



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY 24, 2012

Holly Petraeus visits NJNG, ready to help Guardsmen



From left to right, U.S. Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey's 12th District; Army Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff for the Adjutant General; Holly Petraeus, Office of Servicemembers Affairs at Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and Air Force Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, Acting Adjutant General, discuss how Petraeus'

position at the CFPB can better assist New Jersey's military service members. Petraeus visited the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Lawrenceville main office on Feb. 22., and met with various officials from the New Jersey National Guard's Family Assistance Program. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

The mortgage crisis that sent hundreds of thousands of American homeowners into foreclosure may have a silver lining for military families.

A key division of the federal agency created in July in response to the crisis will do nothing but advocate for the financial rights of service members and their families and will have the power to crack down on predatory financiers, according to Holly Petraeus, who leads the new Office of Servicemember Affairs within the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Petraeus, wife of CIA Director and retired Army general David Petraeus, has spent much of her first months on the job meeting with military members and family assistance coordinators around the country to let them know about the resources of her office and to learn the most pressing financial issues encountered by service members.

On Wednesday, she met with more than two dozen New Jersey National Guard Family Assistance Programs officials in Lawrenceville as well as Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, the Acting Adjutant General and U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th Dist.). Petraeus's message was that her office understands the unique challenges

faced by Reserve Component troops and is ready to help.

One of the first steps taken by her office was to ensure that a settlement reached between mortgage lenders and the Attorney Generals of 49 states including New Jersey will make it virtually impossible for a deployed service member to lose their home to foreclosure while deployed, a situation faced with some frequency by National Guard and Reserve troops.

Petraeus's office took another step that will benefit all components of the military – cracking down on credit card companies that violate the terms of service members' card agreements. Her office so far has forced the return of more than \$130,000 in improper fees and other charges.

Petraeus said her office is also working with the Department of Defense to make other changes that will boost the financial acumen of people before they join the military. One of her office's key recommendations is to provide basic financial training for new enlistees before they report for basic training, instead of providing those classes during the training, an environment that proves dif-

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difficult to get young troops to focus on anything other than military skills.

She said the recommendation was prompted by a recent Air Force study that found recruits enter basic training with an average of \$10,000 in debt. Providing the training before recruits begin training, she said, will hopefully build good financial habits that will last a lifetime, or at the very least help them from falling for shady financial deals after their training ends.

“After basic training and AIT is when they are most vulnerable,” Petraeus said. “There are people waiting for them right outside the gate with bad car deals or ready to sign them up for a computer that ends up costing them \$3,000 because they only focused on the low monthly payments.”

For more information about Petraeus’s office and its programs, check out: <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/servicemembers/>.



Holly Petraeus, right, is presented with the National Guard’s Minuteman bronze statue by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, Acting Adjutant General, left, during Petraeus visit with

various officials from New Jersey National Guard’s Family Assistance Program at DMA-VA’s Lawrenceville office. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)

NJDMAVA MEDAL CEREMONY @ NEWPORT CENTRE MALL



Maj. Gen. Wilfred C. Menard, Jr.

By 1st Lt. Vincent Solomeno, Command Historian

Major General Wilfred C. Menard, Jr. served as the twenty-sixth Adjutant General of New Jersey from 1974-1982.

General Menard was born in Trenton on November 10, 1918. With war looming in Europe and Asia, in 1941 he enlisted into the U.S. Army as an infantry soldier and rose to the rank of captain. Following World War II, he continued his service in the New Jersey Army National Guard where he commanded the 4th Rocket Howitzer Battalion and the 112th Field Artillery Group. In 1961, Menard, then a lieutenant colonel, was called to active duty in response to the Berlin Crisis. In 1967, he was promoted to brigadier general and appointed Deputy Chief of Staff. Menard was then appointed Chief of Staff - the term then used for Adjutant General - of New Jersey by Gov. Brendan T. Byrne in March 1974, and following confirmation by the New Jersey Senate and United States Senate rose to the rank of major general. He served the people of New Jersey until his retirement in 1982.

Over the course of his career, Menard attended the U.S. Army Infantry School, Field Artillery School, Tank Destroyer

School, Command and General Staff College, Management School, and the War College. He was the recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Guard Bureau Order of the Eagle, the New Jersey Medal of Honor, the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and the New Jersey Medal of Merit.

Active in his community, Menard was a member of the George Washington Boy Scout Council, the Kiwanis Club of Trenton, the American Legion, the Adjutants General Association of the United States, the National Guard Association of the United States, the Army and Air National Guard Association of New Jersey and the Delaware Valley United Way. He served on the U.S. Army Reserve Forces Policy Board and was a founder of the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey.

He died on February 20, 2012 and is survived by his wife Mary Elizabeth and his daughters Marilee and Barbara.



Official portrait courtesy
of
National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey

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POST - 9/11 GI BILL
A NEW BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY



American Legion to host Hiring Our Heroes event

The American Legion has joined forces with the U.S. and N.J. Chambers of Commerce in support of the Hiring Our Heroes program, a nationwide effort, blossoming here in New Jersey, to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment.

Veterans and their spouses are encouraged to take advantage of the Hiring Our Heroes event scheduled on Friday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at American Legion T. Nulty Post 471, 25 Brown Avenue in Iselin.

With the U.S. auto industry looking to add some 30,000 jobs during 2012, many of New Jersey's 530 auto dealerships and other non-dealer service centers will be looking to fill positions.

"With veteran unemployment high and rising, this is the type of event that can bring veterans into a career field, which can match their education and skills in a variety of positions," said Rich Liebler, one of the organizers from the Sansone Auto Group. "Many jobseekers aren't familiar with the type of jobs available in this industry. This event will address that."

The event is automotive specific and will explain in detail the types of jobs available within the industry, including sales representatives, technicians, service writers, parts stockers, accountants, clerks, receptionists, Internet sales, financial and insurance specialists. Experts will be at the event to explain the jobs and answer questions. In addition to approximately 20 auto dealers, industry related suppliers such as Sears, Pep Boys, STS, Jiffy Lube, Midas and Goodyear, will be participating.

Representatives from the NJ State Library will be on hand to explain and demonstrate all the resources veterans have available to search for jobs; design and write resumes; and apply for jobs. Computer stations will be set up for attendees to practice using those resources. Counselors will also be available from Vet2Vet, U.S. Veterans Administration and New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) to provide veterans with additional information regarding their state and federal entitlements.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their resumes, which will be posted on the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers' Website. Auto dealers are prepared to hire qualified veterans or offer internships to individuals who may want to explore one of



the job possibilities.

The American Legion has hosted two successful Hiring Our Heroes job fairs in Toms River and Florence, and plans others in all sections of New Jersey.

The U.S. Chamber started the program in partnership with the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service, to improve public-private sector coordination in local communities, where veterans and their families are returning every day. Working with an extensive network of state and local chambers and agencies, including NBCUniversal, DMAVA, the NJ State Parole Board, Seton Hall University and other strategic partners, a better job is being done of matching veteran and military spouse talent with career opportunities in the private sector.

Since the launch of the Hiring Our Heroes program in March 2011, more than 7,300 veterans and military spouses, and 60 wounded warriors have found employment. Twenty-five were hired at the Toms River event.

Please go to www.HoH.GreatJob.net to register as a veteran job seeker, or auto-industry related employer.

N.J. Vietnam Veteran's foundation to host 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.



Veterans Outreach & Medal Ceremony
 March 6-8
 Bridgewater Commons Mall
 400 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ

Medal Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on March 6 in Mall's Center Court
 Veterans Information on Entitlements
 Kiosk hours 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT
 OF
 MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS**

VETERANS OUTREACH EVENT
 SATURDAY, MARCH 12 AT 6 P.M.
AT
LOUIS BROWN ATHLETIC CENTER
 DURING RUTGERS MEN'S GAME VS. ST. JOHNS

**NJDMAVA WILL HAVE AN OUTREACH TABLE
 WITH VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS PRESENT
 TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS
 AND ASSIST ALL VETERANS**

Louis Brown Athletic Center, 83 Rockefeller Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854



Standing from left to right, Staff Sgt. John Thompson, Sgt. Eric Heisler, Staff Sgt. Christopher Hoenge, 1st Sgt. Brian Townsend, Sgt. 1st Class Luis Morales, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adrian Mendoza, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Leonard, Capt. Ian Cairns, Maj. Keith Mackey and 1st Lt. John Law. Kneeling left to right, Master Sgt. Thomas Sippel and 1st Lt. Andy Roberts. (Courtesy photo)



From Left to Right: 1st Lt. John Law, Staff Sgt. Christopher Hoenge, Sgt. 1st Class Luis Morales, Master Sgt. Thomas Sippel, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adrian Mendoza, Maj. Keith Mackey, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Leonard, Cpt. Ian Cairns, 1st Lt. Andy Roberts, Sgt. Eric Heisler and Staff Sgt. John Thompson. (Courtesy photo)

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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