs Office](#)



## Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Allowing Certain Veterans to Keep Special Military License Plates Upon Conclusion of Service

March 28, 2023

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed a bill (A-4298) into law to allow veterans who have completed at least six years of service with a military reserve unit to keep special license plates identifying them as a member of the military following the conclusion of their service.

“Veterans who dedicated years of their lives to serving our country deserve our respect and appreciation,” said Governor Murphy. “Allowing veterans to keep the license plates that identify their military service upon the conclusion of their time in a military reserve unit is one way our state can honor that service.”

“The Motor Vehicle Commission is proud to play a part in recognizing military service in New Jersey with special license plates,” said Motor Vehicles Commission Acting Chief Administrator Latrecia Littles-Floyd. “This legislation signals to veterans that the time they’ve served is valued and cherished. Importantly, it helps underscore that their extraordinary contributions to our country are enduring – extending far beyond their time in uniform.”

“As we seek to support Service Members who have concluded their military service, this change allows us to honor their time in uniform,” said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. “This is yet one more step toward demonstrating that New Jersey is committed to doing just that.”

[Read Full Press Release](#)



# New Jersey National Guard

Always Ready, Always There



## New Jersey National Guard Pioneered the End of Segregation

Although history credits President Harry Truman with desegregating America's military, the truth is that racial integration had already arrived in New Jersey, thanks to a governor and National Guard leaders who had stubbornly insisted on equality in their forces.

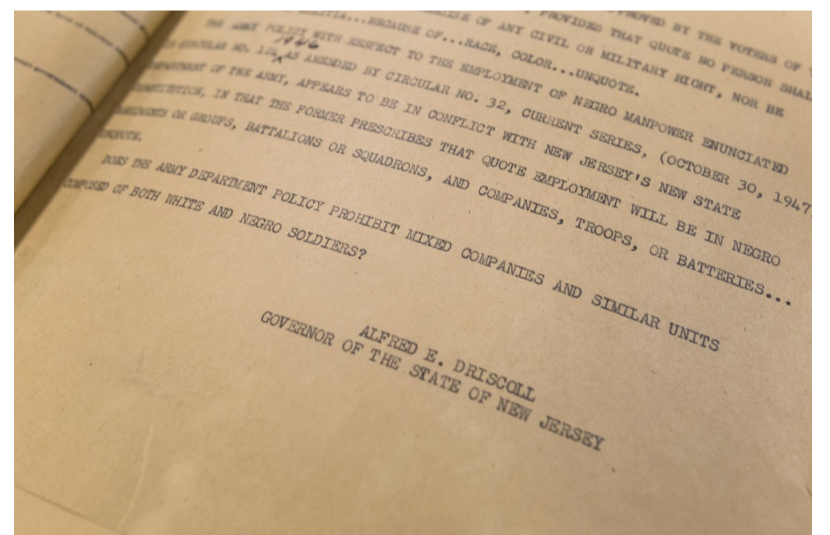
In the space of four months, from November 1947 to February 1948, the New Jersey National Guard changed history.

The story begins at a time when the New Jersey National Guard was growing.

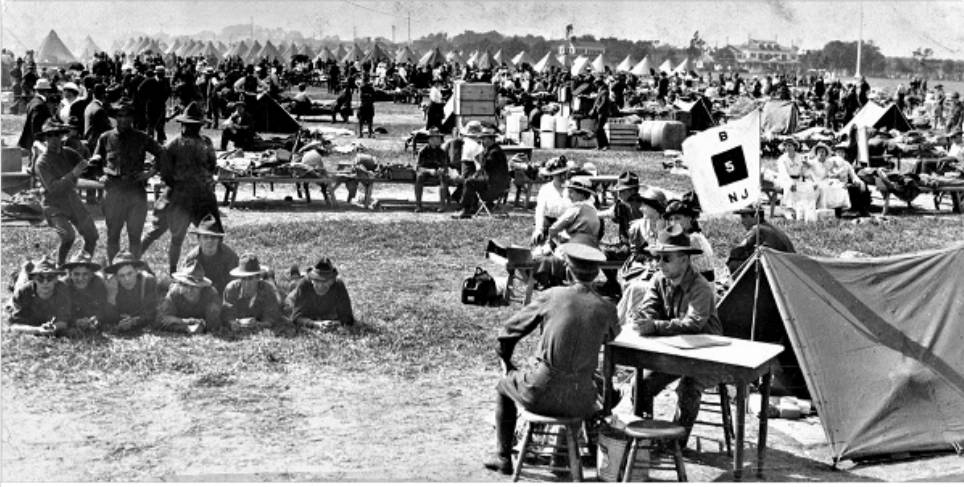
World War II had been over for more than a year and the New Jersey National Guard was recruiting new members to fill the recently created 50th Armored Division. The National Guard Bureau, which fell under the War Department, had authorized New Jersey to organize the 372nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery group. Because integration did not yet exist in the military, the 372nd would reflect the United States Army's policy toward Blacks – the unit was to be composed entirely of Black Soldiers.

And this is where the story would have ended except for one event.

[Read the rest of the story.](#)



## Dates in History



### July 1917

The NJ National Guard assembled at Sea Girt for World War I duty, and then traveled to Camp McClellan, Alabama. Most NJ National Guard units were assigned to the 29th Division, which was organized at McClellan. The old NJ state identified units were reorganized and given new federal numerical designations, including the 113th and 114th Infantry Regiments, which still exist in the state's National Guard.



### January 1957

The New Jersey National Guard ceased to be an all-male organization when the first women soldiers in its history, two nurses, Captain Frances R. Comstock and 1st Lieutenant Lucille Valentino of Paterson, were sworn in as members of the 114th Mobile Surgical Hospital.



### June 2009

The New Jersey Army National Guard closed its largest combat deployment since World War II - the 2,900 soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team served 10 months in Iraq - with a parade and celebration in downtown Trenton, NJ.



## The Adjutant General

### Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou, D.O.

Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou, D.O., is the Adjutant General and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Brigadier General Hou commands the more than 8,400 Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard. She leads, directs, and manages the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in the execution of federal and state missions. In addition, she manages all state veterans' programs, commissions, and facilities in New Jersey.

Prior to being selected by Governor Philip Murphy on October 18, 2020, Brigadier General Hou served as the Assistant Commissioner for Operations, Deputy Adjutant General (DAG) for New Jersey.





In addition to her responsibilities with DMAVA, Dr. Hou is an active Brigadier General in the New Jersey National Guard. In 2018 she became the first Joint Surgeon of the New Jersey National Guard, overseeing medical readiness and medical personnel statewide.

Previously, Dr. Hou served in the dual roles of commander of the Medical Command and the State Surgeon. In those capacities, she was responsible for the medical and dental readiness of more than 6,000 soldiers.

[Read Full Biography](#)


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**#OTD:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill that established the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) into law. The formation of the unit was made in response to the attack on Pearl Harbor. More than 35,000 women across the country applied for the less than 1,000 anticipated positions. A year later, President Roosevelt signed a supplemental bill that changed the name of the auxiliary unit to the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and made it part of the U.S. Army. This gave women all of the rank, privileges, and benefits of their male counterparts until women were

Facebook

 **The New Jersey National Guard**  
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 **The New Jersey National Guard**  
on Sunday

**#HappyMothersDay** to the moms serving in our National Guard and across our Armed Forces! We salute you for all of the sacrifices you and your family make to protect our Nation!





National Guard Militia ...

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National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey last Wednesday

Cold War veteran James Duff's oral history was filmed while he lived at the Paramus Veteran Memorial Home. Susan Woomer, a former intern there, had interviewed him and others. He served as a soldier with the Army Pictorial Center in Astoria as a photographer and tester of film developers. Thanks to Manasquan H.S. student Jhamier Howard for writing up this summary. Hear Jim Duff tell his story in his own words:

<https://njmilitiamuseum.org/james-duff>



New Jersey Military F...

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New Jersey Military Family Assistance Centers on Friday

The staff at Family Programs would like to take the time to thank the military spouses for all you do and the sacrifices you make. Your support and dedication are immeasurable. Feel free to post a picture of your spouse and tell us why they are amazing! Happy Military Spouse Appreciation Day!!!



Last Updated: 04/05/2023



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