




The State of New Jersey  
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**DMAVA Highlights » 26 June 2008**

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Volume 8, Number 26

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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**

Phone: (609) 530-7088  
 Fax: (609) 530-6963

**Veterans' Organizations Contact Information**

State Veterans Service Council  
 Mr. Richard Clark  
[RJClark21@msn.com](mailto:RJClark21@msn.com)

NJ Advisory Committee for Women Veterans  
 Mrs. Anna Hoffman  
[hoffmanannem@aol.com](mailto:hoffmanannem@aol.com)

BG Willam C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council

Mr. William Rakestraw  
[warjrnj@msn.com](mailto:warjrnj@msn.com)

**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

**DMAVA Highlights Archive**

**Send all submissions to**

**Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison**

**at: [barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us)**

**News For Your Views**

**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.

**Not Your Typical Band of Brothers**

*Cadet Amelia Thatcher, 444<sup>th</sup> MPAD*

**Most mothers worry about their deployed sons or daughters. For one Army mom, separation will be less of an issue – she's deploying too.**

This will be Sgt. Carmen Hernandez's second deployment to Iraq as a medic, and the first with her oldest son. Sgt. Felipe Diaz, 29, is a 94F (electronics repair) squad leader in his platoon, and a police officer in Paterson. The two Soldiers of Foxtrot Company, 250<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion contribute to the growing number of family members who deploy together, and as one of the first mother-and-son "teams."

"The hardest thing will be sitting there waiting for him to get back [from a mission]," Hernandez said.

Sometimes family members' deployments are coincidental, but brothers and best friends often enlist and/or deploy together and most dual-military couples manage to work out arrangements with their commanders. Military families tend to have multigenerational enlistees, including two of Hernandez's four children.

Hernandez, a licensed practical nurse, joined the Guard on Dec. 17, 1979 and deployed in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I enjoyed my stay there," she said of Camp Speicher in Tikrit. "It was a medical mission... it humbled me." She added that when she came home, "my kids were like, 'Ma, you're so easygoing now!'"

She also got married last month. Sgt. Victor Hernandez deploys in January with the 1-150<sup>th</sup> Aviation (Air Assault) out of West Trenton. But they don't have to worry about the kids this time – the youngest is 19 and now living with his older

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## **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 Saylor's Pond Road Fort  
Dix, NJ 08641

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

**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](mailto:barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us)  
Or Call 609-530-7088

**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**

## **Quotes for the Week**

Education makes a people easy to  
lead, but difficult to drive; easy to  
govern but impossible to enslave.

sister. Hernandez added that she "knew better this time" than to deal with a house, and instead let the lease run out on her apartment.

With her son and "a lot of young kids here," Hernandez wants to make Iraq a little more like home. She bought her own medic bag to fill with supplies for them, and is even bringing some pots and pans with her.

But, Diaz added, "Mom said 'when you see me cooking, don't come over and ask for food.'"

The balancing act of being both a mother and a medic, however, is Hernandez's greatest concern. For instance, she doesn't want the other Soldiers to wonder who she would help first, if someone not Diaz had a worse injury, "god forbid if [someone else] gets injured with her son."

"[Diaz] said to me, you stay in your lane, I'll stay in mine," Hernandez said.

## **Vets Haven receives vans**

From the desk of Robert G. Sauselein, Superintendent, Veterans Haven

The State Veterans of Foreign Wars and the State Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary along with the Military Order of Cooties and the Military Order of Cooties Auxiliary presented to Veterans Haven with a 15 passenger van and an eight passenger van at their convention on June 20 in Wildwood.

On behalf of both the residents and staff of Veterans Haven, I would like to thank them for their generous donation and continued support of our program.

## **For Your Calendar**

### **Picatinny Arsenal Family Sports Picnic**

On Saturday, July 12, Picatinny Arsenal will hold a Family Sports Picnic at the building 3228 – SAS playground (rain date is Saturday July 19). Those wishing to attend must RSVP by July 2 at (973)724-5555.

### **FRG training for leaders, volunteers in September**

There will be Family Readiness Group Training for leadership and volunteers on **Sept. 6-7**. Save the date. More information on location will be put out at a later date. Activities for children ages 8-16 will be available at the hotel during the training sessions. We are not able to accommodate children under the age of eight. We will also be having a speaker for parents of deployed Soldiers/Airmen on Sept. 6.

### **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](http://www.reserveaid.org)

### **New Jersey Bar Association offers pro bono military legal assistance**

The New Jersey Bar Association established and administers the **Military Legal Assistance Program**. This *pro bono* program provides assistance to New Jersey residents who have served overseas as active duty members of reserve components of the armed forces after Sept. 11, 2001.

Individuals who have been adversely affected upon their return from deployment and cannot be represented by military lawyers can use this program. The program currently offers assistance to the following areas: family law, employment law, veterans' benefits and debtor-creditor law.

The Military Legal Assistance program will refer members of the military who contact the state bar association to volunteers qualified to assist them with their specific legal issues. Volunteers who accept a case through the program must

- Baron Henry Peter Brougham  
Prejudice is the child of ignorance.

- William Hazlitt

The arm of the moral universe is long,  
but it bends toward justice.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Problems are Messages.

- Shakti Gawain

agree to handle such case from inception to resolution without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

If interested in the program, call toll free 1-888-541-1900 for referral or visit the New Jersey State Bar Association web site at [www.njsba.com](http://www.njsba.com) and click on the button for the Military Legal Assistance program.

## HRD presents seminars for training

*From the desk of Paul Serdiuk, DMAVA Human Resources Division*

The Human Resources Division is offering a number of free seminars presented by the Human Recourse Training Section. Reservations are needed for each seminar; contact Paul Serdiuk at 609-530-6878 or at [paul.serdiuk@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:paul.serdiuk@njdmava.state.nj.us). All seminars will be held in Conference Room A at DMAVA Central Office. All are welcomed.

**Sep. 17:** State Deferred Compensation – Mike McConnell from Prudential Financial will meet with State employees to discuss their participation and contributions to their deferred compensation account. A 30 minute consultation will be scheduled per each employee.



## Say Again?

### Help available to students studying for SAT/ACT

In cooperation with the Department of Defense, eKnowledge Corporation, a leading supplier of interactive test preparation products for college entrance exams, along with a group of NFL players, have donated more than \$16 million worth of multimedia SAT/ACT Test Preparation products to service members and their families worldwide.

Now in its fourth year, the eKnowledge/NFL player sponsorship effort has shipped more than 90,000 free SAT/ACT test preparation programs, valued at \$200, to military servicemembers and their families.

The eKnowledge SAT and ACT test prep programs come in either a single DVD or two CD-ROM set that include more than 11 hours of high quality video training/instruction with up to 40 hours of student interactive learning participation. The SAT and ACT test prep programs can be used as a stand-alone instruction tool to prepare thoroughly for the SAT and ACT, or as a supplement to other SAT and ACT preparation materials. Each student can select the areas where they need additional or special training/instruction, and can then study at their own pace using the 120 video lessons which comprise the SAT and Act test prep programs. The program also provides the student with feedback on their learning progress, test readiness and more.

Those military families interested in receiving free eKnowledge products under this sponsorship can complete an online request form at <http://eknowledge.com/military> or visit the Department of Defense <http://militaryhomefront.dod.mil> Web site for more details. Copies can also be requested by calling 951-256-4076 or via e-mail at [support@eknowledge.com](mailto:support@eknowledge.com).

## 253rd Transportation Co. honored in museum exhibit

The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey has created a special exhibit to commemorate the five-year anniversary of the first N.J. Army National Guard unit to be deployed to a combat theater of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom – the 253rd Transportation Company of Cape May Courthouse.

The exhibit traces the 253rd from the time they were called up in February 2003 to their arrival in Kuwait on April 2003 to their service in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division, the 10th Mountain Division and the Special Forces Group to their safe return to Cape May Courthouse in April 2004.

The museum is located on the campus of National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt and is open Tuesdays through Thursdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free, although donations are appreciated. Access to the Training Center requires a photo ID for adults. For further information contact the museum at 732-974-5966.

## Absentee voting open to military, family

The Uniformed And Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UCAVA) allows the following U.S. citizens to vote absentee:

- Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services (on active duty) and merchant marine,
- Their family members, and
- U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.

Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services or merchant marine and their family members may vote absentee while away from their place of voting residence, wherever stationed, inside or outside the United States.

U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories may vote in the state or territory where they last resided immediately prior to departing the United States, even if many years have elapsed and the citizen maintains no residence in the state or territory and the intent to return to that state or territory may not be certain.

1. <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.pdf>

2. <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html#ch3>

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### **Help for small business owners**

If you are ready to start your own business, grow or expand, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) can help. The SBA offers many programs and services to help Veteran entrepreneurs succeed. For more information on how SBA can help you start, grow and build your business, contact: Frank Burke at 973-645-6049 or e-mail [frank.burke@sba.gov](mailto:frank.burke@sba.gov) Visit the SBA New Jersey website at [www.sba.gov/nj](http://www.sba.gov/nj)

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### **No handbooks available for NJDIRECT**

Inquiries about NEW handbooks and directories for NJDIRECT has prompted this reply from Pensions and Benefits:

"Unfortunately, we do not have NJ Direct Handbooks to give to members and will not be receiving a supply. Members may visit the NJ Direct website [www.horizonblue.com/shbp](http://www.horizonblue.com/shbp). Members without computers are encouraged to use their local library or a relative's computer or call the plan directly".

You may also look up benefit information and visit the Unified Provider Directory on the Pensions and Benefits website under State Health Benefits Program.

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### **State employees who move, marry must contact HR department**

From the desk of Lisa Dandrea, Human Resources Office

Please remember if 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](mailto:Lisa.Dandrea@njdmava.state.nj.us).

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### **Lawn care services provided for military families**

GreenCare for Troops is a nationwide outreach program coordinated by Project EverGreen that connects local lawn and landscape firms with men and women serving our country in the armed forces away from home.

GreenCare has helped more than 1,200 volunteers provide free lawn and landscape services for more than 4,800 military families nationwide. The cost to manage the GreenCare for Troops Program is underwritten by Cub Cadet Commercial.

Go to <http://www.projectevergreen.com/gcft/> for more information.

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### **Battlemind supports Soldiers, families through deployment cycle**

Battlemind is a term used to describe combat readiness. The first Battlemind product was a mental health post-deployment briefing. It quickly became a training system supporting Soldiers and families across the seven phases of the deployment cycle. The Battlemind system includes separate pre-deployment training modules for Soldiers, unit leaders, health-care providers and spouses.

Psychological debriefings are given in theater and upon redeployment. There is also a post-deployment module for spouses and several post-deployment modules for Soldiers. Pre-deployment Battlemind tells Soldiers what they are likely to see, to hear, to think and to feel while deployed - by describing the worst-case scenario. Post-deployment Battlemind addresses safety concerns, relationship issues, normalized combat-related mental health reactions and symptoms -- along with teaching Soldiers when they should seek mental health support for themselves or for their buddies. All of the Battlemind products (training modules, brochures, debriefings and videos are available on the Web site, [www.battlemind.org](http://www.battlemind.org).

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## **Reduced rates on NJ Transit for military, dependents**

Here is another benefit offered to military members, retirees and their dependents by the state of New Jersey.

Eligible passengers may ride at reduced fare rates on any NJ Transit bus, rail or light rail service at all times, without restriction, upon presentation of authorized identification.

All military personnel and their dependents will be permitted to purchase transportation at the senior citizen/passengers with disabilities reduced fare rate upon showing their military or military dependent ID card. The following military personnel are entitled to this fare: Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard or Retired for Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard.

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## **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/](http://www.nj.gov/mvc/) for more information.

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## **Discounts offered for State employees**

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

Visit [www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm](http://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](mailto:cindy.leese@njdmava.state.nj.us) or call 609-530-7056.

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## **For the Families**

### **Scapbooking Event**

The Marine Corps Spousal Group is having a Scrapbooking Event June 28th from 10:30 AM- 3:30 PM. All military branches welcome.

Admission is Free with ID Card. Giveaways, raffles and lunch included. The location is American Legion Post 211, 240 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville.

For more information please call 201-880-8969.

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### **Financial counseling available for deployed service members**

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

The Military Housing Assistance Fund (MHAF) helps military families to become homeowners by providing them with grants to assist them with purchasing a home. The Fund also provides financial counseling to members of the National Guard and Reserves, deployed and serving in combat zones overseas, which are having problems meeting their monthly obligations due to their deployment and activation. Learn more at <http://www.militaryhousingassistancefund.org>. The Fund is a project of the Financial Counselors of America (FCA), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to help Americans manage their finances and get out of debt. Visit the FCA website at <http://www.financialcounselors.org>.

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### **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](mailto:ngccp@guardfamily.org).

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## Families urged to be aware of Casualty Phishing Scam

The HRC Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC) has asked that the field be advised that a phishing scam concerning families of fallen Soldiers has been identified. The scam purports to be from DFAS and Army Human Resources Command and informs the families of deceased Soldiers that they are entitled to monetary compensation in excess of \$12 million that will be available to them in one week. Those families receiving the correspondence are instructed to provide sensitive personal information, such as SSN, DOB, addresses, etc., and are instructed to come to either visit the Army Human Resources Command Offices in Alexandria, Va., or email the information to an overseas Yahoo account. A copy of the bogus solicitation is attached at the below link on S1NET. Recommend that any staff, CAOs, CNOs, chaplains, and any other members that may be in contact with families review and be aware of this phishing scam.

<https://forums.bcks.army.mil/secure/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=570572&lang=en-US>

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## No-cost prescription savings plan available

From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

Here is a no cost to you prescription savings program. This program offers discounts on all generic prescription medications at your local pharmacy. You do not have to do anything special to qualify. There is no income, residence, employment, age, citizenship or any other qualifications to meet. Not even an application to fill out. The Family State Programs Office at Joint Force Headquarters, Fort Dix has the group ID cards. Call Marie Durling at 609-562-0739 and one will be mailed to you. For more information check out [www.mediservrx.com](http://www.mediservrx.com).

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## Parents of Deployed Soldiers

June 30 – Cherry Hill Armory: Chaplin Martindale will be offering a parents program beginning at 7 p.m.

July 8 – Lawrenceville: Chaplin Martindale will be offering a parents program beginning at 7 p.m.

July 14 – West Orange: Chaplin Martindale will be offering a parents program beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information contact Michele Daisey, Woodbury Family Assistance Center, at 856-251-6893.

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## Lawrenceville FAC schedules events for members

*From the desk of Jane Hackbarth, Family Assistance Specialist*

The Lawrenceville Family Assistance Center and the Family Readiness Support Assistant have scheduled the activities open to all Family Readiness Group members:

**Sept. 20**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Bullying presentation, presented by ACS, Fort Dix

People attending who will be bringing children are asked to RSVP to their own FAC or to Jane Hackbarth at 609-671-6681 no later than one week prior to the event.

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## Camp Noble Cause serving children, spouses of deployed Guard members

*From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator*

Camp Noble Cause is a three day camping experience that will serve the children and spouses of the New Jersey National Guardsmen and women being deployed this summer. Our mission is to provide a no-cost summer camp experience, for a weekend of fun and camaraderie.

It will be held on **August 22-24** at Camp Winnebago, 102 Timberbrook Road, Rockaway, N.J., approximately 12 miles from Wayne. It is being hosted by the Scouts of the Patriot's Path Council, Boy Scouts of America and Operation Noble Cause.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Overnight camping capacity is limited to 300 and the day camp can accommodate an additional 200. Children must be old enough to tent camp comfortably to attend.

Planned activities include: mountain biking and nature walks, crafts, astronomy, shooting sports (archery, rifle, shot gun), rockwall climbing, waterfront activities (boating, swimming, fishing), Geocaching (GPS "hide and seek"), sports (softball, volleyball, basketball, soccer and more) and campfire activities.

Go to <http://main.ppbsa.org> and click on the Camp Noble Cause icon to register for families to go on weekend retreats.

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## **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 Wendy Parrinello, Military Families Outreach Case Manager at [wparrinello@fsmc.org](mailto:wparrinello@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](mailto:trosenthal@fsmc.org) or 973-538-5260. We are privileged to work with you who have given so much for your country!

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## **Order a complimentary Blue Star Flag to show your family's service**

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

The Blue Star Flag first appeared in 1917, when Capt. Robert L. Queissner, who had two sons serving on the front line, designed it as a tribute to their dedication and service. He proudly displayed this flag in the front window of his home and the flag quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service. Also known as a Service Flag, the blue star stands for hope and pride. Order a complimentary Blue Star Flag to honor your loved ones in the service by visiting: [www.grantham.edu/promo/freebluestar.php](http://www.grantham.edu/promo/freebluestar.php).

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## **Program offers grant funds to spouses of deployed military**

The Deployed Military Spouses Assistance Program provides direct assistance and referrals to existing programs for spouses of deployed military personnel (active duty, reserve and National Guard) who face unusual financial and emotional stress as a result of the deployments.

Applicants should contact Fawn Mutschler at 609-543-6200 ext. 325 or [wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org](mailto:wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org) to obtain an application. In addition to the completed application form, applicants will also need to submit the following documentation: LES/paystub for applicant and spouse; statement of Financial Need (i.e. reason for applying and how the grant will help); bill or pricing of expenditure as well as any other supporting information the applicant feels may be helpful. Additional information can be found at: [www.state.nj.us/dca/dow/depmilspouseasst.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dow/depmilspouseasst.shtml)

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## **Post Office offers boxes, discount rate to FPO/APO addresses**

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

Now the U.S. Postal Service is making it easier for families to send care packages with a larger flat rate box and a special discount to FPO/ APO addresses. They are 50 percent larger than the current flat rate box and can be sent to any domestic address for \$12.95. A special military version of the box will carry the "America Supports You" logo and can be shipped to any FPO/ APO address for \$10.95. The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box is "12 x 12" x 5½". For complete guidelines on mail services to military members overseas visit the USPS website at:

[www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/welcome.htm?from=household&page=troopsupport](http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/welcome.htm?from=household&page=troopsupport).

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### **Federal grant for spouses of deployed military**

Grants from a funding of \$200,000 from the Department of Community Affairs are available for spouses of deployed or recently deployed military (all branches across the state). Typical awards are \$2,500 each and are available for financial difficulties (such as past due rent and childcare) as well as for recreational and stress relieving activities for kids. For more information contact Rene Mainor, Military Grant Liaison, Women's Opportunity Center, YMCA of Burlington County by calling 609-543-6200 Ext. 235 or by email at [fawnm@ymca-bc.org](mailto:fawnm@ymca-bc.org).

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### **N.J. State Family Readiness Council offers Family Grants Program**

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has expanded its Family Grants Program to include an additional grant. There are now two levels of Family Grants; TIER I is the \$2,500 grant that has been in place for the past couple of years. The TIER II opens family grants 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.

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### **Christmas tickets for Radio City now on sale**

Tickets are now on sale for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. Discounted tickets are on sale through the U.S. Coast Guard Sector N.Y. M.W.R. office. Dates of the discounted performances are Nov. 14, 8 p.m., \$53 for orchestra seats, \$39 for second mezzanine seats; and Nov. 15, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., \$59 for orchestra seats and \$44 for second mezzanine seats.

Call Monica McBrady, (718) 354-4407 or e-mail [monica.mcbrady@uscg.mil](mailto:monica.mcbrady@uscg.mil); or order your tickets over the phone and have them mailed to you for a \$3 shipping and handling charge. All tickets must be pre-purchased and paid in full.

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## **Sports**

### **NGANJ holding 20th Annual Golf Tourney to benefit scholarships**

The National Guard Association of New Jersey is holding their 20th Annual President's Golf Tournament at Falcon Creek Golf Course, McGuire Air Force Base on **June 28**.

For a donation of \$115 per person, golfers will receive greens fees, cart, refreshments, dinner, shirt and door prizes. All proceeds from the event will benefit the NGANJ scholarship fund.

The tournament will begin at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start using a four-person scramble format. Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place teams for low gross and low net scores, closest to pin on hole 2 and the longest drive on hole 17, both men and women.

Coffee, juice and donuts will be served at 8:30 a.m. For those who would only like to attend the dinner after the tournament, the cost is \$30.

The committee is also looking for corporate sponsors, refreshment sponsors, hole sponsors, boosters, cash donations, and gift prizes. If you would like to participate in any way, contact Jack Petrosilli at 609-530-6843 or go to [www.nganj.org](http://www.nganj.org).

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## DISCOM alumni golf outing, July 10 in Princeton

Come join the 15th Annual New Jersey Army National Guard DISCOM Alumni golf outing on Thursday, **July 10** at the Bunker Hill Golf Course, Princeton. Cost is \$100 and the shotgun start is 8 a.m. The cost includes you fees, cart, refreshment cart on the course, awards, door prizes, burgers and dogs at the turn and luncheon after the game.

Checks, made payable to DISCOM Alumni Assoc. are due no later than July 4, to Alumni Golf, PO Box 262, Belleville, NJ 07109-0262.

The association is also looking for cart (\$25) and hole (\$50) sponsors. For more information, contact retired Master Sgt. Roger M. Colarusso Sr., at 973-667-8067.

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## Hunterdon County Vets Alliance celebrates special day with ball game

Come watch the Somerset (N.J.) Patriots play the Bridgeport (Conn.) Bluefish during the Hunterdon County Veterans Alliance sixth annual Veterans of America Day on **Aug. 30** at 6 p.m. The Veterans of America celebration will begin the evening with guest of honor, Marine Maj. Jason E. Smith, present commander of the recruiting Station New Jersey and veteran of two tours of Iraq.

After the celebration, enjoy the Atlantic League game with free tickets for veterans and discounted tickets - \$5 each - for friends and family. Discounted tickets must be ordered in advance. Contact 908-252-0700 for more information. Cal Joe Yuzuik at 732-563-4012 for information on the Veterans events scheduled prior to the game.

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## Trenton Thunder offers reduced tickets to military personnel, vets

The Trenton Thunder baseball team and its community partner, the Trenton Vet Center, have collaborated to sponsor reduced ticket prices for veterans and their families during the 2008 Trenton Thunder baseball season.

A regular \$10 ticket has been reduced to \$7 for veterans and their family members.

Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard, separated, and retired veterans are eligible for this program. Interested veterans must have a picture I.D. and provide proof of their veteran status by showing one of the following documents:

- ⚡ Military I.D. card.
  - ⚡ Federal Department of Veteran Affairs medical I.D. card
  - ⚡ DD Form 214
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## Travel Help, Ideas

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### Free tickets to Busch Adventure Parks for military, families



Any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission to a Anheuser-Busch Adventure Park under the Here's to the Heroes program. He or she need only register, either by going to this Web site <http://www.herosalute.com/> and submitting his or her information or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled

to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependent ages 10 and over must present valid dependent I.D. Busch Gardens Williamsburg and SeaWorld San Antonio are seasonal operations that will remain closed until spring 2008. Military personnel interested in visiting those parks should check operating schedules. The remaining parks, SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld San Diego are open year round.

Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Water Country USA, Adventure Island. Not valid at Discovery Cove and Aquatica.

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## 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/](http://www.afvclub.com/) 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 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](http://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.

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## Scholarship, Education News

### Education news for NJARNG

#### Education Services Brochure Booklet (ESB2)

Access the New Jersey Army National Guard's ESB2 at [www.nj.gov/military/education](http://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 <https://www.nationalguardbenefits.com>; click on G.I. Bill Home Page.

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### American Legion offers scholarships, booklet on their Web site

The American Legion has scholarship information on their Web site - [www.legion.org](http://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.

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## Association News

### 117th Cav Association announces meeting schedule

The 117th Cavalry Association, whose mission is to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country, announces its upcoming meetings. They will be held at 7:30 p.m., at the Westfield Armory's Heritage Room. Meetings will be on **Oct. 17, Nov. 7** and the reunion on **Oct. 18** at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

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### Enlisted Association wants YOU!

*By retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, EANG-NJ*

The Enlisted Association National Guard-New Jersey is off to a good start for 2008 as we have realigned all the committees and filled both the Executive Council and Committees with a cross section of Army and Air, uniformed and retirees, and several junior NCOs.

Everyone appears to be enthused and pledges to support the Association in all its efforts. All we need now is for you to get on board as a member and bring your fellow soldiers and airmen with you.

We have many challenges facing us over the next few years whether it is another round of base closures via the Base Realignment Commission (BRAC), reduction in TRICARE benefits, reduction in troop strength, attempts to maintain the retirement age at 60, etc. We need a powerful voice to put our message across to the State and Federal Legislators and this can only be accomplished through a strong

membership in our State Association (EANG-NJ) and the National Association (EANGUS).

The new membership year starts on 1 January 2008 and we need your help in making our Association grow. We encourage all enlisted soldiers and airmen to join the Association as Active Members and also welcome all officers, warrant officers, federal, and state employees to join as Associate Members. Applications for membership can be obtained from our website [www.eang-nj.org](http://www.eang-nj.org).

### **NGANJ group life insurance available to members**

Are you covered by the NGANJ Group Life Insurance Program? As a member of either the Officers or the Enlisted Association, you are entitled to enroll in your Association Life Insurance Program. This special program provides from \$5,000 to \$50,000 of Life Insurance for you, "round the clock". Premiums range from as little as \$2 per month and may be payroll-deducted from your drill check. Family coverage is also available at low rates designed for you as a member of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. Think of it!! No aviation exclusions...No hazardous duty restrictions...No war clauses...No checks to write. Family coverage includes spouses and all children. Information can be obtained by contacting retired CWO Jack Petrosilli at 609-530-6843, or retired Brig. Gen. Robert S. Dutko Sr. at 609-273-1004. Enrollment forms can be obtained by calling retired Col. Frank L. Carlone, Program Coordinator at 732-249-8335.

## **Veterans Information**

### **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](http://www.TurboTAP.org) or

email [TAPHelp@military-inc.com](mailto:TAPHelp@military-inc.com).

### **DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues**

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

July 8, 9, 10	Cherry Hill Mall
July 18*	Traveling Wall, Wildwood
August 5*, 6, 7	Willowbrook Mall
September 2*, 3, 4	Bridgewater Commons Mall
October 14*, 15, 16	Menlo Park Mall
November 5*, 6, 7	Deptford Mall

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

The kiosk will also be in place at the Wildwood Convention Center for three state conventions.

❖ **June 20**, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. – VFW State Convention.

### **Career fair for veterans, family members on Battleship New Jersey**

RecruitMilitary in cooperation with HireVets First and the American Legion will be hosting a Career Fair that on **July 10**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., onboard the Battleship New Jersey. It is being hosted to benefit all veterans, transitioning military personnel, members of the Guard and Reserve, and military family members in Philadelphia and the surrounding area.

Job seekers who would like to pre-register for the event can go to [www.recruitmilitary.com/careerfairs/careerfairs3.asp?CFID=111](http://www.recruitmilitary.com/careerfairs/careerfairs3.asp?CFID=111).

For more information, go to [www.recruitmilitary.com/brochures/07-10-08\\_philadelphia\\_candidate\\_pr.pdf](http://www.recruitmilitary.com/brochures/07-10-08_philadelphia_candidate_pr.pdf).

## **Pennsylvania looking for Desert Shield/Storm vets for benefit program**

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is trying to locate veterans who may be eligible for the Commonwealth's Persian Gulf Veterans' Benefit Program. We believe that many Desert Shield/Storm participants who were residents of Pennsylvania during this conflict may be entitled to this benefit have since moved to other states. In an effort to inform them of the benefit, we request that you share the following information with your veterans.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania signed into law (House Bill 1820, Act 29 of 2006) a benefit program for veterans of the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the time period Aug. 2, 1990 through Aug. 31, 1991. Veterans are likely to be eligible for the benefit if they:

1. Served with the U.S. Armed Forces, a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard during the period Aug. 2, 1990-Aug. 31, 1991;
2. Received the Southwest Asia Service Medal; and
3. Were a resident of Pennsylvania during the period Aug. 2, 1990-Aug. 31, 1991.

A surviving family member(s) of a veteran who was killed as a result of the conflict, or died following the conflict may be eligible for the benefit.

Veterans or a surviving family member(s) may either request an application by calling the toll-free telephone number below, or by down-loading the application from the webpage.

Toll-free number: 1-866-458-9182 or

Hearing Impaired: 1-866-835-8983 (TTY)

To be eligible for the benefit, a veteran or surviving family member(s) must submit an application and required supporting documentation to:

Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program

Post Office Box 1109

Harrisburg, PA 17108-1109

The deadline for submitting an application is August 15, 2015.

## **Helmets to Hardhats**

The New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council's Helmets to Hardhats Program (NJ H2H) is designed to help transitioning military personnel, National Guardsmen and Reservists find the careers in the building and construction industry. The program seeks to help military members find a career in one of 15 affiliated trades, such as electrical workers, carpenters and painters.

They work in cooperation with the national Helmets to Hardhats program, adding a personal component to the program's on-line services. NJ H2H offers veterans preparation for successful application to any of New Jersey's registered apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades. Services include career counseling, entrance test preparation and referral to supportive services.

For program registration and information, visit online at [www.njbctc.org/h2h](http://www.njbctc.org/h2h) or contact at 732-499-7295 or at [H2H@njbctc.org](mailto:H2H@njbctc.org).

## **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.



**July 19,** 1 p.m. – "Re-Inventing the Wheel: U.S. Air Force Close Air Support in Vietnam" – a lecture by Tom Wisker, host of the radio program "Weaponry" on WBAI-FM, New York City.

**Aug. 9,** 1 p.m. – "Centaur in Vietnam: Army Air Cavalry at War" – a video and oral-history presentation by N.J. Vietnam Veteran Carl Burns, former chopper pilot with the

"Centaur" of the 25th Infantry Division.

**Sept. 19,** 11 a.m. – National POW/MIA Recognition Day and National Gold Star Mothers Day Ceremony at the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

**Sept. 21,** 12:30 p.m. – Arrival at the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial by Rolling Thunder-N.J., annual motorcycle run for POW/MIA awareness.

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For further information call 1-800-648-VETS or visit [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org).

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Department of Military & Veterans Affairs  
P.O. Box 340  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340  
Phone: 609-530-4600

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