

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 5, 2014



Capt. Ryan Bailey spends time with his family after the Welcome Home ceremony for the seven Soldiers and one Airman of the Military Advisor Team (MAT) V held at the New Jersey Joint Force Headquarters, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Dec. 2, 2014. MAT V coached, taught and mentored Afghan National Army (ANA) units, served as the conduit for liaison and command and control and, when required, supported the operational planning and employment of the ANA. This was the last Joint MAT deployment with the New Jersey Army National Guard and the Albanian Armed Forces to Afghanistan to train that nation's army. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)





Hammonton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1026 Commander John Griffiee, right, serves a resident at Veterans Haven South during the VFW's annual Christmas Party Dec. 3, 2014. (DMAVA photo by Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Christmas comes early to Vets Haven

Story and photo by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs

At Veterans Haven South, Christmas came 22 days early.

Thirty volunteers from the Veterans of Foreign Wars – Absecon Post 9462, Hammonton Post 1026 and Brigantine Post 6964 cooked and served dinner and distributed gifts to residents Dec. 3.

“This makes their Christmas a little brighter,” said Stuart McCullen of Post 9462 and event chairman.

McCullen’s involvement began several years ago. During a holiday visit to Vets Haven, he saw a resident playing the piano for his visiting son.

“I saw that young kid with his father who was in the program and have been helping since.”

The State VFW has divided New Jersey so that the southern Posts support Vets Haven South in Winslow, while the northern Posts support Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner.

Veteran service organizations like the VFW and their volunteer support for New Jersey’s Veterans Transitional Housing Program are a perfect example of the

“Force Multipliers in action” that Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey speaks of. These Force Multipliers augment the support that state provides the residents of the Veterans Transitional Housing Program.

NEW JERSEY HAS AMONG ITS HOMELESS POPULATION AN ESTIMATED 7,000 TO 8,000 VETERANS. THE RESIDENTS’ AGE AT VETS HAVEN SOUTH RANGE FROM 25 TO 70. THERE ARE SEVERAL IRAQ VETERANS IN THE PROGRAM.

New Jersey has among its homeless population an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 veterans. The residents’ age at Vets Haven South range from 25 to 70. There are several Iraq veterans in the program.

“Veteran service organizations can

mentor the residents – veteran to veteran,” said Albert J. Bucchi, Director, Veteran Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

“These are good people,” said McCullen.

This year, the Posts raised \$1,500, which members of Post 9462 Ladies Auxiliary used to buy the residents gifts. In addition to receiving a bag of toiletries, each resident picked out a gift from four tables heaped with items ranging from shoes, clothing, gloves to shavers and watches.

Deciding what to buy has been a learning process.

“This is my twelfth year and I’ve seen what is and isn’t a hit,” said Donna Wagner, President, Post 9462 Ladies Auxiliary. “The men sometimes pick stuff they can give away as gifts.”

Not all residents were able to attend the dinner.

“Some are at their jobs, while others are school,” said Bucchi.

Those who weren’t able to make it, still receive gifts, no one gets left out.

GUARDING THE STATE



Photo above: Col. Mark Pitefski, left, thanks local Christmas tree growers for supporting the Trees for Troops initiative at the Perfect Christmas Tree Farm during the state Department of Agriculture's annual Christmas Tree Cutting Ceremony in Phillipsburg, Dec. 1, 2014. Trees for Troops is a charity program that donates Christmas trees to service members and their families around the world. (Photo by New Jersey Department of Agriculture) Photo left: Lt. Col. Kyle Lindsay, 177th Fighter Wing Aerospace Control Alert Commander, briefs a group with the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security, visiting the base in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., Nov. 20, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley/Released)

DECADES OF SELFLESS SERVICE

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs

Eileen Foster was hired as a clerk typist at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt on March 3, 1969.

“There wasn’t much there when I started, some trees, some old wooden buildings and that was about it,” Foster recalled recently. Her first office was in a small wooden building that’s now a rental cottage.

As Foster ended her 45 year career with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, all of it at Sea Girt, she recalls that if anything remained constant during her time there, it was change.

The State Police and Department of Corrections moved their initial entry training onto the installation, the post grew into a major training installation for National Guard Soldiers from across the Northeast, and new buildings sprang up across the post.

Foster’s responsibilities and stature in the National Guard grew along with the post. She served nine post commanders with each giving her greater responsibilities, from human resources to finance to logistics.

Foster, who’s looking forward to spending time with her first grandchild in retirement, counts her first helicopter ride and a visit from former Vice President Dick Cheney among her most memorable days at Sea Girt.

But they weren’t the reasons she stayed.

“It was the people,” she said. “All the wonderful people I got to work with over the years. It was a nice career.”

When you work more than 40 years for the same organization, it shows a remarkable amount of loyalty and dedication – the kind you don’t see much anymore.

BRIG. GEN. JAMES GRANT, DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF



Eileen Foster, left, and Sophie Guzikowski were awarded the New Jersey Civilian Meritorious Service Medal by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General.

It was still dark outside the Department of Military Affairs Headquarters in Lawrenceville. There was no heat or power and the building looked like the set of a disaster movie. Hurricane Sandy had passed through only a few hours before, shattering windows and blowing apart one of the rear doors, leaving glass scattered across the back veranda.

A solitary figure made her way across the empty parking lot. It was Sophie Guzikowski. When a passerby asked Guzikowski how she’d made it to work on the largely impassable roads, she didn’t answer.

She just shrugged and smiled: “The phones are down, I want to get them fixed.”

That’s been the veteran telecom manager’s work ethic for 43 years.

“She’s the hardest working person in the department,” said her supervisor, Dave Snedeker, the chief of DMAVA’s information services division. “She’s the first one here every morning and the last one to leave. It’s been that way the whole time she’s been here.”

Guzikowski left the building as a DMAVA employee for a final time on Dec. 4 and headed off to a well-earned retirement.

She plans to spend time with her children and grandchildren and help her husband with their pride and joy, their garden.

“I will miss everyone here very much,” Guzikowski said. “The people here are the most wonderful people in the world.”

DMAVA NEWS



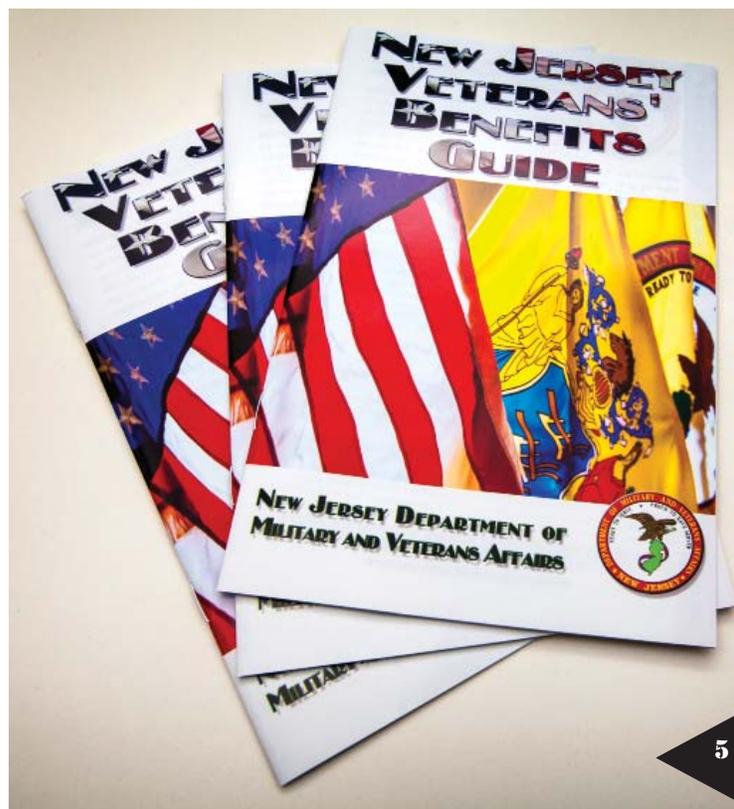
Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Carlos Rodriguez, the executive director of the FoodBank of Ocean and Monmouth counties pack food items for distribution to needy families Nov. 26, 2014. Cunniff, the commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran Affairs spent the day at the nonprofit organization that distributed meals to more than 130,000 people last year. (DMAVA photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley/Released)

Veterans Benefits Guide available

The second edition of the New Jersey Veterans' Benefits Guide has just been published. The New Jersey Department of military and Veterans Affairs publication details the numerous benefits, as well as contact information for services available to the New Jersey veterans community.

Some of the areas covered include VA health care benefits, health care for women veterans, Vet-to Vet – New Jersey's program that addresses the readjustment problems of veterans and the treatment programs available to them, homeless support and New Jersey's Transitional Housing Program (see story on page 2 for more information about the program), New Jersey tax and property benefits, employment, veterans preference, service organizations and their contact information, business opportunities, education, State awards and veterans' healthcare and New Jersey's state-of-the-art nursing homes.

Copies of the publication can be picked up at the Veterans Outreach locations (see the back cover of Highlights for dates and locations).





Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

<p>Brigadier General Steven Ferrari, Director 609-530-6967 Donna Myers, Sec 609-530-6766 Ernie Razzano, Health Professions Recruiter 609-530-6767 Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator 609-530-6979 Vacant, Admin Analyst 609-530-6940 Fax: 609-530-6970</p>	<p>Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO Jennifer Pajak, Sec 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016</p>	<p>Paramus Veterans Memorial Home Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658</p>	<p>Vineland Veterans Memorial Home Boris Reissek, CEO Sharon Davis, Sec 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714</p>
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Veterans Services (DVS)

<p>Albert J. Bucchi, Director 609-530-6962 Cheryl A. Henderson, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075</p>	<p>Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424 Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404 Cyndi Dzurisin, Interment Office Supervisor, – 609-738-2407 Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard, – 609-758-7505 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169 Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials Joseph Arroyo & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490</p>	<p>Vietnam Veterans Memorial 1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107 Korean Memorial Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 War World II Memorial W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608</p>	<p>Veterans Haven South Walter Nail, Supt – 609-561-4948 Vacant, Asst, Supt – 609-567-3715 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow, NJ 08095 609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186</p>	<p>Veterans Haven North Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960 Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101 Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990</p>
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<p>State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6842 Marisol Meyer, Education Prog Asst – 609-530-6849 Lynn Yesalonia, State Admin – 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948 Fax: 609-530-7196</p>	<p>Veterans Benefits Bureau Patricia A. Richter, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6949 Elizabeth Schofield, Prin Staff Officer – 609-530-6954 Paul Kale, Staff Asst – 609-530-6826 Cynthia Barnes, Sec – 609-530-6868 Michele Johnson, Sec – 609-530-7035 Fax: 609-530-6970</p>	<p>Veterans Service Offices Chris Kulkosky, VSO Training Officer – 609-530-7050 Joseph Bucco, State Supervisor – 609-530-6830 Christopher Wambach, State Supervisor – 609-530-6863 Joseph E. Nyzio, VSO – 609-530-6857 VA Regional Office/Philadelphia Vacant, VSO – 215-381-3033 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144</p>
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<p>Atlantic City/Cape May Edmond Famiglietti, VSO Vacant, Sec 1008 Absecon Boulevard, Atlantic City 08401-1999 ~ (Atlantic City Army) 609-441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p>Bergen/Passaic Richard Mannes, VSO Titus Osuagwu, Sec 125 Slate Street, Suite 109, Hackensack 07601-5435 201-996-8050/8051 Fax: 201-996-8009</p>	<p>Burlington Charles Piscopo, VSO Bernadette Whitman, Sec 555 High Street, Suite 6A, Mt. Holly 08060 609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275</p>
<p>Camden/Gloucester Joseph Frost, VSO Diane Rosci, Sec 658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 ~ (Woodbury Army) 856-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p>Essex/Union Lorena Huggins, VSO Helen Banks, Sec 20 Washington Place, Room 431, Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3336 Fax: 973-642-0830</p>	<p>Hudson Vacant, VSO Vacant, Sec 678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 ~ (Jersey City Army) 201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>
<p>Mercer William McDonnell, VSO Theresa Tomecheck, Sec 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 ~ (Lawrenceville Army) 609-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698</p>	<p>Middlesex/Somerset Joseph Battito, VSO Vacant, Sec 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 ~ (Somerset Army) 732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (closed alternate Fridays)</p>	<p>Monmouth Robert Brown, VSO Rita Hyland, Sec 630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904 732-775-7009/7005 Fax: 732-775-3612</p>
<p>Newark Liaison/VA Regional Office Robert Maulano, VSO Michael Dorobis, Sec 20 Washington Place, Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3230 Fax: 973-648-2356</p>	<p>Ocean Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO Iris Perez, Sec James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic 970 Route 70, Brick 08724-3550 732-840-3033/3034 Fax: 732-840-0399</p>	<p>Salem/Cumberland Leigh R. Pottle, VSO Vacant, VSO Catherine Raniolo, Sec 524 Northwest Boulevard, Vineland 08360-2895 856-405-4388/4390/4389 Fax: 856-696-6499</p>
<p>Sussex/Morris William Robinson, VSO 479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 ~ (Dover Army) 973-366-0245/6347 Fax: 973-366-0360</p>	<p>Warren/Hunterdon *Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman Lisa Szymanski, Sec 550 A Route 57, Port Murray 07865-9482 908-689-5840/5845 Fax: 908-689-5879 *Flemington, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, 08822 (Wednesday) 908-284-6146</p>	<p><small>NJ VETS LIST – (October 2014)</small></p>



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This program provides skill-building sessions and fun family activities that will help:

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 - Encourage good behavior
 - Protect against substance abuse
- Youth (ages 9-14)
 - Deal with stress
 - Handle Peer Pressure
- Family
 - Build family communication



MILITARY FAMILY NIGHTS PROGRAM
Ideal for families with children 9-14 years old
Program Details

- 7-session program 6-8:00 pm Monday Evenings
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- Dinner is provided every night from 6 to 6:30
- Free professional childcare for children ages 3-8
- Gift Card Incentives for attendance up to \$150

PROGRAM DATES: DEC. 8 & 15

TO REGISTER or for more information contact:
Joe Conlin @609-261-0001 joeconlin@prevplus.org




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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Layout, photographer
Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer



UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Mount Laurel Library
100 Walt Whitman Avenue
Mount Laurel, N.J. 08054
Dec. 12: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

177th Fighter Wing
Bldg 229 , 400 Langley Road
Egg Harbor Twp, N.J. 08234
Dec. 9: 12 - 4 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Jersey City Armory
678 Montgomery St.
Jersey City, N.J. 07306
Dec. 11, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Dec. 18: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Contact: Darrel Hutchinson, (646) 354-0126

Army Community Service
Bldg 119
Dover, N.J. 07806
Dec. 12: 1 - 3 p.m.
Contact: Darrel Hutchinson, (646) 354-0126

Camden County Veterans Affairs
3 Collier Dr.-Lakeland Complex
Blackwood, N.J. 08012
Dec. 8, 15: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (hourly)
Contact: Wil Acosta, (646) 300-1312

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

Winter generator safety

Did You Know?

Winter storm season is upon us. Many people use backup generators to heat and light their homes when the power goes out. Remember to never use a generator indoors or in an attached garage.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, after Hurricane Katrina, the misuse of the portable power sources killed at least five people and injured 40 more due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Be sure to place the generator outside where exhaust fumes will not enter into enclosed spaces.

For more generator safety tips, check out www.consumerenergycenter.org/tips/generators.

If you would like more information about DMAVA's energy and water conservation efforts, contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov

DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN



DEC. 10: DMAVA Medal Ceremony
"ANMAC" VFW Post #6253 – Berlin (11 a.m.)

Hosted by Vietnam Veterans of America Southern New Jersey Chapter #1068

34 Chestnut Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009

Jan. 13 & 14, 2015: DMAVA

"Veterans Outreach Campaign"

Quaker Bridge Mall (10 a.m. – 8 p.m.)

150 Quaker Bridge Mall, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

DMAVA WILL HAVE A VSO PRESENT AT EACH EVENT TO HELP AND ASSIST ANY VETERAN

E-mail your Highlights submissions to:
mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov



STRONG BONDS

When: January 30 – February 1, 2015

What: Active Military Life and Resiliency Skills

Where: The Hotel ML
915 Route 73
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054



*Water Park is included for the entire family.

To find out more on Strong Bonds, contact Sgt. John Schwartz (609) 324-7039 or visit www.strongbonds.org
(ALL DEPENDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED IN DEERS)