

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



APRIL 20, 2011



With the legendary 16-inch guns of the USS New Jersey as his backdrop, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, addressed all in attendance during a press conference on April 15 to announce the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial's initiative that effective immediately all New Jersey veterans and military service members will be offered complimentary self-guided tours of the historic battleship. The ceremony, which was held on the deck of the nation's largest and most decorated battleship,

was attended, from left to right, by Sen. James Beach; Camden Mayor Dana L. Redd; Battleship New Jersey CEO Jim Schuck; Assemblyman Gilbert L. "Whip" Wilson and other veteran organization's representatives. The Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial is currently berthed at Camden Waterfront and serves as a modern museum warship open to the public that provides self-guided, tour-guided, and overnight encampments on board the historical ship. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJ DMAVA/PA)

Historic ship continues to serve NJ vets

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJ DMAVA/PA

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, fired the portside 5-inch gun of the USS New Jersey, while The Patriot Brass Ensemble played "Anchors Aweigh" during a ceremony on board the historic battleship on Friday April 15.

The ceremony, which was held on the deck of the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial, was attended by Rieth; Sen. James Beach; Camden Mayor Dana L. Redd; Delaware River Port Authority CEO John J. Matheussen; Battleship NJ CEO Jim Schuck; Assemblyman Gilbert L. "Whip" Wilson and various other guests from veteran's organizations to announce the battleship's new initiative to provide free self-guided tours for all New Jersey veterans and military service members.

As a humble way of showing their gratitude to military veterans

who have put themselves in harm's way and have sacrificed so much for this state, Matheussen announced, "beginning immediately, veterans from any military branch, from any era who live in New Jersey can experience complimentary self-guided tours of the battleship from this day forward."

Redd, the first guest speaker, congratulated the Battleship for celebrating the ship's 10-year anniversary as a museum, while also thanking the organization for their support in offering free tours to Camden's elementary school, which allows the children to learn about the great and extraordinary history of the battleship and the sacrifices of military veterans that sailed on the ship.

Continuing the theme of thanking the veterans of past conflicts, Rieth thanked the veterans of World War II and Korean War.

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“I was part of a generation that wasn’t even born yet when you sacrificed and gave so much to our nation,” said Rieth. “I want to say ‘thank you’ for your service to allow me to grow up in a great country like the United States of America and to live the American dream.”

Rieth continued by also thanking the Vietnam vets. “Our nation didn’t get right,” he said in reference to Vietnam vets initially not being recognized as heroes when they returned home from the war.

But he stated how he looked up and modeled himself to the Vietnam veterans upon his entrance into the military, which allowed him to be the officer that he is today, said Rieth.

Reiterating that today’s military is an all volunteer force, Rieth thank everyone in attendance and the many volunteers within the Battleship that are also veterans. “You continue to serve by supporting all of us in uniform,” said Rieth.

“ Thank you for your service to allow me to grow up in a great country... ”

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey.

The USS New Jersey, the nation’s largest and most decorated battleship, was launched from the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on Dec. 7, 1942 and was commissioned on May 23, 1943. She participated in several of the Western Pacific campaigns during World War II and was decommissioned at Bayonne, N.J. on June 30, 1948 after completing her tours in the Pacific Ocean.

On Nov. 21, 1950, the USS New Jersey was re-commissioned to support troops in the Korean War and performed two tours of duty in Korean waters before being decommissioned again and placed in reserve status on Aug. 21, 1957.

She once again was called to duty during the Vietnam War and was re-commissioned on April 6, 1958 at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard departing on May 16, 1958. While in Vietnam, she augmented the naval gunfire support force in Southeast Asia. After completing her tour there, she was once again decommissioned on Dec. 17, 1969 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Washington.

After undergoing several upgrades and modernization to the battleship, the USS New Jersey was once again re-commissioned on Dec. 28, 1982 at the Naval Station Long Beach, Cal., and on September 1983 she was deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, receives instructions on the firing mechanism of the Battleship New Jersey’s 5-in gun from gun captain Ken Kerseh, right, while Paul Niessner, also a gun captain, watches on April 15. Both Niessner and Kerseh are volunteers at the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial and provide guided tours of the ship. Rieth later fired the 5-inch gun during a ceremony on board the deck of the historical ship, which announced that effective immediately New Jersey veterans and military service members can receive complimentary self-guided tours of the battleship. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJ DMAVA/PA)

support of the United States Sixth Fleet and provided naval vessel fire for Marines during the Lebanese Civil War. After completing her mission there, the USS New Jersey was decommissioned for the fourth and final time on Feb. 8, 1991 at the Naval Station Long Beach, Cal.

Traveling more miles and firing more shells than any other battleship in history, the USS New Jersey was awarded 19 battle and campaign stars for her actions against enemy forces in four conflicts that expanded over five decades.

Today, the USS New Jersey is berthed at the Camden Waterfront in New Jersey and serves as a modern museum warship open to the public that provides self-guided, tour-guided, and overnight encampments on board the historical ship.

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
CW2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist
Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist



Tech. Sgt. Don Smith, right, is interviewed by News4 New York reporter Brian Thompson after stepping off a New Jersey Air National Guard KC-135 refueling jet at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on April 15. Smith, a Brick Township police officer in civilian life, served as a boom operator during a two-week deployment in support of Odyssey Dawn with eight other Airmen from his unit, the 108th Wing. (Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA)

NJ Airmen return home from two-week deployment to Libya

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

Tech. Sgt. Don Smith has spent more than a decade honing his skills as a boom operator aboard a New Jersey Air National Guard KC-135 refueling jet. His job – ensuring a safe linkup with another aircraft while 20,000 feet in the air and hurtling along at 400 miles an hour – is among the most demanding in military aviation. It requires a steady hand, good eyes and patience.

Smith, a Brick Township police officer in civilian life, had plenty of opportunities to test all three during a two-week deployment in support of Odyssey Dawn with eight other Airmen from his unit, the 108th Wing.

The Airmen returned to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on April 15 after logging nearly 140 flight hours as part of the international coalition formed last month in response to the crisis in Libya. The 108th WG deployed within a day of Defense Secretary Robert Gates approving the use of American military force to enforce a no-fly zone over the desert nation.

Smith said the days were long; but the work fulfilling.

“Most of the Europeans we worked with were really good pilots, which makes my job easier,” Smith said.

As a boom operator, Smith lies on his belly in the tail of the airplane and coaches the pilot of the other aircraft inch-by-inch to ensure the two planes are able to connect and fuel can be offloaded.

The returning Airmen flew missions from Europe during the deployment and made up a network of refueling aircraft circling the skies that allowed combat aircraft to maintain a presence in the skies over Libya. On April 14, 108th WG deployed a replacement aircraft and crew to participate in the operation.

After returning, Smith said he was glad to get back to his four children and his job with the police department in Brick Township.

“I was hoping for a little time off, but I’m going to be back on the job pretty quickly,” he said.

Armed Forces Vacation Club provides low price rentals to military and veterans

Members of the U.S. military or direct relatives can take advantage of the Armed Forces Vacation Club to get some fantastic deals on condo rentals all over the world. If you qualify (see the criteria below) you can rent a condo from just \$369 per week in any number of locations worldwide.

This is through a special program called Space-A rentals (Space Availability), which will give you options almost anywhere in the United States, or places like Mexico, Turkey, Italy, Spain, England, France, and so on. There’s also the option of calling up and booking on 800-724-9988 if you prefer.

Here is a list of who qualifies to rent through the Armed Forces Vacation Club:

- Member of the United States Uniformed Services (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, NOAA, USPHS; active duty, and both active and inactive Reserve, Auxiliarist, and National Guard) or an adult dependent
- Spouse or child (21 or older) of an active or retired member of the United States Uniformed Services and who has a current DD Form 1173, United States Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card
- Retired Member of the United States Uniformed Services
- Disabled American Veterans rated at 100 percent with a valid United States Uniformed Services Identification Card
- Civilian employee of the Department of Defense or a United States Uniformed Service (appropriated, non-appropriated, or retired).
- Foreign exchange service member on permanent duty with the DoD
- American Red Cross personnel serving overseas with the U.S. military
- DoD Dependent School teacher
- Contractor working on a military installation and in possession of an ID card issued by the installation

So go ahead and plan your vacation and take advantage of this great low-priced option.

For more information about the Armed Forces Vacation Club and their terms of use, please visit their Web site at:

www.afvclub.com.



Fort Monmouth veteran clinic to relocate to Tinton Falls facility

Attention Veterans: the VA New Jersey Health Care System Fort Monmouth Community Based Outpatient Clinic will be moving from its current location at Patterson Army Health Clinic in Fort Monmouth to 55 Gilbert Street in Tinton Falls, N.J.

The timeline for the transfer of operations is expected to be June 30, with a planned opening date of July 5.

The new clinic will provide enhanced services to all Veterans through the addition of women's health, optometry, and expanded TeleHealth care. The CBOC will continue to provide primary care, social work, nutrition, and mental health services.

Seventh annual SGT Nutter Run

The 7th Annual 2011 SGT Nutter Run will be held on Sunday May 15 at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, N.J., at 10:30 a.m.

Sgt. Sam Nutter (1/28/66-1/2/2005) was a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard and served in the U.S. Navy. Each year the NJ ARNG Officer Candidate School holds a benefit 5k run in his memory and 100 percent of the proceeds raised are donated to a NJ ARNG family in need. This year's proceeds will go to the family of Sgt. Michael Suplee, a current NJ ARNG member whose wife was diagnosed with Lupus.

Registration is currently open at the organization's Web site: <http://www.nutterrun.org/registration.html> or you can register on the day of the event beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The SGT Sam Nutter Organization is a registered non-profit organization which exists solely to benefit the lives of National Guard families in need.

AUSA to hold spring meeting in May

The Association of the United States Army Northern New Jersey Chapter 1502 will host its Spring 2011 meeting on May 17 at the Rutgers Club at 199 College Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J. beginning with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Guest speaker for the event will be retired Col. Stephen G. Abel, Director of Student Services at Rutgers University. Abel will hold discussions on the university's initiatives to serve the new generation of veterans currently attending the university.

The cost for this event is \$35 per person, payable in advance.

If attending this event, please RSVP to retired Col. Richard F. Plechner at 732-549-1535 by May 13.

Payment can be made by sending a check to the attention of retired Lt. Col. Robert H. Hasanoeddin, AUSA, P.O. Box 553, Matawan, N.J. 07747.

E-mail your Highlights submissions to wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us OR armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us

Veterans Outreach Schedule



May 7

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial
PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, N.J. 07777

Outreach Event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NJ Vietnam Veterans Remembrance & medal ceremony 11 a.m.

May 21

American Legion Post No. 65

Lake Ave & Holly Street, Metuchen, N.J. 08840

Outreach Event Only 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 24, 25 and 26

Paramus Park Mall

700 Paramus Park, Paramus, N.J. 07652

Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on May 24

Daily Kiosk hours 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Senator, veterans' office to host Veterans Information Day in May

The office of U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez and the Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs is hosting an event on May 18 at Camden County Boathouse from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., to assist past and present veterans.

The event, Veterans Information Day, will have representatives from Philadelphia VA Medical Center; the Philadelphia VA Regional Office; Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs; New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Camden County College and more.

The intent of this event is to assist veterans with enrolling in any state run veteran programs that are available to them and to find out about any state benefits to which they are entitled.

The Camden County Boathouse is located at 7050 North Park Drive, Pennsauken, N.J.

For more information/questions about this event or to RSVP, please email Richard Locklear at Richard.Locklear@menendez.senate.gov or contact him at 856-757-5353.