

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

New Jersey National Guard aviation unit deploys to Kosovo for peace keeping mission



Families and the leadership of the New Jersey National Guard held a farewell ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst for 50 National Guard Soldiers of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion on Sept. 23.

Pilots and crews from the 150th will provide UH-60 Blackhawk support as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force in Kosovo. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th FW/PA)

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Top photo, Lt. Col. John Sheard, New Jersey Army National Guard, addresses troops from the 1-150th Aviation Regiment during a farewell ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., on Sept. 23. The 1-150th will be deploying to Kosovo on a year-long peace keeping mission. Bottom photo, a Soldier salutes departing 1-150th AR UH-60 Blackhawks. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th MPAD)

DA photos now done at JB MDL

Attention New Jersey National Guard Soldiers: DA photos will now be done by the Training Support Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

To schedule your DA photo appointment, please contact the TSC at 609-562-3340 or go on-line to the Visual Information Ordering Site at www.vios.army.mil.

The TSC, which is located at Building 5411, Alabama Avenue in the Fort Dix side of the base, is open Monday thru Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Photos will be taken by appointment only.

GT enhancement course available to New Jersey National Guard Soldiers

The New Jersey Army National Guard (NJARNG) Recruiting and Retention Command has developed an education course which allows Soldiers to increase their education level. It is called the General Technical (GT) Enhancement Course.

This week-long course focuses on both Math and English and is taught at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. It is given quarterly and has approximately 10-15 students per class. It was developed as an effort to assist Soldiers who need a boost in order to make it to the next level. Some Soldiers aspire to become officers, while others may just want to make a career change. This course was directly responsible for at least 12 percent of the officer production mission. Future dates for this course are Dec. 12-18; Feb. 6-12, 2012 and June 25 – July 1, 2012.

If you are looking for this great opportunity, contact a recruiter near you for more details.

Traveling Wall coming to New Jersey

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 452, will be hosting the "Traveling Wall" from Oct. 13-16 at the North Branch Park in Bridgewater, N.J.

The Travelling Wall, also known as the American Veteran's Traveling Tribute, is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and a veteran-owned project that travels the United States to provide a forum for communities to honor, respect and remember all who have sacrificed their lives for our country's freedom.

The event will start Thursday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m., and runs through Sunday, Oct. 16 until 3 p.m.

The North Branch Park is located at Milltown Road in Bridgewater. For more information on this event, please contact Joseph Yuzeik, VVA Chapter 452 chairman, at Jyuz@aol.com.

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist

Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

HIGHLIGHTS



2011 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event
Toms River, NJ
October 22, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join us **October 22, 2011** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members and eligible spouses at The American Legion Post 129 (2025 Church Road) in Toms River, New Jersey. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers and job seekers must pre-register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net.

This hiring fair is being conducted by the Toms River-Ocean County Chamber of Commerce and The American Legion Post 129 as part of a larger effort by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and The American Legion to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment. Other partners for this event include the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training (DOL VETS) and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in New Jersey.

A complimentary breakfast will be served to all attendees.

For registration questions, contact us at HiringOurHeroes@USChamber.com.



2011 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event
Burlington County (City of Florence), NJ
November 4, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
The American Legion Post 194
6th and Broad Streets, Florence, NJ

Join us **November 4, 2011** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members and eligible spouses at The American Legion Francis W Robbins Post 194 (6th and Broad Streets) in Florence, New Jersey. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers and job seekers must pre-register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net.

This hiring fair is being done in partnership with the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce and The American Legion Post 194 as part of a larger effort by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and The American Legion to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment. Other partners for this event include the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Services (DOL VETS), the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in New Jersey, and NBC News.

A light breakfast will be provided by The American Legion Post 194.

For registration questions, contact us at HiringOurHeroes@USChamber.com.



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN AND MEDAL CEREMONY

THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL HOST A VETERAN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL ENTITLEMENTS FOR VETERANS.

OCTOBER 11 - 13

OCEAN COUNTY MALL, 1201 HOOPER AVE., TOMS RIVER, N.J.

MEDAL CEREMONY AT 10:30 A.M. ON OCT. 11

KIOSK HOURS 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. DAILY



THEY FOUGHT FOR US, LETS FIGHT FOR THEM

NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will host a "Veterans Outreach Campaign" on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the "Stand Down" of North Jersey volunteering event!

DMAVA Veterans Service Officers will be present from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to assist veterans with questions and provide information on state and federal entitlements.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy Pool and Recreation Center
 211 West Kinney Street, Newark, N.J.

National Personnel Records Center has new address

Military personnel records can be used for proving military service, or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), either by mail or via the Internet.

Currently NPRC is in the process of moving their location to a new facility. The new address for the National Personnel Records Center is 1 Archives Drive, St Louis, MO 63138-1002. Their website has remained the same and can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/>.

The majority of personnel have moved to the new location and the military personnel records are in the process of moving. The entire move should be completed by the end of the summer of 2012.

As a reminder, all retirees and honorably discharged veterans should ensure that their family knows the location of their military separation document (DD Form 214 from 1950 to present and WD (War Department) Form 53-55 and other variations prior to 1950). Registering a copy of this document at your county court house may make that document a public record. Furthermore, separation documents issued after 1969 may contain a social security number which could be used for identity theft. Storing the separation document in a safe deposit box may make it difficult to retrieve immediately upon the death of the retiree or honorably discharged veteran. Some better storage locations are a fire-proof safe in a secure location of the house (not in the bedroom, as this is where most thieves search first), or in a watertight food container (Glad, Tupperware, etc.) in the refrigerator. Most refrigerators are fire resistant. Additionally, a refrigerator is heavy enough to fall through the floor of a building into the cooler part of the fire in the basement and better survive. Finally, a

refrigerator is large enough to be easily located in the ash and rubble of a fire or other serious incident. As a bonus, everyone has a refrigerator, not everyone has a fire resistant storage box. Be sure your spouse or NOK knows the location and has key/combination to the safe, and inform your spouse and relatives where to locate your separation document - and any other important papers.

Please note the preferred method of submitting a request to the NPRC is via the Internet. Please note that in some cases using a browser other than Internet Explorer may create problems with data entry. As you know, the NPRC provides copies of documents from military personnel records to authorized requesters. Their web-based application will provide better service on these requests by eliminating mailroom processing time. Also, since the requester will be prompted to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that occur when more information is required, will be minimized. You may access this application at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>.

This improved on-line request process should be used instead of the use of the Standard Form 180 for requests from the veteran or the veteran's next of kin, if possible. Your assistance with this initiative will allow NPRC, and you, to better serve the needs of veterans. If you do not wish to use the Internet, you should use SF 180. You should print this form as you need it, not in advance, as the form is periodically revised and updated. Updated SF 180 is available at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>.

Since the SF 180 is updated periodically, it is not recommended that large quantities be printed/photocopied and stocked.

The form will be updated with the new address within six months. The Postal Service will forward mail if requests are mailed to the old location until February 2012.

Deadline to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay nears

The Oct. 21, 2011, deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) is less than one month away. The deadline was previously extended to allow eligible service members more time to apply for the benefits they have earned under the program guidelines.

"The nation has rallied behind this effort -- the military services have been joined by the White House, Congress, the VA, veteran and military service organizations, and friends and family members around the world," said Lernes Hebert, director of Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management. "Despite these remarkable outreach efforts, some people may still not yet have applied. If you think you are eligible, and have not yet applied, now is the time to do so."

Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay 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.

When RSLSP began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible for this benefit. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts, to include multiple direct mailings, public service announcements, and continuous engagements with military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



Top photo, Spc. Jacqueline Colon of Joint Forces Headquarters, New Jersey National Guard, cooks hamburgers for the hundreds of homeless veterans that came to Stand Down 2011 held at the Cherry Hill armory on Friday, Sept. 23. Right photo, a veteran cringes as Tech. Sgt. Japera Talib-Moore of the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group draws his blood. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Stand Down of South Jersey Committee, Inc. provided homeless veterans with access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing during this year's event. Since 1996, the South Jersey Stand Down has served as a catalyst that enables homeless veterans to re-enter mainstream society. (Photos by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA)



Surrounded by New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, center, and national and state representatives from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Merck & Co., chief executive officer, Kenneth C. Frazier, seated, signs the ESGR's Statement of Support at the company's headquarter in Whitehouse, N.J., on Sept. 29. The Statement of Support states that an employer will continue to recognize and support the nation's military service members and their families in peace time, in crisis and in war. The ESGR Statement of Support Program seeks to inform and educate employers about their rights and responsibilities towards their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, and to also recognize and reward those employers who go "over and above" the requirements of the law. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)



Sgt. Richard Schwarz, a trumpet player with the 63rd Army Band, New Jersey National Guard, was among the various musicians from the military, law enforcement and emergency response departments, who played "Taps" at ground zero in lower Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2011, during the 10-year anniversary ceremonies of 9/11. (Courtesy photo)