



# DMAVA Highlights

January 8, 2009

Volume 9, Number 1

*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!**

**Public Affairs  
Office**

**Tech. Sgt. Barbara  
Harbison  
[Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us)**

Or

609-530-6951

## ***News For Your Views***

### **Gov. Corzine visits Jersey Guard troops in Iraq**

*By Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist*

Gov. Jon Corzine made a surprise visit to Iraq this week to visit the Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and said he was overwhelmed by their dedication and professionalism.

"They are a world class group of people who are hell-bent on delivering on their mission," Corzine said on a conference call shortly after meeting with Brigade Soldiers who are in charge of more than 12,000 detainees at Camp Bucca in Southern Iraq.

Corzine also visited Baghdad's International Zone, where the Brigade oversaw security and logistics before turning over responsibility to Iraqi forces on Jan. 1. Before the handover, Corzine said the Brigade successfully handled several high-profile assignments, including securing the infamous road between Baghdad International Airport and the International Zone for President Bush's visit in December.

### **BCT commander part of turnover of Green Zone to Iraq**

*Story by KIMI YOSHINO, Los Angeles Times and edited by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA-PA*

BAGHDAD — As Iraqi schoolchildren sang their country's praise and a band marched, the United States formally handed over military control of the heavily fortified Green Zone to Iraqi troops on Jan. 1, a first major step in the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq.

Iraqi army Brigadier Imad Jassim and U.S. Col. Steven Ferrari, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander congratulated each other during the ceremony in which control of Baghdad's heavily-fortified Green Zone was given to the Iraqi government.

The Green Zone, a walled-off, 5.6-square-mile community in Baghdad's core, has come to symbolize for Iraqis the U.S. occupation of their country. Home to about 30,000 residents — including 14,000 U.S. and coalition forces — it also is the site of Saddam Hussein's opulent Republican Palace, captured by U.S. troops in April 2003 and, until last month, site of the U.S. Embassy.

Security of the Green Zone had been, until Thursday, the responsibility of the United States. But as part of the hand-over, and in terms outlined in the Status of Forces Agreement that details the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country by the end of 2011, Iraqis trained by U.S. troops now are in charge of security.

Although Iraqis are in charge, U.S. forces are still present. Even on this symbolic day, U.S. troops had set up a checkpoint on the road to stop cars and check identification cards.

"I think common sense will say (terrorists) will probably test the Green Zone," Ferrari, commander of the joint area support group, said of concerns that the area might become a target. "I guess time will tell."

### **DMAVA Annual Coat Drive will run until Jan. 16**

*From the desk of Paul Serdiuk, Human Relations Department*

**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-NJ4  
(1-866-838-7654)

As the cold winds blow and the snowy weather is part of our nightly forecast, let us take a moment and think about the less fortunate and needy.

DMAVA's Annual Coat Drive began on Dec. 23, and will run to Jan. 16. We will be collecting men's, women's and children's coats. The coats should be clean, serviceable, and not torn.

This year we will be donating the coats collected to DMAVA Veterans Haven. Any women's and children's clothing not needed at Veterans Haven, will be given to the local homeless shelters.

The Annual Coat Drive is open to all employees of DMAVA, military and civilian.

#### Drop off points:

- ❖ Central Office drop off point will be in the Main Lobby
- ❖ Veteran Homes drop off point will be in the Human Resources Office
- ❖ Doyle Cemetery will be in the Main Office
- ❖ 177th Air Refueling Wing in the CE Building
- ❖ 108th Fighter Wing in the CE Building
- ❖ Sea Girt National Guard Training Center in the Director's Office
- ❖ Challenge Youth Academy –TBA

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Serdiuk, Coat Drive Coordinator, at 609-530-6878.

Thank you for your generosity.

---

### **Strong Bonds weekend scheduled for Feb. 13-15**

*From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist*

The next Marriage Enrichment/Strong Bonds weekend is on the calendar for Feb. 13-15 at the Clarion in Egg Harbor Township. This is open to any N.J. National Guard Service member (Army and Air). Contact me at 609-530-6884 or [marie.durling@us.army.mil](mailto:marie.durling@us.army.mil) to get an application form. If you attended a weekend previously, I will put you on a waiting list. This is Valentine's Day weekend so we will make it special for all attendees.

---

### **Military, retiree W2 tax forms are available on MyPay**

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

The 2008 W2 and 1099 tax forms will be available on MyPay - <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx?flps=99R-RCPS> as follows:

Retiree 1099R – Dec. 12, 2008  
Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve W2 – Jan. 5, 2009  
Marine Corps Active and Reserve W2 – Jan. 7  
Air Force, Army and Navy Active W2 – Jan. 23

---

### **Join the Enlisted Association, make your voice heard**

Now is the time to join the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey.

The Association started out in 1965 as a chapter of the Active Army Association (NCOA) but membership was limited to NCOs of the Army National Guard. Six years later they reorganized as the Army and Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer's Association. In 1992, a change to their current name expanded the membership to all enlisted Soldiers and Airmen.

Benefits of joining the EANGNJ include subscriptions to the New Patriot and Enlisted Voice newsletters, eligibility to apply for six \$1,000 scholarships, inexpensive term insurance, national membership with EANGUS and a voice on legislative issues.

The association holds four executive council meetings in February, May, August, and November. They will hold their annual business in Gettysburg, Pa., on Oct. 9-11, 2009.

Join EANGNJ and help make your voice heard. EANGNJ has helped to get state tuition assistance for Guard members attending state institutions, up to 15 credits per

## NJ World War II Memorial



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

Check out the Web site  
to RSVP for the  
Memorial's dedication on  
Nov. 11 -  
[http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/wwii\\_memo rial/contact.html](http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/wwii_memo rial/contact.html).



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

to:

PAO Office  
DMAVA Highlights  
ATTN:  
Tech. Sgt. Barbara  
Harbison

**DEADLINE IS**  
**NOON**  
**WEDNESDAY**

Tech. Sgt. Barbara  
Harbison  
[Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us)

semester with continuation through a master's degree. Their voice on a national level has helped to get increased educational benefits, additional TRICARE benefits and eliminated increased premiums to TRICARE.

Upcoming legislative goals include reducing the retirement age to 55 and continued funding for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Membership is open to all enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, with associate memberships for officers, warrant officers, and DoD, state and federal employees. Cost is \$15 for E1-E4, \$20 for E5-E7 and \$25 for E8-E9. All associate memberships are \$10. You can find a membership application at their Web site: [www.eang-nj.org](http://www.eang-nj.org).

---

### Menlo vets home collected toys for Guard families

The staff of Menlo Park Veterans Home collected and contributed a large number of toys that were distributed to the families of the New Jersey National Guard. According to Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO of the Home, "The collection of toys for the families of our National Guard members has become an annual event at Menlo Park. This year our collection of toys was larger than usual number and our family is very pleased to contribute it to our National Guard family during this Holiday season."

---

### New paternity leave rules take effect for military

Under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, the law gives military fathers time to help care for and bond with their newborn children.

The law authorizes 10 days of non-chargeable paternity leave for married servicemen. While policy on maternal leave varies by service, the Act sets paternal leave at 10 days.

This leave is to be used within 60 days of the birth of the child or 90 days in cases with extenuating circumstances. It does not apply to servicemen who are deployed during a child's birth.

---

### Menlo vets home CEO guests on local cable show

Joseph Brandspiegel, Menlo Park Veterans Home CEO will be a guest on "Our Aging Today," a cable television show provided by the Middlesex County Department on Aging. The show was taped in November and will be aired during the first couple weeks in January by Piscataway Cable TV.

---

### Ski weekends to West Point available to military, families

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

Enjoy a weekend ski trip to West Point. Trips will leave at 5:15 p.m. from Outdoor Recreation, Fort Dix. The price includes lodging (5 star hotel located adjacent to The United States Military Academy, West Point), lift tickets, transportation and equipment. Pre-registration is required.

Dates: Fri/Sat Jan. 16-17 – Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend Trip  
Fri/Sat Feb. 13-14 – Presidents Day Getaway Family Trip  
Fri/Sat Feb. 20-21 – Polar Family Fun Fest

Cost: Individual is \$100  
Family/Group of 4 is \$200 + \$50 for each additional person

Trips are sponsored by and for more information call:

Fort Dix Outdoor Recreation  
Bldg 6045 Doughboy Loop  
Ft Dix NJ 08640  
609-562-2727/6667

---

### Government offers free financial planning, information

These days, watching your pennies is close to becoming a national pastime like baseball and football. Planning for retirement, children's education, buying a home, investing – simply finding a way to save a few dollars – can tax the best of us. We could all use a financial planner, but who can afford one?

**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**

Drop in the Web site, [Mymoney.gov](http://Mymoney.gov), and find information on all aspects of financial planning. There is a section of links to calculators to help you plan your college budget and loans, determine if you are able to afford to buy a home, help with retirement planning, compare different types of mortgages, savings bonds values and more.

Are you thinking about starting your own business? You will find a page of links to help you; even to assist you in writing your business plan.

There is also a section for kids to learn about money matters. The site is also in Spanish.

So instead of drumming your fingers on the table as you worry about your financial situation, let them walk over to [Mymoney.gov](http://Mymoney.gov) and get answers to your pressing money questions.

---

### **Our Military Kids grant program recently expanded**

Our Military Kids, a program that provides grants to children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard military, has expanded its program eligibility in two ways. The program which had been open to children in grades K - 12, will now be offered to 3- and 4-year-olds. Additionally, children may be eligible for a second grant award if their parent is deployed for 365 days or more. Our Military Kids grants cover six months of an activity to a maximum award of \$500. Children who have a parent deployed for 365 days or more will now be eligible for a second grant award provided the parent has 60 days remaining on the deployment orders and six months has elapsed since the first grant award. Our Military Kids provides grants for sports, fine arts and tutoring so that children may start or continue participation in an activity while the parent is away or recovering from serious injury. To date, over 3,000 children have received awards from Our Military Kids.

To find more information on the program or to download an application go to [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org).

---

### **VA assisting veterans with health care costs**

WASHINGTON (Jan. 6, 2009) -- For veterans struggling financially due to a job loss or decreased income, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost.

"With the downturn in the economy, VA recognizes that many veterans will feel the effects," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Therefore, it is important that eligible veterans learn of the many ways VA has to help them afford the health care they have earned."

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service or some other financial setback.

Veterans determined eligible due to hardship can avoid copays applied to higher-income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost.

Also eligible for no-cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. They are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year "clock" begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide veterans information about these programs.

Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at

1-877-222 VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility website at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).

---

### **Some Veterans to See Another Travel Reimbursement Increase**

WASHINGTON (Dec. 29, 2008) - Service-disabled and low-income veterans who are

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

reimbursed for travel expenses while receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities will see an increase in their payments beginning January 9.

A recently passed law allows VA to cut the amount it must withhold from their mileage reimbursement. The deductible amount will be \$3 for each one-way trip and \$6 for each round trip -- with a calendar cap of \$18, or six one-way trips or three round trips, whichever comes first. The previous deductible was \$7.77 for a one-way trip, and \$15.54 for a round trip, with a calendar cap of \$46.62.

"I'm pleased that we can help veterans living far from VA facilities to access the medical and counseling help they deserve, especially in the current economic climate," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Together with the increased mileage rate approved last month, we can further reduce the financial hardship some veterans undergo to use our superior health care."

In November, Peake announced VA's second increase in the mileage reimbursement rate during 2008, from 28.5 cents to 41.5 cents a mile.

Service-disabled and low-income veterans are eligible to be reimbursed by VA for the travel costs of receiving health care or counseling at VA facilities. Veterans traveling for Compensation and Pension examinations also qualify for mileage reimbursement. VA can waive deductibles if they cause financial hardship.

---

### **DMAVA Green**

*By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist*

In my small living room sits a piece of exercise equipment that my husband purchased at least five years ago. Built for people taller than my 5' 2", it has never been a comfortable workout and has become a great dust collector and its arms have grown into a coat tree of sorts. Since it works, I don't want to toss it in the trash but in the name of getting rid of some of the extras in our house in 2009, I have to find an alternative.

I found eight different Web sites that give me the ability to offer my working piece of equipment to someone who may actually use it and in return, I will gain some space in my living room. Do you have things around your house that you need to get rid of? Maybe they are too good for the trash man and you don't have time to organize a garage sale or cart them off to Goodwill. You can offer them on a Web site, one of better known is freecycle.org, for other people to use.

One site mentioned that not everything had to work; some people like to tinker and fix things or could use parts.

If one of your resolutions for the new year is to declutter drop by one of these sites to see if you can actually have a resolution that doesn't fail. After all this is much easier than a diet!!

- ❖ [neighBORROW.com](http://neighBORROW.com)
- ❖ [kijiji.com](http://kijiji.com)
- ❖ [scoodi.com](http://scoodi.com)
- ❖ [reuseitnetwork.org](http://reuseitnetwork.org)
- ❖ [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org)
- ❖ [freessharing.org](http://freessharing.org)
- ❖ [swaptree.com](http://swaptree.com)
- ❖ <http://free.localdataplace.com>

If you do want to donate your household good to an organization, possibly for a tax deduction, or you don't have a home computer or you simply to get rid of a bunch of stuff at once, here are several well-known organizations who take clothing and other household items.

- ❖ Vietnam Veterans of America – go to [schedulepickup.com](http://schedulepickup.com) and they will come to your house to pick up your goods.
- ❖ [Goodwill.org](http://Goodwill.org)
- ❖ [SalvationArmyUSA.org](http://SalvationArmyUSA.org) – click on Ways to Give, then Clothing, Furniture and Household Goods for information.

Check out the Better Business Bureau's information page on donating items to charity to make sure you are giving the way you want to give. Go to -



## QUOTES

*May God save the country, for it is evident that the people will not.*

-Millard Fillmore

*He that rises late must trot all day.*

- Benjamin Franklin

*Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.*

- John Wooden

*All modern men are descended from a worm-like creature but it shows more on some people.*

- Will Cuppy

*Little drops of water wear down big stones.*

- Russian proverb

<http://us.bbb.org/WWWRoot/SitePage.aspx?site=113&id=4c612b93-4867-4764-8fdc-cd8aa95dcdec>.

If you have a green tip or a site to recommend, drop me a line at [Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us).

## *Schools, Training*

### **254th Regiment provides class schedule for 2009 training year**

The following courses will be conducted by the 254th Regiment, New Jersey Army National Guard, at Sea Girt and Fort Dix during training year 2009.

#### **INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING COURSES (IDT):**

- ❖ The Army Basic Instructor Training Course: April 4-June 13, 2009
- ❖ Small Group Instructor Course: Jan. 10-March 7, 2009 (1st); July 11-Sept. 19, 2009 (2nd)
- ❖ Pre WARRIOR Leadership Courses (3 Classes, 3 weekends per class):
- ❖ Jan. 10-Mar 8, 2009; April 4-June 14, 2009; , and July 11-Sept. 20, 2009
- ❖ Officer Candidate School: Phase 2 Class 52 Aug. 9, 2008-June 14, 2009
- ❖ Officer Candidate School: Phase 0 Class 53 begins March 7, 2009; Phase 2 is Aug. 1, 2009-June 14, 2010.

#### **ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING COURSES**

\*NOTE: There will be no Inactive Duty Training (IDT) BNCOC this year.

- ❖ 91W10 Medic Sustainment: Feb. 9-18, 2009
- ❖ 13F10 MOS-T Fire Support Specialist: March 14-21, 2009
- ❖ Company Level Command Team Course (for new Commanders and their 1SGs): April 18-19, 2009
- ❖ 11B10 MOS-T Infantryman: May 9-23, 2009
- ❖ 11B2/3/4 (T) Infantryman Transition: May 9-23, 2009
- ❖ 11B30 Basic NCO Course Phase II: June 6-20, 2009
- ❖ 31B10 MOS-T Military Police: Feb. 22-March 6, 2009

Combat Lifesaver Course: Send unit request to Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Cosmanic at [Stephen.r.cosmanic@us.army.mil](mailto:Stephen.r.cosmanic@us.army.mil).

Questions should be addressed to 1st Sgt. Gary Davidson, 732-974-6312. ATRRS School Code: 1004.

## *Retirements, Reunions*

### **Gala reunion planned for former, current 170th/108th personnel**

Come one, come all – active or retired – for a fun-filled weekend with trips down memory lane. A Gala Reunion is being planned for all of the faces of the 170th and 108th Air Refueling Wing on **April 25, 2009**.

The elegant semi-formal will be held at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, 200 Atrium Drive, Somerset, NJ, 6-11 p.m.

A deposit of \$50 is required per person as soon as possible. Hotel reservation, rates and activities will be announced at a later date.

For more information, contact Gloria A. Smith, 732-752-8263/732-991-9102 or Phyllis Jackson-Rackley, 908-451-7147/908-730-6377.

## *Say Again?*



### **DMAVA emergency hotline is up and running**

Winter is just around the corner and with that comes weather that can make driving to work difficult. There may be times that the department may have a delayed opening or even closures. If there is a question, call the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Hotline:

**1-866-232-5798**

# State Family Programs

101 Eggert  
Crossing Road  
Lawrenceville

Toll-free number  
888-859-0352

Family  
Assistance  
609-530-6884  
Teen Youth  
Group  
609-530-6836  
Fax  
609-530-6871

## Call a Chaplain

24/7

609-694-0635

609-802-8125

You will then hear the following message:

You have reached the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Information Number. Please list to the following menu choices and select an appropriate option:

- ❖ State employees – press 1
- ❖ Federal employees – press 2
- ❖ National Guard employees – press 3

Select the appropriate selection and you will hear a pre-recorded message providing further instructions or details regarding the emergency and/or inclement weather reporting instructions.

---

### Free CD for downloading as gift to military, veterans

Isaac Hayes, Alan Jackson, Roy Orbison, Daughtry, Good Charlotte, Joe Perry and eight more artists and groups have come together and each donated one song to the CD, "For the Troops II."

John Ondrasik of Five For Fighting, led the project for the second time. The original CD, "For the Troops," was downloaded more than 350,000 times and 200,000 hard copies were distributed to service members and veterans.

The new CD, which can be downloaded for free at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), will continue to be available until mid-March. Those with valid military identification will be eligible to download the CD.

To get a complete list of the artists and songs on the CD, go to [www.cdforthetroops.com](http://www.cdforthetroops.com).

---

### Earn up to \$8,500 for officer accessions in G-RAP

*From the desk of Warrant Officer Misty L. DiGangi, AMEDD Recruiter*

Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting ARNG recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the ARNG. RAs may earn up to \$8,500 for each select Officer Candidate who accepts a Commission.

As a G-RAP RA you will cultivate quality Officer Candidates from within your spheres of influence and work with an Officer Strength Manager (OSM) or Warrant Officer Strength Manager (WOSM) to process the Officer Candidate and move them towards accession.

The total amount of payment for an Officer Accession is determined by the ARNG's current critical needs and the GRAP-O payment chart. There are four categories by which RAs will receive payment for Officer Accessions. RAs can earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training or for each prior service member.

G-RAP is available to Traditional Guard members and National Guard retirees. For more information, go to <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/>.

---

### Take car care classes at McGuire

The Auto Skills Center on McGuire Air Force Base is open to those eligible to use the facilities on base. The November Tuesday Special is tire rotation and balance for \$40. Call 609-754-4316 to make an appointment. Car Care Classes are back!! All classes will be held on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Auto Hobby Shop. Class size will be limited to 10-12. Call 609-754-4316 to register.

---

### McGuire fitness center gives orientation sessions

The McGuire Fitness Center has an equipment orientation and assistance with a workout plan. The equipment orientation will include training on how to properly and safely use all of our cardio, free weight, and selectorized weight equipment. Call 754-6085 to set up an appointment for these services Monday through Friday 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. The equipment orientations will also be available for walk-ins.

Get your VA benefits as a Direct Deposit into your checking or savings account – call 800-333-1795 or visit [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org)

---

## Sign up for G-RAP and make \$\$\$\$

Sign up today and earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists into the National Guard and reports to basic training.

The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply to become eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiting Assistant (RA).

G-RAP is available to Traditional Guard members and National Guard retirees. This opportunity is open to both Army and Air Guard members. For more information, go to <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/>.

---

## Honor Guard program wants YOU!

Looking for a way to serve and get some satisfaction at the same time? The Honor Guard program is looking for members of the Army and Air Guard to join the team to perform honor guard duties at the funerals of veterans. There is an initial eight hours of training for all new enrollees, with on-going sustainment training. As an honor guard member, you will receive a day of pay for each day's mission, minimum of \$50, and traditional drilling Guard members receive a retirement point for each day's duties.

If you are interested in applying for the Honor Guard program, call retired Sgt. Maj. Ed Goetschius at 609-530-7090.

---

## 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.

---

## *Information for N.J. state employees*

---

### Direct Deposit – A safe and reliable way to receive your pay

*From the desk of Lisa Dandrea, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant*

This is just a reminder that the convenience of direct deposit is offered to all state employees. It is encouraged that our employees consider taking advantage of direct deposit with all that it has to offer.

Enrolling into direct deposit means having your money directly deposited into your checking or savings account. You're going to be on vacation on pay day? Tired of waiting for Postal Service to deliver your money? Eliminate that with direct deposit. It is a convenient and reliable way to receive your pay and know it is safe in your account, when you need it to be. And the service is free!

To get enrolled you must complete the "Authorization Agreement for Automatic Payroll Deposits" form, and turn it in to your Human Resources Payroll Department. A copy of this form is available on DMAVAnet under *Human Resources – Helpful Forms*. Just print, fill out and send to Human Resources. Please allow up to three pay periods (six weeks) for your direct deposit to take effect.

To request a form or more information, contact Lisa Dandrea in Human Resources at 609-530-6888.

---

## Pension loan applications to be submitted through MBOS



*From the desk of Lisa Dandrea, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant*

NOTICE from the Division of Pensions and Benefits:

Effective Nov. 1, 2008, an eligible member who wishes to borrow against their pension account, **MUST** submit the loan request through the Pension Loan Application accessible through a personal account with the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS). Please note the following changes:

- ❖ The *Loan Application* will no longer be available as a printed form or through the Division's Web site.
- ❖ Paper *Loan Applications* that are received by mail as of Nov. 1, 2008, will be returned to members with instructions on submitting the loan request through MBOS.
- ❖ The loan fax number, which has been phased out of use since the introduction of loans through MBOS, will be completely disabled.
- ❖ Limited access to a computer or a member's reluctance to use MBOS **will not** be considered sufficient circumstances to allow manual loan processing.

Employees who are already registered MBOS users currently have access to the online loan application through their MBOS account.

Employees who are new to MBOS can access MBOS after they register with both the *MyNewJersey* Web site and MBOS. Registration is free; however, the registration process requires several steps and new users should carefully follow the MBOS registration instructions. Visit <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.htm> for a complete list of instructions. If, after following the MBOS Registration Instructions, you still need assistance registering for or using MBOS, please contact the MBOS Help Desk at (609) 777-0534 or send an e-mail with the subject line "MBOS E-mail" to: [pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us](mailto:pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us)

---

### **Employees required to register for MBOS**

*From the desk of Lisa J. Dandrea, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant*

MBOS is the Member Benefits Online System. Through MBOS, employees may review their pension contributions, loan status, health benefits information, update their beneficiary information, apply for retirement, as well as many other applications. It has been encouraged that all employees register for this helpful tool. However Pensions is now working on MBOS being a requirement in order for employees to make certain updates to their personal information.

Effective immediately, in all cases where an employee is eligible to become a member of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), the employer will be required to submit all enrollment information to Pensions via online. Important to note is that the online PERS Enrollment Application does not include the Designation of Beneficiary page. Instead, once the member is enrolled and issued a pension number, they must register for a MBOS account at: [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.htm) and complete the online Beneficiary Designation form. Until the member completes his or her Designation of Beneficiary, the member's "Estate" will be the beneficiary of record.

Current employees –note, even if you are already enrolled into PERS, if you wish to make any changes to your beneficiary information, you too will need to be registered for MBOS. Members will not be able to submit the Change in Beneficiary Designation paper form since this will no longer be acceptable through the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Visit the link above for complete instructions to register for MBOS. If you encounter any problems with registration, you may e-mail Pensions and Benefits with your questions/concerns and they can assist you through the process. You may also obtain a tri-fold brochure with MBOS instructions from your Human Resources Office.

---

### **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.

---

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

*From the desk of Lisa Dandrea, Human Resources, Personnel Assistant*

If you are a state employee, working for DMAVA, Vets Haven, and the Cemetery, and 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).

---

### **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.

---

## ***For the Families***

---

### **Youth Camp 2009 dates set**

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

The dates for 2009 Youth Camp are July 19-25, 2009 at Sea Girt.

Applications will be posted on the website, [www.guardfamily.org/Youth](http://www.guardfamily.org/Youth), mid-December 2008. Please stay posted for more information.



---

### **Click and find out which FAC supports your armory**

If you are not sure which Family Assistance Center supports your armory, here is the way to find out. By going to the new and growing New Jersey FAC Web site you will be able to locate the FAC nearest you. It also gives you a place to e-mail your questions and concerns. Just go to <http://www.nj-fac.org>.

---

### **Join the online Guard Family**

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

An invitation is extended to join the online Guard Family Portal community! Our goal is to make this website your "one-stop shop" for everything Guard! Here is the link to join:

- ❖ Visit <http://www.guardfamily.org>
- ❖ Click the Join link on the top right
- ❖ Complete the form and click Submit!

The website will provide up-to-date, relevant and state-specific content, including announcements, news, events, discussion forums, documents, surveys and reports.

In addition, you can learn about Family Readiness, Program Services and Plans & Operations, take on-line training, and the site keeps you informed and involved about your benefits as a serving family. FRG Leaders and volunteers are strongly encouraged to enroll on the site and log in your volunteer hours.

---

### **Additional dental cleaning allowed during pregnancy by Tricare**

The TRICARE Management Activity announced an enhancement to maternity dental benefit through United Concordia. An additional cleaning in a 12-month period will now be allowed at no additional cost for all pregnant TRICARE Dental Program enrollees. The additional cleaning is in response to research indicating there is an increase risk of dental disease during pregnancy. For more information about dental health during pregnancy, go to: [http://www.ada.org/public/topics/pregnancy\\_faq.asp](http://www.ada.org/public/topics/pregnancy_faq.asp).

---

### **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 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 609-530-6884 and one will be mailed to you. For more information check out [www.mediservrx.com](http://www.mediservrx.com).

---

### ***During the Deployment Information***

---

#### **Reunion briefing schedule announced for family members**

From the desk of Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

We know it is early to mention reunion briefs but we wanted to get the dates and locations out now so you can make plans to attend the one most convenient for you. All briefs are the same - they are not unit specific. Attend the one that is most convenient for you.

Soldier & Family Reunion Brief Schedule

Date	Armory	Time
Feb. 7, 2009	West Orange	9:30 a.m.
Feb. 21, 2009	Morristown	9:30 a.m.
March 21, 2009	Port Murray	9:30 a.m.
March 22, 2009	Lawrenceville	1 p.m.
April 4, 2009	Jersey City	9:30 a.m.
April 5, 2009	Vineland	1 p.m.
April 16, 2009	Cherry Hill	6:30 p.m.
April 19, 2009	Toms River	1 p.m.
April 27, 2009	Woodbridge	6:30 p.m.
May 6, 2009	Somerset	6:30 p.m.
May 11, 2009	Mount Holly	6:30 p.m.
May 16, 2009	Woodbury	9:30 a.m.
May 21, 2009	Teaneck	6:30 p.m.

---

#### **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/supporting-outtroops/welcome.htm?from=household &page=troopsupport](http://www.usps.com/supporting-outtroops/welcome.htm?from=household&page=troopsupport).

---

### **TroopTube shares video with troops, families**

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

TroopTube is the new video-sharing web site for troops and their families. TroopTube is sponsored by Military OneSource and is the only video sharing site for military families approved by the Department of Defense. Users can share videos privately with family members or publicly with the larger community. Access TroopTube through the link <http://www.trooptube.tv/home>.

---

### **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.

---

### **Give parents a break**

Child Youth Services at Fort Dix and many other active duty posts provide 16 hours per child per month of free hourly/respite child care to relieve family stress during deployment. Respite care begins 30 days prior to deployment and ends 60 days after return. Drop off the kids while shopping at the commissary or PX or just to get some quiet time to yourself. For additional information, contact Cathy Spiegat at Fort Dix Outreach Services 609-562-2242.

---

### **Dog Tags for Kids program**

Dog Tags for Kids is a grassroots project which enables service members to send engraved dog tags to their children. The dog tags are provided free and are sent directly to the service members who personally send them to their children at home. The dog tags are engraved with "With Love From Dad/Mom" and include the branch of service, deployment location, and the year. To donate to the project or to request a dog tag for your children, please go to <http://www.dogtagsforkids.com/>.

---

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

*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).

---

### **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.

---

### **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)

---

### **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.

---

### **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>.

---

### **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).

---

### **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 Valerie Hart, Military Families Outreach Case Manager at [vhart@fsmc.org](mailto:vhart@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!



---

## ***Sports***

---

### **Join the New Jersey marathon team for a run in Lincoln, Nebraska**

*From the desk of Master Sgt. Alex Estrada*

The New Jersey National Guard Marathon team is looking for members to join them to train to run in the 32nd Annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon, May 3, 2009, in Lincoln, Neb.

The state generally gets four entries into the race. Training ideas and other related data will be furnished once a team is set.

Qualifications to join the team include – male or female, must be able to finish a marathon within 4 hours and have completed such event within an 18 month period.

It generally it takes about 4-6 months to train for this event. Runners would start with a basic running program of 15 to 25 miles per week and increase 1-3 miles weekly during a 16 week period. Long runs of 18 to 22 miles are necessary prior to weeks 14-16 as those are tapering weeks.

In a recent e-mail from coordinators for the Lincoln Marathon, they are adding a "rookie" class for this year's marathon.

It is designed to find new people that may have not completed a full marathon before. There will be an allotment of one per state, and there will be an award for the top three "Rookie" finishers.

This is designed to allow new people the opportunity to experience a marathon and to also experience the National Guard Marathon Program.

If you are interested in participating as an experienced or rookie marathoner on the New Jersey team, contact Master Sgt. Estrada at 609-562-0568. The team members must be submitted to National Guard Bureau by Jan. 18, 2009.

---

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

---

### **Guard history lessons for family at Sea Girt museum**



Looking for a local place to take the family for a history lesson? Try the National Guard Museum of New Jersey in Sea Girt.

The museum had a recent face-lift and upgraded its exhibits which tell the story of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guards and the Naval Militia of New Jersey from the Revolutionary war to the Global War on

Terrorism.

The four gallery rooms feature diaries, uniforms, vehicles, weapons and even a Civil War submarine built in 1865.

Open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday and the same hours on the first and second weekends of the month, admission to the museum is free of charge, but a donation is requested. Groups who would like to make arrangements for tours should call 732-974-5966.

---

### **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.

---

## Scholarship, Education News

---

### SSG Frank T. Carvill scholarship for Jersey Guard kids

Friends and family of Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill, a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard who was killed while serving in Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom, have established scholarship in his name. According to those close to him, Carvill was a strong advocate of education and he felt it was important to help his fellow Guardsmen and their families.



The SSG Frank T. Carvill Memorial Scholarship Award is designed to honor and remember Frank Carvill. Applications are available by contacting Peggy Carvill-Liguori at [drpeg639@aol.com](mailto:drpeg639@aol.com). Deadline for submitting applications is **April 30, 2009**.

These are the eligibility requirements for the scholarships –

- ⌘ The applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of the New Jersey National Guard.
- ⌘ The applicant may apply for the scholarship while attending high school or presently be in or accepted by a college/vocational program as a full-time student.
- ⌘ The applicant must volunteer time to the community.
- ⌘ The applicant must have a minimum GPA of 2.75
- ⌘ The applicant must compose an essay stating:
  - How volunteerism affects your life
  - How the U.S. military has influenced your life

---

### 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).

---

### College scholarships available through commissary agency

The Defense Commissary Agency is making college scholarships worth \$1,500 available to qualified children of military families, including those in the National Guard. Applications are now available at commissaries worldwide or through a link at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) or at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

According to Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., Defense Commissary Agency director and chief executive officer, the program has awarded more than \$6.4 million in scholarship to

more than 4,000 children of military families since the program began in 2001.

Qualified applicants are dependent, unmarried children of active duty, Reserve, Guard or retired military personnel. Applicants must be under the age of 23. Also survivors of service members who died while on active duty or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for the scholarship.

Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, along with their sponsors, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicants must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2009 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants will be asked to submit an essay on the following topic: What would you place inside a time capsule to help people in the next century understand military life today? Applications must be turned in by **Feb. 18, 2009**. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

---

## 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 For Army National Guard Education Benefits, please use <https://www.nationalguardbenefits.com>; click on G.I. Bill Home Page.

---

## 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.

---

## Association News

### 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.

---

## ESGR News, Information

### Guard, Reserve members and families encourage to nominate employers

The Department of Defense opened the nomination season for the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award on Nov. 1. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of employees serving in the seven

reserve components.

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the National Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.



In 2008 the Jersey City Fire Department was the first New Jersey employer to receive the Employer Support Freedom Award, one of fifteen employers bestowed with the high honor.

"The number of nominations was outstanding last year," said retired Army Col. Carmen Venticinquie, chairman, New Jersey state field committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "I encourage the more than 20,000 citizen Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members to nominate their employer this year."

The New Jersey ESGR held a luncheon for all the Freedom Award nominees and the Jersey City Fire Department was honored with the Pro Patria award along with Campbell Soup and Jenny Engineering.

Nominations will be accepted at [www.freedomaward.mil/nominate.aspx](http://www.freedomaward.mil/nominate.aspx) until **Jan. 19, 2009**. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the U.S. government's highest recognition given to outstanding employers.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. More than 100 employers have received this prestigious award.

For questions regarding the nomination process, please contact Hank Pierre of the New Jersey ESGR at 609-562-0156.

---

## ***Veterans Information***

---

### **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)

---

### **VA Suicide Hotline**

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a national suicide prevention hot line for veterans. VA's hot line will be staffed by mental health professionals in Canandaigua, N.Y. They will take toll-free calls from across the country and work closely with local VA mental health providers to help callers. The toll-free hot line number is 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255).

---

### **DoD develops compensation and benefits handbook**

DoD announced it has developed a comprehensive handbook describing compensation and other benefits service members and their families would be entitled to upon separation or retirement as a result of serious injury or illness.

"The Compensation and Benefits Handbook is the one source of information that covers everything a seriously ill and injured service member will need during his or her recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration," said Ronald A. Winter, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs.

The handbook was compiled in cooperation with the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and the Social Security Administration. Additionally; there are references to assistance provided by other governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations.

"The handbook describes the disability eligibility process, various program qualifications, application procedures, and numerous resources with associated contact information," said Sharon Gunselman, policy and resource analyst for the Department of Defense.

Web sites and toll-free numbers are provided, and the electronic version includes hyperlinks. The electronic version of the handbook will be updated frequently and the hard copy of the compensation and benefits handbook will be updated annually.

The electronic version of the handbook can be found on the five Web sites listed below:

<http://turbotap.org>

<https://www.nko.navy.mil>

<http://www.npc.navy.mil>

<https://www.aw2.army.mil>

<https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/AFP40/d/1073755231/Files/C&BHandbook>

---

### **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).

---

### **DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues**

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

February 3*, 4, 5	Paramus Park Mall
March 3*, 4, 5	Monmouth 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.

---

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



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

=====

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

=====

For further information call 1-800-648-VETS or visit

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