



DMAVA

HIGHLIGHTS



JUNE 1, 2012



More than 1,400 Scouts from various troops in New Jersey decorated approximately 43,000 graves of New Jersey veterans at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery May 26. To view more photos of Memorial Day events please visit our Facebook page by clicking on this link: [Veterans Day](#). (Photos by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)



Military Appreciation Day

Place: Casino Pier, Seaside Heights
62 Grant Ave (Corner of Grant Ave and the Blvd)
Date: Saturday, 2 June 2012
Time: Bracelets will be given out 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Waterpark opens at 1000 Hrs and rides open 1200 Hrs)

*This event is **open to all Military Branches**. Service members (with ID) and their immediate family members are invited to use rides and the water park and rides all day free of charge (rides until 6:00 pm).*

You will be required to show a Uniformed Services Military ID to obtain ride bracelets for you and your dependants (immediate family) only.

- ** check in through the side entrance of the Breakwater Beach Waterpark on 62 Grant Ave. (off the Blvd)*
- ** Waterpark opens at 1000 hours, rides open at noon.*
- ** Bracelets are good for use at the Waterpark and all Pier rides (Carousels, safari train, kiddie boats) **EXCLUDING the go-carts and the Skyscraper ride.***

We feel strongly about the job that all of you do for us and our country and are honored to be able to have the opportunity to have this event again.

Thank you.....for serving our Country!



VA, EPA program connects disabled vets with jobs

PRINCETON, N.J. – The change in scenario for most service members returning to civilian life after military service - especially following deployments to a combat zone - can be abrupt and unnerving. There are plenty of tasks to complete and a host of challenges to address. Among these is a very formidable one: finding a job. For a military spouse, it may even be more difficult, as they may have to support a family and a wounded hero that has come home.

To assist veterans and spouses in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area to find satisfying and meaningful employment as they return to civilian life, Don Graff Automotive Consulting is hosting the “Hiring Heroes Automotive Employment Expo”, a two-day job fair, June 5 - 6, 2012.

The event will provide attending veterans the opportunity to interview with representatives from local automobile dealers, or locations that are part of large dealer groups in the metropolitan area. Parts and service retailers AutoZone and STS Tire and Auto Centers will be participating. In addition, AFLAC Insurance, The Higher Gear Group, Lincoln Technical Institute and DeVry University will also be represented.

Kosi Marrero from TomorrowsWorkplace.org will be the featured guest speaker during the June 5 Employer’s Seminar, to explain the VOW to Hire Heroes employer tax credit and how to apply for this business benefit. Furthermore, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is scheduled to also attend on June 5 to provide veterans with information about health benefits and how to access the VA health system.

Veterans and family members of veterans who are seeking employment opportunities may register online and submit resumes prior to the event at www.dongraffautomotive.com/hiring-our-heroes.

Free article downloads for automotive job seekers and sample job descriptions can be found on the www.dongraffautomotive.com website. (See the “Job Opportunities” and “Free Resources” menus)

The event will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, 180 Route 17 South, Mahwah, N.J.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program yesterday announced a memorandum of understanding to connect veterans with disabilities to career opportunities in the water and wastewater sectors as part of the EPA’s Water Sector Workforce Initiative.

The agreement allows EPA and VA to connect qualified veterans with staffing needs at water and wastewater utilities. EPA and the VA will work with water utilities and state and local VA counselors to promote water sector careers and resources for finding water jobs for veterans as well as educational programs to help veterans transition into careers in water industries.

“This agreement comes at the perfect time to address the predicted workforce shortages in the water and wastewater industries and the need for transitioning veterans into civilian jobs,” said Nancy Stoner, acting assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Water. “EPA believes that well-trained and experienced water sector professionals are vital to ensuring sustainable, properly operated systems.”

“VA has cultivated relationships with both public and private industry to ensure disabled veterans have opportunities to find and maintain meaningful employment,” said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. “We are thrilled to forge this relationship with EPA to assist them with hiring veterans through our Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program.”

More than one-third of all current water operators are eligible to retire within seven years and, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment for water and wastewater operators is expected to grow by 20 percent between 2008 and 2018, faster than the national average for all other occupations.

Each year, VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program assists more than 100,000 disabled veterans prepare for, find, and maintain meaningful careers. Veterans are an important target group for water and wastewater utility jobs because many veterans already possess training and technical skills that are directly transferable to careers in the water sector.

There is a wide spectrum of water sector careers that veterans could be qualified for, including engineering, laboratory and water science, operations and maintenance, management and administration, communications, and public education.

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program further supports veterans for the water workforce by providing necessary accommodations and additional training as needed

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-At the Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick NJ

-Register or for more information contact SGT Brittany Toomer at 609-562-0207
Brittany.toomer@us.army.mil; int-chaplain@ng.army.mil

New education benefit for unemployed veterans has strong response

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program garners more than 12,000 applicants since May 15

WASHINGTON – Within two weeks of being announced, a program to give skills training to some unemployed Veterans has garnered more than 12,000 online applications, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“VA is committed to supporting Veterans as they seek employment. This initiative will help provide education and training so that Veterans have an opportunity to find meaningful employment in a high-demand field,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We will continue to build on the success of our initial outreach efforts to Veterans.”

Called the Veteran Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), the program allows qualifying Veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 to receive up to 12 months of education assistance. Maximum payments are equal to the full-time rate for the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty, currently \$1,473 monthly.

Under VRAP, Veterans apply on a first-come, first-served basis for programs that begin on or after July 1. VA began accepting applications on May 15. Forty-five thousand Veterans can participate during the current fiscal year, and up to 54,000 may participate during the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2012.

The goal of the program is to train 99,000 Veterans for high-demand jobs over the next two years.

To qualify Veterans must:

- Be 35 to 60 years old, unemployed on the day of application, and have been issued discharges under conditions other than dishonorable;
- Be enrolled in education or training after July 1, 2012, in a VA-approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school leading to an associate degree, non-college degree or a certificate for a high-demand occupation as defined by the Department of Labor;
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit, such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill, or Vocation-



al Rehabilitation and Employment;

- Not have participated in a federal or state job training program within the last 180 days; and
- Not receive VA compensation at the 100 percent rate due to individual unemployability.

While the initial response has been encouraging, VA officials stress the need for a sustained effort to reach potential VRAP applicants.

“Besides the Veterans themselves, we are asking anyone who knows of an unemployed Veteran to help us get the word out so everyone can take advantage of this new benefit,” said Curtis Coy, VA’s deputy undersecretary for economic opportunity. “With the help of our Veterans community and our partners in the Department of Labor, we hope to reach as many eligible Veterans as possible.”



In addition to its national outreach campaign, VA will seek out potential VRAP-qualified Veterans through online applications and at the National Veterans Small Business Conference being held in Detroit

June 26-28. During 2012, VA representatives will also provide VRAP information and assistance at hiring fairs sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce through the Hiring Our Heroes campaign.

For more information on the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) program, the Hire Heroes Act of 2011, VRAP, high demand occupations, and application procedures, visit the website at www.benefits.va.gov/VOW, or call VA National Call Center toll free at 1-800-827-1000.

Veterans may also access the VRAP application online at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov> through eBenefits, a joint project between VA and the Department of Defense.

Veterans are also encouraged to visit the nearly 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers across the nation for assistance from staff, Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives (LVERS), and Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists. Center locations are listed at www.servicelocator.org.

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Col. Kerry M. Gentry, right, commander of the 177th Fighter Wing finishes a briefing on the Wing's mission to a group of employers May 23. The New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and the 177th Fighter Wing held an Employer Appreciation Day that allowed some traditional Guardsmen to bring their employers to the Wing. The employers signed ESGR Statements of Support, which enlists the support of employers in the development of policies and practices that support and encourage employee participation in the Guard and Reserve. To view more photos of this event, please visit our Facebook page by clicking on this link: [177th FW Employer Appreciation](#). (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing)



Maj. Matthew S. Brito, a KC-135 pilot with the 108th Wing, welcomes to the aircraft several students from a local school visiting the base. The 108th Wing provided a base tour to more than 60 students from Saint Josephs Grade School, Toms River, N.J., May 30 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The seven and eight-year old students were brought on board a KC-135 Stratotanker and provided with a tour of the aircraft, which included a visit to the cockpit and the aft section. To view more photos of this event, please visit the 108th Wing's Facebook page by clicking on this link: [108th Base Tour](#). (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs Office)

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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