

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

December 9, 2010 Volume 12 Number 44



State-of-the-art Guard Maintenance Facility Opens

Sgt. Landis Andrews, 444th MPAD

MANCHESTER TWP. – The inside is big enough to play a professional football game and its maintenance bays are crammed with enough gleaming new equipment to keep the New Jersey National Guard's massive fleet of vehicles ready to roll in a moment's notice.

But, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno said the National Guard's \$58 million Combined Logistics Training Facility on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is far more than an impressive new structure that was 12 years in the making.

"This building was built with blood, sweat and tears and the hope that all of America will be safer because of the work that will go on here," Guadagno said on Dec. 1.

The first phase of the project, which includes 16 maintenance bays and more than 110,000 square feet of work space, opened that day with a ribbon cutting ceremony that included Guadagno, Congressman-elect Jon Runyan and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General.

The state-of-the-art building, off Route 539, will improve productivity for mechanics across the New Jersey National Guard. The facility will consolidate operations from two smaller, aging facilities. Next year, a second phase of construction will add an additional 56,000 square feet of work space.

Combined, the projects are one of the largest military construction projects in



Congressman-Elect Jon Runyan, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, cut the ribbon, officially opening the Consolidated Logistics Training Facility, while Brig. Gen. James J. Grant Chief of the Joint Staff holds the ribbon and other DMAVA, National Guard and leaders from the state's Veteran's community look on. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO

New Jersey in the last 15 years.

Sgt. Lauano Bell said he couldn't wait to start work at his new duty station.

"I was there when they first started planning this building, and they really had the technicians in mind," Bell said. "Looking at the finished product, they really got it right."

Rieth said Soldiers like Bell will have no shortage of work.

"Over the past five years, we have received 565 new, state-of-the-art military vehicles," Rieth said. "What this building is going to allow us to do is maintain those vehicles to the highest standard."

With round-the-clock capability, this building was designed to repair all ground vehicles and ground support equipment, such as generators, weapons and electronic devices. The bays, individually equipped with oil stations, are divided evenly throughout both sides of the garage specifically for drive-through ability.

"If there is a requirement to be called out by our governor, we will be the best military first responders," Rieth said. "And, if the nation calls for an overseas deployment, our soldiers will be there, at the highest level of readiness, thanks to this new building."

Stop loss special pay extended to Dec. 18

The Department of Defense announced Dec. 6 that the deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) has been extended to Dec. 18. The last deadline was Dec. 3.

To apply, or for more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

RSLSP was established to compensate

military members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries are required to submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

When RSLSP began in 2009, an estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible.

Added Joint Base Security Coming

Security measures at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst are about to be stepped up. To access the base after Dec. 31, register as soon as possible for the Defense Biometrics Identification System. Bring your driver's license and ID. Registration locations, days and times. McGuire Welcome Center, every day, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dix Welcome Center, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lakehurst Welcome Center, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Blue Star Mothers reaching out to Gold Star families

By Karen Rokosny, Blue Star Mother

I am a member of Blue Star Mothers - NJ - 4, and Blue to Gold Liaison for that Chapter. If anyone knows of a Gold Star family who has not been presented with a Gold Star Banner honoring their Fallen Hero, please contact me, and if the family wishes, I will secure and present it to them. I will also work with any veteran's group on the above mission.

My contact information is: BSM-NJ-4, PO Box 916, Ocean Gate NJ 08740; daytime phone 732-901-7035.

Tribute to Jersey Veterans book on sale for holidays

Just in time for the holidays – a 25 percent discount off the cover price for “A Tribute to New Jersey Veterans.”

Produced by the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey and The Star-Ledger, the 128-page hard-cover book traces the 300-year history of the New Jersey National Guard from its inception to current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The volume makes a fine coffee table book and is a compelling read about the accomplishments of the Soldiers and Airmen who have served in the organization.

Profits from the book benefit the museum.

Signed copies are available at the sale price of \$29.95 at the Sea Girt and Lawrenceville Museums.

Mail orders must be placed by Dec. 15 to ensure delivery by Dec. 25. Please mail check for \$37.45 (\$29.95 plus \$7.50 for shipping and handling) to the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ, ATTN: COL Donald Kale, 151 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

If you have any questions, please contact the Museum at 609-530-6802.

NJ ECC looking for you!

The New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign (ECC) has officially kicked off its 2010/2011 campaign, which will run until Dec. 15.

The ECC provides each state employee with an annual opportunity to voluntarily help others by donating to any of the more than 1,400 participating agencies and organizations listed in the ECC Code Book. Contributions may be made by bi-weekly payroll deductions, cash, or check.

This year's ECC Coordinator for the State's Employees Charitable Campaign is Paul Serdiuk, of the DMAVA-HRD Office. For more information, call 609-530-6878. You may also access information on line at www.njsecc.org.

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ODDS AND ENDS

Family Programs offering limited number of free Christmass trees

The Family Programs Office has a limited number of fresh cut Christmas trees available for distribution at no cost. This is on a first come first served basis. Uniformed personnel interested must contact Marie Durling at 609-530-6884 or e-mail marie.durling@us.army.mil.

Pick-up times for trees will be 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Bordentown Military & Family Assistance Center, 1048 Route 206 South, Bordentown, NJ 08505.

Please ensure that you contact Marie to ensure tree availability prior to going to Bordentown.

Historic military vehicle owners offering scholarships

The Central Jersey Military Motor Pool is offering scholarships as part of the organizations goals to encourage military service and promotie the ownership of historic military vehicles.

The scholarships are open to members of active duty, National Guard, or Reserves who have been deployed in support of Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; veterans who have been awarded either the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, or the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. Also eligible are deserving sons and daughters of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardsman who have been killed or permanently disabled (100% VA disability rating) in the line of duty, or who are currently classified as a Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA).

For further information and application form contact Stan Lapidow at lap1944@aol.com or 908-526-2630.

Gold Star Wives to be honored

The U.S. Senate has declared Dec. 18, 2010, as “Gold Star Wives Day,” honoring the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen service members.

It marks the 65th anniversary of the incorporation of the Gold Star Wives of America, an organization that represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability.

Back in 1945, the Gold Star Wives of America was organized with the help of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind when American heroes paid the ultimate price for freedom, providing services, support and friendship.

Anyone interested in more information on Gold Star Wives Day contact Terese Acocella, Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator for the New Jersey Army National Guard at (609) 298-1196.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
CW 2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

FAMILIES

Vietnam Vets Foundation collecting items for troops

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation is partnering with the Brookdale Student Veterans Group is working with American Recreational Military Services, Inc (ARMS) to collect items to send to troops currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supplies are running low. Here's what's needed:

- Toiletries (non-alcohol mouthwash, Q-tips, toothbrush/toothpaste, soap, facial wash, razors, deodorant, baby powder, travel tissue packs, breath freshening strips, Band-Aids)

- Snacks (non-pork products, non-chocolate products, popcorn, pretzels, chips, cookies, hard-candy, gum, beef Slim-Jims, Gatorade/Iced Tea single-serving packs)

- Handheld games/Puzzles (cards, small travel games, crossword puzzles)

- Insect Repellants (OFF Wipes, flea collars, small bottles of repellent)

- Magazines (nothing profane or pornographic in nature)

Many visitors have expressed an interest in helping our military personnel. This would be a great way to make the holiday season easier for our troops, and we hope that you and your family will get involved with this worthwhile project. You can bring the items you've collected to the Educational Center in Holmdel during our normal business hours, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by calling to make special arrangements.

For more information, call Lynn Duane at 732-335-0033 ext.100.

East Hanover establishment offers fun for family at a discount

Winter weather is here. What do you do with the kids when they can't play outdoors, their video games are boring and they simply need to blow off some steam?

The Funplex in East Hanover, N.J. is offering a 10 percent discount on any purchase when you present your military or government ID at the door. The Funplex is located at 182 Route 10 West.

The indoor attractions include: go-karts, bumper cars, junior bumper cars, Lazer Runner, 4D theater and arcade games. For more information on their games and pricing, visit the Web site - www.thefunplex.com.



Sittercity: Check it out

Your Sittercity membership is funded by the Department of Defense and is available at no cost to you! Go to www.sittercity.com/DOD to register.

Activate your membership today and find local sitters and military care providers- only takes 2 minutes.

Sittercity is America's largest and most trusted online source for in-home caregivers with over 1 million nationwide caregiver profiles. Sittercity helps you find:

Babysitters: For after-school, hourly care, school vacations, deployment and PCS, extended work hours, special needs children, and anytime you need a sitter.

Nannies: For full and part time, infant and young child care

Certified CDH/FCC care providers

Care providers who are authorized access to an installation

Elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors

Your Sittercity membership gives you online access to local caregivers with profiles that include background checks, parent reviews, references, a four-step screening process, pictures and more.

Sell your vehicle without an ad

Do you have an RV, Truck, Automobile, Motorcycle or Boat that you want to sell? Well you are in luck....announcing the brand new Picatinny Arsenal FMWR Resale Lot. This is better than a classified advertisement -you can see what you are about to buy!

Located near the gas pumps, corner of Farley Ave. and Reilly Road, we offer six lanes for our active duty military and three for civilians, retired, on-post contractors. You can place your insured and inspected vehicle in this lot for up to 30 days. The cost is \$10 for civilians and free for all active duty military.

Contact Leisure Travel Services at 973-724-4014 to sign up.

Quotes

“Nothing is static. Human nature either goes up, or it goes down.”

- Mohandas K. Gandhi

“Human nature is the same everywhere: it defies success, it has nothing but scorn for defeat.”

- Mark Twain

“After the primary necessities of food and raiment, freedom is the first and strongest want of human nature.”

- John Stuart Mill



Additions to IG staff

Three new members to the Inspector General staff were sworn-in by Maj. Gen Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, (right) on Tuesday as Master Sgt. Michael Demarco, Sgt. 1st Class Harry Matish and Lt. Col. Todd Berger take the IG oath.

Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA PAO

Voting continues until end of month for Vineland home project

The Vineland Veterans Memorial Home is in the running for a Pepsi Refresh Project grant. The riders of Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 NJ are behind the grant request to build a modular restroom building in the grove area of the home.

When residents utilize this outdoor area for miniature golf, the greenhouse or picnic pavilion, the veterans must travel back into the facility in order to use the restrooms.

You can vote every day until December 31 and the project needs to be one of the top ten voted projects to receive the \$50,000 grant.

To vote visit: www.refresheverything.com/helpaveteran.

VA Offers 'Vet Handbook'

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is piloting new, personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbooks. The handbooks are tailored to provide enrolled Veterans with the most relevant health benefits information based on their own specific eligibility. In essence, each handbook will be written for the individual veteran.

"These handbooks will give veterans everything they need to know and leave out everything that doesn't apply to them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Our veterans will now have a comprehensive, easy-to-understand roadmap to the medical benefits they earned with their service."

In addition to highlighting each veteran's specific health benefits, the handbook also provides contact information for the Veteran's preferred local facility, ways to schedule personal appointments, guidelines for communicating treatment needs and an explanation of the Veteran's responsibilities, such as copayments.

The new handbooks will initially be available only to certain veterans in Cleveland and Washington, D.C., areas. Following the pilot phase, full implementation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011 for across the county.

For additional information, go to www.va.gov/healtheligibility, or call VA's toll-free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Military mentors wanted

The National Guard Bureau is looking for military officers (O-1 through O-4) to be mentors for the 2011 Senate Youth Program. The program, instituted in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution and held annually in Washington, D.C., is designed to give the nation's top-rated high school seniors a working knowledge of American politics through personal interaction with high-level government agencies and officials. Military mentors serve as counselors, facilitators and role models for the 104 students (two from each state and territory), giving them a better understanding of defense missions, personnel and lifestyle. For more information about the program, visit the U.S. Senate Youth Program website at <http://www.ussenateyouth.org>.

Military mentor officers who are selected must be on Permissive TDY or leave status for the duration of the program to include two days of pre-program training. Inclusive dates of the program Mar. 3-12, 2011 (Senior and Assistant Senior Mentor Officers will be required to attend additional days of training beginning on Monday, 28 February).

The Hearst Foundation, which sponsors the program, will pay for lodging, meals, and incidental costs such as laundry and dry-cleaning.

Officers who have participated in the past are eligible and encouraged to participate in the 2011 program. The volunteer Military mentors are responsible for their own transportation costs to get to and from Washington, D.C.

TO APPLY: Carefully read the Senate Youth Program Military Mentor Information and Nomination documents. The second and third pages of the attachment explain the criteria for Military Mentor officers and Senior Mentors and explain in detail exactly how to assemble a Nomination Package.

The Senior and Assistant Senior Mentor slots will be filled by volunteers who have served as a Senate Youth Mentor in a previous year.

Two key items in the nomination package to ensure are correct:

1) The Military supervisor letter of recommendation must contain a statement that, if selected, the nominee will be available to participate in all Senate Youth program functions from 3 - 12 March, which includes the required two days of Mentor training. That letter can be addressed to Ms. Peg Moffett, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs.

2) The second item that is frequently not fulfilled correctly is the required photograph. Ensure that your photo is a full-length pose and you are in service dress. It does not need to be a professional, "official" military photo; it does need to be detailed and large enough to determine military appearance.

DEADLINE: Nomination packages must be submitted electronically to Margaret.Moffett@us.army.mil no later than Dec. 14. If you have any questions, please contact Peg for further information via e-mail or at DSN 327-2614 (Commercial: 703-607-2614).

The final selection of Mentor Officers and Senior Mentor Officers will take place by Jan. 21, 2011.

CALENDAR



State Family Readiness Council benefit concert set for Dec. 12

Get ready to see some amazing dance performances and a great family day to enjoy the holidays – and support the troops, all at the same time.

It's the Holiday Show on Dec. 12 to benefit the National Guard State Family Readiness Council. The benefit show kicks off at 3 p.m. at Lawrence High School, 2525 Princeton Pike, and it's brought to you by Innovative Dance Academy with special performances by Synergy and Dance on Q of South Brunswick.

Besides the dance performances, there will be the opportunity for photographs and face time with Santa as well as an opportunity to send a holiday greeting to a Soldier or Airman.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and \$5 for children and students. Call 609-865-9527 or 609-538-0979 or email soldierbenefit@aol.com for ticket availability and information.

It's nearly time to Wassail

Mark your calendars DMAVA employees, it's time to Wassail on Tuesday, Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Share in the holiday treats, do some decorating with your colleagues and maybe even join in a rousing rendition of The Hippopotamus Song.

The celebration itself dates back to 15th century England, or earlier, and it is a tradition meant to celebrate and promote health, wealth and good fortune.

The history of The Hippopotamus Song is a little more recent.

According to Wikipedia.com, songwriter John Rox wrote "I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas" and the song became a national sensation in 1953 after Gayla Peevey, a popular child singer in Oklahoma City recorded the song. Not only did the song hit the top of the charts, a local promoter launched a campaign to present Peevey with a hippopotamus, which she donated to the city zoo. The beast was named Matilda and lived for nearly 50 years.

With all that tradition behind us, it's time for Wassailing.

The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter, is looking for members. For membership information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Nancy E. Rowbotham at nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil.

Got a Highlights submission? An article, picture, an announcement or just a tidbit of news?

Please send it to:

wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us

DMAVA/JFHQ Holiday Party Scheduled for Dec. 16

Time for another holiday tradition, the DMAVA/JFHQ Town Hall and Holiday Party.

It's scheduled for Dec. 16 at 11:30 a.m. at DMAVA's Lawrenceville Campus. Attendance at the Town Hall portion of the event is mandatory.

Tickets for the party are \$15 and the deadline for that price is Dec. 10. After that, it's \$20 at the door and seating will be limited to only 35 additional people. So, get that money to your departmental representative.

The party includes a meal catered by Amici Miliano's and purchase of the ticket also includes a raffle ticket and a chance to win a \$400 gift certificate to the Borgata in Atlantic City.

See you there!

Sinatra tribute concert set for Dec. 10

Looking for a holiday concert with that Sinatra feel?

Consider the 4th Annual Sinatra Birthday Bash on Dec. 10 at the Count Basie Theater, 99 Monmouth Street in Red Bank.

The concert is presented by the non-profit Jazz Arts Project and Count Basie Theater and members of the military and veterans are especially welcome to attend.

A large group of some of the best saloon singers in the New York metropolitan area will be backed by the Red Bank Jazz Orchestra, a 17-piece big band.

Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$45. For more information, call 732-842-9000 or visit <http://www.countbasietheatre.org/calendar/show/show.asp?id=43246662>

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.

**JAN. 11*, 12, 13
MOORESTOWN MALL**

***Medal ceremony 10:30 a.m.**

