

Latest Updates

Issue: 23 April 2009

The State Family Programs Office is available 24/7.

You can go to the following website to get a copy of the current Family Program Office roster.

www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/home.html

In case you can't remember the above address or you are on vacation on a strange computer all you really need to remember is:

www.nj.gov

From there you can search for the Family Programs Office and find the information you need.

The web based newsletter is complete. The information is all on the web and can be found at the above address. This update document will show 3 things:

- 1) **Items this office wants to highlight even though it may not be new for this issue**
- 2) **The newest items since the last publication date and**
- 3) **The previous weeks update**

All of the information listed in this document will be posted in the other parts of the newsletter found in one of these documents:

- 1) **Family Events** – Here you will find items and activities that are for the family to participate in. The events may or may not be for children.
- 2) **Fundraisers and FRG Events** – Items that you can participate in but not related to an FRG are here. Usually the fundraising activity will help Our Soldiers and Families in some way. Also, you will find FRG events that you can participate in and help the Soldiers and Families of OUR New Jersey National Guard.
- 3) **Deals and Services** – Many companies offer free or reduced priced services. Check out the great deals available to you.
- 4) **Helpful Programs** – Find out about programs designed to help you get through your Soldiers deployment and offers to help you with bill payments, ID cards, and the all important Red Cross procedures in case of personal or family emergency.

REUNION BRIEFINGS

We know it is early to mention reunion briefs but we wanted to get the dates and locations out now so you can make plans to attend the one most convenient for you. All briefs are the same - they are not unit specific. Attend the one that is most convenient for you. If you have any questions, please call Marie at 609-530-6884

Yellow highlight is for ease of reading only and signifies nothing else.

Soldier & Family Reunion Brief Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Armory</u>	<u>Time</u>
April 27, 2009	Woodbridge	6:30 p.m.
May 11, 2009	Mount Holly	6:30 p.m.
May 13, 2009	Somerset	6:30 p.m.
May 16, 2009	Woodbury	9:30 a.m.
May 21, 2009	Teaneck	6:30 p.m.

The Latest Items:

0. Please read the note above about our newsletters

1. Co C 2-113th IN FRG Tricky Tray

2. Woodbury FRG Chance Auction

3. Hopewell Valley Veterans Association Events

4. 76ers Playoff Ticket Deal For The New Jersey National Guard

5. Commissary Case Lot Sale

6. Patriotic Seed Packets

7. Military Order of the Purple Heart Veterans Job Information

8. VA Launches Site for Returning Vets

9. Philadelphia VA Medical Center Welcome Home Event

10. The Family and Medical Leave Act Military Family Leave Entitlements

11. Exchange Online Mall Partner to Salute the Mothers of Deployed Troops

To a Special Volunteer

(Author Unknown)

Sometimes we seem so lucky,
Or maybe we're just blessed,
When there seems to be too much to do-
Along comes a volunteer like you!

You've made our days much brighter,
Our work a joy to share,
We know we'll always make it through-
As long as there's a volunteer like you!

Weekly Trivia

The prize is knowing that you honestly thought about this and can't wait till next week to see if you're correct.

This week's trivia:

Today is "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." This isn't the original name of the program though. What was the original name, when and why did it start?

Last week's trivia:

Take a look at a map of the world. Across the Pacific Ocean you will see many little dots of islands with "(U.S.)" after the islands name. Yet a vast number of these islands are uninhabited except for the native flora and fauna that eke out a living on such islands. What caused the US to claim many of these islands that now have "(U.S.)" after their names indicating that the US administers them? I am not talking about islands such as Guam, Midway, etc. I'm specifically talking about the little dots that often times are no bigger than a couple of city blocks and are uninhabited except for maybe a visit or two a year for scientific purposes.

Guano is the key to this trivia question. Guano is the droppings from birds, primarily fish eating birds in the case of many islands in the Pacific. The remoteness of many of the small islands in the Pacific created a situation where the bird droppings accumulated to great depths (often up to 150-200 feet thick). Conditions on these islands helped preserve the Guano in a form that made it ideal for use a fertilizer. Companies in the 1800's wanted to harvest these rich deposits found all around the pacific. Congress passed a law in 1855 allowing US citizens to harvest the guano under the jurisdiction and laws of the US as long as certain conditions were met. The act also allowed for the abandonment of island claims at the will of the US. But many of these islands became useful to the US for military and commercial purposes even though the guano was already harvested and the US retains the rights to many of these islands to this day. Speaking of guano, you should see my desk - it's piled high with things to do from Marie. As soon as I get one thing done, Marie gives me three more to do. Boy I wish someone would come and claim my desk as a US territory and harvest the guano around here!

30 jun Youth Camp Update (Need Senior Counselors)

We are still accepting applications for Youth Camp! The following slots are still open for application:

9-12 year olds – Have about 30 kids, about 70 slots left

13-14 year olds – Have 15 kids, about 15 slots open

Senior Counselors – Have 2, lots o slots open

We are looking for Senior Counselors. I know many of the people may still be in school, but please reach out to anyone you know and have them send in their application. The fingerprint background check is very easy to do with the biggest problem being the time frame to send the prints to the FBI and getting a response in time by the deadline. As long as the FBI says the checks are negative you WILL be reimbursed for the cost of getting this done. Please pass the word around to contact as many people 18 and over whom you think would like to be Senior Counselors. Even if you're older, we can still use more counselors.

Applications and more information can be found at our website www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/home.html.

30 apr Great Adventure Ticket Update

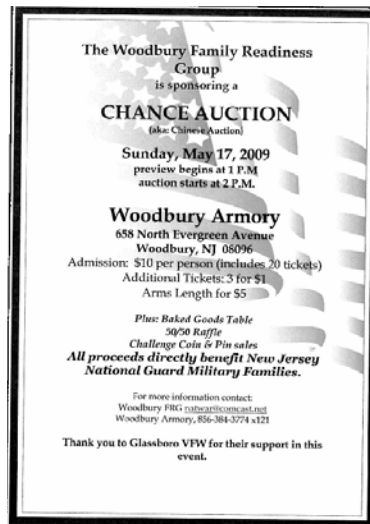
We still have Great Adventure tickets left. You can order them through your FAC and they will pick up your tickets on 30 Apr. You can also come by our office in Lawrenceville, or on Weds at JFHQ's where Marie will be in the café from 1100-1200 hours. Ticket sales end 30 April or when our supply runs out.

17 may Woodbury FRG Chance Auction

The Woodbury FRG is having a Chance (Chinese) Auction 17 May 2009. Admission is \$10 per person and includes 20 tickets. Additional tickets are also available. Preview of items begins at 1:00 pm and the auction starts at 2:00 pm. There will also be Baked Goods, a 50/50 raffle, and coins and pins for sale. All proceeds benefit our fellow Soldiers and their families. Please come out and support our Troops!

The Woodbury Armory is located at:
658 N Evergreen Ave
Woodbury NJ 08096

More information can be found by contacting the Woodbury FRG at natwar@comcast.net.
Or call the Woodbury Armory at 856-384-3774 ext 121.



30 may Co C 2-113th IN FRG Tricky Tray

The FRG will be holding a Tricky Tray for the Troops on Saturday 30 May 2009. Doors will open at 6:00 pm and the drawings will begin at 7:30 pm. There will be prizes of all shapes and sizes available. Come out and support our fellow Soldiers and their families.


The Tricky Tray will be held at the:
Woodbridge Armory
625 Main St
Woodbridge NJ

For more information, contact:
Susan Lang at 908-246-7433 or susan.a.lang@gmail.com or
Tanya Calenicoff at 551-655-1957 or tc197@hotmail.com.

26 apr 76ers Playoff Ticket Deal For The New Jersey National Guard

Do you love Basketball? Do you love the 76ers? Do you love how they're coming on strong right now? Enjoy an evening or two with the 76ers! The 76ers are offering a great deal for NJNG members. See the attached flyer for more information and ordering information. Note the Promo code near the bottom of the flyer to get this great deal.

If you're interested call the phone number on this flyer or visit the website posted on the flyer. **OUR OFFICE DOES NOT HAVE TICKETS OR INFORMATION BEYOND WHAT IS ON THE FLYER. CONTACT THE POC ON THE FLYER.**



The Sixers want The New Jersey National Guard to Run With Us as we take on the Orlando Magic in the 2009 NBA Playoffs!

Two Exclusive Offers for New Jersey National Guard Service Members, Family & Friends:
 Home Game 1 – Friday, April 24 – 8:00PM
 Home Game 2 – Sunday, April 26 – 6:30PM

Location	Individual Price	Company/Group Price
Upper Level, Courtside	\$78	\$68
Lower Level Ends	\$62	\$56
Mezzanine Center	\$45	\$33
Mezzanine Courtside	\$30	\$20

Date & Game	# of Tickets	Choose Price Level	+ \$6.00 handling fee (per order)	TOTAL AMOUNT
Home Game 1 - Apr 24, 8PM CT		(1) \$68 (2) \$56 (3) \$33 (4) \$20		
Home Game 2 - Apr 26, 6:30PM CT				

All orders are subject to availability and are non-refundable. Tickets (not purchased online) can be picked up at Will Call inside the Wachovia Center Box Office on the night of the game or emailed to you in advance. Photo ID must be presented to pick up tickets.

Charge to: Revolution Card Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover Pay Plus Bill Me Cash Other Delivery Method Home Office Will Call

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____


Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Will Call Name: _____

To Order Online, go to www.nba.com/sixers/promocode.html
 Enter Promo Code "512NJNG"

To Reserve Your Tickets Contact,
 Dave Reed at 215.218.7822
 dreed@comcast.spectacor.com
 Fax Orders to 215.339.7656



28 jun Hopewell Valley Veterans Association Events

HVVA Memorial Day Event

The Hopewell Valley Veterans Association (HVVA) is holding their 4th annual Memorial Day ceremony on Saturday, May 23 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm at Alliger Park. The event will include remarks by keynote speaker General John Nunn, Assistant Adjutant General of the NJ National Guard. The ceremony will also include an unveiling of memorial bricks dedicated in honor of veterans. Peter J. Lunetta, aviator for the US Navy, is scheduled to conduct a military fly-over. Naval Sea Cadets will present the National Colors and lunch will be provided. This free event is rain or shine. Tents will be provided at the park, in case of inclement weather. Alliger Park is located at 203 Washington Crossing- Pennington Road in Titusville, NJ and is adjacent to the Hopewell Township Public Works Building. For additional information and directions visit, www.HopewellValleyVeterans.org or call (609) 737-6681.

HVVA Army Band Concert with Fireworks

The Hopewell Valley Veterans Association (HVVA) is hosting a 63rd Army Band concert and fireworks display at Alliger Park on Sunday, June 28, 2009 from 7:30-9:30 pm. The concert will include patriotic songs, military tunes and traditional concert band pieces in celebration of Independence Day. The Army Band is the largest military ensemble in NJ and includes some of the area's top professional musicians who are also NJ National Guard members. Alliger Park is located at 203 Washington Crossing- Pennington Road in Titusville, NJ and is adjacent to the Hopewell Township Public Works Building. For additional information and directions visit, www.HopewellValleyVeterans.org or call (609) 737-6681.

no date Old Navy Military Appreciation Day

Old Navy is showing their appreciation for Military members and their families through a special discount program for military ID card holders. On the first day of each month, come into any Old Navy store and show your military ID and get 10% off your purchases. Kids these days LOVE Old Navy and they can get ready for summer and vacation with this program. As a parent, you're thinking ahead to the end of summer and the start of school. What a perfect program in today's economy to outfit today's youth. Shop Old Navy on the first of each and save!

This is good for ANY military ID card holder from any branch of the Services at any Old Navy store. The sponsor does not need to be present. Your teenager can partake of this program just by showing their own military ID card.



no date The Family and Medical Leave Act Military Family Leave Entitlements

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008 (NDAA), Public Law 110-181, amended the FMLA to allow eligible employees to take up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave in the applicable 12-month period for any "qualifying exigency" arising out of the active duty or call to active duty status of a spouse, son, daughter or parent. The NDAA also amended the FMLA to allow eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of job-protected leave in a "single 12-month period" to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness. These two new types of FMLS leave are known as the military family leave entitlements.

The above information is a brief description of the new entitlements pertaining to military families. One of the benefits pertains to both Active and Guard/Reserve military members and the other benefit is only for Guard/Reserve members. There are restrictions that apply and more information can be found at the following address www.dol.gov/esa/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28a.pdf.

This is a legal benefit and as such you need to consult your companies Human Resource Office and possibly a lawyer to make sure you qualify and how to apply for this benefit. But if you think you need to take part in this we encourage you to seek advice on the important benefit which is there to help you.

16 may Pomona AB Commissary Case Lot Sale

The commissary is coming to Pomona! Come out and enjoy a case lot sale to be held at the 177th FW location at Pomona AB, Egg Harbor Township. This is open to all authorized ID card holders (all branches of services). If you live in south Jersey, save a drive to McGuire for commissary savings. See the flyer for more information.

CASE LOT SALE!!!!
177 FW NJANG
May 16, 2009 1000-1600
Building 65



Buy Big and Save!
Up to 45% off Retail!

Selected products offered include: baking mixes, cookies, snacks, paper products, laundry detergent, pizzas, soups, juices, canned vegetables, cereal, granola bars, cookies, crackers, pet food, etc.
 Bring your coupons, too!
 Check out our Web page at www.commissaries.com under the "locations" link

30 apr Exchange Online Mall Partner to Salute the Mothers of Deployed Troops

Troops who are unable to come home in time for Mother's Day can enter to win one of 500 personalized art canvases. Service Members can click on the "Canvas on Demand" link at the Exchange Online Mall and upload a favorite photograph for a chance to send their mom one of the 500 free 16x20 Pixel Painting canvas as a giveaway. For more information go to www.aafes.com/pa/news/09news/09-025.htm.

"Deployed Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors can simply click on the Canvas on Demand link at the Exchange Online Mall and upload a favorite photo for a chance to send mom one of the 500 free 16"x 20" 'Pixel Painting' canvases set to be given away," said the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Chief Marketing Officer Mat Dromey. "These personalized keepsakes, which will be sent on service members' behalf, can be hung in a place of honor and cherished forever."

Photos submitted for "Operation: Hi Mom" consideration can be viewed online by logging on to the Exchange Online Mall, navigating to Canvas on Demand and clicking the "Operation: Hi Mom" banner.

Five hundred pictures will ultimately be selected, at random, on or before April 30th to ensure the personalized art is delivered in time for Mother's Day.

<http://www.ausa.org/programs/familyprograms/LatestNews/Pages/ExchangeOnlineMallPartnertoSalutetheMothersof500DeployedTroops.aspx>

Contact:

Judd Anstey

214-312-3861

anstey@aafes.com.

20 jun Philadelphia VA Medical Center Welcome Home Event

The Philadelphia VA Medical Center is inviting all veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and their families/significant others to attend a Welcome Home event on Saturday 20 June 2009. Activities include:

Free lunch & Entertainment

Veterans Benefits Representatives

Veterans Organizations Representatives

Door Prizes

Health Education Resources

Children's Activities

Recreation Information

Employment Information

Safe Driving Information

The location is

Philadelphia VA Medical Center

3900 Woodland Ave

Philadelphia PA 19104

RSVP by 10 June to Lori Maas, OEF/OIF Program Manager at 215-823-5200



no date Military Order of the Purple Heart Veterans Job Information

The Military Order of the Purple Heart launched a new website at www.VetsJobs.net to assist Veterans in obtaining Federal employment. The VetsJobs website offers a video, "How to Get a Federal Job," that walks Veterans through the process of applying for federal employment. The site also includes links to USAJOBS, the official website for federal jobs, the Department of Labor and the Office of Personnel Management.

no date Patriotic Seed Packets

Show your patriotism through flowers. Just in time for planting to have them ready for July 4th, these seeds are a great way to show your pride in your country. These patriotic packets are standard seed packet size, 4 1/2" x 3 1/4", and filled with easy-grow seed of Red, White and Blue Wildflowers (Red poppy, Blue cornflower, and White Baby's breath). See picture for one idea on how to plant these pretty flowers. For more information contact Moire Reilly at 973-479-6881 or mer77@optonline.net. Packets are \$1.00 each.



no date VA Launches Site for Returning Vets

VA Welcoming Vets Home with New Web Site, Blog WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched its new "Returning Veterans" Web site -- www.oefoif.va.gov -- to welcome home Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, Veteran-centric Web site focusing on their needs and questions.

"VA is entering the world of Web 2.0, because that's where this generation of Veterans is already communicating," said Dr. Gerald M. Cross, VA's Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Health. "We're opening our doors to them virtually to let them know what they can expect when they step through our doors in reality."

The Web site will feature videos, Veteran stories, and a blog where Veterans are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional index-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-

based, categorized, and easily navigated links by topic. This will allow Veterans to find benefits of interest easily and discover related benefits as they explore.

“We hope our returning Veterans find this site easy and helpful, but also engaging,” Dr. Cross said. “As the site grows, we will be linking to Veterans’ blogs and highlighting more of their own stories from their own views. We are their VA, so we are eager to provide a forum for Veterans to discuss their lives.”

LAST WEEKS UPDATES

17 May HHC 1-114th FRG Ticket and Basket Auction

The HHC 1-114th FRG out of Woodbury is having a Ticket Auction/Basket Auction on May 17th 1:00 at the Woodbury Armory.

We are seeking items for donations. Please go through your garage/basement/attic/kids rooms (as long as they have moved away) and see if you can find items in good condition that we can use for our auction.

Call Natalie Warner at 609-903-1061 for more information and to donate items.

13 Jun Operation Military Kids Aqua Adventures Day Camp

Operation Military Kids is holding a learning event spread over three different days. Children will learn various fun facts about water and the eco-system. Sign up today for this fun adventure!

Operation: Military Kids Aqua-Adventures Day Camp:

First Day: Saturday, May 9—Jersey City, NJ
Exploring the Hudson: Liberty Science Center

Second Day: Saturday, May 30—Branchville, NJ
Discovering Fresh Ecosystems: LG Cook 4-H Outdoor Education Center

Third Day: Saturday, June 13—Tuckerton, NJ
Investigating the Sea: Rutgers Marine Research Station

Open to ALL MILITARY YOUTH in grades 4-8

Aqua-Adventures is a fun, three day educational program for youth focusing on marine and fresh water ecosystems and their conservation. The program will provide hands on learning while exploring the outdoors, various environments and animal habitats.

These events are FREE; however, a \$30.00 deposit is required to hold your place. Once you register, you are expected to attend all 3 sessions. The deposit will be refunded on day 3 of camp. Chaperoned busing will be provided, regional pick up locations will be determined based on participant location.

To register, please complete the registration and permission forms and return by April 20, 2009. Please note space is limited and are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. The registration and permission forms can be found at http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_events.html. Return all forms to:

Operation: Military Kids
c/o Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County

PO Box 900
Morristown NJ 07963

For more information, please contact Marie Waldron, Operation: Military Kids, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County at 973-285-8300 X234

30 jun Information Concerning Soldiers Demobilization Process

The 50th IBCT Commander has provided some information for the Soldiers during their return to New Jersey. This is an extract of the General Order to help you prepare and plan for a successful reunion.

The following extract from the G.O. is applicable to all Soldiers who are assigned, attached, or serving with the 50th IBCT while undergoing demobilization at Ft Dix:

- a. For military purposes, soldiers are prohibited from visiting, frequenting or being present at any and all off-post areas and/or locations, without the express approval of a member of the soldier's chain of command designated as the approval authority of such a request. Off post areas are any areas outside the Ft. Dix or McGuire Air Force Base garrison areas.
- b. For non-military purposes, soldiers are prohibited from visiting, frequenting or being present at any and all off-post areas and/or locations, without the express approval of a member of the soldier's chain of command designated as the approval authority of such a request, and the express approval of the appropriate demobilization authority. Off post areas are any areas outside the Ft. Dix or McGuire Air Force garrison areas.
- c. Soldiers may not possess, operate or park a POV at any location within the Ft. Dix or McGuire Air Force Base area of operations. Soldiers may not use a POV within the Ft. Dix or McGuire Air Force Base, area of operations except as a passenger.

Everyone understands it has been a while and you want to get with your Soldier as soon as possible. However, certain steps need to be done to demobilize the Soldier and keep them safe while they make the transition from a combat zone to their home town. The goal is to do these steps right so that when the soldiers get released they'll be with you without having to report for more meetings. Please bear with the Army while they accomplish this vital task.

FRG EVENTS

Here are the ongoing FRG Events that have been previously published. **Expanded information can be found** on our webpage www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/fundraisers_and_FRG_events.html.

25 apr 50th Chemical Co FRG (Somerset Armory) Flea Market/Yard Sale

Indoor- Outdoor FLEA MARKET/ YARD SALE:

Sat 25Apr 2009 8am-3pm

Rain Date Sat 2 May 2009 8am-3pm

Table space cost is \$25. Contact Linda at 732-432-7998 OR JLPagan@comcast.net for a vendor application.

26 apr HHC 2-113TH (Riverdale) First Annual Homefront 5K Run/Walk

Funds Raised are for the Welcome Home Celebration Sunday, April 26, 2009:

08:00-09:30 a.m. - Registration

09:30 a.m. - 500 meter Kids Race

10:00 a.m. - 5K Run/Walk

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Susan Lang at 908-246-7433 or susan.a.lang@gmail.com or

Tanya Calenicoff at 551-655-1957 or tc197@hotmail.com.

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no date HHC 2-113 IN T-Shirt Sale for Riverdale FRG

The Wanaque Police Department is selling T-Shirts to help support the New Jersey Army National Guard "Riverdale Family Readiness Group" in their effort to send packages to our soldiers, assist the families and support their causes while their family members are deployed. If you or any member of your organization would like to purchase a shirt you can contact CPT Ted Norton at 973-835-5600

no date Freehold FRG T-Shirt Sale

We are selling t-shirts, like everyone else. Here is a description:

The regular sizes-Small thru 2XL are infantry blue (\$15)

The kids sizes are a lighter blue but not baby blue and they run children small-large (\$15)

We also have 3XL & 4XL which are white (\$20)