

# DMAVA Highlights

March 4, 2010 Volume 12 Number 07



## CE Squadron makes headway in Iraq

*Photo and story by Master Sgt. Louis Conzo, 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron*

In December 2009, the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron left Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst for a six month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq. The 108th and members from several other Air National Guard and active duty Air Force units came together to take over the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. The 447th is comprised of 260 members from around the country and a dozen different units which brings together not only the civil engineers but also EOD and Force Protection escorts.

Located at Baghdad International Airport, and surrounded by a joint forces base known as the Victory Base Complex, Sather Air Base is a major hub of in/outbound flights for the region. More than 1,300 service Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and civilians call Sather home for tours lasting as long as 12 months.

Lt. Col. Paul Novello, commander of the 447th ECES, has this group of experienced professionals has making great headway against a substantial number of outstanding work-orders while planning for the rapid drawdown of personnel and equipment currently on tap for the U.S. military. This has included planning for a 100 percent increase in the transient population, and coordinating among several agencies and organizations the needs and projected shortfalls while conducting a squadron wide inventory of all assets totaling over \$15 million.

Several members of the 108th were at this location in 2008. One of them, Master Sgt. Robert Ryan said "With the drawdown, the ops tempo is lower. We still have a great deal of work to do,



Tech. Sgt. Joseph Landree, (left), Utilities Supervisor, replaces a broken water pipe, while instructing Staff Sgt. Jesse Call of the Utah Air Guard in the finer points of plumbing. Until the pipe was replaced, half the base was without running water.

but everything doesn't have to be done 'Now, now, now!' like last time."

With the reduced tempo, a good number of members are making an opportunity for self improvement. Staff Sgt. Madarrell McCullough is one of eight engineers enrolled in after-hours college classes through the University of Maryland. "This is a good opportunity to advance myself in the military and in my personal career. I can also set an example to my children, making education a priority," McCullough said.

## Jersey Guard reads to students at Triangle School



Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans Spc. Alejandro J. Beasley Jr., (left photo) seated holding book, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and Spc. Stephanie Alvarez, (right photo), read to classrooms of elementary students during the Read Across America event on March 4. Five New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers and one New Jersey Air National Guard Airman participated this year at the Read Across America event at the Triangle School, located at Hillsborough, N.J. Read Across America is a 13-year-old national initiative sponsored by the National Education Association to encourage young people to read and events are now held each year at more than three million schools. The one-day celebration coincides with the birthday of noted children's author, Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. The Department of Defense strongly encourages all members of the Armed Services to participate in Read Across America. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen)

# Recycle your used CDs, save the environment

Get on the recycling bandwagon!! Installations Division, DMAVA, will be sending a shipment of used CDs for recycling to Back Thru The Future technology disposal firm in New Jersey. If you have some used CDs that you wish to contribute, contact Joe Dunleavy at 609-530-7134 or [joe.dunleavy@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:joe.dunleavy@njdmava.state.nj.us). The scheduled date for shipment is March 9.

Here are some facts about making and recycling CDs.

-To manufacture a pound of plastic (30 CDs per pound), it requires 300 cubic feet of natural gas, 2 cups of crude oil and 24 gallons of water.

-It is estimated that AOL alone has distributed more than 2 billion CDs. That is the natural gas equivalent of heating 200,000 homes for 1 year.

-It is estimated that it will take over 1 million years for a CD to completely decompose in a landfill.

## DA photo appointments now online

Officers and NCOs can now schedule their DA photo appointment online for the N.J. National Guard photo studio at Joint Force HQ, Fort Dix.

Just visit fill out a work order, DA 3903, online at [www.vios.army.mil](http://www.vios.army.mil), but you must log in with your CAC card. For assistance or more information registering on VIOS, contact Staff Sgt. Jorge L. Vazquez, G6 Network Control Center at 609-562-0333.

The studio accepts appointments for any week day from 8-10 a.m. or anytime during JFHQ drill weekends. For more information on studio hours contact Kryn P. Westhoven at (609) 847-2215.

## Governor's official photos are ready

The official photos of Gov. Chris Christie are ready for the armories. Please send an e-mail to Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison at [Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us), with the unit, address and person to whom the picture should be mailed.

## DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs

Plastic recycling is confusing! What can I recycle, what can't I throw in the blue can that I place at the end of my driveway every week?

Part of that answer comes from the community in which you live. In Collingswood, N.J., where I live, I am permitted to recycle #1 and #2 plastics in my blue bucket. Recently the borough opened a special container near borough hall where residents can bring #3-7 plastics for recycling.

Maybe your community doesn't have this or you can recycle all your plastics at the curbside. But with a little research, you can find places to recycle those plastics you have in your household and prevent them from adding to the landfill.

Go to <http://www.preserveproducts.com/recycling/gimme5locations.html> to find places around the U.S. that offer recycling of #5 plastics.

When you recycle your #1 and #2 plastic bottles, the caps are usually not of the same plastics and therefore not recyclable. Click on <http://www.aveda.com/aboutaveda/caps.tml?ngextredir=1> to find locations where you can drop off your caps for recycling.

If you have not made the total changeover to cloth bags for your trips to the store, or are like me – you keep forgetting to toss them in the car for the next trip to the market – you have accumulated a share of plastic shopping bags. Many grocery stores have a container in the front of the store where you can drop off your empty bags. About 70 percent of the material collected is used to produce plastic lumber.

Did you know that there are more than 1,600 companies involved in plastic recycling in the United States? It can be recycled into a number of things: automotive parts, carpet, lumber, piping, clothing, batting for quilts, home furnishings, trash bags, cell phones – the list goes on and on.

By recycling only one plastic bottle, we are able to save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for six hours.

Keep Green!

## Quotes

*Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind.*

--Eric Hoffer

*The best portion of a good man's life, / His little, nameless, unremembered acts / Of kindness and of love.*

--William Wordsworth

*One cannot know everything.*

--Horace

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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
- Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

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

# Families

## Family programs announces upcoming events

*From the desk of Marie Durling, Deputy Director, Family Programs*

We have two Strong Bonds Marriage Enrichment seminars coming up. The first will be at a to-be-determined location in Central Jersey on April 8-11 and the one after that will be somewhere in North Jersey on May 14-16. We will announce the locations as soon as they become available. Seats are available for Soldiers and Airmen and their significant others, but priority goes to personnel returning from deployment and those who have not attended in the past. Contact me at [marie.durling@us.army.mil](mailto:marie.durling@us.army.mil) or 609-530-6884 for registration forms.

We are also working on getting tickets for Great Adventure at the reduced rate of \$21.

## Family time at the bigtop

Take the family to see the elephants, tigers, trapeze artists, clowns and more at The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey™ Circus, Barnum's Funundrum, at the Izod Center in East Rutherford March 10-14.

You can get group rates at individual purchases. Just contact Jason at 1-866-248-8740, ext. 102, for information or to make your purchases. This is available to all military ID card holders.

## Tricare University opens classes for benefits knowledge

If Tricare has you wondering about your benefits, one way to find out the program is to attend Tricare University. NO, you don't have to sit in a big classroom with a professor droning on and on. Nor is your syllabus or book list part of the university's program.

Tricare University offers free online courses 24/7/365 at [www.tricare.mil/tricareu](http://www.tricare.mil/tricareu). Of the different courses, Tricare Public Course provides the quickest and easiest way to get a general overview and basic knowledge of the Tricare programs. There is no registration for this course and it is accessible to anyone who wants to know more about Tricare.

To take one of the offered courses, go to the Web site and click on "online training" for a list of options.

### 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  
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647; NJ 609-530-6867  
Survivor Outreach Services – 609-530-6864  
Fax – 609-530-6871

## Devils open more group nights

Spend an evening watching the puck fly. Two more group nights at the New Jersey Devils have been announced. On March 23, the Devils will take on the Columbus Blue Jackets and March 30 they skate against the Boston Bruins. For only \$36 you will receive an upper level seat, valued at \$56, plus a \$10 food coupon. This is a \$66 value can be purchased for only \$36. Tickets must be pre-purchased through the Picatinny Arsenal ITR "Take Off" Center, building 34, or call 973-724-4014. You can use your MasterCard or Visa to purchase on the phone. Deadline to order for Blue Jackets is March 16 and deadline for the Bruins is March 23.

## Jobs available with Census Bureau

For anyone in the job market, the U.S. Census is looking for people to help with the 2010 Decennial Census. A variety of positions are open. Visit <http://www.census.gov/regions/philadelphia/www/jobs/> for jobs with the Philadelphia Region office, which will cover census workers in Penna., Del., Md., N.J., and the District of Columbia.

## Get help with your utility bills

New Jersey SHARES assists income-eligible households throughout New Jersey to pay their energy bills. The program also administers Verizon New Jersey's Communications Lifeline and Link Up America programs. New Jersey SHARES also provides assistance to United Water customers with their water bills.

For more information or to see if you are eligible for these programs, visit [www.njshares.org/otherPrograms/communications-lifeline.asp](http://www.njshares.org/otherPrograms/communications-lifeline.asp) or call 1-866-657-4273.

## Guard Youth Camp July 11-17

Applications are now available for the 2010 New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp being held at Sea Girt, July 11-17. To download an application, go to: [http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth\\_camp.html](http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html) or contact your nearest Family Assistance Center.

## 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>.

Military and family members health insurance questions should be directed to:  
Tricare – Sgt. 1st Class Louis Tuck, 609-562-0865  
US Family Health Plans – Pam Worley, 732-977-8531  
VA Medical – Michelle Stefanelli, 973-676-1000, ext. 1727

# Sports & More

## Project Stars launched - new program women veterans

A new program was launched in October 2009 for female veterans and service women as they return to New Jersey following deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan called Project Stars.

Located in the Women's Rights Information Center, 108 West Palisade Avenue, Englewood, the program is designed to address the unique needs of women veterans as they return from active duty. The three primary areas of focus will be academic, career services and legal assistance.

Project Stars offers free training and services. Some of the programs available include:

- Office technology computer training programs – earn a Microsoft Office Specialist certification
- Daytime classes at Farleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack campus, technology center or the evening classes at the Women's center
- Meet with college Director of Veterans Services to learn about Yellow Ribbon program and how the program can pay for your college education
- Job advice, interviewing skills and more with the career counselors
- Free, private consultation with an attorney from Women Lawyers in Bergen to receive support counseling and confidential referrals to non-military specialists for advice on marital law, child custody rights or other family issues or personal concerns.

Visit [www.womensrights.org](http://www.womensrights.org) or call 201-568-1166 for more information.

## Jersey Vietnam vet to tell his story of LZ Loon, March 13

On March 13, at 1 p.m., the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will host an author lecture by Jack McLean of Fort Lee, N.J., based on his book, *Loon: A Marine Story*. The lecture will be held at the Vietnam Era Educational Center in Holmdel. Teachers who attend will receive professional credit.

McLean grew up in Summit, N.J. and attended Phillips Andover Academy. In 1966 McLean enlisted in the United States Marine Corps for two years. His memoir chronicles his time as a prep schoolboy to his role as a grunt in the infantry stationed in South Vietnam. Six weeks prior to returning stateside, McLean faced one of his biggest challenges, the life changing three-day battle for Landing Zone Loon of June 1968. The author writes of his experiences "in country" and at home as the first Vietnam veteran to attend Harvard University. For more information please visit Jack McLean's website at [www.jackmclean.us](http://www.jackmclean.us).



Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP to 732-335-0033. Regular admission applies. The Vietnam Era Educational Center is located adjacent to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116.

## Students who received GI bill advances will be assessed

By Rick Maze, *Air Force Times*

Student Veterans of America is recommending that people who must give back their \$3,000 GI Bill advances quickly assess their finances to determine the best way to repay the money.

The Veterans Affairs Department has announced it will start reducing living stipends, beginning April 1, by \$750 per month to recoup the fall advance payments.

Brian Hawthorne, legislative director for the student group, said people who cannot afford to have that much reduced from their monthly checks need to make other arrangements.

"We are advising our members to look at their personal finances and ensure that they can afford that amount," Hawthorne said. "We are suggesting that if this amount will negatively impact their bottom line or their family situation, they should call right away.

"It has been made very clear to us by VA that if it is too aggressive, they are willing to work with the student veterans that need to adjust the pace," Hawthorne said.

His comments come as Rep. Glenn Nye, D-Va., a member of the House armed services and veterans' affairs committees, is pressing VA to revise its recoupment plans. Nye says he worries that \$750 per month could prove too much for some veterans.

Hawthorne said he doesn't want veterans to be alarmed. "It is important for vets to realize that this is not a one-size-fits-all plan, and that they are in control of it, if they choose to be by calling VA debt management."

The automatic repayment applies only to those who received the \$3,000 advance payments last fall and are receiving spring payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Anyone who received the pay advances who is not now drawing a monthly living stipend must make separate arrangements with VA to pay back the money.

Flexible repayment terms have been promised by VA officials as long as the \$3,000 is recouped within 12 months. VA officials said the more than 122,000 people who received the \$3,000 advance payments have received at least one notice about repayment, and they are about to receive a second that will include details on how to contact VA to arrange a payment schedule.



# Veterans & Military



Cadet Doriann Buzzetta, right, of the 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) receives an inoculation from Staff Sgt. Julio Zuniga of the New Jersey Army National Guard Medical Command at a Periodic Health Assessment at the Cherry Hill Armory on Feb. 21. Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist.

## DoD launches 2010 savings campaign for military, family members

Today's economic climate underscores how important sound financial management practices are to our service members and their families. Personal financial health is essential to the National Guard's military preparedness.

The Department of Defense has launched the 2010 "Military Saves; Start Small, Think Big," campaign which is conducted in coordination with the non-profit partner, the Consumer Federation of America.

The goal of this year's campaign is for members of the military and their families to make a personal commitment to save a portion of their hard-earned income for emergencies and to meet their near and long-term financial goals including retirement.

To help National Guard members and spouses improve their financial preparedness, the National Guard Financial Management Awareness Program (FMAP) has partnered with the Military Saves Campaign ([www.MilitarySaves.org](http://www.MilitarySaves.org)) to provide free resources and education.

FMAP has developed a 2010 Financial Management Health Assessment Survey, found at [www.jointservicesupport.org/financialawarenesssurvey](http://www.jointservicesupport.org/financialawarenesssurvey). Upon taking the survey, participants are encouraged to "Take the Saver Pledge" to help us change our National Guard culture to one that promotes financial wellness.

Additional information on FMAP's partnership with MilitarySaves.org can be found on the Joint Services Support System at [www.jointservicesupport.org](http://www.jointservicesupport.org).

Now is the time to develop a personal savings plan, establish an emergency fund and for those who are eligible, enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan.

## Improved, single access Web site now open for Wounded Warriors, families

WASHINGTON (Feb. 25, 2010) - The federal departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor and Defense unveiled today an improved Web site for wounded warriors.

"VA is committed to tapping into the full powers of the Internet to provide accurate, timely, easy to find and easy to understand information that improves the lives of Veterans, service members, their families and all who care for them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The National Resource Directory is a comprehensive, free, online tool for wounded, ill and injured service members, Veterans and their families. Visitors to the site can find an extensive range of information about Veterans' benefits, including disability and pension benefits, VA health care and educational opportunities. The site also provides information for those who care for Veterans, such as access to emotional, financial and community assistance.

The Web site has been enhanced to provide a single point of access to a wealth of information from more than 10,000 sites by federal, state and local governments and organizations offering services for wounded warriors.

"This online directory is an invaluable resource for those involved in helping service members and Veterans," Shinseki said. "Reliable information about government and private-sector programs can be a priceless tool."

A recent addition to the Web site is a specialized section where users can find help for homeless Veterans. These resources will help end Veteran homelessness over the next five years.

The new design will help visitors find needed resources easily. Other enhancements include a fast, accurate search engine; a "bookmark and share" capability that allows users to share valuable resources on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites; and a news feature with updates on relevant information and events. Resources are added daily.

Visit the site at [www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov](http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov).

### Veterans Organizations contact information

State Veterans Service Council  
Richard Clark, [RJClark21@msn.com](mailto:RJClark21@msn.com)  
BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council  
William Rakestraw, [warjrnj@msn.com](mailto: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

## *Picatinny offers May bus trip to Broadway to see "Chicago"*

**"They say the neon lights are bright on Broadway  
They say there's always magic in the air"**

-The Drifters, 1963

Catch a piece of the magic and see "Chicago" on Broadway, May 23. The Picatinny ITR is offering a bus trip to New York City for \$95 – charter bus transportation and orchestra or first mezzanine seats. The bus departs from Picatinny at 10:15 a.m., gives theater-goers 1 ½ hours of free time and tickets for the 2:30 p.m. show. Expected time of arrival back at Picatinny is 6:30 p.m.

Sign up at the ITR "Take Off" Center, Bldg 34, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or call 973-724-4014.



## *102d Regiment reunion being held March 27 in West Orange*

The 102d Regimental Reunion, sponsored by The Essex Troop, has been rescheduled for March 27 at 2 p.m. at the West Orange armory. It is open to current and former members of the 1st or 2nd squadron, 102d Cavalry, 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 5th Tank Battalion or the 5-177th Cavalry.

Food and refreshments will be served compliments of the Essex Troop Association. Attendees are asked to bring along their memorabilia – pictures, dog tags, P38, etc – and meet with old friends to have a great afternoon of camaraderie and stories.

Call The Essex Troop office at 973-736-0952 to RSVP, or e-mail [etroop@verizon.net](mailto:etroop@verizon.net).

## *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](http://www.RememberingRyan.org).

## *Dash on down to the Nutter Run in Sea Girt, May 22*

Get those running shoes ready for the sixth annual SGT Nutter Run on May 22. The 5K run will be held at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt. Sign in is 8-9:30 a.m., race start is 10 a.m.

Cost to run is \$10 if enrolled in JROTC, \$15 if postmarked before May 1 and \$20 on the day of the event. Profits from the run go to benefits the lives of National Guard families in need. This year the benefits will go to the Stadelman twins – children of 2nd Lt. John Stadelman, a New Jersey Army Guardsman who passed away on July 9, 2009.

For more information about the prizes, donations to be raffled, applications to participate in the run and more, visit [www.Nutter-Run.org](http://www.Nutter-Run.org).

## *Travel show, book fair being held at Picatinny March 26*

Mark Your Calendars! The date is March 26. Join us at the Picatinny Arsenal Cannon Gate Conference Center, Bldg 121, for our Spring Travel Show and Book Fair. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visit with travel vendors from the tri-state area and gather information for your summer leisure travel. Some of the vendors attending are: Six Flags Great Adventure, Sight and Sound Theatres, Morey's Piers, Hilton Garden Inn and Greene County, N.Y. Lots and lots of free door prize drawings! Also, browse the Book Fair and find some great bargains for your reading pleasure. Any questions? Call Linda or Karen at 973-724-4014. Free admission!

## *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.

**April 6\*, 7, 8** Paramus Park Mall

\*Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.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](mailto:barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us).