

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

July 14, 2016



FLY RAVEN, FLY

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey National Guard



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Schaefer, 254th Regiment (Combat Arms), New Jersey Army National Guard, launches a RQ-11B Raven small unmanned aircraft system at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 11, 2016. **Below:** Staff Sgt. John Finamore, 254th Regiment (Combat Arms), inspects a Raven before launching it. **Left:** The Raven provides real-time reconnaissance and target information, is hand-launched, has a wingspan of 4.5 feet, weighs less than five pounds and can fly for up to 80 minutes.



Cover: Raven training

Staff Sgt. John Finamore, 254th Regiment (Combat Arms), New Jersey Army National Guard, launches a RQ-11B Raven small unmanned aircraft system at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 11, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen/Released)



NJNG Youth Camp in 22nd year

Photos by the 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



The New Jersey National Guard held its annual Youth Camp at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt, N.J., from July 10-16. This marks the 22nd year the NJNG Family Programs has ran the encampment. From the opening to closing ceremonies, more than 120 campers enjoyed a variety of activities including sports, arts and crafts, swimming, and archery along with special activities highlighting health and fitness, substance abuse and child safety.



VA CONDUCTS LARGEST ANALYSIS OF VETERAN SUICIDE

From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs has undertaken the most comprehensive analysis of Veteran suicide rates in the U.S., examining over 55 million Veteran records from 1979 to 2014 from every state in the nation. The effort extends VA's knowledge from the previous report issued in 2010, which examined three million Veteran records from 20 states were available. Based on the data from 2010, VA estimated the number of Veteran deaths by suicide averaged 22 per day. The current analysis indicates that in 2014, an average of 20 Veterans a day died from suicide.

The final report will be publicly released later this month. Key findings of the analysis will include:

- 65 percent of all Veterans who died from suicide in 2014 were 50 years of age or older.
- Veterans accounted for 18 percent of all deaths from suicide among U.S. adults. This is a decrease from 22 percent in 2010.
- Since 2001, U.S. adult civilian suicides increased 23 percent, while Veteran suicides increased 32 percent in the same time period. After controlling for age and gender, this makes the risk of suicide 21 percent greater for Veterans.
- Since 2001, the rate of suicide among US Veterans who use VA services increased by 8.8 percent, while the rate of suicide among Veterans who do not use VA services increased by 38.6 percent.
- In the same time period, the rate of suicide among male Veterans who use VA services increased 11 percent, while the rate of suicide increased 35 percent among male Veterans who do not use VA services.
- In the same time period, the rate of suicide among female Veterans who use VA services increased 4.6 percent, while the rate of suicide increased 98 percent among female Veterans who do not use VA services.

VA is aggressively undertaking a number of new measures to prevent suicide, including:

- Ensuring same-day access for Veterans with urgent mental health needs at over 1,000 points of care by the end of calendar year 2016. In fiscal year 2015, more than 1.6 million Veterans received mental health treatment from VA, including at over 150 medical centers, 820 community-based outpatient clinics and 300 Vet Centers that provide readjustment counseling. Veterans also enter VA health care through the Veterans Crisis Line, VA staff on college and university campuses, or other outreach points.

Using predictive modeling to determine which Veterans may be at highest risk of suicide, so providers can intervene early. Veterans in the top 0.1 percent of risk, who have a 43-fold increased risk of death from suicide within a month, can be identified before clinical signs of suicide are evident in order to save lives before a crisis occurs.

- Expanding telemental health care by establishing four new regional telemental health hubs across the VA healthcare system.
- Hiring more than 60 new crisis intervention responders for the Veterans Crisis Line. Each responder receives intensive training on a wide variety of topics in crisis intervention, substance use disorders, screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment.
- Building new collaborations between Veteran programs in VA and those working in community settings, such as Give an



Hour, Psych Armor Institute, University of Michigan's Peer Advisors for Veterans Education Program (PAVE), and the Cohen Veterans Network.

- Creating stronger inter-agency (e.g. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health) and new public-private partnerships (e.g., Johnson & Johnson Healthcare System, Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, Walgreen's, and many more) focused on preventing suicide among Veterans.

Many of these efforts were catalyzed by the VA's February 2016 Preventing Veteran Suicide—A Call to Action summit, which focused on improving mental health care access for Veterans across the nation and increasing resources for the VA Suicide Prevention Program.

Suicide is an issue that affects all Americans. Recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data reported in April 2016 that from 1999 through 2014 (the most recent year with data available from CDC), suicide rates increased 24 percent in the general population for both males and females.

VA has implemented comprehensive, broad ranging suicide prevention initiatives, including a toll-free Veterans Crisis Line, placement of Suicide Prevention Coordinators at all VA Medical Centers and large outpatient facilities, and improvements in case management and tracking.

Immediate help is available at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net or by calling the Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or texting 838255.

THINKING OF STARTING OR GROWING YOUR BUSINESS?



THE AMERICAN LEGION, VBOC OF NYC & NJ AND THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PRESENT A FREE, ONE DAY PROGRAM WITH A COMPREHENSIVE 8 WEEK ON-LINE COURSE FOR VETERANS WHO WANT TO START, EXPAND OR PURCHASE A SMALL BUSINESS.

THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT:

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 129 LOCATED AT 2025 CHURCH RD,
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AUGUST 2, 2016**

**FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM – REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED AT NO COST
COURTESY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 129**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY JULY 26, 2016

Registration Link:

<http://boots2business.org/rebootapply/>

For Questions Contact:

Gene Spillane, SBA Veterans Small Business Outreach Officer
Eugene.Spillane@SBA.gov / 973-645-2427



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



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

Fax: 609-530-7191

Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

Colonel Edward J. Chrystal Jr., 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 Allison Bailey, Acting CEO Sharon Frye, 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 Cynthia Barnes, 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, Internment 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 Nall, Supt. – 609-561-4948 Vacant, Asst. Supt. – 609-567-3715 Carisa Shufford, Admin. Receptionist 609-561-4990 ext. 120 301 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 Vacant, 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 Charles Piscopo, VSO – (Mon., Wed., Alternate Fridays) 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 856-853-4184/4185/4186
Atlantic City/Cape May Vacant, VSO Sherri Morris, Sec 1008 Absecon Boulevard, Atlantic City 08401-1999 ~ (Atlantic City Armory) 609-441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 (closed alternate Fridays)	Bergen/Passaic Joseph Restivo, VSO Titus Osuagwu, Sec 125 State Street, Suite 109, Hackensack 07601-5435 201-996-8050/8051 Fax: 201-996-8009	Burlington Matthew Still, VSO Vacant, Sec 555 High Street, Suite 6A, Mt. Holly 08060 609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275
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Mercer William McDonnell, VSO Theresa Tomecheck, Sec 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 ~ (Lawrenceville Armory) 609-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698	Middlesex/Somerset Joseph Battito, VSO Vacant, Sec 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 ~ (Somerset Armory) 732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (closed alternate Fridays)	Monmouth Peter J. Midgley, VSO Rita Hyland, Sec 630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904 732-775-7009/7005 Fax: 732-775-3612
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Sussex/Morris William Robinson, VSO 479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 ~ (Dover Armory) 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 Armory)	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 Vacant-VSO 179 South Main Street (Route 9) Manahawkin, NJ 08050 609-978-5895 Fax: 609-978-6446

Petrera to lead 254th

Col. John K. Petrera, second from right, receives the guidon of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) from Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, second from left, the Deputy Adjutant General, during a Change of Command ceremony at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 10, 2016. (Courtesy photo)



Scholarship for wounded guardsmen

The National Guard Education Foundation is offering scholarship grants to current or former National Guard members wounded in an operational or training mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ngef.org/the-van-hipp-heroes-scholarship-fund/>



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<http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/vet2vet/>

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VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE
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July 27, 11 a.m.

New Jersey Korean War Memorial
Brighton Park Amphitheatre and the Boardwalk
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

"VETTE TO VET NIGHT"

Sept. 9, 5 – 8 p.m.

Chatterbox Restaurant,
1 State Route 15
Augusta, NJ 07822)

**VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN & MEDAL
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Sept. 20-21

10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Daily

DMAVA medal ceremony Sept. 20 at 11 a.m. at Center
Court

Bridgewater Commons Mall
400 Commons Way
Bridgewater, NJ, 08807

Highlights submissions deadline 4 p.m.
Wednesday: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov



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