

APPRECIATION UMAGAZINE

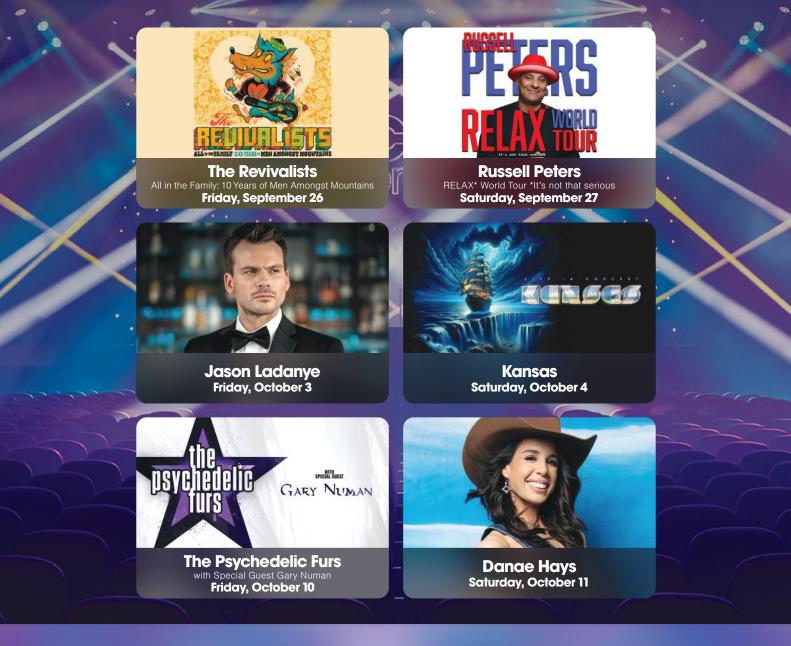
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Publisher's Note - Welcome to the second edition of Military Appreciation Magazine (M.A.M), the only printed magazine serving Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) and surrounding New Jersey communities. Military Appreciation Magazine combines the essential elements of two previously published JB MDL publications: the Military Appreciation Resource Magazine and GoMDL Magazine. These magazines have been the key printed publications focusing on JB MDL and its local community. Our experienced, newly formed team is dedicated to the vision of M.A.M. being the premier publication of high-quality military-oriented information to inspire, inform, and engage our readers. Our mission is to provide compelling stories, information, and resources that enrich the lives of the military, their families, our readers, and our sponsors.

God Bless Our Military and All Who Support It!

Dan Clark McKinley Williams Rich Dmochowski David Spector Mike Gonzales

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Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

The 42,000-contiguous acres of JB MDL are home to more than 80 mission partners and 40 mission commanders providing a wide range of combat capability. The base spans more than 20 miles, from east to west. It is situated in the two largest counties in New Jersey—Burlington and Ocean—and includes portions of eight municipalities: the borough of Wrightstown and the townships of New Hanover, North Hanover, Pemberton, and Springfield, in Burlington County, and the townships of Jackson, Manchester, and Plumsted in Ocean County. The 87th Air Base Wing provides installation management support for 3,933 facilities. More than 44,000 airmen, soldiers, sailors, marines, coast guardsmen, civilians, and their family members live and work on and around JB MDL.

The United States Air Force's McGuire Air Force Base, the United States Army's Fort Dix and the United States Navy's Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst were merged on 1 October 2009. JB MDL is the Department of Defense's only tri-service joint base.

As America's premier joint warfighting base, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is uniquely capable of projecting air, land, and sea power in support of our nation's defense.

Though consolidated into a single joint base, the three facilities which were adjoining, but separate military installations remain commonly known by their pre-merger names. Although the installation management functions have been consolidated, the missions of each of the three installations will continue.

The Air Force provides global mobility and expeditionary combat support, the Army mobilizes and train soldiers, and the Navy continues to assure fixed and vertical wing aircraft operate safely and effectively worldwide.



Colonel
Michael D.
Stefanovic
Commander



Colonel
Bryan
Dunker
Deputy Commander



Captain
James B.
Howell
Deputy Commander

87TH Air Base Wing

Colonel Michael D. Stefanovic Commander

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and 87th Air Base Wing

Col. Michael D. Stefanovic is the Commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) and 87th Air Base Wing, JB MDL, New Jersey. He is responsible for providing mission-ready expeditionary

Airmen, Guardians and Sailors to combatant commanders in support of joint and coalition operations.

Colonel Stefanovic entered the Air Force in 2001 after obtaining his commission through the ROTC program at the Georgia Institute of Technology, earning a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. He has served in various base level and headquarters assignments, including an international assignment as a counter-IED and explosive subject matter expert to the United Nations in New York. He has deployed to multiple locations in support of overseas contingency operations.



Chief Master Sergeant Nicholas "Nic" Conner Command Chief 87th Air Base Wing

Chief Master Sergeant Nicholas Conner serves as the 87th Air Base Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. As senior enlisted



leader of the Department of Defense's only tri- service joint base, he is the principal advisor to the installation commander. The wing provides mission support, civil engineering, and medical services to more than 88 mission partners and 52,000 active duty, reserve, guard, civilian, retiree and family members residing on the joint base with an infrastructure valued at \$9 billion. He is entrusted with the combat readiness, organization, training, professional development and effective utilization of more than 1,200 Airmen and Sailors. Additionally, he is the functional manager of 21 First Sergeants who maintain a mission-ready force and support the military community's quality-of-life.

Thank You For Your Service Military Appreciation Magazine | 5

The Crash of the ZPG-3W Vigilance

Story by Jennifer Suwak

Last summer, The Discovery Channel sent out two blimps with decals advertising "Shark Week." Each blimp flew up and down the East and West Coast of the US, promoting the upcoming programming. We chased down one of the "Shark Week" blimps which was traveling from Point Pleasant Beach to Seaside Heights, New Jersey. We wanted to get a glimpse of it, and to take some good photos. Our adventure reminded me of a story we had just heard from Jim Caldwell, a Navy UDT Veteran and subject of a film we had produced.

Jim was a veteran who employed the diving skills he learned in the Navy during World War 2, becoming a professional diver as a civilian. He also conceived of a business using his skills and created a dive shop in Toms River, New Jersey. His extensive resume as a civilian also included work for the fire department on the Naval Base in Lakehurst, site of the Hindenburg disaster (20 years earlier). Speaking of disasters, Jim had told us about a different airship disaster that he was very familiar with, that of the ZPG-3W Vigilance.

The ZPG-3W was a surveillance airship, used to cover radar gaps during the Cold War. It was not uncommon for locals who lived in Toms River, Beachwood or Ocean Gate to see these airships flying out towards the Atlantic Ocean on their way to long patrol missions that could last up to ninety hours at a time. Many must have seen this specific airship fly over the Toms River and the Barnegat Bay on



Clippings from Life magazine, July 18, 1960

that day of July 6th in 1960. It was the largest airship ever developed for the US Navy.

This large ZPG-3W was one of the four of its class of non-rigid airships developed for the Navy. It crashed into the Atlantic Ocean approximately thirty miles southeast from the base in Lakehurst, its point of departure. Only three of the twenty-one crew members survived; the others drowned because they had been trapped in the gondola by the deflated envelope of the ship. At the time of the crash of this ZPG-3W, Jim was working at the fire station on the base in Lakehurst. It was here he had put together a dive team that had often received calls to recover bodies

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Photo of ZPG-3W recovery mission, released Navy photo, 1960.



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In a world where entertainment can often feel shallow, one entrepreneur is proving that joy and purpose don't have to be mutually exclusive. Meet Vito Cardinale of Cardinale Enterprises, a local business leader who has turned his deep appreciation for the military into something far greater than just an entertainment complex—he's created a space that fosters healing, connection, and community.

Located in Jackson, New Jersey, Adventure Crossing USA is more than a place to play—it's a movement. Anchored by a 100,000-square-foot indoor dome known simply as The Dome, the complex features everything from virtual golf simulators and a high-tech driving range to indoor sports arenas and live event stages. It's a destination for all ages, packed with excitement—but underneath the fun lies a deeper mission.





"I wanted to build something that gave back while moving forward," says Cardinale, an Honorary Commander for MAG-49 at Joint Base MDL. "Too many vets return home searching for purpose, connection, and even just a reason to smile. I built The Dome as a place where they can find all three."

Although he didn't serve himself, Cardinale's reverence for those who did runs deep. From offering military family discounts to employing veterans and military spouses—many of whom say working at The Dome helped them transition back to civilian life—his commitment is woven into every corner of the operation.

Beyond entertainment, Cardinale Enterprises is actively shaping communities through veteran-focused housing and charitable partnerships. In Bayville, New Jersey, the company played a central role in the development of a new Veteran Village, created in collaboration with Tunnel to Towers. Another key initiative, Manalapan Crossing, includes a 58-resident housing project that supports veterans and individuals with special needs who face financial hardship. These efforts aren't just symbolic—they provide tangible, long-term support where it's needed most.



Cardinale Enterprises also partners with nonprofit organizations like Soldier On, continuing its mission to ensure that those who've served have a place to call home. Through these projects, Cardinale's vision of community-building goes well beyond The Dome—it's about constructing environments where dignity, belonging, and opportunity are part of the foundation.

The facility also serves the community in more immediate ways: hosting themed events like Country Night, Latin Dance Night, Tiki Bar Weekends, and weekly Bingo, as well as larger events like the Joint Base MDL High School graduation—a source of pride for the team.

"I wanted to build something that gave back while moving forward."

-Vito Cardinale



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GOLF BAYS SWINGSUITES

Monday=Friday | 9a=3p \$50 per hour

Monday-Friday | 3p-close \$60 per hour

Saturday & Sunday \$60 per hour Monday-Friday | 9a-3p \$60 per hour

Monday-Friday | 3p-close

\$75 perhour Saturday & Sunday

\$75 per hour

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15 kids
\$500

Siliter

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30 min in a private lounge
20 kids
\$600

1.5 hours of turf
30 min in a private lounge
Goodie Bags
25 kids
\$850

Sports: Flag Football, Soccer, Kickball, Wiffleball, GAGA, Capture the Flag, Relay Races, Dodgeball

WEEKINGS

Wednesday

Doggy Tiki Date Night

6pm-9pm

Thursday MUSIC
Country Night | 7pm=10pm

Saturday / Salsa Night | 7pm-11pm

NEW DRINK & DINNER SPECIALS EACH WEEK



Published July 1, 2025 Story & Photos By Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris 99th Readiness Division

CINNAMINSON, N.J. – The U.S. Army Reserve's 99th Readiness Division hosted an Army Ball June 13 at The Merion banquet hall here.

More than 300 guests from all branches of service came from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and the surrounding area to celebrate the U.S. Army's 250th birthday.

"Our birthday theme this year is, 'This We'll Defend," explained Maj. Gen. Kris Belanger, 99th RD commanding general. "It underscores the commitment of the Army to defending the values, security, and people of our nation."

The U.S. Army was officially established by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775 – more than a year before the Declaration of Independence was issued.

"It's really important to note the gravity of this occasion," said retired Maj. Gen. Mark Palzer, who served as keynote speaker for the event. "One year older than the nation it defends, the United States Army is dedicated to fighting and winning our nation's wars.

Over the past two-and-a-half centuries, the Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American Nation. This includes the Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

"As we celebrate the Army's 250th birthday, we reflect on our rich history and legacy of service, sacrifice and dedication," said Palzer, who served as 99th RD commanding general from 2018 to 2021.

In addition to dinner and dancing, the ball featured a ceremonial Army birthday-cake cutting, as well as a remembrance of POW/MIA and fallen service members, and a toast to today's Soldiers.

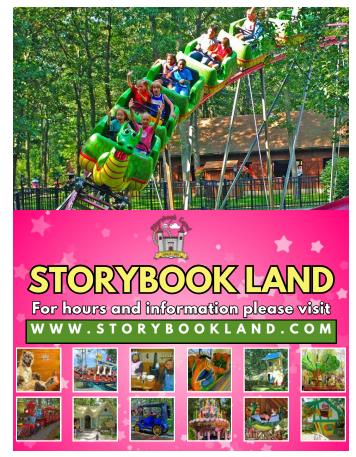
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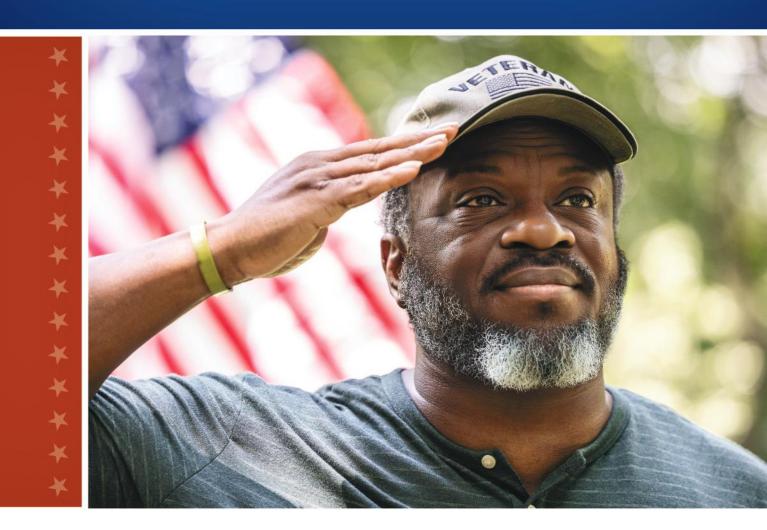
The U.S. Army Reserve's 99th Readiness Division hosted an Army Ball June 13 at The Merion banquet hall in central New Jersey to celebrate the U.S. Army's 250th birthday. The event was hosted by Maj. Gen. Kris Belanger, 99th RD commanding general, while a former 99th commander, retired Maj. Gen. Mark Palzer, served as keynote speaker for the event. (U.S. Army photos by Mr. Shawn Morris, 99th RD Public Affairs)





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JB MDL WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

Published June 17, 2025 By Rochelle Naus Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst



U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Stefanovic addresses the crowd after taking command of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and the 87th Air Base Wing during a change of command ceremony at JB MDL, N.J., June 17, 2025. Stefanovic, the previous 87th Civil Engineer Group commander, assumed command from Col. Anthony Smith. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jewaun McElroy)

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey welcomed a new installation commander during a Change of Command ceremony June 17, 2025.

U.S. Air Force Col. Michael D. Stefanovic assumed command of both JB MDL and the 87th Air Base Wing, succeeding Col. Anthony L. Smith. The ceremony brought together service members, civilian employees, local officials and community partners to recognize Smith's service and mark the formal transfer of leadership.

As the installation and wing commander, Smith oversaw support for more than 80 mission partners at the Defense Department's only tri-service joint base, and provided mission-ready expeditionary Airmen, Guardians, and Sailors to combatant commanders in support of joint and coalition operations. He also led a total force team of more than 44,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, civilians and family members.

"What sets us apart from every other nation is our joint force," said Brig. Gen. Stephen P. Snelson, commander of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and

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U.S. All Police Expeditionary Certific Confinance, passes the guidon to Col. Michael Stefanovic, who assumed command of Joint Base McGuire-Dix Lakehurst and the 87th Air Base Wing during a change of command ceremony at JB MDL, N.J., June 17, 2025. Stefanovic, previous 87th Civil Engineer Group commander, assumed command from Col. Anthony Smith. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jewaun McElroy)



Members of the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst community witness the JB MDL and 87th Air Base Wing change of commander ceremony at JB MDL, N.J., June 17, 2025. Col. Anthony L. Smith, JB MDL and 87th Air Base Wing commander, relinquished command to Col. Michael Stefanovic, the previous 87th Civil Engineer Group commander. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jewaun McElrov)

JB MDL New Commander continued from page 12

presiding official. "It is our joint force that makes us the most feared, revered and lethal force the world has ever seen. Together, as joint partners, we are unstoppable. Col. Smith, over the last two years, you have had the responsibility to lead this base and our joint team, and you have done so brilliantly."

Commissioned through Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Fayetteville State University in 1997, Smith has held key roles at the wing, center, major command, Air Force and defense agency levels. Prior to his command at JB MDL, he served as Director for Financial Management and Comptroller at Headquarters Air Mobility Command, where he managed a \$15 billion annual program and supported more than 800 financial managers worldwide. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.



"As Chief Wynne and I stand here, closing out two remarkable years as your wing command team, we can honestly say—it has been the honor of our career," Smith said during the ceremony. "Col. Stefanovic and Chief Conner, welcome to a remarkable base, an exceptional wing and a community that truly is like family." •



(Left to right) U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Stephen Snelson, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander, Col. Anthony L. Smith, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst commander and 87th Air Base Wing commander and Col. Michael Stefanovic, 87th Civil Engineer Group commander salute during the presentation of colors at the joint base change of command ceremony at JB MDL, N.J., June 17, 2025. Stefanovic assumed command of JB MDL and the 87 ABW from Smith. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jewaun McElroy)

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THEY SAY WE'RE A LOT. AND THEY'RE RIGHT.















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621 CRG, AMAG EXPAND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES DURING MAINTENANCE COURSE

Published May 30, 2025 By Tech. Sgt. Anastasia Tompkins 621st Contingency Response Wing

Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Group and Air Mobility Advisory Group partnered with the 305th Maintenance Squadron to host a Aircraft Battle Damage Evaluator course at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, May 27-29.

Airmon from the 621st Contingency Possence Group and Air Mability

Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Group and Air Mobility Advisory Group partnered with the 305th Maintenance Squadron to host a Aircraft Battle Damage Evaluator course at Joint Base MDL, New Jersey, May 27-29. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Anastasia Tompkins)

The ABDE course armed 28 students with the skillset to make immedi-

ate repairs, efficiently recover a downed weapon system and restore the aircraft to combat-ready status as soon as possible.

"This will substantially reduce the training cost for the Air Force," said Tech. Sgt. Andrew Piroli, 321st Contingency Response Squadron aircraft maintainer. "It's \$280 per day for each student to go TDY for the course, so by creating cadre here, we can better utilize our manpower in the long run."

Currently, there are 150 ABDE technicians in the Air Force and that number grows with each class. ABDE cadre continue to employ the skills they learned through the 3-day course to certify more personnel within their units, increase their lethality potential and enhance mission readiness.

"This course gives us the capability to make these repairs in contested environments," said Tech. Sgt. Nathan Collin, 621st Air Mobility Operations Squadron aircraft maintainer. "Having this information is vital during high-tempo operations when time is of the essence."

Aircraft maintenance in high-stress environments presents significant challenges due to time pressure, limited resources and unpredictable conditions. To overcome these obstacles, regular training remains imperative to ensure precision and safety in air power generation.

"The Aircraft Battle Damage Evaluator course has really extended my knowledge on maintenance to better execute the mission," said Master Sgt. Christian Von Denes, 521st Contingency Response Squadron aircraft maintainer. "The need for a quick return of aircraft to action can shift the balance during ongoing contingency operations."



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A C-17A Globemaster III aircraft takes off at Lakehurst's Maxfield Field assisted by tower controllers inside the Mobile Special Navigational Aid-7 tower at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., April 8, 2025. In a display of Total Force Integration, active-duty Airmen, Sailors and Air National Guard teams successfully deployed and activated the MSN-7 tower at Lakehurst's Maxfield Field while the main tower underwent refurbishment allowing for uninterrupted support to mission readiness and operational capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Sabo)

PA GUARD'S MOBILE TOWER KEEPS LAKEHURST FLIGHTS ON TRACK

Published June 8, 2025 By Tech. Sgt. Kyle Brooks 171st Air Refueling Wing

Coraopolis, Pennsylvania – The 258th CAOS has unique expeditionary air traffic control capabilities using the Meteorological Shelter Navigation Model 7 (MSN-7) mobile air traffic control tower. The MSN-7, operated by the 258th, was a key support asset during the renovations. The joint operation benefited both the 258th CAOS and the 305th Air Mobility Wing, providing critical training and uninterrupted operations support. It involved air traffic control and aircraft maintenance personnel from multiple units.

Participating units included the 258th CAOS, the 305th Operations Support Squadron (including NAS Lakehurst Detachment 1), the 732nd Airlift Squadron (Air Force Reserve), the 6th Airlift Squadron, and the 305th Aerial Port Squadron. These units supported operations for C5ISR (Army), the Department of Justice, the New Jersey Army National Guard, the 326th Airlift Squadron (Air Force Reserve from Dover AFB), NAVAIR (F-35 testing), and civilian aircraft. The mobile tower supported approximately 280 aircraft operations during the eight-day period.

"Seeing these teams hit the ground running is a testament to the professionalism across the board," said Lt. Col. David M. Bishop, 305th OSS director of operations, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. "It wasn't just plug and play—it was weeks of planning, coordination, and now successful execution. That's the kind of team effort that builds combat-ready Airmen."

For the 258th CAOS, this was its longest continuous domestic operation and first joint-branch air traffic control operation with the MSN-7 in squadron history. The 305th AMW used the 258th CAOS's redundant recording system during the renovations to ensure continued safety of flight. The operation also required continuous coordination with nearby air traffic control facilities around Lakehurst Maxwell Field.

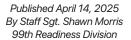
The 258th CAOS has operated for more than 42 years as part of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. 🔾

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JBMDL ARMY RESERVE DIVISION WINS BEST SQUAD COMPETITION





The U.S. Army Reserve's 99th Readiness Division won the 2025 Combined Major Support Command Best Squad Competition held here April 6-12.

The 99th RD's "Checkmate Squad" was named top squad of the competition during an April 12 awards banquet, the capstone event to seven days of competitors being tested on their military knowledge, physical fitness, proficiency in military skills, and leadership in individual and team scenarios.

"The bond made through shared hardship is one that is unbreakable," said retired command sergeant major and New Jersey Army Reserve Ambassador Arthur Maggs Jr., guest speaker at the banquet.

Competing for the top title were three squads consisting of 17 total Soldiers from seven Army Reserve commands across the nation - the 63d RD, 81st RD, 88th RD, 99th RD, 80th Training Command, 76th Operational Response Command, and 75th Innovation Command.

"You came from different organizations and became a team," said Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Thompson, 99th RD command sergeant major. "Continue to learn the history of your organizations so you can honor those who came before you."

The competition included a plethora of events to include the Expert Physical Fitness Assessment, rifle and pistol qualification, Squad-Based Combat Fitness Assessment, weapons lane, land navigation course, water obstacle course, and the NATO obstacle course.

"We're all doing this together," said Staff Sgt. Emily Newsome of the 99th RD's 198th Army Band, who was named the 99th RD Noncommissioned Officer of the Year following the competition. This marked Newsome's fourth competition in the past three years.

The Best Squad Competition was initiated by the former

Sergeant Major of the Army in September 2022 to replace the Best Warrior Competition and stress the importance of building a cohesive team that is highly trained, disciplined, and mentally and physically tough.

"I want to learn, improve, and most importantly help others," said Spc. Eloy Yague of the 99th RD's 198th Army Band, who was named the 99th RD Soldier of the Year. "That way I can become the best version of myself, and help others become the best version of themselves."

For 20 years, the annual BWC recognized Soldiers who demonstrated commitment to embodying the Army values and Squad Ethos and representing the Force of the Future. In revamping the competition to meet the everchanging needs of the Army and build cohesive teams, the Army's BSC continues the established legacy of the BWC by highlighting tight-knit groups of professionals who treat each other with dignity and respect, have high esprit de corps and are highly trained.

"Checkmate Squad" derives its name from the World War II's 99th Infantry Division and the checkboard pattern on its unit patch, which is still worn by 99th RD Soldiers today.

"It was an honor to come back and do this," said New Jersey native SGT Hallie Koches. "Being able to represent the 99th, that's the best part."

"Checkmate Squad" will move on to the Army Reserve Best Squad Competition at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, scheduled for May 8-19. Competitors who advance past the ARBSC will represent the United States Army Reserve in the Department of the Army Best Squad Competition.

"You showed me you were here for all the right reasons," said Maj. Gen. Kris Belanger, 99th RD commanding general. "Take this to the next level and spread the word of experiences learned here. You are all winners just for being here." •

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The U.S. Army Reserve's 99th Readiness Division won the 2025 Combined Major Support Command Best Squad Competition held April 6-12 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. The 99th RD's "Checkmate Squad" was named top squad of the competition during an April 12 awards banquet, the capstone event to seven days of competitors being tested on their military knowledge, physical fitness, proficiency in military skills, and leadership in individual and team scenarios. (U.S. Army photos in article by Mr. Shawn Morris, 99th RD Public Affairs)









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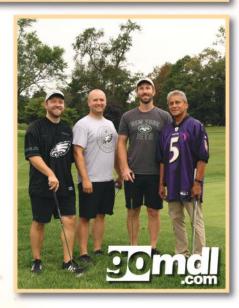
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in nearby bodies of water. He once told us a story about being called out to a lake in Lakehurst to recover the body of a ten-year-old boy who had drowned in Lake Horicon. They often took their own ship, called "The Salvager" to go out on calls in the Atlantic Ocean recovery missions. When the ZPG-3W crashed, the dive team was sent out.

The point that Jim wanted to drive home as he told us this story was that his neighbor, Vice Admiral Rosendahl, USN, was in an uproar about the incident and caused great controversy for the Navy during the investigation. Rosendahl was an ardent supporter of rigid airships but greatly opposed the nonrigid ones. (The Admiral himself had survived an accident while on board the USS Shenandoah in Ohio in 1925.) Rosendahl had been very concerned about the decision the Navy made regarding the production and use of ships without a rigid structure, as he believed that without the rigid structure these airships were unsafe and invited disaster. Indeed, he was right, because on that fateful day, the ZPG-3W's envelope wrapped around the gondola and trapped the crew inside. Of course, this would never have happened if the ship had a rigid structure.

Rosendahl had written several books about Airships; design elements, safety and history. After the ZPG-3W Vigilant crash, he wrote a scathing article in Life magazine, critiquing the Navy's continued use of non-rigid airships.

So, while the Hindenburg disaster may have been the catalyst for ending Airship passenger travel, the crash of the ZPG-3W effectively ended Navy airship operations.

If you're an airship fan, stay tuned for a new short film on the ZPG-3W airships which will go in depth about the infamous incident and Admiral Rosendahl's involvement in Airship development. The film will be broadcast on local stations this summer.



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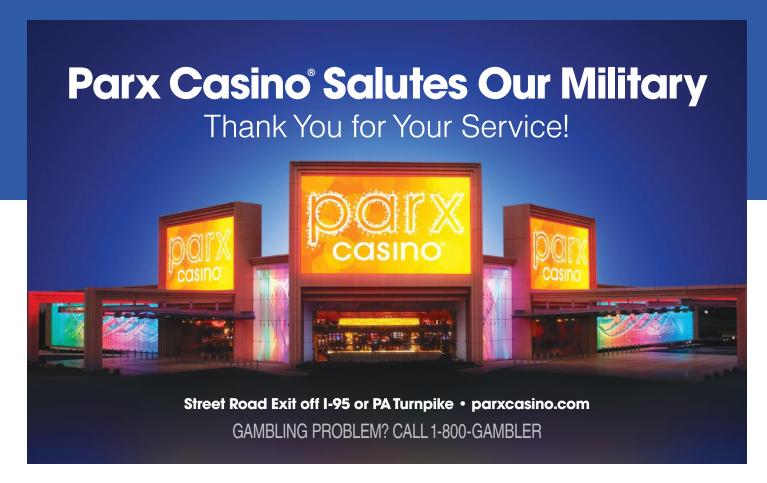
FROM THE SKY TO SCREEN: POWER IN THE PINES DRAWS OVER 350K VIEWERS

Published May 19, 2025 Story by Airman Haeleigh Bayle and Capt. Kitsana Dounglomchan Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst









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Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst opened its gates May 17-18, for the 2025 Power in the Pines Open House and Airshow.

As cars lined up for miles, before the sun even rose above the trees, a monstrous crowd buzzed with excitement as they waited for both current and historic aircraft to take flight in the afternoon sky. More than 165,000 spectators were at the installation for the two-day event consisting of aerial demonstrations, static displays, vendors and the opportunity to interact with service members from each branch of the U.S. military.

"The Power in the Pines has a long lineage at JB MDL," said Col. Anthony Smith, 87th Air Base Wing and JB MDL commander. "For decades, this signature event has allowed us to connect with our local community and showcase the exceptional mission sets our joint forces perform around the world every day. But more than that, it gives our neighbors the chance to meet the sons and daughters who wear the uniform—to have real conversations, ask questions, and see the people behind the mission. It helps demystify military service by highlighting our most junior service members, whose stories and dedication often resonate the most."

U.S. Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Space Force Guardians all worked together to provide visitors a memorable experience, embracing this year's theme: "Joint Warfighters: Honor. Inspire. Innovate."

For the first time in Power in the Pines history, the aerial events were displayed on the flightline via four jumbotron screens, further adding to the guest experience on the jampacked ramp. Additionally, the performances were also livestreamed to an audience

of 200,000 plus viewers in 39 countries – providing an opportunity to those who couldn't physically make it to the show. The livestream broadcast also consisted of JB MDL leadership and performer interviews, and in-depth looks at joint force missions across the installation.

Throughout the weekend, spectators were treated to various joint force static displays from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and World War II heritage aircraft such as the B-25 Mitchell, an American medium bomber introduced in 1941.

The aerial performances commenced each day around noon, Saturday's event starting with the U.S. Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue cadets jumping from a C-17 Globemaster III to parachute the American flag to show center.

The skies above Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst came alive as military aircraft performed impressive maneuvers. The KC-46 Pegasus—the Air Force's newest aerial refueling tanker—demonstrated a mid-air connection with the massive C-17 Globemaster III transport jet, showcasing how the 305th Air Mobility Wing delivers critical capabilities anywhere on Earth within hours.

The Coast Guard executed dramatic search and а rescue demonstration, displaying the precision needed to save lives at sea. Marine Corps pilots showcased their helicopters' capabilities—the formidable AH-1Z Viper attack helicopter, versatile UH-1Y Venom utility chopper and the powerful CH-53 Super Stallion demonstrated a sling load operation with a Humvee, illustrating critical battlefield transportation techniques.

History took flight when the vintage B-25 "Panchito" bomber roared overhead, followed by the skilled

aerobatics of the "Jersey Jerks" flight team. The legacy flight pairing the modern C-17 alongside the historic C-47 Skytrain—famous for delivering paratroopers over Normandy on D-Day—provided a powerful reminder of military aviation's evolution. But each day of the Power in the Pines culminated with a much-anticipated performance by the headlining actthe U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. The Thunderbirds pilots performed a mix of tight formation flying in their Delta and Diamond formations, with ground personnel performing many precise maneuvers in the launching and recovering of the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

"Putting together JB MDL's Open House and Airshow was a huge team effort with almost 3,000 people pitching in from the installation and our local communities," said Lt. Col. Matthew Mattson, Open House and Airshow director. "More than 2,300 of our own joint force military members and federal civilians stepped up, while a core team of 89 people somehow managed to plan this entire thing for the past year on top of their regular jobs. We had 400 on and off base police from local, state and federal agencies keeping everyone safe; paramedics from nine different squads ready to help; local fire departments on-site; 15 nearby hospitals on call; and emergency management teams from two counties all working together. Thanks to all this amazing support, we pulled off a topnotch, safe show that our quests loved. At the end of the day, it's all about celebrating our military heritage and hopefully sparking something in the next generation of Americans who might serve their country or better understand what the military does for our nation."

Spectators at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., enjoyed many static displays as well as interactive booths, kid-friendly activities and many foods vendors at the 2025 Power in the Pines Open House and Airshow May 18, 2025. This family-friendly event invited the community to witness the power, precision and skill of some of the world's top aerial performers, with a theme of, "Joint Warfighters: Honor. Inspire. Innovate." (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Devin Rumbaugh) Opposite page: (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Haeleigh Bayle)

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Marines assigned to the 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, conducted a close air support exercise, March 11-15, 2025, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. The CASEX training event focused on enhancing the integration and proficiency of Marines in coordinating with air assets for close air support missions. This was achieved through integration of joint terminal attack controllers and U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II Pilots from the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing, 104th Fighter Squadron, along with aircrews from HMLA 773, Marine Aircraft Group 49 located at JB MDL.

JTAC teams provide operating forces with highly trained personnel capable of executing close air support during both combat and contingency operations. Ground combat arms military occupational specialties such as artillery and infantry can earn the additional MOS of JTAC while aviators earn the additional MOS of forward air controller. The teams also include enlisted Marines who earn the additional MOS of joint fires observer.



U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Hayden Sohmer, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, joint terminal attack controller instructor, observes an A-10 Thunderbolt II during a close air support exercise at Warren Grove Training Range, N.J., March 11, 2025. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matt Porter)

"The need for JTAC-qualified Marines is currently very high, especially in the Marine Forces Reserve," said U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Sanford Bennett, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment. 4th Marine Division JTAC evaluator.

"A JTAC is an individual, usually from a combat arms background, responsible for coordinating, integrating and directing combat aircraft engaged in close air support and other offensive air operations."

Bennett facilitated the training to prepare several Marines for recertification in addition to refining core competencies. Upon graduation from the schoolhouse, JTAC-certified personnel are expected to qualify for recertification at certain intervals, ranging from six to 18 months depending on their role and level of experience.

"The courses to become a part of the JTAC community are extremely rigorous," Bennett said. "There is a significant knowledge base required going in and the evaluations once there continue to be carried out to the highest standard. That being said, we empower Marines by giving them that foundational knowledge and then refine their technical and equipment skills for success in the field."

The primer course aims to prepare Marines for formal schooling, enhancing the Reserve component's readiness to augment and reinforce the Active component when required. A qualified and current JTAC is recognized across the Department of Defense as authorized to perform terminal attack control, even with assets belonging to other services or partner nations.

Formal JTAC training for USMC students consists of a five-week hands-on course at the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific or Atlantic. Once in the field, a JTAC serves as an unparalleled force multiplier from the ground, orchestrating a symphony of destruction across all theaters of war.

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"An infantryman on the ground with a rifle, a mortar or another small weapon can only affect what they can see and what they can shoot," said USMC Sgt. Jacob Butler, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division JTAC instructor.. "But a JTAC calling in air strikes with a radio is considerably more lethal on the battlefield."

Bennett echoed Butler's sentiments, but also made a point to acknowledge and reaffirm the vital role of infantrymen on the battlefield.

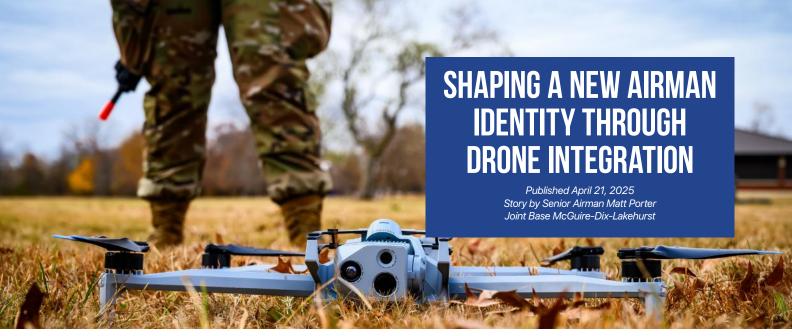
"Infantrymen have a very important job and I don't want to take anything away from that, as JTACs we simply augment, support, and enhance their lethality," Bennet said. "We can assist operations such as beach clearing to set conditions for infantrymen to advance. They won't advance until we have completely cleared everything on a beachhead by means of air or naval gunfire."

The way that wars are waged continues to change and evolve at record pace; causing some to question why programs such as these should continue to be funded in the age of cyber and information warfare.

"Land, air, and sea will always be domains of warfare, and we as JTACs can shape and control those battlefields, but you need the right training in order to do that," Bennet said. "Just being 'bare minimum' is not enough, you can very easily risk your own troops with friendly fire if you do something wrong. Calling in a strike or dropping a bomb always carries inherent risks, so being highly proficient—not just barely competent—is absolutely critical when lives are at stake."



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In a groundbreaking effort to enhance operational capabilities, the U.S. Air Force has launched a new initiative aimed at incorporating Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) into the training of Airmen across various career fields.

The program began with an initial exercise this past November at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, and is designed to equip every Airman with basic drone operational training, fostering a deeper understanding of this rapidly evolving technology and its potential impact on modern warfare.

This initiative took shape under the leadership of U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Brett Mason, 87th Civil Engineer Group sUAS program manager. Mason was presented the opportunity to lead the drone exercise after completing a training certification with a drone manufacturer.

"I jumped at the opportunity to step up for the leadership role," said Mason. "I saw, as early as 2011 while deployed

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Ilka Miranda-Miranda, 605th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron administration, prepares to launch a small unmanned aircraft systems vehicle at Joint Base-McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Nov. 20, 2024. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matt Porter)

with Army Rangers, the crucial role that sUAS play in modern combat. This is a great opportunity to share that knowledge with the next generation of Airmen—see how they run with it."

The exercise involved 17 Airmen from 12 different units and 15 different career fields, all of whom received sUAS training in a compressed two-week timeline. The training included both hands-on flight experience and instruction on payload delivery, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, as well as tactical decision-making.

By the end of the course, participants were tested in a series of field training exercises simulating real-world combat scenarios, including "Defend the Base" and "Capture the Flag" objectives.

continued on page 30



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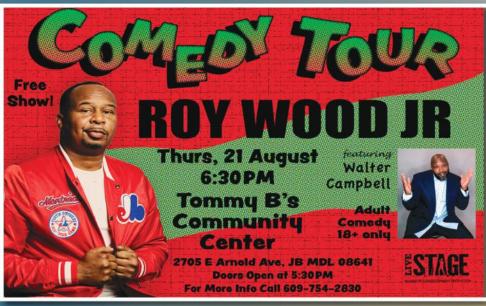
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Drone Integration continued from page 26

While not every Airman is expected to become a full-time drone operator, the goal is to ensure that all Airmen are familiar with drone capabilities. This will help enhance situational awareness and support a broader range of missions, from reconnaissance to tactical support.

"Our aim is to transform the way we approach warfare by equipping every Airman with the basic understanding of sUAS," Mason explained. "It's similar to how we view the M4 carbine rifle, where not every Airman is a specialist, but everyone should know how to use it effectively."

The integration of drones into training at JB MDL marks an important step in rethinking the role of Airmen. By democratizing airpower, the Air Force is preparing to embrace a future in which every Airman, regardless of their job, is trained to use small unmanned aircraft systems to enhance their mission effectiveness.

Mason noted that the program is part of a broader effort to prepare for the future of warfare, where drone technology will play a large role. "We've seen firsthand the impact of drones in places like Ukraine," he said. "The ability to conduct surveillance, provide real-time data, and even deliver payloads has changed the game. Our Airmen need to be prepared to leverage this technology in the next high-end fight."

The program also includes a focus on joint operations, with discussions about potential future exercises between the Air Force and other services. Mason also sees opportunities for collaboration across the Department of Defense through this program. "I'm excited to see where this goes," Mason said. "There's a lot of potential for joint operationality, especially as we continue to integrate sUAS into our daily operations."

With the conclusion of the exercise, feedback and assessments have underscored the value of sUAS in enhancing Air Force capabilities. According to Mason, the feedback reinforces the idea that equipping every Airman with the skills to operate drones has significant advantages, including improved surveillance, better resource coordination, and enhanced situational awareness.

"Our Airmen are eager to use these tools in combat," Mason said. "In fact, several of them volunteered to deploy



to combat locations and integrate ISR feeds with tools like the Android Tactical Assault Kit. These ideas are exactly the kind of innovation we need." One highlight from the exercise was the contribution of Tech. Sgt. Christopher Tolley, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician assigned to the 87th Civil Engineer Group. Tolley designed and 3D printed two payload delivery systems, which proved highly accurate during the training, with teams hitting their targets within a five-foot radius. This innovation is just one example of how Airmen are applying creativity to enhance mission readiness.

Looking ahead, Mason is optimistic about the future of sUAS in the Air Force and the broader Department of Defense. "The barriers for using Group 1-2 sUAS need to come down," he said. "We need to relax regulations, but in a way that ensures safe and effective operations. The impact of sUAS in Ukraine has shown us just how powerful this technology can be, and we want to make sure that the Air Force is ready to incorporate it into all aspects of our mission."

As drone technology continues to evolve, a future where every Airman is trained to deploy and operate these systems in real-world combat scenarios would solidify the Air Force's role in modern, multi-domain warfare.

"Our ultimate goal is to ensure that every Airman has the ability to contribute to the mission and identify with it in a tangible way," said U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Stefanovic, 87th Civil Engineer Group commander. "It's not just about the machines we fly, but the spirit and unity of our Airmen. When we embrace shared capabilities, we all become stronger."

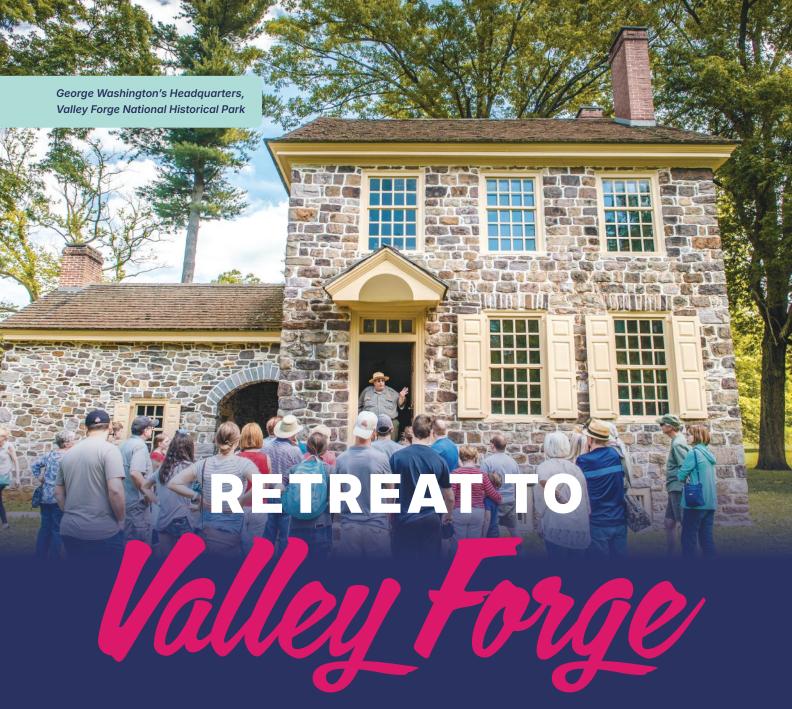
The success of the initial training at JB MDL has paved the way for future exercises at other bases, with additional training sessions and enhanced by best shared practices set to further refine the program. Mason and his team are currently preparing to incorporate sUAS into a larger-scale exercises slated to take throughout 2025.

Following the success of the initial pilot program, JB MDL recently stood up the sUAS agency and is now training 32 operators in addition to the 17 previously initiated. In May the sUAS agency will support the 2025 Air and Space Open House. This integration will highlight autonomous control developed in collaboration with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC), allowing a single operator to control multiple drones via a tactical assault kit (TAK).

Additionally, a partnership with Skydio has produced a new payload system capable of flying with obstacle avoidance while carrying two individually triggered M18-style grenades. The system completed its first test flight and is expected to be operational soon. The agency continues to push forward with autonomous capabilities for tasks such as perimeter security, infrastructure surveys, facility scans, counter-sUAS, emergency response, and mass communication.

The sUAS agency at JB MDL represents a critical step in reshaping the future of Air Force operations, the Airman identity, and emphasizes the importance of adaptability in the face of evolving global threats. •

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Veteran-focused Entrepreneur continued from page 8

Every summer, Cardinale opens up Lake Juliannanamed after his patriotic granddaughter—for a military and veteran family fishing event on his farm in Millstone Township. Whether it's your first cast or you're a seasoned angler, the event is a chance to unplug, connect, and just enjoy the day. (Look for the 2025 event this August on the calendar.)

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Published March 5, 2025 Story by Susan Moriarty Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

U. S. Air Force Gen. Johnny Lamontagne, commander of Air Mobility Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Jamie Newman, AMC command chief, visited Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Feb. 26-28, 2025, to engage with members of the Joint Base, recognize top performers and emphasize the installation's pivotal role in global mobility and readiness.

During the visit, Lamontagne underscored AMC's initiatives centered on developing Mission Ready Airmen, enhancing operational capabilities and strengthening relationships across the military community. He highlighted JB MDL as a critical hub for rapid worldwide maneuverability, air refueling and joint force readiness.

"The visit from Gen. Lamontagne and Chief Master Sgt. Newman focused on the pivotal role Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst plays in delivering global mobility and readiness," said Col. Anthony Smith, JB MDL commander and 87th Air Base Wing commander. "It's an honor to showcase the dedication of our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Guardians who make our mission possible."

A cornerstone of Lamontagne's visit was his focus on Airmen and their development. He emphasized the significance of accountability, leadership empowerment and resilience in maintaining a mission-ready force. Lamontagne highlighted the need for Airmen to uphold the highest standards while fostering a culture of teamwork and mutual support.

"The Airmen here are essential to our nation's ability to project power, sustain operations and respond to emerging threats anywhere in the world," Lamontagne said. "Their dedication and expertise are what make this installation a critical force multiplier for our military."

Lamontagne recognized several star performers throughout his visit, thanking them for their dedication and excellence. These acknowledgments emphasized AMC's commitment to developing Airmen who are not only technically proficient but also innovative leaders prepared to adapt to emerging challenges.

While visiting, Lamontagne toured the 305th Air Mobility Wing Innovation Lab to discuss ongoing measures, including continuous process improvement initiatives and the community outreach program. These efforts aim to foster a culture of innovation and collaboration, encouraging all members from the joint base to develop solutions that enhance mission readiness and operational efficiency.

By leveraging cutting-edge technologies and adapting to emerging threats, AMC is committed to ensuring the Air Force remains a modern, agile and combat-ready force. Lamontagne's discussions at the Innovation Lab focused on empowering Airmen to think creatively and embrace new approaches to overcome challenges.

"We are incredibly proud of our team of warfighters working alongside our joint, coalition, and total force partners as well as our mission partners," said Col. Kathleen Hasson, the 305th AMW Commander. "This visit provides the opportunity to highlight the commitment and determination of all members of this team to ensure we are mission ready tonight."

A central theme throughout the visit was JB MDL's strategic importance to AMC's mission of guaranteeing the nuclear mission, mitigating threats and integrating command and control. The installation supports rapid global mobility, air refueling and joint force operations enabling warfighters to project power through global reach and agile maneuver in preparation for Great Power Competition.

In addition, JB MDL's key role in supporting AMC's mission to strengthen the tanker fleet and operational capabilities was underlined. The joint base's air refueling missions are essential to sustaining global operations, ensuring U.S. and allied forces remain sharp and responsive in a dynamic security environment.

The importance of relationships within the military community and beyond was another focus for Lamontagne. He visited the Military and Family Readiness Center and recognized the dedication and sacrifices of service members and their families.







Lamontagne acknowledged the surrounding community's unwavering support for JB MDL, bringing attention to the significance of maintaining strong civic partnerships. The joint base's unique position as the only tri-service installation in the Department of Defense makes collaboration between military branches and community stakeholders essential to its success.

During his tour, Lamontagne reinforced AMC's commitment to its Air Force and Combatant Command priorities. He highlighted the command's dedication to building strong combat and air base wings, investing in future capabilities and supporting its teammates across the joint force.

"It was an honor to have Gen. Lamontagne, CMSgt Newman and the AMC leadership team tour JB MDL, and it was phenomenal that so many of our Total Force Airmen had the opportunity to engage with our AMC leadership," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Snelson, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander. "We take great pride in showcasing how the many elements of JB MDL help our warfighters become more

lethal and agile. Senior leader visits like this demonstrate how we train and fight as one team. The environment in which we operate is dynamic and changing rapidly, and Gen. Lamontagne's words are a reminder that together there is no challenge this team of Airmen can't overcome."

His visit served as a reminder of JB MDL's critical importance to AMC operations and the broader defense mission. By focusing on innovation, collaboration and excellence, the joint base and its personnel remain at the forefront of delivering rapid global mobility and ensuring the U.S. Air Force is ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

The strength of the base is found in the service members and families who dedicate themselves to their missions each day," Lamontagne said. "Their professionalism, resilience and unwavering commitment ensure we remain ready to deliver rapid global mobility and defend our nations. To all who serve here--whether in uniform, in support roles or within the local community--know that your contributions are invaluable and your sacrifices do not go unnoticed." •



Thank You For Your Service Military Appreciation Magazine | 35



Story by Molly Marie Pugliese, Miss South Jersey 2025 Ambassador, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum

A safe haven, a second home, a sanctuary of honor. This is what the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum has meant to thousands of veterans, activeduty members, and their families and friends since the establishment's beginnings back in the late 1980s. The only one of its kind in the nation, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum has functioned since then to preserve the lives and legacies of those 1,565 New Jerseyans who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms during the Vietnam War. I am blessed to share with you that it has been the highest honor of my life to serve as this year's Ambassador to the NJVVMM. Being able to explore the ins and outs of the unique establishment and befriending the "regulars," including Vietnam veteran and Museum docent Pat Julian Vellucci, Major General Clark Martin, World War Il Marine Corps veteran Leo Rosenzweig, and former New Jersey State Senator and Gold Star Family member Nicholas Asselta, has allowed me to learn firsthand what it means to be a true leader, and has shown me what good leadership can produce for a person, a group, or a nation as a whole. Being able to reach out and touch and converse with both inanimate and walking artifacts of our country's past at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum has ignited within me a desire to witness a more prosperous future. I commend the dedicated team, generous donors, and creative visionaries at the NJVVMM for working tirelessly over the years to ensure that future generations may learn and never forget what our Vietnam heroes did when country called, nor how they answered with bravery, strength, and utmost selflessness.

When I think about the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum, I am reminded of their long-standing promise of preservation. I have a personal connection with leadership and service, so taking on the Ambassador position felt natural and fulfilling. My father served in the U.S. Army, and his father served and was wounded in the Navy during World War II. My maternal great-grandfather also served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific during World War II, and his father, my great-great grandfather, served in the U.S. Army in France during World War I. My great-uncle was wounded twice and received two Purple Hearts during the Korean War. The importance and power in honoring our veterans and sharing their stories with the world is not lost on me for one moment. Dually serving as Miss South Jersey 2025, a preliminary to Miss New Jersey, it is a privilege to not only hold this leadership role at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum, but also to expand its reach within the South Jersey area. As Ambassador, what an experience it has been having the opportunity to give back to those members of my family who served with pride, as well as inform the public about veterans and a veteran's sacrifice - the purest leader and form of leadership this world will ever know.

Those stand-up members of my family tree were some of the lucky ones. We know that not all make it back home. This is what makes that element of preservation so precious and vital. New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum board member Nicholas Asselta has lived through the heavy tragedy that was and is the Vietnam War, having lost his older brother, Charles "Chickie" Asselta, to battle in 1965. "This is so important to teach the next generation how valuable freedom is, and that's why this place is important to tell that story." Asselta has believed in and promoted the mission of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum. "To remember, to honor, and to heal," since the start, and continues to work closely with the CEO of the institution, Amy Osborn, and other key members of the Memorial and Museum to ensure that the dead shall not have died in vain.

Osborn does an impeccable job opening the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum to hundreds of students and other members of the public for educational programs and tours, and, of course, to active-duty members and veterans, welcoming each person into a well-established family unit. "We have a War Dog Memorial, the Vietnamese Memorial, the Gold Star Family, the Meditation Garden...

continued on page 38



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NJ Vietnam Veteran's Memorial & Museum continued from page 36

there's just so many great things to see here, and it means something different to everyone." The NJVVMM surely means something to World War II Marine Corps veteran Leo Rosenzweig, who stated, "I was wearing my Marine Corps uniform out one day and Amy approached me," and from that time on "she invites me to all the different events at the Memorial and Museum." Leo also said that he has seen excellent improvement in the Memorial and Museum over the past few years, accrediting this to its current leadership.

During my time serving as Ambassador to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum thus far. I have been fortunate to feast my eyes on countless war artifacts - letters home, boots, uniforms, and decorations - and have very much enjoyed studying the origin story of the NJVVMM. The place I have lovingly deemed "The Hero's Home Away from Home," located off exit 116 on the Garden State Parkway, it was imagined and proposed in the late 1980s, when Vietnam veterans had drawn inspiration and collected names of the fallen from the walls of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. These veterans had proposed that there be a facility built in New Jersey, and it was not long thereafter that their wish was granted. After calling upon Governor Tom Kean and Senator Ed O'Connor, Jr., the first Vietnam veteran to be elected to the New Jersey Senate, a committee was crafted, and a dream was born.

"I wanted to take the project on as my own, so I wrote a bill in the Senate. The bill passed quickly, and next up was to pick a site, pick a design, and raise the money," O'Connor said. After a design competition was held which drew over four hundred entries, Vietnamese refugee, and architect Hien Nguyen, along with his 200-foot diameter open-air pavilion and 366 black granite panels that were to include the names of the fallen, reigned supreme. Still, more was to be built for this place of honor to come to fruition. "We had received a generous \$1,000,000 contribution from Caesars Casino, and this helped to get it all started and settled. Additionally,

a fundraiser held at Drumthwacket (the Governor's mansion) raised another 2.2 million for the blooming Memorial and Museum, and that is when I knew we were on the right track," O'Connor said. By the mid-1990s, the project had been proposed to Governor Christine Todd Whitman, as well as her husband and Vietnam veteran John Whitman, and it all came together. Nguyen's five-star design was completed by the day of the dedication, May 7, 1995, and it was the Whitmans who were the providers of the official opening of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum. The couple had a personal and profound connection to the project, as Mr. Whitman served in the Army during Vietnam.

"Being married to a Vietnam vet, when I became Governor, it was natural to want to do something, to honor the men and women who served. The ways in which the vets were treated were appalling." Governor Whitman calls the Memorial and Museum a "joint effort," and states the educational establishment is "a unique experience for people." In addition to giving life to the NJVVMM, Governor Whitman is responsible for the Battleship New Jersey's rescue and voyage from Bremerton, Washington, to Camden, New Jersey. It is because of the "doers," individuals like Christine Todd Whitman, Amy Osborn, Nick Asselta, and like a few of our very own Vietnam heroes turned family, MG Clark Martin and Pat Vellucci, that the future will know about the past; that there will always be a place for a veteran to call "home." I passionately believe that with continued determination, quidance, and support, this Memorial and Museum will remain in the absolute best of hands for many years to come.

The day I joined the team at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum, I heard a quote that has stuck with me – a quote from Mr. Vellucci – that simply yet powerfully encompasses the spirit and the purpose of the NJVVMM. Vellucci, referring to those 1,565 New Jerseyans and all our country's deceased veterans to whom we owe our respects and admiration, said, "Here they live. We bring them back to life here." Why? For the life they have given to us.

For more information regarding the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum, please visit njvvmm.org.





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Published February 12, 2025 Story by Adam Hochron Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Lakehurst held a groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 14 for an upgrade of the Runway Arrested Landing Site testing facility. The update will house a Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) and an Unmanned Carrier Aviation Mission Control System for the MQ-25 and other aircraft programs. (U.S. Navy Photo)

On a day when the ground at Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Lakehurst was so cold it made digging into the dirt a challenge, a groundbreaking ceremony for an upgrade of the Runway Arrested Landing Site testing facility welcomed the start of a new chapter in the installation's testing capabilities.

The Jan. 14 event was attended by representatives of the Unmanned Carrier Aviation (PMA-268), Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) (PMA-251) program offices, and NAWCAD Lakehurst leadership, including Capts. Daniel Fucito and Mike Kline, as well as other stakeholders of the project.

When completed, the update will house a Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) and an Unmanned Carrier Aviation Mission Control System for the MQ-25 and other aircraft programs.

"This groundbreaking represents a significant step forward in Lakehurst's ability to complete the initial carrier suitability testing for one of the Navy's major North Star programs in the MQ-25," said CDR. Adam Pawlak, NAWCAD Lakehurst Officer-in-Charge.

The JPALS update will allow compatibility testing for the MQ-25 on ALRE systems, starting with the TC-13 steam catapult and MK-7 arresting gear currently used on legacy aircraft carriers. Future testing will also be conducted using the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System and Advanced Arresting Gear found on the newer Ford-class carriers.

The update will also include a Mobile Integrated Telemetry System, which can be used to set up temporary aircraft data management telemetry systems during testing.

Pawlak added the groundbreaking ceremony lays the foundation for Lakehurst's ability to test critical unmanned platforms of the future. •



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New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Veterans Outreach Campaign



Upcoming Events

July 21 • 10am-3:30pm

8th Annual Constituent Services Fair Hosted by Congresman Donald Norcross

Camden County College - Connector Building Atrium 200 College Drive, Blackwood, NJ 08012

July 24 • 9am-5pm

Boots to Business Reboot
Entrepreneurship Training Program offered by U.S. Small
Business Administration for Veterans
and Military Spouses

American Legion Post #28 - Absecon 560 New Jersey Avenue, Absecon, NJ 08201

July 31 • 10am-2pm

Senior Resource Fair

Salem Community College - Field House 460 Hollywood Ave., Carneys Point, NJ 08069

August 1-9

Sussex County Farm & Horse Show 2025 NJ State Fair

Sussex County Fairgrounds
37 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ 07822
Friday, August 1: 5pm-10pm
Saturday, August 2: 10am-10pm
Sunday, August 3: 10am-10pm
Mon, Aug 4 - Fri, Aug 8: 12pm-10pm
Saturday, August 9: 10am-10pm

August 8 · 11am

DMAVA Medal Ceremony

Fort Dix Federal Correctional Institution (Core Bldg) 5756 Hartford St & Pointville Road, Fort Dix, NJ 08640

August 16 • 12pm-3pm

Sussex County's 12th Annual Veterans Picnic

Hamburg Fire Department Pavillion 16 Wakill Ave., RT 23 South Hamburg, NJ 07419

August 26 • 10am-3pm

Veterans Health Fair & Luncheon

Bordentown National Guard Armory 1048 US Highway 206 Bordentown, NJ 08505

September 14 • 11am-5pm

1st Annnual Veterans Show & Throw Car Show/Resource Fair Hosted by The Glasstown Brewing Co. 10 Peterson Street, Millville, NJ 08332

September 24 • 9am-4pm

Citizens & Veterans Advisory Committee
Of Wildwood

Veterans Benefits & Health Fair

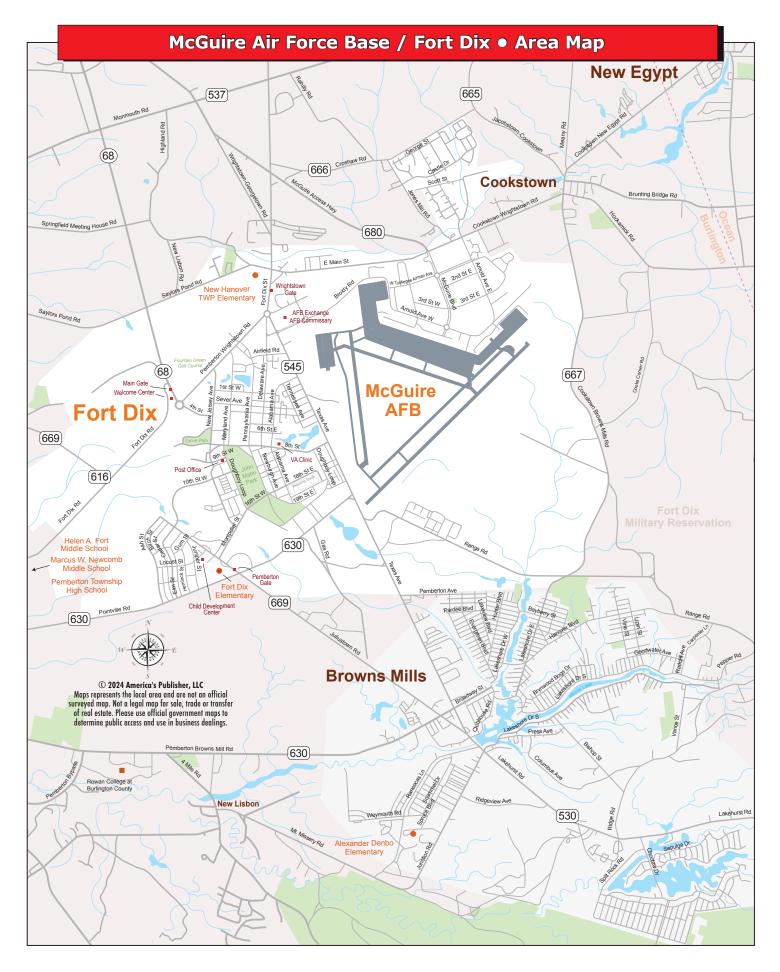
Wildwood Convention Center 4501 Boardwalkm Wildwood, NJ 08260





DMAVA will have a VSO present to help and assist any veteran at these events listed.

You may view more events & information at nj.gov/military

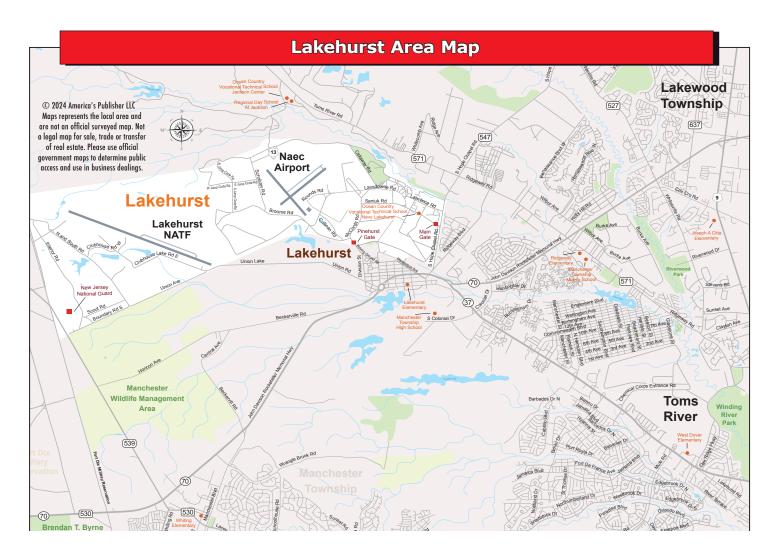


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JBMDL FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

	THEGOLITIE
Name Ph	one#
All American Inn/Lodging	
Aquatics	
Auto Hobby Shop	
Arts and Crafts	
Bowling Center	562-6895/323-2027
Business Office	323-1111
Chaplains Office	754-4673
Child and Youth Enrollment	562-4702/323-2260
87th Civil Engineer Customer Service Center	754-8723
Civilian Personnel	754-5701
Command Post	754-3935
Joint Base Library	754-2079
Joint Base Theater Reservations	754-2830
Joint Personnel Property Shipping Office	562-2571/323-7266
Lodging	323-2266
Medical Clinic	
Military Clothing Sales	723-2307
Military Family Support Center	
Military Personnel Section	
Navy Relief	
Outdoor Recreation	
Commissary	
Community Special Events	
Doughboy Gym	
Family Child Care	
Finance	
Fire Arms Registration	
Fitness and Sports Center	754-6085/323-7266

Name	Phone#
Fleet Liaison	323-7934
Flight Deck (Rec Center)	323-2405
Force Support Squadron	754-5374
Fountain Green Golf Course	562-2166
Griffith Field House	562-4888
	754-2450
Housing	754-3662/323-2370
Human Resources	754-6900/323-1058
Information, Tickets and Tours	562-6667/562-4210/323-1362
Inspector General	754-8711
John Mann Park	562-6667
Passenger Terminal	754-2749
Pine Ridge Golf Course	323-7483
	323-2473
Post Office (Dormitory)	754-6012/723-2089/323-2534
Protocol	754-2405
Public Affairs	754-2104
Pudgy's Sports Bar	724-0443
Range 14 Rod and Gun Club	562-4676
Safety	754-7233
School Liason	754-3878
	562-6554
Traffic Management Office (TMO), Person	al Property Section (PPS)754-6911
The Attic (Donation/Assistance Center)	754-8703
The Exchange	723-6100/323-7680
	754-2368/723-2683/323-2362
	754-2830
Veterinary Clinic	562-6636



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Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Phone Numbers

QUICK REFERENCE

Emergency....911 • Base Operator...754-1110/323-2011 • Base Status....754-2273/323-7669

IVIC	Gui	re	
Area Code	609,	DSN	650
7in Co	de 0	8641	

Dix Area Code 609, DSN 562 Zip Code 08640

Lakehurst Area Code 732, DSN 624 Zip Code 08733

Zip Code 08641	Zip Cod	e 08640 Zip Code 08733
JBMDL Hospital 87th Medical Group 3458 Neely Rd, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641	(866) 377-2778	JBMDL Dix Victim Advocate Services 5203 Maryland Ave., Fort Dix, NJ, 08640(609) 562-3849, (609) 562-6343
JBMDL Air Force Aid Society Military & Family Support Center		JBMDL Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinators 87th Medical Group 3458 Neely Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08641(609) 754-9082, (609) 754-9083
3435 Broidy Rd, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641	(609) 754-3154	JBMDL McGuire ID/CAC Card Processing
JBMDL Andrews Federal Credit Union 3456 Broidy Rd, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641	(609) 723-8530	2916 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-1592
JBMDL Armed Forces Bank McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641		JBMDL Library 2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-2079 JBMDL Loan Closet
JBMDL Auto Hobby Shop 2416 Vandenberg Ave., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641	(609) 562-3333	Military & Family Support Center 3435 Broidy R., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-3154
JBMDL Exchange Barber Shop Main Exchange, 3452 Broidy Ave., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641	(609) 723-5190	JBMDL McGuire-Dix Housing Management Office 3700 A Circle Dr., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641609) 754-3662
JBMDL Women, Infants, and Children (WIC & WIC-O) Department of Health 15 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton, NJ, 08060	(000) 207 4204	JBMDL McGuire Family Advocacy Program 3458 Neely Rd., JB MDL McGuire, NJ, 08641(609) 754-9680
JBMDL Main Exchange 3452 Broidy Ave., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641-0000		JBMDL Legal Services/JAG 2901 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-2010
JBMDL Exchange Food Court 3452 Broidy Ave., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641		JBMDL McGuire Chapel McGuire Chapel
JBMDL Chaplain and Religious Services - Lakehurst Cathedral of the Air		2503 East Arnold Ave, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-4673 JBMDL McGuire Sports and Fitness Center
264 Hope Chapel Rd., Lakehurst, NJ, 08733 JBMDL McGuire Child Development Center #1 2430 Can Do Way, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641		2504 POW/MIA Blvd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-6085 JBMDL McGuire Victim Advocate Services 2903 McGuire Blvd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-2988, (609) 754-2968
JBMDL McGuire Child Development Center #2 2414 Tuskegee Airmen Ave., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641		JBMDL McGuire Welcome Center 3021 McGuire Blvd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-3628, (609) 754-3938
JBMDL Civilian Personnel Office 2903 McGuire Blvd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641		JBMDL Lakehurst Privatized Housing Office 1053 Division St., Lakehurst, NJ, 08733(844) 334-0831
JBMDL McGuire Commissary 3453 Broidy Rd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-21		JBMDL Veterinary Services 3259 Gettysburg Ave., Fort Dix, NJ, 08640(609) 562-6636
JBMDL Dental Clinic 2417 McGuire Blvd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-37	86, (609) 234-2189	JBMDL Dix Outdoor Recreation Center 6045 Doughboy Loop, JB MDL, NJ, 08641-0000 (609) 562-6667, (609) 562-4208
JBMDL Dix Chapel 5240 New Jersey Ave., Fort Dix, NJ, 08641	(609) 754-4673	JBMDL Non-appropriated Funds (NAF) Human Resources 2916 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641
JBMDL Education & Training Center 3829 School House Rd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-30	019, (609) 754-4116	JBMDL New Parent Support Program 87th Medical Group
JBMDL EFMP - Family Support 3435 Broidy Rd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-31	54, (609) 754-9290	3458 Neely R., JB MDL, NJ, 08641(609) 754-9680, (866) 377-2778 JBMDL McGuire Personal Financial Management Services
JBMDL EFMP - Enrollment 87th Medical Group 3458 Neely Rd., JB MDL McGuire, NJ, 08640	(609) 754-9752	Military & Family Support Center 3435 Broidy Rd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-3154
JBMDL Falcon Creek Golf Course 2007 Can Do Way, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-21		JBMDL Military Personnel Support Office 2916 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-3986, (609) 754-4740 (609) 754-5092, (609) 754-3017
JBMDL McGuire Family Center 3435 Broidy Rd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641	(609) 754-3154	JBMDL McGuire Relocation Assistance Program Military & Family Support Center
JBMDL Family Child Care Program 3435 Broidy Rd., JB McGuire, NJ, 08640(609) 754-31	54, (609) 754-3341	3435 Broidy R., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-3154 JBMDL McGuire Retirement Services
JBMDL McGuire Finance Office 2906 Tuskegee Airmen Ave., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641	(609) 754-6258	2916 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-2362, (609) 754-2474 continued on page 44

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Phone numbers continued from page 43 JBMDL School Liaison Office	JBMDL Dix Transition Assistance Program 541W Delaware Ave., JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 562-1761, (609) 562-1556
3435 Broidy Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 754-3154	JBMDL Lakehurst Transition Assistance Program 488-2 Highway 547, JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1248, (866) 340-1685
JBMDL McGuire Spouse Education, Training and Careers Military & Family Support Center 3435 Broidy R., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-3154	JBMDL Dix ID/CAC Card Processing McDonald Hall, 5418 South Scott Plaza, JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 562-2177
JBMDL Household Goods/Transportation Office 1706 Vandenberg Ave., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641 (609) 754-6911, (609) 754-3521	JBMDL Lakehurst ID/CAC Card Processing Highway 547, JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-5060
JBMDL Household Goods/Transportation Office (Inbound) 5139 Pemberton-Wrightstown Rd., Fort Dix, NJ, 08640(609) 562-6376	JBMDL Dix Youth Center 1279 Locust Street, JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 562-5061
JBMDL McGuire Transition Assistance Program Military & Family Support Center	JBMDL Lakehurst Youth Center 487 Walsh Drive, JB MDL, NJ, 08733 (732) 323-4043
3435 Broidy Rd., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641(609) 754-3154 JBMDL McGuire-Dix Unaccompanied Member Housing	JBMDL Lakehurst Victim Advocate Services 201 Highway 34 South, JB MDL, NJ, 07722(732) 573-5199
2616 Tuskegee Airman Ave., JB MDL, NJ, 08641(609) 754-5498 JBMDL Crescenz VA Medical Center	JBMDL Dix Welcome Center 2270 Fort Dix Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 562-6604
Crescenz VA Medical Center 3900 Woodland Ave., Philadelphia, PA,.19104(215) 823-5800, (800) 949-1001	JBMDL Lakehurst Outdoor Recreation 123 Severyns Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-2583,(732) 323-1362 JBMDL Griffith Fitness Center
JBMDL McGuire Youth Center 3830 East Scott St., McGuire AFB, NJ, 08641	8th St., JB MDL, NJ, 08640
JBMDL Navy Federal Credit Union 201 State Route 34 N., Colts Neck, NJ, 07722(888) 842-6328	5953 Newport St., JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 562-5780 JBMDL Lakehurst Fitness Center
JBMDL Navy Federal Credit Union 2100 Route 38, Cherry Hill, NJ, 08002(888) 842-6328	123 Severyns Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-7266 JBMDL Dix Child Development Center
JBMDL McGuire Information and Referral Services 3435 Broidy Rd., JB MDL McGuire, NJ, 08641(609) 754-3154	1188 Juliustown Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 562-2371 JBMDL Lakehurst Child Development Center
JBMDL McGuire Temporary Lodging/Billeting The All American Inn 2786 Mitchell Rd., JB MDL McGuire, NJ, 08641(609) 754-4667	657 Berry Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-2260 JBMDL McGuire School Age Care Program
JBMDL Lakehurst Unaccompanied Member Housing Highway 547, JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1268	3830 E. Scott St., JB MDL, NJ, 08641(609) 754-5914 JBMDL Dix School Age Care Program
JBMDL Lakehurst Housing Management Office 483 Walsh Drive, JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-2370	5219 8th St., JB MDL, NJ, 08640
JBMDL McGuire-Dix Privatized Family Housing 3700 A Circle Dr., JB MDL, NJ, 08641(609) 723-4290, (609) 316-0172	JBMDL Lakehurst Commissary 485 Walsh Rd., Lakehurst, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1220, (732) 323-1271
JBMDL Lakehurst Family Center 488-2 Highway 547, JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1248	JBMDL Dix Bowling Center 6054 Doughboy Loop, JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 562-6895
JBMDL Lakehurst Information & Referral Services 488-2 Highway 547, Trenton, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1248	JBMDL Lakehurst Bowling Center 489 Saniuk Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-2027
JBMDL Lakehurst Relocation Assistance Program 488-2 Highway 547, JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1248	JBMDL Dix Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT) 6045 Doughboy Loop, JB MDL, NJ, 08640(609) 562-4208, (609) 562-6667
JBMDL Lakehurst Personal Financial Management Services 488-2 Highway 547, JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1248	JBMDL Lakehurst Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT) 123 Severyns Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1362, (732) 323-4565
JBMDL Lakehurst Spouse Education, Training and Careers 488-2 Highway 547, JB MDL, NJ, 08733(732) 323-1248	JBMDL Pine Ridge Golf Course 33 Berry Rd., JB MDL, NJ, 08733

New Jersey Veteran Service Organizatons

Please note that the following lists includes only five posts from each of two major VSOs, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The most current and comprehensive information of these two VSOs at the State level can be found at the following websites:

www.njamericanlegion.org

vfwnj.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp

American Legion Post 509

320 Beverly Rancocas Rd, Willingboro, NJ 08046 (609) 871-9000

American Legion Post 371

41 N Lakeview Dr, Gibbsboro, NJ 08026 (856) 783-7327

American Legion Post 38

129 Veterans Ln, Haddonfield, NJ 08033 (856) 429-5414

American Legion Post 129

2025 Church Rd, Toms River, NJ 08754 (732) 255-9250

American Legion Post 348

822 Mantoloking Rd, Brick, NJ 08723 (732) 477-1915

VFW Post 1817

142 Riverbank, Burlington, NJ 08016 (609) 386-3608

VFW Post 2445

914 East Main Street, Maple Shade, NJ 0805 (856) 667-9581

VFW Post 1270

2324 Penn St, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 (856) 317-9081

VFW Post 316

30 Gilford Road, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087 (609) 296-8090

VFW Post 3729

11 E. Winifred Avenue, Beach Haven, NJ 08008 (609) 494-0310

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Thank You For Your Sacrifice & Service To Our Nation

















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Thank You For Your Sacrifice & Service To Our Nation





















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