



DMAVA Highlights

January 5, 2007

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*NJ Dept of Military
and Veterans
Affairs*

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Contacting us is easy!

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SSgt. Barbara Harbison
Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us

Or

609-530-7088

We're on the Web!
www.state.nj.us/military

News For Your Views

DMAVA Highlights will be in Mark Olsen's capable hands for the next month. Please send all articles and other information to him at mark.olsen@njdmava.state.nj.us. His phone number is 609-530-6951. Deadline is still noon, Thursday for each week's issue.

Nutter Run beneficiary is Guard daughter, granddaughter

Please join the 2007 Nutter Run at the NGTC in Sea Girt on May 19, 2007. The run starts at 10 a.m. This year's beneficiary is Caitlyn McGuire.

Caitlyn is the daughter of New Jersey Army National Guardsman, Spc. Robert McGuire and the granddaughter of another New Jersey National Guardsman; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mickey McGuire.

The run will also feature live music, food, give-aways, raffles, prizes, games for children and much more. To see the flyer for the event, visit www.nutterrun.com.

If you can't participate in the run/walk, please help us help Caitlyn by spreading the word and raising awareness about this event. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

"The OnGuard" is searching for charter Air Guard members

The OnGuard – the National Guard's bi-monthly newspaper – is searching for charter Air National Guard members to interview for an upcoming series of articles leading up to the ANG's 60th Birthday.

Please call Public Affairs Office at 609-530-6942 if you know of any veteran Airmen from the 1947 Air National Guard who would be willing to answer a few questions about their service.

57th Troop command has first co-ed basketball team

The 57th Troop Command announces its first annual co-ed basketball team for the 2007 Basketball League at Fort Dix. The "Renegades" are led by 1st Lt. Susan Cook and Staff Sgt. David Woody. The Renegades are the only National Guard team in the league and are also supported by Soldiers from the 42nd RSG. The season officially starts on Jan. 9. Please come out to support the team.

Tip-off quote: "Basketball is like war in that offensive weapons are developed first, and it always takes a while for the defense to catch up." --Red Auerbach

1-150th AASLT has new commander

1-150th Air Assault (AASLT) Battalion announces that Lt. Col. Daniel Dreher has returned to the AASLT Battalion family. He assumed command on Dec. 9, 2006, in a ceremony at Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) #1, West Trenton, N.J. The "Guardians of Freedom" are officially under the tutelage of Lt. Col. Dreher. The 1-



Veterans' Organizations

Contact Information

State Veterans Service
Council

Mr. Richard Clark
RJClark21@msn.com

NJ Advisory Committee
for Women Veterans
Mrs. Anna Hoffman
AnnaMHoffman@gmail.com

BG William C. Doyle
Cemetery Advisory
Council

Mr. William Rakestraw
warjrnj@msn.com

Veterans Hotlines



Benefits & Entitlements

1-888-8NJ-VETS
(1-888-865-8367)

Mental Health
1-866-VETS-NJ4U
(1-866-838-7654)

NJ World War II Memorial



For information or to
make a donation, call
609-530-7049

150th was a key component in the 42nd Infantry Division's success during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He is honored to take command and is dedicated to continuing the success of his new battalion. Lt. Col. Dreher looks forward to working with the Soldiers and families of 1-150th AASLT Battalion as they build for the future.

Marriage workshop for Guard couples available Feb. 16-18

The New Jersey National Guard Family Programs and the chaplains have teamed up again in 2007 to offer married couples in the NJNG the opportunity to attend Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) – the Marriage Enrichment Workshop. This program is not therapy nor is it a religious program. It offers a fresh approach to couples teaching effective communication skills, addressing problem resolution strategies that work, discovering hidden issues in every relationship and then move into forgiveness, fun, friendship and sensuality. The cost is free. If you are interested in attending the upcoming workshop scheduled for Feb. 16-18 at the Holiday Inn, East Windsor, N.J., please call Marie Durling at 609-562-0739 for a registration form.

Scholarship information on BBB Military Line

There are many scholarships available to military family members. The Better Business Bureau Military Line suggests you not pay someone to find scholarships for you, because these researchers will use the same sources on the internet that you will use, so why pay them to do so? For suggestions on where to find scholarships for which you might be eligible, visit: http://www.enebuilder.net/cbbbmilitary/e_article-000694547.cfm?x=b8r7v3.

For information to help military families avoid financial pitfalls, visit: <http://military.bbb.org>

ChalleNGe cadets give of selves to Fort Mifflin

On Dec. 16-17, 28 cadets from the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy, contributed over 348 service to community hours to help revitalize Fort Mifflin. Fort Mifflin is a National landmark in Pennsylvania, honoring the men who fought there during the War for Independence. Colonial troops manning the Fort, delayed vital supplies from sailing down the Delaware River for 6 weeks, preventing them from reaching the British troops who occupied Philadelphia. This delay gave General Washington time to escape the area and reach Valley Forge. Fort Mifflin remained an active Army post until the 1950s, acting as a prison during the Civil War and an ammo supply depot during World War II.

The cadets performed many tasks in small groups under the direction of the Fort Mifflin Project Manager. The four groups of seven cadets each tackled some heavy tasks. Group one worked with saws and axes to clear the brush on an old wagon trail that was under cover with heavy brush and vines. Group two policed the grounds picking up numerous bags of garbage including old tires and untangling a heavy mooring rope that had washed up on the sea wall and was tangled among heavy drift wood. They spent the second day sanding and scraping a disassembled Civil War cannon in need of repair and painting. Group three raked the picnic grounds, laid down several loads of mulch, removed 6 truck loads of logs out of the picnic area and ended the weekend scraping paint off of the park benches so that they could be repainted. Group four spent the two days reinforcing a retaining wall to keep the Delaware River from flooding the fort, and cutting a trail to the High Battery that is located outside the Fort. The High Battery was built during the Civil War as an added defense, however it was never completed. Years ago, it had a picnic ground and camping area, but that had long since been reclaimed by the swamp. The cadets managed to cut a quarter mile trail wide enough for the Fort's tractor to travel along. Their work now opens up this unused area to allow for more detailed clean up and the eventual opening of this section to the public.

The project manager was very pleased and thankful for the work the cadets completed. He receives very little help and almost no funding. With little supervision and direction, the Cadets took the initiative to be the driving force for success. This project ties in nicely with New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy because the academy



New Jersey Freedom Loans

What is a Freedom Loan?

- * Up to \$10,000
- * Annual APR 6%
- * Term: 5 years (no pre-payment penalty)
- * Unsecured Loan (no collateral required)

Who is eligible to apply?

NJ residents who are:

- * Members of the National Guard or Reserve
- * Mobilized for one year or longer to fight in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) - excluding routine training.

Or

- * Served 90 or more consecutive days in the GWOT on federal or state active duty (excluding routine training) and have received orders extending cumulative active duty a year or longer.

How do I apply?

- * Contact participating banks. Call or visit your local branch office to obtain an application.

mascot is the "Colonial". It is only fitting that the cadets associate themselves with helping to save a small piece of Colonial history.

Energy Tip of the Week

During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

"Troops to Teachers" program helps service members become teachers

Pensacola, Fla. - Troops to Teachers, the government program helping former military members become public school teachers, has broken the 9,500 mark in hires. Latest data shows that 9,502 teachers have been hired through the program since 1994, with Troops to Teachers represented in more than 3,000 school districts across the country.

Troops to Teachers (www.ProudtoServeAgain.com) is administered by the Department of Defense and Department of Education and managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). The program helps eligible military personnel begin second careers as public school teachers by providing referral assistance, placement services, and - for those electing to teach at high-need schools - financial stipends and bonuses.

Members of the National Guard and Reserves with 10 or more years of service are eligible for the program, provided they commit for an additional three years.

2007 Freedom Award Nomination season open

The 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Nomination Season will open in January 2007 to National Guardsmen, Reservists and most importantly, their family members. The nomination season will open on Jan. 8 and conclude on Feb. 28.

Please visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil, after Jan. 8, to nominate their supportive employers for this prestigious award.

Fill Your Date Book

Honorable Mention

New dial out prefix is in effect

Effective Friday, Dec. 8, all employees who work at the DMAVA Lawrenceville complex, and the Veterans Homes in Paramus and Vineland will no longer use 9 to dial for an outside line. The new dial-out prefix will be 3. Examples are:

3-XXX-XXXX or, 3-1-XXX-XXX-XXXX

This is the first phase in converting the dial-out prefix for DMAVA facilities on a state-wide basis. This process is being implemented in order to reduce the number of mis-dialed 911 calls by staff members.

Any questions should be referred to Sophie Guzikowski, 609-530-6925 or e-mail sophie.guzikowski@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Hire A Hero - new program to help find jobs

HQ Group, who currently runs the Helmets to Hardhats program, is expanding! Hire A Hero is our newest initiative that helps transitioning military personnel, Guard Members and Reservists find jobs across **all industries**.

Hire A Hero is a non-profit initiative that is powered by the Armed Forces Support Foundation. That foundation works to help keep the military promise. That promise is that military service has value and those who serve our country deserve more than a "Thank You." They, as well as their family members, deserve good paying jobs to support themselves and their families after returning home from battle. To find out more about these programs, visit the following Web sites: <http://www.hireahero.com/> or <http://armedforcessupportfoundation.org/>.

* Guardmembers, Reservists, or family members with Power of Attorney must submit copies of current mobilization orders with the bank's Freedom Loan application.

Current participants:

- ☺ Commerce Bank
1-888-751-9000
- ☺ Credit Union of NJ
609-538-4061, ext. 401
- ☺ First Morris Bank & Trust
1-888-530-2265
- ☺ Manasquan Savings Bank
732-223-4450
- ☺ North Jersey Federal Credit Union
1-888-78NJFCU
- ☺ Peapack-Gladstone Bank (908) 719-BANK
- ☺ Pennsville National Bank
856-678-6006
- ☺ PNC
1-866-PNC-4USA
- ☺ Sovereign Bank
1-877-391-6365
- ☺ Sun National Bank
1-800-691-7701

Discounts offered for State employees

Are you a state employee looking to save a few \$\$\$? Visit <http://www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm> and you can find a number of businesses who offer discounts to New Jersey state employees. From amusement parks to fitness to computer to phones and lots of other discounts between, you will find many ways to save money. For more information on each discount, please contact Patty Smith at patty.smith@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-6847.

Free Military Handbooks on website

Military Handbooks has announced the launch of its new website and the release of its latest seven FREE handbooks for military personnel. Military Handbooks is a small company owned and operated by former federal employees and veterans. Their offices are located in Alexandria, Va.

These free handbooks were written specifically for military members. To get your own copies of these free handbooks, simply go to their new website:

www.militaryhandbooks.com The handbooks include:

- 2007 U.S. Military Handbook
- 2007 U.S. Military Retired Handbook
- 2007 Getting Uncle Sam To Pay For Your College Degree
- 2007 After The Military Handbook
- 2007 Benefits For Veterans And Dependents Handbook
- 2007 Veterans Healthcare Benefits Handbook
- 2007 Military Children's Scholarship Handbook

Guard gate now has a phone line

The Guard Booth Telephone Number is 609-671-6623.

Effective immediately all Directors, Managers, Supervisors and Employees that interface with outside personnel for hosting on-site meetings here at the Lawrenceville Headquarters are directed to notify the security guard when expecting scheduled visitors. If you are expecting a large party for a meeting or event please provide a roster of attendees, with the meeting date time and location to the gate guard prior to the event.

DMAVA Hotline

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Hotline is:

1-866-232-5798

You will hear the following message:

You have reached the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Information Number. Please listen to the following menu choices and select an appropriate option:

State employees – press 1
Federal employees – press 2
National Guard employees – press 3

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey

Membership

Give our state a larger voice by becoming a member of the Enlisted Association. The increased numbers will help us speak on all legislative issues that will benefit you and your families. The association works hard for you at the Federal & State level on all important issues. Visit the web site EANG-NJ.org, click on *Become a Member* for the application and find out more about what the association does.

For the Families

ACS at Fort Dix offers programs to Soldiers and family members

The Army Community Service (ACS) office at Ft Dix has several programs to support

Contact name
and number for
DMAVA
Highlights

Please submit any
articles and all
and information
to:

PAO Office
DMAVA Highlights
ATTN:
SSgt. Barbara
Harbison

DEADLINE IS
NOON
THURSDAY

Barbara.Harbison@njmava.state.nj.us

Or by calling
609-530-7088

the Soldier and his/her family during mobilization and deployment. Their number is (609) 562-2767 or (800) 877-2380 and they are located in Building 5201 at Maryland Ave and 8th Street. Some of the programs available are:

- Army Emergency Relief: Provides emergency financial assistance to active duty military personnel, retirees, National Guard and Reserve Component on active duty for over 30 consecutive days and their family members (with ID Card and power of attorney).
- Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP): Entitles member to additional benefits through TRICARE's Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Program. Provides information, referrals, crisis intervention, community support and assistance to meet individual needs.
- Family Advocacy Program: Provides for the identification, reporting, prevention, and treatment of child abuse and domestic violence.
- Employment Readiness Program: Offers information and referral for employment, education (resume writing, interviewing), volunteer & training opportunities.

Family Readiness Council offers Tier I and II grants

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has expanded its Family Grants Program to include an additional grant. There are now two levels of Family Grants; TIER I is the \$2,500 grant that has been in place for the past couple of years. The TIER II opens family grants to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500. Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers.

Family Readiness Group Meeting schedule

Bordentown Armory – B Co 250th SBF & Co D 250th BSB – **Jan. 20**, 10 a.m.

Recreation and Sports

Scholarship News

Two scholarships available from NJ Vietnam Memorial Foundation

Two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. All information about the scholarships, including application form, can be found on the foundation's web site, www.njvvmf.org. All applications must be received at the foundation office no later than Friday, **April 20, 2007**, at 5 p.m. Those applications postmarked prior to that date but received after the deadline will not be accepted. Winners will be notified prior to the presentation of the award at the ceremony on Monday, May 28, 2007.

MOAA offers scholarships

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has a scholarship program for the children of MOAA members as well as the children of active duty, retired, Reserve and National Guard enlisted military personnel. The application period for the 2007-2008 school year begins Nov. 1, 2006 and the deadline is **March 1, 2007**. Members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard who are interested, can learn more about the scholarship program, by visiting the MOAA website, www.moaa.org, and clicking on "Educational Aid."

Defense Commissary Agency offers scholarships

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) announced last week that the application process for its Scholarships for Military Children program has now begun for 2007. Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at <http://www.commissaries.com/>, <http://www.militaryscholar.org/>, or <http://www.dodea.edu/>. The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the

Quote for the week

I reckon being ill as one of the great pleasures of life, provided one is not too ill and is not obliged to work till one is better.

-Samuel Butler

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college, or university full-time in the fall term of 2007, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Applications for 2007, which includes an essay on "how and why" the applicant would change an historical event, must be turned in at a commissary by close of business on **February 21, 2007**. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

Colleges

Grantham University scholarships: Grantham University offers a scholarship program to severely injured service members and their spouses and adult children. Go to www.grantham.edu for more information. They also have scholarship programs for military veterans, service members, and family members.

Widener University CARES Scholarship: Widener University, Chester, Pa., has a full scholarship program for children of Global War on Terrorism service members who were killed in action. Contact the Office of Admissions at 610-499-4126 for more information.

Veterans Information

DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues.

The DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues with kiosk displays at selected malls throughout New Jersey. The schedule is as follows:

January 11-13, 2007	Brunswick Square Mall
February 8, 9*, 10, 2007	Moorestown Mall-with medal ceremony
Feb. 28, March 1-2, 2007	Hamilton Mall
March 14*, 15, 16, 2007	Paramus park Shopping Center
April 4-6, 2007	Cherry Hill Mall
May 16, 17*, 18, 2007	Ocean County Mall

*Medal ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on these dates.

The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the identified dates.

