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NOVEMBER 22, 2012

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



Happy Thanksgiving!

REVERSE CARE PACKAGE



Story and photos by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

Being thousands of miles away in Afghanistan did not deter a New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier from showing support to neighbors in Brick Township after Hurricane Sandy.

This week, a box postmarked from Camp Eggers, Afghanistan, arrived at the American Recreational Military Services (ARMS) in Toms River.

It wasn't a big box, but Pfc. Morris Thomas's donation of basic needs from socks to hand wipes caught the volunteers by surprise. They are used to sending care packages to the troops, not receiving them.

"This is what it is all about, things going full circle," said Ronnie Micciulla, ARMS executive director.

A garage at the National Guard armory in Toms River is filled with donated clothes, food and toilet paper. Daily, the community has been dropping off items since Hurricane Sandy devastated the Jersey Shore according to Micciulla.

Besides hundreds of local donations, trucks have arrived from South Carolina, Missouri, Michigan and Oregon delivering everything

from disposable diapers to bedding.

The out pouring of support for the military has been wonderful according to Micciulla, but she currently sees a greater need for gift cards.

Volunteers assist displaced service member families in getting items they lost in the storm from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Uniformed service members in need can stop by the ARMS facility at 1200 Whitesville Road, which will be open through the end of the year.

It was the letter inside the reverse care package that really touched Micciulla.

"Please give our care package to the families that need it most," wrote Thomas and Pvt. Allotta Anthony of Bloomfield. "We are honored to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy."

Both citizen-soldiers mobilized in July with New Jersey Army National Guard's 508th Military Police Company in Teaneck. This unit will be among the

forward deployed troops that will start receiving packages from ARMS early in 2013.



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2012 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Rebuild New Jersey
November 27, 2012
George P. Vanderveer American Legion Post 129
2025 Church Road, Toms River, NJ
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Join us Tuesday, November 27, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military, members of the National Guard and reserve components, and military spouses at American Legion Post 129. This will be a FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers, and will focus specifically on quick-fill opportunities available in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. We are recruiting employers specializing in all aspects of building, construction, clean-up and hauling, inspection and demolition.

<p>EMPLOYERS Must register for FREE at HOH.GreatJob.net</p>	<p>JOB SEEKERS Register for FREE at HOH.GreatJob.net <small>to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.</small></p>
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This American Legion-sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; local Chambers of Commerce; New Jersey Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News; and other local partners.

For registration questions, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-6807.

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ARMS to host fundraiser for Morro Family

Hurricane Sandy affected the home of Sgt. William Morro and his wife, Maria. Morro, an Iraqi war veteran and Maria, the Family Assistance Center coordinator for five armories, have been an active part of the New Jersey National Guard family for years.

Now it is time to assist the Morro's by enjoying a pasta dinner at the Toms River armory Friday, Dec. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Adults are \$10 for the pasta, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverages. Children three to 12 are \$5, and children under three are free. All proceeds will be given to the Morro family to assist in the rebuilding of their home.

American Recreational Military Services (ARMS) is sponsoring the fundraiser. For more information or to donate, please visit www.supportarms.org.

Pay differential grants

The National Guard State Family Readiness Council of New Jersey has added Pay Differential Grant applications for those Army and Air members who served on State Active Duty in support of Hurricane Sandy and suffered a loss in pay because of that duty.

Application forms and guidance may be obtained from Family Assistance Centers at the following locations: 108th Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst; 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City; Joint Military Family Assistance Center, Bordentown; and armories at Toms River, Woodbury, Morristown, Jersey City, and Lawrenceville.



Sgts. 1st Class Sheila Farrell and Louis Tuck, both personnel administrators with G-1 at Joint Force Headquarters, are coined by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs main office at Lawrenceville, N.J. Nov. 15, 2012. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frank Albanese, center, is promoted to his current rank of CW4 by Brig. Gen. James Grant, right, New Jersey National Guard Joint Chief of Staffs, at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs office at Lawrenceville, N.J., Nov. 21, 2012. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

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