



DMAVA Highlights

June 25, 2009

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NJ Dept of Military
and Veterans
Affairs

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The Adjutant General

Col. James J. Grant
Joint Staff Director

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Or
609-530-7088

We're on the Web!
www.nj.gov/military



*To our newly returned veterans and their
families: Are you having problems adapting?*

Call the Counseling Hotline - 1-866-838-7654.

*Program addresses readjustment problems for combat
veterans and their families.*

News For Your Views

Historic first: Falca-Dodson becomes state's first female two-star

New Jersey Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson was promoted to the rank of Major General at a ceremony at the Joint Force headquarters on Fort Dix on Monday, June 22. She is the first woman in the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard to become a general officer.

Falca-Dodson is the commander of the state's Air Guard which has 2,300 Airmen and includes the 108th Air Refueling Wing at McGuire Air Force Base and the 177th Fighter Wing at Egg Harbor Township. Before taking command of the Air Guard in November, Falca-Dodson served for six years as the Deputy Adjutant General. She was the first woman to hold that position as well.

Maj. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General was the first to add the star to her uniform and then her husband, Col. William "Buck" Dodson, who just recently returned from a deployment to Iraq, placed a second star on her service coat.

Weekend camp offers fun for military members, families

Wayne Cook, The Post, Fort Dix

Military families are invited to participate in a no-cost camping experience at Camp Noble Cause **Aug. 8 and 9.**

Camp Noble Cause is a two-day event held at the Winnebago Scout Reservation in Rockaway Township in northern New Jersey. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Patriots Path Council hosts a family weekend of fun and adventure for military members and their spouses, guardians, care providers, and children. The camp is staffed by members of the Patriots Path Council and Operation Noble Cause, an organization dedicated to providing for the needs of the military.

Camp Noble Cause offers activities that will meet the needs of both beginner and experienced campers.

Some activities planned include: swimming, rifle and shotgun shooting, arts and crafts, archery, boating, fishing, rock wall climbing, nature discovery, sports and games, mountain biking, and orienteering. An area of carnival games will be set up for the younger children.

Food, activities and sleeping accommodations are provided for all attendees which is

Veterans' Organizations

Contact Information

State Veterans Service Council

Mr. Richard Clark
RJClark21@msn.com

BG William C. Doyle
Cemetery Advisory Council

Mr. William Rakestraw
warjrni@msn.com

Veterans Hotlines



Benefits & Entitlements

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

Mental Health

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

NJ World War II Memorial



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



all made possible through sponsors' donations and the efforts of the BSA and Operation Noble Cause. Individuals seeking more information or to register for the weekend or a single day should go to <http://noblecause.ppbsa.org/>.

Space A travel benefit cuts costs for military, retirees

One benefit of military service is Space A travel. With an open calendar and no definite plans of when to be where, a military member, retiree and some others can travel the globe for pennies on the dollar for what the average traveler would pay.

Flying on large military aircraft is not for everyone – no rolling carts with flight attendants traipsing up and down the aisles, a box lunch may be the only food served, military planes are not known for great temperature control – travelers learn to be prepared for cold and heat, and the seating is not always cushioned, reclining seats. But for the adventurous traveler, Space A can get you where you want to go – or maybe nearby – for a very low price, allowing you to spend your money on hotels, food and souvenirs for your special trip.

There are drawbacks – waiting time in airports, being on standby for hours or days and more, but there are service members, family members, retirees and others who have enjoyed the privilege of their Space A benefit for years.

For more information on categories, locations, phone numbers and tips on how to make your flying time successful, visit <http://www.amc.af.mil/questions/topic.asp?id=380>. Click on the blue "here" in the paragraph on top of the buttons to get a file of information to help you.

Avalon now has drop off for "Cell Phones for Soldiers"

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

Avalon, N.J., is joining the effort to support the brave men and women in the United States military by providing a "Cell Phones for Soldiers" drop off location at the Avalon Public Safety Building, on Dune Drive between 30th and 31st Streets, in Avalon. "Cell Phones for Soldiers" is a collection drive for used, unwanted cell phones. A collection box for the unused cell phones has been placed in the lobby of the new Avalon Public Safety Building. "Cell Phones for Soldiers" was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist from Norwell, Mass., with \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501c3 non-profit organization has raised almost \$1 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas. The donated phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays "Cell Phones for Soldiers" for each phone; enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad.

63rd Army Band Concert at Alliger Park, June 28

In honor of Independence Day, the Hopewell Valley Veterans Association is hosting a 63rd Army Band concert at Alliger Park on **June 28** from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The concert will include patriotic songs and traditional concert band pieces. A fireworks display will conclude the concert. The celebration is free and open to the public. BYOLC – Bring Your Own Lawn Chair. In case of inclement weather, the Army Band concert will be held at the Hopewell Valley Central High School Performing Arts Center June 28 at 7:30 p.m. A rain date for the fireworks display is July 1 at 8:30 p.m. at the park. Alliger Park is located at 203 Washington Crossing-Pennington Rd. (Rt. 546), adjoining the Hopewell Twp. Municipal Building. For additional information and directions visit, www.HopewellValleyVeterans.org.

Come to Sea Girt for an evening of music, fun

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General-New Jersey, invites everyone to concert with the 63rd Army Band on **July 3** at 7 p.m. at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt.

Dress for the evening's festivities is casual and the concert will take place rain or shine.

For those planning on attending, RSVP no later than June 26 by calling Officer Candidate Ana Bolanos at 609-530-6780 or e-mail at

Please submit any
articles and all
information for
DMAVA
Highlights

to:

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DEADLINE IS
NOON
WEDNESDAY

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

Phone numbers
and Web sites to
remember

Directory
Assistance:

1-602-293-4907

DMAVA
Emergency
Hotline:

1-866-232-5798

ESGR office

JFHQ
3650 Saylors Pond
Road

ana.bolanos@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Sky Blue FC offering free tickets to Heroes, discounts to families

Join the Sky Blue FC on **July 4** at 7 p.m., for their 1st Annual Heroes' Night at Yurcak Field, Piscataway. Sky Blue FC is the women's professional soccer team located in Somerset. They are honoring the members of the Armed Forces, police and fire departments when they take on the Boston Breakers.

Heroes' with identification will receive a free game ticket and access to discounted ticket prices for family and friends. For more information, contact Rich Fetter, 732-271-7700, extension 309 or rfetter@skybluesoccer.com. Check out their Web site, www.skybluefc.com for more information about the team.

NGANJ announces next executive council meeting

The next meeting of the National Guard Association of New Jersey Executive Council meetings will be held on **July 7** in the 108th ARW Conference Room, McGuire Air Force Base and is hosted by the 50th IBCT. The council meeting begins at 7 p.m.; food will be provided at 6:30 p.m. If there are any questions, contact Capt. Paul Koester at 609-754-2128.

EANJNG opens scholarship season to members, dependents

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey scholarship season is open. The CSM Baldassari Memorial Scholarship is open to all members of the Association and their dependents. Scholarship forms can be found at the association's web site – www.eanj-ng.org.

The Enlisted Association offers five \$1000 scholarships. All applications must be received no later than **July 15**. Previous winners are not eligible to reapply. The Enlisted Association would also like to announce the USAA Scholarship. This is a \$500 scholarship that is open to all members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. Forms also may be found at the Enlisted Association web site.

For more information on either scholarship, contact retired Sgt. Maj. Michael Amoroso at 609-562-0754.

Post 9/11 GI Bill briefing on the calendar for July 21

For all of you are eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill and are finding yourselves with questions – here is where to find answers! There will be a Post 9/11 GI Bill briefing for the McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst community on **July 21** in the Timmerman Center, Fort Dix. Briefings will be held at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. All the briefings are for active duty, National Guard, Reserve and family members.

The McGuire Education Office is advising delaying application for the Post 9/11 GI Bill until after attending one of these briefings.

Job fair, workshop for OIF/OEF vets, spouses at Fort Dix

Join The Ultimate Warrior technical workshop and career fair for OIF/OEF service members and spouses at the Timmerman Center on Fort Dix, N.J., on **July 29-30**. The event will be 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on July 29 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 30.

The technical workshop will give information on resume writing, Social Security disability benefits, Military One Source, Army Career Alumni Program (ACAP), Tip of the Arrow program, veterans benefits and more.

Tip of the Arrow is an organization that helps service members find jobs when they leave the military. Sponsors are provided to stay with the veteran until they find a job for them. ACAP help the OIF/OEF veterans with resume writing and how to conduct the interview process.

More than 60 employers will be at the career fair including defense contractors, private sector companies, homeland security, Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service, FBI and private sector companies.

All branches of the military are eligible to take part in the two-day event, along with

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state.nj.us
Tammy Cartagena,
609-562-0157,
tammy.l.cartagena@u
s.army.mil
Fax
609-562-0158

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

Get your VA
benefits as a
Direct Deposit
into your checking
or savings
account – call
800-333-1795
or visit
www.GoDirect.org

2009 U. S. Army Year of the NCO

<http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php>

their spouses. To register, call Sgt. 1st Class Loranda Taylor, 609-864-2565 or e-mail loranda.mitriece.taylor@us.army.mil.

Bring a copy of your resume on a CD or as a hard copy; thumb drives cannot be utilized. Children cannot be accommodated during the event due to the demanding activities of the workshop. Uniform for all events will be the ACUs/ABUs; no civilian attire for military personnel.

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.

Army Ten Miler opens online race entry lottery for military

From the desk of Master Sgt. Alexandro Estrada

An additional 500 Army Ten Miler race entries will be offered to U.S. Armed Forces service members through a special, online lottery that will be posted on the ATM Web site June 15-18. The ATM lottery is open to all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and winners will be randomly selected on June 19. Check the Web site - <http://www.armytenmiler.com/> - for more information.

2009 Veterans Benefit book available online

The 2009 edition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors" can be found on the Web at http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp. You can either download a pdf version of the booklet or read it online.

Army publishes first National Guard retirement guide

Story courtesy of the Army News Service

WASHINGTON (6/1/09) -- The Army has published a 56-page retirement guide for National Guard Soldiers and their families which covers subjects ranging from retirement point credits to how to apply for retirement pay.

The guide is currently being distributed throughout the Guard. It is also available online at: <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire>.

Helmets to Hardhats

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

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

For program registration and information, visit online at www.njbctc.org/h2h or contact at 732-499-7295 or at H2H@njbctc.org.

Help for small business owners

QUOTES

When we assumed the Soldier, we did not lay aside the Citizen.

- George Washington

Life's Tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.

- Benjamin Franklin

If man had created man he would be ashamed of his performance.

- Mark Twain

Promises and pie-crust are made to be broken.

- Jonathan Swift

Things forbidden have a secret charm.

- Greek proverb

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 Visit the SBA New Jersey website at www.sba.gov/nj

DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues

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

July 28*, 29, 30	Ocean County Mall
August 5	First Energy Park, home of the Lakewood Blue Claws, 6-10 p.m.

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

Tribute to N.J. Vets book extends sale dates to June 30

Through a special offer, the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey and the Star Ledger are extending the pre-publication sale "*A Tribute to New Jersey Veterans*" until the end of June for all recently returned National Guard members. This 128 page, historical hard-cover book will be available on July 4, and includes numerous unpublished photos from the museum's collections, the NJ National Guard, Star Ledger's archives, and personal collections. These photographs chronicle the men and women who have protected democracy since the inception of our country right up to today's conflicts, including a chapter entitled "In Harm's Way" featuring many photos from the NJ Guard's recent deployments. With photos from over the past 150 years as well as illustrations of the country's early history, this book captures New Jersey's men and women's contributions since the beginning.

Part of the proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit the Museum. At the present time, pre-sale orders are being accepted through the Star Ledger at a \$5 discount. Pre-sale price: \$34.95+ S&H and can be ordered online at www.starledger.com/njmilitary before June 30; thereafter, the price is \$39.95 +S&H. Books ordered after June 30 can still receive the \$5 military discount by contacting Doug Hutton at the Star-Ledger, 973-392-1825 and ordering with a credit card over the phone.

Copies will be made available for sale at the Museums after July 3rd. If you have any questions, contact Col. Donald Kale, museum curator at 609-530-6802. Welcome Home to all and thank you for your continued support of the NGMMNJ.

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.