



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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June 26, 2014

## *Egg Harbor Township resident assumes command of 108th Wing*



*Brig. Gen. Robert C. Bolton, left, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, presents the 108th Wing's colors to incoming commander, Col. Robert A. Meyer Jr., during a Change of Command ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. June 22, 2014. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the 108th Wing has deployed Airmen around the globe in support of Operation's Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)*

### **By Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs**

**JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J.** – Col. Robert A. Meyer, Jr., assumed command of the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, June 22 here.

After receiving a final salute from the 108th Wing's Airmen, outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Kevin Keehn, handed the 108th Wing's unit colors to Brig. Gen. Robert Bolton, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, who in turn presented it to Meyer during a Change of Command ceremony held at the Wing's hangar.

Bolton thanked Keehn for his past leadership of the 108th. "Job well done," said Bolton.

Bolton then welcomed Meyer, a homegrown-Jersey Guardsman, to his new command. "He's been waiting for eight months for this to happen," said Bolton. "Thank you for your patience."

In addition, Bolton gave accolades to Meyer for his leadership during the Wing's recent unit effectiveness inspection at which the Wing received a highly effective score.

"The 108th Wing has received the highest score in the Air Guard to date under his leadership," said Bolton. "That's the active duty folks telling the Air Guard they are doing a great job."

After receiving the unit colors, Meyer, an Egg Harbor Township resident, thanked his family for their support and thanked the Airmen of the Wing for their loyalty and dedication as he assumes command of the more than 1,200 Airmen-strong unit.

"To the men and women of the 108th, again, I can't say it enough. Thank you for protecting this great country and leaving a more secure world for our children," said Meyer. "I am proud and honored to serve as your commander; an organization made up of the finest group of people, bar none."

The federal mission of the 108th Wing is to provide rapid global airpower to support both Air Mobility Command and Air Force Special Operations Command. In addition, the Wing deploys expeditionary forces in support of worldwide combat, contingency and humanitarian efforts. Their state mission is to support the governor of New Jersey in disaster or domestic emergency response situations.

Furthermore, the Wing performs air refueling and airlift missions supporting U.S. and coalition contingency operations. In addition, the Wing provides dedicated rapid response airlift to the Department of Defense in support of United States government crisis response events abroad and domestically.

## HIGHLIGHTS



*Tyler Farrell, center, the son of 1st Sgts. Sheila, left, and Sean Farrell, right, garners a smile from his parents as he patches his mom with her new first sergeant duty rank June 21, 2014 at the New Jersey Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters Detachment. The Farrells, Jackson Township residents, were together*

*at a change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., where Sheila assumed first sergeant duties from 1st Sgt. Ricardo Garcia. Sean serves as first sergeant for Headquarters Detachment, 50th Brigade Support Battalion. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Master Sgt. David F. Moore/Released)*

## Energy Conservation

### Energy Conservation Tip of the Week

The next time you are looking to purchase a new television, make sure that it is an ENERGY STAR certified model. Certified TV's are up to 30 percent more efficient than non-certified ones.

### Did You Know?

DMAVA's solar array located at the Sea Girt Training Center is built above a parking lot and produces more than 275,000 kWh of electricity every year. This not only provides clean energy for the facility, but also provides shade for vehicles.

If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, please contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at [christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov).



# HIGHLIGHTS



# GO BIG

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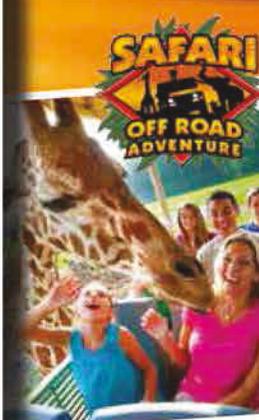
**\$43.99** per person (includes children 2 and above)

Ticket price also includes a 2 hour unlimited buffet: Hamburgers/Hot Dogs, Salad, Fixin's Bar, Ice Cream or Cookies and Cold Beverages.

Contact for ticket sales: Trudi Deyoung 609.847.5325

[Trudi.c.deyoung.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:Trudi.c.deyoung.ctr@mail.mil)

SFC Paul Rein 609.562.0644 [paul.j.rein.mil@mail.mil](mailto:paul.j.rein.mil@mail.mil)

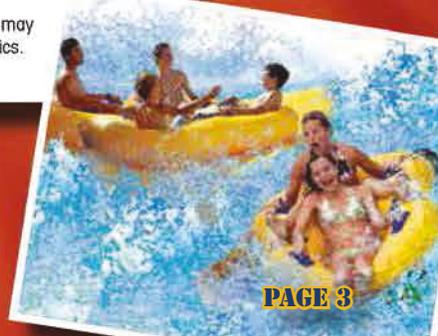


# Friday

# August 22, 2014

[sixflags.com](http://sixflags.com)

Due to maintenance circumstances, certain rides, shows and attractions (including new rides, shows and attractions) may not be open to the public. SIX FLAGS: TM & © 2014 Six Flags Theme Parks Inc. GREEN LANTERN: TM & © DC Comics. (s14)



## Wilmington VA Mobile Outreach Clinic

**VA**  
HEALTH  
CARE

Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

### The Program

Wilmington VA Medical Center's Mobile Outreach Clinic offers a variety of opportunities for Veterans in rural areas of Southern Delaware and Southern New Jersey to allow access of quality healthcare in their communities. Wilmington VAMC continues to support the establishment and expansion of clinical programs to improve access for primary care, mental healthcare, and specialty care programs for male and female Veterans of all service eras.

### Services Offered

- Primary care services including history and physicals, management of acute and chronic illnesses, women's health and patient education
- Ancillary services: immunizations (including flu and pneumonia vaccines), lab services (including blood draws, urine specimens, etc.)
- Outreach Events - Visit our website at [www.wilmington.va.gov](http://www.wilmington.va.gov) to view our upcoming events.
- Social Worker available for assistance with eligibility/enrollment, mental health referrals, identification of resources available to veterans

To Request an appointment with the Mobile Unit Provider call: Alisha Deigado at 302-668-4371

To Request the Mobile Unit for an event email or call the below point of contact:

Request at least 6-8 weeks in advance of event  
Requires 6 parking spaces for 40 foot vehicle

### Point of Contact

Jeanne Mahoney, RN, MS, LPC  
Wilmington VA Medical Center  
1601 Kirkwood Highway  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
Phone: 302-994-2511 x4240  
Email: [Jeanne.Mahoney@va.gov](mailto:Jeanne.Mahoney@va.gov)

**On the Stockton Campus  
Tuesday, July 15th  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
By the Athletic Center**



## MILITARY

## APPRECIATION DAY



WHERE: BELMAR, NJ - 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beach

WHEN: Saturday, June 28, 2014

TIME: 12PM-4PM

WHAT: Military Appreciation Day recognizes the sacrifice of our military and their families. It is a fun day filled with free beach access, parking, music, food and games. Veterans and Active Military are welcome. Any questions please email [Rclaudio@boro.belmar.nj.us](mailto:Rclaudio@boro.belmar.nj.us).



*Veterans and staff from Veteran's Haven North and Veteran's Haven South stand in front of the Lincoln Memorial during our 2nd annual trip to Washington D.C., June 11, 2014. For many of our veterans, this was their first time to the Nation's capital and they got to see Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as well as a tour of the National Mall and War memorials. The trip was funded and made possible through the generous donations of many groups to include the New Jersey American Legion, New Jersey Veterans of Foreign wars, Rolling Thunder, and New Jersey Elks. (Courtesy photo)*



JT2DC Association is sponsoring Halloween Fun for Soldiers and their families Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014.

**Activities include:** Mask Making, Pumpkin Painting, Halloween shows with the Peanuts Gang, Children's rides, Scavenger hunts, and Petting Zoo.

Ticket cost is:

**\$40.00** per person (includes children 2 and above)

Parking Fee: \$15.00 per vehicle / Paid at Park

Ticket price also includes a 2 hour unlimited buffet: Hamburgers/Hot Dogs, Fixin's Bar, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Potato Chips and Cold Beverages.

Contact for ticket sales: Trudi Deyoung 609.847.5325

[Trudi.c.deyoung.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:Trudi.c.deyoung.ctr@mail.mil)

SFC Paul Rein 609.562.0644 [paul.j.rein.mil@mail.mil](mailto:paul.j.rein.mil@mail.mil)



## VA CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORIGINAL GI BILL

### Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 created Home Loan, Education and Vocational Training Benefits

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is celebrating 70 years of investment in the education and economic prosperity of America's service members and veterans. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the "GI Bill" was enacted on June 22, 1944. The law provided a wide range of benefits for veterans returning from World War II, including low-cost home loans, education and vocational training. The original GI Bill was heralded as a success and major contributor to America's stock of human capital that sped long-term economic growth across the Nation. Today, a new group of veterans is accessing the Post-9/11 GI Bill and other education benefits, following in their footsteps.

Roughly eight out of 16 million World War II veterans used their GI Bill education benefit. Subsequent legislation expanded and extended similar "GI Bill" benefits to generations that followed, including veterans of the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars as well as those serving during peacetime. Passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill provided this important benefit to our newest generation of veterans, including activated members of the National Guard and Reserve components.

This newest generation includes veterans like Jennifer Martin, who after

servicing eight years in the United States Marine Corps, used her Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to earn a bachelor's degree in speech language pathology from the University of the District of Columbia. Martin is now conducting research at the VA Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, as part of her doctoral studies at Gallaudet University. Upon graduation, she hopes to work with veterans who suffer from hearing loss and tinnitus.

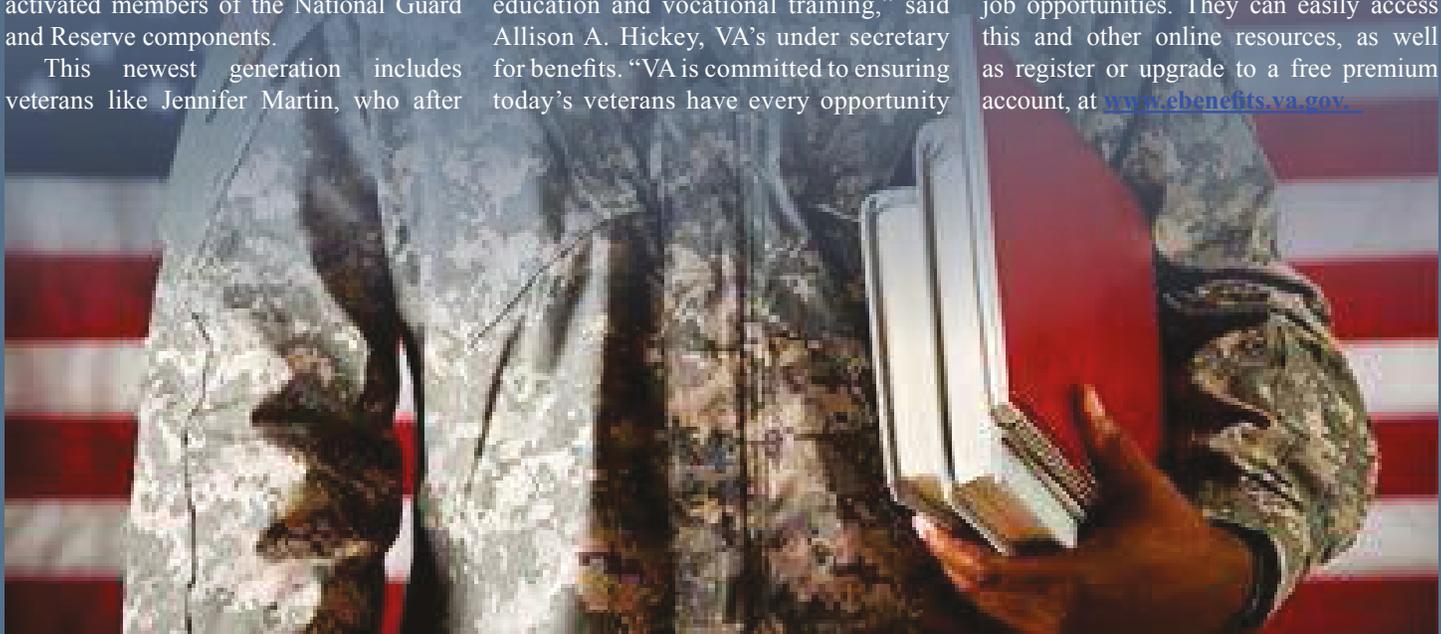
VA provides a variety of education and training benefits for veterans pursuing a wide range of education goals – including certificate programs, post-secondary degrees and work-study programs. Since August 2009, VA has paid out more than \$41 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to fund the education of 1.2 million beneficiaries. New online tools on the GI Bill website help veterans learn more about their vocational aptitudes and select an education institution and training program that are right for them.

"In the 70 years since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944, VA has provided millions of veterans and their families with low-cost home loans, education and vocational training," said Allison A. Hickey, VA's under secretary for benefits. "VA is committed to ensuring today's veterans have every opportunity

to achieve their goals, and the GI Bill is one big way in which we are delivering on that commitment."

VA's housing benefits, which began as part of the original GI Bill, include programs to help veterans purchase, repair, retain, and adapt homes. More than 20 million VA home loans have been guaranteed, and nearly 90 percent of these loans are made with no down payment. Through VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, career counseling, training, employment, and job-placement services are provided to transitioning service members and service-disabled veterans.

VA education and training benefits are a key resource for veterans transitioning from military service to the civilian workforce. The new eBenefits Veterans Employment Center is the first online interagency website that brings together, in one place, public and private job opportunities, as well as resume-building and other career tools. Through the online eBenefits portal, veterans, transitioning service members and spouses are connected to high quality career choices by matching their identified skills with available public and private job opportunities. They can easily access this and other online resources, as well as register or upgrade to a free premium account, at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov).



# HIGHLIGHTS



# HIRING OUR HEROES®

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

2014 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event – Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 316<sup>TH</sup> ARMY RESERVE OPERATION SUSTAINMENT WARRIOR  
The Navy Hanger, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 64  
3370 Wonnacott Ave, Joint Base MDL, NJ 08641  
Monday, July 28, 2014

<b>EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS: 9:00AM - 11AM; 11:00AM -1:00PM; 1:00PM - 3:00PM</b>
<b>HIRING FAIR: 9:00AM – 4:00PM</b>

A University of Phoenix-sponsored Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair for all veterans, military members and spouses will be proudly hosted in conjunction with the 316<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Operation Sustainment Warrior. This job fair is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the New Jersey Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, Goodwill Industries International, NBC News, and other local partners.

<b>EMPLOYERS</b> Must register for FREE at <a href="http://HiringOurHeroes.org">HiringOurHeroes.org</a>	<b>JOB SEEKERS</b> Register for FREE at <a href="http://HiringOurHeroes.org">HiringOurHeroes.org</a> to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.
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Three workshops for veterans and other military job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 9:00AM, 11:00AM and 1:00PM. To register for the Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshops, visit [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org).

For registration questions, please contact us at [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202-463-5807.



**HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG**

Find Hiring Our Heroes online:    

Download the free Hiring Our Heroes mobile app! All our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips.



## Local VFW cares for deploying NJ Guardsmen

Story and photo by Sgt. Sherwood T. Goodenough, 444th MPAD

Decency, hope and inspiration greets newcomers when they walk through the door at Corporal Lawrence E. Jones, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2174, and her name is Teri Gogstag.

She's president of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Westville-based VFW post and she takes the members seriously.

She's a combination press secretary, bar manager and surrogate mother to Soldiers and veterans, and embodies a new approach to serving the needs of those who've borne the battle.

She only stopped pouring drinks briefly to acknowledge the departing members.

"I promised myself I wouldn't cry," she said as her voice broke a little in her quick remarks. "We love you guys."

### Standing Room Only

Nationwide, veterans' service organizations struggle to maintain membership. VFW Post 2174 was packed.

Veterans from The Korean War to today, families and most notably children, clogged the halls and filled the seats in the two-story building during the farewell ceremony for 34 members of the post, who are scheduled to deploy with the New Jersey Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Service members, veterans and their families from 50 years of foreign conflict sipped drinks and grazed the seemingly endless buffet line of homemade goodies.

But this wasn't just war stories and affordable spirits. This VFW post has a mission.

The mood was festive, but the gravity of what was at stake was on everyone's lips – the 108 children left behind as their parents crossed the ocean for God and country.

Post commander Frank Steward said that in the effort to erase the divisions at VFW Post 2174, local leaders honed in on creating a welcoming environment and helping meet the ancillary needs of veterans and their families.

Throughout the upcoming year, the post will hold fundraisers and events to ease some of the burdens that arise for the families of deploying members. Before the deployment, the VFW post offered meals and even a place to sleep for Soldiers with long commutes from the unit armory to their hometowns, he said.

The Post is placing equal emphasis on the children left behind. "A hero isn't a guy in a cape; it's their mom or dad," said Steward. The VFW post plans to make sure those children get what they need.

"Every one of these kids is going to be part of this family," Steward said.

### Closing the gap

The leadership was cognizant of the perennial generational di-



**Staff Sgt. Kevin A. McElroy, a New Jersey National Guard Soldier, enjoys a final home cooked meal at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2174 during the going away ceremony to honor 34 of their deploying members.**

vides that challenge veterans' service organizations, according to George Spink, VFW District 13 director, who oversees posts in southern New Jersey.

Spink acknowledged that in the past, many veterans' service organizations had become cliquish and unwelcoming to newcomers. That is not the culture in the VFW today, he said.

"If you've never been in here and you walk down those stairs you're Norm from Cheers," he said

With its members leaving for the New Jersey National Guard's second largest deployment since World War II, the post tied itself into the community of Soldiers at the nearby Woodbury National Guard Armory, he said.

"They're our boys," he said. "The armory is just down the street from us. To us it's personal."

**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](mailto:pao@njdmava.state.nj.us).

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