



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

flickr

Like us on  
Facebook

July 25, 2013

## Welcome home, Daddy!



Sienna Nichole Siracusa, front, gives a long-awaited hug to her father, Maj. Vincent Siracusa Jr., at a welcome home ceremony at the Joint Force Headquarters' drill floor in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 22, 2013. Siracusa along with several New Jersey National Guard Soldiers returned from a year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Putting down roots and then moving on

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th MPAD

The Soldiers of the 154th Quartermaster Company often say they aren't just members of a unit; they're part of a family. And like many families, they've put down deep roots.

For more than three decades, the water purification specialists have called the National Guard Joint Training Center at Sea Girt, N.J., their home.

That all changed over the course of a grueling 15-day annual training period in July when the Soldiers packed up their entire \$25 million inventory of heavy equipment and moved it to a new location on the edge of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Leaving Sea Girt for the inland outpost was both a logistical challenge and an emotional hardship.

"This unit has a lot of history here in Sea Girt and all of us feel a connection," said Capt. Brennan Foley, who enlisted into this unit 17 years ago and rose to squad leader before attending Officer Candidate School.

Earlier this year, he jumped at the chance to take command of the unit and return to his roots. Then he found out his first task as commander would be planning a move to a new armory.

"On the one hand, most of us felt like we'd only leave here kicking and screaming," Foley said. "But we all recognized this unit had outgrown its space."

So the unit, which deployed to Iraq as part of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, planned its move and treated the re-location as a tactical shift from one forward operating base to another.

The unit, which has taken the nickname Black Sheep, has named its new home, The Farm.

Although the location of drill has changed for the 154th, its Soldiers insist the family feel will not.

"The only way to describe this unit is tight-knit," said Sgt.



Sgt. Jia Huang guides equipment onto the bed of a light medium tactical vehicle as they prepare to move to their new location.

1st Class Peter Meyer, who has spent his entire 27-year National Guard career in the company. "We've been together for a long time. That family feel won't change."

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Serving Those Who Served**  
Division of Veterans Healthcare Services  
Division of Veterans Services

**Remember**  
**Comfort**  
**Honor**

## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Outreach Campaign

**NJ KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL**  
COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE SIGNING OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE  
July \*26  
\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. will be part of program chaired  
by Korean War Veterans Association of New Jersey  
Brighton Park Amphitheatre & the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ  
(Atlantic County)

# HIGHLIGHTS



**Air National Guard Youth 4-H Camp:**  
 August 20-22, 2013  
 at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Youth Center for Outdoor  
 Education, Branchville, NJ

The New Jersey National Guard Youth 4-H Camp is offered by the 4-H Air Force Military Partnership. We provide a safe and enjoyable environment for the youth of New Jersey Guard members. You can expect a fun-filled outdoor camping experience highlighting health & fitness, team building and communication.

The camp is open to youth, ages 10-14, based on the following criteria:

- Tier 1: Children/Legal dependents of an Air National Guard member
- Tier 2: Children/Legal dependents of other military branches and components

**Reservation deposit:** \$50.00 per youth (refundable at completion of camp if there are no damages)

**Deadline for registration, permission form, and deposit:** Thursday, August 1st

Transportation provided to and from camp from Air National Guard base in Egg Harbor Township and JMFA in Bordentown.

Please contact the National Guard Family Programs staff for registration:

<b>Amanda Balas</b> 609-324-7018 amanda.m.balas.ctr@mail.mil	<b>Jeannie Perry</b> 609-761-6248 jean.perry@ang.af.mil	<b>Douglas Ridgway</b> 609-754-4479 douglas.ridgway@ang.af.mil
--	---	--

<http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth/forms.html>

The 4-H Air Force Military Partnership is a collaboration of U.S. Air Force Child and Youth Programs and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture through Kansas State University's special project number



The camp activities include the following:  
 Archery  
 Canoeing  
 Crafts  
 Hiking  
 Campfire



The Lindley G. Cook 4-H Youth Center for Outdoor Education, a unit of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is located on 108 beautiful acres in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, N. J. The camp is operated by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and is owned by Rutgers University.



## Quality childcare shouldn't be hard to find

You're serving your country.  
 Now let us help you care for your child.  
 Programs for Parents (PfP) can help you find child care for all your special military needs.



Contact us today – Our services are FREE!  
[www.programsforparents.org](http://www.programsforparents.org)  
 1-866-429-1667



## REBUILD THE SHORE VETERANS JOB FAIR

OCEAN PLACE RESORT AND SPA  
 1 OCEAN BOULEVARD, LONG BRANCH, NJ

JULY 29, 2013  
 10 AM - 2 PM



The GI Go Fund  
 EMPLOYMENT • TRAINING • COLLEGES • HEALTH CARE • BENEFITS



## Heart of a Hero Scholarship

First lady Mary Pat Christie's non-profit foundation, New Jersey Heroes, is offering the Heart of a Hero Scholarship for New Jersey military service members (veterans or active-duty) to use towards their post-secondary education, be it college or vocational school.

Thanks to a \$50,000 donation from Wal-Mart, New Jersey Heroes will be awarding 10 worthy service men and women a \$5,000 scholarship for the 2013-2014 school year.

You can apply directly on the New Jersey Heroes website: <http://newjerseyheroes.org/index/scholarship-application/> or via U.S. mail or email.

Deadline for applications is **Friday, July 26**. If you have any questions about the application process, please don't hesitate to contact Casey Mahoney at New Jersey Heroes 973-425-2970 or [casey@newjerseyheroes.org](mailto:casey@newjerseyheroes.org).

Scholarship Application

# HIGHLIGHTS

US Family Health Care, a Tricare Prime option providing a civilian based managed care network, will be holding Question and Answer sessions to provide information for servicemembers and families.

## **Joint Military and Family Assistance Center**

1048 US Highway 206, Bordentown  
July 18 and 25  
12 to 3 p.m.

## **NJ DMAVA**

101 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
July 3, 10, 17 and 31  
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **177th Fighter Wing**

400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234  
July 16 and 30  
12 to 3 p.m.

## **JB-MDL McGuire Library**

2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave, JB-MDL  
July 31  
12 to 3 p.m.

## **Camden County Veterans Affairs**

3 Collier Dr.-Lakeland Complex, Blackwood, NJ 08012  
July 8, 15, 22 and 29  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## **Pinelands Public Library**

39 Allen Avenue, Medford, NJ 08055  
July 9 and 23  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## **Picatinny Arsenal**

Army Community Services Bldg #119, Dover, NJ  
July 10  
1 to 3 p.m.

## **Warfighter and Family Readiness Center**

Bldg. 488, Highway 547, Lakehurst, NJ 08733  
July 24  
12 to 3 p.m.

Call 1-800-241-4848 option 3 or visit [www.usfhp.net](http://www.usfhp.net) for more information.



## ***NJNG and DMAVA employees complete Fiscal Law class***

*Story and photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA public affairs*

Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, presented a certificate to Linda Croteau, Construction and Facilities Management Office, for completion of the Fiscal Law class presented by the New Jersey National Guard's United States Property and Fiscal Office.

The three-day course held at the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., saw 112 civilian and uniformed employees complete the course.

In attendance were comptrollers, budget personnel, program managers, budget analysts, GPC cardholders and billing officials from both the Army and Air National Guard, along with state employees like Croteau, who are responsible for managing costs under the Master Cooperative Agreement between New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the National Guard Bureau.

Fiscal Law is required once every three years and instructs and tests a student's ability to ensure funds spent on a particular program meet the intent of the appropriation established by Congress. It evaluates whether the basic tenets of Purpose Time and Amount, as established in appropriation law are in compliance with federal statutes.

E-mail your Photo of the Week or Highlights submissions to:  
[wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us) **OR**  
[armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us)

**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](mailto:pao@njdmava.state.nj.us).

**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**  
Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General  
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff  
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer  
Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist  
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist