

DMAVA Highlights



Sept. 3, 2009 Volume 9 Number 32

Joint Chiefs Chairman at ChalleNGe graduation



Adm. Mike Mullen "coins" NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy honor graduate Clive Hinds. Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, NJARNG

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

The top American military commander, Adm. Mike Mullen, was the guest of honor Saturday for the graduation of Class 30 of the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy.

Mullen, the 37th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, commended the cadets for enrolling in the rigorous 22-week National Guard program at Fort Dix that uses discipline and community service to help at-risk youth turn their lives around and graduate from high school.

He also had kind words for the National Guard.

"We would not be the military we are, we would not be the nation we are and, indeed, New Jersey would not be the state that it is without the National Guard," Mullen said.

Although the objective of ChalleNGe is to produce productive, high school graduates, many of the cadets go on to enlist in the military. In fact, 42 Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which returned from Iraq in June, are ChalleNGe graduates.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, swore five of the ChalleNGe graduates into the National Guard at the ceremony.

Clive Hinds, the distinguished graduate, said he's considering joining the military as well, but first wants to attend college. His mother, Andrie Hinds, said she's already seen an immediate change in her son.

"My son is so patient now, I almost didn't recognize him," she said. "He always was a good boy. He just needed a push in the right direction. I'm so grateful he got it."

VA launches online suicide prevention chat service

WASHINGTON (August 31, 2009) - The Suicide Prevention campaign of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding its outreach to all Veterans by launching an online, one-to-one "chat service" for Veterans who prefer reaching out for assistance using the Internet.

Called "Veterans Chat," the new service enables Veterans, their families and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor. If a "chatter" is determined to be in a crisis, the counselor can take immediate steps to transfer the person to the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline, where further counseling and referral services are provided and crisis intervention steps can be taken.

Veterans, family members or friends can access Veterans Chat through the suicide prevention Web site www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org. There is a Veterans tab on the left-hand side of the website that will take them directly to Veteran resource information. On this page, they can see the Hotline number (1-800-273-TALK), and click on the Veterans Chat tab on the right side of the Web page to enter.

Veterans retain anonymity by entering whatever names they choose once they enter the one-on-one chat. They are then joined by a counselor who is trained to provide information and respond to the requests and concerns of the caller.

If the counselor decides the caller is in a crisis, the counselor will encourage the Veteran to call the Suicide Prevention Hotline, where a trained suicide prevention counselor will determine whether crisis intervention techniques are required.

The pilot program, which has been in operation since July 3, has already had positive results.

Since becoming operational in July 2007, VA's Suicide Prevention Hotline has received more than 150,000 calls, resulting in 4,000 rescues.



Don't worry over what the newspapers say. I don't. Why should anyone else? I told the truth to the newspaper correspondents - but when you tell the truth to them they are at sea.

--William Howard Taft, 27th President of the United States

Jersey Guard caddies for pro golfers at Barclays



Tech. Sgt. Jim Maribo stands second from the left watching the flight of the ball of the PGA's most well-known golfer on Aug. 26. Maribo was the lucky military caddy who pulled Tiger Woods' name out of the hat when more than 20 members of the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard caddied during the Pro-Am of The Barclays golf tournament. The New Jersey National Guard showed their presence at the tournament. Fifteen Army and Air Guard members were caddies for the pro golfers on Aug. 26, four more Guard members announced the pro golfers to the audience at the first tee on Aug. 29 and 30 and Master Sgt. Lisel White, 108th Air Refueling Wing, sang the national anthem before the first golfer took to the links on Sunday. Photo by retired Col. Ed Slavin.

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA/PA

Facts on use and recycling:

About 89 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are used each year in the U.S. In 2007, more than 830million pounds of plastic bags and film were recycled, a 27 percent increase from 2005, according to the American Chemistry Council.

One thousand square feet of bluegrass lawn generates about 200 pounds of clippings annually. About 3/4 of those clippings are water. Instead of tossing them in the trash, use them to help fertilize your lawn. Clippings break down quickly and encourage beneficial microorganisms and earthworms. Use a mulching mower, which returns the grass clippings to your lawn, OR Use grass clippings in your compost pile OR For the best mulch, be sure to clip your grass at the appropriate height for its type. For example, you should mow Kentucky bluegrass when it is 1.5 to 2.5 inches high and tall Fescue at two to three inches.

A plastic fork here, a paper plate there...what's the big deal? All those disposal eating tools can add up. For example, **about 20 billion chopsticks are used each year**, mostly in Japan. That may seem far away, but the same thing is happening in your own backyard. The U.S. throws out enough disposal dinnerware every year to **circle the equator 300 times**.

Paper plates might be your knee jerk choice for your next party, however, there are other ways to save money and resources. Most people often have a bring-your-own-drink policy. So why not have a bring-your-own-plate rule? Go for it and make your next party easy to clean, with no waste...BYOP

Keep Green!

Quotes

A good conscience is a continual Christmas

--Benjamin Franklin

The ugliest of trades have their moments of pleasure. Now if I was a grave digger, or even a hangman, there are some people I could work for with a great deal of pleasure

--D.W. Jerrold

Do your work with your whole heart and you will succeed - there is so little competition

--Elbert Hubbard

What is said when drunk is often thought out beforehand

--Anonymous

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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

Maj. Yvonne Mays – Public Affairs Officer

Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

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

Families

Upcoming case lot sale at McGuire AFB Commissary

McGuire Air Force Base commissary is holding a case lot sale Sept. 9-12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Commissary customers can save 30 percent or more on their purchases every day, but in September they can save even more by shopping at a worldwide case lot sale in their community. Defense Commissary Agency's worldwide case lot sale allows customers to take advantage of savings of up to 50 percent or more on bulk-sized products. These items range from canned goods, beverages, toilet paper, paper towels, produce, fresh meat, seafood, pet supplies, cleaning and laundry products, and more. Many items are sold in "club pack" product assortments similar to the oversized or multiple products sold at commercial warehouse club outlets. For a list of available items, visit <http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=HQCNEW&page=news>

Military appreciation day Monday at Jenkinsons Boardwalk

Come to Jenkinson's Boardwalk in Point Pleasant for Military Appreciation Day on Monday, Sept. 7, when they give free admission to the military and their spouses and children. Admission includes free rides and admission to the aquarium, beach, fun house and miniature golf. Bracelets will be given out on the boardwalk across from the aquarium, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Out-of-pocket expenses to fall for Tricare users

As of Sept. 1, certain Tricare beneficiaries no longer will have to pay out of pocket for immunizations, mammograms and some other preventive services.

Beneficiaries can now also request reimbursement for any of the covered preventive services below that they have paid for since Oct. 14, 2008. The benefit is retroactive to that date, when it was signed into law.

Covered preventive services include: screenings for colorectal cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer and prostate cancer; immunizations; and certain physical exams, including well-child visits for children younger than 6. This means the patient has no co-payments or cost shares, even if his or her annual Tricare deductible has not been met.

Here's how to get reimbursed, according to Tricare officials:

- No claim form is required. Beneficiaries should contact the Tricare contractor that processed their claim and request a reimbursement. Beneficiaries may call or write; written requests should include the sponsor's Social Security number, full names and dates of birth of all dependents, and a current mailing address.

- Beneficiaries will be reimbursed directly by the contractor.



Morris County United Way sponsoring 'Morris March for Military Families' Sept. 27

By Andrea Conway, United Way of Morris County

United Way of Morris County is engaged in a new project to help local military families. We know that military families are strong, but stresses that arise when a family member is called upon to serve can be great – from preparation, to separation and finally reintegration into the family. While this can be true for all military families, this is especially true for our National Guard troops who reside outside of the immediate support system the military provides.

Military families need the support of the entire community to stay strong and deal with the additional burdens on their family; that strength depends on all of us! It is our pledge as signatories of the Community Covenant to do what we can to ensure the community is aware and supportive of our service men and women and their families while we are engaged in the war effort in the Middle East.

As part of this effort, United Way of Morris County has recently partnered with the Morris County Chamber of Commerce – specifically the Chamber's Leadership Morris program – to organize an event to raise funds for our neighbors who have a family member on active duty. The event is: Morris March for Military Families.

The will be on Sept. 27, 8 a.m. to noon at the County College of Morris – 214 Center Grove Road, Randolph.

All proceeds raised by the Morris March for Military Families will go to United Way of Morris County's Front Line Fund to ensure resources are available to help our military families as they cope with the difficulties that can accompany deployment.

To sign up to march or for more information on the Morris March for Military Families, visit http://www.uwmorris.org/news-events/events_template0.php?event_id=48.



State Family Programs

101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville

Toll-free number 1-888-859-0352

Family Assistance – 609-530-6834/6884

State Youth Coordinator – 609-530-6836

Military Family Life consultants – 609-530-6835/6886

Yellow Ribbon Program – 609-530-6846/6853/6859

Fax – 609-530-6871

State Employees

Construction creates new parking rules at Joint Forces Headquarters

Effective immediately – due to construction and installation of the solar panel project being erected above the parking area in front of building 3650, no one will park their personal vehicles, GSA vehicles or motorcycles in that parking lot until the completion of the project. All parking will be in the parking area adjacent to FMS-9 and the USPFO/JT2DC. All assigned staff officers with designated parking spaces will not be affected by this announcement. Questions can be addressed to Lt. Col. Daniel Mahon at 609-562-0954.

Unity Day celebration slated for Sept. 17 at JT2DC



Come join in the New Jersey National Guard 11th Annual Unity Day celebration on Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Joint Training and Training Development

Center, Fort Dix.

Celebrate our ethnic and cultural diversity through music, food sampling, giveaways, homemade dessert contest, scavenger hunt and line dancing.

There will be a Fun Walk/Run at 8:30 a.m. starting at the JT2DC and a blood drive 10 a.m.-3 p.m. also at the JT2DC.

For more information, contact Capt. Barbara Brown-Wilson, Barbara.g.brown@us.army.mil or 609-562-0856.

Extra flu protection for military

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1, 2009 - All military personnel will be vaccinated against the H1N1 flu virus, and the vaccine will be available to all military family members who want it, a Defense Department health affairs official said today.

The H1N1 vaccination program will begin in early October, said Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wayne Hachey, director of preventive medicine for Defense Department health affairs. Health-care workers, deploying troops, those serving on ships and submarines, and new accessions are at the top of the list.

The department will use the usual seasonal flu vaccine distribution chain for the H1N1.

The department initially will receive 1 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine, and another 1.7 million doses later in October.

Seasonal flu vaccine already is available, and the Defense Department will begin giving those shots shortly, Hachey said.

State employees reminded of direct deposit convenience

From the desk of Lisa Dandrea, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant

This is just a reminder that the convenience of direct deposit is offered to all state employees. It is encouraged that our employees consider taking advantage of direct deposit with all that it has to offer.

Enrolling into direct deposit means having your money directly deposited into your checking or savings account. You're going to be on vacation on pay day? Tired of waiting for Postal Service to deliver your money? Eliminate that with direct deposit. It is a convenient and reliable way to receive your pay and know it is safe in your account, when you need it to be. And the service is free!

To get enrolled you must complete the "Authorization Agreement for Automatic Payroll Deposits" form, and turn it in to your Human Resources Payroll Department. A copy of this form is available on DMAVANet under "Human Resources – Helpful Forms." Just print, fill out and send to Human Resources. Please allow up to three pay periods (six weeks) for your direct deposit to take effect.

To request a form or more information, contact Lisa Dandrea in Human Resources at 609-530-6888.

Submit nominations for DMAVA employee awards

From the desk to Loreta Sepulveda, Director of Human Relations

We are accepting nominations for the DMAVA Employee Awards. Please submit nominations for the Winter Trimester (January – April) and the Spring Trimester (May – August) for 2009 by close of business Sept. 4. Forward all your nominations to Anna Marie Boutchia, HR Division, using the template that is available on DMAVANet. Please include the agency, division or group name where the nominee works; this information is needed for the certificates. It is requested that all nominations be typed when submitted for ease of processing and selection. Any questions regarding the Awards process can be directed to Loreta Sepulveda, Director of Human Resources. The awards presentation date (Fall 2009) will be announced in the near future.

Save money with your employee discount!

Instructions to access updated New Jersey State Employee Discount List

1. Go to CSC website at <http://www.state.nj.us/csc/>
 2. Click on Information on left side of web page
 3. Select employee discount
 4. Click on State Employee Discounts on left side
- The most recent employee discount list will come up.

Veterans & Military

WWII paratrooper guest speaker at Gold Star Mothers recognition day

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will hold its annual POW/MIA and Gold Star Mothers Recognition Day ceremony on Friday, September 18, 2009, at 11:00 AM at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, NJ. The third Friday of September is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Ceremonies are held throughout the country in honor of America's prisoners of war and missing in action, those returned and those still unaccounted for from our nation's wars. World War II Prisoner of War, Timothy Dyas, will be the guest speaker.

Dyas, a Ridgewood resident, served as a paratrooper with the 82 Airborne Division and spent nearly two years as a POW.

After the war, Dyas served in the Army National Guard, retiring in 1980 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He pursued a career in teaching, retiring as a school principal after thirty-five years of service. His book of poetry, Barbed Words of War, captures many of his experiences when he was a paratrooper.

The Vietnam Era Educational Center will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM and admission is free for all visitors on September 18th. The Educational Center is located adjacent to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel. The Memorial is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Educational Center is normally open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM.

For more information on the Memorial or Educational Center, call 732-335-0033 or visit www.njvvmf.org.

Deployed? Going to deploy? Here's another way to call home

Picatinny Arsenal has implemented a new morale call system that deployed service members can use to call home. The automated system allows the service member to call the DSN morale call number 880-HOME (4663) and follow the prompts to make a free local call (or long distance call at the service members cost). All calls are limited to 10 minutes.

Join the Warrant Officers Association



The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter, is looking for members. For membership information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Nancy E. Rowbotham at nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil.

Fort Monmouth hosts career fair more than 50 employers expected

Army Community Service and the Morale Welfare and Recreation center at Fort Monmouth are sponsoring a job fair on Tuesday, Sept. 15. It's open to the public.

The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be held at Gibbs Hall.

More than 50 companies have registered and they represent employers in all sectors of public and private employment, from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to CVS Drug to the consulting firm Booz, Allen & Hamilton. :

Picture ID may be required a if you go, bring plenty of copies of your resume. No copier will be available.

Here's an Internet site with more information: <http://www.monmouth.army.mil/C4ISR/services/mwr/jobfair.shtml>

Or contact: jill.mcdonald@us.army.mil

Picatinny MWR welcomes you fitness, fun and lots more

If you live near Picatinny Arsenal, you can take advantage of their full service Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. To find out what's happening, visit their Web site - <http://www.pica.army.mil/newmwr/> - and sign up to receive e-mails about what is coming up on the calendar.

Discover the latest happenings at the Rod and Gun Association, Frog Falls Aquatic Park, Teen Center, the various children and youth services, sports and fitness opportunities and much more.

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.

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)

Calendar

When – Sept. 21

What – 114th Inf Regimental Assoc. Golf Tournament

Where – Pitman Golf Course, Sewell

More info – royceray@comcast.net



When – Sept. 26

What – 22nd annual New Jersey Friends of the Guard and Reserve golf outing

Where – Falcon Crest golf course, McGuire Air Force Base

More info – 609-562-0156 or 609-562-0157

Help Burlington welcome home Charlie Company Soldiers

They're rolling out the red carpet in Burlington on Saturday, Sept. 19, for Charlie Company 1-114 Infantry, with a parade for the troops just returned from Iraq.

The festivities begin with a parade that steps off on High Street at 2 p.m. and makes its way to the Riverfront.

For more information, contact the Burlington Family Rediness Group: Sheila Tindall 609-458-1804, sheila.tindall@us.army.mil or Katie Schmid 609-433-0628, fate130@yahoo.com

Visit West Point This Weekend

Want to road trip Labor Day Weekend but don't feel like dealing with Shore traffic. Try a visit to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Check out the museum, chapel and historic sites. Then, take in a free concert by the West Point Band at 6 p.m. on Sept. 5 (rain date the following night) at the Trophy Point Amphitheater.

This popular event closes the West Point Band's 2009 Music Under the Stars concert series. Join the Hellcats, Jazz Knights, and Concert Band for a great evening of music, followed by an awesome fireworks display over the Hudson River.

Please allow extra travel time for the vehicle and photo I.D. inspection at Stony Lonesome and Thayer gates.

Due to changing security requirements at West Point, call the Academy Band's hotline at 845-938-2617, or check www.westpoint.edu/special before leaving for the concert.

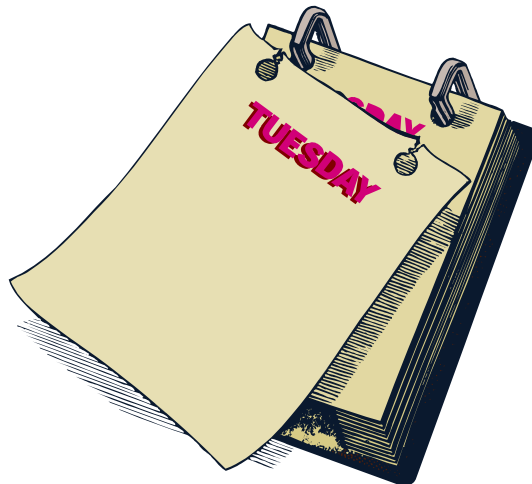
For general visitor information, check <http://www.westpoint.edu/visiting.asp>

Why not try skydiving?

If skydiving is on your "bucket list," here is an opportunity to give it a try. The Coast Guard Sector New York MWR is holding a skydiving trip on Sept. 19, departing from Fort Wadsworth, N.Y.

Cost is \$185 per person or \$160 per PASS/BOSS members. Departure time is around 8 a.m. with an approximate return time of 6 p.m. The trip is for PASS and MWR-eligible patrons with one guest, age 18 and over. Maximum weight for the divers is 225 pounds.

Transportation will be provided. For more information, or to register, contact Chris Hewitt at 718-354-4407 or Christopher.L. Hewitt-TAD@uscg.mil. Registration ends Sept. 16.



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.

Sept. 22*, 23, 24 Rockaway Townsquare Mall

Oct. 20, 21, 22** Jersey Gardens Mall



Nov. 9*, 10 Woodbridge Center Mall

*Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

**Medal ceremony at 1 p.m.

***Outreach program only, 7:05 p.m.

****Outreach program only, 4:05 p.m.

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.