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Volume 8, Number 8

Contacting us is easy!

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NJ Advisory Committee for Women Veterans
 Mrs. Anna Hoffman
hoffmanannem@aol.com

BG Willam C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council
 Mr. William Rakestraw
warjrnj@msn.com

Veterans Hotlines

Benefits & Entitlements
 1-888-8NJ-VETS
 (1-888-865-8387)

Mental Health
 1-866-VETS-NJ4
 (1-866-838-7654)

DMAVA Highlights Archive

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NJ World War II Memorial

For information or to make a donation, call 609-530-7049

[WWII Memorial on the web](#)

ESGR office

GSAB leaves for first stop on way to Kuwait

By Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA PAO

It was just after sunrise on Sunday morning as a small group of aviators and family members shielded their eyes from the bright rays to watch a formation of four Blackhawk helicopters pass by the hanger on Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station. They waved goodbye to the 37 members of the Company A, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion knowing that these New Jersey Army National Guard members would not return to this tarmac for nearly a year.

This was a very personal sendoff compared to a day earlier when the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 hanger was filled with family, friends, veterans from several wars and the leadership of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

A total of eight aircraft are flying to Fort Sill, OK filled with personal belongings and unit equipment to start the mobilization process as they join up with the Utah Army National Guard's 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion. Task Force 2-211 will provide aviation support to the Combined Forces Land Component Command in Kuwait.

The past year has been difficult and time consuming for the citizen-soldiers with the many requirements to prepared for the Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.


"This has taken a significant and large amount of their personal time. Time that might otherwise have been spent with their families or pursuing personal interests and that sacrifice and that service cannot be overlooked and they should be commended for it," Capt. Seam Roughneen, commander of A Company

For Roughneen and nine other unit members this is their second deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. These veterans know that preparation is the key to success; it also helps a new unit gel as a team giving every member confidence.

Black History Month Heroes

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s challenged racism in America and made the country a more just and humane society for all. In continuing to celebrate major accomplishments and African American contributions to American history during Black History Month, this week DMAVA celebrates and pays tribute to several civil rights movement heroes and recognizes the important contributions they have made in past and continue to make today.

ROSA PARKS: On Dec. 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Ala., Rosa Parks, an African-American seamstress, left work and boarded a bus for home. As the bus became crowded, the bus driver ordered Parks to give up her seat to a white passenger. Montgomery's buses were segregated, with the seats in the front reserved for "whites only." Blacks had to sit at the back of the bus. But if the bus was crowded and all the "whites only" seats were filled, black people were expected to give up their seats—a black person sitting while a white person stood would never be tolerated in the racist South. Rosa had had enough of such humiliation, and refused to give up her seat. "I felt I had a right to stay where I was," she said. "I wanted this particular driver to know that we were being treated unfairly as individuals and as a people." The bus driver had her arrested. Martin Luther King, Jr., heard about Parks' brave defiance and launched a boycott of Montgomery buses. The 17,000 black residents of Montgomery pulled together and kept the boycott going for more than a year. Finally, the Supreme Court intervened and declared segregation on buses

 [Download PDF Version of this week's highlights](#)

JFHQ 3650 Saylor's Pond Road Fort
Dix, NJ 08641 Hank Pierre, 609-
562-0156,
hank.pierre@njdmava.state.nj.us
Tammy Cartagena, 609-562-0157,
tammy.l.cartagena@us.army.mil Fax
609-562-0158

Phone numbers and Web sites to remember

Directory Assistance:

1-602-293-4907

Verizon Super Pages:

AT&T:<http://www.anywho.com/>

SBC Yellow Pages:

<http://www.yellowpages.com/>

Telephone and contact
information on state employees
can be found at

<http://njdirect.state.nj.us/>

Quote for the Week

Am I not destroying my enemies
when I make friends of them?

- Abraham Lincoln

Never mistake knowledge for
wisdom. One helps you make a
living; the other helps you make a
life.

- Sandra Carey

Nothing is so good as it seems
beforehand.

- George Eliot

He who mistrusts most should be
trusted least. - Theognis

Beware the tyranny of the minority.

- Latin proverb

unconstitutional. Rosa Parks and the boycotters defeated the racist system, and she became known as "the mother of the civil rights movement."

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.: It wasn't just that Martin Luther King became the leader of the civil rights movement that made him so extraordinary—it was the way in which he led the movement. King advocated civil disobedience, the non-violent resistance against unjust laws: "Non-violence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it." Civil rights activists organized demonstrations, marches, boycotts, strikes, and voter-registration drives, and refused to obey laws that they knew were wrong and unjust.

These peaceful forms of protest were often met with vicious threats, arrests, beatings, and worse. King emphasized how important it was that the civil rights movement did not sink to the level of the racists and hate mongers they fought against: "Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred," he urged. "We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline." King's philosophy of "tough-mindedness and tenderheartedness" was not only highly effective, but it gave the civil rights movement an inspiring moral authority and grace.

THURGOOD MARSHALL: Thurgood Marshall was a courageous civil rights lawyer during a period when racial segregation was the law of the land. At a time when a large portion of American society refused to extend equality to black people, Marshall astutely realized that one of the best ways to bring about change was through the legal system. Between 1938 and 1961, he presented more than 30 civil rights cases before the Supreme Court. He won 29 of them.

His most important case was *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), which ended segregation in public schools. By law, black and white students had to attend separate public schools. As long as schools were "separate but equal"—providing equal education for all races—segregation was considered fair. In reality, segregated schools were shamefully unequal: white schools were far more privileged than black schools, which were largely poor and overcrowded. Marshall challenged the doctrine, pointing out that "separate but equal" was just a myth disguising racism. He argued that if all students were indeed equal, then why was it necessary to separate them? The Supreme Court agreed, ruling that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Marshall went on to become the first African-American Supreme Court Justice in American history.

THE LITTLE ROCK NINE: The Little Rock Nine, as they later came to be called, were the first black teenagers to attend all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. These remarkable young African-American students challenged segregation in the deep South and won.

Although *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawed segregation in schools, many racist school systems defied the law by intimidating and threatening black students—Central High School was a notorious example. But the Little Rock Nine were determined to attend the school and receive the same education offered to white students, no matter what. Things grew ugly and frightening right away. On the first day of school, the governor of Arkansas ordered the state's National Guard to block the black students from entering the school. Imagine what it must have been like to be a student confronted by armed soldiers! President Eisenhower had to send in federal troops to protect the students.

But that was only the beginning of their ordeal. Every morning on their way to school angry crowds of whites taunted and insulted the Little Rock Nine—they even received death threats. One of the students, 15-year-old Elizabeth Eckford, said "I tried to see a friendly face somewhere in the mob. . . . I looked into the face of an old woman, and it seemed a kind face, but when I looked at her again, she spat at me." As scared as they were, the students wouldn't give up, and several went on to graduate from Central High. Nine black teenagers challenged a racist system and defeated it.

177th Fighter Wing sponsoring Spring Party for kids

The 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, is sponsoring a children's Spring Party on Saturday, March 15 from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Base Dining Hall, building 400. The event will begin with an Easter Egg Hunt led by the Easter Bunny, followed by food, and then a magic show with Captain Visual. If you are planning on attending, please contact Mr. Gunning, at 609-645-6248 or family.support@njatla.ang.af.mil.

Strong Bonds program helps strengthen relationships

From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

Soldiers or Airmen (Army and Air Guard) and their significant others are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming Strong Bonds. Soldiers will attend in a paid SUTA status and all expenses are paid. These seminars have been extremely successful and are designed to strengthen relationships. The cost of the hotel and meals and literature are paid for by the State.

The seminars are not therapy sessions or encounter groups nor are they for sharing your personal concerns. The seminars are conducted by the state chaplains' office and begin with teaching effective communication skills, address problem resolution strategies that work and teach how to discover the hidden issues in every relationship. The program then moves into friendship, forgiveness, fun and sensuality.

If you are interested in attending or need additional information, please call Marie Durling at 609-562-0739 or e-mail marie.durling@nj.ngb.army.mil.

These seminars usually fill up fast, so if interested, please call as soon as possible. The next seminar will be May 2-4 at the Flanders Hotel in Ocean City, N.J. This is for Soldiers and Airmen who have not attended a Marriage Enrichment Seminar in the past.

Seminars offered by HRD

From the desk of Paul Serdiuk, DMAVA Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division is offering a number of free seminars presented by the Human Recourse Training Section. Reservations are needed for each seminar; contact Paul Serdiuk at 609-530-6878 or at paul.serdiuk@njdmava.state.nj.us. All seminars will be held in Conference Room A at DMAVA Central Office. All are welcomed.

March 13: Gangs – Introduction, identification, and overview. A nationally known expert from the Department of Corrections will give a 2 ½ hour overview of the gang infiltration into suburban New Jersey. Included will be a historical overview how gangs got started, gang identification, what you can do as a citizen and parent to prevent the spread of gangs.

May 7: State Deferred Compensation – Mike McConnell from Prudential Financial will meet with State employees to discuss their participation and contributions to their deferred compensation account. A 30 minute consultation will be scheduled per each employee.

May 15: Preventing Identity Theft – A representative from the Department of Banking and Insurance will present a one hour overview on what you can do to prevent identity theft and what to do if you should become a victim of identity theft.

June 12: Automobile Insurance – We all have it, are required to have it, but do we really know what it is about? A representative from the Department of Banking and Insurance will present a one hour overview on what you need to know about automobile insurance in New Jersey, decipher many of the terms and jargon of your policies and give an overview of what a policy should include in it to protect you.

Sep. 17: State Deferred Compensation – Mike McConnell from Prudential Financial will meet with State employees to discuss their participation and contributions to their deferred compensation account. A 30 minute consultation will be scheduled per each employee.

Maintaining Family Connections presentation at Dover Armory

From the desk of Sabrina Toomey, Troop A FRG Leader

The A Troop FRG is sponsoring, "Maintaining Family Connections," a presentation by a representative of the Family Advocacy Program. This is one of a series of classes on "Deployment: Coping with Separation and Staying Connected." It will be held at the Dover Armory, 479 West Clinton Street, on March 9, from noon to 2 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served.

To RSVP, contact either Cindy Rounsaville, 908-996-3108, nehihomeo@embarqmail.com or Sabrina Toomey, 610-381-7071, sabrina.toomey@us.army.mil.

Fourth annual SGT Nutter Run scheduled for June 14

The fourth annual SGT Nutter Run will be held on June 14. Sergeant Sam Nutter (Jan. 28, 1966 – Jan. 2, 2005) was a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard and served in the U. S. Navy from 1989-1997. Each year the NJARNG Officer Candidate School holds a benefit 5k run in his memory and the proceeds raised are donated to a NJARNG family in need. This year's beneficiary is Dina; daughter of New Jersey Army National Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy D. Marvian, of the 102nd Cavalry (RSTA) who will be deploying to Iraq later this year. Dina has endured a life-long battle with Neurofibromatosis Type I. Come join us as we band together to give a helping hand to a member of our National Guard family.

Fun family events and a BBQ to celebrate the Army's birthday will follow the race.

Visit <http://www.NutterRun.com> for registration forms, donation forms, and more information.

"America Saves Week" - Feb. 24-March 2

From the desk of Loreta P. Sepulveda, Director, Human Resources Division

"America Saves Week" is Feb. 24 - March 2. It is a national initiative in which 1,000 organizations encourage and assist Americans to save and build wealth. It is being coordinated by two savings coalitions - America Saves and the American Savings Education Council (ASEC). The N.J. State Employees Deferred Compensation Program and Prudential Retirement support this project.

Employees can also visit the "America Saves Week" website at www.americasavesweek.org for more information and additional suggestions on how to support this initiative.

Getting economic stimulus payment for seniors

Do you know a senior or low income worker who had at least \$3,000 in earned income in 2007 but do not otherwise earn enough to be required to file a federal tax return? This year they need to file in order to receive the economic stimulus payment in the spring. If they received \$3,000 in Social Security or Railroad Retirement or Veteran's Benefits in 2007, they will report that amount on line 20a of Form 1040 or on line 14a of Form 1040A. Check out the IRS web site at <http://www.irs.gov/irs/article/0,,id=177937,00.html> for more information on the stimulus program.

News For Your Views

New Jersey Bar Association offers pro bono military legal assistance

The New Jersey Bar Association established and administers the Military Legal Assistance Program. This *pro bono* program provides assistance to New Jersey residents who have served overseas as active duty members of reserve components of the armed forces after Sept. 11, 2001.

Individuals who have been adversely affected upon their return from deployment and cannot be represented by military lawyers can use this program. The program currently offers assistance to the following areas: family law, employment law, veterans' benefits and debtor-creditor law.

The Military Legal Assistance program will refer members of the military who contact the state bar association to volunteers qualified to assist them with their specific legal issues. Volunteers who accept a case through the program must agree to handle such case from inception to resolution without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

If interested in the program, call toll free 1-888-541-1900 for referral or visit the New Jersey State Bar Association web site at www.njsba.com and click on the button for the Military Legal Assistance program.

New recycling rules for Lawrenceville, West Trenton

From the desk of Joseph K. Dunleavy, Environmental Specialist

The state has hired a new contractor to implement the Governors Executive Order pertaining to recycling at all State owned and operated facilities. This guidance is targeted for the workforce within the DMAVA Lawrenceville complex and West Trenton NJARNG locations only. The contractor and the Treasury Department have provided new collection containers for recyclable items. These containers are to be placed on the loading dock prior to the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month so that the collection truck can pick them up. Please inform all personnel of the requirements.

All aluminum & steel cans, plastic and glass bottles (coded 1 & 2) need to be placed in the "Decorative Containers" or the blue containers with round openings, in the Headquarters Building for disposal. ***Please no caps or lids!*** These items will be collected on Fridays at the loading dock.

The new company will be conducting participatory audits and notify the Governors Office of participation rates. Encourage everyone in your office to recycle office paper, white paper, colored paper, Post It [™] notes, newspaper, magazines, envelopes, folders, junk mail, and paper wrappers.

Tax season help for military members

We are now in the midst of tax season and preparing for the check that Uncle Sam will send our way or digging down to find the \$\$\$ to pay those taxes owed. Here are some tips from various sources to help when it comes to filing.

Review your return before sending it off to the tax man – common problems, especially for paper returns are missing signatures and incorrect Social Security numbers.

The Internal Revenue Service Publication 3, titled, "Armed Forces' Tax Guide" is available at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf.

By visiting the IRS Web site – www.irs.gov – and clicking on the "Individuals" button in the upper left of the screen, you can then find information on military issues in two ways. First, there will be a "Military" button that will show on the line right under the "Individuals" button. Second, scroll down the page to the "Tax Information for Members of the U.S. Armed Forces" button.

For Your Calendar

Celebration Wednesday, part of Black History Month

As part of the Black History Month events, Celebration Wednesday will be held in classrooms 1 and 2 in Joint Force headquarters, Fort Dix, every Wednesday in February from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Speakers and programs are all geared toward life enhancement and wellness for all ethnic groups and provide information and knowledge in celebration of Black History Month.

The schedule is:

Feb. 27 Health and Well-being

Any questions about Celebration Wednesday can be directed to Sgt. 1st Class Mercedes Rowe, 609-562-0756.

Pancake breakfast slated for April 13

The National Guard State Family Readiness Council, American Legion post 414 and the Lawrence Township Lions Club are proudly sponsoring a "Support the Troops Pancake Breakfast" with all proceeds going to support the Soldiers and families of the New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council. For tickets or additional information, please call 609-771-4143, 609-882-2675 or 609-989-9162.

Date: Sunday, **April 13**, 2008

Time: 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Place: National Guard Armory
151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ

Price: \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 10 years old.

Note: Tax-free donations can be sent to:
National Guard State Family Readiness Council
PO Box 5692
Trenton, NJ 08638-0692

Military Training, Schools, Opportunities

RTS-Maintenance offers training to Army Guard members

The Regional Training Site-Maintenance provides maintenance and logistics education under The Total Army School System. The RTSM is a subordinate unit to the 254th Regiment RTI. It utilizes automated and current force modernization equipment systems to support Active, Reserve and National Guard soldiers. As a fully accredited schoolhouse it offers military occupational skill classification, additional skill identifiers, sustainment and transition training. Its charge is to provide instruction to non-commissioned officers under the non-commissioned officer education system. The mission supports the enabling of Armed Forces Components to mobilize for wartime mission requirements. The overall unit mission helps to support the "Warrior" during the current operational environment and undertake critical missions to win the fight.

Schoolhouse: Regional Training Site-Maintenance

Location of training: Building 3601, Technology Drive, Fort Dix, N.J.

School Code: 967

Unit Phone: 609-562-0566/0568

RTSM (NJ) Team Home Site: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/468201> (Army Knowledge Online (AKO) password required)

❖ ULLS-G - 1 week - 40 hour course:

The Unit Level Logistics System-Ground (ULLS-G) course helps units track scheduled and completed services. The ULLS-G program can give you a service schedule by vehicle, list equipment capabilities, create work orders and forecast maintenance services. ULLS-G is the commander's tool for maintenance management.

❖ 091-ASIH8 (63B) Wheeled - 2 weeks - 80 hour course:

The course helps students to safely and correctly use/operate wheeled vehicle recovery systems and equipment. Instruction on specialized rigging and recovery wheeled vehicle techniques is given throughout the course. Students conduct towing and winching of wheel vehicles to include self-recovery. A mini-field training exercise is part of the course. Note: E5s and below receive an Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) of H8. E6 and above receive a Certificate of Training and cannot be awarded the H8 ASI. The student must possess a current Civilian and Military Driver's License.

❖ 131-F13 Small Group Instructor Course - 1 week - 40 hour course:

This course is for personnel assigned as instructors or to improve instructional techniques. The one week intense course focuses on learning the basic techniques of monitoring, questioning and facilitating small group discussions in a military setting. Emphasis is placed on presenting issues and finding solutions using the small class setting. The students will learn effective use of written, verbal and management techniques to improve public speaking and presentation skills.

254th Regiment announces upcoming courses

Here are the 254th Regiment courses that are on the calendar. When using ATRRS, the school code is 1004.

Inactive Duty Training (IDT) Courses:

The Army Instructor Training Course, (TAITC)

April 5-June 7, 2008 - 12 openings

Basic NCO Course, (BNCOC)

April 5-Sept. 7, 2008 - 48 openings

Officer Candidate School (OCS)

begins March 1, 2008

Active Duty Training (ADT) Courses:

13D10 MOS-T FA Tactical Data System Specialist

March 15-29, 2008 - 12 openings

13F10 MOS-T Fire Support Specialist

March 15-22, 2008 - 18 openings

31B10 MOS-T Military Police

March 8-22, 2008 - 20 openings

88M10 MOS-T Motor Transport Operator

March 15-29, 2008 - 16 openings

Company Level Command Team Course (for new Commanders & their 1SGs)

April 12-13, 2008 - 60 openings

11B10 MOS-T Infantryman

May 3-17, 2008 - 34 openings

11B40 Infantryman ANCOC

June 7-21, 2008 - 31 openings

If you have any questions, contact Master Sgt. Gary Davidson, 732-974-5912 or gary.davidson@nj.ngb.army.mil.

Honorable Mention

State Health Benefits Program has new plans

The New Jersey State Health Benefits Program will provide active and retired members with new medical plans effective April 1, 2008.

The SHBP is offering two types of medical plans, a Preferred Provider Organization and Health Maintenance Organizations. Several options are available under each plan. Information can be found at the following web site about the plans, co-pays, costs, and directories: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/shbp.htm. You can also contact your benefits counselor at DMAVA HRD - Lisa Dandrea, 609-530-6888 or e-mail lisa.dandrea@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Affordable TRICARE benefit for drilling National Guard members

The John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (P.L. 109-364), enhanced the TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) health plan. Under this new TRS health plan, effective Oct. 1, 2007, certain members of the Selected Reserve may qualify for health care coverage under TRS at \$81 for single coverage and \$253 for family coverage. Selected Reserve members who are enrolled or eligible to enroll in a health benefit plan under chapter 89 of title 5 U.S.C. Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP), IRR and ING Soldiers are excluded from purchasing TRS.

Soldiers currently enrolled in the three tier TRS program must have transitioned to the new program by Sept. 30, 2007. For more information or to enroll contact your state representative listed on www.tricare.mil/mybenefit, select the "benefits update" link for the Tricare Reserve Select information page.

N.J. licenses, registration extended for deployed troops

New Jerseyans who are active duty military, including [the National Guard](#) and military reserves, serving in the war on terrorism, are eligible for automatic extensions of a valid driver license, registration or inspection expiration dates. Go to www.nj.gov/mvc/ for more information.

Discounts offered for State employees

Are you a state employee looking to save a few \$\$\$?

Visit www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm and you can find a number of businesses who offer discounts to New Jersey state employees. From amusement parks to fitness to computer to phones and lots of other discounts between, you will find many ways to save money. For more information, please contact Cindy Leese at cindy.leese@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-7056.

For the Families

Time is here to apply for Youth Camp

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

This year's youth camp will be held from July 13-19 at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. This year will mark our 14th year for the camp!! Some activities are archery, sports, beach and arts-n-crafts. For more information or to download an application, please visit <http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/programs.html>. Read carefully as some of the applications have changed.

Spend a weekend with your family at Great Wolf Lodge

ARMS has arranged for another weekend at the Great Wolf Lodge in Pocono, Penn.
Date: May 9-11

Cost: \$250 tax included Sat-Sun

\$500 tax included-Fri-Sun

Includes lodging for up to six people, 2/3 days admission to the indoor water park (open 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.), free parking. Rooms sleep six and have a mini refrigerator and microwave (Family Suite). Meals are not included. For more info call 732-890-4914 or email usslibertyhouse@comcast.com.

Happenings from the Teaneck FRG

From the desk of Janis M. Shaw, Family Assistance Specialist

The Teaneck Family Readiness Group has the following events for you to add to your calendar:

Teaneck Youth Group Activities – all events are held at the Teaneck Family Assistant Center, from 6:30-8 p.m.

☒ Monday, March 3: Vet Center Teen Round Table Discussion "So How Do You Really Feel? Speaker: Teresa Bennett, MSW (for children 9 and younger)

☒ Monday, March 10: Vet Center Teen Round Table Discussion "So How Do You Really Feel? Speaker: Teresa Bennett, MSW (for children 10 and older)

For more information, call Sonja McDaniel, event coordinator at 201-906-7687.

Palm Sunday Sunrise Service and Easter Basket Distribution Sunday, March 16, 6 a.m. on the drill floor. For more information call Sonja McDaniel

Saturday, April 12, noon-2 p.m., Bully Program, Part 2. For more information contact Master Sgt. Minnie E. Hiller-Cousins, 201-833-0632

Teaneck Family Readiness Group meeting dates are:

March 20 7 p.m.

April 17 7 p.m.

Family deployment briefs schedule updated

From the desk of Amanda Balas, New Jersey National Guard Youth Coordinator

The following is the updated Family Deployment Briefing Schedule presented by the Family Programs Office at various armories throughout New Jersey. Any family member that is interested in learning more about important information, who to contact and ways to cope through this upcoming deployment are welcomed to attend ANY of the briefs, no matter where the Soldier's home station is located, as all the information will be the same at every brief. Children, ages three and up, are welcome to attend too! For more information, please contact your local Family Assistance Center by calling 1-888-859-0352.

| Date | Armory | Time |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Saturday, Feb. 23 | Port Murray | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday, Feb. 24 | West Orange | 1:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, March 1 | Dover | 9 a.m. |
| Saturday, March 1 | Lawrenceville | 2 p.m. |
| Sunday, March 2 | Morristown | 1:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, March 8 | Riverdale | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday, March 9 | Woodbridge | 1:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, March 15 | Jersey City | 9:30 a.m. |
| Thursday, March 20 | Teaneck | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, April 3 | Cherry Hill | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, May 4 2 p.m. | Woodbury | 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. |

two briefs in one day to cover all 1/114th families

**Any family that will be experiencing a deployment may attend ANY of the above briefs as all the information will be the same no matter where the Soldier's home station is located in the state. All youth are welcomed to attend. We will have established youth programs, in a separate area, for youth ages three and older.

ARMS packing boxes to ship to deployed Soldiers

ARMS will be packing items to be shipped to deployed Soldiers on Saturday, **Feb. 23** from noon-4 p.m. at the Toms River Armory. Any one or any group interested in donating some time to the project just show up at the armory. All help is appreciated. The armory is located at 1200 Whitesville Road, Toms River, NJ.

Scholarships to Space Camp available to military children

Military children can take advantage of the Military Child Education Coalition Contest – Bernard Brown II Space Camp Scholarship.

Space Camp is a place where kids come together for a journey they will never forget. The camp is an eight day program in Huntsville, Ala., that shows young men and women what it takes to be an astronaut.

The scholarship includes round trip transportation (from student's home base to Space Camp), meals, lodging and program materials.

To be eligible for the scholarship, each applicant must:

- Be a child of active duty military parent or activated Guard or Reservist
- Be enrolled in grades 6-9
- Submit HAND WRITTEN essay which includes why he or she should be selected, evidence of patriotism, future goals, community service, and "after

camp" intentions

- Submit two letters of recommendation with contact information
- Complete and submit the application by the deadline.

All submissions are due no later than March 10, 2008. (NOTE: Write "Attn. Call for the Arts" on envelope when mailing in entry.)

For more detailed information about the Space Camp Scholarship, visit the MCEC at www.MilitaryChild.org or call at 254-953-1923.

Journal available for military children

Health Net Federal Services released *My Life, a Kid's Journal*, designed for military children whose parent or loved one is deployed. The journal is meant to serve as a keepsake for the child or as a gift to their special person who is deployed once it's completed. To obtain copies for military children living in the TRICARE North Region, e-mail your request to mailto:HNFS_Communications@healthnet.com. Those living outside the North Region can download the journal from the Health Net Federal Services website.

Post Office offers boxes, discount rate to FPO/APO addresses

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

Now the U.S. Postal Service is making it easier for families to send care packages with a larger flat rate box and a special discount to FPO/ APO addresses. The new boxes can be used beginning March 3. They are 50 percent larger than the current flat rate box and can be sent to any domestic address for \$12.95. A special military version of the box will carry the "America Supports You" logo and can be shipped to any FPO/ APO address for \$10.95. The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box is "12 x 12" x 5½". For complete guidelines on mail services to military members overseas visit the USPS website at: <http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/welcome.htm?from=household &page=troopsupport>.

Picatinny Arsenal Egg Hunt, March 8

The Picatinny Arsenal invites all National Guard families along with the Picatinny community to the Annual Egg Hunt held on **March 8**, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Teen Center. Come out for an afternoon of fun and laughter. There will be games, prizes, egg hunt, arts and crafts and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

The day is for children 11 and under. Attendees are asked to bring their own basket. To reserve your spot, please call 973-724-5555/7183.

The Teen Center is located in building 3228, next to the community center. The egg hunt starts at 1:30 sharp; hunters are asked to arrive early.

Reserve Aid gives support to families of deployed service members

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist

Reserve Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing financial support to the families of Reserve Service Members called to active duty in all five branches of the Armed Forces. Reserve Aid makes unrestricted, need based grants to military families who have a Reserve service member on full-time deployment to a combat zone or homeland security position. Their goal is to alleviate the emotional and financial burdens placed on the men and women called to serve our country by supporting their families at home. For additional information and application procedures go to: www.reserveaid.org

MyArmyBenefits Website - the single source for all Army Benefits

MyArmyBenefits at <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil> is the official Army benefits resource for active-duty, Guard and reserve Soldiers, family members and retirees.

Active-duty Soldiers with AKO accounts can access personalized reports on the survivor, disability, and retirement benefits through MyArmyBenefits.

Army Information Line: 1-800-833-6622

The Army Information Line (1-800-833-6622) is designed to help all Soldiers and their Family members whether they are deployed; stationed stateside or overseas; are brand new to the Army; or are 30 year veterans.

In addition to The Army Information Line, Army Well-Being's Army Families Online Web site www.ArmyFamiliesOnline.org recently welcomed its 2-millionth visitor this year.

The Army Information Line also celebrates its 25-year existence of providing information and referral services to those Soldiers and Family members.

Federal grant for spouses of deployed military

A \$200,000 grant from the Department of Community Affairs is available for spouses of deployed or recently deployed military (all branches across the state). Typical awards are \$2,500 each and are available for financial difficulties (such as past due rent and childcare) as well as for recreational and stress relieving activities for kids. For more information contact Fawn I. Mutschler, Military Grant Liaison, Women's Opportunity Center, YMCA of Burlington County by calling 609-543-6200 Ext. 325 or by email at wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org.

N.J. State Family Readiness Council offers Family Grants Program

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has expanded its Family Grants Program to include an additional grant. There are now two levels of Family Grants; TIER I is the \$2,500 grant that has been in place for the past couple of years. The TIER II opens family grants to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500. Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers.

Sports

Free Trenton Devils tickets available

The Trenton Devils have at least 50 tickets they are giving away to hockey fans for the **March 8** game against the Wheeling (W.V.) Nailers at the Sovereign Bank Center, Trenton. The game will be held at noon.

Since the Devils want the seats filled, tickets will only be given to those Guardmembers who are certain they will attend the game.

If you are interested in tickets, contact Marie Durling at 609-562-0739 or marie.durling@us.army.mil.

Travel Help, Ideas

McGuire ITT office has discounted tickets to Six Flags

The ITT Office at McGuire Air Force Base currently has 2008 Season passes to Six Flags Great Adventure for a discounted price. For additional information contact the ITT Office at the BX/PX Mall at McGuire at 609-754-6032/-3737 or e-mail ittoffice@verizon.net.

3-Park Pass - \$115.00 (no tax) (Good at Six Flags Great Adventure, Hurricane Harbor & Wild Safari)

2-Park Pass - \$83.00 (no tax) (Good at Six Flags Great Adventure, & Wild Safari)
Ages 4 and older are the same price

Come purchase your season pass before prices go up. The prices remain at the lowest price until **Feb. 29, 2008**.

Armed Forces Vacation Club offers affordable lodging

The Armed Forces Vacation Club is a "space available" program offering Department of Defense affiliated personnel affordable condominium vacations at over 3,500 resorts around the world. Visit www.afvclub.com/ for more information.

Shades of Green offers Disney for military

Now that the summer is just around the corner, thoughts of how to spend next summer or your next vacation week, can start to pop into your mind. "Can we go someplace better or different, nearer or farther from home, all without breaking the bank?"

One place to consider if Florida is one of your next vacation places is Shades of Green in Orlando. Minutes from the Disney attractions, this resort is also close to golf, dining and other Florida attractions.

Their web site, www.shadesofgreen.org can give you tours of their rooms and family suites, the local attractions and other amenities that are offered by the resort. The rates are reasonable and will be an opportunity to visit Orlando with your family.

Scholarship, Education News

Enlisted Association announces scholarships

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey announces it is sponsoring five scholarships of \$1,000 each for children of members of the Association and drilling members of the New Jersey National Guard (Army or Air) who are also members of the Association. Additionally, a \$500 USAA scholarship will be given for any Army or Air Drilling Guardsman. Applications for scholarships may be found on the Association's Web site at www.eang-nj.org. Applications must be postmarked by **May 15, 2008** and mailed to:

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey

ATTN: Scholarship Committee

3650 Saylor's Pond Road

Fort Dix, NJ 08640-7600

Prior recipients are not eligible to apply.

Education news for NJARNG

Education Services Brochure Booklet (ESB2)

Access the New Jersey Army National Guard's ESB2 at www.nj.gov/military/education. The ESB2 is a comprehensive guide with links and shortcuts to civilian education benefits available to New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers.

G.I. Bill Notice of Basic Eligibility

New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers can print their Eligibility of Mobilized Soldier notification letter for CH 1607 as well as Notice Of Basic Eligibility for CH 1606 at <https://www.nationalguardbenefits.com/>; click on G.I. Bill Home Page.

Scholarships for military spouses now available

The National Military Family Association's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of uniformed services members (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees and survivors) to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Scholarships range in

amount from \$500-1,000, and the number awarded each year varies depending on funding. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees and school room and board.

Scholarship selection is based on completion of some survey questions that will help NMFA advocate for education changes on your behalf, short-answer questions and an essay question that will help us get to know you better. To be considered, applications must be completed by midnight **March 15**. To apply, go to: https://secure2.convio.net/nmfa/site/SSurvey?SURVEY_ID=4420&ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS.

Scholarships available for military children

Scholarships are available for military dependents through the Army Emergency Relief Scholarship Program.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicants must be under 23 years old, unmarried, enrolled in DEERS and must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate program at an accredited college or university in the fall of 2008.

The deadline is **March 1**. Details about this scholarship can be found at www.aerhq.org.

American Legion offers scholarships, booklet on their Web site

The American Legion has scholarship information on their Web site – www.legion.org – including the 152-page booklet, *Need a Lift*, which is a complete financial aid reference guide for veterans, family members and the American Legion family. When you get on the site, click on "Scholarship Information" in the "Useful Links" block.

Association News

Enlisted Association wants YOU!

By retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, EANG-NJ

The Enlisted Association National Guard-New Jersey is off to a good start for 2008 as we have realigned all the committees and filled both the Executive Council and Committees with a cross section of Army and Air, uniformed and retirees, and several junior NCOs. Everyone appears to be enthused and pledges to support the Association in all its efforts. All we need now is for you to get on board as a member and bring your fellow soldiers and airmen with you.

We have many challenges facing us over the next few years whether it is another round of base closures via the Base Realignment Commission (BRAC), reduction in TRICARE benefits, reduction in troop strength, attempts to maintain the retirement age at 60, etc. We need a powerful voice to put our message across to the State and Federal Legislators and this can only be accomplished through a strong membership in our State Association (EANG-NJ) and the National Association (EANGUS).

The new membership year starts on 1 January 2008 and we need your help in making our Association grow. We encourage all enlisted soldiers and airmen to join the Association as Active Members and also welcome all officers, warrant officers, federal, and state employees to join as Associate Members. Applications for membership can be obtained from our website www.eang-nj.org.

NGANJ group life insurance available to members

Are you covered by the NGANJ Group Life Insurance Program? As a member of either the Officers or the Enlisted Association, you are entitled to enroll in your Association Life Insurance Program. This special program provides from \$5,000 to \$50,000 of Life Insurance for you, "round the clock". Premiums range from as little as \$2 per month and may be payroll-deducted from your drill check. Family coverage is also available at low rates designed for you as a member of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. Think of it!! No aviation exclusions...No hazardous duty restrictions...No war clauses...No checks to write. Dependent coverage includes spouses and all children. Information can be obtained by contacting retired CWO Jack Petrosilli at 609-530-6843, or retired Brig. Gen. Robert

Veterans Information

VA Launches Suicide Hotline

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun operation of a national suicide prevention hot line for veterans. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson said: "Veterans need to know these VA professionals are literally a phone call away. All service members who experience the stresses of combat can have wounds on their minds as well as their bodies. Veterans should see mental health services as another benefit they have earned, which the men and women of VA are honored to provide." VA's hot line will be staffed by mental health professionals in Canandaigua, N.Y. They will take toll-free calls from across the country and work closely with local VA mental health providers to help callers. The toll-free hot line number is 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255).

Web site provides support to separating military members

TurboTAP (Transition Assistance Program) is an easy to use, interactive Web portal that provides life-long support to separating military service members (Active Duty, Guard and Reserve) and their families. It is a single source starting point for accessing key resources available for servicemembers transitioning out of the military at any point in their military career. Resources include Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Education, Small Business Administration, the National Veterans Corporation and the National Guard Bureau. For more information go to www.TurboTAP.org or email TAPHelp@military-inc.com.

DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues

The DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues with kiosk displays at selected malls throughout New Jersey. The schedule is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| March 3*, 4, 5 | Paramus Park Shopping Center |
| April 1*, 2, 3 | Voorhees Town Center |
| May 6*, 7, 8 | Ocean County Mall |
| July 8, 9, 10 | Cherry Hill Mall |
| July 18* | Traveling Wall, Wildwood |
| August 5*, 6, 7 | Willowbrook Mall |

*Medal ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on these dates. The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The kiosk will also be in place at the Wildwood Convention Center for three state conventions.

- ❖ June 5-6, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. – Elks State Convention
 - ❖ June 11-13, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. – American Legion State Convention
 - ❖ June 18-20, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. – VFW State Convention
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N.J. Vietnam Veterans Memorial

N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center's upcoming events:

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Free guided tours of the Memorial are offered on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Mar. 1, 1 p.m. – American Vietnam Veterans Who Wouldn't Come Home, an oral-history discussion about American ex-patriots recently encountered on a trip to Thailand by Steve Lonegan, Mayor of Bogota, N.J.

Apr. 12, 1 p.m. – We Were There: Voices of African American Veterans, from World War II to the War in Iraq, a book discussion by the author, Yvonne Latty.

May 7, 11 a.m. – New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Memorial. There will be a state medal ceremony.

May 17, 1 p.m. – On the Road to Recovery, an oral-history discussion by NJ Vietnam-Era veteran Bishop Fred Rubin about his service tending wounded G.I.s in the Army hospital in Hawaii during the Vietnam War.

May 26, 11 a.m. – Memorial Day Ceremony at the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

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For further information call 1-800-648-VETS or visit www.njvvmf.org.

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