

DMAVA Highlights

February 25, 2010 Volume 12 Number 06



Vineland hosts Sweetheart Café

From the desk of Mary Macho

At noon on Feb. 11, in the Main Building Auditorium of The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland was transformed into The Sweetheart Café for the residents, their spouses, and their families to celebrate Valentine's Day. Red and white decorations filled the room and violin music filled the air.



The Activities Department wanted the married couples to have a special luncheon to celebrate Valentine's Day. Of the six of the eight married couples at the facility were in attendance. The residents dined on filet mignon wrapped in bacon, twice baked stuffed potatoes with sour cream and chives and grilled asparagus with New York style cherry cheesecake for dessert. Meals were served to 65 residents.

The weather outside the home could have been a deterrent to the dinner – more than 24 inches of snow outside created a short staffing condition – but all the departments kicked in. The grills

were shoveled out, dusted off and moved to the cleared area in front of the building where the grilling took place. A generous donation of gourmet meat products from Coldwell

Banker Real Estate/Pine Agency of Elmer had been delivered before the snowfall. The strolling violinist, Gusztav Gaspar was able



to make the trip from Philadelphia and provided music. A great time was had by residents and staff.



Guard partners with Rowan University students to provide system to manage facilities

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

Coming soon to a New Jersey National Guard facility near you: Rowan University students armed with clipboards, cameras and surveying equipment.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Gloucester County university have launched the first partnership in the nation that uses college students to help create and update a Geographic Information System (GIS) to help manage properties.

GIS uses computers to marry the power of a map with the power of a database and can help track everything from the amount of heating fuel in a tank at an armory to how soon the light bulbs should need replacing. Run a cursor over the map and click anywhere you want for more information.

John Hasse, the professor who directs the environmental studies program at Rowan puts it this way: "Combining the raw power of the information in a database with the visual power of a map really magnifies both."

The New Jersey National Guard and DMAVA aren't exactly neophytes when it comes to GIS. Maps and data for the facilities have been compiled for some time.

But enlisting the Rowan students ensures that all the data is current and more importantly, that information for new projects is captured. The biggest new project is the proposed \$5 million wind turbine at the National Guard training center in Sea Girt. If the project is ultimately approved, GIS will be critical for everything from mapping a safe zone around the blades to plotting the path of migratory birds past Sea Girt.

The first four students participating in the program are excited.

Matthew Boegemann, a 22-year-old environmental studies major from Hamilton Township, said hands-on experience in GIS is hard to get – yet essential for landing a good job in his field.

"It's one thing to sit in a classroom and learn theory about GIS," Boegemann said. "It's another to get to go out and do it and come up with results that are going to get used in the real world."



Recycle your used CDs, save the environment

Get on the recycling bandwagon!! Installations Division, DMAVA, will be sending a shipment of used CDs for recycling to Back Thru The Future technology disposal firm in New Jersey. If you have some used CDs that you wish to contribute, contact Joe Dunleavy at 609-530-7134 or joe.dunleavy@njdmava.state.nj.us. The scheduled date for shipment is March 9.

Here are some facts about making and recycling CDs.

- To manufacture a pound of plastic (30 CDs per pound), it requires 300 cubic feet of natural gas, 2 cups of crude oil and 24 gallons of water.

- It is estimated that AOL alone has distributed more than 2 billion CDs. That is the natural gas equivalent of heating 200,000 homes for 1 year.

- It is estimated that it will take over 1 million years for a CD to completely decompose in a landfill.

DA photo appointments now online

Officers and NCOs can now schedule their DA photo appointment online for the N.J. National Guard photo studio at Joint Force HQ, Fort Dix.

Just visit fill out a work order, DA 3903, online at www.vios.army.mil, but you must log in with your CAC card. For assistance or more information registering on VIOS, contact Staff Sgt. Jorge L. Vazquez, G6 Network Control Center at 609-562-0333.

The studio accepts appointments for any week day from 8-10 a.m. or anytime during JFHQ drill weekends. For more information on studio hours contact Kryn P. Westhoven at (609) 847-2215.

Governor's official photos are ready

The official photos of Gov. Chris Christie are ready for the armories. Please send an e-mail to Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison at Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us, with the unit, address and person to whom the picture should be mailed.

DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

At the Going Green seminar held this week at the DMAVA headquarters in Lawrenceville, a lot of interesting facts and information was put forward.

Representatives from the Clean Water Fund and EarthShare New Jersey gave many tips, particularly about cleaning and pest control, during the seminar. Here are some of the tips.

Seal and caulk the openings in and around your home; it makes it harder for pests to get in.

Spray lemon juice where you see ants. It destroys their natural paths and causes them to go elsewhere.

Tuck the corner of a Bounce dryer sheet in your pocket this summer when outdoors. Bees and mosquitoes don't like it and will stay away.

Head lice problem? Coat your hair with mayonnaise, let it sit for a little while, then comb out.

Problem with grubs in the lawn and garden? When you boil corn, toss leftover the water onto the area; the niacin from the corn gets rid of grubs.

Club soda on pet accidents will help remove the odor. Or you can coat the area with baking soda, let dry and vacuum.

Check your antibacterial hand sanitizer. If an ingredient is triclosan, it may be wise to toss it. Triclosan is one of those chemicals that the EPA is trying to ban. Another hand gel precaution: don't let your kids lick their hands after using the sanitizer. More than one child has made it to the ER for "loopy" behavior and they have been found to looped from licking the primarily alcohol sanitizer off their hands.

Geese a problem? Use a ratio of one to five, Welch's concentrated grape juice to water, on the area. (One gallon of juice to five gallons water will cover an athletic field; use your proportions from there.)

Keep Green!

Quotes

The greatest mistake a man can make is to sacrifice health for any other advantage.

--Arthur Schopenhauer

My kid brother was sent from heaven - they must like it quiet up there.

--Unknown

Instead of crying over spilt milk, go milk another cow.

--Erna Asp

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. E-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Maj. Yvonne Mays – Public Affairs Officer

Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

Wounded Soldier and Family
Hotline
1-800-984-8523

Families

Family programs announces upcoming events

From the desk of Marie Durling, Deputy Director, Family Programs

We have two Strong Bonds Marriage Enrichment seminars coming up. The first will be at a to-be-determined location in Central Jersey on April 8-11 and the one after that will be somewhere in North Jersey on May 14-16. We will announce the locations as soon as they become available. Seats are available for Soldiers and Airmen and their significant others, but priority goes to personnel returning from deployment and those who have not attended in the past. Contact me at marie.durling@us.army.mil or 609-530-6884 for registration forms.

We are also working on getting tickets for Great Adventure at the reduced rate of \$21.

Family time at the bigtop

Take the family to see the elephants, tigers, trapeze artists, clowns and more at The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey™ Circus, Barnum's Funundrum, at the Prudential Center in Newark March 3-7 and the Izod Center in East Rutherford March 10-14.

You can get group rates at individual purchases. Just contact Jason at 1-866-248-8740, ext. 102, for information or to make your purchases. This is available to all military ID card holders.

Tricare University opens classes for benefits knowledge

If Tricare has you wondering about your benefits, one way to find out the program is to attend Tricare University. NO, you don't have to sit in a big classroom with a professor droning on and on. Nor is your syllabus or book list part of the university's program.

Tricare University offers free online courses 24/7/365 at www.tricare.mil/tricareu. Of the different courses, Tricare Public Course provides the quickest and easiest way to get a general overview and basic knowledge of the Tricare programs. There is no registration for this course and it is accessible to anyone who wants to know more about Tricare.

To take one of the offered courses, go to the Web site and click on "online training" for a list of options.

State Family Programs

101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville
Toll-free number 1-888-859-0352
Family Assistance – 609-530-6834/6884
State Youth Coordinator – 609-530-6836
Military Family Life consultants – 609-530-6835/6886
Yellow Ribbon Program – 609-530-6846/6853/6859
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647; NJ 609-530-6867
Fax – 609-530-6871

Devils open more group nights

Spend an evening watching the puck fly. Two more group nights at the New Jersey Devils have been announced. On March 23, the Devils will take on the Columbus Blue Jackets and March 30 they skate against the Boston Bruins. For only \$36 you will receive an upper level seat, valued at \$56, plus a \$10 food coupon. This is a \$66 value can be purchased for only \$36. Tickets must be pre-purchased through the Picatinny Arsenal ITR "Take Off" Center, building 34, or call 973-724-4014. You can use your MasterCard or Visa to purchase on the phone. Deadline to order for Blue Jackets is March 16 and deadline for the Bruins is March 23.

Jobs available with Census Bureau

For anyone in the job market, the U.S. Census is looking for people to help with the 2010 Decennial Census. A variety of positions are open. Visit <http://www.census.gov/regions/philadelphia/www/jobs/> for jobs with the Philadelphia Region office, which will cover census workers in Penna., Del., Md., N.J., and the District of Columbia.

Get help with your utility bills

New Jersey SHARES assists income-eligible households throughout New Jersey to pay their energy bills. The program also administers Verizon New Jersey's Communications Lifeline and Link Up America programs. New Jersey SHARES also provides assistance to United Water customers with their water bills.

For more information or to see if you are eligible for these programs, visit www.njshares.org/otherPrograms/communications-lifeline.asp or call 1-866-657-4273.

Guard Youth Camp July 11-17

Applications are now available for the 2010 New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp being held at Sea Girt, July 11-17. To download an application, go to: http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html or contact your nearest Family Assistance Center.

Check out Blue Star Flag Program

Grantham University's Blue Star Flag program has been providing Blue Star Flags to Service members and their families since 2006. Grantham University is also offering scholarships and grants to Servicemembers and veterans. For further information about the Blue Star Flag program, please go to: <http://www.mybluestar-flag.com>.

Military and family members health insurance questions should be directed to:

Tricare – Sgt. 1st Class Louis Tuck, 609-562-0865

US Family Health Plans – Pam Worley, 732-977-8531

VA Medical – Michelle Stefanelli, 973-676-1000, ext. 1727

Sports & More

Project Stars launched - new program women veterans

A new program was launched in October 2009 for female veterans and service women as they return to New Jersey following deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan called Project Stars.

Located in the Women's Rights Information Center, 108 West Palisade Avenue, Englewood, the program is designed to address the unique needs of women veterans as they return from active duty. The three primary areas of focus will be academic, career services and legal assistance.

Project Stars offers free training and services. Some of the programs available include:

- Office technology computer training programs – earn a Microsoft Office Specialist certification
- Daytime classes at Farleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack campus, technology center or the evening classes at the Women's center
- Meet with college Director of Veterans Services to learn about Yellow Ribbon program and how the program can pay for your college education
- Job advice, interviewing skills and more with the career counselors
- Free, private consultation with an attorney from Women Lawyers in Bergen to receive support counseling and confidential referrals to non-military specialists for advice on marital law, child custody rights or other family issues or personal concerns.

Visit www.womensrights.org or call 201-568-1166 for more information.

NJVVMF to hold program on Fort Monmouth's support during Vietnam War

On Feb. 27, at 1 p.m., the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will host a slide show and discussion entitled *A Glimpse at Fort Monmouth's Support to Vietnam* led by Melissa Ziobro, Command Historian of the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command. This program will be held at the Vietnam Era Educational Center in Holmdel. Teachers attending will receive professional credit.

Melissa Ziobro has worked as a staff historian at Fort Monmouth since March 2004 and has been the Command Historian since July 2009.

Ziobro will speak on the importance of Fort Monmouth as the headquarters of the U.S. Army Electronics Command (ECOM). ECOM was a young organization when President Johnson increased war efforts in South Vietnam. The command was able to provide the signal research, development, and logistics support needed for combat troops. ECOM supplied the U.S. forces with advanced technologies including portable surveillance radar which one commander described as being "worth 500 men." Fort Monmouth has a long history of technological developments ranging from its 1940s radar systems to the Firefinder radars that are used today. With the ever-increasing need for war technologies today, this lecture will provide insight into past and present innovations developed at Fort Monmouth.

Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP to 732-335-0033. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

VA education call center back to normal; backload gone

WASHINGTON (Feb. 23, 2010) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that the Education Call Center, closed on Thursdays and Fridays over the past two months, is again operating five days a week.

"I am pleased by the progress these call center employees made in significantly cutting our pending inventory of education claims," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "As a result of their efforts, 30,000 additional student Veterans received their checks, bought books, paid the rent, and stayed in school."

By temporarily reassigning call center employees on Thursdays and Fridays to process Post-9/11 GI Bill claims, VA was able to complete a significant number of education claims from mid-December through mid-February.

Since inception of this historic new program, VA has issued nearly \$1.9 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit payments and opened the door to higher education to 209,490 people.

As of Feb. 12, VA received spring semester Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollments from approximately 180,000 student Veterans and already paid nearly 90 percent of them. All Post-9/11 GI Bill par-

ticipants whose spring enrollments were received by Jan. 18 have been paid.

Because VA is now timely in processing spring enrollments, advance payments are no longer available at VA regional offices or through the online advance payment Web site.

Information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill, as well as VA's other educational benefit programs, is available at VA's Web site, www.gibill.va.gov, or by calling 1-888-GIBILL-1 (or 1-888-442-4551).



Veterans & Military

VA starts campaign to assist vets applying for Post-9/11 GI Bill

WASHINGTON (Feb. 23, 2010) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a two-month, nationwide advertising campaign to assist student Veterans and servicemembers applying for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

"VA, student Veterans and our schools have made significant progress in implementing the GI Bill this spring, but we still have more to do," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We won't rest until all student Veterans have received the education benefit they earned in defense of our Nation."

Since inception of this historic new program, VA has issued nearly \$1.9 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit payments and opened the door to higher education to 209,490 people.

As of Feb. 12, VA has received spring semester Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollments from approximately 180,000 student Veterans and already paid nearly 90 percent of students. All Post-9/11 GI Bill participants whose spring enrollments were received by Jan. 18 have been paid.

The GI Bill Advertising campaign includes ads in college publications, online and social media, print, radio, and outdoor advertising such as posters and flyers. Public service announcements are being delivered to college and local radio stations. Student Veterans on campuses will also see posters in registrars' offices, dormitories, cafeterias, student union buildings and other high traffic areas.

"This comprehensive, nationwide advertising campaign will help us reach those student Veterans, servicemembers and educational administrators who need help in understanding the GI Bill and their role in the benefits process," said Keith Wilson, director of VA's educational service.

Social media and online advertising will be extensively used to reach the younger generation of student Veterans. VA will place banner ads on social media sites such as Facebook, Google, MySpace, Yahoo, and other outlets.

Text messaging ads will also link student Veterans to VA. By texting "GIBILL," Veterans will receive the basic message: "You Served. Get Benefits." Veterans will then be directed to follow three steps: "Review your benefit options online. Submit your application. And check with your school certifying official to confirm that your VA enrollment certification has been sent to VA."

VA also developed a hip pocket guide and checklist with helpful tips to assist Veterans and servicemembers in the application process.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, passed by Congress last year, is the most extensive educational assistance program authorized since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

Information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill, as well as VA's other educational benefit programs, is available at VA's Web site, www.gibill.va.gov, or by calling 1-888-GIBILL-1 (or 1-888-442-4551).

Come join the JWV Post 972

An invitation is extended to all military personnel to join the Lt Seth Dvorin Post 972 of the Jewish War Veterans. The veterans meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Marlboro Jewish Center located at 103 School Road West, Marlboro, N.J. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

Second Lt. Seth Dvorin was a native of Monmouth County who made the ultimate sacrifice while proudly defending the American way of life and liberty. Lt Dvorin was killed in Iraq Feb. 3, 2004. The post was renamed in May of 2004 to honor Lt. Dvorin.

Post 972 covers Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Anyone interested in joining this post or a similar post should contact Richard Berg at r2d2b2@optonline.net or Richard Dvorin at ltsethdvorinpost972jwv@comcast.net.

Veterans Organizations contact information

State Veterans Service Council
Richard Clark, RJClark21@msn.com
BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council
William Rakestraw, warjrnj@msn.com
Veterans Hotlines
Benefits and Entitlements
1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)
Mental Health
1-866-VETS-NJ4 (1-866-838-7654)

GI Go Fund job fair March 5

The GI Go Fund and the New Jersey National Guard invite you to participate in the "Year of the Vet" Transition Fair to provide jobs, education opportunities, and support services.

The "Year of the Vet" Transition Fair will be held at the Lawrenceville Armory at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Headquarters in Lawrenceville, on March 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For detailed information visit the website at <http://www.gigofund.org/veteransjobfair.html>. There is no cost to participate in this event.

This event is only for Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard; however, all veterans are encouraged to register with GI Go so you can be notified about future events. Veterans who would like to register with GI Go Fund should go to <http://www.gigofund.org/veteransjobfairvets.html> and submit the form.

Pictures for your "wall"

If your armory needs photos for the Chain of Command "wall," contact Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison at barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-7088. Tell us which photos you need and we will mail them to you or get them ready for pick-up.

Calendar

Picatinny offers May bus trip to Broadway to see "Chicago"

**"They say the neon lights are bright on Broadway
They say there's always magic in the air"**

-The Drifters, 1963

Catch a piece of the magic and see "Chicago" on Broadway, May 23. The Picatinny ITR is offering a bus trip to New York City for \$95 – charter bus transportation and orchestra or first mezzanine seats. The bus departs from Picatinny at 10:15 a.m., gives theatergoers 1 ½ hours of free time and tickets for the 2:30 p.m. show. Expected time of arrival back at Picatinny is 6:30 p.m.

Sign up at the ITR "Take Off" Center, Bldg 34, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or call 973-724-4014.



102d Regiment reunion being held March 27 in West Orange

The 102d Regimental Reunion, sponsored by The Essex Troop, has been rescheduled for March 27 at 2 p.m. at the West Orange armory. It is open to current and former members of the 1st or 2nd squadron, 102d Cavalry, 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 5th Tank Battalion or the 5-177th Cavalry.

Food and refreshments will be served compliments of the Essex Troop Association. Attendees are asked to bring along their memorabilia – pictures, dog tags, P38, etc – and meet with old friends to have a great afternoon of camaraderie and stories.

Call The Essex Troop office at 973-736-0952 to RSVP, or e-mail etroop@verizon.net.

Guard families holding Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run

The families of the four New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers who were killed in Iraq in June 2004 are honoring the memory of their fallen heroes with the Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run which will be held on June 6, 2010.

The families are asking for their friends' and communities help and support with the event. All donations – monetary or otherwise – will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged on the day of the event. All donations are tax deductible. Individuals or organizations donating \$1,000 or more will have their names listed on the Run T-shirt.

All profits will be divided among the Friends of Frank Carvill Foundation, the SGT Ryan E. Doltz Memorial Foundation and the Duffy and Timoteo families.

For more information visit www.RememberingRyan.org.

Joseph Galloway special guest at AUSA Spring dinner in April

The special guest for the spring dinner meeting of the Association of the United States Army Northern New Jersey Chapter 1502 will be Joseph L. Galloway, bestselling co-author of "We are Soldiers Still, A Journey Back to the Battlefields of Vietnam."

The dinner will be held on April 6 at the Royal Albert's Palace Restaurant, Fords. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Galloway and Lt. Gen. Harold Moore also co-authored the book "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young," which was made into the movie, "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson.

The latest book tells the story of Galloway and Moore's return to Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley. Renewing their relationships with 10 American veterans of the conflict, along with their former adversaries, Moore and Galloway explore how the war changed them all.

Galloway was decorated with a Bronze Star Medal with a "V" for valor on May 1, 1998, for rescuing wounded Soldiers under fire in the Ia Drang Valley in November 1995. His is the only Bronze Star Medal for Valor the U.S. Army awarded to a civilian for actions during the Vietnam War.

If interested in attending the dinner, contact retired Col. Richard F. Plechner at 732-549-1535. RSVP by April 2. Cost is \$40 per person.

Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

March 2*, 3, 4 Bridgewater Commons Mall

April 6*, 7, 8 Paramus Park Mall

*Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Deadline

Want to place an event or article in DMAVA Highlights?

Deadline for articles is noon Wednesday.

Send submissions to barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.