

DMAVA Highlights

July 29, 2010 Volume 12 Number 28



OCS class finds Phase One a time to push it to the limit

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

The long road to becoming a commissioned officer in the New Jersey Army National Guard begins with Phase Zero – months of drill weekends devoted to paperwork, classroom instruction and physical training at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt.

But the hard work, the hours of pushing the body to its limits and beyond – and the first real understanding of what it takes to become a leader -- comes to the candidates during a 15-day training period known as Phase One at the Niantic Readiness Center at Camp Rell, Conn.

On Wednesday, Col. Walter Alvarado, commander of New Jersey's 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) led a contingent of leaders to check on the progress of the candidates of Class 55 as they near completion of Phase One.

He complimented the class on their fortitude. Twenty one of the 22 candidates who began Phase One were still hanging in, a better ratio than all of the neighboring states that also sent their officer hopefuls for the same block of training.

"It's my hope I will see all of you a year down the road when you're receiving your commission as 2nd lieutenants – future leaders of our great organization," Alvarado told the candidates when they gathered from a break in land navigation training.

The candidates said the most difficult part of Phase One has been the land navigation courses. They're held at Stone Ranch, a hilly, overgrown wilderness area just north of Camp Rell. The courses are dotted by steep tree-covered hills and traversed by ravines that drop more than 70 feet, terrain features that are especially dangerous in the black of night.



Col. Walter Alvarado, right, commander of the 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) presents Officer Candidate Michael Just-Cornelius with a coin during a break from training on Wednesday at the Niantic Readiness Center at Camp Rell, Conn. Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley/DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

"It gets so dark here at night you don't see the tree branches until it's in your face," said Candidate Jay Falcon, 24, of Clifton.

But the candidates said they're making it by learning to rely on each other.

"We're really sticking together as a team," said Candidate Najib Nabi, 22, of Edison. "We know that we need to work as a group to make it through this."

Fast-running Soldiers needed to try out for NJ Guard ATM team

So Soldier, think you're fast?

Why not compete to represent the New Jersey Army National Guard at the Army 10-miler on Oct. 24 in Washington, D.C.

The tryout will be held on Aug. 3 at 1 Hiering Ave., Sea Side Heights (north end of the boardwalk). Start time is 6:45 a.m. The run will be out and back, two times, on the boardwalk.

The competition is open to both sexes and all ranks from within the Army Guard.

Soldiers who make the team will be placed on temporary duty for the race.

For more information about competing, contact Sgt. 1st Class Melanie Rowton by e-mail at Melanie.rowton@us.army.mil. For general information about the race, visit www.army10miler.com.

New directory number for DMAVA, National Guard

Are you looking for a business number while at work in Lawrenceville, in an armory, at one of the veteran's homes, or another DMAVA facility? There is a new directory assistance number for you to use when searching for business phone numbers: 1-800-GOOG-411 (1-800-466-4411).

The number to use if you are looking for a private residence number: 865-982-3782

You can also use the following Web sites to search for phone numbers and addresses:

www.superpages.com, www.whitepages.com and www.yellowpages.com.

If you have any questions, contact Sophie Guzikowski at 609-530-6925, DSN 445-9925 or Sophie.guzikowski@njdmava.state.nj.us.

DMAVA Highlights

Homecoming event with job fair, benefit symposium at Caldwell College, Aug. 14

Caldwell College will host the Annual Homecoming Event in honor of OEF/OIF veterans on Aug. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the college campus, 120 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell. All military veterans and the family members are invited to attend.

Featured will be a job fair, the Mobile Vet Center, VA Mobile Health unit and information on various Veterans Service Organizations, the Department of Veterans Affairs, colleges, special guests, door prizes and fun for the entire family. Refreshments will be provided by the Salvation Army.

The event is sponsored by the East Orange VA OEF/OIF Transition Unit, Caldwell College and The G.I. Go Fund.

Those who are attending the job fair are asked to bring plenty of resumes.



State offers retirement workshops for employees

All state employees who are members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and planning to retire before the end of 2011 are invited to take advantage of the retirement workshops scheduled over the next five months.

The workshops are being held at the New Jersey Forensic Science Technology Center in Hamilton Township, Mercer County. During the workshop, representatives will explain topics including retirement benefits, beneficiary options, group life insurance, pension taxes and health benefits during retirement.

Seating is limited, so register early for the workshop date and time of your choice. Go to www.nj.us/treasury/pensions and click on the link for "Retirement Workshops."

Classes will be held at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and are scheduled for Aug. 16, 23; Sept. 9, 15, 24, 29; Oct. 4, 21; Nov. 3, 22, 29; and Dec. 10, 17.

When attending, members must bring along a printed version of their Estimate of Retirement Benefits, which they can get using the Member Benefits Online System. To register for MBOS, go to www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml and follow instructions.

DMAVA Green

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

It's all about a million. Lately I have found a number of "million challenges" thrown out there for everyone.

Visit <http://www.allpeoplequilt.com/millionpillowcases/> and you can read about a Web site and magazine, *American Patchwork & Quilting*, that is challenging quilters and sewers to make pillowcases that will make a difference. With the free patterns they provide, people can make and donate pillowcases to cancer patients, foster children, battered women or nursing home residents – or any other person in need that the stitcher can think of.

Sew up a pillowcase and give it to a local fabric store participating in the challenge and it will be sent to a group in need. Or send it yourself and let the Web site know so your efforts are added to the count.

And if you check out <http://www.millionminute.com/>, you will find a Web site where they looking to have people play non-electronic games – a million hours worth – between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 2010. Sign up on the Web site, get a free organizer kit, play the games and log your minutes of play time.

While doing playing board and card games, you may remember the times of your youth when marathon Monopoly™ or card games like Rummy or War games filled the hours instead of television and computer. It will give your family and friends time to connect over the laughter of a good game of Sorry™ or Old Maid.

For a bigger million challenge, there is The 50 Million Pound Challenge. Here is your opportunity to take part of the recycle, reuse, REDUCE part of green. Visit <http://www.50millionpounds.com/> and see Dr. Ian Smith who is currently the medical/diet expert on VH1's highly-rated "Celebrity Fit Club," the creator and founder of The 50 Million Pound Challenge and a medical contributor on the nationally syndicated television show "Rachael Ray."

Last, you can participate in the call to recycle one million pounds of batteries. Yesterday, the organization, Call2Recycle officially launched its nationwide campaign to recycle 1 million pounds of batteries by October 1.

According to an article in Earth911.com, the organization is asking consumers to scour their homes and rid their attics, junk drawers and storage spaces of all used rechargeable batteries and cell phones and bring them to any of Call2Recycle's 30,000 public drop-off locations.

Don't know where to recycle your batteries? Visit <http://search.earth911.com/?what=batteries> and type in your city and state or your zip code and you will find where to take those dead batteries.

Keep Green!

*A good listener is not only popular everywhere,
but after a while, he knows something.*

--Wilson Mizner

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

Families

ARMS opens up reservations for Great Wolf weekend, Oct. 22-24

It's that time of year again and ARMS is again planning a trip to Great Wolf Lodge for October 22-24.

For all those that have experienced this before, they will tell you it is a fun weekend. Great Wolf puts together a great Halloween party and trick or treat for that weekend. Everyone can wear costumes for a fun time. For the adults, Mount Airy Lodge, a wonderful casino, is five minutes away. There are only 30 rooms available for this event.

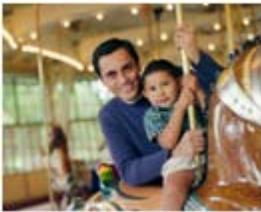
The price has changed a little - \$450 dollars for the two nights or \$250 for Saturday into Sunday. This is the lowest price since the event has begun. This price allows for up to six people in a room and includes park passes. Due to a new rule at Great Wolf, there is a \$50 non-refundable fee that MUST be sent in no later than Sept. 1. The rooms must be paid in full by Sept. 30. Please note that the rooms will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Meals are not included.

Reservations and non-refundable fee (check made out to AMRS) can be mailed to ARMS, 64 Harding Road, Red Bank, NJ 07701. For more information, call 732-890-4914 or e-mail usslibertyhouse@comcast.net.

Military Appreciation Day at Six Flags, Aug. 6

Six Flags Great Adventure and Wild Safari is holding their Military Appreciation Day on Aug. 6. The special package of \$32.10 per person includes admission to Six Flags Great Adventure and Wild Safari and a two hour all-you-can-eat buffet in the Old Country Picnic Grove.

To get the special promotion, go to www.sixflags.com/great-adventure and type mil2010 in the Promo Code (upper right hand corner). Call Lisa at 732-928-2000, ext. 2864 if you have any questions.



The buffet is from noon to 2 p.m., with a menu of hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, vegetarian baked beans, ice cream cups and Coca-Cola® products. Theme park hours are 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. and the Safari is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Military and family members health insurance questions should be directed to:

Tricare – Sgt. 1st Class Louis Tuck, 609-562-0865
US Family Health Plans – Pam Worley, 732-977-8531
VA Medical – Michelle Stefanelli, 973-676-1000, ext. 1727

DoD officials explain new spouse tuition rules

By Karen Jowers, Air Force Times

The My Career Advancement Accounts tuition program for military spouses will reopen to new enrollees Oct. 25, with some major restrictions on eligibility and funding, defense officials announced Tuesday.

The popular MyCAA program's tuition assistance will be open only to spouses of junior service members in paygrades E1 through E-5, W-1 and W-2 and O-1 and O-2, said Clifford Stanley, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Spouses of National Guard and reserve members in those paygrades are eligible if their service member has been activated on Title 10 orders.

The career counseling aspect of the program, however, will be eligible to all military spouses, regardless of rank or activation status of the military member. Career counselors also can help spouses identify other sources of funding for their education, Stanley said.

Other changes:

- * Monetary assistance will not be available for four-year degrees. That was not the original intent of the program, Stanley said. Money will be available primarily for associates degrees, certificates and licenses.

- * The total lifetime tuition cap will be reduced to \$4,000 from the previous cap of \$6,000. Spouses also will have an annual cap of \$2,000 a year, with waivers in some cases of up to \$4,000, which would mean spouses could use their entire benefit in one year.

- * Spouses must use their \$4,000 benefit within three years of the start date of their first class.

The changes were necessary to make the program viable and sustainable, Stanley said.

MyCAA was abruptly halted on Feb. 16, less than a year after it was launched, because the system was overwhelmed with applications and close to exhausting its available funding. After spouses loudly voiced objections to defense officials and their congressional representatives, the program was reinstated in March for those already enrolled, but remained closed to new enrollees.

MyCAA will continue as is until Oct. 25, said Virginia Penrod, acting principal director for military community and family policy. But after Oct. 25, the new program rules will apply.

Marriage Enrichment class on the calendar

By Marie Durling, Deputy State Family Programs Director
I am planning a Marriage Enrichment for 10 couples only for Aug. 27-29 in the Atlantic City area. This will be for first-time couples only. If you are interested, please e-mail me at marie.durling@us.army.mil for more information. If there is no interest, I will cancel the weekend.

Et Cetera

Free tickets for Jets, Giants pre-season game

Hey you Jets and Giants fans – here's your chance to see the teams in their first pre-season game at the new Giants Stadium – for free.

The New York Jets have donated 500 tickets for the military for the game on Aug. 16 at 8 p.m. You are asked not to reserve tickets unless you are planning to definitely go to the game.

If you would like a ticket, you must call to reserve them – up to six tickets per caller. Military, including retirees may begin calling on Monday, Aug. 2. Call the Picatinny "Take Off" Center in building 34 at 973-724-4014/5515, from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Picatinny civilians, contractors and retirees may begin calling on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

You will need to give your name, military rank if applicable, phone number and number of tickets you want. You will also need to give your e-mail address if you are not on the Picatinny e-mail system.

The tickets will be scattered; it is not a block of tickets. There will be an attempt to seat your party together, but some groups will be split up. You will be in the same section.

Military have priority...after that the 500 tickets will be given out to Picatinny civilians and contractors and retirees. A waiting list will be established in case more tickets become available.

You will get an e-mail when your tickets are ready for pick up at the "Take Off" Center.

Vietnam Center holds 60s family day Aug. 21

On Aug. 21, the Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center will host a *1960s Family Day*. The event will include family activities related to the Vietnam era time period that will take place throughout the day. This event will be held at the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center in Holmdel.

1960s Family Day will mimic a Vietnam era field day. The event is for families to visit together and learn about childhood in the 1960s and 1970s. Weather permitting there will be both outdoor and indoor activities. Outdoor activities will include 3-legged and relay races, an egg and spoon toss, hula-hoops, and tug of war. Winners of races will receive prizes. Inside families can play with toys of the Vietnam era, make tissue paper flowers and love bead necklaces. There will also be coloring activity sheets of 1960s-70s iconic images. Music and films from the era will also be playing throughout the day. Stop by and let the whole family step back in time.

For more information please call 732-335-0033 or visit the website at www.njvymf.org. Regular admission to the Educational Center applies; adult admission is \$5; student and senior citizen admission is \$3; and children under 10 are admitted free. Regular admission is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel.

VA center holding Welcome Home event at zoo, Sept. 1

The Philadelphia VA Medical Center invites veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to the 2010 Welcome Home event at the Philadelphia Zoo on Sept. 1, 3-6 p.m.

You can enjoy the zoo and learn about your VA benefits at the same time. In addition to health care enrollment information (returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are automatically eligible for five years of free health care), there will be opportunities to learn about VA home loans, Post -9/11 GI Bill, employment and vocational rehabilitation.

Each veteran may bring up to three immediate family members or significant others. The day's events will take place rain or shine. Veterans are asked to RSVP through the Welcome Home Web site, www.philadelphia.va.gov no later than Aug. 27. A copy of the veteran's DD214 will be necessary on the day of the event.

Unity Day at JT2DC, Sept. 16

Start planning now for the New Jersey National Guard 12th Annual Unity Day celebration on Sept. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

Start the day off with the Fun Walk/Run at 8:30 a.m. Later you can donate blood at the Blood Drive in the Stow Bay Parking Lot, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Spend the day celebrating our ethnic and cultural diversity through food, music, entertainment and giveaways.

For information, volunteer opportunities or questions, contact the following people:

Event POC is Maj. Barbara Brown-Wilson, 609-562-0856, Barbara.g.brown@us.army.mil; Fun Run/Walk POC is Staff Sgt. Christina Ermi, 609-562-0941, Christina.d.ermi@us.army.mil; or, Blood drive POC is Sgt. Geraldo Rodriguez, 609-562-0880, Gerardo.rodriguez@us.army.mil.

Healthcare for women vets available at CBOCs

Women veterans are reminded of the services available at the Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in South Jersey.

Vineland CBOC – Comprehensive care for women including primary care, gender specific care (gyn care), mental health, podiatry and eye care

Ventnor CBOC – Primary care for women (soon to offer gender-specific care after provider training), mental health, podiatry and eye care

Cape May CBOC – Primary care for women, mental health, podiatry and eye care

Veterans & Military

Come enjoy the Soldier Show, Sept. 25 at Morris Knolls High School

Enjoy a free concert of the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show hosted by the Picatinny Arsenal at the Morris Knolls High School auditorium on Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.

All active duty, National Guard and Reservists, along with their families will be given priority and must request tickets by Sept. 3. All other requests will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, including retired military and Picatinny employees. Call 973-724-4014/4186/5515 to reserve your tickets. Tickets can be picked up at Picatinny or will be held at the door on the day of the show.

Invitation to join extended by JWV Post 972 to all veterans

An invitation is extended to all military personnel to join the Lt Seth Dvorin Post 972 of the Jewish War Veterans. The veterans meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Marlboro Jewish Center located at 103 School Road West, Marlboro, N.J. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

Second Lt. Seth Dvorin was a native of Monmouth County who made the ultimate sacrifice while proudly defending the American way of life and liberty. Lt Dvorin was killed in Iraq Feb. 3, 2004. The post was renamed in May of 2004 to honor Lt. Dvorin.

Post 972 covers Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Anyone interested in joining this post or a similar post should contact Richard Berg at r2d2b2@optonline.net or Richard Dvorin at ltsethdvorinpost972jvw@comcast.net.

Troops to Teachers helps military lead in classroom

The Troops to Teachers program is designed to assist separating or retiring military personnel in pursuing a rewarding second career in public education (elementary, secondary or vocational) while also facilitating employment in public schools. Funded by the [U.S. Department of Education](#) and administered by the [U.S. Department of Defense](#) through DANTES, the long term goal of the program is to help improve American education by providing mature, self-disciplined, experienced and dedicated personnel for the nation's classrooms. New Jersey's Troops to Teachers office has counseled hundreds of interested military personnel, advising them on routes and programs to achieve full teacher certification in New Jersey, and referring them to school districts for employment.

To learn more, consider attending one of the upcoming program briefings at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Contact 800-680-0884 or via e-mail at tttnj@doe.state.nj.us for briefing and program information. You can also visit the program on the web at: www.nj.gov/education/tttnj.

N.J. Bar offers free legal assistance to military

If you have a legal matter that cannot be handled by our Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA), you may be eligible for a pro bono (free of charge) military legal assistance program (MLAP) administered by the New Jersey Bar Association (NJSBA), <http://www.njsba.com/>. This program provides legal representation to New Jersey residents who have served overseas as active duty members of reserve components of the armed forces after Sept. 11, 2001. Eligibility for the program is not income based. The program was created to meet the expected demand of military reservists in the current operational tempo and offers assistance in four primary areas:

- Family Law
- Employment Law
- Debtor-Creditor Law
- Medical Evaluation Boards (MEBs)

The program will refer military members who contact the NJSBA to volunteer attorneys qualified to assist them with their specific legal issues. For more information about the MLAP contact the OSJA, visit the NJSBA website, or contact:

D. Todd Sidor, Esq.,
Director of Judicial Administration
New Jersey State Bar Association
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-249-2815 (fax)
732-937-7544 (phone)

tsidor@njsba.com

Veterans with disabilities can get free hunting, fishing licenses

If you are a honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected disability and a New Jersey resident – you are entitled to free New Jersey hunting and fishing licenses, permits and stamps. Your disability must be declared by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be a service-connected disability of any kind for this benefit.

To find out the procedures needed to get certified, necessary documents and any restrictions, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com/dvinfo.htm. Questions can be directed to Sylvia Hall at 908-637-4125 or Sylvia.Hall@dep.state.nj.us.

N.J. Warrant Officer Association looking for new members

The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter, is looking for members. For membership information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Nancy E. Rowbotham at nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil.



Calendar

Survivor picnic at Dix, Aug. 7

Family Programs Survivor Outreach Services invites you to the 2nd Annual SOS Picnic and Reunion on Aug. 7, 12:30-3:30 p.m. The picnic will be held at the Warfighter and Family Readiness Center conference room and picnic area. The center is located on bldg 5201, 8th St and Maryland St., on the Dix section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Join us to celebrate good food, good friends, and the summer season.

Due to base security, RSVP is required by Aug. 1. Call 1-800-877-2380.

POW/MIA ceremony, Sept. 16

Save the date – The POW/MIA ceremony traditionally held at Lakehurst, will be held on the Dix section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix Lakehurst this year. The event is being hosted by the joint base along with the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society.

The ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 16, 1 p.m. at the Timmerman Center. Guest speaker for the event is former POW, retired Admiral Jeremiah Denton.



Savino golf tourney, Sept. 24

The 14th Annual LTC Dave Savino Memorial golf tournament will be held on Sept. 24 at the Hanover Golf Course, Wrightstown. The tourney begins at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start and will be played in a two person scramble format (best ball).

Cost is \$100 donation per person and includes greens fees, cart, refreshments and door prizes. A buffet lunch will be served after the tournament at the course.

Send your payments to 108th WG/MXQ, ATTN: SMSgt Mike Balas, 3333 Wonnacott Blvd., JBMDL, NJ 08641. Make checks payable to LTC Dave Savino Memorial Fund. If you have any questions, call Balas at 609-894-4692.

The course is located at 133 Larrison Road, Wrightstown, 8 1/2 miles west of Great Adventure, just off route 537.

Somerset Patriots host veterans

Operation Jersey Cares is hosting the 8th Annual Veterans of America Day at TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, on Aug. 29, starting at 4 p.m. There will be a celebration with a parade for the veterans with the guest of honor, Jack Gartenberg.

Gartenberg served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1944-1946 and is a two Jima survivor.

After the celebration, the Somerset Patriots invite everyone to stay and enjoy the game between the Southern Maryland Blue Claws and the Patriots. Veterans can receive free tickets; cost of tickets for friends and family will be \$5. To order tickets, contact Marc Russinoff, Somerset Patriots, 908-252-0700, ext. 215 or e-mail mrussinoff@somersetpatriots.com.

Park promotion for the day is a camouflage Patriots hat to the first 2,000 fans in attendance.

Picatinny softball action, Aug. 13

Come one, come all to Picatinny's softball field #1 on Aug. 13 at 10 a.m. for the battle between Team Picatinny and The Boys of Summer. This high action softball game will be Active Duty military against the 2007 World Champions of over 60 League.

Larry Berra, Jr. (Yogi's son) will be in attendance.

There will be food, drinks and activities for everyone to enjoy. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the day at the field!

There is a fee of \$5 per person attending. All proceeds go to FMWR and the Picatinny Unit Fund.

NJVVMF golf outing, Aug. 2

On August 2, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will be holding its 16th annual Golf Tournament at the Olde York Country Club in Columbus, N.J.

Registration and the range open at 8 a.m., along with a continental breakfast. The tournament starts at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start. Lunch and refreshments will be on the course. A post golf reception with awards and silent auction and raffles will be held after playing is through.

The outing provides a major source of funds for the Foundation's work throughout the year. If you would like more information on the events or to RSVP your participation, call the office at 732-335-0033 ext. 100., or visit www.njvvmf.org and click on the "events" button.

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.

August 29 TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater**
Somerset Patriots Veterans of America Day

**Outreach events only
Sept. 7*, 8, 9 Willowbrook Mall

Oct. 5*, 6, 7 Brunswick Square Mall
*Medal ceremony 10:30 a.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.