



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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February 21, 2014




A spectator intently watches the presentation of state awards to several New Jersey war veterans at the Medal Ceremony at Bridgewater Commons Mall, Feb. 18, 2014. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs awarded state medals to six veterans for their actions in combat in World War II, Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom. Photos of the award ceremony can be found at NJDMAVA's Flickr page: [Medal Ceremony @ Bridgewater](#). (NJDMAVA photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)

# HIGHLIGHTS



The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park maintenance crew keep the Home's parking lot and all outside areas in tip-top shape during these past snow storms this season. They do this by putting in long hours, to include working during the night, so that staff and visitors are safe. From left to right are Edwin Boyd, Danpaul Mohabeer, Carl Rose, Zana Smajlaj, Deon Gallmon, Shawn Seymore, Nelson Santana, Clarence Wiley, Jr., John Bailey, Frank Weisenhorn and Joseph Gates. (Courtesy photo)



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HIGHLIGHTS

# Veterans Job & GI Bill Fair

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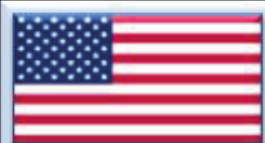
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# New Jersey - Albania State Partnership Program (SPP)



## ALBSPP1400305ICE – TAG-NJ Senior Leader Engagement



**WHO:** TAG-NJ, NJARNG CSM, NJANG CMSgt, 1 ANG Officer and 2 ARNG Officers (6 PAX). Senior leadership from EUCOM, US Embassy, Ministry of Defense, ICITAP, ODC & SPP.

**WHAT:** Traveling Contact Team conducts a TAG-NJ Senior Leader Engagement with the EUCOM HQ, US Embassy, and Albanian Ministry of Defense (MoD). Traveling with the TAG were both ARNG/ANG SEL's with the purpose of meeting the EUCOM SEL and their Albanian counterparts.

**WHEN:** 5-10 January 2014

**WHERE:** Stuttgart-Germany & Tirana-Albania

**WHY:** The purpose of this event was aimed at meeting the criteria to accomplishing EUCOM's annual objectives for the Albanian Armed Forces. The overall goal for this event was for the NJNG & AAF to agree on current and long term goals & objectives. The two main topics were the ISAF co-deployments and the joint OCS program that is scheduled for this summer in New Jersey. The TAG-NJ has not conducted a SLE to Albania in over two years due to OSD restrictions.

**RESULTS:** Conducted eight office calls, received ten command briefings, four area tours, and four formal dinners within four days. Received outstanding support from EUCOM, US Embassy, ODC, and the Albania Armed Forces throughout the visit. The coordination and effort that was put forth from each command/agency was appreciated and contributed to a very successful event. There was much discussion/agreement regarding ISAF co-deployments, OCS program, and future SPP priorities/efforts.

From top left (Clockwise) – (1) Minister Mimi Kodheli (AAF MoD) meets with BG Cunniff (TAG-NJ). (2) MG Bazo (AAF ChoD) and BG Cunniff conduct a military review of the AAF Honor Guard. (3) BG Cunniff is given a command briefing and tour of the Farka Air Base by AAF Air Force representatives. (4) Mr. Arvizu (AMBO), Mr. Jardine (DCM), BG Cunniff (TAG-NJ), CDR Brown (DAO) and other US Country Team reps meet with Mimi Kodheli (MoD), MG Bazo (ChoD) and other AAF MoD reps to discuss future plans for the AAF and the State Partnership Program.



*Sgt. Maj. Terrance Taylor, Joint Directorate of Military Support, explains how the New Jersey National Guard works with interagency partners to respond to domestic emergencies to students and staff from Saint Dominic School at the Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Lawrenceville, N.J., Feb. 20, 2014. The students are competing in the U.S. Army eCYBERMISSION challenge to create a mobile application to assist the public during times of crisis. The competition is a web-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics competition for 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade teams. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty/Released)*

**HIGHLIGHTS**

# Military Veterans

## Skills and Career Transition Workshop

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# Food Service department recognized at DMAVA Awards Ceremony

By Tom Hummel, Food Service director

The Food Service department at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park was recognized by New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for 2013 Second Trimester Team Award at the DMAVA Awards Ceremony Jan. 30.

“It is clearly a team effort streamlined to perfection as they prepare over (sic) a thousand meals a day making on-time deliveries of three meals and two snacks each day to the residents, their visiting families and staff,” said Joyce Lin, head dietician. “It doesn’t matter what the weather conditions might be outside, the kitchen is always warm as they cook up something good!”

The Food Service department take pride in the job that they do in the kitchen, and try their best to provide the best meals possible, with a smile on their face. There are many obstacles that need to be overcome ev-



ery day, and the kitchen staff works hard to be the best that they can at their jobs.

I have been running kitchens and restaurants for more than 35 years, and I have some of the best people working here that I have ever had work for me. I am very proud of them, and they have received a well-deserved honor.

## Veteran’s dream comes true



Roger Bowles, a resident of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, loves Motown music and has wanted to see the Jersey Boys on Broadway ever since the show opened in New York City.

Consequently, with the help of Second Wind Dreams, a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to change the perception of aging through the fulfillment of dreams and the offering of innovative educational opportunities to caregivers and communities, his dream is coming true. Thus, it did not take long for Bowles’s dream “Give My Regards to Broadway” to be funded through the Second Wind Dreams website from donors in the community.

Bowles will be going to see the Jersey Boys April 2, with his two favorite recreation assistants, Paula Frederick and Dorothy De Los Reyes. To add a special touch to his dream, they will be arriving at the Broadway Theater in style, courtesy of a limousine. Congratulations to Bowles for having his dream fulfilled.

If you would like more information on Second Wind Dreams, visit their website at [www.secondwind.org](http://www.secondwind.org).

## HIGHLIGHTS

# TRICARE For Life begins notifications for pharmacy pilot program

TRICARE For Life beneficiaries soon will receive letters guiding them to TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or a military pharmacy for some prescriptions as part of a congressionally mandated pilot program, officials of the military health care plan said.

TRICARE For Life is secondary coverage for TRICARE beneficiaries who have both Medicare Parts A and B in the United States and U.S. territories.

Starting this week, officials will send letters to affected TRICARE For Life beneficiaries notifying them of the pilot program.

The pilot program starts March 15, and it requires beneficiaries who use TRICARE For Life to get certain medications through Home Delivery or at a military pharmacy. The program applies to refills of maintenance medications taken regularly for chronic conditions, officials said.

As part of the pilot program, officials added, TRICARE will stop paying for these medications from a retail pharmacy. But they noted that the program does not apply to medications for acute conditions taken for a limited time, such as antibiotics or pain medications or any generic medications. At this time, they said, it also does not apply to generic drugs.

Congress mandated the pilot program in the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act. It will last for five years, but beneficiaries may choose to opt out after filling an affected prescription under the pilot program through Home Delivery for one year.

Beneficiaries will be notified if they are taking a medication covered under the program. They will have two “courtesy fills” available through a retail pharmacy before they are responsible for the entire cost of their medication.

Beneficiaries may call the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, at 1-877-882-3335 or visit the Express Scripts website to switch to Home Delivery or with questions about their medications. To switch a prescription to a military pharmacy, beneficiaries may need to get a new prescription from their doctor, officials said.

Some people are exempt, including people with another prescription drug plan or people living overseas. People living in a nursing home may contact Express Scripts to request a waiver from the pilot program.

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery offers beneficiaries a 90-day supply of their medication with no copays for generic drugs and \$13 for brand-name drugs. Switching from a retail pharmacy to Home Delivery can save TRICARE beneficiaries up to \$152 every year for each prescription, officials said. Beneficiaries also can save by asking their doctor to write them a prescription for a generic version of their medication, they added.



## VA Announces Rollout of Secure Veteran Health ID Cards

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently announced the phased roll out of newly designed, more secure Veteran Health Identification Cards. The new cards are distinguished by additional security features and will have a different look and feel.

In addition to being more secure, the card has been transformed into a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC). Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the Veteran’s Member ID, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID, reflecting the Veteran’s enrollment in VA health care.

“VA is committed to providing high quality health care while ensuring the personal security of Veterans,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “These new identification cards are an important step forward in protecting our nation’s heroes from identity theft and other personal crimes.”

The VHIC is personalized to display the emblem of the Veteran’s branch of service. It also provides features that make it easier to use, such as the addition of “VA” in Braille to help visually impaired Veterans, and the printing of VA phone numbers and emergency care instructions on the cards.

The card replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004. As part of a phased rollout, starting this month, the card will only be offered to newly enrolled and other Veterans who have not been issued a VIC. Then, in early April, VA will begin a three month effort to automatically issue the more secure VHIC to current VIC cardholders. VA recommends Veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced. While not required to receive VA health care, all enrolled Veterans are encouraged to get a VHIC.

Enrolled Veterans can get more information about the VHIC by visiting their VA medical facility enrollment coordinator or the website [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic), calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.

Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply for enrollment at any time by visiting [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll), calling 1-877-222-VETS or visiting their local VA facility.

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