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DECEMBER 6, 2012

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



JERSEY STRONG



Spc. Dominick Webb, back, holds Old Glory aloft as Train's Pat Monahan, center, sings 'Calling All Angels' during a benefit concert at Sea Bright, Dec. 5, 2012. Webb was among the New Jersey National Guard Soldiers who have been helping residents of the Shore towns recover from Hurricane Sandy's destruction. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley/Released)

Hiring our Heroes



The Adjutant General of New Jersey, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, second from right, speaks with a recruiter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation at a veterans-friendly job fair at the New Jersey National Guard's West Orange armory Dec. 5, 2012. The job fair, which was sponsored by

New Jersey Department of Labor, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and Essex County, aims to match highly qualified veterans or transitioning service members with jobs within the private and public sector. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)

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.

E-mail your Photo of the Week or Highlights submissions to:
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Army Safety Gram

ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG

13-05

05 December 2012

Tips to Help You Safely Deck Your Halls

The Holiday Season means road trips, package wraps and ribbons, a fully trimmed tree, and more challenges. Consider these few tips for planning and safety this Holiday Season.

Safety Checklist before the Holidays

- ◆ Put any fuel that can catch on fire in a safe container outside the home.
- ◆ Test your home's multipurpose fire extinguisher.
- ◆ Test the batteries in your fire alarm.
- ◆ Clear any clutter out of escape routes from your home.
- ◆ If toddlers will be visiting, install safety gates at tops and bottoms of stairs.
- ◆ Check your throw rugs for non-slip backings.
- ◆ Put nightlights in hallways.
- ◆ Test the ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), both indoors and outdoors.



Holiday Decorations and Tree Trimming

- ◆ Before you buy a live tree, bend some needles in half. If they break easily or don't spring back, the tree is too dry.
- ◆ At home, put your tree in a non-tip stand kept filled with water.
- ◆ Place it at least three feet (one meter) away from a heat source, and near an electrical outlet.
- ◆ Before you string on the lights, inspect the bulbs, sockets, and cords for damage. Never put candles on a tree.
- ◆ String no more than three strands of lights together.
- ◆ If you buy a decorative plant for the holidays, ask the florist if it's poisonous to kids or pets. Keep questionable plants out of children's reach.

Reach For The Star - But Don't Reach Far!

- ◆ Face a ladder while climbing, and wear non-slip soles.
- ◆ When reaching to crown your tree with an ornament, keep your body centered on the ladder.
- ◆ On a stepladder, stand no higher than the second rung from the top.
- ◆ When nailing Santa onto the roof, remember that the highest safe standing level of an extension ladder is third rung from the top.
- ◆ Place your outdoor ladder well away from power lines, on level ground.

Great Safety Gifts to Give and Get

- ◆ Smoke alarm
- ◆ Cooking thermometer
- ◆ Car emergency kit
- ◆ Reaching aids
 - ◆ Safety glasses / goggles
 - ◆ Escape ladder
 - ◆ Fire extinguisher
 - ◆ Carbon monoxide detector



Make sure you keep these safety tips in mind keep your Holidays a joyous occasion for everyone!.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Officials offer guidance for GI Bill recipients activated for Hurricane Sandy operations

By Sgt. Darron Salzer, National Guard Bureau

After the activation of more than 12,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen along the East Coast in response to Hurricane Sandy, officials want to make Guard members aware of the steps they need to take to ensure they don't lose their education benefits.

Guard members receiving any Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits for the current semester – and who were also put on state active duty orders for Hurricane Sandy response and recovery – are encouraged to immediately contact their educational institutions and notify them of their activation. Guard officials also recommend these Soldiers and Airmen request alternate arrangements for making up missed assignments and/or completing their courses.

Schools will authorize alternate arrangements based upon their individually published policies, but it is again up to the Soldier or Airmen to discuss these policies with their institutions, officials said.

The VA does not require schools to allow students to make up assignments or to grant students incompletes.

Officials said the VA will allow individuals up to 12 months to complete coursework for a course in which they receive an "incomplete" grade, but Guard members must discuss incompletes with their education institutions. If individuals do not complete the coursework within the 12 months, the VA will create a debt for the course that will need to be repaid by the student.

If schools do allow students to make up coursework without dropping the class, an individual's Basic Allowance for Housing will not be affected. However, officials said that if a student receives an incomplete and the course is not completed within the 12-month period, the VA will create an overpayment for the course to include payments for tuition, fees, books and the Basic Allowance for Housing.

Officials warned that students who are not successful in making arrangements with their schools to stay enrolled will stop receiving BAH payments on the date they are dropped from a course.

For more information, please contact your respective educational institution or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-GIBILL-1 or click [here](#).



Nominate a young patriot for 2013 Military Child of the Year!

Operation Homefront has announced that nominations for the Military Child of the Year Awards are being accepted online at MilitaryChildOfTheYear.org through Dec. 15. Winners will be recognized April 2013.

The Military Child of the Year Award recognizes children who stand out among their peers. Ideal candidates for the award demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and thrive in the face of the challenges of military life. These young heroes embody leadership within their families and communities.

This award is presented to an outstanding child from each branch of service – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The winners each receive \$5,000 and a laptop, and are flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for a special recognition ceremony on April 11.

In previous years, recipients have had the honor of meeting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey, and first lady Michelle Obama, who were guest speakers for the event awards ceremonies.

"With so much uncertainty living in a military family, from constantly having to move to knowing that a parent is fighting for our country, it is amazing to see how strong these young people are to excel in the face of these challenges," said Jim Knotts, president and chief executive officer of Operation Homefront. "It's not just the military members who serve, but their families as well. We think these young patriots deserve to be honored for their sacrifice and their leadership."

For more information on how to nominate a child in your community, to become a sponsor, or to see photos from past events, please go to MilitaryChildOfTheYear.org.

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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