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# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY 11, 2013



## DMAVA STRONG

Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs

The screenshot shows the Military OneSource website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "PHASES OF MILITARY LIFE", "BRANCH OF SERVICE", and "THOSE WHO SUPPORT". Below this is a search bar with the text "What are you looking for?". The main content area is titled "Deployment" and features a large image of military personnel in a deployment area. To the right of the image, there is a section titled "THE LATEST" with a sub-heading "Coming Together Around Military Families Toolkit". Below this, there is a section titled "INSTALLATION PROGRAM DIRECTORY" with a search bar for "Family Center".

## NEW RESOURCE HELPS TROOPS AND FAMILIES PLAN DEPLOYMENTS

A new Department of Defense resource helps troops and their families plan for the “before, during and after” of deployments.

Barbara Thompson, director of DoD’s office for family policy, explained “Plan My Deployment” during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

“This is a new, interactive, online tool that supports service members and their families as they prepare for the different stages of deployment,” she said.

The new resource guides users through the “ins and outs” of deployment, Thompson said: from power of attorney and legal assistance considerations to financial and emotional issues. Other tips and tools address education and training benefits, she added.

“We modeled this after the very, very popular ‘Plan My Move,’ which helps with [permanent change of station] moves,” she said. “It’s the same kind of approach: we look at providing the tools and information, and you tailor it to your individual family’s needs.”

Plan My Deployment saves the user’s information, she said, so people can exit from the site and return at their convenience, picking up where they left off.

Though other deployment planning guides and resources already exist, Thompson said, DoD leaders wanted to offer family readiness assistance to the entire active duty, National Guard and Reserve force and their families.

While the pace of deployment across the services has dropped since U.S. forces left Iraq and will continue to decline as the combat mission in Afghanistan draws to an end, Thompson said, service members always will face the possibility of deploying for duty.

“Let’s face it: military members deploy all the time. ... We’ve learned a lot of lessons during this long-term conflict, and we want to make sure that our service members and their families are prepared for what’s in the future,” she said.

Plan My Deployment is available at DoD’s Military OneSource website [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil), which also offers a range of other services for military families, she said. Thompson pointed out the site is “outside the gates” in the public domain, so it is available to extended family members who don’t have access to military facilities.



Military Honor Guards fold the U.S. flag before dozens of family members and veterans at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in North Hanover, Dec. 27, 2012, for the burial of Army Staff Sgt. Zoltan Joseph Dobovich. Dobovich remains were recently identified from the wreckage of a B-17 bomber he was flying over the Italian Alps Nov. 1, 1946. The first remains of the eight service members aboard the aircraft were found at 12,000 feet in the Alps in 1947. At the time the remains found were buried in a single grave at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., with a marker listing the names. His brother, Anthony, also a military veteran is buried at the state veterans cemetery. For details on Dobovich, please visit the POW/MIA awareness website at [www.powmiaawareness.org/mia-wwii-remains-returning-staff-sergeant-zoltan-joseph-dobovich-us-army-air-corps/](http://www.powmiaawareness.org/mia-wwii-remains-returning-staff-sergeant-zoltan-joseph-dobovich-us-army-air-corps/). (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA Public Affairs)

## MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

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## Scholarship opportunity for service members and their families

Kaplan University and American Freedom Foundation have a great scholarship opportunity for family members who may be students or considering being students at Kaplan University.

Who is eligible? Applicants must meet all of the following criteria: Be a dependent child under 24 years-old\*, or spouse of U.S. service personnel†, or child or spouse of a deceased U.S. service member‡.

What are the details of the award?

- One scholarship will be awarded that will cover the full cost of an online associate's or bachelor's degree program (tuition and fees, books, required materials and technology and clinical fees, if any), as chosen by the award recipient, at Kaplan University.

\* Dependent children are defined as biological, step- or legally adopted children living in the service member's household or primarily supported by the service member.

† Service personnel are defined as those members who are on active duty, as well as current members of the National Guard or Reserve.

‡ Surviving spouses are defined as those individuals married to active duty, National Guard or Reserve service member where such service member was deceased in the line of duty after Sept. 11, 2001.

For more information, please visit [www.scholarshipamerica.org/aff](http://www.scholarshipamerica.org/aff)



Are you interested in a career in cyber security? Here is why you should; cyber security positions are among the most secure and the highest salaried in the Information Technology profession.

Consequently, there is an urgent need to develop cyber security talent in our country and it is starting here in New Jersey. Through a unique partnership between the state of New Jersey, Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, N.J., and the CyberAces Foundation, you are invited you to register to participate in a competition for scholarship and entry into an elite training program through the Brookdale Community College Cyber Center.

Registration is free and closes Jan. 15. Make sure to mark military status to qualify for full benefits: [bit.ly/CyberRegister](http://bit.ly/CyberRegister).

Learn more about the program at [www.cybercenters.org](http://www.cybercenters.org).

## Payroll Tax Changes for 2013 and beyond

Attention DMAVA employees: Effective with paychecks issued Jan. 1, 2013 and thereafter; the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax withholding will increase to 6.2 percent in 2013 due to the expiration of the Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act on Dec. 31, 2012. The total FICA taxable wage base for 2013 has increased to \$113,700. The Medicare rate of 1.45 percent is unchanged for 2013. There is no Medicare wage base.

Furthermore, The Disability Insurance (TDI) rate is increased from 0.2 percent to 0.36 percent. The Unemployment Insurance contribution rate remains at 0.3825 percent, and the Workforce Development rate remains at 0.0425 percent. These two are combined towards the Unemployment Insurance Contribution (UIC) rate of 0.425 percent. The Family Leave Insurance (FLI) contribution rate is increased from .08 percent to .10 percent. The annual taxable base for all three items is increased from \$30,300 to \$30,900. The new maximum deduction amounts are \$111.24 for TDI; \$131.33 for UIC, and \$30.90 for FLI.

Finally, Federal Income Taxes (FIT) will continue to be computed using the 2012 FIT withholding tables until new tables are issued by the Internal Revenue Service. The Supplemental Flat Rate percentage has increased from 25 percent to 28 percent, effective with Supplemental A, 2013. There are no changes to the New Jersey State Income Tax tables or the Pennsylvania withholding rate for 2013.

If you have any issues or questions, please contact your local Human Resources office.

## MBOS: Use It

Attention NJ DMAVA state employees:

Effective Feb. 1, any active employee who wishes to verify, update, or change their beneficiary information within the retirement system must use the Online designation of beneficiary application, which is accessible through a personal account within the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS).

MBOS can be accessed by following this link: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Human Resources Office.

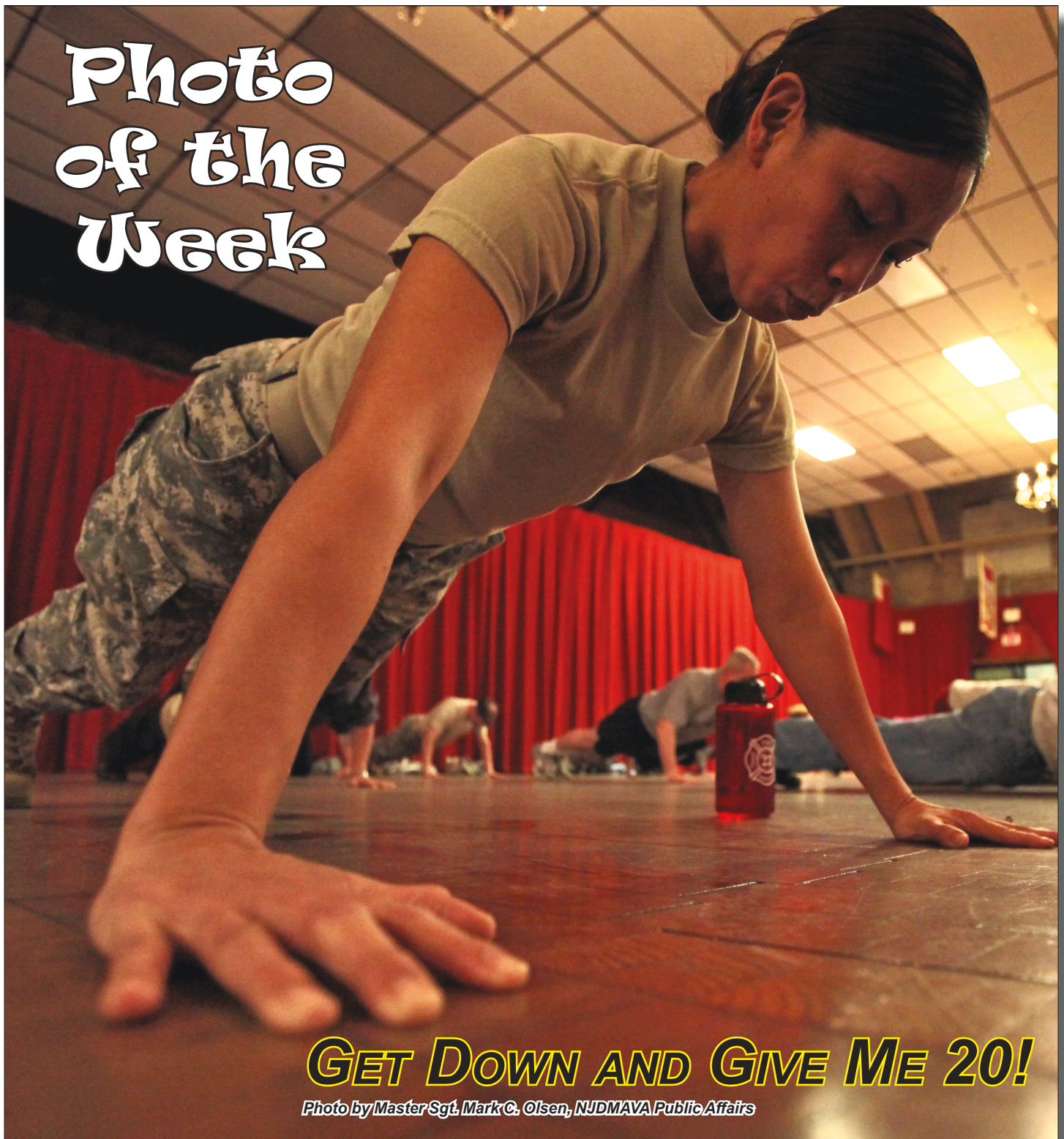
E-mail your Photo of the Week or Highlights submissions to:

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OR

[armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us)

## Photo of the Week



**GET DOWN AND GIVE ME 20!**

*Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs*

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