


NJDMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 7, 2015



Guard and Reserve EOD teams clear Range

Story by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht
Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen
New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Joe Coates, 177th Explosive Ordnance Disposal, unrolls explosive cutting tape across a row of inert BDU-50, 500-pound practice bombs.

Explosive ordnance disposal Airmen from the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron were joined by fellow EOD Airmen from the Air Force Reserve to perform the annual range clearance at Warren Grove Gunnery Range in Ocean County, N.J.

Beginning on April 28, the range went quiet, letting Airmen retrieve all the ordnance that was dropped at the Range during

the past year.

EOD and range personnel used military vehicles, construction equipment and all-terrain vehicles to clear the target areas for training purposes.

“We come up to the range to clear it of all hazards,” said Master Sgt. David Niedzwiadek, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the New Jersey Air National Guard’s 177th Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. “It is good training and also a real world operation, the way we make these large bombs safe. The annual clearance ensures the bombing range can be used safely by military personnel.”

On May 1, the Airmen rendered safe – a controlled detonation operation – by performing a series of three detonations using shape charges on 30

inert BDU-50s, 500-pound practice bombs and two cartridges from BDU-33s, 25-pound practice bombs, for future recycling.

The detonations were part of a joint venture between the 177th and the Air Force Reserve’s 514th Explosive Ordnance Disposal shop.

We actually work with the 177th EOD guys often,” said Master Sgt. Dustin Heines, from the 514th Air Mobility Wing. “EOD is one and the same, it doesn’t matter if you are Guard, Reserve or Active Duty, we’re all here to help each other.”

For more EOD photos, click on either photo to go to the New Jersey National Guard Facebook page.

Cover photo

A section of a BDU-50, 500-pound practice bomb is blown into the air after being wrapped lengthwise with explosive cutting tape during a joint render safe operation at Warren Grove Gunnery Range, N.J., May 1, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Tech. Sgt. John F. Hurley Jr., center, 177th Explosive Ordnance Disposal, wraps explosive cutting tape around an inert BDU-50, during a joint render safe operation with EOD Airmen from the 177th and the 514th Air Mobility Wing EOD, Air Force Reserve.

SVO increases awareness of Veterans' issues

By Donna Clementoni, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

There are more than 500 veterans and military reservists enrolled at Stockton University in Pomona, New Jersey. They bring to the campus a different perspective than the typical student.

Many of the veterans have seen combat – some carry with them the physical and emotional scars of their military service. More than twenty-five percent of the university's veteran students are part of America's ready reserve.

Military Times named Stockton University as one of the top military-friendly universities in the nation. Members of the school's Student Veterans Organization attribute this distinction to the leadership of Tom O'Donnell, the Assistant Dean of Students and Veteran Affairs as well as recently retired President Herman J. Saatkamp.

At an awards banquet at the Seaview Hotel and Golf Club on May 1, the SVO awarded Saatkamp with the 1st annual "Doing the Right Thing" award. The award exemplifies Saatkamp's passionate and consistent answer to why he was supporting veteran initiatives: "Because it's the right thing."

Pat Carney, 30, the newly elected President of the Student Veteran's Organization (SVO), was forced to separate from the Army after eight years of military service as a result of combat related injuries. After emerging from 'the darkest place' and enrolling at Stockton to complete his bachelor's degree, he realized that he could still use the leadership skills he acquired from the military in his civilian (and student) life. The former staff sergeant said, "All I ever did every day was try to take care of my guys, now I can still take care of my guys!" His first position with the SVO was as a Veteran Support Officer.

After receiving the April Christine Kauffman Award for Veteran Advocacy at the evening's ceremony, Carney, once again, proved his commitment to veteran causes. The next day he joined fellow SVO members in Media, Pa., in support of Operation First Response's "Walk for the Wounded" where he was a guest speaker.

The Organization also seeks to increase awareness in the Stockton community about Veterans issues.

In recognition of April being Veteran Suicide Awareness Month, each morning for the entire month, members of Stockton's SVO placed 22 flags in front of the Cam-



Pat Carney, second from left, president, Student Veteran's Organization, along with SVO members place American flags, in recognition of the 22 Veterans who commit suicide each day, in front of the Campus Center at Stockton University during Veteran Suicide Awareness Month in April. (Courtesy photo)

pus Center. This is based on the statistic that each day, 22 veterans commit suicide.

By the end of the month, through a silent but powerful display, the 660 flags on the lawn helped students, faculty and staff, feel the pain of the Veterans' loss of their comrades.

Accompanied by a powerful YouTube video entitled "22 Shades of Green," the University community named the SVO's awareness campaign the 'program of the year.' O'Donnell praised the group stating: "It was the most outstanding grass-

roots program I have ever seen on a university campus."

Equally important, the SVO member's impressive commitment to our country and their presence on the campus has extended to their civilian counterparts who wanted to emulate their leadership and be a part of their organization. This year, an SVO Auxiliary was established.

On the battlefield, around campus or in the community, Stockton University SVO members maintain their commitment to their battle buddies and their country.

Volunteers serve

Lisa Williams, left, activities director, New Jersey State Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland, accepts a \$500 check from Frank Tyler, commander, Catholic War Veterans Post 1578 of Bridgeton during the Home's Annual Volunteer Luncheon April 22, 2015. The Luncheon was held to honor the individuals and organizations who donated 24,014 hours to the residents of the long term care facility. Those volunteer hours equates to more than \$622,000 dollars in manpower saved. The Vineland home has 242 supporting organizations that provided 245 trips to community events and facilities along with granting 335 wishes under the Second Wind Dreams Program. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)





*Brigadier General Michael L. Cunniff
The Adjutant General
New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs*

Cordially invites you to attend the

*Annual Memorial
Day Ceremony*

On Saturday, 23 May 2015, at 10:30 am

At the

*BG William C. Doyle Veterans
Memorial Cemetery
350 Provinceline Road
Wrightstown, NJ 08562-2206*

SERVING OUR VETERANS

Ground broken

A ground breaking ceremony was held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Holmdel, N.J., May 3, 2015, left to right, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Raymond Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Helen Gurbisz, New Jersey Gold Star Family Monument Foundation; Army Support Activity-Fort Dix Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Anderson and Ken Gurbisz, break ground for the Gold Star Monument. Parents of fallen Army Capt. James Gurbisz, Ken and Helen Gurbisz were selected to lead the effort to build the monument by the New Jersey Run for the Fallen board of trustees. Ken Gurbisz said the monument will not only serve to



honor the families of the fallen, but also to educate New Jersey residents about the sacrifices Gold Star family members have made. The monument will serve as a place of remembrance and reflection for those who have lost loved ones in service to the nation. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Addison/Released)



Veterans visit Statue of Liberty

Approximately 80 veterans from Veterans Haven South and North pose for a group photo during a visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island April 22, 2015. For many, this was the first time they had visited either monument. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' two transitional housing facilities, Veterans Haven-North in Glen Gardner, Hunterdon County, and Veterans Haven-South in Winslow Township, Camden County, provide long-term rehabilitation services and employment training for its residents. This trip was made possible through donations to both facilities from various veteran service organizations and individuals. (Courtesy photo)

OUTREACH AND OPPORTUNITY

THE NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy's mission is to provide a highly disciplined environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who have ceased to attend high school.

For more information contact:

NJ Youth ChalleNGe
Academy
5910 West 16th Street
Fort Dix, NJ 08640
(609) 562-0577



ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

The New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy is looking for mentors.

Success is a team effort. We are seeking caring, responsible adults who will help guide, motivate and support a cadet within the program and beyond.

Mentors make a 17 month commitment to a Cadet to serve as a positive role model and friend. Mentors pledge to maintain on-going contact with his or her Cadet: letters, e-mails, phone calls, and visitation.

At a minimum, mentors have two face-to-face contacts with Cadets monthly.

After attending a required training, mentors will be equipped with the skills to provide guidance, give input, evaluate changes and provide encouragement necessary to help at-risk youth set life goals and plan for a positive future.

For more information, contact the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy at (609) 562-0577 or by email: rpm@dmava.nj.gov

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

Home energy audit can save you money

A home energy audit helps you discover where your home is losing energy and is the first step to saving energy and money. During an audit, a professional home energy auditor will assess your home's energy usage and recommend ways to reduce your bills. You could save five to 30 percent in energy costs by implementing efficiency upgrades identified during an audit.

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities offers the "Home Performance with ENERGY STAR" program where you can get a home energy audit completed for free (depending on which contractor you use). If you choose to implement the recommended efficiency upgrades, you may be eligible for rebates up to \$5,000 and a zero percent interest loan to help offset your costs. Learn more at: <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/residential/home/home>

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

In honor of Sergeant Samuel Nutter, a former member of the New Jersey Army National Guard.



11th
Annual



5K at Sea Girt, NJ

6 June 2015, 11am at Sea Girt, NJ

National Guard Training Center

Registration 8:00 - 10:30 am. Race starts 11am.

Join us for a day of music, entertainment, food, refreshments, games, activities, raffles and prizes! All proceeds to benefit member(s) of service.

Register Online Today!

www.sgtnutterrun.org

The SGT Samuel Nutter Organization, Inc

Headquarters 254th Regiment

P.O. Box 277 Sea Girt, NJ 08750

Contact email: njocsc58@gmail.com

HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

Military Appreciation Day

Place: Casino Pier, Seaside Heights
800 Ocean Terrace
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2015
Time: 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. for bracelet pick-up
Waterpark opens at 10 a.m.

Rain Date: Please check “NJ State Family Programs” on Facebook for information. Changes will be made by the State Family Programs Office and will be posted on their Facebook page. Please **DO NOT** call the Casino Pier.

Soldiers/Airmen and Family members of the N.J. National Guard are cordially invited to attend “Military Appreciation Day” at the New Jersey Shore.

You will be required to show a Uniformed Services Military ID to obtain waterpark bracelets for you and your dependants only. Friends and extended family members will not receive bracelets.

** Check in through the side entrance of the Breakwater Beach Waterpark on 800 Ocean Terrace off Grant Avenue between 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

** Waterpark opens at 1000 hours.

** Each Military Family will receive a debit card (one) worth \$25.00 to be used to play games at the Casino Pier. (slot machines, ski ball, pin ball games)

Thank you for serving our Country!



PRESENTS



1ST ANNUAL WALKING IN MY BOOTS WALKATHON

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for a walkathon for all ages to raise funds and awareness for Veterans living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - PTSD



**WARINANCO PARK
SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015**

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM WALK BEGINS AT 10 AM

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL LEVELS

For more information contact Janna Williams
at (908) 590-3869 or Vet4u2@gmail.com

IN COOPERATION WITH



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!



Veterans Outreach Campaign

May 9
New Jersey State
History Fair
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monmouth Battle-
field State Park –
Manalapan
16 Route-33-Br,
Manalapan, NJ
07726

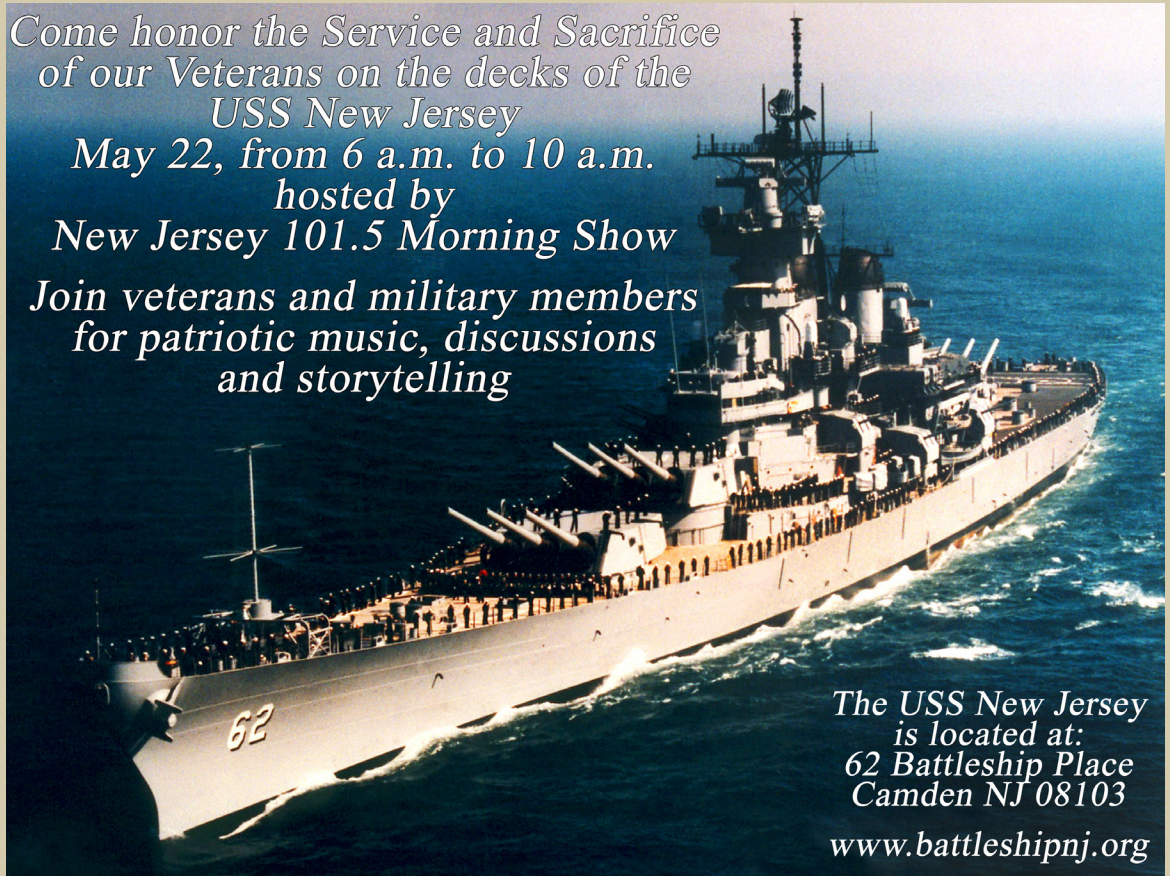
May 19
DMAVA Medal
Ceremony
11 a.m.
American Legion
Post # 170 Rochelle
Park
33 West Passaic
Street, Rochelle
Park, NJ 07662

Come honor the Service and Sacrifice
of our Veterans on the decks of the
USS New Jersey

May 22, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.
hosted by

New Jersey 101.5 Morning Show

Join veterans and military members
for patriotic music, discussions
and storytelling



The USS New Jersey
is located at:
62 Battleship Place
Camden NJ 08103

www.battleshipnj.org

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

PO Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or www.state.nj.us/military



Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs (609-530-7062)
Laura Branham, Executive Secretarial Assistant (609-530-7045)
Chuck Robbins, Assistant to DCVA/Outreach Coordinator (609-530-6855)

Fax: 609-530-7191

Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

Brigadier General Steven Ferrari, Director 609-530-6967 Donna Myers, Sec 609-530-6766 Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator 609-530-6979 Fax: 609-530-6970	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	Paramus Veterans Memorial Home Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658	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
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Veterans Services (DVS)

Albert J. Bucchi, Director 609-530-6962 Cheryl A. Henderson, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075	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	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	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	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
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State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6842 Marisol Meyer, Education Prog Asst – 609-530-6849 Lynn Yesalonja, State Admin – 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948 Fax: 609-530-7196	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	Veterans Service Offices 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 Wissachickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144
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)	Bergen/Passaic Richard Mannes, VSO Titus Osuagwu, Sec 125 State Street, Suite 109, Hackensack 07601-5435 201-996-8050/8051 Fax: 201-996-8009	Burlington Charles Piscopo, VSO Bernadette Whitman, Sec 555 High Street, Suite 6A, Mt. Holly 08060 609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275
Camden/Gloucester Joseph Frost, VSO Diane Rosci, Sec 658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 ~ (Woodbury Army) 609-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698	Essex/Union Robert Maulano, VSO Vacant, Sec 20 Washington Place, Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3230 Fax: 973-648-2356	Hudson Vacant, VSO (Robert Maulano-Tuesday/Thursday) Michael Dorobis, Sec 678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 ~ (Jersey City Army) 201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed alternate Fridays)
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	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)	Monmouth Robert Brown, VSO Rita Hyland, Sec 630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904 732-775-7009/7005 Fax: 732-775-3612
Newark Liaison/VA Regional Office Lorena Huggins, VSO Helen Banks, Sec 20 Washington Place, Room 431 Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3336 Fax: 973-642-0830	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	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
Sussex/Morris William Robinson, VSO 479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 ~ (Dover Army) 973-366-0245/8347 Fax: 973-366-0360 (closed alternate Fridays) *Sussex, 12 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin , 07416 (Thursday/Friday) 973-827-4020 Fax: 973-827-4024 ~ (Franklin Army)	Warren/Hunterdon *Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman Lisa Szymanski, Sec 200 Sanatorium Road, Glen Gardner , NJ 08826 908-537-0831/0832 Fax: 908-537-0833 *Flemington, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington , 08822 (Wednesday) 908-284-6146	Southern Ocean County Resource Center Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO (Thursday only) 179 South Main Street (Route 9) Manahawkin, NJ 08050 609-978-5895 Fax: 609-978-6446

**E-mail your Highlights
submissions to:
[mark.olsen@dmava.
nj.gov](mailto:mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov)
by close of business
Wednesday**



The US Family Health Plan has been a trusted partner of the Military Healthcare System for more than 30 years.

We provide the TRICARE Prime option to service families and retirees.

US Family Health Plan contracts with over 12,000 physicians.

For more information on our plan, visit us @ usfhp.net



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