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July 2, 2024



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

## Commissioner's Corner



On Monday, Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., relinquished her responsibilities as The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. She is beginning a new assignment as the Joint Surgeon General of the National Guard. On behalf of every echelon of our organization, both military and civilian, I offer our heartfelt thanks for her nearly four years of leadership. She will be dearly missed.

Last week, I accepted Governor Philip D. Murphy's nomination to serve as The Adjutant General and Commissioner. I do so with humility and a deep appreciation for the duties that I assume. I wish to thank the Commander-in-Chief for the confidence he has placed in me.

This is a time of transformation for the New Jersey National Guard and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. We are ready to meet the challenge. From my first enlistment in the active duty Air Force forty-one years ago to the service I continue today, I know that the success of our collective team begins with our people: the Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians who not only meet standards, but exceed them.

My top priority will remain people. I will demonstrate this commitment through my actions. I will work every day to ensure that those who wear a uniform or care for Garden State Veterans are trained, equipped, and ready to meet mission. To me, the priority of people also means accountability to the people we serve, whether our Veterans, our fellow teammates, or those junior to us whom we

develop as the next generation of leaders. They are counting on us.

Thank you for all that you do. Best wishes to your families and you for a safe and happy Independence Day.

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMAVA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at [outreach@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov).

**Colonel Yvonne L. Mays, Acting  
Adjutant General & Commissioner**



## Featured Event

*Please join the Korean War & Korean Defense Veterans, Department of New Jersey; and the New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs to commemorate the 71st Anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice.*



*July 26, 2024, 11 a.m.  
New Jersey Korean War Memorial  
124 Park Place, Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
RSVP by July 24, 2024 to  
[Cynthia.Barnes@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Barnes@dmava.nj.gov)*

## Events

### **DMAVA Calendar**

DMAVA is sponsoring or will participate in the events below. A DMAVA Veterans Service Officer will be present at many of these

events. Please check details to confirm.

- July 3 | Bradley Beach  
[63rd Army Band Summer Concert](#)
- July 12 | Ocean City  
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- July 15-16 | Lawrenceville  
[Grant Writing Workshop](#)
- July 22 | Camden County College  
[Constituent Services Fair](#)
- July 25 | Columbus  
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- July 26 | Point Pleasant Beach  
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- July 26 | Atlantic City  
[71st Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice](#)

## **Community Calendar**

We add new events to our calendar on a daily basis so please bookmark and check back often.

[View Full Calendar](#)

## Spotlight



## **Fallen Korean War Soldier Accounted For**

The remains of U.S. Army Pfc. Anthony J. Lopa, Delta Battery, 82nd Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, were presented in a ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ on June 28, 2024.

Lopa, of North Arlington, NJ, was killed in action during the Korean War on August 31, 1950 while fighting the North Korean People's Army along the Naktong River near Yongsan-Myeon, South Korea. He was seventeen years old.

Lopa was accounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency on July 21, 2023.

[View Images](#)

# **NJ National Guard**



## **177th Fighter Wing Hosts Cyprus National Guard For State Partnership Program**

*Story by Staff Sgt. Hunter Hires, Andrew Moseley and A1C Connor Taggart | 177th Fighter Wing | June 14, 2024*

Atlantic City Air National Guard Base - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team technicians with the 70th Combat Engineer Battalion (70th CEB) of the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus visited the 177th Fighter Wing under the [New Jersey National Guard's State Partnership Program](#) June 4-14, 2024.

The 70th CEB EOD technicians and 177th Civil Engineer Squadron

(177th CES) EOD team technicians observed numerous exhibitions and participated in a variety of exercises, which would normally fall under a U.S. Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal team's field of responsibility.

“There are four initiatives to the State Partnership Program,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. David Bernal, 177th CES EOD team leader. “There's Intelligence, Cyber, Non-Commissioned officer development and EOD.”

[Read Full Story](#)

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## **Securing the Future: 140th Cyber Operations Squadron Educates and Recruits at Open House**

*Tech. Sgt. Anna-kay Ellis | 108th Wing | June 27, 2024*

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ - Every year, millions of Americans have their personal data compromised online. On June 8, 2024, the 140th Cyber Operations Squadron held an open house to educate members on the common cyber dangers they may encounter.

The open forum event also served as an opportunity to engage with members who are interested in a cyber career. "We are always on the lookout for members who are interested in joining our mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Motta, 140th COS, senior enlisted leader. "It was great getting the opportunity to speak with and assist them."

[Read Full Story](#)

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## 254th Regional Training Institute

U.S. Army Soldiers treat casualties in a situational training exercise (STX) during the field and war phases, also known as the 'Whiskey' phase, of the U.S. Army's Combat Medic (68W) Military Occupational Specialty Transition Course hosted by the New Jersey Army National Guard's [254th Regional Training Institute](#) on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ on June 28, 2024.

National Guard Soldiers from several states traveled to New Jersey to become part of the next generation of specialized life-saving Soldiers in the National Guard.

[View Images](#)

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# 177th Fighter Wing Enhances Readiness in Sentry Aloha 24-2 Exercise

*A1C Connor Taggart | 177th Fighter Wing | June 28, 2024*

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii - The [177th Fighter Wing](#) of the New Jersey Air National Guard, alongside aviation units from across the United States, participated in Sentry Aloha 24-2 from May 27 to June 14.

The exercise, facilitated by the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, integrated Air National Guard forces and fostered collaboration with active-duty Air Force assets and other Department of Defense components.

This year's second iteration of Sentry Aloha was built around distributed mission planning and operations. This concept enabled participants to operate with heightened levels of autonomy as warfighters accomplished a series of combat objectives.

[Read Full Story](#)

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**DMAVA Veterans Services**



theaters.

State medals include the Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, POW/MIA Medal, Desert Storm Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

[Learn More](#)

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# NEW JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**



# The Benefits Guide has been updated effective May 17, 2024.

Get Current Edition



## **SMS Alerts - Text "NJVets" to 78015**

Opt-in now to receive SMS Alerts from DMAVA! Text "NJVets" to 78015 or scan the QR code above and send. You will be immediately opted-in to receive alerts and important messages from the Division of Veterans Services.

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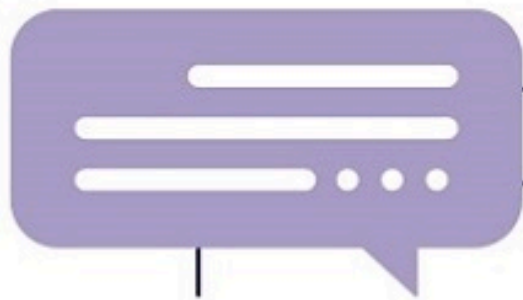
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**VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV**



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**NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline**  
**888-865-8387**

[vbb@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:vbb@dmava.nj.gov)

Veterans Outreach Schedule

Veterans Service Offices

## DMAVA Departments



## **National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey**

Students from the [1-254th Regional Training Institute](#) Infantryman Advanced Leadership Course at the National Guard Training Center toured the [National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey](#) in Sea Girt, NJ on June 26, 2024.

# NEW JERSEY

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## **Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

DEIB Newsletter



# **NJ National Guard Family Programs**

July 2024

July Newsletter

**State Partners**



## **NJ State Agencies**

- [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families](#)
- [The New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards](#)
- [Vote For Valor](#)
- [Career Services for Veterans](#)
- [Tax Resources for Military/Veterans](#)
- [Educator Certification for Military Spouses and Veterans](#)
- [Civil Service Preference for Veterans](#)
- [NJ National Guard Hunting / Fishing Licenses](#)
- [NJ Special Hawker and Peddlers License](#)
- [Veterans Designation for Drivers License](#)
- [Military CDL Skills Waiver Program](#)
- [Disabled Veteran / Purple Heart Recipient Placards](#)

- Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing Licenses
- Veteran and Disabled Veteran-Owned Business
- Division of Consumer Affairs Military Outreach & Support
- Professional & Occupational Licenses for Veterans and Spouses
- Military and Overseas Voting
- Troops to Teachers
- Journey Through Jersey

## Federal Partners



### **VA extends presumptions of service connection for three new cancer types**

*VA News | June 14, 2024*

WASHINGTON - Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is including three new cancer types in the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposure under

the [PACT Act](#). This announcement marks the continued commitment under the [Biden-Harris administration's Unity Agenda](#) and the [Biden Cancer Moonshot](#) to support the nation's Veterans.

Through a sub-regulatory policy letter published to the [Federal Register](#), the following three cancer types have been included in the list of presumptive diseases:

- Male breast cancer.
- Urethral cancer.
- Cancer of the paraurethral glands.

This policy establishes presumptions of service connection for eligible Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans who deployed to Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire [Southwest Asia theater of operations](#), which includes Iraq. Presumptive service connection means VA automatically assumes service connection for the disease and provides benefits to eligible Veterans who have submitted claims with evidence of a diagnosis.

[Read Full News Feature](#)

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## **Presidential Proclamation on Certain Violations of Article 125 under the Uniform Code of Military Justice**

On June 26, 2024, [President Biden issued a proclamation](#) that gave a full and unconditional pardon to individuals with court-martial convictions under former Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for conduct that involved consensual, private acts with persons aged 18 or older. It also pardoned individuals convicted of

attempts, conspiracies, and solicitation to commit a qualifying Article 125 offense under Articles 80, 81, and 82.

The pardon recognizes that many LGBTQI+ individuals who have served our country left the military on account of their sexual orientation or gender identity, some after court-martial conviction for former Article 125 offenses, which criminalized even consensual acts of sodomy. The proclamation helps to address this historical injustice against service members and their families.

[Read Full News Release](#)

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## **Weight Loss Surgery**

In this episode of theSITREP, the hosts chat with Dr. Ann Smith, Director of Bariatric Surgery, about Bariatric surgery: what is it, different types, qualifications, how it works, and much more. Visit chapters below to review the different topics discussed during this podcast.

[theSITREP Podcast](#)

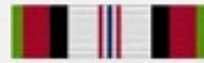
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VIETNAM



GULF WAR



POST - 9/11



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## Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)
- [Accessing Records from the National Archives or NPRC](#)

- [PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#)
- [How to Check Your PACT Act Claim Status](#)
- [Download VA Benefit Letters](#)
- [Podcasts on Veterans' Issues](#)
- [VA Health and Benefits Mobile App](#)
- [Women Veterans Call Center](#)
- [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#)
- [Million Veteran Program](#)
- [#VetResources](#)

## Community Spotlight



## **Civilian Commendation Medal**

Jane Kelly-Brickner was presented the New Jersey Civilian Commendation Medal by Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, at the DMAVA Headquarters in Lawrenceville, NJ on June 19, 2024.

Kelly-Brickner was presented the award for her distinguished volunteer service of over twenty years as corporate secretary for the [National Guard State Family Readiness Council](#).

[View Images](#)



## **Honor Military Veterans**

The NJBIZ Veteran in Business awards honors those who served in the military and are now business leaders in the Garden State. Winners will be recognized during a virtual awards ceremony in November 2024. Nomination deadline is August 11, 2024.

[Learn More](#)

## **Soldier Spotlight**



## **Specialist Elias Sanchez**

The Task Force Guardian Soldier of the Month is Spc. Elias Sanchez. Sanchez is assigned to HHC, [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#) and serves in a dual position as the S6 Help Desk Technician as well as Air Defense Battle Management System Operator. In this role, Sanchez has demonstrated a tireless work ethic, remarkable aptitude in grasping unfamiliar systems, and an overall positive disposition, which has made an impact on those around him.

In the month of June, he earned recognition from the New Jersey National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Lisa Hou, and achieved a physical fitness milestone by joining the 1,000 lb. Club.

“These accomplishments reflect his dedication and work ethic as a Soldier. He was chosen because of these qualities, and people have taken notice of his good deeds. As the Army saying goes, ‘Always do the right thing even when no one is looking.’ Spc. Sanchez has demonstrated this, along with maintaining his integrity with peers and leadership. He has consistently upheld the standards of excellence within the 44th IBC T and the S6 section, serving as an example of dedication and professionalism,” said his team leader, Sgt. Victor Rivera.

After hearing of his selection, Sanchez emphasized: “Being Soldier of the Month is a nice recognition, we should always strive to be at our absolute best. What matters most in the end is having an unwavering spirit and determination to get something done. That's what it means to be a Soldier.”

## Never Forget

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

July 4, 2012

Operation Enduring Freedom

**SSG Raul M. Guerra**

U.S. Army

Union City, New Jersey

July 8, 2012

Operation Enduring Freedom

**SPC Jonathan Batista**

U.S. Army

Kinnelon, New Jersey

July 10, 2004

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**CPL Terry Holmes  
Ordonez**

U.S. Marine Corps

Paterson, New Jersey

July 10, 2007

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**CPT Maria I. Ortiz**

U.S. Army

Pennsauken, New Jersey

July 10, 2011

Operation Enduring Freedom

**SPC Rafael A. Nieves  
Jr.**

U.S. Army

Bayonne, New Jersey

July 13, 2008

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**LCpl Jeffery Stevenson**

U.S. Marine Corps

Stillwater, New Jersey

July 16, 2003

Operation Enduring Freedom

**CDR Kevin Bianchi**

U.S. Navy

Maplewood, New Jersey

July 17, 2006

Operation Enduring Freedom

**SSG Robert J.  
Chiomento II**

U.S. Army

Pennsville, New Jersey

July 10, 2010

Operation Enduring Freedom

**SPC Carlos J. Negron**

U.S. Army

Lakewood, New Jersey

July 17, 2008

Operation Enduring Freedom

**1st Lt Jason D. Mann**

U.S. Marine Corps

Woodlynne, New Jersey

*"But on the battlefield their feet stood fast, and in an instant at the height of their fortune, they passed away from the scene, not of their fear, but of their glory."*

~ Pericles

NJ Fallen Heroes Memorial

**History**



Clark's Battery Monument at Gettysburg.

**July 2, 1863**

**July 4, 1812**

At Gettysburg, the Newark boys of New Jersey's Artillery Battery B, deployed near the Peach Orchard, fired 1,342 rounds, more than any other Union battery in the Civil War fired in a single day—and Battery B's day started at 2:00 p.m. As the Union Third Army Corps retreated, Battery B successfully disengaged from advancing Rebels and managed to withdraw all six of its guns to Cemetery Ridge.

New Jersey's Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh regiments were also involved in heavy action that day, from Plum Run through the Wheatfield to the north of the Peach Orchard, with the Eleventh staging an epic fighting withdrawal from the Emmitsburg Road to Cemetery Ridge.

### **July 3, 1863**

The men of the Twelfth New Jersey regiment, firing “buck and ball” ammunition (one round ball and three buckshot) in their obsolete smoothbore muskets, helped wreck Pickett's Charge on

Robert Fulton's steamboat Jersey took part in a historic first, the transport of troops across water by steam-power. Fulton's “most excellent machine,” two hulls connected by a single platform, ferried a battery of United States army “flying artillery” from Paulus Hook to Manhattan. It took four trips for the Jersey to get four guns, caissons, limbers, twenty-seven horses and forty men across the Hudson River. The ferry would serve as an important troop and supply transportation service throughout the war.

### **July 4, 1813**

An American subterfuge of hiding an armed party of sailors below decks on a local fishing boat, the Yankee, succeeded in capturing the British schooner Eagle off Sandy Hook.

### **July 9, 1864**

The Fourteenth New Jersey regiment was part of a force that fought a delaying action along the Monocacy River, near Frederick, Maryland, against Confederate

Cemetery Ridge. Some of the New Jerseyans took their paper cartridges apart and loaded as many as twenty buckshot pellets in their muskets. As the Rebels closed on the federal line, the Jerseymen rose up from behind the stone wall they were using for cover and delivered a crushing volley into the Twenty-sixth North Carolina, devastating that regiment and capturing its flag, which hung in Trenton until returned to North Carolina in the early twentieth century.

general Jubal Early's march on Washington D. C., holding up the Confederate advance long enough to save the capital from possible capture. The Fourteenth lost more men killed and wounded, and fewer prisoners, than any other Union unit in the battle.

### **July 9, 1892**

A five-hundred-pound shell fired from the United States ordnance testing range at Sandy Hook accidentally hit the schooner Henry R. Tilton and sank it.

## **Resources**

**A Resource Guide  
for New Jersey's  
Military,  
Veterans  
and Families**

**NEW JERSEY  
VETERANS'  
BENEFITS  
GUIDE**

**NJ VETERANS  
TRANSPORTATION  
PROGRAM**

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VA MEDICAL CENTERS	PRIVATE PHYSICIANS
CLINICS	VA REGIONAL OFFICES
OTHER HOSPITALS	VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES

**VA** | U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**Federal Benefits**

for Veterans, Dependents,  
Survivors, and Caregivers

2023 Edition

**DMAVA Careers**

## **We Are Hiring!**

At the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs we take our work in support of Veterans, Servicemembers and their families very seriously. Whether supporting our Veterans with nursing care, transitional housing, or assisting them in navigating access to their Veteran benefits, the Department provides valuable services and can offer rewarding career opportunities to members of the public.

We also have opportunities in facilities management and program management. In addition, we have job openings for members of our military to serve in AGR and Federal Technician roles.

Subscribe to [DMAVA Jobs Bulletin](#) to stay updated on job openings.

Vacancies

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