



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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October 4, 2013

## Governor Christie signs bill at annual Military Review

Story by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley,  
DMAVA-PA

Carrying on a 121-year-old tradition, the New Jersey National Guard held its military review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt on Sept. 29 and Gov. Chris Christie thanked the force for its selfless service to state and nation.

Christie said National Guard overseas missions enhance the security of every American – and the performance of its Soldiers and Airmen during Superstorm Sandy earned a debt of gratitude from every New Jerseyan.

“In some of our state’s darkest hours, you were there,” Christie said. “On behalf of every New Jersey resident, I want to thank you.”

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General, told the Soldiers and Airmen that their response to a storm unrivaled in its destructive power was “awe-inspiring in its scope and effectiveness.”

He said that in addition to helping more than 7,000 people to safety, the variety of other missions undertaken by the



**Gov. Chris Christie signs legislation that allows for a special designation on drivers' licenses for New Jersey veterans during the annual Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Sept. 29, 2013. The Military Review is a 121-year-old tradition that allows governors – the commander-in-chief of the state militia – the opportunity to review the troops. Christie met with leaders of the state Veterans' community before the event. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)**



National Guard during the storm demonstrated its versatility, from creating an emergency fuel distribution for first responders to feeding residents of the Shore at mobile kitchens.

But he said the most noteworthy fact about the National Guard performance was the fact that nearly 150 Soldiers and Airmen whose own homes were impacted by the storm elected to remain on duty.

“That’s the true definition of selfless service,” he said.

Both Christie and Cunniff thanked the National Guard members’ families for support that makes their service possible and acknowledged the

contributions made by the state’s Veterans’ community.

As the ceremony began, Christie signed legislation that allows the state Motor Vehicle Commission to issue driver’s license that recognizes a veteran’s status with a “V.”

This will hopefully make your life a little easier with a more convenient way of proving veteran status,” Christie said.

**Additional photos on Flickr:**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/njnationalguard/sets/72157636059421106/>

**Video on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=567920129930634&l=1863103387370271694>

## American Legion donates bus to veterans home

Photo and Story by Joseph P. Smith, The Daily Journal

Ninety thousand dollars in good wishes rolled up Wednesday outside the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home.

Wednesday was Veterans Appreciation Day, and the home used the celebration to dedicate a 22-seat bus the American Legion Department of New Jersey delivered in September.

There was one common thought among the 300 residents as well as the staff: road trip.

George Teale, 92, has been here five years and gets out on a nursing home bus five or six times a year. The ride isn't always a comfortable one.

"Some trips, I don't particularly like to do," said Teale, a World War II U.S. Army veteran. He knows driving comfort after 28 years as a long-haul tractor-trailer driver for DuPont Co.

"The old buses rode hard," he said. "I enjoy going out. Who wants to sit around in their room?"

"It's going to be very, very nice to leave this unit here knowing we're going to get where we're going safely and get home safely," Residents Council President Ed Hunter said.

Roger Gengaro, a vice commander of the state American Legion, worked out the specifications for the bus.

Gengaro said the bus is larger than the version first considered and more expensive. It was customized for nursing home use. Eight wheelchairs can be carried, which many residents need, and it has extra-wide doors.

Boris Reissek Jr., the facility's chief executive officer, said a nursing home shouldn't be considered an "end of life choice but a new challenge and a new beginning."

"And to that end, it's very important for us to help our residents maintain their contact in the community," Reissek added. "With an aging fleet of vehicles, as you well know — as we've discussed during residents council meetings — we've had some difficulties with vehicles breaking down and not being able to get numbers of residents into the community that we



Residents of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland gather around the home's new bus with guests and officials during Veterans Appreciation Day on Wednesday. Staff photo/Charles J. Olson

would like to see."

The American Legion takes on an annual charitable project for veterans every year. The home submitted its idea for a wheelchair capable bus and it was accepted. The new bus gives the home a total of four.

Gene O'Grady, who was state commander when the request came in, said enough money was raised to get an upgraded vehicle and take on requests from two other veterans facilities.

**"It's going to be very, very nice to leave this unit here knowing we're going to get where we're going safely and get home safely," Ed Hunter-Residents Council President**

"The total funds raised was just under \$140,000," O'Grady said.

"Some of it came from private, but most of it comes from individual posts."

O'Grady said there was enough extra to get a van for Veterans Haven South and another for Veterans Haven North.

Inside, O'Grady told residents he understood the problem with some buses from seeing them bring groups into his Legion post. "So it was a no-brainer when I became state commander last year to come up with an idea to provide safe and reliable transportation," he said.

"Many of you are the same age as my mom and my dad," O'Grady said. "It touched me here to be able to be with you because I lost my dad 20 years ago. But by coming out and seeing so many of you older veterans, it's like I'm having my dad back."

Raymond L. Zawacki, deputy commissioner of the N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, said the Legion's fundraising was remarkable in the current economy.

"And they come through for us every year," said Zawacki, who also is a past state Legion commander.

Copyrighted Daily Journal



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Around the Guard



### Medal ceremony held on Boardwalk

The audience at the Music Pier on the Ocean City boardwalk listens to Al Bucchi, Director of Veterans Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at the start of a medal ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 26. Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General, presented state military awards to more than a dozen veterans for service in Korea, Vietnam, and Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA-PA)



### Soldiers get new mobile kitchen

Airmen and Soldiers got the opportunity to see the Army Guard's new mobile kitchen trailers in action at the military review with a full hot meal served to hundreds. Sgt. Eddie Rios, left, 150th Assault Aviation Battalion takes care of one of the participants coming through the line. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-PA)

## The "Voice" is heard at Paramus



Garrett Gardner, nephew of Thomas Gardner a resident of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus, performed for the residents of the Veterans Home on Wednesday, October 2nd in the Multi-Purpose Room. Garrett Gardner, was one of the Top 12 performers on NBC's "The Voice." Garrett performed during the the second half of the home's weekly Cocktail Hour. (Photos by Giulia Kirsch, New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus)

## HIGHLIGHTS

# Airmen train for disaster at QRF Course

Story and photo by Senior Airman Adrian R. Rowan,  
108th Wing Public Affairs

Clouds gathered in the distance, painting the sky an inky black. Thunder rumbled while lightning flashed on the scene of inhabitants fleeing the coastal towns of New Jersey. The fear of the crowd mounted, as Superstorm Sandy brewed a storm so violent it decimated our beautiful shores. Those evacuees, forced from their beloved homes, felt helpless; wondering where to go, where to find a meal, fresh clothing, a hot shower. Their lives were in an upheaval, but the state banded together to provide for its people.

In the aftermath of Sandy, many members of the New Jersey Air National Guard volunteered to assist with clean-up, security details, and many other tasks to help victims. These selfless Guard members were part of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

Consequently, during September's 2013 Unit Training Assembly or better known as drill weekend, members of the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City, N.J., sacrificed their time and joined forces to undertake QRF training. More than 150 members attended the training, which involved an array of skills taught by Sgts. 1st Class Todd Friedman Tim Hoke, Barry Douglass, and Staff Sgt. David Crenshaw, all members of U.S. Army 2nd Battalion, 254th Regiment, Sea Girt, N.J.

For those of us not familiar with QRF, the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center defines it as any force that is poised to respond on very short notice, typically less than fifteen minutes. One of the instructors, Hoke, explained further, stating that QRF



Members of the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing participate in the annual Quick Response Force (QRF) training Sept. 29, 2013, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

During the training, members were initially briefed and prepared via power point, then their skills were tested in hands-on situations. The instructors had four training areas, focusing on each component of the QRF. Members alternated through each scenario throughout the day, learning about each aspect.

An attendee, Senior Airman Seth Schoenfeld, Emergency Management, 108th Civil Engineers, volunteered for this training. Schoenfeld, who was activated for a month during Hurricane Sandy, said he feels the training would have been beneficial for those members tasked with Sandy support and that he hopes to learn more advanced skills to deal with civil disturbances.

QRF has enabled our forces to be more resilient and able to adapt to more situations. It has taught our members skills necessary to handle devastating events, such as Sandy and that's what some of these Guard members did almost a year ago.

“ This class gives, basic knowledge, which will serve as a foundation for those attending the full course. - Sgt. 1st Class Tim Hoke, 254th Regiment, Sea Girt, N.J. ”

teams are trained to deal with civil disturbances, site security, roadblocks/checkpoints, and vehicle and personnel searches. Hoke also said that every state is mandated to have a QRF consisting of 200 personnel.

The course, taught during the weekend, is normally a week long course, but this shortened version is intended to familiarize Guard personnel with tasks involved with a National Guard reaction force. Hoke said, “This class gives basic knowledge, which will serve as a foundation for those attending the full course.”

## 254th course trains sharpshooters

Photo and story by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Donnelly, 444th MPAD

The 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) is making the Soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard better shots, one small group at a time.

Eighty-one Soldiers from across the 6,300 member force attended the Squad Designated Marksman course run by the Sea Girt-based training unit during September at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Fifteen days of intense marksmanship instruction and long hours firing at targets up to 600 yards away paid big dividends for the Soldiers who attended.

“I've never been a great shooter, but now my fundamentals are crisp and I've learned to relax while firing,” said Sgt. Craig Lewis of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion. Spc. Miranda Meador of the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion achieved what she once thought was impossible – hitting the 600 yard target, which is double the distance of the furthest target on a normal qualification



range. “It's built up my confidence in shooting and myself,” she said.

Sgt. 1st Class Terrick Grace, the lead course instructor, said that all Soldiers who attend the course learn enough to coach other Soldiers in marksmanship when they return to their units.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## DMAVA hosts at Stand Down 2013 at Cherry Hill

Story and photos by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA-PA

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Stand Down of South Jersey Committee, Inc. co-hosted Stand Down 2013 at the Cherry Hill armory on Friday, Sept. 27.

More than 200 homeless veterans took advantage of having access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services, legal services, a hot meal, haircuts and winter clothing.

Stand Down comes from the military term referring to exhausted combat units that were removed from the battlefield to a place



Above photo: Staff Sgt. Andrea Devincetz, (photo above) 177th Fighter Wing medical group performs a finger prick on a veteran to test sugar levels during the event. Photo left: Outside the armory Sgt. Michael Berry, 1-224th Service and Support Battalion cooks up spare ribs.



of security and safety for rest and recovery. Today Stand Downs are grass roots, community-based intervention program to help veterans' battle life on the streets.



New Jersey

**National Guard  
Family Programs**



Joint Military & Family Assistance Center  
1048 US Highway 206  
Bordentown, NJ 08505-2124  
Ph: 609-324-7060

Joint Military & Family Assistance Center  
Hours of Operation: 0730 - 1700 Monday -Friday  
**Services Available**

Yellow Ribbon  
Military One Source Representative  
Crisis Resolution  
Marriage Counseling  
Education Benefit Assistance  
ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) Assistance  
Employment Transition Assistance Advisors

Legal Assistance  
Behavioral Health Assistance  
Personal Financial Consultants  
ID Cards / DEERS  
TRICARE  
Child and Youth Program  
Survivor Outreach

For more information call 609-324-7060 or visit:  
<http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport>  
<https://www.facebook.com/NewJerseyMilitaryFamilyAssistanceCenters>

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

# *Helpful Links for Guidance and Information about the Government Shutdown*

**National Guard Bureau**

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/features/shutdown/default.aspx>

**DOD**

[http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2013/0913\\_govtshutdown/](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2013/0913_govtshutdown/)

**Army**

<http://www.army.mil/article/112425/>

**Air Force**

<http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/PotentialGovernmentShutdown.aspx>

**Department of Veterans Affairs - Veteran's Shutdown Field Guide**

[http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Field\\_Guide\\_20130927.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Field_Guide_20130927.pdf)

**Office of Personnel Management Government Shutdown-Furlough Guidance.**

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/furlough-guidance/#url=Shutdown-Furlough>

**Washington Post - Consumer Guide for Government Shutdown**

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/government-shutdown-a-consumer-guide/acf1e006-2a25-11e3-b139-029811dbb57f\\_topic.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/government-shutdown-a-consumer-guide/acf1e006-2a25-11e3-b139-029811dbb57f_topic.html)

**CNN What's Open/Closed**

<http://www.cnn.com/interactive/2013/09/politics/government-shutdown-impact/index.html>

**Federal News Radio - Agency Shutdown Guidance**

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/153/3468370/Agency-by-agency-shutdown-guidance>



**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS  
Post 414  
PRESENTS**



**COACH BAG  
BINGO**



**Ladies Night Out**

Prizes will be Coach Bags. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Ticket price includes 15 BINGO Games. Additional games can be purchased at the event. Specials are not included. BYOB - ABSOLUTELY No one under 21 years of age admitted. ID may be required

**\$30.00**

Tickets are limited and must be paid in full within 14 days of order. Ticket includes 15 games of bingo

**Friday November 1, 2013**

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. - Games start at 7:00 p.m.  
National Guard Unit, 101 Eggerts Crossing Road Lawrence N.J.  
**FREE Refreshments \* 50/50 \* BONUS GAMES**  
For Tickets and Information Call 609-947-3014 or email Sticker513@AOL.com

**Now Hiring!**

Opportunity open to veterans only

**Job title:** Banquet Server  
**Location:** Newark Renaissance  
Newark, NJ  
**Job Type:** Temp (6-8 weeks)  
**Number of Positions:** 10-15  
**How to Apply:** submit resume to [www.VSNUSA.org](http://www.VSNUSA.org)

**Banquet Servers!**



**Job Summary**  
Prepare coffee breaks, carts, and stations with appropriate food and beverages as stated in Banquet Event Order. Prepare tables, action stations, buffets, service carts, dessert table/carts and cordial carts. Communicate additional meal requirements, allergies, dietary needs, and special requests to the kitchen. Ensure courses are cleared and tables are properly crumbed. Respond to and try to fulfill any special banquet event arrangements. Replenish buffet items to ensure consistency and freshness in presentation. Monitor tableware to ensure it is presentable to guests. Monitor and maintain cleanliness, sanitation, and organization of assigned station and service areas. Bus tables by removing and separating tableware, plate ware, glassware, and flatware.

Follow all company and safety and security policies and procedures; report accidents, injuries, and unsafe work conditions to manager; and complete safety training and certifications. Ensure uniform and personal appearance are clean and professional, maintain confidentiality of proprietary information, protect company assets. Welcome and acknowledge all guests according to company standards, anticipate and address guests' service needs, assist individuals with disabilities, and thank guests with genuine appreciation. Speak with others using clear and professional language. Support team to reach common goals. Ensure adherence to quality expectations and standards. Stand, sit, or walk for an extended period of time or for an entire work shift. Move, lift, carry, push, pull, and place objects weighing less than or equal to 25 pounds without assistance. Perform other reasonable job duties as requested by Supervisors.

All candidates subject to background checks and fingerprinting.

**Heroes in Hospitality** Providing opportunities for military veterans and their families to achieve wellness as well as success through education, training and employment in the hospitality industry.



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MILITARY & VETERANS SERVICES

**Save The Date!**



You are invited to participate in a special **Wellness Expo and Rally** for **female** veterans and current service members



**Military & Veterans Initiative**

**Tuesday  
October 22, 2013  
9 am - 4 pm**

Rutgers Cook Campus Center  
59 Biel Road  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
*Parking available in lots 99B & 99C*

**Women veterans and service members will rally together to:**

- Gain information on self-care and empowerment
- Learn about viable training and employment pathways
- Discuss and create a peer mentoring program

**The following workshops will be offered:**

- Emotional and Sexual Health
- Mind/Body Awareness (organizational Feng Shui)
- Healthy Cooking and Lifestyle Strategies
- Intimate Partner Violence/MST/PTS
- Professional Image Consulting

**Keynote Speaker • Giveaways • Chair Massages  
Continental Breakfast & Lunch**

Easter Seals New Jersey's Military & Veterans Services Women's Initiative is our duty and purpose to recognize, document and honor the accomplishments and sacrifices offered in defense of our nation by heroines and patriots of years past, present, and days to come. This program is in partnership with Easter Seals, Inc. and the Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Community Services.

Easter Seals New Jersey | 25 Kennedy Blvd, Suite 600 | E. Brunswick NJ 08816 | eastersealsnj.org

**This FREE event is open to FEMALE Service Members and Veterans**

**★ RSVP Required ★  
by Friday,  
October 11, 2013**

Please RSVP online @ <http://goo.gl/lzhpzm>

*if you are unable to access the online RSVP form, please email  
mvscoordinator  
@nj.easterseals.com*



**Reflections on  
"The Invisible War" —Military Sexual Trauma**

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 • 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Campus Center Event Room

Registration begins at 4:00 p.m.; program begins promptly at 4:30 p.m.

*"Military sexual trauma" or MST is the term used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to refer to experiences of sexual assault or repeated, threatening acts of sexual harassment, MST can be defined as psychological trauma resulting from physical assault of a sexual nature or sexual harassment which occurred while the Veteran was serving on active duty.*

Join us for a viewing of the film *The Invisible War* and interactive panel discussion on Military Sexual Trauma.

★ Learn how to identify the signs and symptoms of Rape Trauma Syndrome and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

★ Identify the role of the healthcare provider in threatening the MST survivor

★ Identify community resources to support MST survivors

Cost: \$35 (\$30 before 10/16): Stockton Students \$12.00 (Includes light dinner)

To register for this event visit: [www.stockton.edu/csconferences](http://www.stockton.edu/csconferences)

For questions contact: Continuing Studies

By email: [continuingstudies@stockton.edu](mailto:continuingstudies@stockton.edu) or by calling 609.652.4227

Sponsored by:  
Theta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society  
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Co-Sponsored by:  
Stockton Office of Veteran Affairs



Stockton College is an AA/EQ institution.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## RUTGERS CAMDEN

Receive an **Instant Admission Decision** for the following programs offered at JBMDL:

Ba Liberal Studies  
BA Criminal Justice

Homeland Security / National Security Certificate

Register today for an Instant Decision Day appointment. The benefits of attending an Instant Decision day include receiving an immediate answer about if you are accepted to attend Rutgers University Camden at JBMDL, as well as having your Application Fee waived.

Instant Decision Day will be held on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 in the Education Center located at 3829 School House Rd, Room 303. Appointments are available between 9 am and 6 pm.

### Requirements for Transfer Students:

Please complete application prior to your appointment (online at [admissions.rutgers.edu](http://admissions.rutgers.edu)) and bring in all college transcripts (official or unofficial) from all institutions you attended.

To register contact Maria Yates at 609-353-1273 or [mariay@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:mariay@camden.rutgers.edu)



Attention: Veterans from the Camden County area

*You're invited to attend:*

*"Because You Served"*

*Veterans' Resource Forum*

*The Voorhees Care and Rehabilitation* proudly invites Veterans to a Camden County Veterans' Resource Expo

*Gain valuable insight from various veteran-related quality of life resources. Residential, health, benefits, general issues, and more!*

When: Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Time: 9:30-11am

Where: 1302 Laurel Oak Road Voorhees, NJ 08043  
(856)298-9591

1302 Laurel Oak Road Voorhees, NJ 08043



Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party.

E-mail your Photo of the Week or Highlights submissions to:  
[wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us) OR  
[nicholas.young@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:nicholas.young@njdmava.state.nj.us)

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**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**  
Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General  
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff  
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer  
Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young - Public Affairs Specialist  
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist