

DMAVA Highlights

September 16, 2010 Volume 12 Number 35



Unity Day runners



Left: Lt. Col. Jesse Arnstein is out in front of the four dozen runners who participated in the annual Unity Day 5K Fun run held this morning at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. With a time 18:28,

Arnstein, 21st Civil Support commander, was only two seconds ahead of Chaplain Shawn Found followed by Lt. Col. John Sheard. Right: Staff Sgt. Christina Ermi presents the trophy to first place female runner Airman 1st Class Allison Jones. A member of the 177th Fighter Wing, she recorded a time of 18:42. Photos by Kryn Westhoven, DMAVA Public Affairs

Covenant signing



Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, left, Chief of the Joint Staff, signs the Army Community Covenant while Lt. Col. Herb Koehler, right, Picatinny Arsenal Garrison Commander watches on Sept. 13. Morris County community leaders joined military representatives from the New Jersey National Guard and Picatinny Arsenal to pledge their support to uniformed personnel and their families by signing the covenant. The Community Covenant program is designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families, both at their current duty stations and as they transfer to other states. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

CST on exercise



Spc. Christopher Maute, 21st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), searches for simulated suspicious objects during a weapons of mass destruction exercise at New Meadowlands Stadium on Sept. 14. The 21st CST was joined by the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Office of Emergency Management, the United States Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, Meadowlands Fire Department, and the New Jersey State Police to train at the stadium located in East Rutherford. The units familiarized themselves with the stadium in the event they have to respond to a chemical/biological/radiological or nuclear event at the facility. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Award presentation at Sea Girt



The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, center, watches as Governor Chris Christie, left, congratulates Sea Girt Mayor Mark Clemmensen, right, for receiving the New Jersey Civilian Commendation Medal during the Veterans Commander's Call at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt on Sept. 12. Clemmensen received the award for his outstanding dedication, participation and support to the National Guard Joint Training Center Master Plan process and other Training Center operations and activities. U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Vineland worker needs your assistance

From the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home

One of the food service department employees at Vineland Veterans Home, Evelyn Acevedo, suffered a house fire recently and lost almost everything. While she is receiving assistance from the Red Cross, she does have three school age children and is in need of food and clothing.

Anyone who would be willing to help should contact Myong Dawson in the Vineland Home Food Service Department at 856-405-4314.

Some of the clothing needs are:

Boy – 34 inch waist pants/XL shirts

Girl (8 years old) – size 12; girl (11 years old) – size 3; girl (14 years old) – size 0-1.



Husband – 40 inch waist pants/2XL shirts.

Evelyn – size 11 pants/XL shirts

Bed linens – queen, full and twin.

Whatever the amount you can contribute, remember every little bit helps. Thank you.



DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

The other week I asked for ways you are being “green.” I have already received two replies – one with photos!

The first submission I got in my e-mail box was from Retired Chief Warrant Officer Five William Olson, formerly of the New Jersey Army Guard and of the JFHQ J1 office. He wrote:

“I have been taking peanuts and other bubble wrap to the local UPS Stores, and Mail Boxes etc.

They are also grateful to receive large sturdy packing boxes. I’ve dropped off mailing tubes and other heavy, reinforced cartons in which we’ve received art works.”

I also received a pack of photos from Luz Isip, secretary of the Bergen Veterans Service Office in Hackensack. She sent photos

of the purses and hats that she crochets from plastic grocery bags. She noted which stores’ bags went into each purse she made. It is interesting how bags from the various stores take on different looks in her creations. If you



knit or crochet and want to try Luz’ craft, type “crochet plastic

bags” or “knit plastic bags” into your web search engine and you will find a number of web sites with a large variety of patterns. Here are photos of two of her creations. The purse is from ShopRite bags and the hat is made from bags from the farmer’s market. Just think what you could make with your needles and some plastic shopping bags while watching television this fall.

Remember, if you are being green – send me your tips so I can publish them.

Keep Green!



Program open to loan money to women vets to start business

Women veterans who are interested in starting up their own business can find an advocate in the New Jersey Women’s Micro-Business Credit Program for Women Veterans.

Meant for women with a low income, the program will provide up to \$5,000 loans at .5 percent interest with up to five years for loan repayment.

Qualifications include: business must be independently owned and operated by a woman or women in the state of New Jersey; applicant must be a woman veteran; must attend the “Start Right!” seminar or five hours business consulting on business plans prior to applying; and must have little or no prior business experience.

Funds may be used for working capital, inventory, supplies, furniture, machinery, equipment and fixtures for a new business.

If interested, contact the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners Women’s Business Center at 973-507-9700 or e-mail Penni K Nafus, Director, at pnafus@njawbo.org.

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General

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

Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

CW 2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

Families

A night on the Great White Way

Love Broadway, but don't like the cost? Well, if you are a veteran, current member of the military or a family member – here is a treat for you.

A new non-profit, ARTS in the ARMED FORCES (AITAF) is attempting to bridge the gap between the military and theater companies by providing quality troop entertainment.

Free tickets will be given to veterans, current military members and their families to see and evening of monologues and jazz with performances by John Goodman, Eric Bogosian, Lauren Ambrose, Dianne Wiest, Lili Taylor, Jay O. Sanders, Jesse Perez and the John Batiste Jazz Trio.

The performance will be held on November 8 at 8 p.m., at The American Airlines Theatre, 227 West 42nd Street, New York.

To reserve free tickets go to www.aitaf.org, go to the "Contact" page, e-mail your name, rank, unit, and number of guests. There is no guest limit. The evening will be general seating, so first come, first served.

Note that the material performed is of an adult nature. No unattended minors may attend. There are six wheelchair-accessible seats available.

AITAF is run by former Marine and current actor, Adam Driver, and his fellow Juilliard graduate, Joanne Tucker.

Church sponsoring free 8-week re-employment seminar

The New Providence United Methodist Church is sponsoring a free eight-week re-employment seminar. Held Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 13, the seminar will be led by Lloyd Feinstein, founder of Career Marketing Consultants.

The seminar will be helpful to those who are unemployed or who anticipate having to make a job change. Each week will work on a different topic to help those attending prepare for today's unpredictable employment market.

Topics will cover: communicating your value, how to figure where to go in your next career, the resume, mechanics of the job search, and much more.

Feinstein has more than 25 years experience conducting these types of seminars and working as a fulltime career consultant and adviser to everyone from college graduates up to and including senior management executives and entrepreneurs.

Anyone is welcome to attend. The church is located at 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence. Visit <http://www.gbmg-umc.org/npumcnj/> for more information.

DoD offers interactive education resource for military families

Department of Defense Education Activity's Educational Partnership proudly presents "Students at the Center," an interactive educational resource for everyone involved in the education of the children of our military service members. It has a lot of information for families, military commands, school officials and more. Check out the Web site at <http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter>.

Military discount available for car show, Sept. 24-26

For those military members who enjoy hot rods, classic cars and more – the Goodguys 6th Great American Hot Rod & Custom Car Nationals is offering a military discount to their show on Sept. 24-26 at Pocono Raceway.

More than 2,000 hot rods, customs, classics, muscle cars and trick trucks through 1972 will be on view. While there you can visit the swap meet, see the cars for sale, check out the vendors and exhibitors and the Goodguys Builder's Choice Awards.

There's fun for the whole family with a model car show and free model make and take, too.

The gates are open Friday and Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m.-3 p.m. There is free parking.

Cost of tickets is \$18 for general admission, children 7-12 years old are \$6 and kids 6 and under are free. A three-day pass is \$45; Sat./Sun. pass is \$30.

Military must bring the coupon for \$5 off the show admission and be able to show their Military ID. To print your coupon please cut and paste the following website into your browser or click: http://www.good-guys.com/PDF/militarydiscount_2010.pdf

Pocono Raceway is located on Long Pond Road, Long Pond Pa. The phone is 1-800-RACEWAY (800-722-3929). For more information, visit www.greatamericannats.com.



Sittercity: new military childcare program

Your Sittercity membership is funded by the Department of Defense and is available at no cost to you! Go to www.sittercity.com/DOD to register.

Activate your membership today and find local sitters and military care providers- only takes 2 minutes.

Sittercity is America's largest and most trusted online source for in-home caregivers with over 1 million nationwide caregiver profiles. Sittercity helps you find:

- Babysitters: For after-school, hourly care, school vacations, deployment and PCS, extended work hours, special needs children, and anytime you need a sitter.
- Nannies: For full and part time, infant and young child care
- Certified CDH/FCC care providers
- Care providers who are authorized access to an installation
- Elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors

Your Sittercity membership gives you online access to local caregivers with profiles that include background checks, parent reviews, references, a 4-Step screening process, pictures and more.

Et Cetera

30th anniversary for Sea Girt museum

By Joseph G. Bilby, Assistant Curator

From modest beginnings in a former armory at the Sea Girt National Guard Training Center, the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey (NGMMNJ) has served both the National Guard and the people of New Jersey for thirty years. During those three decades the museum made steady progress in fulfilling its mission of preserving and presenting the state's vibrant military history to New Jersey's citizens through historically accurate exhibits, and has served a vital educational role as an accurate historical resource for students and researchers.

The NGMMNJ maintains three facilities open to the public; a main museum at Sea Girt, a volunteer staffed artillery annex at the Lawrenceville armory featuring an outside display of artillery pieces and armored vehicles as well as other exhibits (call 609-530-6802 for available visiting hours) and a room at the Trenton War Memorial open during concerts held at that venue. The Sea Girt museum also hosts the Veterans' Oral History Program, which has almost 400 filmed interviews with veterans from World War II to the present on file. The Sea Girt staff also answers research questions on New Jersey military history that arrive via internet, phone and mail from various locations in the United States and around the world.

The Sea Girt museum is open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., seven days a week in summer and three days a week plus four weekends a month during the remainder of the year. Historical aircraft and armored vehicles are on display across from the museum building.



Long time volunteer and retired New Jersey National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Fred Burns puts the finishing touches on the museum's machine gun display. Courtesy photo

The main museum gallery features exhibits created by a professional and volunteer staff which provide a visitor with a look at New Jersey military history from the early 17th century Dutch and Swedish colonies through the Revolution, Civil War, Spanish-American War and World Wars I and II through present-day operations, using original and reproduction artifacts, artwork and photographs. A professionally produced explanatory narrative allows a self-guided tour, although volunteer docents and/or staff are always on hand to enrich the visitor's experience with more detailed, explanations of the exhibits.

State retirement system election

The Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is holding an election for members of the board of trustees. There are four positions opening. One state, one county and one municipal representative will be elected for a three-year term as of July 1, 2011. An additional municipal representative will be elected for a two-year remaining term, effective July 1, 2011, to fill a position that is currently vacant and expires June 30, 2013. Candidates for all positions must qualify by nomination. Nominations are now being received for these positions.

The general responsibility for the operation of the PERS is vested in the Board of Trustees under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:15A-17. The Board meets monthly at the Division of Pensions and Benefits in Trenton. The statute provides that no employee shall suffer loss of salary or wages because of serving on the Board. A member who wishes to be a candidate for one of the above positions must be an active member of the PERS and must be nominated by at least 500 active PERS members. Only State employees may petition for State Representative, only County employees may petition for County Representative, and only Municipal employees may petition for Municipal Representative.

Instructions for the nominating process are available upon receipt of a written request to the Secretary of the PERS Board of Trustees. Nominations must be registered on or before 4 p.m. Jan. 14, 2011. Election ballots will be mailed to employers on or about

April 1, 2011 for prompt distribution to their employee members of the PERS. All qualified candidates will be invited to attend the drawing by lot for position on the ballot, if necessary, and/or the selection of term for the Municipal election on Feb. 16, 2011.

The PERS Board of Trustees has the responsibility for the proper operation of the Retirement System. The Board consists of six employee representatives, the State Treasurer, and two private citizens appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board meets once per month. Within the limits of legislation, the PERS Board has a certain amount of discretion in the solution of problems confronting the Retirement System in cases where complications exist that legislation alone cannot properly address.

PERS BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Adopt rules and regulations to provide for the payment of benefits and collection of monies as required by the statute.
- Establish rules and regulations within the limitations of statutes and opinions of the Courts and the Attorney General, designed to prevent injustices and inequities that may arise in the operation of the Retirement System.
- Resolve individual questions on the merits of each case in terms of statutes, opinions of the Attorney General, advice of the Actuary and cases cited by counsel as deliberated by the Courts.
- Review monthly and annual reports setting forth data such as assets and liabilities, income and disbursements and statistical summarization of membership as documented by the Actuary.

Veterans & Military

It's your money; come and get it

By Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15, 2010 - Time is running out for those who qualify to receive their Stop Loss Special Pay. The deadline to claim it is Oct. 21, but less than half of the more than 145,000 people eligible have submitted claims.

It's not a scam. And it's not a joke. It's YOUR money, so come get it.

Just in case you had forgotten, the 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act authorized retroactive stop loss special pay of \$500 for every month/partial month served in stop loss status.

Servicemembers, veterans, and beneficiaries of servicemembers who were involuntarily extended under stop loss between 9/11 and September 30th 2009 are eligible.

The Congress generously set aside \$534.4 million to pay out those funds, but as of the end of last month only \$219 million in claims have been paid.

We've used all kinds of different ways to reach out to people and let them know, including letters to homes and help from Veteran/Military Service Organizations. But there are still those who have yet to apply.

So, with the deadline fast approaching, I'm asking everyone who reads this blog to pass it on to anyone else you think needs to see it. Qualifying individuals have served — or are still serving — their country nobly and deserve to be paid the money they've earned.

The application process is simple and straightforward. No strings attached. But once the deadline passes, we cannot by law extend it. So jump online and check it out at: <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

Dinosaurs' Fall Gathering, Oct. 20

The New Jersey Air Guard Dinosaurs (those are retirees to all you working folk), are holding their Fall 2010 Gathering on Oct. 20, 1 p.m. at the Town and Country Diner, Bordentown.

The full luncheon menu will have salad, main course, coffee/tea and a dessert for \$20, including tax and tip. Those who RSVP will be obligated to pay even if they do not attend since the group is charged for the number of diners who reserved.

To reserve your space with the Tyrannosaurus Rexes, contact Mel Sylvester at 609-298-5970 or NuffSaidMel@aol.com no later than Oct. 15.

All current ANG/ARNG employees (soon to be retired) and ANG/ARNG retirees are invited.

Career, education fair, Sept. 25

The G.I. Go Fund and Felician College are hosting a Military Career and Education Fair on Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Felician College.

This fair includes jobs, colleges and support services. It is free for all veterans, military personnel and spouses. Here is an opportunity to explore career options, learn about education programs and opportunities and gather literature. Professional attire is recommended. Bring plenty of resumes.

The fair will be held at Obal Hall, 262 South Main Street, Lodi NJ. For more information, contact 973-802-1614 or manias@ci.newark.nj.ua. Register online at www.gigofund.org.

ESGR now offers award to spouses' employers for their support

During the past year, ESGR volunteers have heard a number of stories telling them about military spouses' employers providing outstanding support to families of service members, along with recommendations to include employers of military spouses for Patriot Award consideration.

ESGR has answered the call; the Outreach Subcommittee recommended and executive director, Ronald Young approved, spouses can now nominate their supervisor for the Patriot Award.

It's easy for a spouse to nominate their employer. A separate nomination form has been added to the ESGR website – www.esgr.org/PA.

For one Wichita, Kansas spouse, her supervisor shifted her nursing schedule at Wesley Medical Center. When her husband deployed, her supervisor allowed the mother of three to continue working, but also to be at home for their children during the school year. When babysitter options became too difficult to coordinate, she was granted a leave of absence with no questions asked. In Clarinda, Iowa, Teresa Johnson says Goldenrod Manor helped her with lawn care and sent care packages to her deployed husband. Teresa's supervisor is always willing to listen and work with her to accommodate her needs. This support is invaluable because not only is Teresa's husband deployed, but both of her sons are also overseas.

ESGR wants to capture more great stories like these and ask that you help spread the word that all spouses of Guard and Reserve members are now eligible to nominate their employers for the Patriot Award. To nominate their employer, they can go directly to www.esgr.org/PA and fill out the spouse nomination form. Each nominated supervisor will receive a Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation and a Patriot lapel pin. The certificate can be provided to the spouse for presentation to his or her employer, or presented to the employer by the ESGR State Committee.

Sell your vehicle without an ad

Do you have an RV, Truck, Automobile, Motorcycle or Boat that you want to sell? Well you are in luck....announcing the brand new Picatinny Arsenal FMWR Resale Lot. This is better than a classified advertisement -you can see what you are about to buy!

Located near the gas pumps, corner of Farley Ave. and Reilly Road, we offer six lanes for our active duty military and three for civilians, retired, on-post contractors. You can place your insured and inspected vehicle in this lot for up to 30 days. The cost is \$10 for civilians and free for all active duty military.

Contact Leisure Travel Services at 973-724-4014 to sign up.



Calendar

Tough Mudder, Nov. 20 and 21

How tough are you? Tough enough for a Tough Mudder?

A Tough Mudder is the TOUGHEST one day event on the planet. This is not your average mud run or boring spirit-crushing road race. The seven mile obstacle courses are designed by British Special Forces to test all-round toughness, strength, stamina, fitness, camaraderie and mental grit. Forget about your race time, simply completing the event is a badge of honor. Not everyone will finish, but those who do make it to the post-race party will have truly earned the right to call themselves a Tough Mudder.

The race is 12 miles long with 19 military-style obstacles and an estimated completion time of two hours and 30 minutes.

A Tough Mudder will take place on Nov. 20 and 21 (your choice of days), at the Tri-State Raceway Park, Englishtown, N.J.

The National Guard partners with the military-style race with obstacles. For those Guardsman who think they are tough enough for the event, there will be a \$30 discount for the fee on Sunday only of the event. If interested, e-mail info@toughmudder.com to get the code for the discount.

Register at www.toughmudder.com

The Tough Mudder is also asking for those interested to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior project. For more information contact Tough Mudder or visit <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>.

Run for the Fallen, Sept. 25

For the second year, runners will embark on a 140 mile run to honor every New Jersey service member killed in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The "Run for the Fallen" will take place Sept. 25 starting at Cape May Lighthouse and ending at the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial in Holmdel.

The runners will mark every mile of the journey with an American flag and a personal biographical card in honor of every fallen service member. Runners are active duty and reserve Airmen and Soldiers from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

The New Jersey "Run for the Fallen" was started in 2009 by Master Sgt. Bubba G.V. Beason who was stationed in the McGuire section of the Joint Base. He is currently deployed to Afghanistan, but has made plans to return to New Jersey for the run.

If you are interested in participating in the run, or for more information on the run, visit www.njrunforthefallen.org.

Savino golf tourney, Sept. 24

The 14th Annual LTC Dave Savino Memorial golf tournament will be held on Sept. 24 at the Hanover Golf Course, Wrightstown. The tourney begins at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start and will be played in a two person scramble format (best ball).

Cost is \$100 donation per person and includes greens fees, cart, refreshments and door prizes. A buffet lunch will be served after the tournament at the course.

Send your payments to 108th WG/MXQ, ATTN: SMSgt Mike Balas, 3333 Wonnacott Blvd., JBMDL, NJ 08641. Make checks payable to LTC Dave Savino Memorial Fund. If you have any questions, call Balas at 609-894-4692.

The course is located at 133 Larrison Road, Wrightstown, 8 1/2 miles west of Great Adventure, just off route 537.

Financial speaker at Dix, Sept. 28

Improve your financial outlook for the future in a special presentation by Peter Bielagus, "Young America's Financial Coach," at Timmermann Center, Dix on Sept. 28, 1-3 p.m.



Bielagus learned the hard way about debt – more than \$5,000 in credit card debt within six months of entering college. With determination, by graduation his cards were clean and he was on his way to financial freedom. He has written several books for students and young professionals about money and financial education and now also gives

more than 100 presentations a year on the subject.

The session is open to all DoD cardholders. For more information, call 609-754-3844.

Costume Social, Oct. 16

The National Guard Association of New Jersey will host the New Jersey National Guard Costume Social on Oct. 16, 6-10 p.m. at the Lawrenceville Armory.

The event is limited to 200 people, so RSVP your space to dress in your silliest, scariest or sharpest costume at the social. Cost for the social is \$20 for adults and includes beer, wine, soda, appetizers and dessert.

Make your check payable to NGANJ and send to NGANJ-Costume Social, PO Box 266, Wrightstown, NJ 08652.



Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

Oct. 5*, 6, 7

Brunswick Square Mall

Nov. 4**

Belleville Public Library

Nov. 8*, 9, 10

Ocean County Mall

*Medal ceremony 10:30 a.m.

**Medal only ceremony, beginning at 1 p.m.

