



# *DMAVA Highlights*

July 2, 2008

Volume 8, Number 27

*NJ Dept of Military  
and Veterans  
Affairs*

*Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth  
The Adjutant General*

*Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-  
Dodson  
Deputy Adjutant General*

*Col. (Ret) Stephen G. Abel  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Veterans Affairs*

**Contacting us  
is easy!**

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**Staff Sgt. Barbara  
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Or

**609-530-6951**



*Happy 4th of July –  
Have a safe and  
happy holiday*

## *News For Your Views*

### **108th Civil Engineers help Croatian villagers**

The 30 members of the 108th Civil Engineering Squadron returned home July 1 after more than two weeks in Croatia. Many consecutive days of temperatures into the 90's and matching humidity didn't keep the men and women from their jobs of erecting a playground of the tiny town of Gasinci, Croatia, placing a new roof on the local community center and working on a road that leads to the local soccer complex.

Working with their fellow Croatian army engineers gave them insight into different building practices and equipment. Both the Americans and Croatians enjoyed the village children and played on the playground and the elementary school's soccer field with the kids during down time.

During the dedication ceremonies held in the village, the Croatian minister of defense, the American ambassador to Croatia, 108th commander Brig. Gen Michael Cunniff and other dignitaries attended. Everyone enjoyed the dances performed by the town's children dressed in the intricately embroidered garb that is handed down through the generations.

### **Come join the 63rd Army Band for an evening of music**

The New Jersey National Guard's 63rd Army Band will be performing an outdoor evening concert on Friday, **July 11** at the Training Center in Sea Girt. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. Soldier-musicians will be arranged into everything from a full orchestra to smaller-piece bands...playing selections ranging from classic...to jazz...to rock.

### **N.J. Family Readiness Council increases grants to families, businesses**

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has increased the amounts of family and business grants up to \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Both are what are known as TIER I grants. TIER II family grants are also available 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.

We're on the Web!  
[www.nj.gov/military](http://www.nj.gov/military)



## Veterans' Organizations

### Contact Information

State Veterans Service  
Council  
Mr. Richard Clark  
[RJClark21@msn.com](mailto:RJClark21@msn.com)

BG William C. Doyle  
Cemetery Advisory  
Council

Mr. William Rakestraw  
[warjrnj@msn.com](mailto:warjrnj@msn.com)

### Veterans Hotlines



#### Benefits & Entitlements

1-888-8NJ-VETS  
(1-888-865-8387)

#### Mental Health

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

## For Your Calendar

### Picatinny Arsenal Family Sports Picnic

On Saturday, **July 12**, Picatinny Arsenal will hold a Family Sports Picnic at the building 3228 – SAS playground (rain date is Saturday July 19). Those wishing to attend must RSVP by July 2 at (973)724-5555.

### FRG training for leaders, volunteers in September

There will be Family Readiness Group Training for leadership and volunteers on **Sept. 6-7**. Save the date. More information on location will be put out at a later date. Activities for children ages 8-16 will be available at the hotel during the training sessions. We are not able to accommodate children under the age of eight. We will also be having a speaker for parents of deployed Soldiers/Airmen on Sept. 6.

### Reserve Aid gives support to families of deployed service members

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist*

Reserve Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing financial support to the families of Reserve Service Members called to active duty in all five branches of the Armed Forces. Reserve Aid makes unrestricted, need based grants to military families who have a Reserve service member on full-time deployment to a combat zone or homeland security position. Their goal is to alleviate the emotional and financial burdens placed on the men and women called to serve our country by supporting their families at home. For additional information and application procedures go to: [www.reserveaid.org](http://www.reserveaid.org)

### New Jersey Bar Association offers pro bono military legal assistance

The New Jersey Bar Association established and administers the **Military Legal Assistance Program**. This *pro bono* program provides assistance to New Jersey residents who have served overseas as active duty members of reserve components of the armed forces after Sept. 11, 2001.

Individuals who have been adversely affected upon their return from deployment and cannot be represented by military lawyers can use this program. The program currently offers assistance to the following areas: family law, employment law, veterans' benefits and debtor-creditor law.

The Military Legal Assistance program will refer members of the military who contact the state bar association to volunteers qualified to assist them with their specific legal issues. Volunteers who accept a case through the program must agree to handle such case from inception to resolution without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

If interested in the program, call toll free 1-888-541-1900 for referral or visit the New Jersey State Bar Association web site at [www.njsba.com](http://www.njsba.com) and click on the button for the Military Legal Assistance program.

### HRD presents seminars for training

*From the desk of Paul Serdiuk, DMAVA Human Resources Division*

The Human Resources Division is offering a number of free seminars presented by the Human Recourse Training Section. Reservations are needed for each seminar; contact Paul Serdiuk at 609-530-6878 or at [paul.serdiuk@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:paul.serdiuk@njdmava.state.nj.us). All seminars will be held in Conference Room A at DMAVA Central Office. All are welcomed.

**Sept. 17:** State Deferred Compensation – Mike McConnell from Prudential Financial will meet with State employees to discuss their participation and contributions to their deferred compensation account. A 30 minute consultation will be scheduled per each employee.

NJ World War II  
Memorial



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



Please  
submit any  
articles and  
all  
information  
for *DMAVA*  
*Highlights*

to:

PAO Office  
DMAVA Highlights  
ATTN:  
Staff Sgt. Barbara  
Harbison

DEADLINE IS  
NOON  
WEDNESDAY

Staff Sgt. Barbara  
Harbison  
*Barbara.harbison@njd*  
*mava.state.nj.us*



## *Say Again?*

### Help available to students studying for SAT/ACT

In cooperation with the Department of Defense, eKnowledge Corporation, a leading supplier of interactive test preparation products for college entrance exams, along with a group of NFL players, have donated more than \$16 million worth of multimedia SAT/ACT Test Preparation products to service members and their families worldwide.

Now in its fourth year, the eKnowledge/NFL player sponsorship effort has shipped more than 90,000 free SAT/ACT test preparation programs, valued at \$200, to military servicemembers and their families.

The eKnowledge SAT and ACT test prep programs come in either a single DVD or two CD-ROM set that include more than 11 hours of high quality video training/instruction with up to 40 hours of student interactive learning participation. The SAT and ACT test prep programs can be used as a stand-alone instruction tool to prepare thoroughly for the SAT and ACT, or as a supplement to other SAT and ACT preparation materials. Each student can select the areas where they need additional or special training/instruction, and can then study at their own pace using the 120 video lessons which comprise the SAT and Act test prep programs. The program also provides the student with feedback on their learning progress, test readiness and more.

Those military families interested in receiving free eKnowledge products under this sponsorship can complete an online request form at <http://eknowledge.com/military> or visit the Department of Defense <http://militaryhomefront.dod.mil> Web site for more details. Copies can also be requested by calling 951-256-4076 or via e-mail at [support@eknowledge.com](mailto:support@eknowledge.com).

### 253rd Transportation Co. honored in museum exhibit

The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey has created a special exhibit to commemorate the five-year anniversary of the first N.J. Army National Guard unit to be deployed to a combat theater of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom – the 253rd Transportation Company of Cape May Courthouse.

The exhibit traces the 253rd from the time they were called up in February 2003 to their arrival in Kuwait on April 2003 to their service in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division, the 10th Mountain Division and the Special Forces Group to their safe return to Cape May Courthouse in April 2004.

The museum is located on the campus of National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt and is open Tuesdays through Thursdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free, although donations are appreciated. Access to the Training Center requires a photo ID for adults. For further information contact the museum at 732-974-5966.

### Absentee voting open to military, family

The Uniformed And Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) allows the following U.S. citizens to vote absentee:

- Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services (on active duty) and merchant marine,
- Their family members, and
- U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.

Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services or merchant marine and their family members may vote absentee while away from their place of voting residence, wherever stationed, inside or outside the United States.

U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories may vote in the state or territory where they last resided immediately prior to departing the United States, even if many years have elapsed and the citizen maintains no residence in the state or territory and the intent to return to that state or territory may not be certain.

1. <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.pdf>

# Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline

1-800-984-  
8523

Phone  
numbers and  
Web sites to  
remember

Directory  
Assistance:

1-602-293-4907

Verizon Super Pages:  
<http://www.superpages.com/>

AT&T:  
<http://www.anywho.com/>

SBC Yellow Pages:  
<http://www.yellowpages.com/>

Telephone and  
contact information  
on state employees  
can be found at  
<http://njdirect.state.nj.us/>

DMAVA  
Emergency  
Hotline:

1-866-232-5798

2. <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html#ch3>

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## Help for small business owners

If you are ready to start your own business, grow or expand, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) can help. The SBA offers many programs and services to help Veteran entrepreneurs succeed. For more information on how SBA can help you start, grow and build your business, contact: Frank Burke at 973-645-6049 or e-mail [frank.burke@sba.gov](mailto:frank.burke@sba.gov) Visit the SBA New Jersey website at [www.sba.gov/nj](http://www.sba.gov/nj)

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## No handbooks available for NJDIRECT

Inquiries about NEW handbooks and directories for NJDIRECT has prompted this reply from Pensions and Benefits:

"Unfortunately, we do not have NJ Direct Handbooks to give to members and will not be receiving a supply. Members may visit the NJ Direct website [www.horizonblue.com/shbp](http://www.horizonblue.com/shbp). Members without computers are encouraged to use their local library or a relative's computer or call the plan directly".

You may also look up benefit information and visit the Unified Provider Directory on the Pensions and Benefits website under State Health Benefits Program.

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## State employees who move, marry must contact HR department

From the desk of Lisa Dandrea, Human Resources Office

Please remember if you have an address change and/or a name change, it is *extremely* important that you contact Lisa Dandrea in the Human Resources Office. There have been a lot of issues with tax W2s, pension statements and pay checks being returned to our office, as well as some employees not receiving their new health cards, all due to incorrect addresses. Your address change is not automatic and it is not limited to completing a new W4. There are specific forms for employees to complete that updates their new information statewide. Your change of address or name affects your paycheck, your pension statements, W2s, loans, any information sent out by your health care provider, promotional announcements from Dept. of Personnel, etc. If you have had an address/name change and have not updated your information, please make sure you contact Lisa Dandrea in HRD-ESB at 609-530-6888 or e-mail [Lisa.Dandrea@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:Lisa.Dandrea@njdmava.state.nj.us).

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## Lawn care services provided for military families

GreenCare for Troops is a nationwide outreach program coordinated by Project EverGreen that connects local lawn and landscape firms with men and women serving our country in the armed forces away from home.

GreenCare has helped more than 1,200 volunteers provide free lawn and landscape services for more than 4,800 military families nationwide. The cost to manage the GreenCare for Troops Program is underwritten by Cub Cadet Commercial.

Go to <http://www.projectevergreen.com/gcft/> for more information.

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## Battlemind supports Soldiers, families through deployment cycle

Battlemind is a term used to describe combat readiness. The first Battlemind product was a mental health post-deployment briefing. It quickly became a training system supporting Soldiers and families across the seven phases of the deployment cycle. The Battlemind system includes separate pre-deployment training modules for Soldiers, unit leaders, health-care providers and spouses. Psychological debriefings are given in theater and upon redeployment. There is also a post-deployment module for spouses and several post-deployment modules for Soldiers. Pre-deployment Battlemind tells Soldiers what they are likely to see, to hear, to think and to feel while deployed - by describing the worst-case scenario. Post-deployment Battlemind addresses safety concerns, relationship issues, normalized combat-related mental health reactions and symptoms -- along with teaching Soldiers when they should seek mental health support for themselves or for their buddies. All of the Battlemind products (training modules, brochures, debriefings and videos are available on the Web site,

## ESGR office

JFHQ

3650 Saylor's Pond  
Road

Fort Dix, NJ 08641

Hank Pierre, 609-  
562-0156,

hank.pierre@njdma  
va.state.nj.us

Tammy Cartagena,  
609-562-0157,

tammy.l.cartagena  
@us.army.mil

Fax

609-562-0158

[www.battlemind.org](http://www.battlemind.org).

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### Reduced rates on NJ Transit for military, dependents

Here is another benefit offered to military members, retirees and their dependents by the state of New Jersey.

Eligible passengers may ride at reduced fare rates on any NJ Transit bus, rail or light rail service at all times, without restriction, upon presentation of authorized identification.

All military personnel and their dependents will be permitted to purchase transportation at the senior citizen/passengers with disabilities reduced fare rate upon showing their military or military dependent ID card. The following military personnel are entitled to this fare: Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard or Retired for Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard.

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### N.J. licenses, registration extended for deployed troops

New Jerseyans who are on active duty military, in the National Guard or the military reserves, serving in the war on terrorism, are eligible for automatic extensions of a valid driver license, registration or inspection expiration dates. Go to [www.nj.gov/mvc/](http://www.nj.gov/mvc/) for more information.

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### Discounts offered for State employees

Are you a state employee looking to save a few \$\$\$?

Visit [www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm](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, please contact Cindy Leese at [cindy.leese@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:cindy.leese@njdmava.state.nj.us) or call 609-530-7056.

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## For the Families

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### FRG volunteers needed

Family Readiness Groups (FRG) play an important role during deployments.

Yet, in order to be successful, these groups rely on the support of volunteers.

FRGs are comprised of volunteers who donate their time to make sure our Soldier's "Homefront Heroes" are supported through networking with other family members and mutually offering support to one another.

If you would like to be a volunteer or a participant please contact your local Family Assistance Center. You can reach them by calling our toll free number 888-859-0352 and selecting the prompt of the Family Assistance Center near you.



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### Financial counseling available for deployed service members

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist*

The Military Housing Assistance Fund (MHAF) helps military families to become homeowners by providing them with grants to assist them with purchasing a home. The Fund also provides financial counseling to members of the National Guard and Reserves, deployed and serving in combat zones overseas, which are having problems meeting their monthly obligations due to their deployment and activation. Learn more at <http://www.militaryhousingassistancefund.org>. The Fund is a project of the Financial Counselors of America (FCA), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to help Americans manage their finances and get out of debt. Visit the FCA website at <http://www.financialcounselors.org>.

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### Child care \$\$\$\$\$ available for spouses of deployed military

## QUOTES

*The nation  
which forgets  
its defenders  
will be itself  
forgotten.*

- Calvin Coolidge

*Where liberty  
is, there is my  
country.*

- Benjamin  
Franklin

*If liberty has  
any meaning  
it means  
freedom to  
improve.*

- Philip Wylie

*Too many  
people expect  
wonders from  
democracy,  
when the  
most  
wonderful  
thing of all is  
just having it.*

- Walter  
Winchell

*Dictators ride  
to and fro on  
tigers from  
which they*

*From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator*

Child care money is available for spouses of Title 10 Army National Guard activated Soldiers only. If the spouses are employed, seeking employment (for 60 days) or going to school, they can qualify for a \$100 per month per child stipend for fulltime care (licensed child care provider required). Call the National Guard Child Care Program today to apply 1-888-642-2799 or [ngccp@guardfamily.org](mailto:ngccp@guardfamily.org).

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### Families urged to be aware of Casualty Phishing Scam

The HRC Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC) has asked that the field be advised that a phishing scam concerning families of fallen Soldiers has been identified. The scam purports to be from DFAS and Army Human Resources Command and informs the families of deceased Soldiers that they are entitled to monetary compensation in excess of \$12 million that will be available to them in one week. Those families receiving the correspondence are instructed to provide sensitive personal information, such as SSN, DOB, addresses, etc., and are instructed to come to either visit the Army Human Resources Command Offices in Alexandria, Va., or email the information to an overseas Yahoo account. A copy of the bogus solicitation is attached at the below link on S1NET. Recommend that any staff, CAOs, CNOs, chaplains, and any other members that may be in contact with families review and be aware of this phishing scam.

<https://forums.bcks.army.mil/secure/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=570572&lang=en-US>

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### No-cost prescription savings plan available

From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

Here is a no cost to you prescription savings program. This program offers discounts on all generic prescription medications at your local pharmacy. You do not have to do anything special to qualify. There is no income, residence, employment, age, citizenship or any other qualifications to meet. Not even an application to fill out. The Family State Programs Office at Joint Force Headquarters, Fort Dix has the group ID cards. Call Marie Durling at 609-562-0739 and one will be mailed to you. For more information check out [www.mediservrx.com](http://www.mediservrx.com).

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### Parents of Deployed Soldiers

**July 8** – Lawrenceville: Chaplin Martindale will be offering a parents program beginning at 7 p.m.

**July 14** – West Orange: Chaplin Martindale will be offering a parents program beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information contact Michele Daisey, Woodbury Family Assistance Center, at 856-251-6893.

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### Lawrenceville FAC schedules events for members

*From the desk of Jane Hackbarth, Family Assistance Specialist*

The Lawrenceville Family Assistance Center and the Family Readiness Support Assistant have scheduled the activities open to all Family Readiness Group members:

**Sept. 20**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Bullying presentation, presented by ACS, Fort Dix

People attending who will be bringing children are asked to RSVP to their own FAC or to Jane Hackbarth at 609-671-6681 no later than one week prior to the event.

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### Camp Noble Cause serving children, spouses of deployed Guard members

*From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator*

Camp Noble Cause is a three day camping experience that will serve the children and spouses of the New Jersey National Guardsmen and women being deployed this summer. Our mission is to provide a no-cost summer camp experience, for a weekend

*dare not  
dismount.*

- Hindustani  
proverb

of fun and camaraderie.

It will be held on **August 22-24** at Camp Winnebago, 102 Timberbrook Road, Rockaway, N.J., approximately 12 miles from Wayne. It is being hosted by the Scouts of the Patriot's Path Council, Boy Scouts of America and Operation Noble Cause.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Overnight camping capacity is limited to 300 and the day camp can accommodate an additional 200. Children must be old enough to tent camp comfortably to attend.

Planned activities include: mountain biking and nature walks, crafts, astronomy, shooting sports (archery, rifle, shot gun), rockwall climbing, waterfront activities (boating, swimming, fishing), Geocaching (GPS "hide and seek"), sports (softball, volleyball, basketball, soccer and more) and campfire activities.

Go to <http://main.ppbsa.org> and click on the Camp Noble Cause icon to register for families to go on weekend retreats.

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### **Morris County offers program for military families**

*From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator*

Family Service of Morris County in partnership with the Family Programs Office, New Jersey, would like to announce its Military Families Outreach Program. Based on a community effort, the Military Families Outreach Program strives to support Morris County military personnel and their families, including extended families, pre-deployment, during deployment and post-deployment.

We realize the pressures and problems that may occur when a family member is called to duty, and we want to assist with any services that you may need to ensure quality of life. Social services, support services and mental health services are some of the resources that will be available to Morris County residents. All services offered in this program are free of charge to you and your family and are bound by the highest consideration for complete confidentiality.

For more information about the Military Services Outreach Program, contact Wendy Parrinello, Military Families Outreach Case Manager at [wparrinello@fsmc.org](mailto:wparrinello@fsmc.org) or call 973-538-5260, extension 326. You can also contact Tammy Rosenthal, Director of child and Adolescent Services at [trosenthal@fsmc.org](mailto:trosenthal@fsmc.org) or 973-538-5260. We are privileged to work with you who have given so much for your country!

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### **Order a complimentary Blue Star Flag to show your family's service**

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist*

The Blue Star Flag first appeared in 1917, when Capt. Robert L. Queissner, who had two sons serving on the front line, designed it as a tribute to their dedication and service. He proudly displayed this flag in the front window of his home and the flag quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service. Also known as a Service Flag, the blue star stands for hope and pride. Order a complimentary Blue Star Flag to honor your loved ones in the service by visiting: [www.grantham.edu/promo/freebluestar.php](http://www.grantham.edu/promo/freebluestar.php).

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### **Program offers grant funds to spouses of deployed military**

The Deployed Military Spouses Assistance Program provides direct assistance and referrals to existing programs for spouses of deployed military personnel (active duty, reserve and National Guard) who face unusual financial and emotional stress as a result of the deployments.

Applicants should contact Fawn Mutschler at 609-543-6200 ext. 325 or [wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org](mailto:wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org) to obtain an application. In addition to the completed application form, applicants will also need to submit the following documentation: LES/paystub for applicant and spouse; statement of Financial Need (i.e. reason for applying and how the grant will help); bill or pricing of expenditure as well as any other supporting information the applicant feels may be helpful. Additional information can be found at: [www.state.nj.us/dca/dow/depmilspouseasst.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dow/depmilspouseasst.shtml)

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## Post Office offers boxes, discount rate to FPO/APO addresses

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist*

Now the U.S. Postal Service is making it easier for families to send care packages with a larger flat rate box and a special discount to FPO/ APO addresses. They are 50 percent larger than the current flat rate box and can be sent to any domestic address for \$12.95. A special military version of the box will carry the "America Supports You" logo and can be shipped to any FPO/ APO address for \$10.95. The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box is "12 x 12" x 5½". For complete guidelines on mail services to military members overseas visit the USPS website at:

[www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/welcome.htm?from=household&page=troopsupport](http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/welcome.htm?from=household&page=troopsupport).

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## Federal grant for spouses of deployed military

Grants from a funding of \$200,000 from the Department of Community Affairs are available for spouses of deployed or recently deployed military (all branches across the state). Typical awards are \$2,500 each and are available for financial difficulties (such as past due rent and childcare) as well as for recreational and stress relieving activities for kids. For more information contact Rene Mainor, Military Grant Liaison, Women's Opportunity Center, YMCA of Burlington County by calling 609-543-6200 Ext. 235 or by email at [fawnm@ymca-bc.org](mailto:fawnm@ymca-bc.org).

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## Sports

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### DISCOM alumni golf outing, July 10 in Princeton

Come join the 15th Annual New Jersey Army National Guard DISCOM Alumni golf outing on Thursday, **July 10** at the Bunker Hill Golf Course, Princeton. Cost is \$100 and the shotgun start is 8 a.m. The cost includes you fees, cart, refreshment cart on the course, awards, door prizes, burgers and dogs at the turn and luncheon after the game.

Checks, made payable to DISCOM Alumni Assoc. are due no later than July 4, to Alumni Golf, PO Box 262, Belleville, NJ 07109-0262.

The association is also looking for cart (\$25) and hole (\$50) sponsors. For more information, contact retired Master Sgt. Roger M. Colarusso Sr., at 973-667-8067.

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### Hunterdon County Vets Alliance celebrates special day with ball game

Come watch the Somerset (N.J.) Patriots play the Bridgeport (Conn.) Bluefish during the Hunterdon County Veterans Alliance sixth annual Veterans of America Day on **Aug. 30** at 6 p.m. The Veterans of America celebration will begin the evening with guest of honor, Marine Maj. Jason E. Smith, present commander of the recruiting Station New Jersey and veteran of two tours of Iraq.

After the celebration, enjoy the Atlantic League game with free tickets for veterans and discounted tickets - \$5 each – for friends and family. Discounted tickets must be ordered in advance. Contact 908-252-0700 for more information. Cal Joe Yuzuik at 732-563-4012 for information on the Veterans events scheduled prior to the game.

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### Trenton Thunder offers reduced tickets to military personnel, vets

The Trenton Thunder baseball team and its community partner, the Trenton Vet Center, have collaborated to sponsor reduced ticket prices for veterans and their families during the 2008 Trenton Thunder baseball season.

A regular \$10 ticket has been reduced to \$7 for veterans and their family members.

Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard, separated, and retired veterans are eligible for this program. Interested veterans must have a picture I.D. and provide proof of their veteran status by showing one of the following documents:

‡ Military I.D. card.

- ⚡ Federal Department of Veteran Affairs medical I.D. card
- ⚡ DD Form 214



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## ***Travel Help, Ideas***

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### **Free tickets to Busch Adventure Parks for military, families**

Any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission to a Anheuser-Busch Adventure Park under the Here's to the Heroes program. He or she need only register, either by going to this Web site <http://www.herosalute.com/> and submitting his or her information or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependent ages 10 and over must present valid dependent I.D. Busch Gardens Williamsburg and SeaWorld San Antonio are seasonal operations that will remain closed until spring 2008. Military personnel interested in visiting those parks should check operating schedules. The remaining parks, SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld San Diego are open year round.

Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Water Country USA, Adventure Island. Not valid at Discovery Cove and Aquatica.

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### **Armed Forces Vacation Club offers affordable lodging**

The Armed Forces Vacation Club is a "space available" program offering Department of Defense affiliated personnel affordable condominium vacations at over 3,500 resorts around the world. Visit [www.afvclub.com/](http://www.afvclub.com/) for more information.

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### **Shades of Green offers Disney for military**

Now that the summer is just around the corner, thoughts of how to spend your next vacation week are probably starting to pop into your mind. "Can we go someplace better or different, nearer or farther from home, all without breaking the bank?"

One place to consider if Florida is one of your next vacation places is Shades of Green in Orlando. Minutes from the Disney attractions, this resort is also close to golf, dining and other Florida attractions.

Their web site, [www.shadesofgreen.org](http://www.shadesofgreen.org) can give you tours of their rooms and family suites, the local attractions and other amenities that are offered by the resort. The rates are reasonable and will be an opportunity to visit Orlando with your family.

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## ***Scholarship, Education News***

### **Education news for NJARNG**

#### **Education Services Brochure Booklet (ESB2)**

Access the New Jersey Army National Guard's ESB2 at [www.nj.gov/military/education](http://www.nj.gov/military/education). The ESB2 is a comprehensive guide with links and shortcuts to civilian education benefits available to New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers.

#### **G.I. Bill Notice of Basic Eligibility**

New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers can print their Eligibility of Mobilized Soldier notification letter for CH 1607 as well as Notice Of Basic Eligibility for CH 1606 at <https://www.nationalguardbenefits.com>; click on G.I. Bill Home Page.

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### **American Legion offers scholarships, booklet on their Web site**

The American Legion has scholarship information on their Web site – [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) – including the 152-page booklet, *Need a Lift*, which is a complete financial aid reference guide for veterans, family members and the American Legion family. When you get on the site, click on “Scholarship Information” in the “Useful Links” block.

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## **Association News**

### **117th Cav Association announces meeting schedule**

The 117th Cavalry Association, whose mission is to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country, announces its upcoming meetings. They will be held at 7:30 p.m., at the Westfield Armory's Heritage Room. Meetings will be on **Oct. 17**, **Nov. 7** and the reunion on **Oct. 18** at Fort Monmouth, N.J.



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### **Enlisted Association wants YOU!**

*By retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, EANG-NJ*

The Enlisted Association National Guard-New Jersey is off to a good start for 2008 as we have realigned all the committees and filled both the Executive Council and Committees with a cross section of Army and Air, uniformed and retirees, and several junior NCOs. Everyone appears to be enthused and pledges to support the Association in all its efforts. All we need now is for you to get on board as a member and bring your fellow soldiers and airmen with you.

We have many challenges facing us over the next few years whether it is another round of base closures via the Base Realignment Commission (BRAC), reduction in TRICARE benefits, reduction in troop strength, attempts to maintain the retirement age at 60, etc. We need a powerful voice to put our message across to the State and Federal Legislators and this can only be accomplished through a strong membership in our State Association (EANG-NJ) and the National Association (EANGUS).

The new membership year starts on 1 January 2008 and we need your help in making our Association grow. We encourage all enlisted soldiers and airmen to join the Association as Active Members and also welcome all officers, warrant officers, federal, and state employees to join as Associate Members. Applications for membership can be obtained from our website [www.eang-nj.org](http://www.eang-nj.org).

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### **NGANJ group life insurance available to members**

Are you covered by the NGANJ Group Life Insurance Program? As a member of either the Officers or the Enlisted Association, you are entitled to enroll in your Association Life Insurance Program. This special program provides from \$5,000 to \$50,000 of Life Insurance for you, “round the clock”. Premiums range from as little as \$2 per month and may be payroll-deducted from your drill check. Family coverage is also available at low rates designed for you as a member of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. Think of it!! No aviation exclusions...No hazardous duty restrictions...No war clauses...No checks to write. Family coverage includes spouses and all children. Information can be obtained by contacting retired CWO Jack Petrosilli at 609-530-6843, or retired Brig. Gen. Robert S. Dutko Sr. at 609-273-1004. Enrollment forms can be obtained by calling retired Col. Frank L. Carlone, Program Coordinator at 732-249-8335.

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## **Veterans Information**

### **Web site provides support to separating military members**

TurboTAP (Transition Assistance Program) is an easy to use, interactive Web portal that provides life-long support to separating military service members



(Active Duty, Guard and Reserve) and their families. It is a single source starting point for accessing key resources available for servicemembers transitioning out of the military at any point in their military career. Resources include Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Education, Small Business Administration, the National Veterans Corporation and the National Guard Bureau. For more information go to [www.TurboTAP.org](http://www.TurboTAP.org) or email [TAPHelp@military-inc.com](mailto:TAPHelp@military-inc.com).

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### **DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues**

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

July 8, 9, 10	Cherry Hill Mall
July 18*	Traveling Wall, Wildwood
August 5*, 6, 7	Willowbrook Mall
September 2*, 3, 4	Bridgewater Commons Mall
October 14*, 15, 16	Menlo Park Mall
November 5*, 6, 7	Deptford Mall

\*Medal ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on these dates. The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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### **Career fair for veterans, family members on Battleship New Jersey**

RecruitMilitary in cooperation with HireVets First and the American Legion will be hosting a Career Fair that on **July 10**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., onboard the Battleship New Jersey. It is being hosted to benefit all veterans, transitioning military personnel, members of the Guard and Reserve, and military family members in Philadelphia and the surrounding area.

Job seekers who would like to pre-register for the event can go to [www.recruitmilitary.com/careerfairs/careerfairs3.asp?CFID=111](http://www.recruitmilitary.com/careerfairs/careerfairs3.asp?CFID=111).

For more information, go to [www.recruitmilitary.com/brochures/07-10-08\\_philadelphia\\_candidate\\_pr.pdf](http://www.recruitmilitary.com/brochures/07-10-08_philadelphia_candidate_pr.pdf).

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### **Pennsylvania looking for Desert Shield/Storm vets for benefit program**

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is trying to locate veterans who may be eligible for the Commonwealth's Persian Gulf Veterans' Benefit Program. We believe that many Desert Shield/Storm participants who were residents of Pennsylvania during this conflict may be entitled to this benefit have since moved to other states. In an effort to inform them of the benefit, we request that you share the following information with your veterans.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania signed into law (House Bill 1820, Act 29 of 2006) a benefit program for veterans of the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the time period Aug. 2, 1990 through Aug. 31, 1991. Veterans are likely to be eligible for the benefit if they:

1. Served with the U.S. Armed Forces, a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard during the period Aug. 2, 1990-Aug. 31, 1991;
2. Received the Southwest Asia Service Medal; and
3. Were a resident of Pennsylvania during the period Aug. 2, 1990-Aug. 31, 1991.

A surviving family member(s) of a veteran who was killed as a result of the conflict, or died following the conflict may be eligible for the benefit.

Veterans or a surviving family member(s) may either request an application by calling the toll-free telephone number below, or by down-loading the application from the webpage.

Toll-free number: 1-866-458-9182 or

Hearing Impaired: 1-866-835-8983 (TTY)

To be eligible for the benefit, a veteran or surviving family member(s) must submit an application and required supporting documentation to:

Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program  
Post Office Box 1109  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1109

The deadline for submitting an application is August 15, 2015.

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### Helmets to Hardhats

The New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council's Helmets to Hardhats Program (NJ H2H) is designed to help transitioning military personnel, National Guardsmen and Reservists find the careers in the building and construction industry. The program seeks to help military members find a career in one of 15 affiliated trades, such as electrical workers, carpenters and painters.

They work in cooperation with the national Helmets to Hardhats program, adding a personal component to the program's on-line services. NJ H2H offers veterans preparation for successful application to any of New Jersey's registered apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades. Services include career counseling, entrance test preparation and referral to supportive services.

For program registration and information, visit online at [www.njbctc.org/h2h](http://www.njbctc.org/h2h) or contact at 732-499-7295 or at [H2H@njbctc.org](mailto:H2H@njbctc.org).



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### *N.J. Vietnam Veterans Memorial*

N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center's upcoming events:

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Free guided tours of the Memorial are offered on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**July 19,** 1 p.m. – "Re-Inventing the Wheel: U.S. Air Force Close Air Support in Vietnam" – a lecture by Tom Wisker, host of the radio program "Weaponry" on WBAI-FM, New York City.

**Aug. 9,** 1 p.m. – "Centaur in Vietnam: Army Air Cavalry at War" – a video and oral-history presentation by N.J. Vietnam Veteran Carl Burns, former chopper pilot with the "Centaur" of the 25th Infantry Division.

**Sept. 19,** 11 a.m. – National POW/MIA Recognition Day and National Gold Star Mothers Day Ceremony at the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

**Sept. 21,** 12:30 p.m. – Arrival at the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial by Rolling Thunder-N.J., annual motorcycle run for POW/MIA awareness.

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For further information call 1-800-648-VETS or visit [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org).