

NIDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2015



AIRMEN READ ACROSS AMERICA

By Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

Above: Tech. Sgt. Archie Mason reads to second graders at the Brighton Avenue School, Atlantic City, N.J., during a Read Across America event, Feb. 24, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

The sounds of chattering children, musical instruments and teachers instructing students echoed through the halls of Atlantic City's Brighton Avenue School. With the creak of the front doors opening, the noise level dipped as Airmen from the New Jersey Air National Guard entered the building.



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released

It meant a lot to see how much they enjoyed listening. It's a very rewarding feeling.

TECH SGT. JANEEN MACGRAY

NEW JERSEY JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

The five Airmen, representing Joint Force Headquarters, the 108th Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing, all came together to participate in Read Across America.

Founded by the National Education Association, Read Across America coincides around the time of renowned children's author Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2, and features military and com-

so I really don't get a chance to sit down and have these interactions, so it's nostalgic for me, but, more importantly, the children, the looks on their faces, the surprise; it's amazing to be a part of that type of transaction."

"You know they're getting something out of it, and at the same time we're getting something out of it," said Mason. "It was a great experience."

Airman 1st Class Hannah Bartlett, an administrator from the 108th Wing, read Peggy Rathmann's *Officer Buckle and Gloria* to fifth graders. After she finished, Bartlett answered student's questions on everything from military food to what adventures she had been on.

"I went to Guam with the Wing," said Bartlett. "That was fun, but it was



Airman 1st Class Hannah Bartlett, 108th Wing, reads Peggy Rathmann's *Officer Buckle and Gloria* to a group of fifth graders during the event. (Cover and this photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

munity members coming together to read to children in local schools.

The Airmen were greeted by Courtney Mitchell, who acted as the teacher-military liaison.

"It means so much to the kids to have the National Guard here," said Mitchell.

Mitchell then lead the Airmen to the classrooms where they would be reading to students.

Tech. Sgt. Archie Mason lightened the mood with a short question and answer session before he began reading, asking students if they liked books as much as their siblings.

"To come out and talk to the children is really great," said Mason, a recruiter with the 177th Fighter Wing. "I have older children,

It means so
MUCH to the
kids to **HAVE**
the National
Guard **HERE**

COURTNEY MITCHELL
TEACHER-MILITARY
LIAISON

a lot of hard work."

Tech Sgt. Janeen MacGray, from New Jersey Joint Force Headquarters, was overwhelmed with all of the smiles she faced as she read to the second graders.

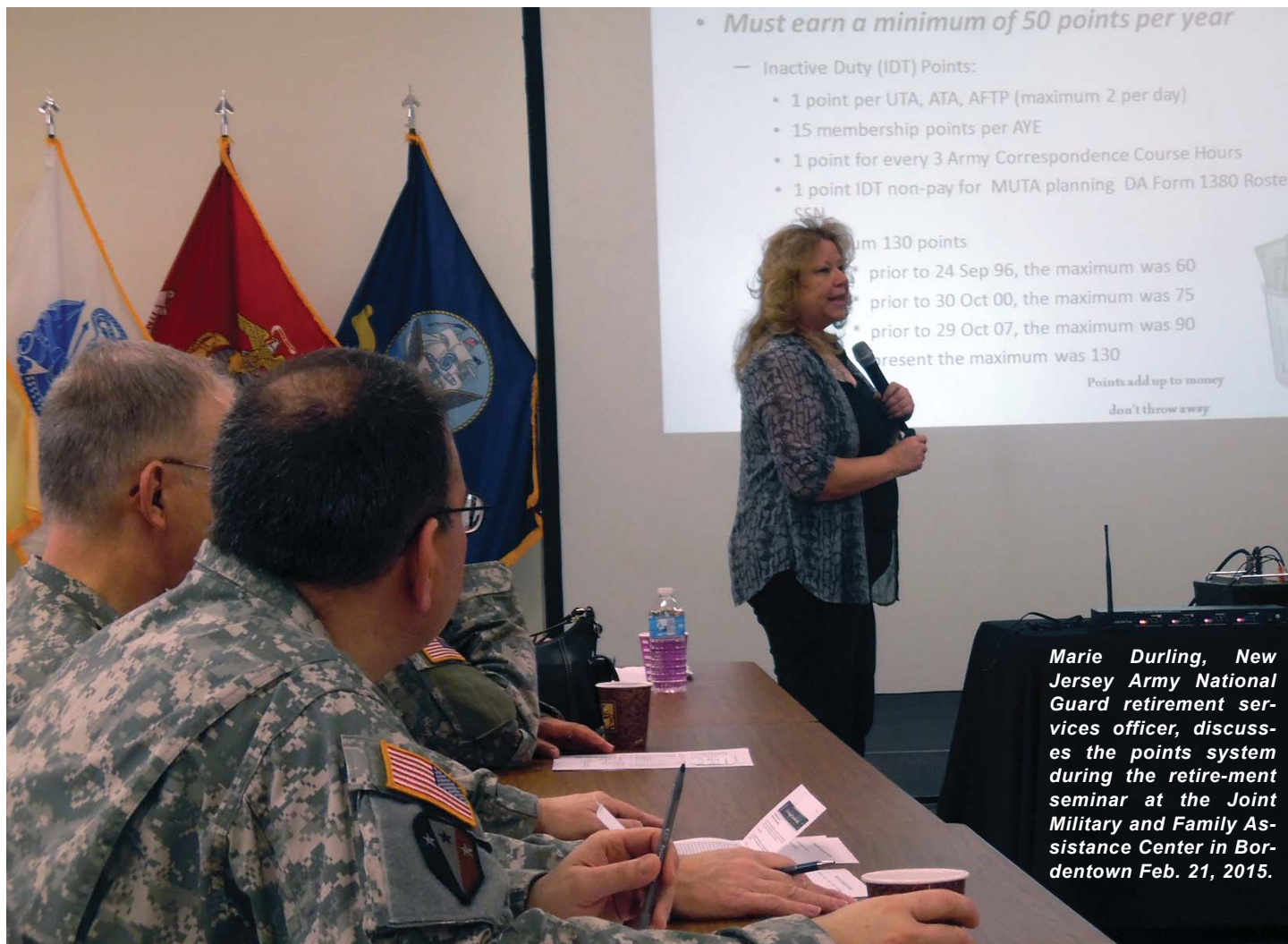
"It meant a lot to see how much they enjoyed listening," said MacGray. "It's a very rewarding feeling."

In New Jersey, Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard volunteer to participate in these events. The Department of Defense encourages all members of the Armed Services to participate in the Read Across America program.

Each Airman received a card from their classroom signed by the students thanking them for their time and for promoting literacy.

Retirement seminar

Story and photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs



Marie Durling, New Jersey Army National Guard retirement services officer, discusses the points system during the retirement seminar at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown Feb. 21, 2015.

When you first join the National Guard it is hard to think about retirement, but once you get to the top of the mountain, the 10-year mark, retirement starts to come into focus.

For more than a dozen Citizen-Soldiers, retirement was on their mind, bringing them to a seminar at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown February 21.

Every Soldier and Airmen needs to keep records of drill pay in order to correct any mistakes. That is much easier now with MyPay. Gone are the days of boxes of Leave and Earnings Statements, the LES's can be download digitally for safekeeping.

Service member should review their retirement points annually looking for 'good years' of service, which come from earning 50 or more points in a year. "You need to make sure you have the right amount of points," said Marie Durling, New Jersey Army National Guard retirement services officer.

"Every point is worth money," added Durling, organizer of the seminar. For an E-6 with 20 years, a point is worth .0256 cents. That's a quarter for every point you will receive every month after age 60.

As you approach the 20-year mark, you will be asked about choosing an option for the survivor benefit annuity plan. For the traditional Guard member, the Reserve Component Survivor Ben-

efit Plan elections you make during the 90-day period after being notified of retirement eligibility are irrevocable. Changes can be made within a year of life changing events like the birth of child, death of a spouse or divorce.

Then there is the ticket to retirement, the 20-year letter. "I don't know about you, but I would be framing that 20-year letter until I needed it," joked Durling. That letter proves your eligibility and key to begin filing for retirement pay.

Safekeeping of the 20-year letter is important as some Soldiers will have upwards of two decades before reaching age 60. If you want to keep the ability to access military bases to use recreational facilities or shop at the commissary, you need to make sure you choose Individual Ready Reserve as you hang up the uniform.

One tip shared at the seminar for Army Guard soldiers was to be present when the personnel clerk create your NGB 22, which is the Guard version of the active duty DD-214. That way you can ensure everything is correct and you can sign the form once printed.

Contact Marie Durling at 609-530-7043 for an appointment to review retirement points or to find the date of the next seminar, which is open to everyone, whether close to retirement or not.

Snow doesn't stop operations



Above: Senior Airman Ryan Galante from the 108th Maintenance Squadron, 108th Wing, blows an over-night snowfall from a KC-135R Stratotanker using a forced air deicing system from the enclosed operator cabin at the end of the 42-foot boom of the GL 1800 deicer truck at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.,

Feb. 17, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Tech. Sgt. Carl Clegg/Released) Below: Cold temps and snow hasn't stopped demolition of the former maintenance building at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery Feb. 23, 2015. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven)



NATIONAL VFW LEADER VISITS MENLO



Joe Brandspiegel, left, New Jersey State Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park CEO and Paula Pinta, right, New Jersey State Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary National President, present a letter from Gov. Chris Christie to VFW Ladies Auxiliary National President Ann Panteleakos Feb. 19, 2015. (NJDMAVA photo by Marsha Lasko)

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ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

Reflective roofs - more than a fashion statement

Did You Know...

By adding a reflective coating to your roof or avoiding dark colored roofing materials, you can reduce the amount heat coming into your home.

This will decrease how much you need to use your air conditioning during the summer. Also, this reflective layer will help prevent expansion and contraction of your roof, which can help extend the life of your roof. (Source: www.progress-energy.com)

If you would like more information about energy and water conservation efforts, contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov

NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

A DMAVA VSO will be present at each event to assist any veteran

March 14

VA Town Hall Meeting: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Claims Clinic: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Lawrenceville National Guard Armory

151 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

March 16

Newark Veterans Job Fair

Rutgers University, Newark – Paul Robeson Campus Center, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

350 Martin Luther King Blvd., Newark, NJ 07104

March 19

Veteran Career Fair & Military Expo

Rider College, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrence Township, NJ 08648

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

PO Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or www.state.nj.us/military



Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs (609-530-7062)
Laura Branham, Executive Secretarial Assistant (609-530-7045)
Chuck Robbins, Assistant to DCVA/Outreach Coordinator (609-530-6855)

Fax: 609-530-7191

Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

Brigadier General Steven Ferrari, Director
609-530-6967
Donna Myers, Sec
609-530-6766
Ernie Razzano, Health Professions Recruiter
609-530-6767
Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator
609-530-6979
Vacant, Admin Analyst
609-530-6940
Fax: 609-530-6970

Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home
Joseph Brandsiegel, CEO
Jennifer Pajak, Sec
132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013
Edison, NJ 08818-3013
732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016

Paramus Veterans Memorial Home
Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO
Diane Callaghan, Sec
1 Veterans Drive
Paramus, NJ 07652
201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home
Boris Reissek, CEO
Sharon Davis, Sec
524 North West Boulevard
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895
856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714

Veterans Services (DVS)

Albert J. Bucchi, Director
609-530-6962
Cheryl A. Henderson, Sec
609-530-6975
Fax: 609-530-7075

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424
Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404
Cyndi Dzurisin, Interment Office Supervisor – 609-738-2407
Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard – 609-758-7505
350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562
609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169
Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials
Joseph Arroyo & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490

Vietnam Veterans Memorial
1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 848, Holmdel, NJ 07733
732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107
Korean Memorial
Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
War World II Memorial
W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Veterans Haven South
Walter Nall, Supt – 609-561-4948
Vacant, Asst, Supt – 609-567-3715
301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80
Winslow, NJ 08095
609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186

Veterans Haven North
Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960
Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963
200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990

State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs
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Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948
Fax: 609-530-7196

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Cynthia Barnes, Sec – 609-530-6868
Michele Johnson, Sec – 609-530-7035
Fax: 609-530-6970

Veterans Service Offices
Chris Kullosky, VSO Training Officer – 609-530-7050
Joseph Bucco, State Supervisor – 609-530-6830
Christopher Wambach, State Supervisor – 609-530-6863
Joseph E. Nyzio, VSO – 609-530-6857
VA Regional Office/Philadelphia
Vacant, VSO – 215-381-3033
5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Atlantic City/Cape May
Edmond Farniglietti, VSO
Vacant, Sec
1008 Absecon Boulevard, Atlantic City 08401-1999 – (Atlantic City Army)
609-441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 (closed alternate Fridays)

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Richard Mannes, VSO
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609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275

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Joseph Frost, VSO
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658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 – (Woodbury Army)
856-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays)

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Lorena Huggins, VSO
Helen Banks, Sec
20 Washington Place, Room 431, Newark 07102-3174
973-297-3336 Fax: 973-642-0830

Hudson
Vacant, VSO
Vacant, Sec
678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 – (Jersey City Army)
201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed alternate Fridays)

Mercer
William McDonnell, VSO
Theresa Torneck, Sec
151 Egberts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 – (Lawrenceville Army)
609-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698

Middlesex/Somerset
Joseph Battilo, VSO
Vacant, Sec
1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 – (Somerset Army)
732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (closed alternate Fridays)

Monmouth
Robert Brown, VSO
Rita Hyland, Sec
630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904
732-775-7009/7005 Fax: 732-775-3612

Newark Liaison/VA Regional Office
Robert Maulano, VSO
Michael Dorobis, Sec
20 Washington Place, Newark 07102-3174
973-297-3230 Fax: 973-648-2356

Ocean
Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO
Iris Perez, Sec
James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic
970 Route 70, Brick 08724-3550
732-840-3033/3034 Fax: 732-840-0399

Salem/Cumberland
Leigh R. Pottle, VSO
Vacant, VSO
Catherine Raniolo, Sec
524 Northwest Boulevard, Vineland 08360-2895
856-405-4388/4390/4389 Fax: 856-696-6499

Sussex/Morris
William Robinson, VSO
479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 – (Dover Army)
973-366-0245/8347 Fax: 973-366-0360

Warren/Hunterdon
*Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman
Lisa Szymanski, Sec
550 A Route 57, Port Murray 07865-9482
908-689-5840/5845 Fax: 908-689-5879
*Flemington, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, 08822 (Wednesday) 908-284-6146

NJ VETS LIST - October 2014

E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov by close of business Wednesday

STRONG BONDS TWO EVENTS

When: March 13, 2015 – March 15, 2015

What: 7 Habits of Highly Effective Soldiers (Singles)

What: Active Relationships (Couples)

Where: The Hotel ML
915 Route 73
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

*Childcare is not provided.

To find out more on Strong Bonds, contact SGT John Schwartz (609) 324-7039 or visit www.strongbonds.org (ALL DEPENDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED IN DEERS)



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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Layout, photographer

Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer

Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht – Photographer, graphic artist



Upcoming information sessions

Mount Laurel Library
100 Walt Whitman Avenue
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Mar. 6, 20: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly)
POC: Josephine Grey
(347) 501-2308

AAFES (storefront)
Coast Guard Base
Cape May Training Center
Cape May, NJ 08204
Feb. 27: 12 – 3 p.m.
POC: Josephine Grey
(347) 501-2308

Military & Family Support Center
Lakehurst NAS, Highway 547
Building 488 Walsh Road
Lakehurst, NJ 08733
Feb. 26: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Jim Saxton Community Center
3811 South Boiling Street
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
Mar. 3: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

108th Wing Airmen & Family
Readiness Office
3327 Charles Blvd
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
Mar. 11: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Toms River Armory
1200 Whitesville Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
Mar. 5: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Jersey City Armory
678 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Feb. 26: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mar. 5, 12, 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
POC: Darrel Hutchinson
(646) 354-0126

Newark Armory
120 Roseville Avenue
Newark, NJ 07107
Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25: 12 – 5 p.m.
POC: Darrel Hutchinson
(646) 354-0126

Camden County Veterans Affairs
3 Collier Dr. Lakeland Complex
Blackwood, NJ 08012
Mar. 9, 23: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly)
POC: Wil Acosta, (646) 300-1312

**3RD ANNUAL
VETERAN
CAREER FAIR &
MILITARY EXPO**
MARCH 19, 2015 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

In support of our veterans, military community, and their families, Rider University will host a career fair and military expo.

Last year, over **100 LOCAL EMPLOYERS** and support organizations were in attendance to provide information on job opportunities, career advice, networking and career search strategies.

This event is **FREE** for employers and job seekers! Register in advance on our website:
rider.edu/veterancareerfair
609-896-5033 or ccs@rider.edu

Open to veterans, military service members, and dependents at 9 a.m.
Open to the public and all students at 11 a.m.

RIDER UNIVERSITY
Ranked a **best college** for Veterans
U.S. News & World Report

The
Department of Veterans Affairs
TOWN HALL MEETING with *Veterans,*
Family Members, and Survivors
Hosted by Michael Blazis
Director, Newark Regional Office

WHO: Veterans, their families and Survivors, and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of Veterans

WHAT: Town Hall Meeting & Claims Clinic

WHERE: Lawrenceville Armory
151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

WHEN: Saturday, March 14, 2015/11AM – 1PM
Claims Clinic 10AM – 3PM

WHY: To share information, hear feedback, and answer questions on VA benefits, including compensation, pension, insurance, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and education benefit programs

For more information contact Jennifer Myers at 973-297-3384 or
Jennifer.myers6@va.gov



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs