

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



MARCH 16, 2011

NJ National Guard assists flooded towns

More than 150 Soldiers, Airmen are activated to respond to state of emergency

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley,
DMAVA/PA

A full day before the start of the torrential rains that soaked New Jersey last week; the New Jersey National Guard had already formulated plans for an aggressive, joint-force response.

By the time Gov. Chris Christie signed Executive Order 57 declaring a State of Emergency on March 9, National Guard senior leaders had already set in motion a plan to reallocate Soldiers, Airmen and equipment to areas with greatest anticipated storm impact.

In less than a day, 20 five-ton trucks had been moved from the Cape May Armory; command posts had been established at the armories in Teaneck, Riverdale, Morristown, Somerset and Lawrenceville; and the first of what were to be more than 75 Soldiers called to State Active Duty began arriving for duty.

In all, more than 150 Soldiers and Airmen, and nearly



Pfc. Andrew Chretien of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry assists 87-year-old Kathryn McDonnell as she gets off a New Jersey Army National Guard truck vehicle that moments earlier had assisted the Lincoln Park Fire Department evacuate her from her house, which was encircled by rising floodwaters. Chretien was among more than 150 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen mobilized to respond to the state of emergency declared by Gov. Chris Christie. Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA)

as many vehicles as well as the Army Guard's fleet of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters were poised for response more than 12 hours before the rains stopped falling on March 11.

Many rivers in Passaic, Morris and Somerset counties exceeded flood stage with the most damage taking place in Northern New Jersey.

Troops were able to assist local authorities in Passaic and Morris evacuate more than 20 residents and navigate flooded roads.

Christie and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth toured some of the hardest-hit areas on March 11 and



As Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, watches, Gov. Chris Christie, second from left, congratulates Staff Sgt. Jonathan Yont, right, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry, for his efforts in helping alleviate New Jerseyans affected by the flooding on March 11. Also in the photo are, starting from Yont's right are Spc. Kirk Kirlew, Sgt. Michael Onembo, Spc. Gerardo Guizar and Sgt. Curvey Purkett. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

both lauded the National Guard's response.

Kathryn McDonnell, 87, of Lincoln Park was among the residents evacuated from the rising floodwaters around their homes by National Guard troops and local first responders.

As Pfc. Andrew Chretien helped McDonnell from a Lincoln Park Fire Department boat and onto the back of his LMTV, she gave him a big smile.

"I'm really happy to see you guys," McDonnell said. "The water kept going up, and I was starting to really worry."



Free Earth-friendly program available to GIs

With the push to be more Earth friendly and the “Go Green” initiative going viral most recently, Trinity Solar is offering to provide free solar power systems to active military personnel and reservists who own their home and reside in New Jersey.

“It’s our way of saying ‘thank you’,” said Bill Granger, vice president of sales at Trinity Solar.

Through their special program coined, “Trinity Solar’s Military Give-back Program”, Trinity Solar will install the solar system on the service member’s home with minimal or even no out-of-pocket costs, said Granger.

In order to receive this beneficial program, a service member must meet the following requirements:

- Must have proof of their military status within an active or reserve component
- Must show proof of homeownership and the home must be located in New Jersey
- The home must receive direct, unobstructed sunlight from the hours of

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (required for generating the electricity)

- Must be able to provide the last 12 months of electric bills and/or electricity usage from the utility company (required for system connection to the utility)

- Must be able to provide a property survey (required for permits)

To start the process, any interested customer should contact Trinity Solar, either by email or phone, to discuss the program in more detail. Trinity Solar will have designated program representatives available to discuss the program in detail, answer any questions, and schedule a site survey to size the system to the customer’s roof. Prior to the site survey, Trinity Solar will need copies of the customer’s electric usage so they can properly size the electrical requirements of the system. Once the system size is determined, an agreement will be sent to the customer and a time scheduled to discuss the agreement and finalize any questions the customer

has. After the customer understands all the benefits of the program and agrees to move forward with the installation, Trinity Solar will start the process of obtaining all state, utility, local and partner approvals/permits to install the system. Upon receipt of all approvals, Trinity Solar will install and connect the system to the service member’s home. From there, the system is guaranteed to operate for 20 years and the customer will receive all the electricity generated over this period for free. At the end of this guarantee, the system can be purchased by the customer for pennies on the dollar or, if the customer wishes, just have it removed from their home at no cost to them.

To contact Trinity Solar and apply for the program, call 732-780-3779 and ask the receptionist about details on the Military Give-Back Program, or visit Trinity Solar’s Web site at www.trinity-solar.com/contact-us.



Col. Wayne M. McCaughey, Chief of Staff NJ Air National Guard, is pinned with his new rank of colonel by his parents, Michael McCaughey, left, and Audrey McCaughey, right, during a promotion ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on March 6. (Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, JFHQ/PA)



Kathy McCaughey, left, and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, right, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, pin colonel ranks on Col. Wayne M. McCaughey, Chief of Staff NJ Air National Guard during a promotion ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on March 6. (Photo by Spc. Robert Neill, JFHQ/PA)

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Division of Pension, Benefits to implement new process April 1

The Division of Pensions and Benefits is implementing a significant change to the purchase of service credit and withdrawal application process for all members effective April 1.

Effective April 1, all requests to purchase service credit and/or pension withdrawals must be submitted online using the Purchase Application program and/or the Application for Withdrawal program of the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS).

Consequently, the application to purchase service credit and/or pension withdrawal will no longer be available as a printed form or on the Division of Pensions and Benefits' Web site. Paper applications received by mail as of April 1 will be returned to members with instructions to submit the requests using MBOS.

MBOS is a set of Internet applications that allow current-registered members secure access to their pension account information. In addition, MBOS provides members with fast and efficient methods for requesting purchase of service credit and/or pension account withdrawals.

New members should register to this free application, which requires registration at MyNewJersey and MBOS Web sites. Both of these Web sites are accessible at www.state.nj.us.

This requirement applies to all eligible members of the Public Employees' Retirement System; Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund; Police and Firemen's Retirement System; and State Police Retirement System who wish to purchase service credit and/or terminate their employment and choose to withdraw from their pension account.

Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay applications deadline extended

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) has been extended to March 18, 2011, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned under the program guidelines.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution recently signed by President Obama, which provides funding for federal government operations through March 18.

The RSLSP was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss Authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

Outreach efforts including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue through March 18.

To apply or to get more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

Trenton Devils invites you to Fan Appreciation Night

Trenton's local hockey team would like to invite all DMAVA employees and National Guard members, as well as friends and family to Fan Appreciation Night on April 1.

The Trenton Devils will host the Atlantic league-leading Reading Royals at the Sun National Bank Center and will have prizes, games, giveaway and other interactive entertainment throughout the entire game to show their appreciation of the fans support this season.

Tickets to the lower bowl sections of the rink are starting at \$6 per seat with advance purchase.

This offer will expire on March 31, so make your reservations early by calling the Devils ticket office at 609-599-9500 and ask for Brian, Megan or Jackie.

Sun National Bank Center is located at 81 Hamilton Avenue in Trenton, N.J.

Veterans Outreach Schedule



April 2

Vietnam Veterans Education Center
PNC Bank Art Center, Holmdel, NJ 07777
Outreach Event Only 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 7

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home
524 North West Boulevard, Vineland, NJ 08360
Medal ceremony only in Auditorium starting at 1:30 p.m.

May 7

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial
PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, NJ 07777
Outreach Event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
NJ Vietnam Veterans Remembrance & medal ceremony 11 a.m.

May 21

American Legion Post No. 65
Lake Ave & Holly Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840
Outreach Event Only 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Honor Guards; new faces, same mission



The new full-time members of the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, from left, Air Force Master Sgt. Dennis Macomber, Sgt. Francis Adams, Petty Officer 1st Class Jermaine Smith and Spc. Cesar Rodriguez. (Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA)

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

Some of the names have changed, but the mission for the men and women who are the public face of the nation's busiest state-run veterans' cemetery has not.

"We try to give the veteran the dignity they deserve," said Dennis Macomber, a retired Air Force Master Sergeant who assumed the duties of Honor Guard Coordinator at Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Memorial Veterans Cemetery in February, replacing Patrick Looney, a Chief Warrant Officer who retired.

Joining Looney in retirement were two other Doyle honor guard mainstays, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Bokeko and Senior Chief Petty Officer Kenneth McAfee.

The newest full-timers on the honor guard are: Spc. Cesar Rodriguez, Petty Officer 1st Class Jermaine Smith and Army Master Sgt. Francis Adams.

"We're all working hard, making sure we hit the ground running," Smith said.

They better. The cemetery is busier than it has ever been since opening 15 years ago, and is on pace this year to break the annual interment record of 2,944 set last year. On one recent day,

the Doyle staff handled 26 memorial services, another record.

The new crew has some help with the blistering pace. Air Force Master Sgt. Darlene Sparks remains the sentinel at the cemetery entrance, greeting funeral entourages as they arrive and ensuring they reach the chapel in time.

Twila Pritchett is another familiar face in the chapel office, handling the crush of phone calls and paperwork and generally making sure the trains run on time.

Keeping things on schedule in the chapel is a duty that also falls to Doug Fish and Pierre Lamereaux, two other longtime cemetery employees.

When a hearse arrives outside the chapel, Macomber and his team begin assisting family members to their seats and handing final paperwork while Fish and Lamereaux scramble behind the scenes, readying the chapel, moving the casket into place and making sure the grounds outside the chapel are tidy.

Although Fish has other duties at the cemetery, he considers the memorial services to be the most important. He makes it a point to never leave the grounds during his lunch break. He wants to make sure no debris that might blow into the parking lot is still on the ground when a family arrives.

"These are important days for these families," he said.

Game & Craft night at Picatinny

The Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., would like to invite you to "Game and Craft Night" at their new Community Readiness & Support Center on Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.

The craft for the event will be picture frames that can be taken home or can be hung at the "Hall of Honor". So bring a picture that is not bigger than 4-inch by 6-inch of your service member, and something else to personalize it (e.g. fabric from a favorite shirt, lure for a fisherman, etc.)

In addition, there will be a Wii Resort Sport's Challenge with a prize for the winner; as well as massage chairs, game tables, cards, puzzles and schmooze will also be available throughout the event.

The Community Readiness & Support Center is located at the Army Community Services, building 119, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

Please RSVP to Denise Dickinson, SOS support coordinator, at 973-724-7247 or via E-mail at denise.dickinson@us.army.mil.

All Ages are Welcome!

Senator to honor pioneering NJ women

In honor of Women's History Month, U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) would like to invite you to the Second Annual Women of Distinction Award Ceremony on Monday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Middlesex County College.

New Jersey Air National Guard's commander, Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson will be one of the honorees for this ceremony.

The ceremony will highlight the many achievements that trailblazing women have made over the years to the state of New Jersey, and will honor seven pioneering women who have made incredible contributions in their fields of expertise.

Each woman will be receiving the "Evangeline Menendez Trailblazer Award" in honor of Menendez's mother who was an inspirational figure and role model in his life. The Senator's mother passed away from Alzheimer's disease in October 2009.

Middlesex County College is located at 2600 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, N.J.

Space is limited to this free event, so please RSVP at <http://menendez.senate.gov/nj/events>. For any questions about this event, please call 973-645-5967.

NJJWV to host annual breakfast

The Department of New Jersey Jewish War Veterans will hold their 30th annual Legislative Breakfast on May 1, 2011 at 9 a.m. at Tinton Falls, N.J.

The event will honor Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and the volunteer service coordinators at the three state nursing homes and the two VA hospitals in New Jersey.

The breakfast event will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Tinton Falls, which is just off Garden State Parkway exit 105.

The cost for this event is \$22 per person.

Anyone interested in attending the event, please contact past department commander Robert Jacobs at 732-323-8680 or via E-mail at conrailbob2003@yahoo.com to make reservations.

Battleship NJ; calling all Vietnam War re-enactors

The Battleship New Jersey will host the inaugural Vietnam War Living History Day on Saturday, April 2 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The event will feature Vietnam War re-enactors throughout the ship; military vehicles on the pier; presentations by Vietnam veterans in the officers' wardroom; and a barbeque from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. on the fantail. The barbeque, featuring hot dogs, chicken and more, will be prepared and grilled by a local restaurant.

In addition, the festivities will also include bar service and the classic rock sounds of a premier classic-rock cover band from southern New Jersey.

Any Vietnam War re-enactors that participate in this event will receive a free tour of the Battleship and a free lunch at the barbeque.

Guests that day can enjoy all Vietnam Living History activities, with the exception of food and drink at the barbeque, at no additional cost. Guests can come aboard for a tour and experience these additional activities with any tour ticket.

Located on the Delaware River, along the Camden Waterfront across from the City of Philadelphia, the Battleship is open for guided and audio tours on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. through March.

The ship will open every day for tours beginning April 1.

For more information regarding the Battleship call 1-866-877-6262 ext. 203 or visit their Web site at www.battleshipnewjersey.org.

Re-enactors should call 1-866-877-6262 ext. 144 or email Jack Willard at j.willard@battleshipnewjersey.org.

VA hospital celebrates Women's History Month

The VA New Jersey Health Care System would like to invite you to their Women's History Month celebration program on Wednesday, March 23 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the VA hospital's East Orange campus.

The theme of the event "Our History is Our Strength!" will focus on the significance of women's contributions to the national defense and spotlights of the many important critical roles filled by servicewomen in the nation's Armed Forces. The event will have several guest speakers, including Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander of New Jersey Air National Guard, and the first woman to be promoted to the rank of major general in the state National Guard.

The event will be held at the third-floor auditorium in building 1 of the East Orange Campus, which is located at 385 Tremont Avenue, East Orange.

Registration for this event is required. So please RSVP at 973-676-1000 ext. 3117.

A light lunch will be served for this event and door prizes will be presented to those who attend.