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JANUARY 26, 2012

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



Reaching for the sky



A 177th Fighter Wing's F16-C Fighting Falcon flies over the mountains of Afghanistan during a recent mission. Several aircrafts and Airmen from the 177th FW, Atlantic City, are currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo)

The Dos and Don'ts of the political season

By Air Force 2nd Lt. Abraham J. Raymond, 1st Flying Training Wing Legal Office

With the presidential primaries lurking around the corner, there are a few things service members must remember during this upcoming political season.

When you joined the military or became a federal employee, you did so with the knowledge that this decision came with some sacrifice.

Everyone is encouraged to register to vote, research candidates and vote for the candidates. However, for this representative democracy to function properly, civil servants and military professionals cannot be seen as partisans.

Both military members and federal employees work for the government, and, in doing so, they must support elected officials regardless of whether or not they voted for or against particular candidates. For this reason, among others, getting a paycheck directly from the federal government necessarily limits a person's ability to participate in some aspects of the political process.

Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty"; Army Regulation 600-20, "Army Command Policy," and Air Force Instruction 51-902,

"Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force," outline permitted and restricted political actions for active military members. Service members who violate these rules may face punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

There are some reoccurring issues surrounding prohibited

political activities. A frequent issue concerns whether or not an individual can display a large political sign on his or her car or truck. Displaying a large political sign on your automobile is prohibited. However, members are allowed to display a political bumper sticker on their vehicle.

Military members are prohibited from using official authority to influence an election or solicit votes for a specific

candidate or issue.

Military members are limited in their involvement in the political process off duty as well. This includes being a candidate for, or holding, political office, except in those circumstances authorized by the AFI.

Speaking at any partisan political gathering, including a radio or television



pro-gram, and advocating for a partisan political candidate or party is also prohibited.

Military members should reference AR 600-20 or AFI 51-902 when they have any questions regarding the legality of their political activities

Rules governing political activities by government civilians are found in a federal law known as the Hatch Act. DOD civilians who violate the Hatch Act face adverse personnel ac-

tions, including suspensions and employment termination.

Most restrictions surrounding the Hatch Act are centered on the prevention of supervisors influencing subordinates to participate in or contribute to partisan groups or candidates. Federal employees may not display partisan political campaign materials in the workplace.

While federal employees may express opinions about candidates and issues when off duty, when on duty, in uniform, in a federal building, or in a federally owned or leased vehicle, federal employees may not express opinions directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office or partisan political group.

There are three important things to remember during the upcoming political season. First, regardless of status, using command influence to sway subordinates to vote for a particular party, candidate or issue is prohibited by law or directive.

Second, when you receive a paycheck from the federal government, some aspects of your political freedom are limited.

Third, if you are unsure whether or not a political activity is approved, reference either AR 600-20 for Army National Guardsmen or AFI 51-902 for Air National Guardsmen, or you may contact your base legal office.

DMAVA awards nominations due

DMAVA Human Resources Division is currently accepting nominations for the DMAVA Employee Awards for the Fall Trimester 2011 and also for Employee of the Year.

Please forward all nominations by Jan. 31, to Anna Marie Boutchia by using DMAVA 200-61 Awards Nomination form, which can be found on DMAVANet. HRD requests that all nomination be typed when submitted for ease of processing and selection.

Questions regarding the awards process can be sent to AnnaMarie.Boutchia@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Comedy night at Paramus Elks

The New Jersey Elks National Veterans Service Commission is hosting a comedy night on Saturday, March 10 as a fundraiser for homeless veterans.

Featuring several comedians at the Paramus Elks Lodge# 2001 at 7 p.m., tickets will be sold for \$30 per person.

For tickets or more information, call 908-510-8503.

Paramus Elks Lodge# 2001 is located at 200 N. Street, Route 17 in Paramus.

NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN AFGHANISTAN



A U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon takes off on Jan. 17, from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The jet fighter is currently deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey National Guard.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY
TECH. SGT. MATT HECHT,
455TH AEW/PA



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeffrey J. Raine, weapons loader, makes final checks on an F-16C Jan. 17 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Raine is currently deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing.



Crew chief and 177th Fighter Wing quality assurance inspector, Staff Sgt. Matthew T. Martino, left, talks to Lt. Col. Aaron Lade, right, commander of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron prior to the launch of an F-16C Jan. 17, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.



Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, right, Acting Adjutant General of New Jersey and Gregory Acocella, left, pin colonel rank on Col. Teresa Acocella

at a promotion ceremony on Jan. 22, at the National Guard Family Assistance Center in Bordentown. (Photo by Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th MPAD)

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL HOST A "VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN" ON FEBRUARY 21-23 AT THE NEWPORT CENTRE MALL IN JERSEY CITY.

MEDAL CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST AT THE MALL'S CENTER COURT AT 11 AM

**KIOSK HOURS:
10 AM - 8 PM DAILY**

**MALL IS LOCATED AT
30 MALL DRIVE IN JERSEY CITY**

Give Kids a Smile Day scheduled for Feb 3 in New Jersey

Attention, the New Jersey Dental Association is participating in the "Give Kids a Smile Day", which is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 3.

All children ages 3-12 can receive FREE dental care throughout New Jersey by participating dentists, regardless of the parents' income.

Services that may be rendered include oral hygiene instructions, screenings, cleanings, x-rays, fillings, extractions, fluoride treatments, stainless steel crowns and much more.

An appointment is needed. Please follow this important link <http://www.njda.org/GKAS/docs/2012-PARTICIPATING-LOCATIONS.pdf> to view a list of participating dentists around New Jersey.

For more information about the program, please visit the NJDA's website at <http://www.njda.org/GKAS/>.

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2012 Officer Candidate School Orientation

Hosted by NJARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion and the 254th Regiment (CA)

Now is the time to advance your career in the New Jersey Army National Guard! Come and meet with the current NJARNG OCS Class and Officers. Ask questions, receive guidance and get started toward a brighter future! We hope to see you there!

           	<p>Who: All Current NJ National Guard Soldiers</p> <p>What: NJARNG OCS Orientation</p> <p>When: 04 February 2012, 0830-1300</p> <p>Where: Building 26, NGTC Sea Girt, NJ 08750</p> <p>Why: To learn how to become an officer through the OCS Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Additional Information:</i></p> <p>Please contact SFC Robert Freeman at (609) 703-8686 or robert.freeman6@us.army.mil</p> <p>NOTE: Commanders may authorize SUTA for Soldiers to attend event. ACU or business casual attire</p>	           
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Discounted tickets to Rutgers game

Attention New Jersey veterans and military service members: Enjoy Rutgers University men and women's basketball games at discounted prices.

All 200 and 300 level tickets will be 50 percent off regular price for the men's basketball game against Seton Hall on Feb. 8, at 9 p.m.

All 100 level tickets will be \$15 (normally \$35) and all general admission tickets will be \$5 (normally \$15) for the women's basketball game against Seton Hall on Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online by clicking on the below link: <https://ev12.evenue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=rutgers&evm=prmo&RSRC=&RDAT=&caller=PR>

Type in the code "NJDMAVA" in the box and click the "go" button. You will be taken to a page where the tickets can be purchased at the discounted rate. Or you can call 866-445-GORU (4678). Offer is only good while tickets are available.

Both games will be played at the Louis Brown Athletic Center, which is located at 83 Rockafeller Road in Piscataway.

DMAVA Veterans Outreach Event

DMAVA's Division of Veterans Services will have an outreach event at Rutgers University on Jan. 28, during Rutgers Men's basketball game at 6 p.m.

Veteran service officers will be present to provide answers to questions about federal, state and local entitlements and to assist all veterans enjoy the game between Rutgers and Cincinnati.

The game will be played at the Louis Brown Athletic Center, which is located at 83 Rockafeller Road in Piscataway.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General (Acting)
 Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
 Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
 Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist
 Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist