

DMAVA Highlights

July 16, 2009 Volume 9 Number 25



Two out, one in

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

A general officer who logged thousands miles on Iraq's treacherous roads during a 2005 deployment and a senior colonel who played a key role in the National Guard's response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks finished their distinguished military careers last weekend. And another colonel became the first woman to lead a major subordinate command.

Brig. Gen. John M. Nunn was hailed as "a soldier's soldier" at his final formation at the Somerset Armory by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General. The day before, Nunn, the Assistant Adjutant General of the Army Guard, was the presiding officer at the ceremony where the retiring Col. Anthony J. Formica turned over command of the National Guard Bureau Joint Training and Training Development Center to Col. Loretta S. Thomas.

Nunn served as the executive officer of the former 42nd Infantry Division Support Command during its deployment to north-central Iraq. Nunn, who began his military career as a draftee in 1969 and earned his commission through the New Jersey Officer Candidate School in 1979 said making general "was beyond my wildest dreams."

Formica closed out a military career that began with his enlistment in 1974 and finished with him directing the staff and operations at the state-of-the art National Guard facility on Fort Dix known as the Battle Lab. During Formica's three year tenure there, its soldiers fielded training solutions to reserve component and active duty units across the country as well as several foreign countries.

For two weeks after the terrorist attacks, Formica tracked all military forces involved in the rescue and recovery operations at Ground Zero. Rieth said that Formica had distinguished himself throughout his career.

"Each and every assignment he's had, he's made a difference," Rieth said.

Formica will be succeeded by Thomas, who commanded the former 250th Signal Battalion during its 2005 Iraq deployment. In her last assignment, Thomas was serving as the Chief of Mobilization, Plans and Operations for Fort Dix. Her goal in her new job is to get more soldiers mobilizing at Fort Dix to use the Battle Lab as a training resource.



DARE TO TAKE AIM - Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Turner prepares Ana Cruz Chandrahas, 12, of South River for her turn in the simulator at the Battle Lab on a field trip for the National Guard Counter Drug Task Force's week-long DARE Leadership camp. About 110 fifth and six graders from across the state attended the annual camp this week, the biggest turnout ever. The campers, who come from every county in the state, were selected because they identified as peer leaders. "These kids are the cream of the crop," said Master Sgt. Karin Dates of the counter-drug unit. Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA PAO



TWO TREES FOR SEA GIRT -- Retired Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Pierson (right) and Jeanne Kineyko, Advocate-Instructor and Rita Selvaggio Advocate-Instructor from the 21 Plus program for adults with developmental disabilities and other volunteers recently planted two trees at the National Guard Training Center.

NJ World War II Memorial



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

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

--John Quincy Adams, 6th President of the United States

New radios for 50th

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

Soldiers from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are back to training again – this time with a new field radio system that will replace almost all of the existing Army field communications systems.

“Everyone is back from deployment so this was a good opportunity to get them trained up on the new equipment,” said Cranbury resident Capt. Tim Sorensen, Liaison Officer, 50th IBCT. “We just received the equipment so it is the first time we’ve cracked it out of the boxes.”

The 50th Soldiers are the first New Jersey Army National Guard troops to be trained on the AN/PRC-117F Multiband Manpack Radio. The week-long training took place at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville. The radio, which can be stored in a backpack, is designed for transmission of both voice and data traffic up to the top secret level.

The radios are already in use in both Iraq and Afghanistan where they provide battlefield communications security, satellite communications, electronic counter-countermeasure capabilities, and are interoperable with ground-to-air radios and long-range tactical satellite communications.

This means that New Jersey National Guard has a proven tool at its disposal if there is ever a natural or manmade disaster.

According to Chaplain’s Assistant and Union City resident Pfc. Xochi Risco, while the new system weighs the same as the system it is replacing – the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, a combat net radio currently used by U.S. and allied military forces – it has more features and is more portable.

One the biggest differences is data entry; with the SINCGARS you had to take the radio off your back to enter new data.

“With this one the data entering device – a remove-able keypad – can be worn strapped to your wrist making the system more responsive,” said Risco.

“It has a different level of complexity, but after three days of training I feel confident with it,” said Risco.



DMAVA Green

Below are some simple practices to maximize your iPod or MP3 player’s battery life.

1. Use it or lose it. Don’t leave an iPod “dormant.” Turn it off every time you finish using it, and run the battery down at least once a month to keep its “little lithium ion happy.”

2. Stick to MP3 or AAC files. Bigger files (WAV, AIFF, Apple Lossless) are tough on an iPod’s “battery-driven hard drive.” Keep those on your computer; they sound better on a home audio system anyway.

3. Adjust settings. Turn off the backlight, unless you really need it. It’s also smart to deactivate the equalizer by setting it to “flat.”

4. Keep at room temperature. Extreme cold will make an iPod’s battery “sluggish” while extreme heat - meaning any temperature over 95 degrees - can cause permanent damage.

Stay Green!

Note for Federal phone users

From the desk of Sophie Guzikowski, DMAVA-IASD

The federal phone directory database is located in [\\ngnj-34256-nas\Public\Directories](#)

It’s updated every Monday with the same name, but won’t update on your desktop shortcut automatically. To get the update, drag the shortcut to your desktop. The shortcut is named: Shortcut to Telephone Directory.

Also, all directory phone number changes or changes of duty location must be submitted to State Telecom: Sophie Guzikowski, NJDAMA-IASD, Sophie.Guzikowski@njdmava.state.nj.us. Or faxed to 609-530-7193.

Quotes

Write injuries in dust, benefits in marble.

--Benjamin Franklin

There is no use whatever trying to help people who do not help themselves. You cannot push anyone up a ladder unless he be willing to climb himself.

--Andrew Carnegie

Bees are not as busy as we think they are. They just can’t buzz any slower.

--Kin Hubbard

Today’s toupees really fool people, but only those people who wear them.

--Anonymous

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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

Col. James J. Grant – Joint Staff Director

Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

Wounded Soldier and Family
Hotline
1-800-984-8523

Families

Babysitting training class set for July, August

The American Red Cross Greater Somerset Chapter is offering two sessions of a two-day babysitting training workshop. The first session will be on July 21-22 and the second will be offered Aug. 4-5. For more information, call Barbra Patterson at 908-725-2217.

N.J. SHARES helps with utility bills

New Jersey SHARES helps households that have fallen behind on their utility bills due to a temporary financial crisis. A financial crisis can happen to anyone, regardless of age, income or family situation. A crisis is often due to unforeseen circumstances, such as a job loss or illness. We provide assistance to households that are not eligible for other types of public assistance. Applicants must demonstrate a temporary financial need and a history of good-faith payments to their energy provider. NJ SHARES is designed to help people who are going through short-term financial problems. Applicants must show a history of paying bills on time and that events have occurred that cause hardship in paying bills now. Funding is limited and based on first come first served so visit the following websites to get more information. THIS IS A GRANT, NOT A LOAN so check it out to see if you may be eligible for this!! Visit www.njshares.org.

Family Readiness Council offers grants

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.

State Family Programs
101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville
Toll-free number 1-888-859-0352
Family Assistance – 609-530-6834/6884
State Youth Coordinator – 609-530-6836
Military Family Life consultants – 609-530-6835/6886
Yellow Ribbon Program – 609-530-6846/6853/6859
Fax – 609-530-6871

Governor's Island offers free kids program on Fridays

Take the kids to the free Friday Programs for Kids at the Governors Island National Monument through August 14, 10:15 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join National Park Service Rangers for kid-friendly programs which run continually through the summer on Friday mornings. Children will have the opportunity to meet with National Park Rangers or an array of "guests" from the past such as a Union Soldier, a member of the Women's Army Corps, a Confederate Prisoner or a middle class lady from 1863.



Contact the Lower Manhattan Cultural Center at lowdown@lmcc.net for more information.

Summertime activities for kids

From the desk of Amanda Balas, National Guard State Youth Coordinator

Here are two quick ideas for summer activities for the kids. And both are done inside, with air conditioning. Check them out:

www.kidsbowlfree.com and www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/familyfilmfestivalschedule.aspx.

Organization assists with counseling for families

Are you, the kids, or other family members having a tough time dealing with getting ready for deployment of a loved one? Are you having a tough time dealing with things during the deployment? Are you having a tough time dealing with things after the deployment? Military Family Life Consultants can help you and your family problem solve with issues resulting from deployment, reunions, reintegration and other times of change including:

- Marriage and Relationship Issues
- Family Issues
- Stress and Anxiety
- Depression
- Grief and Loss
- Anger management
- Parent and child communication

Soldiers and families are entitled to six prepaid, face-to-face counseling sessions. New Jersey has two MFLC on our staff in the State Family Programs Office. Contact them at: Jeff at 609-530-6886, cell 609-694-7020 or jeffrey.p.hoerger@healthnet.com or Jill at 609-530-6835, cell: 732-284-8220 or jill.c.barrett@mhn.com.

State Employees

Changing name? Moving? Let them know!

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.

Sea Girt beach passes now available for DMAVA employees

NGTC Sea Girt beach passes are now available. If you have not already received yours, contact Gail Miller at 609-530-6911, gail.miller@njdmava.state.nj.us to get your passes.

Information to remember:

DMAVA employees can use the employee ID card or NJ military ID for admission to the beach.

Passes can be issued to family members and friends, but each pass is to be issued to only one person.

Each pass will admit all occupants of one car to the beach. The pass is good for the entire season.

On the back of the pass there are two lines to fill in:

☒ First line: You or the person **who will be using** the pass (name/guest) must **print** his/her name on the first line. Guests may also be asked to show a driver's license or other photo ID.

☒ Second line (unit/sponsor): You must **print** your name and DMAVA division or unit.

For more information, see TAG Memorandum 2-09 dated 10 February 2009 at http://www.nj.gov/military/publications/tag-memo_09/TAGMEMO-2-09.pdf.



MBOS required for state employees to update info

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 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. 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.

Veterans & Military



Delran VFW hosting Riversharks game July 26

From the desk of Lt. Col. Mike Lyons, RDCO 50th IBCT

On Sunday, July 26, the Delran VFW will sponsor a River Sharks baseball game for Soldiers and their families. The event includes ticket admission, food, drinks (not alcohol, although it is available for purchase) and fun activities for children. The game begins at 1:05 p.m. and the entire picnic area has been reserved. This is a great opportunity to spend some quality time with your family in a relaxed environment. Transportation to Campbell's Field is the Soldier's responsibility. Campbell's Field in Camden, N.J., is conveniently located off Route 30 along the Delaware River.

To request tickets send an e-mail to Michael.lyons@nj.ngb.army.mil. Include your name, rank, unit, contact phone number and number of tickets requested no later than July 20.

NGANJ offers group life insurance

Are you covered by the NGANJ/EANG-NJ Group Life Insurance Program? As a member of the New Jersey National Guard, you are entitled to enroll in the New Jersey National Guard Associations' 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. Benefits paid are usually within 48 hours of claim. Money when your family needs it most.

Information and enrollment forms can be obtained by calling retired Col. Frank L. Carlone, Program Coordinator at 732-249-8335 or e-mailing him at flc.frank@verizon.net. Information is also on the web at <http://www.eang-nj.org/insurance.html>.

Direct Deposit VA benefits into checking or savings account now. Call 1-800-333-1795 or visit www.GoDirect.org

Memorial plans golf outing

On Monday, July 27, 2009, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will be holding its 15th annual Golf Tournament at the Olde York Country Club in Chesterfield, N.J. Through participation in this very special event, you are supporting the Foundation and the educational programs the foundation provides to thousands of New Jersey school children each year, as well as the lecture series, teacher's forum, and many other special ceremonies and events.

Play as a foursome, individual or twosome, join us for the after-golf dinner, sponsor a hole, driving range or the complimentary beverage cart, or donate a prize for the after-golf raffle or silent auction. Previous prizes have included everything from a time share to golf equipment to electronics and much more!

Registration includes continental breakfast, box lunch, refreshments on the course, post-golf reception, locker room facilities, greens fees, carts and all gratuities. Participation in raffles, muligans and additional gratuities is optional. For additional information or to obtain a brochure, please visit www.njvvmf.org or call (732) 335-0033.



114th Inf Golf tourney slated for Sept. 21 at Pitman golf course

The 114th Infantry Regimental Association is gearing up for a golf outing on Monday, Sept. 21 to benefit the Woodbury Family Readiness Group. This year's theme: Welcome Home, A Job Well Done. The action will take place at the Pitman Golf Course in Sewell. For registration information, email Royce Ray at royce-ray@comcast.net or call 609-923-7303.

Veterans Organizations contact information

State Veterans Service Council
Richard Clark, RJClark21@msn.com
BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council
William Rakestraw, warjrnj@msn.com
Veterans Hotlines
Benefits and Entitlements
1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)
Mental Health
1-866-VETS-NJ4 (1-866-838-7654)

Calendar

When – July 19-24

What – NJNG Youth Camp

Where – National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt

More info – www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html

When – July 21, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

What – Post 9/11 GI Bill briefing

Where – Timmerman Center, Fort Dix

When – July 27

What – AUSA golf tourney and luncheon, 8 a.m

Where – Sun Eagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth,

When – July 29, 9 a.m-6 p.m. and July 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

What – Ultimate Warrior Job Fair and workshop for OIF/OEF vets and spouses

Where – Timmerman Center, Fort Dix

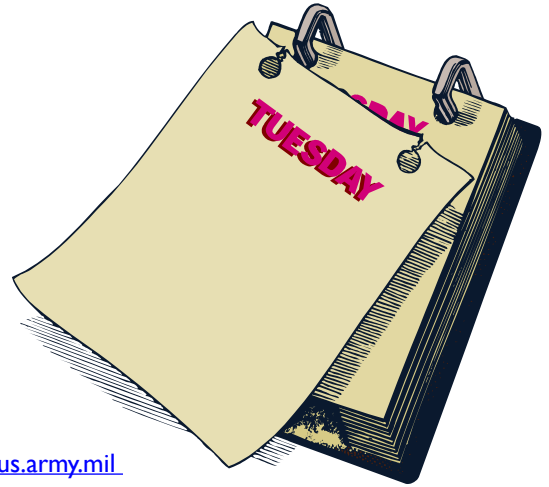
More info – Sgt 1st Class Loranda Taylor, 609-864-2565, loranda.mitriecetaylor@us.army.mil

When – Aug. 23

What – Poker Run, for scholarship funds

Where – The Pub, Browns Mills

More info – www.rollingthunder-nj2.org



Enjoy the Atlantic City Air Show Aug. 19

The 177th FW is co-hosting this year's annual Atlantic City "Thunder Over the Boardwalk" Air Show. Make plans now to see flybys and aerial demonstrations that reach up to 15,000 feet and as low as 50 feet over the water in front of the Atlantic City skyline. The show will be held Aug. 19, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is FREE on the beach and Boardwalk of Atlantic City.

In addition to flyovers by our 177th FW and 108th ARW, New Jersey Air National Guard, witness performances and demonstrations by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and civilian acts. This year's lineup will be headlined with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team.

For more information, visit <http://www.atlanticcitynj.com/acairshow.aspx>.

Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| July 28*, 29, 30 | Ocean County Mall |
| Aug. 7*** | First Energy Ball Park, Home of the Lakewood Blue Claws |
| Aug. 20*** | Mercer County Waterfront Park, Home of the Trenton Thunder |
| Aug. 30**** | TD Bank Ballpark, Home of the Somerset Patriots |
| Sept. 22*, 23, 24 | Rockaway Townsquare Mall |
| Oct. 20**, 21, 22 | Jersey Gardens Mall |
| Nov. 9*, 10 | Woodbridge Center Mall |
- *Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m.
 **Medal ceremony at 1 p.m.
 ***Outreach program only, 7:05 p.m.
 ****Outreach program only, 4:05 p.m.

Deadline

Want to place an event or article in DMAVA Highlights?

Deadline for articles is noon Wednesday.

Send submissions to barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.