

[View in Web Browser](#)

January 17, 2024



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



From The Adjutant General

Godspeed Jersey Blues

Last Sunday, together with Governor Philip D. Murphy, Senator Cory Booker, Congressman Andy Kim, and our partners in the Governor's Cabinet, New Jersey Legislature, Veterans Service Organizations, and local and county elected officials, I had the distinct privilege of welcoming our families and loved ones to a farewell ceremony for the Soldiers of the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

In addition to the roughly 1,500 "Jersey Blues" who were our honored guests, we were joined by over a thousand New Jerseyans to recognize the 44th IBCT for their selfless service, courage, and commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Americans all over the world.

This mobilization represents the next step in a long and arduous journey that began with a successful 2022 rotation at the

eXportable Combat Training Capabilities exercise at Fort Drum and the 2023 rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson. This is the culmination of years of leader development, training, and working together to ensure that our Soldiers are ready to meet any challenge in defense of the shared values that unite us all.

In total, this year will represent the largest deployment of New Jersey National Guard personnel since 2008. In addition to the 44th IBCT, today, as you read this, we have Soldiers and Airmen deployed to America's southwest border and overseas in the Middle East. I am confident in their ability to not only meet standards, but exceed them.

Here in the Garden State, I humbly ask our readers to join me in supporting the families, friends, and loved ones of those who are forward deployed. Their sacrifice and service is also essential to our mission. There are many ways to access and pitch in with support, and if you would like more information, please contact my team and me. Above all else, if you are a family member of anyone who is deployed, please know that every member of our big New Jersey family stands ready to provide a helping hand and support.

The service of our team is vital to America's global leadership.

I offer my best wishes for success and a prayer for their safe return.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at outreach@dmava.nj.gov.

Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou, D.O.
The Adjutant General & Commissioner



Featured Event



Multiple Dates and Locations
Free Eight-Hour Training Sessions

Mental Health First Aid Training

Learn How to Support Veterans

Intended for community organizations that interact with Service Members, Veterans, and their families at the local level, but is open for all interested participants.

[Learn More and Register](#)

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.

- January 20 | Battleship New Jersey
[Camden County Veterans Outreach Retreat](#)
- January 20 | Elmwood Park
[1st Annual Fitness and Suicide Prevention Day](#)
- January 21 | Bordentown
[Reserve & National Guard Transition Benefits Workshop](#)
- January 23 | Morristown
[Quarterly Women's Open Forum](#)
- January 27 | Willingboro
[PACT Act Information & VA Claims Clinic](#)
- February 10 | Bordentown
[Transition / Retirement Seminar](#)

Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

NJ National Guard



Farewell Ceremony

The New Jersey Army National Guard's [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#) held its farewell ceremony at the Cure Insurance Arena, Trenton, NJ on January 14, 2024.

More than 1,500 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers will deploy in support of U.S. Central Command's Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve. CJTF-OIR advises, assists, and enables partnered forces until they can independently defeat Islamic State of Iraq and Syria -ISIS - in designated areas of Iraq and Syria, in order to set conditions for long-term security cooperation frameworks.

It is the largest deployment of New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers since 2008.

[View Images](#)

[View Video](#)



National Guard Readiness Center

DMAVA Public Affairs | January 5, 2024

MANCHESTER, N.J. – The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate

the opening of a National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Jan. 4, 2024.

The event was attended by U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, 4th District; staff of U.S. Rep. Andy Kim, 3rd District; JBMDL mission partners; senior leaders of the New Jersey Army National Guard; design and construction leads from DRG Architects, AIA, Inc, DMD Contracting, LLC; and project managers from the NJDMAVA Construction & Facilities Maintenance Office.

“I am grateful for the support of the federal legislature and Governor Phil Murphy in prioritizing the funding for this project, and for the many teams that have guided this project from concept to reality in the last five years,” said Brig. Gen Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of Military and Veterans Affairs. “This facility gives our Soldiers a phenomenal foundation for the training that will prepare them for future calls of our state and nation.”

[Read Full News Release](#)

[View Images](#)

Join Our Team

100% Free College Tuition

Bonuses up to \$20,000

Student Loan Repayment



DMAVA Veterans Services



State Medal Ceremony

DMAVA held a State Medal Ceremony at the AEGIS Technical Representative Office, Combat System Engineering Development Site, [Naval Sea Systems Command](#) in Moorestown, NJ on January 11, 2024.

[View Images](#)

**THE DMAVA READJUSTMENT
COUNSELING PROGRAM PROVIDES
VETERANS WITH:
INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
GROUP COUNSELING
FAMILY COUNSELING**

**SCAN THE CODE AND CALL YOUR
LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER,
OR CALL:
(888) 865-8387,
OR EMAIL:
VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV**



**SUPPORT
IS PEER TO PEER**

Call Us 24/7
7 days a week
(866) 838-7654

The graphic features a dark blue banner at the top with the text 'SUPPORT IS PEER TO PEER' in white, distressed font. Below the banner is a white background with a purple speech bubble icon on the left. To the right of the speech bubble is a stylized illustration of a man with a beard and a headset, representing a customer service representative. Below the illustration is the 'NJ VETZVET' logo, which includes the letters 'NJ' in blue and 'VETZVET' in red.

NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline
888-865-8387
vbb@dmava.nj.gov

Veterans Outreach Schedule

Veterans Service Offices

DMAVA Departments



Family Assistance Centers

Unsure who to contact for resources or where our Family Assistance Centers are located?

Our team of eight is spread throughout the state. Our specialists are knowledgeable about the community resources for the counties in which they serve. Don't hesitate to reach out!

For more information, contact the Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist at your local [Family Assistance Center](#).



MLK Day of Service

On January 5, 2024, employees at the DMAVA headquarters campus in Lawrenceville donated blood to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

State Partners



Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Paving New Career Pathway in Education for New Jersey Veterans

January 8, 2024

TRENTON – Governor Murphy today signed [S2764/A4361](#) to establish a four-year “VETeach Pilot Program” within the Department of Education. The pilot program aims to facilitate the teacher certification of veterans to address the high rate of unemployment amongst veterans while ensuring a high-quality teacher workforce. Under the bill, up to four public universities will be selected to enroll veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001 in a 36-month teacher preparation program.

“The legislation I am signing today will not only create a new avenue to gainful employment for the men and women who have made great sacrifices in service to our country and our state, but it will also promote the recruitment of teachers into New Jersey’s

public schools,” said Governor Murphy. “By encouraging veterans to enter the teacher workforce and supporting them through the certification process, we can enhance the learning experience of our students by staffing our classrooms with qualified educators from our state’s veterans community.”

[Read Full News Release](#)

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's Caregiver Support Program | Get Paid to Care for Your Veteran

In this episode, theSITREP chats with Colleen Richardson about the Department of Veterans Affairs' Caregiver Support Program and

how Caregivers are supported with a multitude of programs and services, to include a monetary stipend for qualified Caregivers.

To learn more call 1-855-260-3274 for the Caregiver Support Line.
[theSITREP Podcast](#)

VA now offers online ordering for CPAP supplies

December 4, 2023

Veterans who rely on CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines to manage sleep-related breathing disorders, including sleep apnea, now have a new [streamlined online ordering system for CPAP supplies](#).

VA has added the CPAP supply ordering feature as part of the online tool that's already in place, same as how veterans [order hearing aid supplies](#) on VA.gov. The addition improves how veterans order, manage and efficiently receive health care supplies. It's a notable improvement to the previous CPAP supply ordering process, which was by phone call or traditional mail order forms sent to VA's Denver Logistics Center (DLC).

[Read Full News Release](#)

National Parks Pass

A lifetime pass for Gold Star Families & Veterans is being offered to demonstrate the country's immense gratitude and respect for those who have served and defended our country.

[Learn More at VA News](#)

VALife Insurance

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) provides guaranteed acceptance whole life coverage of up to \$40,000 to Veterans with service-connected disabilities. Lesser amounts are available in increments of \$10,000. Under this plan, the elected coverage takes effect two years after enrollment as long as premiums are paid during the two-year period.

All Veterans age 80 or under with a VA disability rating of 0 to 100% are eligible for the VALife program and have no time limit to apply.

[Learn More](#)

Featured Links

- [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



VFW Auxiliary Post 386

On January 9, 2024, Auxiliary 386 hosted veterans from the [Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland](#). It was a great event with a delicious lunch, a professional magician and gift bags!

Image and caption courtesy [VFW Auxiliary - Department of NJ](#).



Battle of Princeton

On January 7, 2024, Lieutenant Colonel David Eckenrode, Battalion Commander of the [3-112th Field Artillery Regiment](#), represented the Steel Battalion at the 247th commemoration of the Battle of Princeton.

The Steel Battalion traces its lineage back to New Jersey's Eastern Company of Artillery, which fought in the Battles of Trenton,

Assunpink Creek, and Princeton between December 26, 1776 and January 3, 1777. New Jersey's Eastern Company of Artillery continued to serve under General Washington for the duration of the American Revolution.

The commemoration included a re-enactment and wreath laying ceremony. We would like to thank the [Princeton Battlefield Society](#) for coordinating and hosting the event. It was truly an honor to be there.

In The News



Special send-off takes place for NJ National Guard's 44th Infantry Brigade Combat deployment

Sharifa Jackson | 6abc Action News | January 14, 2024

TRENTON, New Jersey (WPVI) - The Cure Insurance Arena in Trenton, New Jersey was full of family and friends wishing their loved ones off to the Middle East on Sunday morning.

The New Jersey National Guard is deploying approximately 1,500 soldiers from the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

It is the largest deployment of New Jersey Army National Guard soldiers since 2008.

[Read Full Story](#)



New Jersey soldiers prepare for deployment to Syria and Iraq

Madeleine Wright | CBS News | January 14, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (CBS) - Soldiers from New Jersey are joining the fight against an Islamic militant group in the Middle East. This will be the largest deployment of New Jersey Army National Guard soldiers since 2008.

Lt. Col. Omar Minott is among 1,500 New Jersey Army National Guard soldiers deploying to Iraq and Syria. This is his fifth deployment to the Middle East, he said.

His deployment is part of Operation Inherent Resolve, a military campaign to defeat ISIS.

"We have the people we need, we have the training that we need, we have the equipment that we need to fight and win," Minott said.

Ahead of the deployment, military families watched as New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and other officials honored the soldiers from the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at a special ceremony Sunday in Trenton.

[Read Full Story](#)



Soldiers of 102D Cavalry Squadron Get Send-Off at Westfield Armory

Tyler Brown | TAPinto Westfield | January 16, 2024

WESTFIELD, NJ - Ahead of their upcoming deployment to Syria, around 300 soldiers from the 102D Cavalry Regiment congregated with loved ones for a farewell ceremony at the Westfield Armory Monday.

The squadron, which includes troop regiments from Westfield, West Orange, Dover and Hackettstown, will soon deploy to Syria in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Command Sergeant Major Paul Greenberg of the 1st 102nd Cavalry Squadron said the send-off event provided an opportunity for troops to interact with loved ones.

[Read Full Story](#)



Veteran gives praise to the Cape May County CBOC

Alyssa N. Lisenbe | VA Public Affairs | January 8, 2024

U.S. Navy Veteran Joseph Hess gives praise to the care he receives at the Cape May County Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Rio Grande, New Jersey.

"It is a one stop shop," said Hess. "It's unbelievable. Anytime I go in...everyone is so nice and friendly. They show concern..."

Hess is a regular patient at the Cape May, NJ CBOC but while visiting Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, he needed care and was able to be seen and have his issue resolved the same day at the Myrtle Beach VA CBOC.

Mr. Hess found that this great care was universal between these two VA clinics. Hess urges his peers to learn more about VA benefits.

[Read Full Story](#)



The generosity of one New Jersey Post aided a woman on her journey to a NASA career

Janie Dyhouse | VFW Magazine | January 5, 2024

Growing up in the small community of Cape May, New Jersey, Gabrielle Masterson had a fascination with outer space. More focused on the arts and less on math and science, Masterson would paint pictures of space and the planets.

"I found space amazing and terrifying at the same time," Masterson said.

During her junior and senior years of high school, Masterson began taking advanced placement math and science classes.

She had a goal of going to college to study physics after she graduated high school in 2018. Getting there, she knew, was not going to be easy with the cost of college tuition.

Masterson said her guidance counselor spoke to her about multiple awards and scholarships for which she could apply. One of those was the Citizenship Award sponsored by [Cape May's VFW Post 386](#).

She wrote an essay describing how one day she hoped to work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Masterson's essay was selected, and she earned a \$500 award to help her get started at the University of Kentucky.

[Read Full Story](#)

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.

January 19, 2012
Operation Enduring Freedom

Cpl Kevin J. Reinhard

U.S. Marine Corps
Colonia, New Jersey

January 26, 2005
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Cpl Sean P. Kelly

U.S. Marine Corps
Pitman, New Jersey

January 23, 2010
Operation Enduring Freedom

LCpl Jeremy M. Kane

U.S. Marine Corps
Cherry Hill, 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



Grave marker for Civil War Veteran George Ashby.

January 19, 1932

When A. Harry Moore was inaugurated for his second term as governor of New Jersey before a crowd of thousands in Trenton. His honor guard escort was Newark's Essex Troop, the founding unit of the 102nd Cavalry.

January 25, 1844

George Ashby was born in Burlington. Ashby, an African-American, served in the Forty-fifth United States Colored Infantry regiment during the Civil War from 1864 to 1865, rising from private to first sergeant. When he died in Allentown, on April 26, 1946, Ashby was the last surviving New Jersey Civil War veteran.

January 25, 1942

Varanger, a Norwegian tanker sailing from Curacao to New York City with 12,750 tons of fuel oil, was torpedoed by a German submarine at 3:00 AM twenty-eight miles off Atlantic City. Hit by three torpedoes, Varanger split into three pieces, but all hands escaped in life boats. The crew was rescued by two fishing boats and brought to the US Coast Guard station at Sea Island Inlet, arriving there at 12:45 PM.

January 29, 1833

Alexander Arsace Vandoni was born in Italy. Vandoni emigrated to America in 1841, eventually settling in Chatham as a self-employed broom maker. In 1862 he enlisted as a musician in the Twenty-seventh New Jersey Infantry. After campaigns in Virginia and Kentucky, Vandoni was discharged with his regiment in 1863, and returned to Chatham as one of a relatively small number of Italian-American Civil War veterans. He died on February 29, 1908 and is buried in Florham Park.

January 29, 1957

The New Jersey National Guard ceased to be an all-male organization when the first women soldiers in its history, two nurses, Captain Frances R. Comstock and 1st Lieutenant Lucille Valentino of Paterson, were sworn in as members of the 114th Mobile Surgical Hospital.

Did You Know?



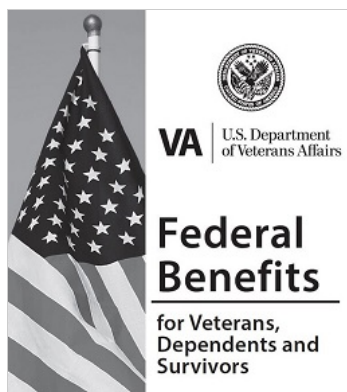
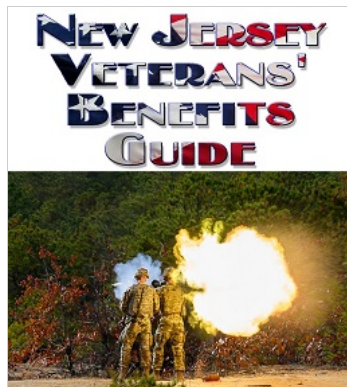
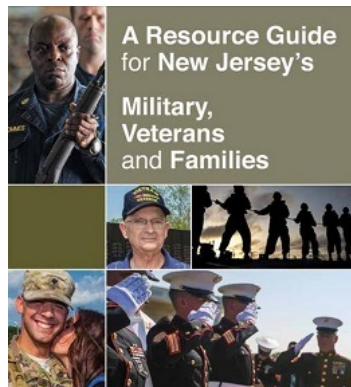
The Jersey Blues

The first organized militia regiment in New Jersey was formed in 1673 in Piscataway. It was not until the mid-eighteenth century that the term "Jersey Blues" came into popular usage.

The term "Jersey Blues" derives from the uniform adopted by the New Jersey provincial legislature for its troops, which were assigned to service under the British Crown Provincial Forces. The coats of these Jersey units were blue with red lapels and cuffs.

The regiments of the Jersey Line during the American Revolution and those of the New Jersey Volunteers, raised for Federal service during the Civil War, adopted the moniker. Its use continues today by elements of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

Resources



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

Vacancies

Stay Connected



We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter and find it both educational and engaging. If you have questions about our department, our programs or your benefits, please visit our website at nj.gov/military to get contact information.

Contact DMAVA

Please email us at outreach@dmava.nj.gov with feedback and comments regarding the newsletter. If you would like to contribute with an item of interest to our subscribers, please email us your proposal.

Visit the [DMAVA archives](#) to view previous editions of our newsletter.

Forward to a friend

Subscribe



nj.gov/military

NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
101 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

[Privacy Notice](#)

Disclaimer: The appearance of any non-DMAVA information or hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement of the products or services on the part of the New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.