

DMAVA Highlights

July 23, 2009 Volume 9 Number 26



Jersey engineers turn swamp into road



PUT IT HERE –Spc. Reginald Welch of the 150th Engineer Company points to the spot he wants gravel dumped on an under-construction road during his unit AT this week.

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – What happens when a mucky patch of Maryland swamp meets the 150th Engineer Company?

A road capable of carrying 80,000 pound trucks begins to emerge foot by painstaking foot.

More than two dozen Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard unit are spending their Annual Training at this sprawling Army installation north of Baltimore building a road strong enough to carry ammunition trucks.

“This is great training -- it’s exactly the kind of work we would do if we deployed,” said Capt. Becky Lapidow, the company commander. “There are a lot of roads being built in Afghanistan.”

The AT is a milestone, the first since the unit stood up in October. Several members of the 160th Engineer Detachment are taking part as well.

As he grinned through a cloud of gravel dust on a recent morning, Staff Sgt. William Cook, a 150th member who once listed his top three military job preferences as engineer, engineer and engineer said progress on the road – nearly 2,000 feet in two weeks -- surprised him.

“When we got here, we had a swamp,” he said. “Now, it’s starting to look a lot like a road.”

In addition to the digging, grading and laying the stabilizing sand and gravel for the road, all of the Soldiers trained on the safe operation of five- and 20-ton dump trucks.

Spc. Reggie Pharel, a supply clerk, enjoyed the driver training so much he volunteered to get behind the wheel of a five-ton dump truck every day for the rest of AT.

After several 10-hour days of driving the same two-mile loop, he still wasn’t bored.

“Good training,” he said with a big smile as he backed up to drop yet another load of gravel.

177th Airmen fill key roles at European health hub

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY--Airmen from the 177th Medical Group got their first taste of working at Ramstein Air Base this week.

The 34 New Jersey National Guard Airmen comprise all the major sections in the Medical group – laboratory, logistics, technicians, public health, dental, optometry, administration, nursing and flight surgeons. The Airmen will be deployed from July 20 through August 2.

The 177th Airmen began serving with the 86th Medical Group, which operates the largest overseas Air Force clinic.

“They will get a lot of training that is often hard to come by,” said Col. David J. Mellish, 177th Medical Group commander. “In addition to training, they will be working alongside their active-duty counterparts.”

Five 177th Airmen received some very special training on Tuesday.

Master Sgt. Harry Waugh, Tech. Sgts. Melissa Blackledge and Marie Paggi, along with Staff Sgts. Chantel Bullock and Valerie Chiola were assigned to the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility or CASF.

The CASF is responsible for transporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom wounded warriors from the flightline to the hospital then back to the flightline for return to the United States.

More than 65,000 wounded Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines have come through Ramstein.

Waugh, Blackledge, Paggi, Bullock and Chiola prepared for their duties by undergoing refresher training transporting volunteers around on stretchers.

That training was tested at noon when the 177th Airmen were assigned to moving a group of wounded warriors.

The 177th team moved the injured warriors from the CASF building to a bus specially designed to carry stretcher-borne patients. They were then driven to the Ramstein flightline where they were loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III attached to the 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard.

“It was an honor to help get the wounded home,” Waugh said.

Afterwards the entire CASF team got together at the bottom of the C-17 to give a cheer for the warriors.

“This is a real world event, it was exciting,” said Chiola. “It’s not just another exercise.”

A Government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.

--Gerald Ford, 38th President of the United States

DMAVA Highlights

108th ARW holds Family Day July 18



Above: Members of the 108th ARW took part in the pie eating contest held during Family Day. Below: Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff pins the Bronze Star on Chief Master Sgt. Lance Endee. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108th ARW Public Affairs Office.

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, 108th ARW Public Affairs Specialist

The members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing had a busy, fun-filled day on Sunday, July 19. The weather provided a great backdrop for a day that started out with a Commander's Call and ended with Family Day.

During the Commander's Call, Chief Master Sgt. Lance Endee was awarded a Bronze star for his service while deployed to Iraq from September 2007 to March 2008. Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, commander of the 108th ARW also presented coins to all of the 2009 deployers from the wing.

Then everyone changed gears and uniforms to casual clothes and met with their families over on Doughboy Field, Fort Dix, for an afternoon of food, games, music and camaraderie.

While the food flowed, the children enjoyed the clown, face painting and games. Adults enjoyed the sounds of a local rock band "Off the Cuff," visiting with their fellow Airmen and families and taking some time away from the job.

During Family Day more than 50 Airmen registered for the C.W. Bill Young/DoD Marrow Donor Program. They completed a form and swabbed the inside of their mouths to become part of the National Marrow Donor Program.



DMAVA Green

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

Most of us want to do our part to do some good for the environment, but many times, beyond thinking, "Can I recycle this container or not," the actions of doing our part seems like, well, work.

Here are some relatively easy ways to help the environment.

Check your local recycling rules. While on my town's Web site recently, I found that there is a central recycling point for those plastics that I cannot place in the curbside bucket every week, like yogurt cups and the plastic on my new toothbrush. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/nj/gov/county/localgov.html> and find your local Web site. Most have their recycling rules.

Return your plastic bags to the grocery store for recycling. There are some reports that show the average American family can gather as many as 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store. Many grocery stores have recycling bins by the front door. Or check with your local thrift store; they may be able to use them.

Turn the water off while brushing your teeth. If you have the faucet spouting water down the drain, you can lose an estimated 1.5 gallons per minute (depending on age and model of your faucet).

Use one less plastic bottle a month. Americans buy an estimated 28 billion plastic water bottles every year. The U.S. population was estimated at 306,976,362 as of July 22, 2009. That means every person buys about 91 or so water bottles per year and more than 80 percent of those will end up being disposed of rather than being recycled.

More tips next week.

Keep Green!

Quotes

We are all born ignorant, but one must work hard to remain stupid.

--Benjamin Franklin

Television is an invention that permits you to be entertained in your living room by people you wouldn't have in your home.

--David Frost

The only way to entertain some folks is to listen to them.

--Kin Hubbard

Those who despise money will eventually sponge on their friends.

--Anonymous

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, the Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. E-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

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

Youth Camp is a hit again

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The 15th Annual New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp comes just one month after nearly 2,800 Moms and Dads, Brothers and Sisters returned from Iraq after a one-year deployment.

This year's camp ran from July 19 to July 24 with the theme of "Keeping the Earth Green" at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. This year we had 122 campers, 47 counselors and more than 60 volunteers.

The camp is designed to help foster an understanding of military life for the children and grandchildren of our active and retired Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard as well as employees of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The camp continues to be an integral part of New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Program's support to the Home Town Heroes: our families of the Guard members. It is important because so many New Jersey Citizen Soldiers and Citizen Airmen have been deployed around the world, for extended periods of time in the Global War on Terrorism to protect the state and nation.



Give life, give blood at Teaneck

The Teaneck Armory is holding a blood drive on Aug. 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the armory, 1799 Teaneck Road, Teaneck. Contact PFC CanDice Hibbert at 201-833-8356.

Bring a photo ID and eat within four hours of donating blood. Each donor will receive a T-shirt.

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

Dorney Park offers discount to military

Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom in Allentown, Pa., is offering a discount to the military and their families. A discount for military personnel is available at the park entrance. At the ticket window, please present a valid military photo ID card to purchase a regular one-day admission ticket for only \$24.99 during the Early and Bonus Seasons and only \$32.99 each during the summer season (May 23 - Sept. 7). The military discount is available for all active or retired military personnel (including the National Guard, Reserves, and Coast Guard). Immediate family members include spouse, children, parents, grandparents and grandchildren. Military discount tickets must be purchased at the gate (a valid military ID must be presented to receive the discount). If the military person is currently deployed overseas, the family members are eligible for the military discount as long as they show a current military family ID when purchasing tickets.

Six Flags Military Day on Aug. 15

Six Flags Great Adventure is holding their Military Appreciation Day on Aug. 15, thanking those who serve the country with a special offer of fun for the entire family.

The discount package includes a one-day admission to Six Flags Great Adventure and Wild Safari and an All-You-Can-Eat buffet of hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, nachos and cheese and more – all for the price of \$29.50 per person.

To purchase tickets, mail checks to Liberty USO, Terminal A-East; Philadelphia Airport; Phila., PA 19153. Call 215-365-8010 for more information.

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 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.

Teaneck hosting picnic on Aug. 22

From the desk of Janis Shaw, Family Assistance Specialist

On August 22, the Teaneck Family Readiness Group/Family Assistance Center will be having a Welcome Home/Back to School Picnic for our returning soldiers at the Fountain Springs Country Club, Ringwood. This event will be sponsored by The Oritani Bank of Washington Township, N.J.

For more information, call 201-833-0632 or 201-833-8356.

State Employees

Save money with your employee discount!

Instructions to access updated New Jersey State Employee Discount List

1. Go to CSC website at <http://www.state.nj.us/csc/>
2. Click on Information on left side of web page
3. Select employee discount
4. Click on State Employee Discounts on left side

The most recent employee discount list will come up.



NGB announces civilian contract position opening

National Guard Bureau announces the opening for a NGB Civilian Contract Position of New Jersey State Survivor Outreach Program Coordinator.

The contractor, Goldbeltwolf, LLC, is currently seeking an individual to serve as the state program coordinator for Survivor Outreach Services. The State SOS coordinator will be responsible for:

- management of the State SOS program
- perform community outreach and information missions
- coordinate with various Casualty Assistance Outreach Centers
- provide training to SOS program members.

All interested applicants MUST apply on-line no later than Aug. 10 at www.Goldbelt.com.

To apply, 1) click employment; 2) click job listings, pick list "goldbeltwolf"; 3) click SOS Program Coordinator, then click "apply for this position." All resume, application requirements and pre-requisites can be found on the website application.

Salary range for the job is \$60,000-68,000/per year.

Applicants who have questions should call Lt. Col. Terese Accolla, commander Medical Hold Detachment, 609-562-0600.

State employees reminded of direct deposit convenience

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

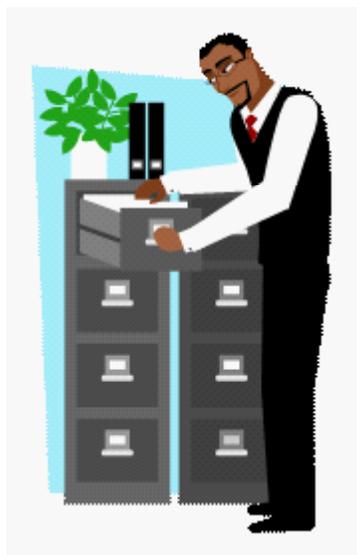
This is just a reminder that the convenience of direct deposit is offered to all state employees. It is encouraged that our employees consider taking advantage of direct deposit with all that it has to offer.

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 DMAVA.net 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.



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.

Veterans & Military

VA offers assistance to vets with subprime mortgages

Veterans with conventional home loans now have new options for refinancing to a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) guaranteed home loan. These new options are available as a result of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. It will allow the VA to assist a substantial number of veterans with subprime mortgages by refinancing into a safer, more affordable VA guaranteed loan. As a result of the new law, VA can now assist veterans in refinancing their subprime or conventional mortgage up to 100 percent of the value of the property. These loans were previously limited to 90 percent of the value. For more information please visit <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/> or <http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/>.



Gloucester County veterans picnic is free to all on Aug. 22

From the desk of Michele Daisey, Family Assistance Specialist

Every year there is a Veterans Picnic in Gloucester County open to all (doesn't matter what town or city you live in). They will continue their tradition this year and put a special emphasis on all our New Jersey troops who recently came home.

Bring your family and enjoy the day. The picnic will be held at the Gloucester County Dream Park, Route 130 South, Logan Township, on August 22, 1-5 p.m. It is completely FREE!

This event has been in the planning stages for some time and they have wonderful things planned to entertain all ages!! Come see the live entertainment, military exhibits, antique car show and eat at the free barbecue.

For more information contact: American Red Cross-Gloucester County Chapter 856-256-8300; Bernadette Blackstock 856-694-1355 or the Woodbury Family Assistance Center 856-251-6893. For directions to the park please visit: www.gcianj.com/dream-park-directions-gcia-nj.html.

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

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration slated for Aug. 16-17

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration for soldiers from the 50th IBC T recently returned from deployment will be conducted at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, on August 16-17. The following is **tentative information** and an **agenda of events**. Soldiers and families should check with their units and chain of command for additional details.

- Pay Status: IDT
- Report time: 9 a.m., Aug. 16 at the Convention Center.
- Uniform: Business Casual (no jeans, shorts, sandals, sneakers or inappropriate T-shirts).
- Travel and per diem is not authorized.
- Spouses and children are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.
- Overnight accommodations will be provided for soldier and family members.
- Limited day care for infants will be available, along with youth activities.
- Three meals will be provided (Aug. 16 lunch and dinner and Aug. 17 breakfast).
- Any other costs incurred are the soldier's responsibility.
- Transportation requirements from home station to Atlantic City must be requested, if required.
- Shuttles will be provided from hotels to the Convention Center.
- All personnel should park at their assigned hotels and take shuttles to the Convention Center. Convention Center parking is not free.
- State requires a by-name roster of all soldiers attending and number of family members in order to reserve rooms.
- Additionally, for data collection all soldiers will register at www.nj-fac.org/yellowribbon

Some of the briefings and other resources that will be held for the Soldiers and their families during the weekend include: Military OneSource, U.S. Dept. of Labor, GI education benefits, financial planning, medical services (TRICARE/US Family Health Plan), U.S. Veterans Affairs medical clinics, legal, mental health, and a career/education/support services expo.

Chaplains and N.J. JAG officers will be onsite for private discussions throughout the entire event.

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 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. 19, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

What – Atlantic City Air Show

Where – The beach and boardwalk, Atlantic City

More info – www.atlanticcitynj.com/acairsho.aspx

When – Aug. 23

What – Poker Run, for scholarship funds

Where – The Pub, Browns Mills

More info – www.rollingthunder-nj2.org

When – Sept. 21

What – 114th Inf Regimental Assoc. Golf Tournament

Where – Pitman Golf Course, Sewell

More info – royceray@comcast.net



Technicians: Learn about TSP and your retirement

Federal technicians – learn about the Thrift Savings Plan and how it impacts your retirement. Classes will be held on Aug. 11 and 12 at the JT2DC, Fort Dix, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Aug. 13 at the 177th Fighter Wing, building 400, Egg Harbor Township, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Reserve a seat in the class by contacting Capt. Devon Hanson, devon.hanson1@us.army.mil or 609-562-0881; DSN 944-0881.



Marriage Enrichment seminars tentatively slated for Soldiers, spouses

Tentative dates for upcoming Marriage Enrichment Seminars are Aug. 21-23 and Sept. 25-27. The hotels are still being negotiated. Each weekend is limited to 25 couples. Please do not sign up unless you can definitely attend because we will be paying for rooms and meals whether you attend or not. If you do sign up and do not attend, you will not be able to sign up for another seminar. There will be a registration/ice breaker with food on Friday evening from 7-9 p.m. Soldiers will attend in a SUTA status but you must attend the entire weekend. Dress for soldier and spouse is casual. If you are interested, please contact Marie Durling at (609) 530-6884 or by e-mail at marie.durling@us.army.mil.

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
Aug. 7***

Ocean County Mall
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 Town-square 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.