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JULY 19, 2012

# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



*The leadership of the New Jersey Army National Guard say farewell to Soldiers of the 508th Military Police Company as they deployed from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 19. The MPs are deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and will provide security, as well as train Afghan National Police force units. U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen*



Be Safe Soldiers!



## Railways industry announces job opportunities for veteran service members

By Lisa Daniel, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines considering separating from the active-duty military this year may seek employment options in the railways industry, which on July 10 became the latest major industry to pledge jobs to veterans.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the 5,000-job pledge in a conference call with reporters, making rail the latest industry to offer jobs as part of the Joining Forces campaign. He was joined by Ed Hamberger, the president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads, and Navy Capt. Brad Cooper, the director of Joining Forces, which First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, created to help service members, veterans and their families.

Obama and Biden announced the hiring campaign last summer, with a goal of hiring 100,000 veterans or military spouses by 2013. Cooper said 1,600 companies have signed on to the Joining Forces challenge, hiring 90,000 veterans and spouses to date, with pledges to hire 170,000 more in the coming years.

What is unique about today's announcement, Cooper said, is that the 5,000 rail jobs are open now or in the very near future. They are listed on the association's website, <http://www.aar.org>.

The jobs offered by about 500 companies range from operating locomotives to working in signaling and telecommunications. "It's the whole spectrum of work," Cooper said. Most of the jobs are in freight rail, but also with Amtrak, commuter rails and rail supply companies, he said.

The industry is hiring because it's growing, Hamberger



said, with some \$23 billion in investments at the same time that nearly a quarter of the freight rail workforce will be eligible to retire by 2015.

"We want to reach out and let veterans know that we're hiring," he said.

The industry has actively recruited veterans since it sought out military academy graduates to help build the first railroad system more than 200 years ago, Hamberger said.

"We've learned that the skills service members learn in the armed forces translate very well to our industry," he said. "We first and foremost are focused on safety. You learn in the armed services that if you don't follow the rules, bad things happen."

"We need teamwork, dependability, and high tech," he said, noting that military experience builds those skills.

The rail industry made more than 20,000 new hires last year – which was 5,000 more than it expected – and one in four are veterans, Hamberger said.

Improving the nation's railways and hiring veterans are two of President Barack Obama's priorities, LaHood said. "Today's generation of heroes has made the United States safer and more respected around the world," he said. "The president has asked that we serve them as they have served us."

About 15,000 veterans work for the Transportation Department, LaHood said, and 3,000 of those have disabilities, many from their military service. The department recently created a Web portal – <http://www.dot.gov/veteranstransportationcareers> – "that tells our returning warriors what jobs are available and how they can become certified," he said.

"Helping our veterans find work and fulfilling our transportation needs [are] a win-win," he said.





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## DMAVA bike team looking for riders

Join Team DMAVA at this year's Bike MS: City to Shore Ride, Sept. 2-30.

Named by Bicycling Magazine as the "Best Cycling Getaway in NJ," the Bike MS: City to Shore Ride promises to be the best cycling experience on the east coast.

Ride with 7,000 cyclists of all ages and cycling abilities for the challenge of your choice with several route options from a one day, 25 mile ride to a two day, 150 mile ride. Enjoy flat terrain as you travel from Cherry Hill through the quaint towns and back roads of Southern New Jersey. Pedal through the blueberry fields of Hammonton, experience the serene beauty of the Pine Barrens, and listen to the waves as you roll into historic Ocean City.

This ride is fully supported with catered rest stops, bike support, and transportation. Invite your family and friends to cheer as you cross the finish line and enjoy a wonderful evening stroll on the boardwalk.

This is not just a ride, but an experience. The sense of accomplishment that you'll feel as you cross the finish line can only be matched by the difference you'll be making in the lives of people affected by Multiple Sclerosis.

To learn more about the Bike MS: City to Shore Ride, visit their website at [www.msccycling.org](http://www.msccycling.org).

Contact Team DMAVA captain Bill McBride at [william.mcbride@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:william.mcbride@njdmava.state.nj.us) or [bill.mcbride1@us.army.mil](mailto:bill.mcbride1@us.army.mil), or 609-530-7136 to learn more or to join the team.



## NJ State Deferred Compensation Presentation Plan Meeting

A representative from the New Jersey State Deferred Compensation Plan will be at DMAVA on Monday, July 30 July from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the TAG Command Conference Room.

There will be a group presentation from 10-11 a.m. A sign-up sheet will be available for anyone interested in meeting with the representative after the presentation.

Any questions regarding this meeting, please contact the Human Resources Division office at 609-530-6889.



*Margie Dinapoli, right, smiles proudly as she finishes pinning the rank of brigadier general on her husband's, John DiNapoli, uniform during his promotion ceremony July 14 at the New Jersey Army National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill. DiNapoli serves as the Assistant Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*

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### New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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