

DMAVA Highlights

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a full-body chemical defense suit, including a hood, a large black gas mask with multiple filters, and clear protective goggles. The person is wearing black gloves. Another person's hand, wearing a gold ring, is pointing at the gas mask. The background is a clear blue sky.

19 August 2016

**21ST CST TRAINS
ALBANIANS**

**AIR GUARD CHANGE OF
COMMAND**

FAMILY BUSINESS

**ATLANTIC CITY
AIRSHOW**

PLUS

OCS Class 59 Graduation

**Nema Assumes Command of
JT2DC**

**Koczera Says Goodbye at
Menlo**

21ST CST TRAINS ALBANIANS

By Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, New Jersey National Guard Public Affair

New Jersey National Guardsmen from the 21st Civil Support Team and twenty Albanian Soldiers from the Land Forces CBRN Battalion came together for training in chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear detection gear and the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center, Westhampton, New Jersey, Aug. 8-9.

The Albanian soldiers got a hands-on look at the actual detection gear they will be getting issued in the next year.

"This training has helped all the team members by giving a better picture how to face civil emergencies by using HAZMAT and CBRN concepts," said Maj. Florenc Veliu, the CBRN commander. "We were familiarized with equipment, ways of communication with civil authorities and other actors that play a role during an emergency situation."

The training was a challenge for members of the Civil Support Team, who had to overcome language barriers. Luckily there were translators with the group who helped to relay messages between the teachers and students.

"Teaching always for me is a positive experience," said Air National Guard Master Sgt. Arnold Young, one of the team's trainers. "It's been one of my passions, and to be able to pass on that knowledge to individuals and

see the joy they get from the training, is definitely a great feeling."

The Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center's sprawling complex of classrooms and training rooms provided realistic scenarios for the Albanian students.

Civil Support Team Soldiers and Airmen led teams of students through rooms, teaching them how the devices read the air for various contaminants.

"It's definitely rewarding, and gives you a sense of pride," said Army National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Christopher Maute. "To know that someone's coming to you for your knowledge, to make their career better or make their service towards their country better...it's one of those things I definitely take pride in."

The Albanian soldiers were grateful for the classes, and hope to see more visits to New Jersey in the future.

"Due to challenges we are facing in today's world, I believe that this training and other events, workshops, and familiarization visits will be a valuable contribution not only on the education side, but also on the practical side," said Veliu.

"These training events are tools that help us to be developed, and also strengthen our relationship that our two militaries have."

The training was part of the State Partnership

Program, which New Jersey and Albania have been connected through since 2001. The National Guard State Partnership Program is a U.S. Department of Defense program managed by the National Guard that links U.S. States with partner countries around the world for the purpose of supporting the security cooperation objectives of the geographic Combatant Commanders.



» U.S. Army Sgt. Joseph Bercovic of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 21st Civil Support Team looks over gear during training with the Albanian military at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center, Westhampton, N.J., Aug. 8, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



» An Albanian Army soldier scrubs another Albanian soldier during the decontamination process at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center, Westhampton, N.J., August 9, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

The 21st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, held a two-day class, August 8-9, 2016, for Albanian soldiers on detecting chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, along with emergency management training at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center, Westhampton, N.J. The class culminated in an exercise where the Albanians were tested on what they learned. Albania has been a state partner with New Jersey since 2001. The National Guard State Partnership Program is a U.S. Department of Defense program managed by the National Guard that links U.S. States with partner countries around the world for the purpose of supporting the security cooperation objectives of the geographic Combatant Commanders.

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» Master Sgt. Arnold Young, left, and Maj. David Hampton Jr., right, both with the New Jersey Army National Guard's 21st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, demonstrate the decontamination process to Albanian Army soldiers. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



» Albanian soldiers listen to Lt. Col. George Christenson, commander of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 21st Civil Support Team, talk about the capabilities of the CST at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

KEEHN TO COMMAND NJANG

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Wooley, New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 108th Wing

The New Jersey Air National Guard has a new commander.

Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Keehn, of Bayville, assumed command of the state's 2,400 Airmen at a ceremony Aug. 13, 2016, at the 108th Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

He replaced Brig. Gen. Robert C. Bolton, of Rumson, who is retiring.

Keehn, a native of Jackson, enlisted in the active duty Air Force in 1975 as an in-flight refueling operator and joined the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing

four years later. In 1984, Keehn was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tenn. After completing pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi, Keehn rejoined New Jersey's 108th Wing as a KC-135 pilot.

"Although today seems to be about me, I cannot tell you how proud and honored I am to be the New Jersey Air National Guard commander," said Keehn at the change of command ceremony. "Not because of the title but because of all of you. I am in total awe of your dedication and willingness to accomplish your respective missions. No matter what is asked of you, you have always completed it in an outstanding manner."

Keehn went on to hold many key roles in the 108th Wing, including serving as both the 150th and 141st Air Refueling Squadron's operations director and, ultimately, the wing commander. He also served as the principal advisor to the Adjutant General for plans and requirements on matters pertaining to Military Support to Civilian Authorities.

Keehn has deployed multiple times in support of global contingency operations to include Operations Desert Storm I and II, Northern Watch, Joint Forge, Allied Force, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

As commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, Keehn will oversee both the 108th Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing, which is based at the Atlantic City Air National Guard base, Egg Harbor Township.





(Below) Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, presents Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Keehn, New Jersey Air National Guard, the NJANG guidon during a Change of Command Ceremony at the 108th Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Aug. 13, 2016. Keehn assumes command of the New Jersey Air Guard from Brig. Gen. Robert C. Bolton (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



THE FAMILY BUSINESS



STAFF SGT. JANET MEDINA, LEFT, PINS STAFF SERGEANT RANK ON HER DAUGHTER, JUSTINA MEDINA, DURING A PROMOTION CEREMONY AT THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J., AUGUST 11, 2016.

(U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. MARK C. OLSEN/ RELEASED)

**Story and Photos By Master Sgt. Mark Olsen,
New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs**

Staff Sgt. Janet Medina punched her daughter in the chest.

It not as bad as it sounds. In the military, it is a time honored tradition to punch on a person's rank when promoted. In this case, it was even more special because Janet's daughter, Justina Medina, was being promoted to staff sergeant.



Both Medinas' are in the New Jersey Army National Guard.

That's not really unusual. In the New Jersey National Guard, like any other state's National Guard, brother and sisters, fathers and sons, cousins, etc., serving together is not that unusual.

However, what is uncommon is that Janet and Justina both joined the Guard at the same time – Sept. 22, 2007. New Jersey Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class John Medina – Janet's husband and Justina's father was their recruiter.

It started when the Army changed the age individuals could enlist.

"I was 39 at the time," Janet said. "My husband always knew I wanted to do this. I thought about it for a month. She (Justina) was already processing and doing her paperwork, so I said 'Hold on, wait for me.'"

"We went to basic training and AIT

(advanced individual training) together," Justina said.

At basic training they were in the same company, but different platoons. "Her bunk was literally upstairs from mine," Justina said.

It was at basic where they got their nicknames, Janet became Mama Medina and Justina became Baby Medina.

"The biggest story my Mom loves to tell is that they always put us against each other to do pugils (sticks)," Justina said. "I didn't want to hit my Mom with pugil sticks, but, it was just really sad for me, because I hit her really hard and I started crying."

"She was a lot better at PT (physical training) than I was," Justina said. "She took me under her wing."

"I'm double her age, come on girl," Janet said.

After basic came AIT. They both have the same MOS (military occupational specialty) human resources specialist.

"We went to AIT together, she was my bunkmate," Justina said.

"We shared homework too," Janet said.

After AIT, they were also in the same unit, the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat

Team Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"She went to work at OP (Office of Personnel) at Joint Force Headquarters," Justina said.

Justina would stay with the 50th for six years before transferring to the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion followed by 102nd Cavalry.

The one thing that stays the same is they motivate each other.

"We push each other to do great things," Justina said.

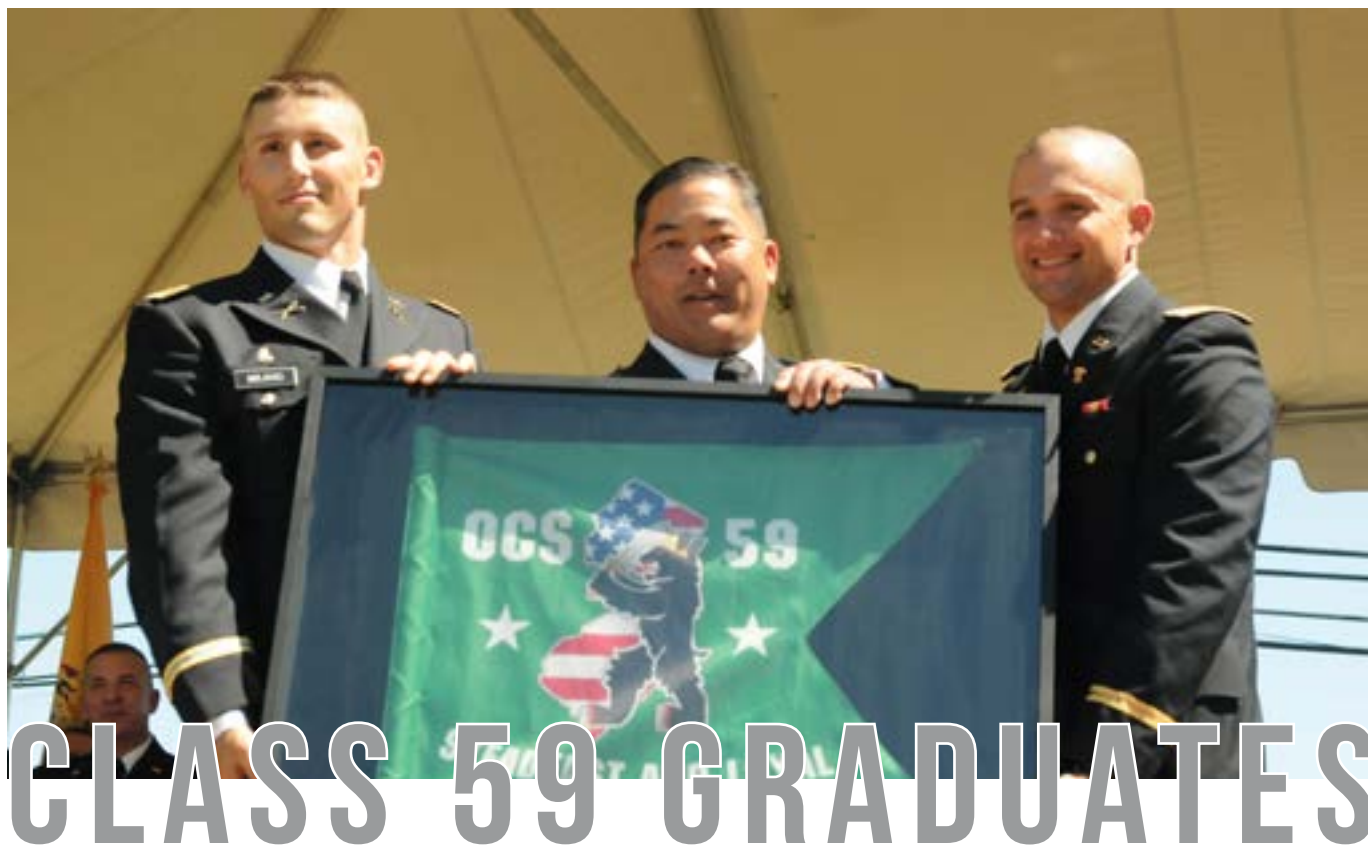
For Janet, there is one difference after joining the military and it has to do with when she looks at the American flag.

"You see things different. The flag doesn't look the same ever again, the pride, the joy in serving my country," Janet said.



**THE BIGGEST
STORY MY MOM
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**IS THAT THEY ALWAYS PUT US
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PUGILS (STICKS)," JUSTINA
SAID. "I DIDN'T WANT TO HIT
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BUT, IT WAS JUST REALLY SAD
FOR ME, BECAUSE I HIT HER
REALLY HARD AND I STARTED
CRYING."**



The New Jersey Army National Guard has 19 new second lieutenants as the graduating members of Officer Candidate School Class 59 walked across the stage at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, Aug. 7, 2016 with family, friends, and the staff of the 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) in attendance.

GRADUATING CLASS



Adolf N. Addawoo, Deferring Commission
 Raymond Aviles, Deferring Commission
 Christopher Y. Bag, Infantry, Company A, 2-113th Infantry
 Edward V. Ceralde, Ordnance, Company G, 250th Brigade Support Battalion
 Michael R. Daly, Financial Management, 250th Finance Detachment
 Russell J. Hinkeldey, Armor, Troop B, 1-102d Cavalry
 Ivan E. Leon, Deferring Commission
 Alesandra D. Lipari, Field Artillery, Battery C, 3-112th Field Artillery
 Gayle P. Mcelroy, Military Police, 508th Military Police Company
 Veronica J. Mendez, Adjutant General Corps, HHC, 2-113th Infantry
 Michael J. Milano, Infantry, Company C, 2-113th Infantry
 Daniel P. Miller Jr., Quartermaster, Company A, 250th Brigade Support Battalion
 Kieran E. Miller, Signal, HHT, 1-102d Cavalry
 Frank J. Reyes-Ochoa, Military Intelligence, HHC, 2-113th Infantry
 Veronica C. Sanchez, Corps of Engineers, B Company, 104th Engineer Battalion
 Nicholas J. Sereday, Infantry, Company C, 2-113th Infantry
 Jeffrey M. Silver, Military Intelligence, Headquarters, 119th Support Battalion Corps
 Marquis W. Strickland, Corps of Engineers, A Company, 104th Engineer Battalion
 Daniel L. White, Transportation Corps, Company A, 250th Brigade Support Battalion



JT2DC CHANGE OF COMMAND



The New Jersey Army National Guard's Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) held a Change of Command Ceremony on Saturday August 13, 2016 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Col. John E. Langston passed the JT2DC's guidon to Col. Paul Nema in a traditional military change of command ceremony. The transfer of the JT2DC's guidon is significant in many ways; the history, traditions and accomplishments of the JT2DC are embodied in it. With the transfer, the unit's legacy is passed as a building block for future performance and achievement. (U.S.Army National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young, NJNG Public Affairs/Released)



**UH-60 BLACK HAWKS WITH THE
1-150TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER
BATTALION, NEW JERSEY ARMY
NATIONAL GUARD, FLY TACTICAL
AIR CONTROL PARTY AIRMEN
WITH THE 227TH AIR SUPPORT
OPERATIONS SQUADRON, NEW
JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD, FOR
A SPECIAL PURPOSE INSERTION
EXTRACTION (SPIES) DEMON-
STRATION AT THE 2016 ATLANTIC
CITY AIRSHOW ABOVE THE
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., BOARDWALK
AUG. 17, 2016.(U.S. AIR NATIONAL
GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT.
MARK C. OLSEN/RELEASED)**



ATLANTIC CITY AIRSHOW



VETERANS AFFAIRS



MENLO PARK VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME CHAPLAIN JAN KOCZERA, LEFT, SAID HIS GOODBYES TO STAFF AND RESIDENTS AFTER FIVE YEARS OF MINISTRY. HOME CEO JOSEPH BRANDSPIEGEL JOINED KOCZERA AND HIS WIFE KATHY, AT HIS GOING AWAY PARTY. A RETIRED ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL WITH 21-YEARS IN UNIFORM, KOCZERA GAVE COUNTLESS HOURS TO SERVE HIS FELLOW VETERANS. THE PARTY HAD AN OLYMPIC FAVOR AS KOCZERA'S NIECE, LAUREN CRANDALL, IS THE CAPTAIN OF THE US OLYMPIC WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY TEAM.

RAY ZAWACKI, LEFT, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, PRESENTS A PROCLAMATION TO EDWARD SKROCKI, A RESIDENT AT THE NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME MENLO PARK, ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY AUGUST 9, 2016. SKROCKI, A WORLD WAR II ARMY VETERAN WAS VISITED BY HIS 93-YEAR OLD BROTHER, WHO ALSO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II AND HIS WIFE. (COURTESY PHOTO)



HELPFUL INFORMATION

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Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

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

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Colonel Edward J. Chrytal Jr., Director 609-530-6967 Donna Myers, Sec 609-530-6788 Virginia Fries, QA Coordinator 609-530-6179 Fax: 609-530-6970	Winds Park Veterans Memorial Home Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO Jennifer Papis, Sec 133 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-432-4102 Fax: 732-600-3018	Paranum Veterans Memorial Home Dianne Tabors-Fisher, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paranum, NJ 07952 201-834-8525 Fax: 201-867-8858	Vineland Veterans Memorial Home Alyson Bailey, Acting CEO Sharon Frye, Sec 521 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08260-2895 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-496-6714
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Veterans Services (DVS)

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 856-853-4186/4187/4188 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays)

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 Theresa Tomczack, Sec
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 609-671-6957/6958 Fax: 609-671-6959

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 Valant, Sec
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 Catherine Raimo, Sec
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 856-405-4305/4306/4307 Fax: 856-496-6499

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William Robinson, VSO
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 973-366-0345/0347 Fax: 973-366-0360 (Mon, Tues, Wed)
 *Source: 12 Monmouth Road, Freehold 07954 (Thursday/M-F Fridays)
 973-607-4029 Fax: 973-607-4024 - (Freehold Army)

Warren/Union

Adrian Smith, VSO/Outreach
 Lisa Symmes, Sec
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 908-527-0070/0072 Fax: 908-533-0823
 *Wilmington, 4 Grant Place, Flemington, 08822 (Wednesday) 908-384-6144

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Vincent Pico
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- HOUSEHOLD SIZE BETWEEN 1 AND 4 INDIVIDUALS

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of the National Guard
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7-9 Oct 2016

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Golf
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Military Ball
Valhalla Night

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Post 9-11 Veterans

Public radio station WHYY in Philadelphia is looking to interview post 9-11 veterans for a series called 'Veterans Coming Home' to talk about their experiences when transitioning back into civilian life.

These stories will be produced as online video then will later air for television and radio.

Participating veterans and their families will receive a free admission to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, the proposed location of the interviews.

If interested please contact Trenae Nuri by email (tnuri@whyy.org) with your contact information and how many tickets are needed.



VETERANS

FAMILY MEMBERS—SERVICEMEMBERS—CAREGIVERS—ADVOCATES

YOU'RE INVITED

The MyVA New Jersey Veteran and Community Collaborative Network is hosting their first public forum.

Come share your experiences concerning the quality of care and support you've received from the VA New Jersey Health Care System and other community resources. Your experiences and insights are critical for helping us improve services and support to all New Jersey Veterans. Topics will include healthcare, housing, education, and employment. Representatives from the VA, local Veteran Service Organizations, and Veteran advocates will be in attendance.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 – 9:00AM – 10:30AM

**Johnson & Johnson Corporate Conference Center
1 Johnson & Johnson Plaza — New Brunswick, NJ 08901**

RSVP for the event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/myva-new-jersey-veteran-and-community-collaborative-network-public-forum-tickets-26866216577>

Questions? Contact Tana Loy at 732-773-4344 or send email to myvanjmedia@gmail.com

Check our Facebook page for more information! Search for Facebook.com/myvanj.
Learn more about the MyVA Community initiative at www.va.gov/nace/myVA

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

We want to reach all Veterans, especially those who may not know where to find help for issues relating to healthcare, housing, education, employment, or entitled benefits.



VETERANS OUT-REACH CAMPAIGN

"VETTE TO VET NIGHT"

Sept. 9, 5 – 8 p.m.

Chatterbox Restaurant,

1 State Route 15

Augusta, NJ 07822)

VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN & MEDAL CEREMONY

Sept. 20-21, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Daily

DMAVA medal ceremony Sept. 20 at 11 a.m.
at Center Court

Bridgewater Commons Mall

400 Commons Way

Bridgewater, NJ, 08807

CHERRY HILL STAND DOWN

Sept. 23, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Cherry Hill National Guard Armory
2001 Park Blvd.

Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN & MEDAL CEREMONY

Oct. *25-26, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Daily

DMAVA medal ceremony Oct. 25 at 11 a.m. at Center Court
Ocean County Mall

1201 Hooper Ave.

Toms River, NJ 08753

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

Nov. 12, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Jersey City, City Hall

280 Grove Street

Jersey City, NJ 07303

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Life doesn't have to be a battlefield

**Highlights submissions deadline
4 p.m. Wednesday:
nicholas.p.young12.mil@mail.mil**

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of

New Jersey

GOLF OUTING

Friday October 7, 2016

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SEE YOU AT THE SEAVIEW

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

**Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cuniff – The Adjutant General
of New Jersey**

**Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari – The Deputy
Adjutant General**

**Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for
Veterans Affairs**

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

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Kryn Westhoven – Writer, Photographer

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young - Layout, Editor

Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer

Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht – Photographer, Graphic artist

