

New year, new priorities

By Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey

New Year's resolutions probably date back to the invention of the calendar. And as corny as the practice has become, there's probably a good reason it began.

A New Year represents a new beginning and a good time to focus on what's important, to set priorities for the coming year and to refocus on things from the past that remain undone.

For the New Jersey National Guard, the focus for the coming year needs to be on our greatest assets – our Airmen, Soldiers and their families. If we do a good job taking care of them, our other greatest priority, safeguarding our state and nation, will take care of itself.

One of the most important ways we can take care of our troops is to make sure they work in a safe environment. Prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault make that possible.



Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, presented awards to New Jersey National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs state workers at the National Guard Armory at Lawrenceville N.J., Dec. 11, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

The Army and Air Force have given us robust programs to stamp out sexual harassment and assault. They both begin by taking complaints seriously while protecting the rights of victims and the accused.

Sexual harassment and assault aren't just a military problem, they are a societal problem. But the public expects holds us to a higher standard. Every parent has the right to expect that when they send their sons and daughters to us, no harm will ever come to them at the hands of their fellow Soldiers and Airmen.

A military organization's greatest strength is the ability of its people to care for one another.

That brings me to another of our priorities for the year: suicide prevention.

It starts with individual Airmen and Soldiers looking out for their battle buddies by getting to know them well enough to be able to recognize when something isn't right. This is especially important for us, because unlike our active-duty counterparts, most of our time is spent apart from one another. We have a great system in place to assist Soldiers and Airmen in crisis, but in order for it to work, unit leaders must be made aware of problems as soon as they arise.

Caring for each other also means caring for our families. The National Guard has an obligation to support the families of our Soldiers and Airmen, and not just during deployments. Every leader in this organization needs to foster an environment that allows their Airmen and Soldiers to balance their military obligations with their family life. Family support keeps our force strong because it allows our people to stay in uniform. Ask yourself: How

long could I continue to serve without the support of my family? Family support keeps the Guard strong.

Maintaining the strength of the Guard is more important now than at any time in our history. We are in a fiscally turbulent time. States that demonstrate good recruiting and retention numbers will have the advantage. We don't know how the military-funding debate in Washington will play out, but from everything we've seen, we know we are going to have to make the most out of our resources. If we can maintain our strength, training and maintain our equipment, that's a home run in this environment.

That leads me to our final priority for the year: transformation. The New Jersey National Guard has been given two major opportunities to grow and continue to demonstrate its relevance in defense of our state and nation.

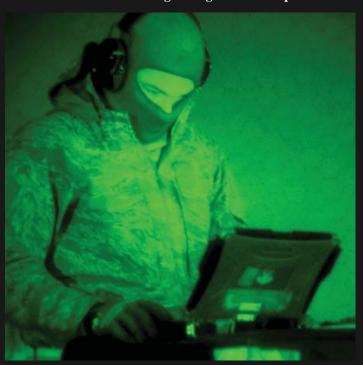
The Army Guard is currently fielding new lightweight 155 millimeter Howitzers, giving our troops a more mobile and lethal weapon for future battlefields. With the new equipment comes new positions within the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. In the coming year, the Air Guard's 108th Wing will join the front lines of the battlefield of the future. The unit is currently standing up the Cyber Operations Squadron to help protect Air Force, Department of Defense and other government computer systems. The emerging threats from around the globe make it a critical mission. Our National Guard is in the fight.

All of these priorities have one thing in common, securing the future of the New Jersey National Guard as a relevant and vital force. Our Soldiers and Airmen have proven time and again they have skills, dedication and heart to meet any challenge.



Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing participated in a 48-hour exercise called JAN ME EX 15-01, which demonstrated the base's readiness to deploy.

The exercise required extended hours and a substantial increase in the operations tempo throughout the base, all while working through unexpected low temperatures which remained well below freezing during the 48 hour period.



The exercise was the first of its kind at the 177th since the Air Force implemented its new inspection system in June of 2013.

Under the new system, inspections are now a more continual internal and external evaluation. In the past, inspectors viewed the performance of the wing during a one or two week window.

"The goal of the exercise is to validate the wing's capability to generate aircraft and deploy weapons in a combat environment," said Lt. Col. Thor Himley, 177th Fighter Wing Inspector General.

"The challenge for the new-style inspection is to shift away from the old mentality that there were play areas, and non-play areas, and players and non-players," said Himley. "Our challenge to Airmen now is: don't play, just do."

The Wing Inspection Team, in conjunction with Inspector Generals from outside the unit, evaluated unit members on their ability to complete tasks and perform as they would in a real-world scenario, said Himley.

"I need those in leadership to communicate to their Airmen what they expect out of them, so when the next inspection rolls around, Air-men are aware of these expectations," said Himley.

The next exercise of this nature is scheduled for later this year, and Himley urges Airmen to ask questions if they are unsure about what to do in certain real-world situations to ensure a positive and successful inspection.

A U.S. Air Force crew chief from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing consults his technical manual. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Powell/Released)

Meet the Millers

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs

The Guard is family.

Case in point.

Danielle Bunyea and Keith Miller first met at Port Hueneme, Calif., Danielle was from Washington state and Keith was from New Jersey.

"We were both at the same tech school in 2008," said Senior Airman Keith Miller.

Danielle was training to become a vehicle management and analysis technician – Keith was attending the vehicle maintenance school. Danielle's school was six weeks, while Keith's was eight months.

They became friends.

And it might have ended there, except their initial assignment placed them both at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

The friendship continued.

Vehicle Maintenance is divided into two or three sections, depending on the size of the base. At Malmstrom, Danielle worked in the vehicle management section, which managed the fleet of military and commercial design vehicles and heavy equipment, while Keith worked in the vehicle maintenance shop.

"I worked on Humvees and MRAPs (mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles)," said Keith. "Danielle handled the administrative and parts ordering."

Being on active duty also meant that they deployed a lot.

"Between the two of us, we have spent years a part due to deployments," said Staff Sgt. Danielle Miller. "Keith might be on a seven-month deployment and I would be on seven month deployment, but our time together might only be a month between deployments."

That time apart strengthened their relationship.



U.S. Air Force vehicle management and analysis technician Staff Sgt. Danielle Miller, enters a work order at the 108th Wing Vehicle Management Section.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Keith Miller, right, describes to Staff Sgt. Danielle Miller what broke on the starter for a six-passenger pickup truck at the 108th Wing Vehicle Maintenance Shop at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Jan. 11, 2015.

OUR WHOLE GOAL WAS TO STAY TOGETHER IN THE GUARD.

Senior Airman Keith Miller

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Keith Miller, replaces a starter on a six-passenger pickup truck.

A change in the Malmstrom leadership got them thinking

about new options. Danielle wanted to go to school to get her degree in nursing and

with all the deployments, she had the Post-9/11 GI Bill to pay the way.

This led them to think about joining the Guard.

"Our whole goal was to stay together in the Guard," said Keith.

"After we decided to join the Guard it was either Washington or New Jersey," said Danielle. "He has a large family back here and I could go to school anywhere, so we decided on New Jersey."

Danielle arrived at the 108th Wing in September 2013 while

Keith went on terminal leave and didn't join the unit until November. Both work in the 108th Wing Vehicle Maintenance and both have the same jobs they had at Malmstrom.

They got married.

Being in the same shop has a lot of pluses.

"When you discuss military aspects of the job, you don't have to explain everything because we work in the same shop," said Danielle.

Another is training and deployments. "We have to do all our training together," said Danielle. "Here in the Guard we can volunteer for the same deployments."

As a family, in the Guard.

Yellow Ribbon keeps deployed soldiers families connected

By Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

If you ask three-year-old Jace Morgan where his daddy is, his answer probably wouldn't surprise you.

"He's at work," he says.

But Jace's dad isn't sitting in an office a few towns away. Spc. Jeremy Morgan is deployed half a world away to Southwest Asia with the New Jersey Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

For Morgan's wife Jasmine, the deployment hasn't been easy. Working full time with two children- Jace, and his one-year-old sister Javanni, certainly has its challenges.

"It's been rough," she said. "I've been making it tough, I have no other choice."

The hardest part, she said, is finding child care while she's at work.

That changed recently when she attended a Yellow Ribbon event held by the NJ State Family Programs Office at the Woodbury Armory Jan. 10.

There, she connected with other family members of deployed soldiers and learned about a program run by the State Youth Coordinators to assist with child care.

"I think it's very helpful and that people should take full advantage of what they have to offer," she said. "I just started getting into it now, and I wish I had been involved from the beginning. It would have been a whole lot of help."

The event was geared toward assisting families and Soldiers through the reintegration process - the transition a Citizen-Soldier

goes through as they leave deployment and re-adjust to civilian life. It also provided a forum for families to talk and share experiences, as well as a chance for families like the Morgan's to learn about the many programs designed to help them during a deployment, said Capt. John Lore, rear detachment commander for the battalion.

"It puts them in the same room with people who may be facing the same issues," he said. "They can share those issues and solutions they found. It shows them they're not going through this alone."

Ray Stinsman, father of Spc. Samantha Stinsman attended specifically to learn about the reintegration process. He remembered how difficult readjusting to civilian life was for his daughter after graduating basic training and was eager to be a resource for her coming home from deployment.

"There are all kinds of resources available, more than you can ever imagine," he said. "It's there, you just have to reach out and get it."

State Youth Coordinators also held a Hero Pack Ceremony, to celebrate the children of the deployed Soldiers. Each child who attended received a certificate, as well as a backpack and stuffed animal.

Lore added that family members unable to attend the event haven't missed out. A second Yellow Ribbon event is planned for Jan. 24 at the Freehold Armory. He added that free lunch and childcare will be provided.

Army Guard Aviators Return

By Staff Sqt. Wayne Woolley, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs

Although "Army aviation" often conjures images of the iconic UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, the fixed-wing C12 aircraft is the Army's workhorse for sensitive overseas missions.

During the past year, the pilots and logistics specialists of New Jersey Army National Guard's Detachment 19th Operational Support Airlift Command found themselves in the center of one of those critical missions. The 14 members detachment and their three aircraft were the only Army aviation support unit during the initial two months of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq.

During a 10-month deployment that ended in late December, the Soldiers of Detachment 19 also transported more than 2,000 high-ranking military and government officials throughout the Middle East.

On Jan. 11, the New Jersey National Guard leadership welcomed the unit home at a ceremony at the National Guard Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown.

Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, said Detachment 19 is emblematic of how over the past 15 years the National Guard has gone from a strategic reserve to a critical component in all American military operations overseas. Every Soldier has deployed three or more times for overseas operations.

"The National Guard has been called when needed and over the past 15 years – the force has been needed," Cunniff



Staff Sgt. Kalil O'Neal, left, 19th Operational Support Airlift Command, is interviewed after the Welcome Home Ceremony in Bordentown, N.J., Jan. 11, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Dave Moore/Released)

said. "Every time the New Jersey National Guard has answered the call, they have accomplished their mission beyond anyone's expectations. Detachment 19 is no exception."

New Jersey Assemblyman Troy Singleton (D-7th Dist.) represents the area that includes the Bordentown Assistance Center said that all military members should be considered heroes.

"Instead of running away from danger, these men and women run right at it and they do it on behalf of people they may never meet," he said.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or www.state.nj.us/military

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Fax: 609-530-7191

Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

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Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Hom Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO Jennifer Pajak, Sec 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016

Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home Boris Reissek CFO Sharon Davis, Sec 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714

Albert J. Bucchi, Director 609-530-6962

Cheryl A. Henderson, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424 Genia DiBella, Sec - 609-738-2404 Cyndi Dzurisin, Interment Office Supervisor. - 609-738-2407 Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard, - 609-758-7505 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107

Veterans Services (DVS)

Korean Memorial

Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

War World II Memorial

W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Veterans Haven South

Walter Nall. Supt - 609-561-4948 Vacant, Asst, Supt - 609-567-3715 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow NJ 08095

609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186

Veterans Haven North

Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960 Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101 Glen Gardner NJ 08826 908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990

Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials Joseph Arroyo & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490 State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs

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VA Regional Office/Philadelphia Vacant, VSO - 215-381-3033

Veterans Service Offices

5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Chris Kulkosky, VSO Training Officer - 609-530-7050

Atlantic City/Cape May

Vacant. Sec. 1008 Absecon Boulevard, <u>Atlantic City</u> 08401-1999 ~ (*Atlantic City Armory*) 609-441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 (*closed alternate Fridays*)

Bergen/Passaic Richard Mannes, VSO Titus Osuagwu, Sec

Lorena Huggins, VSO

Helen Banks, Sec

Joseph Battito, VSO

125 State Street, Suite 109, Hackensack 07601-5435

Burlington Charles Piscopo, VSO

Bernadette Whitman, Sec 555 High Street, Suite 6A, Mt. Holly 08060

Camden/Gloucester Joseph Frost, VSO Diane Rosci, Sec 658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 ~ (Woodbury Armory) 201-996-8050/8051 Fax: 201-996-8009

609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275

Vacant VSO Vacant, Sec

856-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays)

151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 ~ (Lawrenceville Armory)

20 Washington Place, Room 431, Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3336 Fax: 973-642-0830 Middlesex/Somerset

678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 ~ (Jersey City Armory) 201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed alternate Fridays) Robert Brown, VSO

Rita Hyland, Sec 630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904

1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 ~ (Somerset Armory) 732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (closed alternate Fridays)

Vacant, Sec

Ocean Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO Iris Perez, Sec James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic

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Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman Lisa Szymanski, Sec

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Robert Maulano, VSO Michael Dorobis, Sec

Theresa Tomecheck, Sec

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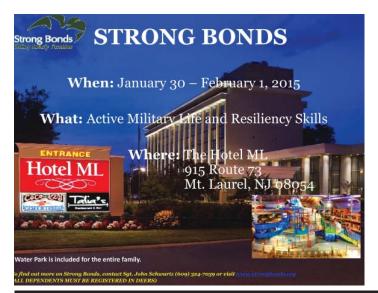
Newark Liaison/VA Regional Office

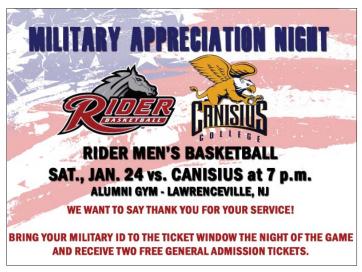
973-297-3230 Fax: 973-648-2356

William Robinson, VSO 479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 ~ (Dover Armory) 973-366-0245/8347 Fax: 973-366-0360

Warren/Hunterdon

Flemington, 4 Gauntt Place, <u>Flemington,</u> 08822 (Wednesday) 908-284-6146





E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov



Upcoming information sessions

Mount Laurel Library

100 Walt Whitman Avenue Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 Jan. 23, Feb. 13, Mar. 6, 20 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly) POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Egg Harbor Township

177th Fighter Wing Building 229, 400 Langley Road Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234 Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 12 and 26 12 – 4 p.m.

POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Lawrenceville

DMAVA
IASD Section
101 Eggerts Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Jan. 28, Feb. 11, 25; Mar. 18
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Fort Dix

Housing Community Center Building 1134 Hemlock Street Ft. Dix, NJ Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Mar. 30 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Cape May (New Location)

AAFES (storefront)
Coast Guard Base
Cape May Training Center
Cape May, NJ 08204
Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 24: 12 – 3 p.m.
POC: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Shrewsbury

Monmouth County Library
Eastern Branch
1001 Route 35
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
Jan. 29, Feb. 24, Mar. 19: 11am-2pm
POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Lakehurst

Military & Family Support Center Highway 547 Building 488 Walsh Road Lakehurst, NJ 08733 Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 26: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Colts Neck

NWS Earle 201 Highway 34 South Building C29 Colts Neck, NJ 07722 Feb. 12, Mar. 25: 10am-2pm POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

McGuire Air Force Base

McGuire Library 2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave McGuire AFB, NJ 08641 Jan. 28, Feb. 25: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mar. 16: 4-7pm POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

McGuire Housing

Jim Saxton Community Center 3811 South Boiling Street McGuire AFB, NJ 08641 Feb. 3, Mar. 3: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

108th Wing Airmen & Family Readiness Office

3327 Charles Blvd McGuire AFB Feb. 11, Mar. 11: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Browns Mills

Pemberton Community Library 16 Broadway Street Browns Mills, NJ 08015 Feb. 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mar. 30: 4 – 7 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Toms River

Toms River Armory 1200 Whitesville Road Toms River, NJ 08753 Feb. 18, Mar. 5: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Jersey City

Jersey City Armory 678 Montgomery Street Jersey City, NJ 07306 Jan. 29: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Feb. 5, 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Feb. 26: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Mar. 5,12, 19: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mar. 26: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. POC: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126

Picatinny Arsenal

Army Community Service Building 119 Dover NJ 07806 Jan. 23, Feb. 24, Mar. 24 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. POC: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126

Newark Armory

120 Roseville Avenue Newark, NJ 07107 Jan. 21, 28 Feb. 4, 11, 25: 12 – 5 p.m. Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25: 12 – 5 p.m. POC: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126

Blackwood

Camden County Veterans Affairs 3 Collier Dr. Lakeland Complex Blackwood, NJ 08012 Jan. 26, Feb. 9, 23, Mar. 9, 23 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (hourly) POC: Wil Acosta, (646) 300-1312



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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Layout, photographer
Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer

NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

A DMAVA VSO will be present at each event to assist any veteran

Jan. 21,
Hiring Our Heroes
Hiring Fair & Employment Workshop
Timmerman Conference Center, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
5441 8th Street
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, 08640

Feb. 11
DMAVA Medal Ceremony
Williamstown VFW POST #1616, 11 a.m.
1940 North Blackhorse Pike
Williamstown, NJ 08094

Feb. 19 - 20
DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign
Monmouth Mall, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
180 Route 35 South
Eatontown, NJ 07724

March 5 - 6
DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign
The Outlets at Bergen Town Center
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
One Bergen Town Center
Paramus, NJ 07652

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

Consider replacing your showerhead

Did You Know...

A ten minute shower can use less water than a full bath; that is if you use a low flow shower head.

Low flow shower heads typically use two and a half gallons per minute or less, so a 10 minute long shower will use around 25 gallons of water. That's five gallons less than an average bath.

Reducing the amount of water used to shower will also reduce your energy bills by lowering the amount of work your water heater and pumps have to do. This means your family could see up to \$145 in savings each year by investing less than \$20 for a new showerhead.

If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, please contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher. moore@dmava.nj.gov