



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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October 24, 2013

## *ESGR recognizes Looby for outstanding support of Guard and Reserve service members*



*Robert Looby addresses the audience at a recent Somerset County Law Enforcement Show of Strength event. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented Looby the prestigious Seven Seals Award at the event that gathered law enforcement leaders together to ceremoniously pledge their support for the National Guard and Reserve. (Courtesy photo)*

### **By Donna Clementoni, Director, Employer Outreach NJ ESGR**

New Jersey American Legion Economics and Employment Chairman, Robert Looby, has answered the call of duty.

The Department of Defense operational organization Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recognized Looby with the prestigious Seven Seals Award for his tireless dedication to veteran issues and his meritorious service to members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The award, depicting the heraldry seals of the seven military services, is given at the discretion of the New Jersey ESGR Chairman to recognize the efforts by a citizen, business or organization, whose supportive actions have benefited all of the Guard/Reserve components in a significant manner.

Looby understands that finding veter-

ans, military spouses and citizen Guard-members meaningful employment is mission critical in our Post-911 society. This passionate volunteer has whole-heartedly embraced the challenge and works diligently with his Hiring Our Heroes partners, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, to realize their objectives.

The task is enormous but Looby appears dauntless. With the broad responsibility for veterans' employment, his days are consumed with coordinating veteran job fairs, working with homeless and student veterans to prepare them for the civilian job market and organizing New Jersey Attorney General Veterans Civil rights seminars.

Looby initiated the nation's first veterans-only job fair. He began with a partnership with NBC Network and continued with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Looby's model for veteran job-fairs is used by Legion Posts and organizations throughout the nation.

As an Army Veteran himself, the American Legion leader understands that veterans bring a unique skillset to the civilian workforce.

As there is no rest for the weary, Looby is sure to carry his weight behind the multi-year veterans hiring initiative with the lofty goal of helping 500,000 veterans and military spouses get employment by the end of 2014.

ESGR is a mostly volunteer, Department of Defense agency which seeks to create a culture where American employers value and support the military service of their Guard and Reserve employees. They recognize outstanding support, increase awareness of the law, and resolve conflicts through mediation.

# HIGHLIGHTS

**FREE SURF FISHING SEMINAR  
FOR VETERANS  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2013  
9:00 A.M. TILL 11:30 A.M**

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- **Understand NJ rules and marine regulations**
- **Learn about fishing tips and other items you might need to have an enjoyable surf fishing experience**

**Studies show recreational therapy has helped veterans cope with PTSD/TBI.**

## Military parenting website assists communication

Story by Amaani Lyle, American Forces Press Service

Service members who deploy or are otherwise separated from their families due to mission needs now have an online resource allowing them to hone their parenting skills as they reconnect with their children.

Pam Murphy, the Defense Department's lead psychologist for the website, said the launch of <http://www.militaryparenting.org> offers unprecedented, comprehensive and free computer-based training from a service member's perspective on parenting and building strong relationships with their children.

A clinical psychologist with more than 20 years of experience in community and private practice, Murphy said the Integrated Mental Health Strategy Program is a collaborative initiative between the Veterans Affairs Department and DOD.

"We initially did an environmental scan of everything within the DOD as well as commercially available, and one of the areas that seemed to be at a deficit was a comprehensive parenting program that looks at the basics," Murphy said.

She noted that while a plethora of parenting information exists online, it was difficult to identify a free, private "military-centric" program.

"This is one of the first of its kind," Murphy said. The interactive site, she explained, develops and reinforces parenting skills to help families reconnect through in-depth technology solutions that appeal to younger parents.

"Many of the parents in the service member population are generally younger," she said. "Prominent age groups of their children are typically 5 or below."

Murphy added that the site goes beyond the job and hits home in terms of affecting family relationships, building resilience and helping service members to be happy with their lives within the military.

She also noted that service members' personalized accounts interwoven into the site make the situations and solutions relatable.

"We included videos of real service personnel... to talk about their real-life experiences with parenting, reintegrating and making those everyday decisions," Murphy said.

The website consolidates and simplifies information that was previously accessible across multiple resources, said Air Force Senior Airman Matthew Siegele, a protocol specialist, and his wife, Air Force Staff Sgt. Sabrina Siegele, noncommissioned officer in charge of knowledge operations, both of whom work at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

"We've been through so many parenting classes, counseling and therapy, and a lot of the resources and advice is mirrored on this site," Sabrina said. "This website is excellent - it's a one-stop



shop instead of jumping around to multiple appointments."

During family separations, Murphy said, applications such as Skype and Facetime can help in keeping families connected, but the military parenting website provides ideas for technology-based activities that can help in reuniting parents and children after a deployment. "A lot of times, kids don't know what to talk about with their parents when they are on the phone or on the computer with them," she said.

Murphy said the website can help military parents to reconnect with their children.

"Parents can benefit from this site, and I believe they want their kids to grow up to be happy, healthy, fully functioning adults," she said. "Here, they'll find strategies and ideas to [get] even better in terms of helping kids to grow, mature and blossom."



From top right clockwise, Joseph Belardo, Marie Keane, Maureen David, Eugene Cook and Lorraine Hochheim. (Courtesy photo)

## Recording our veterans history for future generations

On Sept. 17, Haven Hospice volunteers got together to interview a few veterans at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, as part of the Veteran Oral History Project.

The mission of the Veterans Oral History Project is to interview and record veteran's experiences which are then submitted to the Library of Congress and stored for future generations to hear from veterans, in their own words, the realities of war.

With the assistance of Haven Hospice volunteer, Marie Keane, Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Joseph Belardo, interviewed and recorded World War II veteran, Eugene Cook's account of his time in Pearl Harbor following the attack, and Lorraine Hochheim's experience as a member of the Women's Army Corps during World War II.

As Cook and Hochheim recounted their experience, volunteers from Haven Hospice, Patricia Casterline, Deborah Chalfin and Maureen David, were greatly moved by the stories.

Haven Hospice is a national partner of the We Honor Veterans Program, a pioneering campaign developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a We Honor Veterans Partner, Haven Hospice will implement ongoing veteran-centered education for their staff and volunteers to help improve the care they provide to the veterans they proudly serve.

The Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park hopes to record the experience of many more of their veterans for posterity.

For further information, please call Maureen David at 732-321-7704 or Christine Caratozzolo, supervisor of recreation at Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park at 732-452-4258.

A collage-style graphic for a veterans event. On the left, a soldier in camouflage gear stands with a rifle. In the center, three signs are attached to a wooden post: 'HELP A VET THANK YOU', 'VIETNAM ERA US ARMY', and 'GOD BLESS AMERICA'. An American flag is visible in the background. On the right, large white text reads 'STAND DOWN FOR HOMELESS VETS &amp; VETERAN'S HIRING FAIR MORRISTOWN ARMORY NOV 8-9 9 AM TO 3 PM'. The background features a dark, starry pattern.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Exclusive Savings for Military, Families & Friends! SAVE \$5\* PER TICKET!



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\*Offer does not apply to Opening night, Rinkside, Gold Circle, \$25 or \$20 seats. A \$5 per order processing fee will apply. No double discounts. **Children ages 2 and older require a ticket. NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES - ALL SALES ARE FINAL.** Tickets subject to availability. This flyer is NOT a coupon and CANNOT be redeemed at the box office. You must contact Joanne Towne to take advantage of this offer.

November 20-24, 2013



Opening Night: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm TICKETS JUST \$15*			
THURSDAY November 21	FRIDAY November 22	SATURDAY November 23	SUNDAY November 24
		11:00 am ♦	
		3:00 pm	1:00 pm
7:00 pm ♦	7:00 pm ♦		5:00 pm
Special pricing only applies to performances highlighted in <b>RED</b> ♦			
<b>Special Pricing: \$25</b> Regular Ticket Prices: Rinkside \$80 • Gold Circle \$50 • \$30 • \$20			
A \$3.50 per ticket facility fee will apply. Deadline to order: Thursday, November 14, 2013 @ 12:00 PM EST			

November 26-  
December 1, 2013



Opening Night: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 7:00 pm TICKETS JUST \$15*				
WEDNES- DAY November 27	THURSDAY November 28	FRIDAY November 29	SATURDAY November 30	SUNDAY December 1
11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am	
		3:00 pm	3:00 pm	
7:00 pm ♦		7:00 pm ♦	7:00 pm ♦	7:30 pm
Special pricing only applies to performances highlighted in <b>RED</b> ♦				
<b>Special Pricing: \$30</b> Regular Ticket Prices: Rinkside \$85 • Gold Circle \$60 • \$35 • \$25				
A \$1 per ticket facility fee will apply. Deadline to order: Thursday, November 21, 2013 @ 12:00 PM EST				

# PATRIOT CONNECTIONS

Veteran, Military, Law Enforcement and Patriot Related EVENTS  
and NEWS in NJ, PA and surrounding areas...



**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS ONLINE AT;  
WWW.PATRIOTCONNECTIONS.ORG**

# HIGHLIGHTS



## New Jersey - Albania State Partnership Program (SPP)



### ALBECH1300495MTG – Traveling Contact Team for Chaplaincy Development

**WHO:** 1 USA Officer, 1 ARNG Officer, 1 ARNG NCO, and 25 ALB Psychologist; sponsored by EUCOM, Embassy, ODC & SPP  
**WHAT:** Traveling Contact Team conducting a Chaplaincy Development event with the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) Psychologist staff and local religious leaders. NJNG representatives from the 42<sup>nd</sup> RSG and the EUCOM Deputy Command Chaplain traveled to Albania in order to conduct this event and plan for future events.

**WHEN:** 22-28 September 2013

**WHERE:** Tirana, Albania.

**WHY:** The purpose of this event was twofold; (1) Chaplaincy Development: basic assessment of the current state of the AAF chaplain corps, and also providing initial outreach to civilian religious community leaders. (2) Soldier Welfare Program: assess the current status of AAF efforts to support its personnel and their families and provide advisement based on NJNG lessons learned.

**RESULTS:** The local civilian faith groups that the TCT met with are eager to provide chaplains to the AAF. They are also ready to train, equip, and endorse qualified candidates for the chaplaincy. The TCT identified many of the unit-level Command Psychologists require basic skills that could be provided through the NJNG R3SP (Resiliency Risk-Reduction & Suicide Prevention) Program's curriculum of instruction. Getting personnel certified on ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and Resilience would be a good start in equipping the AAF PHP to care for its Soldiers and Families.



From top left (Clockwise) – LTC Klein (EUCOM Chaplain), CPT Found (NJNG Chaplain Rep), Ms. Citozi (AAF Senior Psychologist) SGT Risco (Chaplain Asst) and Mrs. Mitrovassili (M2M Coord) pose for a picture with AAF Command Psychologists. CPT Found conducting a discussion about Soldier Welfare programs. Chaplain TCT meets with the Sunni Muslim Community Imam at the Tirana Khura Mosque. Chaplain TCT meets with the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Albania.

DoD

# Safe Helpline

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Easter Seals New Jersey Presents

# Celebrating Women Who Serve



**SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2013 | 1130-1430**  
**AT 3601 FLORIDA AVENUE**

Join us for this **special symposium and luncheon** event focusing on serving the "whole person" needs of all **women guard, reservists, service members and veterans.**

Featured panelists moderated by Curtis Consulting Group, LLC include experts from: Be a Hero Hire a Hero, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Easter Seals NJ, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) NJ, Integrative Counseling Solutions, NJ Small Business Development Center, Primerica Financial Services, and Veterans Administration New Jersey Women's Health Program, along with award winning employers. Each offers insights and tips on:

- ★ De-stressing in Today's Plugged-in World
- ★ Caregiver Resources
- ★ Coping with Family Life Issues
- ★ Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program
- ★ Women's VA Benefits & Resources
- ★ Financial Fitness
- ★ Navigating Your Career Transition
- ★ Employer Insights for Interview Success
- ★ Exploring Entrepreneurship

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with the panelists and network with their peers during the luncheon. Each registered participant will receive an Easter Seals bag of information and resources and special gifts!

**FREE EVENT!**  
**REGISTER**  
**AT:**

<http://esnj.org/womenwhoserve>

For questions or more information, email:  
 MVScordinator@nj.easterseals.com  
 or call: 732/955-8360



This diversity event is made possible by a special grant in support of women guard, reservists and veterans.



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# MILITARY APPRECIATION

NOVEMBER 10TH - 11TH, 2013



**ACTIVE AND RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY RIDE FREE**

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This offer is available to qualified military members, veterans, and immediate family members upon presenting a valid military identification card or department of veterans affairs veterans identification card (VIC). Subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other discounts or special offers.

[iPlayAmerica.com](http://iPlayAmerica.com) | Freehold, NJ | 732-577-8200



**2013 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Morristown, NJ**  
 3<sup>rd</sup>/112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Armory  
 430 Western Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960  
 November 5, 2013

**HIRING FAIR: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 9:00 A.M.**

This American Legion-sponsored hiring event is being hosted by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA); conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development; the Morris County Chamber of Commerce; NJ Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3401; NJ AMVETS; the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); the NJ State Parole Board; NJ State Libraries; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News, and other local partners.

### EMPLOYERS

Must have available jobs.  
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### JOB SEEKERS

Veterans, Active Duty Military, Members Of Guard And Reserve Components, Military Spouses  
 Register for **FREE** at [HOH.Greatjob.net](http://HOH.Greatjob.net)  
**WALK-INS WELCOME**

A workshop for veterans and military that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 9:00 A.M.

For registration questions, please contact [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202463-5807.



[WWW.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG](http://WWW.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG)



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