

# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



AUGUST 9, 2012

## *177th Airmen play opposing-forces at anti-terrorism exercise*



*Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing's 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, are briefed by Master Sgt. Joe Iacovone, far right, at the*

*Eugene Tighe School in Margate, N.J., Aug 1. The 177th unit members assisted in a county exercise by playing terrorists.*

**Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing served as the opposing forces in an anti-terrorism exercise in the sleepy shore town of Margate N.J., on August 1.

The scenario, which was created by Master Sgt. Joe Iacovone, a member of the 177th Security Forces Squadron and Jack Dever, the 177th Fighter Wing Anti-Terrorism officer; had the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron serving as terrorists who had taken over a school.

Emergency services personnel from both the state and the community joined together to respond to the incident.

"Uniting experts from both the military and civilian sectors pays enormous dividends to all the parties involved," said Iacovone. Iacovone, a traditional guardsman, is an Atlantic City police officer.

Ernie Cavagnaro, State Investigator for the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, observed the exercise.

"In the case of an actual event, it's important for small towns

to work together," said Cavagnaro. "These exercises help build camaraderie, as well as develop leadership skills that will be equally beneficial."

"These close working relationships enhance the Wing," said Dever.

Both state and local responders praised the 177th's involvement in the exercise, noting that Wing's participation brought a higher level of authenticity to the exercise.

For the participating Airmen, it provided them an opportunity to gain insight into the dynamics associated with hostage negotiations with an international terrorist cell.

"Given today's current threat environment, it is imperative that incident response training be performed using this multi-agency reaction concept," said Dever. "It provides those participating awareness and understanding of the various tactics, techniques and procedures."

"I think this was a very successful exercise," said Cavagnaro. "Everyone got the training and experience that they will need to prepare for the future."

## Transition GPS: Program will help transitioning troops get jobs

By Lisa Daniel, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- A redesigned program for service members separating from the military will help veterans better apply the experience they've gained in uniform, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said.

President Barack Obama announced the revamped program, called "Transition GPS," in a speech July 23 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention in Reno, Nev.

"I applaud the leadership of President Obama to bring together government agencies around the goal of enhancing career opportunities for service members," Panetta said in a statement. "Our personnel have developed extraordinary technical expertise and world-class leadership skills that are in high demand. Transition GPS will help military members apply their experience to additional training, formal education, and develop successful civilian careers."

Transition GPS is the first major overhaul of the military's Transition Assistance Program in nearly 20 years, White House officials said. TAP was developed by an interagency team from the departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Education and Homeland Security, as along with the Office of Personnel and Management and the Small Business Administration.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said the redesign will better ensure that veterans today and in the future will receive the care and benefits they have earned.

"One of our fundamental responsibilities as a government is to properly prepare and support those serving in our military so they are career ready as they transition back into civilian life," he said. "This collaborative effort will have an impact well beyond this current generation of individuals returning from combat."

The redesign is being developed by the Veterans Employment Initiative Task Force created in August to help separating service members successfully transition to the civilian workforce, start a

business, or pursue higher education.

TAP consisted of pre-separation counseling and a voluntary, three-day workshop from the departments of Labor, Defense and Veterans Affairs that was presented at selected military installations and attended by nearly half of the service members who separated from the services each year, White House officials said. Transition GPS is designed to strengthen, standardize and expand counseling and guidance for service members before leaving the military, and transform the military's approach to education, training, and credentialing, they added.

Transition GPS is to be implemented throughout the military by the end of 2013. It will:

- Extend the current three-day transition program to five to seven days;
- Offer individual assessment and counseling, including an individual transition plan;
- Include a five-day curriculum of financial planning, available veterans' benefits and services and a redesigned employment workshop;
- Include a "Military Occupational Code Crosswalk" to translate military skills, training and experiences into civilian occupations and credentialing;
- Include optional training specific to pursuing higher education, technical skills and training, or starting a business;
- Include a "capstone" event to verify that the participant is career-ready;
- Give a "warm handover" to appropriate government agencies and organizations for continued benefits, services and support of veterans; and
- Create a "Military Life Cycle Transition Model" to incorporate career readiness and transition preparation early into a service member's career.

## Voting info for upcoming election

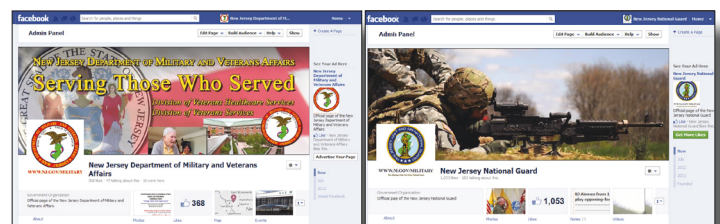
Attention military service members, the general election is approximately 90 days away. To register, request a ballot, and vote absentee go to [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) to complete your Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). It takes less than 10 minutes to complete using the online registration and absentee ballot assistant.

Help spread the word! Pass this on to other military or overseas voters, including spouses and voting age dependents.

If you would like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process, please contact FVAP at 1-800-438-8683, DSN 425-1584, or at [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov). And don't forget your unit or installation voting assistance officers. More info is available at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov), and don't forget to "like" us on Facebook at [DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP) and follow us on Twitter [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP).

E-mail your Photo of the Week or Highlights submissions to [wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us) OR [armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us)

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# HIGHLIGHTS



**Tech. Sgt. Rusty Litterer, 17th Fighter Wing, helps to secure the entry control point for Task Force Trident. Litterer is currently assisting with the processing of Detainee Review Boards in Afghanistan. Much of Litterer's responsibilities have been legal in nature, but he volunteered to work at the entry control point for Task Force Trident, where his responsibilities included pick-up, secure, and process Afghan civilian witnesses who are called upon to give testimony at the Detainee Review Boards. Courtesy photo**



**Army Staff Sgt. Dustin Widas, a squad leader with Company A 1-114th, New Jersey National Guard, leads a patrol during training at Thebephatshwa Air Base in Botswana. Widas is in Botswana as part of Southern Accord 12, an annual combined, joint exercise that brings together U.S. military personnel with counterparts from the Botswana Defense Force to conduct humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations, peace keeping operations and aero medical evacuation to enhance military capabilities and interoperability. Courtesy photo**



**Members of the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, prepare for a training mission in conjunction with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion at the 177th Fighter Wing, Egg Harbor Township, Aug. 8. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew J. Merlock, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**



**Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, welcomes two new members of the State Inspector General's office. Top photo, Maj. Walter Gill, will assume the position of deputy IG. Photo above, Col. Thomas Murphy, will assume the position of state command IG. Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA**



**2012 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event - Trenton NJ**  
 Sun National Bank Center  
 81 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton, NJ  
**September 12, 2012**  
**9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring our Heroes Initiative, Hero2Hired (H2H), the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the American Legion, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, and New Jersey's Employment Initiative Program on **September 12, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, for a job fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses, at the **Sun National Bank Center, 81 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton, NJ**. This event will be a one-of-a-kind **FREE** hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

<b>Employers</b> Must register for <b>FREE</b> at <a href="http://HoH.GreatJob.net">HoH.GreatJob.net</a>	<b>Job Seekers</b> Register for <b>FREE</b> at <a href="http://HoH.GreatJob.net">HoH.GreatJob.net</a> To guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.
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This Hero2Hired (H2H)-sponsored event is being supported by the Sun National Bank Center, US Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training, US Department of Veterans Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, NBC News, New Jersey VET2VET, and Allies Inc.

If you need assistance registering, please contact us at [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com).



[WWW.USCHAMBER.COM/HIRINGOURHEROES](http://WWW.USCHAMBER.COM/HIRINGOURHEROES)

Hero2Hired (H2H) is the official online partner for Hiring Our Heroes | Find Hiring Our Heroes online: [f](#) [t](#)

Hero2Hired (H2H) is a comprehensive employment program for Guard and Reserve members that provides job postings from military-friendly employers as well as career exploration tools, military-to-civilian skills transitions, education and training resources, and a mobile app.

**VETERANS OF AMERICA DAY**

TD Bank Ballpark  
 1 Patriots Park Bridgewater, NJ  
**4:00 pm on Sunday,**  
**August 26, 2012**

DISCOUNTED TICKETS MUST BE ORDERED IN ADVANCE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# OF "FREE" VETERAN TICKETS\* \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
 Somerset Patriots Baseball

Check Enclosed  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

x \$5.00 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type  
 Amex  Visa  MC  Disc.

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please Contact:  
 Marc Russioff, Somerset Patriots  
 VP of Public Relations  
 Ph 908.252.0700 x215 • Ex 908.252.0776  
 mrussioff@somersetpatriots.com

**\*FREE TICKETS FOR VETERANS ONLY**  
**Ballpark Address Listed Above**

**OPERATION JERSEY CARES**  
 SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

**PROUDLY HOSTS THE 10th ANNUAL**



**GUEST OF HONOR**  
**Medal Of Honor Recipient**  
**Colonel Jack H. Jacobs**

**Colonel Jack H. Jacobs**  
*U.S. Army, Platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne Division, Battalion Executive Officer in the 7th Infantry Division, and a Battalion Commander for 10th Infantry Regiment in Panama.*

*Recipient of:  
 Medal Of Honor (1969) For Actions In Vietnam, Two Silver Stars, Three Bronze Stars, and Two Purple Hearts*

We would like to welcome you, your family, and friends to Celebrate and Salute all of our Veterans. We owe them the respect and gratitude they have earned by defending our country and for all of the freedoms we enjoy today!

After the celebration, stay and enjoy the game between the @ 5:05 pm

**\*FREE\* TICKETS FOR VETERANS • Family & Friends – \$5.00 per ticket.**  
 Veteran Parade Contact: Joe Yunik 732-563-4012

## Unsung Heroes

AN ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE ON VIETNAM

*Perillo*

**SAVE THE DATE**

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation  
 Invites you to join us on  
**Friday, September 28, 2012 from 7-9 PM**

for a reception celebrating the opening of our latest exhibition:

*Unsung Heroes:*  
*An Artist's Perspective on Vietnam*

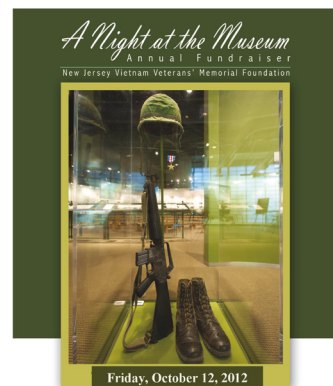
at the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center  
 Holmdel, NJ

**RSVP:**  
 Sarah Hagarty  
 732-335-0033 ext. 104  
[shagarty@njvvmf.org](mailto:shagarty@njvvmf.org)

Sponsored in part by:



## SAVE THE DATE



Friday, October 12, 2012

**NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

**Friday, October 12, 2012**

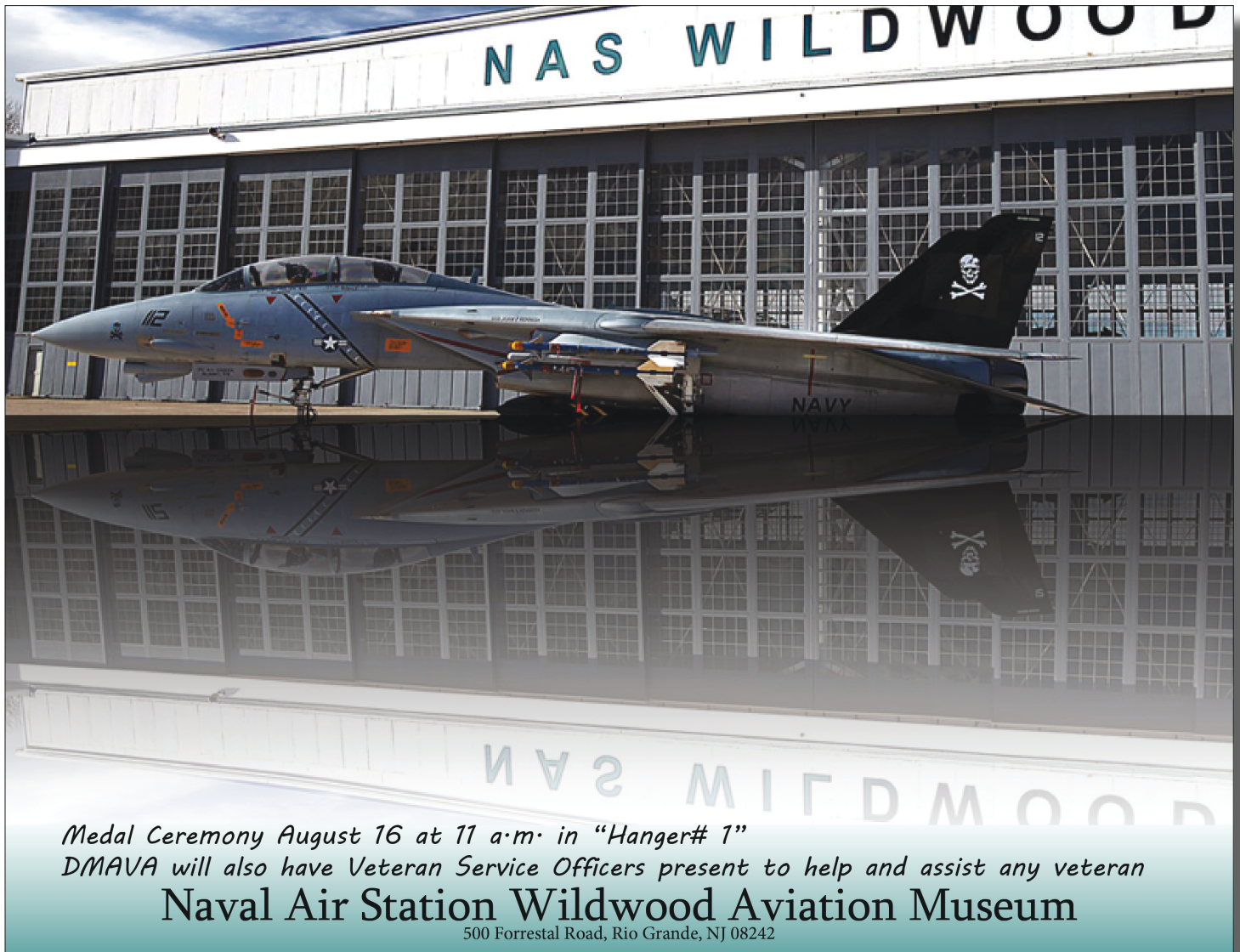
6:00 p.m. —9:00 p.m.

Honoring Captain Joseph Grano  
 Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center, Holmdel, NJ

**We Hope to See You There!**

For information call Lynn Duane (732) 335-0033 ext. 100  
 or visit [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org)

1 MEMORIAL LANE, P.O. BOX 648 • HOLMDEL, NEW JERSEY 07733 • 732.335.0033 FAX 732.335.1107 • [WWW.NJVVMF.ORG](http://WWW.NJVVMF.ORG)



*Medal Ceremony August 16 at 11 a.m. in "Hanger# 1"*

*DMAVA will also have Veteran Service Officers present to help and assist any veteran*

## Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum

500 Forrestal Road, Rio Grande, NJ 08242

## *Celebrating Our Veterans to host Veterans Freedom Festival*

Celebrating Our Veterans is sponsoring their first ever Veterans Freedom Festival Aug. 11 from 12-6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge# 580.

The festival's goal is to raise money for disadvantaged local Veterans and their families. Part of the proceeds will also be going to the "Officer Christopher Reeves Fund" in memory of the Millville police officer who was killed in the line-of-duty.

The event kicks off at noon with a Veterans Ceremony led by some of New Jersey's most decorated Veterans and state politi-

cians. The Veterans Freedom Festival will feature more than 10 bands performing on three stage areas, a kids zone, horseshoe tournament, Chinese auction, food and merchandise vendors, silent art auction, renown speed painter "Ed Peahota" painting 2 patriotic murals, and more.

More importantly, admission to the festival is FREE.

Please visit our website [www.celebratingourveterans.com](http://www.celebratingourveterans.com) for more details. Millville Elks Lodge# 580 is located at 1815 E. Broad Street in Millville.

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

### **New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General

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

Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist

Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist