

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



AUGUST 11, 2011

Last man standing

Soldier from 114th Infantry only recipient of EIB from field of 40 Soldiers



By Sgt. Landis Andrews,
444th MPAD

To call Staff Sgt. Steven Nestore an Army of One would be trite, as his prior service in the Marines means he is not purely Army Strong.

But, during the Expert Infantry Badge competition, Nestore definitely did “Be all that he could be”, as he emerged as the only recipient of the EIB at Ft. AP Hill, Va., from a pool of more than 40 hopefuls.

Nestore could hardly take a bite of his breakfast without having to pause and shake hands with soldiers eager to congratulate him on his accomplishment. It was as though he had achieved celebrity status in that moment.

However, like a good NCO, while everyone’s eyes were on the sniper section leader, his thoughts were with his troops.

“I can’t say it feels good to be the only winner because guys in my section didn’t make it,” he said. “I know they’re good enough – that’s why they’re in my section. But at least now they can have the confidence in me and look to me when they get ready to come back next year.”

During the EIB competition, candidates were tested on physical fitness, day and night-time land navigation and a series of high-intensity lanes that raised the pressure on common soldier tasks such as administering field

aid, doing functions check on weapons, employing grenades and much more. When those tasks were finished, there was only two soldiers left standing for the 12-mile ruck march. You know the rest.

“Ruck marches are easy for me,” the newly pinned recipient said. “They are physically and mentally draining, but if you do enough of them you know the strategy to be successful.”

“Once I made it through the traffic control point lane I knew I was going to get this badge,” said Nestore.

Part of the TCP lane was to properly create a range card – a class taught by Staff Sgt. Adea Fonseca.

Fonseca knows a thing or two about distinguishing himself from the pack. When Fonseca earned his EIB, he was one of 12 candidates to

middle of class and I told him to stand by and I’ll answer his question after class.”

“When it ended, I said if there are no questions, everyone is dismissed. Everyone took off – everyone except for Staff Sgt. Nestore,” said Fonseca. “He stayed after and made sure he got his questions answered.”

“That’s the kind of focus and dedication it takes to earn the EIB,” concluded Fonseca.

Sgt. Erick Recinos, one of last year’s recipients, also noted the winner’s focus.

“The graders see the candidates perform and they can tell who is studying and who is taking it seriously,” said Recinos, a Newark, N.J. native. “Nestore was that guy.”

Staff Sgt. John McDonnell, a grader in the competition said he knows why the 30 year-old was successful.

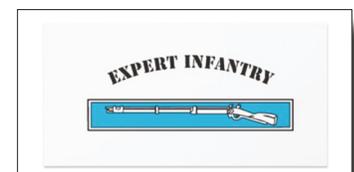
“The guys that approach the competition and the lanes with a plan and execute that plan are the guys wearing the badge,” said McDonnell. “That is why Nestore is wearing an EIB.”

“The graders see the candidates perform and they can tell who is studying and who is taking it seriously. Nestore was that guy!”

Sgt. Erick Recinos
EIB recipient

finish the competition from a field of more than 400 soldiers. With that in mind, he said the day he arrived to Ft. AP Hill, he knew Nestore had what it takes to be successful.

“I taught the class on range cards,” Fonseca said. “Nestore had a question in the



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Veterans of America Day at Somerset Patriots' game

The Somerset Patriots, in cooperation with Operation Jersey Cares, would like to invite all military veterans, past and present, to their 9th Annual Veterans of America Day on Sunday, Aug. 21 at 4 p.m., at TD Bank Ballpark in Somerset.

The event will celebrate and salute all veterans, and will have as an honored guest a Medal of Honor recipient. After the celebration, stay and enjoy a night of baseball between the local team, Somerset Patriots, against the Bridgeport Bluefish. Game starts at 5:05 p.m.

Tickets for all veterans are free. Family and friends can receive discounted tickets at \$5 per person.

TD Bank Ballpark is located at 1 Patriot Park in Bridgewater, N.J.

For more information please contact Marc Russinoff, vice president of public relations, at 908-252-0700 ext. 215 or by email at mrussinoff@somersetpatriots.com.

Discounted tickets must be ordered in advanced by filling out the order form, which can be found at www.operationjerseycares.org/voa-2011.pdf.

Legion Riders to host Memorial Ride for veterans foundation

The American Legion Riders will host the first New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Ride on Sunday Oct. 16 to benefit the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Foundation and the Vietnam Era Museum and Education Center.

This event will take place rain or shine.

All participants should assemble at the New Jersey National Guard's headquarters at 101 Eggerts Crossing Road in Lawrenceville.

The cavalcade destination will be the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial on the grounds of the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel. Exit 116 off the Garden State Parkway.

Registration will be at 8 a.m., with a police-escorted departure time of 11:30 a.m.

Registration fee will be \$25 to cover expenses, barbecue lunch and donation for all participants and attendees. Children 12 and under \$10.

For more information on this event, contact the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at 732-335-0033 ext. 100 or visit their Website at www.njvvmf.org.

The Barclays golf tournament hosts military appreciation day

Come join the PGA and The Barclays as they honor the military during the FedEx Cup at the Plainfield Country Club in Edison, N.J. from Aug. 23 - 28.

Admission to the tournament is free for all active, retired and reserve members of the military. To download your complimentary tickets go to www.birdiesforthebrave.org or www.thebarclaysgolf.com and click on "Tickets".

While at The Barclays visit the Birdies for the Brave Patriots Outpost. Located near the main entrance, it offers panoramic views of the fourth green. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m., military guests and their dependents will find complimentary food, beverage, television coverage of the match and a kid's area.

In addition, on Wednesday, Aug. 24, The Barclays will host a Military Appreciation Day ceremony at the Outpost in between the morning and afternoon Pro-Am's competition, which will include a color guard, national anthem performance and a drill team.

Additional activities for Wednesday will include military caddy program, which will provide military members an opportunity to caddy for a PGA Tour professional as they play on the ninth hole; military tee announcer on the first and 10th tees; and a PGA Tour professional meet-and-greet.

Other activities are also planned throughout the event. Details can be found at <http://thebarclays.barclaysgolf.com/charities/military-appreciation.html>.

LTC Savino golf tourney

The 15th Annual LTC Dave Savino Memorial golf tournament will be held on Aug. 29 at the Falcon Creek Golf Course in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The tournament will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start and will be played in a two person scramble format (best ball).

Cost is \$100 donation per person and includes greens fees, cart, refreshments and door prizes. A buffet lunch will be served after the tournament at the course.

Send your payments to 108th WG/MXQ, ATTN: SMSgt Mike Balas, 3333 Wonnacott Blvd., JB MDL, NJ 08641 or to Connie Cisek, JF HQTRS, Bldg. 3650, Saylor's Pond Road, JB MDL, NJ 08640.

Make checks payable to LTC Dave Savino Memorial Fund. All payments should be received no later than Aug. 23.

Questions regarding this event should be directed at Balas at 609-894-4692.

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

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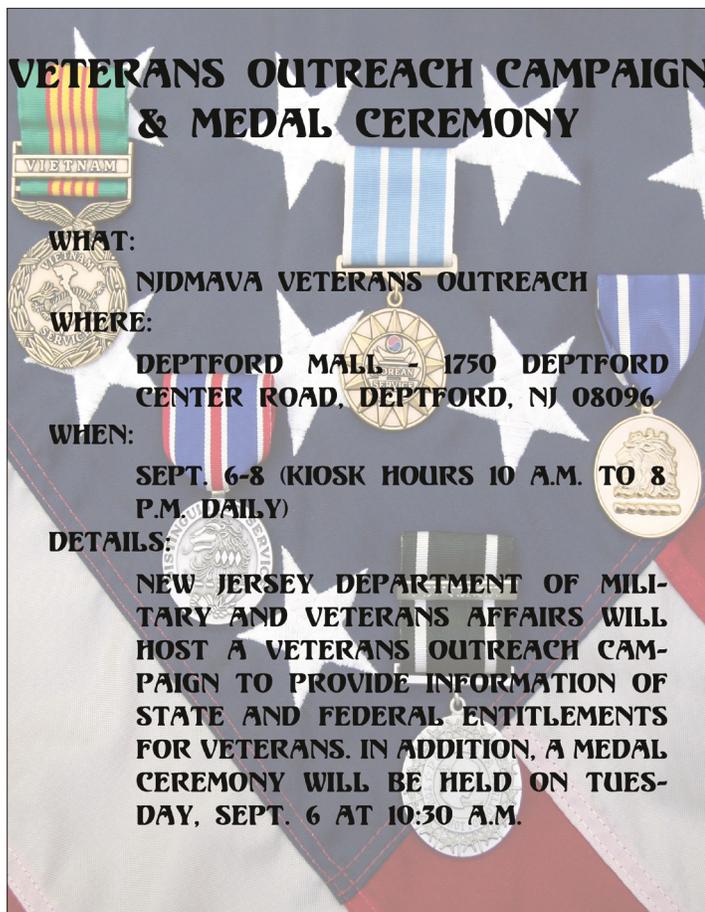
VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN & MEDAL CEREMONY

WHAT: NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH

WHERE: DEPTFORD MALL - 1750 DEPTFORD CENTER ROAD, DEPTFORD, NJ 08096

WHEN: SEPT. 6-8 (KIOSK HOURS 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M. DAILY)

DETAILS: NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL HOST A VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL ENTITLEMENTS FOR VETERANS. IN ADDITION, A MEDAL CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPT. 6 AT 10:30 A.M.



FOR NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVISTS, VETERANS & THEIR SPOUSES

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August 8

Brookdale Community College

August 23

Bergen Community College

Don't miss this special opportunity to meet and connect with hiring employees; get career transition coaching; resume feedback and tips from human resources professionals and learn from recruiting experts on how to gain a competitive edge on your job search.

Register today to participate in one or both events, which will feature:

- Career transition workshops delivered by military transition experts
- Special morning workshops for employers and HR professionals offering HRCI recertification credits
- Networking lunch
- Job fair exclusively for actively hiring employers

For details, registration and support opportunities visit <http://esgrnj2011tour.eventbrite.com/>



ESGR NEW JERSEY 2011
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DMAVA, NJNG is now on Facebook, Twitter

Attention fans of Highlights! The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey National Guard have launched their official Facebook and Twitter pages.

So help us achieve our goal of increasing our Facebook fan base by 100 fans per month. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-Department-of-Military-and-Veterans-Affairs/245085018841687> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-National-Guard/185017611554223> and press the  button and become one of our fans.

To receive notification wherever you are, follow us on Twitter @NJDMAVA and @NJNationalGuard! You'll get our news headlines, upcoming events, photos and much more.



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