

View in Web Browser

April 2, 2025



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

## Commissioner's Corner



Leadership of the New Jersey National Guard convened for a professional development seminar led by Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays on March 8, 2025.

## My Priorities for DMAVA

Last month, I held a series of professional development sessions to present my priorities as The Adjutant General and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

In a broad sense, my vision is that we will be ready, relevant, and engaged in our communities, focusing on people, readiness, partnerships, modernization, and transformation.

My first priority is people. The individuals who animate our great organization always come first. We will foster an environment that develops subordinates into active leaders whose actions, regardless of branch of service or civilian status, reflect our values.

Whether in a veterans facility, a field training exercise, or on a flightline, we will continue to focus on readiness. This means engaging in continuous individual and organizational improvement. We will continue to incorporate lessons learned from state and federal responses to address vulnerabilities and threats, both known and unknown.

We will maintain and enhance our partnerships at every level. Given today's complex strategic environment, our formal relationships with the Republic of Albania and Republic of Cyprus are critical to advancing the national security interests of the United States. At home, our team will leverage the impressive constellation of public, private, and non-profit organizations that support Garden State Service Members, Veterans, and their families to create a stronger tomorrow.

Modernization encompasses the efforts of those in uniform and our civilian workforce. From ambitious capital improvements at our Veterans Memorial Homes to modernizing the New Jersey National

Guard, our organization will lean forward and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.

When it comes to transformation, we will develop warfighters and elevate Veterans. Today, New Jersey is investing more, doing more and achieving more for Service Members, Veterans, and their families than at any time in our history. Tomorrow and in the future, our focus will be on constant and never-ending improvement.

Local to Global. Always Ready, Always There.

Please take a moment to read my priorities [in full here](#).

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMAVA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at [outreach@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov).

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



## Featured Events



**WARREN COUNTY VETERAN  
JOB & RESOURCES EXPO**

Sponsored by The Division of Aging and Disability  
Services and Veteran Coordinator / VSO

**Thursday - April 3, 2025  
2PM-6PM**

Belvidere Manor Banquet Hall  
689 Water St., Belvidere, NJ

**ALL VETERANS  
WELCOME TO ATTEND**

*Resume Assistance, Employers, Community Resources  
Veteran Vendors, Organizations and Services*

**P3 Public Private Partnership**

**BRIDGING THE GAP**  
OPENING DOORS FOR VETERANS

**Community OF HOPE**

**IDA V**  
KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

**COUNTY OF WARREN  
NEW JERSEY  
1828**

**ROLLING THUNDER**

**QOV**  
QUILTS OF VALOR

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**#MI22ION**

**PROJECT HORSES FOR FORCES**

Logos for: United States Coast Guard, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Coast Guard.

# Leadership DINNER & CONFERENCE



**Wednesday**  
April 30, 2025



**Royal Albert's Palace**  
1050 King Georges Post Rd.  
Fords, NJ 08863



**Cocktail Hour**  
5:30pm-6:30pm  
**Event**  
7:00pm-9:30pm

**INVITED SPEAKER**



**Brigadier General  
Yvonne L. Mays**

Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays is the Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

**DRESS  
CODE:**  
BUSINESS  
CASUAL

**Thank you for your continued support of our Northern New Jersey Chapter of AUSA as a Community Partner of our chapter**






## Events

# DMAVA Calendar

DMAVA is sponsoring or will participate in the events below. A DMAVA Veterans Service Officer will be present at many of these events. Please check details to confirm.

- April 3 | Belvidere  
[Warren County Veteran Job & Resources Expo](#)
- April 9 | Trenton  
[160th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War](#)
- April 10 | Absecon  
[Atlantic County Veteran Stakeholders Meeting](#)
- April 10 | Kenilworth  
[Veterans Outreach Campaign & Medal Ceremony](#)
- April 11 | West Deptford  
[Senior Resource Fair](#)
- April 11 | Sewell  
[Veterans Outreach Event at RCSJ](#)
- April 11 | Bordentown  
[Purple Up Day for National Guard Families](#)
- April 12 | Bordentown  
[CPR/First Aid/AED Certification Course](#)
- April 23 | Lafayette  
[Sussex County Veterans Appreciation Luncheon](#)
- April 24 | Atlantic City  
[Casino Career Fair / Veteran Resources & Services](#)

## Community Calendar

We add new events to our calendar on a daily basis so please bookmark and check back often.

[View Full Calendar](#)

## NJ National Guard



### **Microsoft Flight Simulator F-16C Audio Recordings Captured at the 177th Fighter Wing**

*A1C Connor Taggart | 177th FW | March 28, 2025*

ATLANTIC CITY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, New Jersey - Mr. Tyler Bolhuis, CEO and founder of Echo 19 Audio Production, visited the [177th Fighter Wing](#), home of the “Jersey Devils,” to capture audio of multiple F-16C Fighting Falcon fighter jets, Feb. 24, 2025. The recordings will be integrated into a future version of Microsoft Flight Simulator, giving virtual pilots an authentic in-cockpit experience.

The experience of being inside of an F-16A / F-16C fighter jet has the potential of sounding more realistic than ever in the popular flight simulation platform.

“People are going to be able to hop in the cockpit on their Xbox or computer and actually hear one of these F-16’s inside their living room,” said Bolhuis.

Echo 19 specializes in creating immersive audio for flight simulators and video games. Using an integrated schematic of the proposed sound design, Bolhuis’ objective was to capture every detail possible of the F-16C fighter jet.

[Read Full Story](#)

## Join Our Team

**100% Free College Tuition  
Bonuses | GI Bill  
Student Loan Repayment**



## DMAVA Veterans Services



**The April 2025 edition of the NJ Veterans Journal is now available.**

Get New Edition



## State Medal Ceremony

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a State Medal Ceremony at the Albert Lawson Memorial VFW Post #10117 in Passaic, NJ on March 21, 2025.

[View Images](#)



## Andre Daigle, Cumberland County VSO

Andre Daigle is the DMAVA Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for Cumberland County.

If you know anyone in need of assistance regarding Veteran's benefits, please contact Andre or one of his colleagues by visiting our website at [Veterans Service Offices](#).

# Unite Veterans

## Get Connected to Resources & Services

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has partnered with Unite Us to connect individuals and families to a wide variety of services and resources.

Unite Us is a coordinated care referral network of health and social service providers. Unite Us can connect our New Jersey military and veteran community to resources to obtain benefits, food assistance, housing, education, transportation, behavioral health services, peer support and more.

[Learn More / Request Assistance](#)

# BRINGING VETERANS HOME

## Veteran Homelessness

The mission of Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) is to effectively end veteran homelessness in New Jersey by enhancing existing systems, creating rapid access to housing, and ensuring homelessness becomes rare, brief, and non-recurring.

BVH creates a clear path to stable housing for veterans experiencing homelessness through a coordinated network of services and support.

[Learn More / Refer a Veteran](#)

**THE DMAVA READJUSTMENT  
COUNSELING PROGRAM PROVIDES  
VETERANS WITH:**

**INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING  
GROUP COUNSELING  
FAMILY COUNSELING**

**SCAN THE CODE AND CALL YOUR  
LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER,**

**OR CALL:**

**(888) 865-8387,**

**OR EMAIL:**

**VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV**



# SUPPORT IS PEER TO PEER



**Call Us 24/7  
7 days a week**  
(866) 838-7654



## **NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline**

**888-865-8387**

**[vbb@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:vbb@dmava.nj.gov)**

Veterans Outreach Schedule

Veterans Service Offices

## DMAVA Departments



### **NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy**

On March 25, 2025, Cadets from the [NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy](#) were invited to Brookdale Community College. Cadets were given a tour of some of the wonderful things Brookdale has to offer. Our Cadets were even allowed to spend some time in Brookdale's exports Arena where they played modern and arcade style games.

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# NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



TUITION  
FREE

Now accepting applications  
for Class 60 - July 2025.

APPLY  
NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



[njyca.org/admissions](https://njyca.org/admissions)



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



(800) 997-5587 / (732) 974-6516





# Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

## State Partners



### **NJ State Agencies**

- [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families](#)
- [The New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards](#)
- [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



### Tax season guidance for Veterans

VA News | February 6, 2025

As tax season approaches, many Veterans begin gathering their necessary financial documents and consulting with tax professionals. VA wants Veterans to know they may qualify for special tax breaks and [free assistance programs](#) to help them navigate the filing process and maximize their returns.

Whether a Veteran files their taxes independently or uses a tax professional, VA encourages Veterans and their loved ones to review the following tips and resources to both help them navigate the tax season with confidence and to avoid [tax season scams](#).

[Learn More](#)





**VIETNAM**      **GULF WAR**      **POST - 9/11**

**WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS,  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS,  
AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS  
WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?**

**Apply for VA  
health care today  
at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).**





U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



**Have questions?**  
Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0  
to speak with someone right away.



**The Women Veterans Call Center  
is Your Guide to VA**

Live women representatives, many of whom are  
Veterans, are standing by to help.

**Call or text 1-855-VA-WOMEN  
(1-855-829-6636)  
or chat with us online**

Weekdays 8:00 am – 10:00 pm ET  
Saturday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm ET




U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**VA****U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

## Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)
- [VA Caregiver Support Program](#)
- [Accessing Records from the National Archives or NPRC](#)
- [PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#)
- [How to Check Your PACT Act Claim Status](#)
- [Download VA Benefit Letters](#)
- [Podcasts on Veterans' Issues](#)
- [VA Health and Benefits Mobile App](#)
- [Women Veterans Call Center](#)
- [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#)
- [Million Veteran Program](#)
- [#VetResources](#)
- [VA Resource Navigator](#)

## Community Spotlight



### Civil Air Patrol

In March, the Atlantic County Institute of Technology Air Force JROTC Det. NJ-20131 took a tour of the [177th Fighter Wing](#), gaining valuable insights into what guard life is like.

During the tour, the students received a mission brief and spoke to fighter jet engine maintainers, F-16C fighter pilots, base firefighters, and a NJ Air National Guard recruiter about joining the NJANG. Many students expressed their ambitions of answering their nation's call to serve their communities and the nation.

Thanks, cadets. It was a pleasure to have you visit!

**CHECK LINE #72 ON YOUR  
NEW JERSEY INCOME TAX FORM  
AND SUPPORT OUR MISSION**

Help us preserve the memories of the  
1,564 New Jerseyans on our Memorial,  
tell their stories, and educate future generations.

**NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS'  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a red banner at the top. Below the banner are three small images: a black stone memorial marker, a military helicopter, and a bronze statue of a soldier with a dog. The bottom of the ad shows a large, curved wall of the memorial with names engraved on it.

## In The News



## **Janelle Atwell: Raising Leaders, Serving Country**

*Washington Township Neighbors | Matthew Rappa | April 2025*

On a cold winter day in 1995, a young Janelle Atwell arrived in the U.S. from Trinidad during one of the biggest snowstorms in recent history. The stark contrast between the warmth of her home country and the icy embrace of New York was just the first of many challenges she would face and overcome with determination.

Now, three decades later, Janelle has built a life defined by service, resilience, and a deep commitment to family in Washington Township.

[Read Full Story](#)

## Did You Know?



### **1st Lieutenant Francis X. Burke**

Francis X. Burke earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions on April 17, 1945.

He started and ended his military career as a member of the New Jersey National Guard, though his service in World War II and during those actions in Nuremburg were under the 3rd Infantry Division.

After his death in 1988, he was buried at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ.

[Learn More](#)

# 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



Officers of the 1st Separate Battalion in 1935.

### April 3, 1782

Loyalist raider and "Pine Robber" John Bacon was discovered by local militia in a tavern near

### April 12, 1782

Loyalists took Patriot Captain Joshua Huddy, a prisoner in New York since his capture at Toms River, to Highlands, where they

Tuckerton and was killed in the subsequent fight.

### **April 3, 1865**

The Twenty-second United States Colored Infantry, an African-American unit mostly composed of men from New Jersey, was one of the first Union army regiments to enter Richmond, as the Civil War began to draw to a close.

### **April 6, 1917**

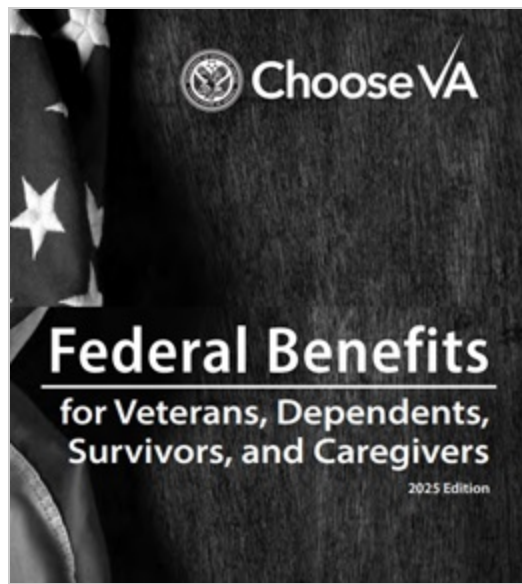
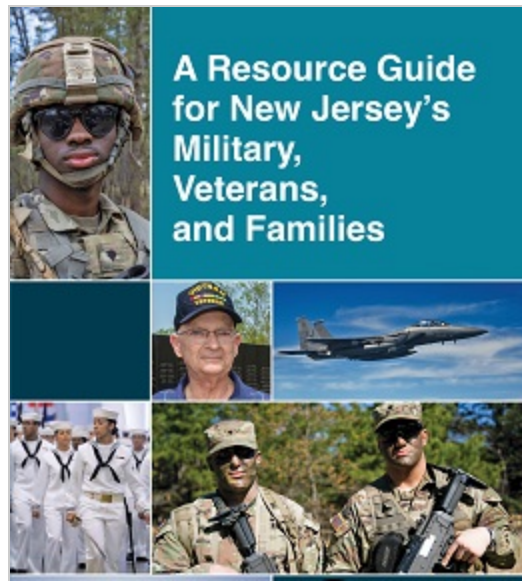
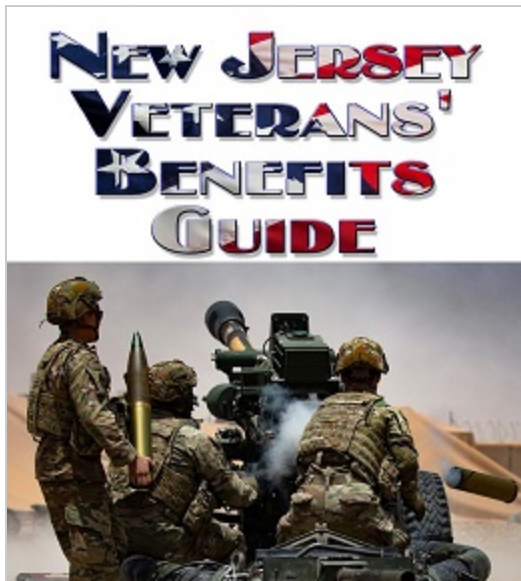
The United States declared war on Germany. In the ensuing weeks New Jersey National Guardsmen were mobilized at Sea Girt and sent to Camp McClellan, Alabama, where they became part of the Twenty-ninth Division before shipping out to France.

hanged him in retribution for the death of Loyalist Philip White, killed allegedly attempting to escape on his way to Freehold as a prisoner. Huddy's lynching led to an international incident when George Washington ordered a British prisoner selected to hang in retribution. The retaliation execution never occurred.

### **April 16, 1930**

The New Jersey legislature passed Chapter 149, laws of 1930, authorizing the "authorization and equipment of a battalion of Negro infantry" at state expense, in response to the refusal of the federal government to establish an African American National Guard unit in the state within the context of an overall segregated military. The unit, the "First Separate Battalion," began organizing in Newark and Atlantic City the following year.

## Resources



## DMAVA Careers



## We Are Hiring!

At the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs we take our work in support of Veterans, Servicemembers and their families very seriously. Whether supporting our Veterans with nursing care, transitional housing, or assisting them in navigating access to their Veteran benefits, the Department provides valuable services and can offer rewarding career opportunities to members of the public.

We also have opportunities in facilities management and program management. In addition, we have job openings for members of our military to serve in AGR and Federal Technician roles.

Subscribe to [DMAVA 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, our programs or your benefits, please visit our website at [nj.gov/military](https://nj.gov/military) to get contact information.

## Contact DMAVA

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

Visit the [DMAVA archives](#) to view previous editions of our newsletter.

**Forward to a friend**

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[nj.gov/military](https://nj.gov/military)

NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

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