



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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October 31, 2013

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HIGHLIGHTS

Sandy loses: An Army of volunteers helps Jersey rebuild on storm anniversary

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA

Swiping a paint roller across the floor of a firehouse badly damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff spelled out the message that captured the spirit of the more than 5,000 volunteers who fanned out across New Jersey on Oct. 29, for Sandy Service Day.

It was: Sandy Loses.

Cunniff, the director of the State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and commander of the New Jersey National Guard, was among the volunteers who reported to the Seaside Park fire house for painting and drywall projects. He was joined by Mary E. O'Dowd, the commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health.

The volunteer efforts commemorating the anniversary of the storm that created havoc across wide swaths of the Jersey Shore was coordinated by the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund and Jersey Cares.

Before his volunteer shift at the firehouse, Cunniff joined Gov. Chris Christie and the rest of the cabinet members at a memorial service in Newark for the 71 people who died in the storm.

The unprecedented storm drew an unparalleled National Guard response.

More than 2,000 Soldiers and Airmen and at least 500 high-wheeled vehicles were staged at strategic locations across New Jersey a full day before storm made landfall. In addition, Christie and Cunniff had laid the groundwork for the first-ever agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense to empower a National Guard officer to command federal troops in a storm response.

When Superstorm Sandy hit, National Guard troops fanned out across a 150-mile stretch of New Jersey to assist civil authorities in the evacuation of residents. New Jersey National Guard Soldiers were part of early dramatic rescues in Atlantic City and in the Bergen County towns of Moonachie and Little Ferry.

To reach North Jersey residents threatened by burst levee on the Hackensack River, a National Guard convoy raced 10 miles in 28 minutes at the peak

SEE, SANDY, ON PG 3



Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, writes out the phrase that captures the day of volunteerism on the anniversary of Superstorm Sandy: Sandy Loses. (Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley)

SANDY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

of the storm when wind gusts exceeded 90 mph.

Sandy was not just met by an overwhelming initial National Guard response - some of the state's Citizen Soldiers and Airmen remained on duty into early January as part of a sustained response that allowed the hardest hit communities to begin to rebuild.

Here are some of the highlights of the National Guard Response:

- *Evacuated more than 7,000 residents and their pets.

- *Supported sheltering operations at seven locations including a temporary facility for displaced residents at the Jersey City Army.

- *Delivered more than 10,000 meals.

- *Operated three fuel distribution points for use by first responders and essential medical personnel.

- *Assisted law enforcement in nearly two dozen communities to safeguard property in evacuated areas.

- *Used heavy equipment to remove sand from roadways and shore up beaches along the Shore.

- *Cleared fallen trees from nearly 100 miles of utility lines.

- *Provided more than 250 hours of helicopter lift to support civil authorities.

- *Operated two mobile kitchens that prepared thousands of meals for first responders and residents.

Gov. Christie said the National Guard brought comfort to residents trying to cope with their loss.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen were a soothing presence in some



Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, right, and the volunteers who helped refurbish the Seaside Park fire house on the one-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. (Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley)

of New Jersey's darkest hours," Christie said. "People felt secure because of our National Guard."

Cunniff said that of all the raw numbers that describe the potency of the National Guard's response to Sandy, the most impressive number was 152, which represents the number of Soldiers and Airmen who elected to remain on duty even though their own homes had suffered storm damage.

"That's the true definition of selfless service," Cunniff said.

New Jersey Army National Guard Brig. Gen. James J. Grant commanded the storm-response task force, which included a total of nearly 3,000 New Jersey National Guard troops as well as National Guard Soldiers from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and active-duty forces from the Army's 10 Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.

"Without a doubt, our young Soldiers and Airmen are part of the next Greatest Generation," Grant said "They consistently put mission first and themselves second."

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, which oversees the National Guard, continued to operate without interruption during Sandy, providing assistance to the state's nearly 420,000 Veterans.

The Department's three Veterans Memorial Homes in Menlo Park, Paramus and Vineland remained open and internments continued at the Brig. Gen. Doyle Memorial Cemetery in North Hanover.



New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen attend a memorial service in Newark on Oct. 29, 2013 in memory of the 71 people killed by Superstorm Sandy. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez)

Cadets are all smiles after dentist visit

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Young, DMAVA/PA

The sound of buzzing drills filled the air at the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy, but it wasn't for building construction, it was dentists reinforcing the foundation of good oral health amongst New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy cadets.

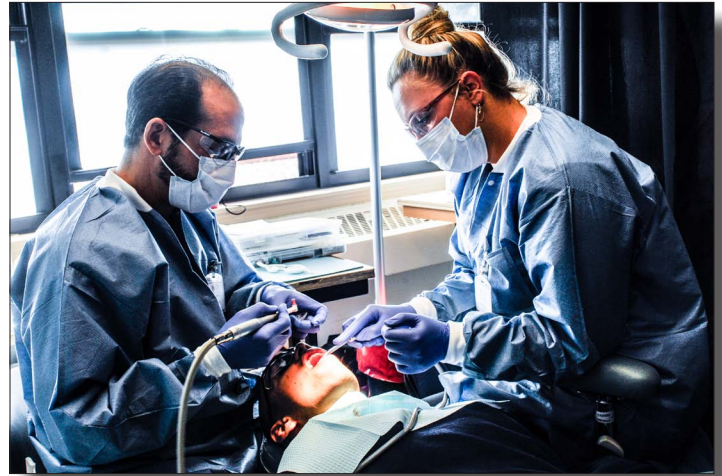
Approximately 130 New Jersey Youth Challenge cadets received on-site dental care at the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The dental care was provided for free by a collaboration of seven dentists and 17 dental assistants from the Oral Health Impact Project and Caplin Family Charities, both programs are a part of the Diversity Outreach Comprehensive Science (DOCS) Initiative.

The DOCS Initiative aims to attract students from underrepresented socio-economic backgrounds to the biomedical science field in preparation for careers in medicine, dentistry and allied health professions.

The New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy had the honor of being the first of all of the Youth Challenge Academies across the country to receive this type of on-site comprehensive dental care.

The staff setup six full-treatment rooms at the Academy's building and performed full and comprehensive care for the cadets, from simple cleanings to oral surgery. Cadets were given bitewing x-rays, and panographs to diagnose their oral health.

Some cadets come from families that didn't have many opportunities to see a dentist, but walked away with invaluable treatments, knowledge of their own overall oral health and goodie bags filled with oral hygiene products.



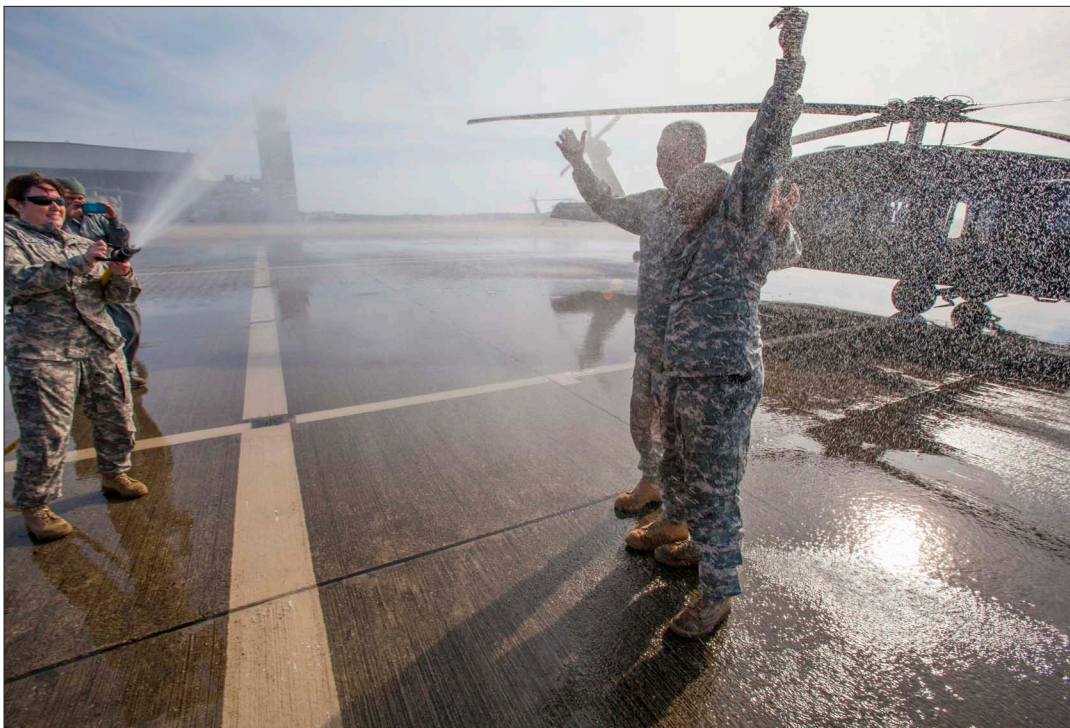
Dr. Lawrence Caplin performs oral surgery on a cadet at the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy on Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst.

Dr. Lawrence Caplin stated, "Our goal is to change behaviors in regards to oral health through community outreach and oral health education."

The Oral Health Impact Project is the only school-based program in the nation that provides comprehensive treatment on location as part of a model that changes the expectations, outcomes and opportunities for underserved children.

Caplin Family Charities has begun to establish Oral Health Academies in underserved communities such as Camden, Philadelphia and Baltimore, in order to provide teens and young adults with the opportunity to study dentistry and oral health.

Caplin Family Charities provides funding for scholarships, internships and externships, and furthering education for underprivileged youth and young adults interested in becoming a dentist, oral hygienist or certified dental assistant.



Final Flight

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kristina S. Sofchak soaks Col. Mark A. Preston and crew chief Sgt. Leroy Metz Jr. following their final flight with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 28, 2013. Preston enlisted in the NJARNG in August 1982 and became a helicopter pilot in January 1988. Metz joined the NJARNG in November 1975 and has served as a crew chief since 1977. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

HIGHLIGHTS

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November 20-24, 2013



Opening Night: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm TICKETS JUST \$15*			
THURSDAY November 21	FRIDAY November 22	SATURDAY November 23	SUNDAY November 24
		11:00 am ♦	
		3:00 pm	1:00 pm
7:00 pm ♦	7:00 pm ♦		5:00 pm
Special pricing only applies to performances highlighted in RED ♦			
Special Pricing: \$25 Regular Ticket Prices: Rinkside \$80 • Gold Circle \$50 • \$30 • \$20			
A \$3.50 per ticket facility fee will apply. Deadline to order: Thursday, November 14, 2013 @ 12:00 PM EST			

November 26-
December 1, 2013



Opening Night: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 7:00 pm TICKETS JUST \$15*				
WEDNES- DAY November 27	THURSDAY November 28	FRIDAY November 29	SATURDAY November 30	SUNDAY December 1
11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am	
		3:00 pm	3:00 pm	
7:00 pm ♦		7:00 pm ♦	7:00 pm ♦	7:30 pm
Special pricing only applies to performances highlighted in RED ♦				
Special Pricing: \$30 Regular Ticket Prices: Rinkside \$85 • Gold Circle \$60 • \$35 • \$25				
A \$1 per ticket facility fee will apply. Deadline to order: Thursday, November 21, 2013 @ 12:00 PM EST				

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Veteran, Military, Law Enforcement and Patriot Related EVENTS
and NEWS in NJ, PA and surrounding areas...



**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS ONLINE AT;
WWW.PATRIOTCONNECTIONS.ORG**

HIGHLIGHTS

JOINT MILITARY AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER



Join us for the...

MILITARY COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR



November 13, 2013
1048 US Highway 206
Bordentown, NJ 08505
3:00– 8:00 PM



Education

Recreation

Mental Health

Medical

Pet Therapy

Disaster Preparedness

Financial

Housing

Raffle Drawings

Transition

Childcare

HealthCare

Veteran Resources

Employment

FREE RESOURCES

Dental

Special Needs

ID Cards(DEERS/RAPIDS)

Child & Youth

Enjoy light refreshments as you meet the Staff and Resources in attendance.

Easter Seals New Jersey Presents

Celebrating Women Who Serve



SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2013 | 1130-1430
AT 3601 FLORIDA AVENUE

Join us for this **special symposium and luncheon** event focusing on serving the "whole person" needs of all **women guard, reservists, service members and veterans.**

Featured panelists moderated by Curtis Consulting Group, LLC include experts from: Be a Hero Hire a Hero, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Easter Seals NJ, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) NJ, Integrative Counseling Solutions, NJ Small Business Development Center, Primerica Financial Services, and Veterans Administration New Jersey Women's Health Program, along with award winning employers. Each offers insights and tips on:

- * De-stressing in Today's Plugged-in World
- * Caregiver Resources
- * Coping with Family Life Issues
- * Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program
- * Women's VA Benefits & Resources
- * Financial Fitness
- * Navigating Your Career Transition
- * Employer Insights for Interview Success
- * Exploring Entrepreneurship

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with the panelists and network with their peers during the luncheon. Each registered participant will receive an Easter Seals bag of information and resources and special gifts!

FREE EVENT!
REGISTER
AT:

<http://esnj.org/womenwhoserve>

For questions or more information, email:
MVScoordinator@nj.easterseals.com
or call: 732/955-8360



This diversity event is made possible by a special grant in support of women guard, reservists and veterans.

SESSIONS BEGIN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 27,
2014 6-7:30 pm/12 participants /session

VETS CHAT & CHEW: A PROGRAM FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Depressed? Stressed? Anxious? Isolated? Trouble Sleeping? Confused about healthy eating? Overweight?

VETS CHAT & CHEW is a program designed to improve the lives of women veterans and active military women

\$20 TRAVELING EXPENSES WILL BE PAID FOR EACH SESSION ATTENDED

Stress makes it difficult for returning women veterans to enter civilian life. Negative experiences often lead to eating disorders, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. **VETS CHAT & CHEW** will help reduce high risk behavior through shared activities that will enhance confidence and promote healthy life style changes.

SESSIONS WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014 6-7:30 PM. Only 12 participants/session

At Keen University
East Campus Building
215 North Ave.
Hillside, NJ 07083
Directions, parking information and room number will be provided later

To reserve a space:
Contact: Anne Burns
Phone: 201-592-1130
E-mail: anneburns@earthlink.net



Six 90 minute sessions, 1x per week, will teach you how to reduce stress, anxiety and depression through the shared activity of creating and sharing a meal together. Healthy, simple recipes and food lifestyle changes will be introduced by a nutrition consultant who will be monitoring the diets of each participant every week for depression, stress and anxiety. Weight loss (if desired) is a side effect of the program. Acupressure and relaxation techniques will be introduced as a way to alleviate depression and anxiety. Counselors will be on hand for advice, if needed. All activities are designed to modify behavior and teach life saving techniques that can be used for the rest of your life.

RECRUIT MILITARY

Career Fair for Veterans

THIS FREE HIRING EVENT IS FOR:

- Veterans
- Transitioning Military Personnel
- National Guard Members
- Reserve Members
- and Spouses



November 7 2013

11:00am - 3:00pm

Lincoln Financial Field

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Philadelphia, PA 19148

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Companies are hiring!

- Job Opportunities
- Continuing Education Opportunities
- Business Ownership Opportunities

For more details visit:
<https://events.recruitmilitary.com>



Produced by RecruitMilitary in cooperation with The American Legion



2013 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Morristown, NJ
3rd/112th Field Artillery Armory
430 Western Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960
November 5, 2013

HIRING FAIR: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 9:00 A.M.

This American Legion-sponsored hiring event is being hosted by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA); conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development; the Morris County Chamber of Commerce; NJ Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3401; NJ AMVETS; the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); the NJ State Parole Board; NJ State Libraries; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News, and other local partners.

EMPLOYERS

Must have available jobs.
Register for **FREE** at HOH.Greatjob.net

JOB SEEKERS

Veterans, Active Duty Military, Members Of Guard and Reserve Components, Military Spouses
Register for **FREE** at HOH.Greatjob.net
WALK-INS WELCOME

A workshop for veterans and military that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 9:00 A.M.

For registration questions, please contact hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202463-5807.



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New Jersey Memorial Veteran's Home at Menlo Park resident, William O'Brien, second from left, and the Home's chief executive officer, Joseph Brandspiegel, second from right, accept a grant check from Monmouth

County USBC Bowling Association representatives, Joanne Ramsey, left, and Robert Hodges, far right. The grant will assist the Home with new equipment and programs for the residents (Courtesy photo)

Menlo Park Veterans' Home Receives Grant from the Sport of Bowling to Support Veterans Recreation Programs

EDISON, N.J. – Because of a nationwide grant program, Veterans Day will be a little bit brighter at the New Jersey Memorial Veteran's Home at Menlo Park.

The Home recently accepted a check in the amount of \$1,996 from the Monmouth County USBC Bowling Association representing the Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL). The grant will be used to support whatever needs the residents of the Home have. Currently, the Home serves Central Jersey area veterans who will benefit from and enjoy the new equipment and programs.

"The sport of bowling, through the BVL, recognizes the tremendous sacrifice that our military veterans have made for our

country," said BVL board chairwoman, Darlene Baker. "Our bowling centers and league bowlers are committed to improving the quality of life for veterans. This gift in New Jersey is just part of our on-going effort to boost the spirits of our veterans, and show them we care."

For more information on the Bowlers to Veterans Link visit their website at www.BowlforVeterans.org.

BVL is a national charity, which raises almost a million dollars annually to fund recreation and therapeutic programs and services for America's veterans. Founded in 1942, the Bowlers to Veterans Link is operated and supported by the sport of bowling.

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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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
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