

DMAVA Highlights

Dec. 10, 2009 Volume 11 Number 43



New facility slated for 177th Fighter Wing



On Saturday, Dec. 12, at 10 a.m., Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; the New Jersey Air National Guard and the 177th Fighter Wing will host Congressman Frank LoBiondo, 2nd District of New Jersey, at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Operations and Training Facility. The \$8.4 million, 21,400 square foot, state-of-the-art facility will support the Wing's mission in the Overseas Contingency Operation by housing the Wing Commander and Staff, Public Affairs, Wing Safety, Mission Support Group Commander and Staff, Judge Advocate, Accounting and Finance, Comptroller, Wing Plans, Chaplain, Forces Support Squadron, Equal Opportunity, Family Support and Recruiting. The facility was designed by Burns and McDonnell located in East Hanover and will be built by Sambe Construction Company, Inc., of Pennsauken. Construction will take approximately 15 months and is expected to be completed in January of 2011.

Free showings of "The Princess and the Frog"

Join the USO for a free family movie event to see Disney's "The Princess and the Frog." The two showings in New Jersey will be on Dec 12, 9:30 a.m. at the Edgewater Multiplex Cinemas and on Dec. 19 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hazlet Multiplex Cinemas. A light breakfast and movie theater concessions will be served.

To register, visit www.usonyc.org/freemovie. Reservations are limited and will be available on a first come, first serve basis.



Chaplain (Maj.) Christopher Miller, of the 108th Wing offers the invocation at the start of the New Jersey Assembly meeting on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day. He dedicated the prayer to the memory of his grandfather Chaplain (Adm.) Thorton Charles Miller. Adm. Miller was District Naval Chaplain stationed at Pearl Harbor during the attack and was involved in pulling people out of the rubble, assisting the wounded and (as District Chaplain for CINCPAC) was charged with the memorial services, burials, and notification of next of kin. Maj. Miller also honored the Pearl Harbor survivors who attended the ceremony. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA PAO.

Home for the holidays



Armful....Sgt. Mike Rooney, 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, gets reacquainted with his sons on Dec. 8 after deploying to Iraq with the 628th Aviation Support Battalion. U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

DMAVA Highlights

Around the Jersey Guard



Soldiers and members of the 117th Cavalry Association case the colors of the storied unit for the final time at the Westfield Armory on Saturday.

The lineage of the unit continues with the 1st Squadron of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment. That unit changed commanders on Saturday. Lt. Col. Dean Spenzos, who led the squadron during its deployment to Iraq with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stepped down and was replaced by Lt. Col. Edward Chrystal Jr.

Also on Saturday, Lt. Col. Michael McLean took command of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion at a ceremony in Teaneck. He replaced Lt. Col. Michael Lyons, who commanded the unit for the past three years.



New Command Chief....Col. Robert C. Bolton, left, 177th Fighter Wing Commander, pins Chief Master Sergeant insignia on Senior Master Sgt. Raynoldo Morales, center, as Lt. Col. James Garcia, right, 177th Force Support Squadron Commander watches on Nov. 25. Morales was also selected as the new Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Wing. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA.

DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, Public Affairs Specialist

As the holidays get closer and closer, we often get more and more frantic on finding ways to decorate our homes without spending even more money. Here are a few green ways to decorate without plunking down the green!

Those little tea light candles that come in small metal cups keep the candle wax from messing up the container, but they aren't very pretty. Place them in old tea cups, colored glasses, a bowl of marbles or shells, even in a row of coffee mugs lined on a shelf – they will create an ambiance little money and no mess.

Looking for some luminaries to light up your sidewalk or porch? Paper bag luminaries can blow over in a wind, even with sand in them. For sturdier, longer lasting luminaries, dig through your recycling bin for cans – string beans from last night's dinner, for instance – and take the label off the can. Fill the can with water and place in the freezer until the water is frozen solid. With various size nails and a hammer, hammer holes in the can to create a design or simply an abstract look. Let the ice melt, dry the can and you have a luminary for a tea light or votive candle.

For a low cost wreath for the front door, take a wire hanger and clip off the hook. Shape the rest of the hanger in a circular shape and then wrap it in masking tape to make it stronger. Cover the form with cuttings from trees and bushes in your yard – 7 inches is a good length – and fasten onto the form with those twist ties from bread bags or trash bags. Decorate with bows, leftover tree decorations, old cookie cutters, etc.

If you have some old Christmas tree balls that are losing their spirit and some kids that have too much spirit, why not join the two for an hour or so of crafting? Spread the table with old newspapers or a plastic tablecloth and give the kids paints, glue, sequins, beads, old jewelry, buttons, and other small pieces. Let them paint and glue to make the balls pretty again.

Keep the holidays green!

Quotes

Don't limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time.

--Anonymous

Tact is after all a kind of mind reading.

--Sarah Orne Jewett

Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognizes genius.

--Arthur Conan Doyle

It is with words as with sunbeams. The more they are condensed, the deeper they burn.

--Robert Southey

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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

Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

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Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

Wounded Soldier and Family
Hotline
1-800-984-8523

Families

NORAD tracking Santa for kids of all ages this year

American Forces Press Service

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo., Dec. 9, 2009 - North American Aerospace Defense Command officials are getting ready to track Santa Claus.

The "NORAD Tracks Santa" Web site, <http://www.noradsanta.org>, features holiday games and activities that change daily.

The site is available in seven languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Chinese. On Dec. 24, the Web site will stream videos, captured by NORAD "Santa Cams," from numerous cities along Santa's journey.

This year, children and the young-at-heart are able to track Santa through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and TroopTube. To follow on any of these Web sites, type in @noradsanta into the site's search engine and start your tracking.

New this year, OnStar is providing its subscribers with live Santa updates as they travel in their vehicles on Christmas Eve. Subscribers simply push the blue OnStar button to get status reports on Santa's whereabouts.

Also new and beginning at midnight MST on Dec. 24, visitors to the "NORAD Tracks Santa" Web site can watch Santa as he prepares his sleigh, checks his list, and goes through all his preparations to ensure he has a successful journey. As soon as Santa takes off from the North Pole, children can track him with up-to-the-minute Google Maps and Google Earth reports.

Santa trackers will begin answering phones and replying to e-mail at 4 a.m. MST on Christmas Eve. Children of all ages can call 877-Hi-NORAD (877-446-6723) toll-free, or can send an e-mail to noradtrackssanta@gmail.com. NORAD tracks Santa with help from many corporate partners. Booz Allen Hamilton designed the Web site.

Other sponsors include Verizon, which donated the toll-free number; Time Warner, Avaya and PCI providing communications engineering; and OnStar, 5 Star Bank, Pepsi Distributing and First Choice Awards and Gifts keeping the trackers happy with food, beverages and souvenir tracking pins.



The program began Dec. 24, 1955, when a child dialed a phone number that was misprinted in a newspaper advertisement and reached the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The commander at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station who answered the phone that night gave the youngster the information requested: Santa's whereabouts. This began the tradition of tracking Santa, a tradition that was carried on by NORAD when it was formed in 1958.

The program has grown immensely since it first was presented on the Internet in 1998. The Web site receives millions of unique visitors from hundreds of countries and territories around the world. In addition, its operations center will be occupied for 25 hours with more than 1,200 volunteers on Christmas Eve, who will be receiving hundreds of thousands phone calls and e-mails from families around the world.

Adopt a Family open to military for holiday season

From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

If you or someone you know is in need of toys or assistance for the upcoming holiday, please e-mail or call me as soon as possible – marie.durling@us.army.mil or 609-530-6884. I am compiling a list and ALL information will be in confidence unless I ask you if it's okay if the donating organization works with you directly. If not, they will go through me. I have quite a few organizations that are willing to "Adopt a Family" for the holidays. Please let me know if one of them can assist you. I will do all I can to assist any service member in need.

Military children's artwork to be featured in publications

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) seeks to promote the Arts by featuring the great works of military children. Each year children are asked to submit work that can be utilized in the MCEC's publications, conferences, and other activities. Included in the request for work from military-connected children, kindergarten through high school, are artwork, film, and writing (essays, poetry, and short stories).

Artwork in the visual arts is featured at the MCEC's national conference each year. It is utilized in the *On The Move* magazine, the annual calendar, the conference program, and other MCEC publications.

Writing, including essays, poetry, and short stories, is featured in the national conference program, the *On The Move* magazine, the annual calendar, and other MCEC publications.

Film is considered for the "Reel Military" Youth Film and Video Festival at the national conference each year.

For a complete set of the 2010 *Call for the Arts* rules and forms for all categories (Artwork, Writing, and Film & Video), click on <http://www.militarychild.org/child-student/arts/>.

ASYMCA holding annual art, essay contest

The Armed Services YMCA is holding its annual art and essay contest for children and teens of active duty or retired members of Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or National Guard/Reserve families.

To find rules and entry forms, visit <http://www.asymca.org/Programs.aspx?pgmID=27&mid=27>.

Check out Blue Star Flag Program

Grantham University's Blue Star Flag program has been providing Blue Star Flags to Service members and their families since 2006. Grantham University is also offering scholarships and grants to Servicemembers and veterans. For further information about the Blue Star Flag program, please go to: <http://www.mybluestar-flag.com>.

Sports & More

Jets tickets available for Jersey Guard members

Since the start of the season, the New York Jets have been offering discounted tickets to all members of the NJARNG. They are enhancing the offer even further. The Jets will be offering \$15 tickets to all members of the NJARNG for their 2 remaining home games. There is no specific distinction in the number of tickets you can request. However, to allow for participation for the greatest number of soldiers, there will be a limit of 6 tickets per soldier per game.

If you wish to request tickets, call Ken Seal in the marketing office at 732-974-4883. Or call Shaun Smith at 732-974-4882 or Sgt. Biggins at 732-974-5945.

Game date	Opponent	Request suspense
Dec. 20	Atlanta	Dec. 11, noon
Jan. 10, 2010	Cincinnati	Dec. 23, noon

Once you have made a request for tickets, you are obligated to pay for them, regardless of whether or not you are able to attend the game. The only exception to this is if you cancel your request prior to the suspense for that particular game.

Payment for the tickets will be cash or money order ONLY. We will collect all the money and write one check to the Jets.

Picking up of tickets will be the responsibility of the requestor. The two pick up locations will be Sea Girt or Fort Dix. You may request tickets for any of the games at any time, prior to the suspense. Depending on the number of requests for any given game, it is POSSIBLE that we could exceed our allotment of tickets so it is not recommended that you wait to make your request if you know which game(s) you wish to attend.

Museum book on special sale for the holiday season

The Star-Ledger and the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey are pleased to offer a special holiday sale for all orders of "A Tribute to New Jersey Veterans," a historical photo book that takes a pictorial look at New Jersey's military history. This new book is now available at a special 20 percent discount price.

This 128 page, hard-cover book includes numerous unpublished photos from the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey, the N.J. National Guard and the Star-Ledger's archives. With photos from the past 150 years, as well as illustrations of the country's early history, this book captures the contributions of New Jersey's men and women since the beginning.

This would be a great gift for the veteran in your life. Part of the proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit the Museum. Signed copies are available at this sale price of \$31.95 at the Sea Girt and Lawrenceville Museums. To order a copy by mail, place your order by Dec. 15 to ensure delivery by Dec. 25. Mail a check for \$39.45 (\$31.95 plus \$7.50 S&H) to the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ, ATTN: COL Donald Kale, 151 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. If you have any questions, please contact the Museum at 609-530-6802.

Here's your opportunity to see the Nets play b-ball

NETS Tickets are available - \$40 per tickets, at the IZOD Center. There are only four tickets per game available, located in section 116, row 15 and seats 7-10; tickets will only be sold in pairs. Check the seating chart at <http://www.izodcenter.com/seatingchart.aspx?disp=1&id=192>

Opponent	Dates and Times
Oklahoma City Thunder	Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers	Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee Bucks	Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto Raptors	Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
Washington Wizards	Feb. 28, 6 p.m.
Sacramento Kings	March 24, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit Pistons	March 26, 8 p.m.
San Antonio Spurs	March 29, 7:30 p.m.

Contact Fort Monmouth Tickets N' Tours directly at 732-532-3077 or stop by building 1010.

More tickets to see the Jets

From Picatinny Arsenal: Tickets for both dates can be ordered by phone and put on either a MasterCard or Visa or you may stop by the "Take Off" Center, Bldg 34, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; 973-724-4014. The tickets come in blocks of 4 seats together. If you have more than 4 people, we will try and seat you in the same section but more than 4 seats will not be exactly together. There are a limited number of tickets available. There are at least 100 for each game.

Jets vs. Atlanta – Dec. 20 – tickets are upper level, \$17 each; parking is not included. (Most parking is now off site due to construction of the new stadium.) Tickets go on sale on Dec. 3. Deadline is 3 p.m., Dec. 11 as long as tickets remain available. You will be e-mailed when tickets are available for pickup – probably on Dec. 16-17.

Jets vs. Cincinnati – Jan. 3 – tickets are upper level, \$17 each; parking is not included. Tickets go on sale Dec. 3. Deadline is 3 p.m., Dec. 22. You must be available the week after Christmas to pick up your tickets. They should be in around Dec. 29.

DMAVA award nominations open for fall trimester

From the Human Relations Department

We are requesting nominations for the DMAVA Employee Awards. We request that everyone submit nominations for the Fall Trimester (September – December) for 2009 by close of business, Dec. 30.

Please forward all your nominations to Anna Marie Boutchia using the template that is available on DMAVANet. It is requested that all nominations be typed when submitted for ease of processing and selection.

If you have any questions regarding the Awards process please feel free to contact Loreta Sepulveda, Director of Human Resources. An e-mail will be sent out to announce the awards presentation date (Spring 2010).

Veterans & Military

NGB looking for officers to participate in Senate Youth Program in March

The National Guard Bureau is looking for military officers (O-1 through O-4) to be Mentors for the 2010 Senate Youth Program. The program, instituted in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution and held annually in Washington, DC, is designed to give the nation's top-rated high school seniors a working knowledge of American politics through personal interaction with high-level government agencies and officials. Military Mentors serve as counselors, facilitators and role models for the 104 students (two from each state and territory), giving them a better understanding of defense missions, personnel and lifestyle. For more information about the program, visit the U.S. Senate Youth Program website at www.us-senateyouth.org.

Military Mentor officers who are selected must be on Permissive TDY or leave status for the duration of the program to include two days of pre-program training. Inclusive dates of the program are March 4-13, 2010 (Senior and Assistant Senior Mentor Officers will be required to attend three additional days of training beginning on March 1.)

The Hearst Foundation, which sponsors the program, will pay for lodging, meals, and incidental costs such as laundry and dry-cleaning. Officers who have participated in the past are eligible and encouraged to participate in the 2010 program (provided they are O-1 thru O-4). The volunteer Military Mentors are responsible for their own transportation costs to get to Washington, DC.

TO APPLY: If you are interested in applying for the program, please drop an e-mail to Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison (Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us) to get the files and letters for application.

DEADLINE: Nomination packages must be submitted electronically to Margaret.moffett@us.army.mil no later than Jan. 6, 2010. If you have any questions, contact Peg for further information via e-mail or at DSN 327-2614 (Commercial: 703-607-2614).

The final selection of Mentor Officers and Senior Mentor Officers will take place by Jan. 25, 2010.

Veterans Organizations contact information

State Veterans Service Council
Richard Clark, RJClark21@msn.com
BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council
William Rakestraw, warjrnj@msn.com
Veterans Hotlines
Benefits and Entitlements
1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)
Mental Health
1-866-VETS-NJ4 (1-866-838-7654)

Guard families holding Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run

The families of the four New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers who were killed in Iraq in June 2004 are honoring the memory of their fallen heroes with the Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run which will be held on June 6, 2010.

The families are asking for their friends' and communities help and support with the event. All donations – monetary or otherwise – will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged on the day of the event. All donations are tax deductible. Individuals or organizations donating \$1,000 or more will have their names listed on the Run T-shirt.

All profits will be divided among the Friends of Frank Carvill Foundation, the SGT Ryan E. Doltz Memorial Foundation and the Duffy and Timoteo families.

For more information visit www.RememberingRyan.org.

Stockton College offers training, education programs

Are you an unemployed or underemployed veteran? If you are interested in enrolling in short-term training/education programs, there will be a eligibility meeting at Richard Stockton College, Jimmie Leeds Road, Pomona, N.J., on Dec. 15, from 10 a.m.-noon in Main Campus F Wing, Room 222.

Call Susan Jones at 609-626-5569 or e-mail susan.jones@stockton.edu to register; lunch will be provided to the attendees.

Paperwork to bring with you to the meeting includes: proof of age, social security card, DD Form 214, income and family income (last pay stub, pension record, social security benefits) and birth certificate.

All applicants are required to take a Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) unless you have a Bachelor's degree. Your score on the test will determine your eligibility for some programs. Please bring proof of the degree to the meeting.

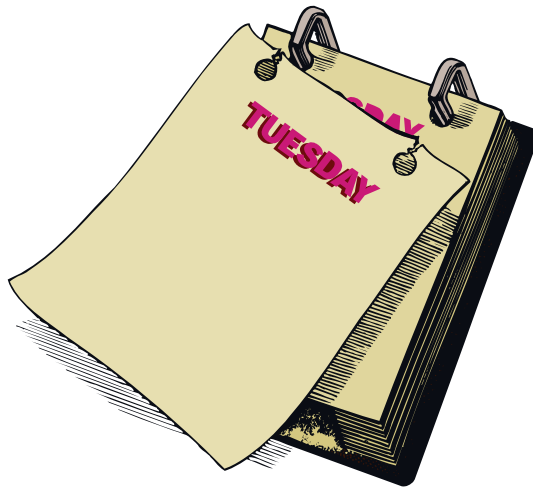
Course selection: The Department of Labor and Workforce Development web-site lists the classes that are available for funding at <http://lwd.state.nj.us/labor>; click "Career Development" then "Find the Right School". Once there, you would click "Vocational/Technical Education" and click "Get started and Search for Training". By using the drop down menu under Select Occupations, you will see the available training options and the institutions that offer these classes. Familiarize yourself with the available options. Being prepared will allow you to speed-up the process.

Pictures for your "wall"

If your armory needs photos for the Chain of Command "wall," contact Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison at barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-7088. Tell us which photos you need and we will mail them to you or get them ready for pick-up.

Calendar

*Mark your calendar
for February 13.
Valentine's Day Weekend Company
Grade and Warrant Officer Mixer
Details coming soon.*



MTA running train for USMC Toys for Tots Dec. 12-13

On Dec. 12-13, the Military Transport Association (MTA) will run a special train in Northern New Jersey to collect donated toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation. Along the route, the train will stop at ten locations where members of the public can drop off toys, board the train to see Santa Claus, experience a variety of working railroad equipment, and meet members of the Marine Corps and MTA.

Members of the public are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys at various collection points along the route in the first two weeks of December. At each stop, one or more businesses or organizations has a large collection box. The web site, <http://www.njoperationtoytrain.com>, lists all the toy drop-off locations and the schedule for the train.

The train will stop in Flanders, Ledgewood, Dover, Rockaway, Maywood, Hawthorne, Wortendyke (Midland Park), Wyckoff, Franklin Lakes, Pompton Lakes, and Butler.

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November, and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community where the campaign is conducted. The Toys-for-tots website is: www.njtoys-fortots.org.

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.

January 5*, 6, 7 Cherry Hill Mall

February 2*, 3, 4 Monmouth Mall

March 2*, 3, 4 Bridgewater Commons Mall



*Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Tickets offered to Radio City Christmas show in D.C.

The USO NY has extended an invitation to all New Jersey Guardsmen and their families for a private show in Washington D.C. on Dec. 20. However the time to respond is very short. A by-name list needs to be to the USO by the end of the day today, Dec. 10. Submit only need the name of the military member and how many tickets are needed. Details of the event and details on how to RSVP are below.

Event: A Salute to Our Troops and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Details: This year, *A Salute to Our Troops* takes place in Washington, D.C. In keeping with the USO tradition of entertaining the troops, on Sunday, Dec. 20, Microsoft will treat 8,200 members of the military community to a private showing of the touring Radio City Christmas Spectacular at Verizon Center in Washington D.C.

Itinerary: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Show time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Event Location: Verizon Center, 601 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

Attire: Civilian Casual

RSVP: With your name and number of tickets (max is 6) per military member by Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. to Maj. Yvonne Mays via e-mail @ yvonne.mays@njdmava.state.nj.us

Transportation: We encourage attendees to ride Metro, which is located directly under the Verizon Center with Metro Stations at Gallery Place – Chinatown (Red, Yellow and Green lines.) Visit www.wmata.com for directions.

Deadline

Want to place an event or article in DMAVA Highlights?

Deadline for articles is noon Wednesday.

Send submissions to barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.