



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



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## Job fair aims to showcase veterans skills to employers

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

After 10 years and three deployments as a full-time Soldier, Marcellus Wilson decided to turn his sergeant stripes into pin-stripes.

The former New Jersey Army National Guard staff sergeant took the first step on March 9, putting on his best suit, slipping a stack of resumes into a leather binder and walking into a job fair at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center at the Bordentown Armory.

More than 40 employers turned out for the event sponsored by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The aim was simple: Link several dozen highly-qualified service members, veterans and spouses with more than 40 employers from industries ranging from manufacturing to finance to law enforcement.

“Even if we match one veteran to one job, today is a success,” said Tyler Sandford, an ESGR program support specialist.

It turned out they did far better than that at the fair, which was attended by Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, the Acting Adjutant General.

For Wilson, a logistician who left the Active Guard/Reserve system in February, the fair was his extended opportunity to gauge the marketability of his skills in a tough job market. He got off to a good start.

As Bonnie Harris, an account executive with Talascend, a global manufacturing and distribution company with an office in Mount Laurel scanned Wilson’s resume, a smile crossed her face.



Staff Sgt. Robert Waterman, New Jersey National Guard Soldier, speaks about law enforcement opportunities with Pennsylvania State Police officer, Anibal Rosa, at the job fair at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center March 9. The job fair was intended to assist transitioning veterans showcase their skills to potential employers. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)

“Oh, yes, we need to talk, your skill set is exactly what we’re looking for,” Harris said.

For employers like Talascend, a veteran-owned company that does a significant amount of business with the U.S. Department of Defense, the fair was a chance to find great future workers – and do the right thing, said Maureen Brandau, a recruiting supervisor for the company.

“Helping a veteran find a job just feels good,” Brandau said.

Many of the employers said veterans have an abundance of the technical skills they need to run their companies.

Other employers said veterans simply fit well into their organization.

Like the Pennsylvania State Police.

“We love veterans because they already have a lot of what we need,” said Trooper Anibal Rosa, a recruiter who attended the fair. “They already understand chain-of-command, teamwork, discipline and the importance of staying physically fit.”

Wilson, the Soldier who came to the fair looking for a logistics job, said he enjoyed every day he spent in uniform, but felt the time had come to try life as a civilian again. He said it was intimidating to be without a job in such a rough economy, but was emboldened after finding a half dozen solid job prospects.

“This fair brought some great companies in and I feel like I have what a lot of them are looking for,” Wilson said. “And that’s a great thing. I hope I get hired because I love logistics, it’s what I do. And if you love what you do, it never feels like work.”



Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno greets account executives from Talascend at the job fair March 9. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)

## Hire a veteran: They bring quality skills to company

**Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, DMAVA/PA**

“Go get them!” Jack Fanous told the more than 50 employers at Paul Robeson Campus Center in Newark March 13.

Fanous, the executive director of the G.I. Go Fund, was referring to the more than 100 veterans looking for employment during the fourth annual G.I. Go Fund’s job fair at the Rutgers campus.

And that’s exactly what many of the organizations representing federal agencies, municipalities, law enforcement and private sector did during the job fair. Taking resumes and talking with veteran job seekers, many of the organizations looking for employees understood the benefits of hiring a former military service member.

Aside from the \$9,600 tax credit a veteran can bring to their company, these employers recognize the other great attributes that these job seekers possess: reliability, dedication, discipline and experience.

“You hire a veteran, you hire somebody who has been through a little more than some job training,” said Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cuniff, the Acting Adjutant General, who was one of the guest speakers at the job fair. “They’ve been out there and done some amazing things.”

Sterling Securities, a private security

company based in Newark, was among the organizations looking for these qualities. With Pfc. Steven Perez, 20, standing in his military uniform at their display table, the company identified 10 candidates during the job fair.

“We have 10 candidates coming in this Friday for interviews,” said Lucas Echeverri, operations manager. “In our industry, these candidates bring exactly what need – experience, motivation, discipline and more importantly, skill.”

“Where else can you find someone who knows self-aid and understands the intricacies of securing an area?” said Echeverri.

Perez, a Newark resident and New Jersey National Guardsman with the 508th Military Police Company in Teaneck, has been working at Sterling Securities for almost three years.

“I finished high school, enlisted in the National Guard and when I got back from training, they hired me,” said Perez.

“They are a great company to work for and they are also providing me with more experience for my future goal of becoming a police officer,” said Perez. “I get to work alongside Newark police department.”

“So that’s why I am here,” said Perez. “To help recruit more veterans.”



**Pfc. Steven Perez, a New Jersey National Guardsman, listens to questions posed by a potential candidate for his employer, Sterling Securities, at the G.I. Go Fund’s fourth annual job fair March 13. Perez, a military police Soldier with the 508th Military Police Company in Teaneck, is a security officer in the Forest Hill section of Newark.**

The G.I. Go Fund is a 501 (c) (3) organization which assists returning veterans with transitioning back to civilian life by providing employment and educational opportunities.



**As Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cuniff, left, the Acting Adjutant General of New Jersey, and outgoing 177th Fighter Wing commander Robert C. Bolton, right, watch, Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, second from left, commander New Jersey Air National Guard, presents the 177th colors to incoming commander, Col. Kerry M. Gentry, during a Change of Command ceremony at the Atlantic City based wing March 11. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)**



**Col. Teresa Acocella, left, a Soldier with the New Jersey National Guard, is one of six women awarded the Evangelina Menendez Trailblazer Award by Sen. Robert Menendez, right, during the Third Annual Women of Distinction Awards March 11. The event, which was held at the Margaret Williams Theatre in New Jersey City University, celebrated Women’s History Month and honored New Jersey’s pioneering women who have blazed trails in their own field. (Photo courtesy of Senator Robert Menendez communication office)**

## Generous earth-friendly program available to NJ service members

Believing that solar energy is a powerful way to protect America's energy security, environment, and to grow the American economy while helping service members, Suntuity is offering to provide NO-UPFRONT-COSTS solar power systems to active military personnel and reservists who own their home and reside in New Jersey.

Through their special program coined, "Suntuity America Gives Back Program", Suntuity 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) and must be able to qualify for the lease program through a credit check.

Interested customers may contact Suntuity by e-mail or phone to discuss the program. Suntuity will have a design program representative available to discuss the program in detail and schedule a site survey to determine if customer meets the requirements for the program. Prior to the site survey, Suntuity will need a copy of customer's electric bill. After the customer understands all of the benefits and agrees to move forward with the installation, Suntuity will start the process of obtaining all state, utility, and local approvals to install the system. Upon receipt of all approvals, Suntuity will install and connect the system to your home.

Contact Sheila Holman at 609-414-6292 or via email at [sheila.holman@suntuity.com](mailto:sheila.holman@suntuity.com) for information about this program.

## NGANJ 2012 annual conference

The National Guard Association of New Jersey invites you to the 2012 State Conference at the Seaview Resort and Spa at Galloway, Apr. 27-29.

In addition, a professional development training course will be held there for any active NJNG officers.

The host command has put together a great program that will include a golf outing on April 27 at the Pines Course at Seaview. Cost information and registration for the golf event can be found at [http://nganj.org/events\\_golfreg.htm](http://nganj.org/events_golfreg.htm).

Registration documents for both the conference and hotel rooms can be obtained by visiting their Website at [www.nganj.org/events.htm](http://www.nganj.org/events.htm) or contacting the NGANJ by email at [nganj@aol.com](mailto:nganj@aol.com).



Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA public affairs office, is presented with a letter of appreciation from Col. Daniel Dreher, 57th Troop Command, for outstanding work during Dreher's change-of-command ceremony on February 2012. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)

## Vietnam Veteran's foundation hosts benefit seminar in April

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation in conjunction with the Veterans Administration Health Care Community Outreach Team invites you to a FREE seminar on Saturday, April 14, at the Vietnam Era Museum and Education Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come to this informative event and learn about the VA health care system. At 10:15 a.m., there will be a 45-minute presentation regarding health care eligibility and benefits followed by a questions-and-answers session.

Any veteran that is currently enrolled and wants to learn more about their health care benefits is encouraged to attend, and also learn about non-health related benefits such as: home loans, life insurance, filing disability claims, and death and burial benefits.

Furthermore, a VA mobile health unit will be on site for any "eligible" veteran to receive a brief health care assessment, including blood pressure check and patient education. Any veteran seeking information about how to enroll in the VA health care system should bring their DD-214.

Attendees are asked to RSVP their attendance to 732-335-0033.

The Educational Center is located at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off Exit 116 in the Garden State Parkway.

## West Point Concert Band at NJPAC

Come out and enjoy a night of ballet and music on March 17 at 7 p.m., at the New Jersey Performance Arts Center in Newark.

The New Jersey Ballet will perform with The West Point Concert Band and will provide special discount tickets for military families.

Use code NJBWPB2012 to purchase Grand Tier Boxes and First Tier Rows A-D for only \$25 or Second Tier Rows A-C for \$20.

There is no limit on tickets per order. Purchase tickets at [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org) or via phone at 1-888-466-5722.

NJPAC is located at One Center Street in Newark.

**E-mail your Highlights submissions to [wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us) OR [armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us)**



**Above, Soldiers from the 253rd Transportation Company and 328th Military Police Company spent a portion of their training day in protective gear. Below, civilian vehicles will be among the inventory of equipment used by members of the New Jersey National Guard Homeland Response Force and a number of pieces of equipment were on hand for a joint exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. (Photos courtesy of 57th Troop Command)**



## NJ Guardsmen conduct HRF training with NY counterparts

**By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA**

Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard and their counterparts from New York took a step closer on Saturday to the creation of a bi-state force to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and high-yield explosive incidents.

More than 200 Soldiers from the 253rd Transportation Company from Cape May and the 328th Military Police Company of Cherry Hill as well as more than two dozen Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Wing participated in a joint exercise with troops from New York at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Troops from the two states and elements from the Puerto Rico National Guard are scheduled to become a Department of Defense sanctioned Homeland Response Force, one of 17 in the nation, by the end of 2012.

The exercise at the Joint Base

was critical because it is the last opportunity for combined training before a certification exercise from May 14-20 in New York.

The New Jersey-New York HRF will report to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 2 and become a key part of a task force that includes New Jersey's full-time 21st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team and two WMDCST's assigned to New York.

Each HRF will provide a regional response capability of approximately 570 personnel. In addition, each HRF is expected to be able to deploy within six to 12 hours; deploy using its vehicles; conduct search, extraction and decontamination capabilities; and provide immediate medical care in a contaminated environment. The New Jersey portion of the HRF will be the security element.

## Hiring our Heroes expo

RecruitMilitary, a top full-service military-to-civilian recruiting firm, in cooperation with the American Legion and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring Hiring our Heroes Expo at Philadelphia March 29.

Veteran-friendly employers, franchisors, and educational institutions will be in attendance to offer a variety of opportunities to all veterans, transitioning military personnel, and military family members.

The free event will be held at Lincoln Financial Field, which is located at One Novacare Way, Philadelphia from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To register for the event, please visit RecruitMilitary's candidate information Web page at <https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/> or contact Anthony Carney, marketing specialist, at 513-677-7088.

## Berlin VFW to host St. Patty's Day party

Everyone is Irish on St. Patty's Day.

Come and enjoy some food, music and reconnect with old friends at the 4th Annual St. Patrick's Day Party March 17.

The Berlin Veterans of Foreign Wars ANMAC Post 6253 is hosting this party on Saturday from noon to midnight. Canteen will open at 10 a.m. for some complimentary scrambled eggs to start the day.

For more information please contact Doris Chance, Jr. Vice Commander, at [berlinvfw@yahoo.com](mailto:berlinvfw@yahoo.com) or visit their Website at [www.berlinvfw.com](http://www.berlinvfw.com).

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