

The answer to last week's riddle was: Rain or thunderstorm

This week's riddle is very well hidden in the newsletter (you have to find it).

The State Family Programs Office is available 24-7. Listed below are the office and cell numbers of our staff:

CPT Amy Glatz – State Family Programs Director

**Office: 609-562-0668
Cell: 609-847-6449**

Marie Durling – Family Programs Specialist

**Office: 609-562-0739
Cell: 609-802-7606**

Rich Miller – Family Programs Specialist

Office: 609-562-0636

Doug Ridgway – Family Readiness Assistant

**Office: 609-562-0557
Cell: 609-385-6251**

Amanda Balas – State Youth Coordinator

**Office: 609-562-0742
Cell: 609-802-5751**

CHAPLAIN HOTLINE

**609-694-0635
609-802-7779
609-802-8125**

NIKE Discount

All Nike US Retail brick and mortar locations (except Employee Stores) offer a 10% transaction discount to all active/retired/reservist US military personnel and their families. Eligible US military personnel and family members will receive the discount with a valid US military ID.

To whom does this discount apply?

All active/retired/reserve US military personnel and their families. Eligible US military personnel and family members will receive the discount when they present a valid US military ID.

Does this discount apply to members of the National Guard, even if they are not deployed to active duty?

Yes, the discount applies to members of the National Guard (or other branches) and their families regardless of whether they are deployed to active duty or not.

Mortgage Assistance

Mortgage Difficulties and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) provides a wide range of protections for servicemembers. It is intended to postpone or suspend certain civil obligations to allow servicemembers to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on themselves and their families. Some of these protections could help servicemembers who face difficulties meeting their mortgage payments. Whether these protections are available generally depends on when the servicemember bought the property in question. That is, did the servicemember become obligated under the mortgage before or after entering active duty?

Many SCRA protections only apply when active duty military service has had a “material effect”

on the servicemembers’ ability to pay. “Material effect” generally means the servicemembers are less well off financially because of active duty. That could be because they make less money or have more expenses.

Servicemembers who are having any financial difficulties with their mortgages—or are having any legal problems—are strongly encouraged to seek free legal assistance at a military installation right away. A locator service can be reached at this Web site:

<http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php>

DD Form 214

Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty, DD Form 214

One of the most important documents you’ll receive when you retire is your Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty. The DD Form 214 enables you to participate in VA, state and federal programs. Once you receive your document, keep the original in a safe, fireproof location and get certified copies made that you can use to apply for benefits and jobs. Never submit your original to an agency or employer. Because of the recent increase in identity theft, it is recommended that you register your DD Form 214 with the county only if your county recorder or town hall can ensure, to your satisfaction, that the document is protected from unauthorized access.

The DD 214 is the standard separation document of the United States Military. Previous to the DD 214 there were various other Separation Documents. They are all referred to now as DD 214. There are many versions of this document, but the general document can be examined in the copy of the DD 214 above. Do not confuse the Discharge Certificate with the DD 214, these are two separate documents. The Discharge Certificate is for hanging on your wall, it has no official status as a document to prove military service. Only the DD 214 or its replacement (Certificate of Service) is accepted by the Military, the Social Security Administration or the Veterans Administration to prove military service. The DD 214 is the document you need for verification of employment, VA loans etc. We can get any military DD214.

The report of separation form issued in most recent years is the DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Before January 1, 1950, several similar forms were used by the military services, including the WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD, and the NAVCG 553.

THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT (UOCAVA)

Announcement Text: To allow the following U.S. citizens to vote absentee:

- **Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services (on active duty) and merchant marine,**
- **Their family members, and**
- **U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.**

Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services or merchant marine and their family members may vote absentee while away from their place of voting residence, wherever stationed, inside or outside the United States.

U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories may vote in the state or territory where they last resided immediately prior to departing the United States, even if many years have elapsed and the citizen maintains no residence in the state or territory and the intent to return to that state or territory may not be certain.

1. <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.pdf>
2. <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html#ch3>

FOR ID CARD APPOINTMENT

CALL

562-0681/0674

ID CARD POLICY

Proper identification and documentation are required for services to be provided. Anyone over the age of 18 must have TWO forms of ID in order to receive an ID card.

The First form of ID must be a picture ID:

- Sponsor Common Access Card.
- Military Family ID Card.
- State issued drivers license.
- Photo ID issued by Federal, State or local government.
- US Passport.

Secondary form of acceptable ID:

- Social Security Card.
- Foreign Passport.
- Permanent Resident Card.
- Birth certificate.
- School Photo ID or Report Card.
- Voter's Registration Card.
- Canada Drivers License.

Initial Issue Spouse:

- Two forms of ID (see above), original marriage certificate and Social Security Card.

Initial Issue Child:

- Original birth certificate and Social Security Card.

All identification must be valid and not expired. Civilian Contractors must be entered into the Contractor Verification System prior to receiving an ID card.

SUBJECT: Family Common Access Card (CAC) Issuance

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

If you are ready to start your own business, grow or expand, SBA can help. The SBA offers many programs and services to help Veteran entrepreneurs succeed. For more information on how SBA can help you start, grow and build your business, contact:

Frank Burke at 973-645-6049 or e-mail frank.burke@sba.gov Visit the SBA New Jersey website at www.sba.gov/nj

Ideal Exterminating

Gary Gugliociello from Ideal Exterminating in Jackson, NJ has offered to exterminate at a reduced rate to any deployed Service Member's spouse. If things start "bugging" you, please give Gary a call at 732-363-2454.

RED CROSS (Notification Process)

1-877-272-7337

WHEN CALLING THE RED CROSS THEY WILL ASK YOU FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- a. Service members Rank and Pay Grade
- b. Service members Name
- c. Social Security Number
- d. Service Branch
- e. Military Address and Unit
- f. Zip Code/APO/FOP
- g. Duty Phone
- h. Nature of the Red Cross Message
- i. Person Making Request
- j. Verification Information:
Patient/Deceased Name
- k. Relationship to Service member
- l. Hospital/Attending Physician/Contact/Phone
- m. Coroner/Phone
- n. Funeral Home Name/Phone
- o. Diagnosis/Prognosis/Recommendation

BE PREPARED TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS!!

The Red Cross will provide you with a Control or Case Number. Write it down here
_____ for future phone calls related to this notification.

[Military OneSource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

I just attended a workshop on Military One Source and was amazed at how much these websites have to offer the military and was shocked to see how little NJ Service Members and or their Family Members visit their websites. Listed below are the websites and what they offer. Please take the time to visit one or all of their sites. If you can't use what they have to offer, you may know someone who can. This is a FREE source of information.

www.militaryonesource.com – This website offers locaters for education, child care, elder care, financial calculators, education materials, on line access to consultants and much more to list.

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil - Quality of Life information and resources

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/moving - Organizational tools to make moves less disruptive for service members and their families.

www.military.com/spouse - Provides information on military friendly employers, education and scholarship opportunities, licensing and certification. Spouses can search for employment and career opportunities.

www.MilSpouse.org - Provides military spouses with resources and opportunities related to education, training, and employment within the US.

www.TurboTap.org – Official transition assistance website for Service Members leaving the military and returning to the civilian community.

Here's to the Heroes

FREE ADMISSION SUMMARY

Any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission under the Here's to the Heroes program. He or she need only register, either by [clicking here](#) and submitting his or her information or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependent ages 10 and over must present valid dependent I.D. Busch Gardens Williamsburg and SeaWorld San Antonio are seasonal operations that will remain closed until spring 2008. Military personnel interested in visiting those parks should check operating schedules. [Click here](#) for Busch Gardens Williamsburg. [Click here](#) for SeaWorld San Antonio. [Click here](#) for Sesame Place. The remaining parks, SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld San Diego are open year round.

Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Water Country USA, Adventure Island. Not valid at Discovery Cove and Aquatica.

Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks are offering complimentary admission to active-duty military representing all five services, active members of a reserve or National Guard unit, and/or up to three direct dependents. The offer is valid for one complimentary, single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks:

SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Adventure Island and Water Country USA. For information on how to apply for the complimentary tickets, visit the Here's to the Heroes website.

<http://www.herosalute.com/>

Prescription Savings Plan

No cost to you prescription Savings Program. This program offers discounts on all generic prescription medications at your local pharmacy. You do not have to qualify. There is no income, residence, employment, age, citizenship or any other qualifications to meet. Not even an application to fill out. Our office has the group ID cards. Please call Marie Durling at 609-562-0739 and she will mail one to you. For more information check out www.mediservrx.com

CHILD CARE \$\$\$ AVAILABLE

This is for Title 10 and Title 32 Army National Guard Activated soldiers only. If spouses are employed, seeking employment (60 days) or going to school, you qualify for a \$100.00 per month per child stipend for full time care (licensed Provider Required). Call the National Guard Child Care Program today to apply 1-888-642-2799 or ngccp@guardfamily.org

Greyhound Offers Discounted Fares to Military, Retirees, Family Members

Greyhound is proud to carry those who serve our country. Active duty and retired military personnel and their dependent family members may receive a 10 percent discount off the Greyhound walk-up (unrestricted) fare. Another option for military personnel is to travel on Greyhound for a maximum fare of \$198 round trip anywhere in the continental United States. Fares are valid on Greyhound schedules and those of participating interline carriers. Not available on Greyhound Canada routes.

This fare applies only to active and retired members of the United States Armed Forces, which includes the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy; members of the National Guard, reservists and bona fide identifiable spouses and dependents of the above. A valid military picture identification card must be presented upon request.

A 40-percent discount for children of military personnel referenced above is available. Discount is not available with \$198 maximum military fare. No other discounts apply.

Only totally unused tickets may be refunded to the location of the original purchase. A 15-percent penalty fee applies upon refund. No refund will be allowed if any portion of the ticket has been used.

Departure date and time may be changed for a charge of \$10 per ticket provided that the advance purchase requirement is not violated.

Advance purchase tickets purchased over the phone require a minimum of ten days for delivery by mail and for online orders. Casino, commuter, Discovery Pass, student or other special military fares do not qualify for the military discount.

Fares are subject to change until purchase and may be higher during peak holiday travel periods. The 10 percent discount may not be used in conjunction with the \$198 maximum fare.

Go to http://www.greyhound.com/deals/military_discounts.shtml for more information.

Trenton Thunder Offers Reduced Tickets to Military Personnel, Vets

The Trenton Thunder baseball team and its community partner, the Trenton Vet Center, have collaborated to sponsor reduced ticket prices for veterans and their families during the 2008 Trenton Thunder baseball season.

A regular \$10 ticket has been reduced to \$7 for veterans and their family members.

Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard, separated, and retired veterans are eligible for this program. Interested veterans must have a picture I.D. and provide proof of their veteran status by showing one of the following documents:

- ⚡ Military I.D. card.
- ⚡ Federal Department of Veteran Affairs medical I.D. card
- ⚡ DD Form 214

25% DISCOUNT Military Personnel/DOD

Cellucor brand Muscle building and Weight loss products are being offered at a 25% discount only to Military and DOD personnel. Cellucor does not offer any other discounts anywhere. The discount is only available online or by phone using the discount code of 7124.

Phone: 1(800) 870-2070

www.cellucor.com PROMO CODE : 7124

Camp Noble Cause

Camp Noble Cause is a three day camping experience that will serve the children and spouses of the NJ National Guardsmen and women being deployed this summer. Our mission is to provide a no cost summer camp experience, for a weekend of fun and camaraderie

- To be held on August 22, 23 and 24, 2008 at Camp WINNEBAGO
(102 TimberbrookRd., Rockaway, NJ, approx. 12 miles from Wayne, off of Green Pond Rd).
- This Camp is being hosted by the Scouts of the Patriot's Path Council, BSA. and Operation Noble Cause.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
 Overnight camping capacity is limited to 300
 Day camp can accommodate an additional 200
 Children must be old enough to tent camp comfortably

Planned Activities include:

- Mountain Biking and Nature Walks •Crafts, Astronomy •Shooting sports (archery, rifle, shot gun),
- Rockwall Climbing, Waterfront activities (boating, swimming, fishing) •Geocaching (GPS "hide and seek)
- Sports (Softball, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, etc.) •Campfire activities, Kitchen

Support

WEBSITE NOW UP AND RUNNING FOR REGISTRATION..... CHECK OUT...
<http://main.ppbsa.org/>

Donation Suggestions

Monetary donations may be made to the following organizations who are 501 C3 status:

1. Nation
 PO Box
 Trenton
 609-51

Established to offer monetary grants to NJ National Guard members and their families based on meeting established criteria.

- 2. Adopt-a-soldier Platoon
 PO Box 1111
 Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

www.adoptsoldierplatoon.org

Shipment of an assorted array of goods in care packages to units in theater.

3. ARMS (American Recreation Military Services)

www.supportarms.org

732.890.4914

Shipment of an assorted array of goods in care packages to units in theater.

4. International telephone calling cards, food store cards, gas cards will be accepted at any NJ National Guard Family Assistance Center, phone: 1-888-859-0352, for use by family members of our deployed soldiers and soldiers.

Angelfood Ministries

Mission Statement

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and contributing to benevolent outreaches in communities throughout the United States. Families in need can get a basket of food for \$30.00 (they also accept food stamps). If you want more information or to find the location nearest to you, please go to www.angelfoodministries.com

FRG Training for Leadership and Volunteers 6-7 Sep 2008

Please save the date. More information on location will be put out at a later date. This training is for FRG Leaders and Volunteers. Youth activities for children ages 8-16 will be available at the hotel during training sessions. We are not able to accommodate children under the age of 8.

We will also be having a speaker for parents of deployed Soldiers/Airmen on 6 Sep

2008 PARK PASSES

Park passes for 2008 can be picked up at the Soldier's Unit/Armory sometime in April. Unit's may pick their tickets up in the State Family Programs Office ASAP. Units: please call Marie at 609-562-0739 for arrangements to pick up your passes. A limited number of Park passes were given to each FAC for individual distribution.

Christmas tickets for Radio City now on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. Discounted tickets are on sale through the U.S. Coast Guard Sector NY MWR office. Dates of the discounted performances are Nov. 14, 8 p.m., \$53 for orchestra seats, \$39 for second mezzanine seats; and Nov. 15, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., \$59 for orchestra seats and \$44 for second mezzanine seats.

Call Monica McBrady, 718-354-4407 or e-mail monica.mcbrady@uscg.mil; order your tickets over the phone and have them mailed to you for a \$3 shipping and handling charge. All tickets must be pre-purchased and paid in full.

Riddle: (If you have already been a riddle winner, you can guess but the gift card will go to the first person with the correct answer that has not had a chance to win)

Parents of Deployed Soldiers

June 30, 2008 – Cherry Hill Armory

Chaplain Martindale will be offering a parents program beginning at 7:00 pm. More info contact **Michele Daisey, MPSC Contractor, Woodbury Family Assistance Center, 856-251-6893 (office)**

July 8, 2008 - Lawrenceville

Chaplain Martindale will be offering a parents program beginning at 7:00 pm. More info contact **POC Jane Hackbarth 609-671-6681 Jane.e.hackbarth@us.army.mil**

July 14, 2008 – West Orange

Chaplain Martindale will be offering a parents program beginning at 7:00 pm. More info contact **POC Janis Shaw 201-915-3589 Janis.m.shaw@us.army.mil**

Marriage Enrichment

If anyone is interested in attending a “Strong Bonds” for Sep 26-28 2008, please let me know. If there is an interest, I will work on putting one together. Please e-mail marie.durling@nj.ngb.army.mil or call me at 609-562-0739 and I will send you a registration form.

Address for Soldiers at Ft Bliss

**Rank/First name/Last name
Ft. Bliss Mobilization and Deployment BDE
Company/Battalion
BLDG 2453
Ft Bliss TX 79916**

Youth Camp

Camper applications for Youth Camp for 2008 is NOW CLOSED

Free Fishing Trips

A fisherman from Brigantine brainstormed an idea on taking soldiers/airmen out fishing at no charge and has expanded to other retirees to do the same. This offer is for soldiers and airmen only (does not include spouses or children). If you are interested, please go the website www.bassbarn.com click on message board, then off shore fishing forum and then click on the first link at the top “Take a Soldier Fishing” (it has 5 stars next to it). You can then review the offers being made, select one and contact them to set up your fishing trip. They may ask to see your ID when you arrive.

Picatinny Family Sports Picnic

Saturday, July 12th

Bldg 3228—SAS Playground

10:00am-3:00pm

Rain Date-Saturday, July 19th

*Dodge Ball *Scooter Hockey

*Beach Volleyball *Softball

*Bounce House *Dunk Tank

*Lunch Time BBQ

Please RSVP by

Wednesday, July 2nd

973-724-5555

Program Aims to Serve Morris County Military Personnel and Their Families

Family Service of Morris County in partnership with the Family Programs, New Jersey would like to announce its Military Families Outreach Program. Based on a community effort, the Military Families Outreach Program strives to support Morris County military personnel and their families, including extended families, pre-deployment, during deployment and post-deployment.

We understand and realize the pressures and problems that may occur when a family member is called to duty, and we want to assist with any services that you may need to ensure quality of life. Social services, support services and mental health services are some of the resources that will be available to Morris County residents. All services offered in this Program are free of charge to you and your family, and are bound by the highest consideration for complete confidentiality.

For more information about the Military Services Outreach Program, please contact. You can also contact Tammy Rosenthal, Director of Child and Adolescent Services at trosenthal@fsmc.org or 973-538-5260.

We are privileged to work with you who have given so much for your country!

Grants for Military Kids

McLean, VA -- Our Military Kids, a program that provides grants to children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard military, has expanded its program eligibility in two ways. The program which had been open to children in grades K – 12, will now be offered to 3- and 4-year-olds. Additionally, children may be eligible for a second grant award if their parent is deployed for 365 days or more.

Linda Davidson, Executive Director of Our Military Kids, stated “We are excited about being able to expand the program to preschoolers and to second grantees. We have had many requests from parents of preschoolers asking that we consider offering grants to this age group. We are pleased that funding from our very generous donors has allowed us to take this next step in the growth of the program.”

Our Military Kids grants cover six months of an activity to a maximum award of \$500.00. Children who have a parent deployed for 365 days or more will now be eligible for a second grant award provided the parent has 60 days remaining on the deployment orders and 6 months has elapsed since the first grant award.

Our Military Kids provides grants for sports, fine arts and tutoring so that children may start or continue participation in an activity while the parent is away or recovering from serious injury. To date, over 3000 children have received awards from Our Military Kids.

To find more information on the program or to download an application go to www.ourmilitarykids.org <<http://www.ourmilitarykids.org>> .

N.J. State Family Readiness Council offers Family Grants Program

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has expanded its Family Grants Program to include an additional grant. There are now two levels of Family Grants; TIER I is the \$2,500 grant that has been in place for the past couple of years. The TIER II opens family grants to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500. Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers. For more information call 1-888-859-0352 or contact your local Family Assistance Center.

Federal Grants Available

A \$200,000 grant from the department of Community affairs is available for spouses of deployed or recently deployed military. Typical awards are \$2,500 and are available for financial difficulties (such as past due rent and childcare) as well as for recreational and stress relieving activities for children. For more information contact Fawn Mutschler, Military Grant Liaison, Woman's Opportunity Center, YMCA of Burlington County at 609-543-6200 ext 325 or e-mail wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org

Promoting Healthy Families, Preventing Abuse

Order your free copies of Promoting Healthy Families in Your Community: 2008 Resource Packet today! Developed for service providers, the packet highlights strategies to strengthen families by promoting key protective factors that prevent child abuse and neglect. It also includes tip sheets in both English and Spanish to share with parents.

The Resource Packet is produced annually by the Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Welfare Information Gateway, and the FRIENDS National Resource Center on Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention. The 2008 packet was developed with input from more than 30 national organizations that work to promote healthy families.

The packet and corresponding poster can be downloaded or ordered at www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/res_packet_2008

Or contact Child Welfare Information Gateway at 1.800.394.3366 or info@childwelfare.gov

Lawn Care Services Provided for Military Families

GreenCare for Troops is a nationwide outreach program coordinated by Project EverGreen that connects local lawn and landscape firms with men and women serving our country in the armed forces away from home.

GreenCare has helped more than 1,200 volunteers provide free lawn and landscape services for more than 4,800 military families nationwide. The cost to manage the GreenCare for Troops Program is underwritten by Cub Cadet Commercial.

Go to <http://www.projectevergreen.com/gcft/> for more information.

FRG Events (If you want me to list your event, please send info on type of event, date, time and place) I cannot accept flyers.....

Saturday, October 18th

Casino Night Fundraiser – 102nd Cavalry
Westfield Armory
Open to the Public
For more information n.lacorte@gmail.com

Friday, July 25th 10:15 until ?

The FRG for the 50th BSTB and Essex County executive, Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. will be sponsoring an outing at the Turtle back Zoo, West Orange, NJ for the families/soldiers of the 50th BSTB, NJARNG. Admission is free. Refreshments, snacks and entertainment provided by the FRG will follow.