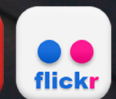


NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 29, 2015



Engineers uncase colors

By Spc. Oscar Baldriche, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

It's been 20 years since this flag has been raised.

On Oct. 18, 2015, the New Jersey Army National Guard 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion became the 104th Brigade Engineering Battalion at the National Guard Armory in West Orange.

The unit held the ceremony to commemorate their re-designation as an engineer, combat engineer and sustainment engineer battalion.

Since Oct. 6, 1917, the Battalion has been activated and deactivated time and time again to complete the mission and fulfill the needs of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

"The lack of engineers to support, enhance and provide the capabilities to successfully complete the mission on hand has been a difficult task. The Army has had to rely on other branches such as the Navy, Air Force and Marines to perform construction missions," said Lt. Col Dave Melendez, 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Commander, who was promoted during the ceremony. "With this activation, things are back in place."

Since World War I, the 50th's mission has been to provide combat effectiveness, operational control and successfully perform construction missions. With this re-designation along with the gaining of 20 additional personnel positions into the engineer battalion is part of a restructuring process that has been more than a decade in the making.



Col. Edward Crystal Jr., left, Commander, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, passes the newly unveiled 104th Brigade Engineering Battalion colors to incoming Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Dave Melendez during a battalion stand-up and change of command ceremony at the West Orange Armory Oct. 19, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Addison/ Released)

"I am excited to see where this can go," Melendez said. I am fortunate and privileged to be the commander and a member of this unit. The 104th has been revived to answer the call to duty."

ATTN: VETERANS & CONCERNED CITIZENS!

Are you concerned on how Veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are treated in judicial proceedings?

Let your voice be heard

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #170

33 WEST PASSAIC STREET

ROCHELLE PARK, NJ 07662

This Public Hearing is open to anyone. All those wishing to give testimony please be on time and prepared to give both oral and written testimony.

This Public Hearing is being held by a Task Force created by the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly and overseen by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Task Force shall examine current data, research, programs and initiatives related to the impact of PTSD upon Veterans to include those members of the New Jersey National Guard and how it has affected their treatment in judicial hearings.

The Task Force shall also identify effective strategies for the court system to adopt to effectively interact with Veterans diagnosed with PTSD and develop recommendations to implement those strategies, including legislation or court rules, if appropriate, based on their findings. Three Public Hearings will be held and a final report shall be issued to the Governor.

To register to give testimony, or if you have any questions please contact:

Albert Bucchi
Ph. 609-530-6962

Albert.Bucchi@dmava.nj.gov

Chuck Robbins
Ph. 609-530-6855

Chuck.Robbins@damava.nj.gov

Cynthia Barnes
Ph. 609-530-7075

Cynthia.Barnes@dmava.nj.gov



E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov by close of business Wednesday

COVER PHOTO

UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with the New Jersey Army National Guard's 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion on the flight line at sunrise at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 19, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

NJ STOLEN VALOR LAW HAS TEETH

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs

You have seen the videos on various social media sites: Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors confronting people who are wearing a uniform who have never served and are trying to get perks or recognition for “their service”.

On Monday, Gov. Chris Christie signed Assembly Bill 4104 into law.

The New Jersey Stolen Valor Act makes it a third degree crime for anyone who uses military uniforms, medals or insignias, and certain false statements regarding receipt of military awards with the intent to obtain benefit.

“The service and sacrifice of our current military members and veterans to New Jersey and the nation is unequalled,” said Christie. “This administration’s commitment to these brave men and women has never been stronger. By signing these three measures, we are not only reaffirming a pledge to those who serve, we are providing important opportunities for educational access and business development, and upholding the integrity and dignity of their



service by punishing those who misrepresent themselves as serving in the military.”

The law states: “Any person who knowingly, with intent to impersonate and with intent to deceive for the purpose of obtaining money, property, or other tangible benefit, misrepresents oneself as a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or organized militia by wearing the uniform or any medal or insignia authorized for use by the members or veterans of the United States Armed Forces or the organized militia, by Federal and State laws and regulations, shall be guilty of a crime of the third degree,

subject to a minimum fine of \$1,000.”

Additionally the law covers: “Any person who knowingly, with intent to deceive for the purpose of obtaining money, property, or other tangible benefit, holds oneself out to be a recipient of any decoration or medal created by Federal and State laws and regulations to honor the members or veterans of the United States Armed Forces or the organized militia shall be guilty of a crime of the third degree, subject to a minimum fine of \$1,000.”

The fines will help fund the Military Dependents Scholarship Fund.

Christie also signed Bill A2849, which creates the Fund to provide college scholarships to the spouses and children of those killed, missing in action or disabled in Operations’ Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, or New Dawn.

In addition, Christie signed Bill A976 which creates State Contract Set-Aside programs for businesses owned and operated by disabled veterans.

Freedom Awards nominations open

From the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Nominations for the 2016 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Freedom Awards are open until Dec. 31, 2015.

Any Guard or Reserve service member can nominate their employer. If a service member does not have access to submit a nomination, a family member can nominate the service member’s employer on their behalf.

You can nominate small, large (500+) and public employers. The employer MUST be the service member’s current employer. Nominations for friends, family, schools, stores, etc. that are not the service member’s employer will not be considered.

To nominate your employer, go to <https://esgr.csd.disa.mil/fa/NominateYourEmployerView.aspx>

Click on the “Nominate” button at the top or bottom of this page. Open the form and review the questions before filling in any of the fields.

If you do not know how to answer any of the questions, print the form and gather the pertinent information before going any farther. Ask your employer or HR representative for clarification if you need assistance

answering the questions.

A nomination form must be completed in one session, so fill out the nomination form fully and accurately. There is not an option to save your data and submit later.

It is recommended that you use the cursor to enter your information in each field. Do not hit the “Backspace” button, as all typed information will be lost. Your information will not be saved until you hit “Submit.”

For each question, please provide supporting information in the text box below each question. This is your chance to enhance your nomination by providing thorough explanations of why your employer deserves to be considered for this award. For example: elaborating on pay and benefit policies, service member and family support provided. Explaining on all of the ways in which your employer supports you, your family, other service members and the military community will ensure the strongest nomination possible.

After your nomination is submitted,



it will go to a review committee in your state. Once the nomination period closes, the state will select semifinalists to move forward. A review board at HQ ESGR, a Department of Defense agency, considers all semifinalists for selection to the next round. The group of finalists goes before a National Selection Board comprised of senior Department of Defense officials, representatives from each of the seven Reserve Components, employer associations and past recipients of the Freedom Award. This selection committee makes recommendations for up to 15 recipients to the Secretary of Defense for final approval. Semifinalists are announced in early spring, and recipients are finalized by early summer.



The Military “MOM 2 MOM” Peer Helpline Program

SOME QUICK FACTS;

- ◆ Since 2001, over 2 million American children have had a parent deployed at least once.
- ◆ Over 900,000 have experienced the deployment of one or both parents multiple times.
- ◆ 37% of these children report that they have feelings of worry for the safety of their deployed parent. Children in military families experience high rates of mental health, trauma, and related issues.
- ◆ 30% of children in military families report feeling sad/hopeless regularly, nearly 1 in 4 report considering suicide.
- ◆ Caregivers in military families are often under 35/ female with only 5% male military spouses.
- ◆ 36.6% of women with spouses who deployed have at least one mental health diagnosis compared to 30% of women whose husbands have not deployed.
- ◆ Military Moms as the primary caregiver may feel their needs are overlooked and unsupported.

Military families have significant stressors often unrecognized by the civilian community. Stressors such as relocation, deployment, and lack of consistent services for family members are unique to our experience. As military service members actively serving our country, who is there to care for the families? Our team at Military Mom 2 Mom is here to serve you by dialing 1-844-645-6261 for Military Mom 2 Mom peer support services.

As a Military Mom you try to “fix” everything for your loved ones but some challenges cannot be fixed, but rather adapted to. The “Military MOM 2 MOM” Peer Support Helpline Program answers the need for both general stress and even special family challenges such as having a child with special needs.

An abundance of resources for military service members have been established with a focus on advocacy, education, and financial support for those patriotically serving.

The missing link however has been the recognition for the needed services for the primary caregiver’s mental health and wellness, specifically

By dialing **1-844-MIL-M2M1** (1-844-645-6261) **Military MOM 2 MOM** helpline program a military parent will receive the following services;

Military Mom 2 Mom Peer Support- Military M2M Peer Supporters will be available to provide telephone peer support to callers in need. Military family members trained in peer counseling and crisis support will offer peer support, explain resources, and explore your needs. Military Mom 2 Mom peer support is also available through our website for a live chat experience online.

Military Mom 2 Mom Clinical Assessment – Military M2M Clinicians will be on the helpline as part of the team of clinical professionals available to do telephonic assessment and gauge the depression, anxiety, and family & marital issues, etc. that may be impacting your life.

Military Mom 2 Mom Network- A Military M2M database of specially trained service providers will be available for referrals for your mental health needs.

Military Mom 2 Mom Support Groups- Within your communities Mom Peer Supporters will be available for Military Mom 2 Mom support groups.



1-844-MIL-M2M1
1-844-645-6261

RUTGERS
University Behavioral
Health Care

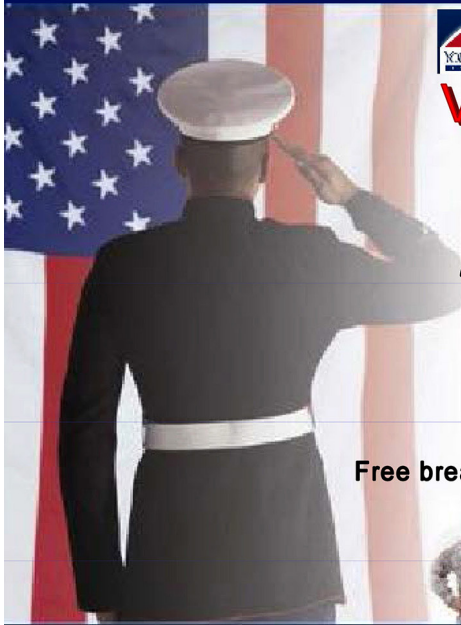


**ARMY
TEN-MILER**



GEN FRANK J. GRASS
CHIEF, NGB

Attention Businesses! Hire a Veteran!



You're Invited!

Veterans Job & Resource Fair

November 9th, 2015 ~ 9:30-12:30

Moorestown Community House,
Mainstreet, Moorestown, N.J. 08057

Meet Moorestown Mayor Napolitano

Get suited up with Suiting Warriors

**Special Guest Speaker
Lt.Col Scott Rutter (Ret.)**

Free breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages and so much more.



Just some of the organizations attending with job vacancies to fill.



Technology Resource Associates
Infrastructure



For more information and to reserve your free table, please contact Madeleine Morlino at 856.628.7421 or email madeleinemorlino@outlook.com

Thank you to Moorestown Community House for generously sponsoring this event.

Veterans Outreach Campaign

<p>Nov. 1 "15th Annual Salute to Military Veterans" Sussex County Fairgrounds 11 p.m. – 3 p.m. 37 Plains Road Augusta, NJ 08722</p> <p>Nov. 6 & 7 4th Annual Operation Stand Down In Morristown Morristown National Guard Armory 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Daily 430 Western Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960</p> <p>Nov. 8 Jersey City Parade for Veterans and Heroes 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Parade Starts at City Hall and ends at Harsimus Cemetery 435 Newark Ave. Jersey City, NJ 07302</p> <p>Nov. 9 Veterans Job & Resource Fair Moorestown Community</p>	<p>House 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 16 East Main Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057</p> <p>Nov. 10 Service Provider Roundtable 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. Paul Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University-Newark 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102</p> <p>Nov. 14 Veterans Benefit Seminar 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge 201 Howard Blvd. Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856</p> <p>Nov. 16 Sansone Hiring Fair 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. American Legion Post 471 – Iselin 25 Brown Ave. Iselin, NJ 08830</p>
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NJDMAVA Highlights is published weekly under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for all members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, their families, the New Jersey veterans community, retirees and civilian employees. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard Bureau, Veterans Affairs or the State of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, NJDMAVA, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. E-mail at: pao@dmava.nj.gov

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The US Family Health Plan has been a trusted partner of the Military Healthcare System for more than 30 years.

We provide the TRICARE Prime option to service families and retirees.

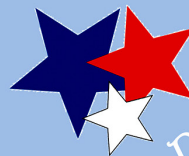
US Family Health Plan contracts with over 12,000 physicians.

For more information on our plan, visit us @ usfhp.net



SAVE THE DATE!

42nd Annual Enlisted Association Conference



Patriotic Polar Plunge



Host Command- 42D Regional Support Group



Beach Party



Military Ball & Awards Presentation

Nov. 6-8, 2015

Ocean Place Resort and Spa
 Long Branch, NJ

Details will be posted to EANG-NJ.ORG

NJ VET 2 VET 1-866-838-7654
 (1-866-VETS-NJ4)

Confidential Peer Support For New Jersey Veterans

1-866-838-7654

www.njveteranshelpline.org

@NJVet2Vet on Twitter, Pinterest & Facebook

Life doesn't have to be a battlefield