



Together We Serve

PA DMVA



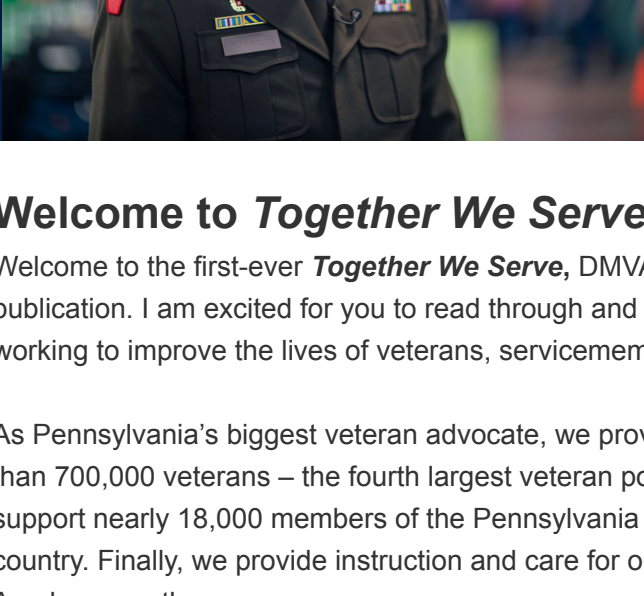
Sept. 2024

Veterans Affairs

Veteran Programs

PA National Guard

News and Events



Message from the Adjutant General

Welcome to Together We Serve

Welcome to the first-ever *Together We Serve*, DMVA's new, free monthly electronic publication. I am excited for you to read through and see how together, all of DMVA is working to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers their families and our youth.

As Pennsylvania's biggest veteran advocate, we provide programs and services to more than 700,000 veterans – the fourth largest veteran population in the country. We also support nearly 18,000 members of the Pennsylvania National Guard, the third largest in the country. Finally, we provide instruction and care for our Keystone State ChalleNGe Academy youth.

You have made great sacrifices in service to our nation, and it is our responsibility to make sure you are aware of and receive the benefits you have earned.

Through *Together We Serve*, you will learn about DMVA's veteran outreach throughout the commonwealth, the care being delivered to residents at our six veterans homes, all that is being done to support our men and women in uniform, and so much more.

It is truly our honor to provide this information to you in this new *Together We Serve* format.

We hope that you enjoy reading this inaugural issue, and that you tell other veterans and advocates about this great resource so they too can sign up for the registry and start receiving *Together We Serve*. The registry can be found at www.dmva.pa.gov.

We also welcome your feedback as to how we can improve this publication, and what other information would be helpful to you in future editions. There is a feedback link located at the bottom of this publication for you to click and share.

Thank you again for all you have done to keep America free and safe.

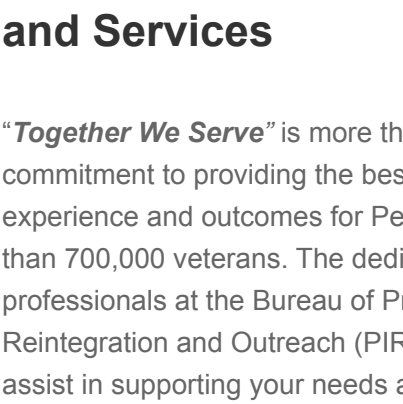
On a personal note, as I prepare to retire after nearly four decades with the Pennsylvania National Guard, it has been a tremendous honor to serve you. I am honored to have served shoulder-to-shoulder with soldiers and airmen who will continue to be Always Ready, Always There. To our veterans, it has been an honor to follow in your footsteps; and to our families, thank you for your sacrifice and support of your loved ones in uniform.

Gratefully,

Maj. Gen. Mark Schindler

Pennsylvania's adjutant general and head of the DMVA

Veterans Affairs



VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF

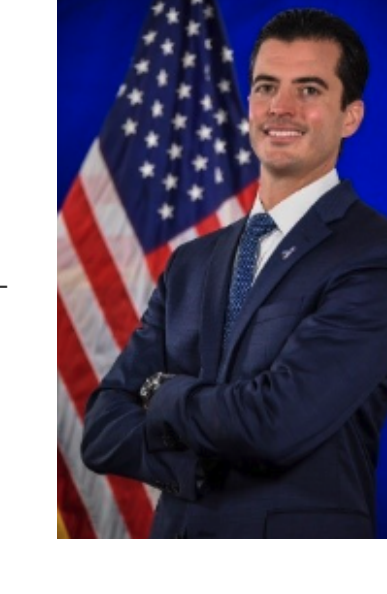
DMVA Delivers Message of Hope During National Suicide Prevention Month

The Pennsylvania Governor's Challenge Team to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans and their Families continues to work with federal, state and local government entities and a strong cadre of community partners to address the incidence of suicide within the commonwealth. The DMVA is the Pennsylvania Governor's Challenge team lead...

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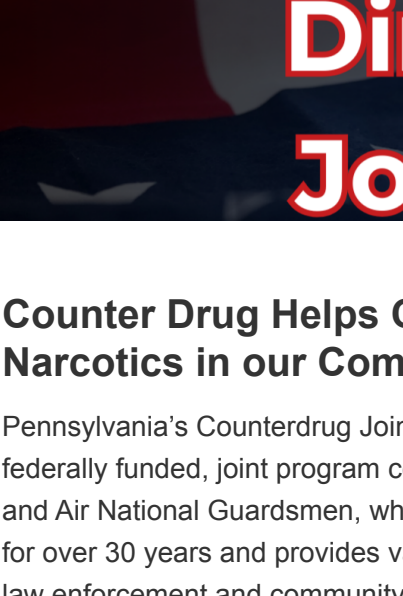
Veteran Programs and Services

Letter from the Executive Director of Veterans Programs and Services



"Together We Serve" is more than a title for us, it's a commitment to providing the best possible customer experience and outcomes for Pennsylvania's more than 700,000 veterans. The dedicated team of professionals at the Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach (PIRO) is available to assist in supporting your needs as a veteran, family member, or caretaker...

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Raising Awareness About Fraud

Pension poaching and fraud are serious issues targeting veterans, especially those receiving benefits like VA pensions. Scammers often assist in applying for benefits or restructuring assets, charging veterans for otherwise free services through accredited veteran service officers (VSOs)...

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Veteran Homes

Pennsylvania Veterans Homes are Quality Driven

Dear Friends,

Our Pennsylvania veterans homes are quality-driven healthcare facilities that provide compassionate and cost-effective care to veterans and their spouses. Our goal is straightforward -- to be the best option for veterans in need of long-term or personal care services...

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Veterans Homes Staff Recognized for Outstanding Contributions

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs recently recognized two Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home staff members with the Department's highest honors. Ms. Elizabeth Sul-Celline, Facility Reimbursement Manager, was named DMVA Employee of the Year...

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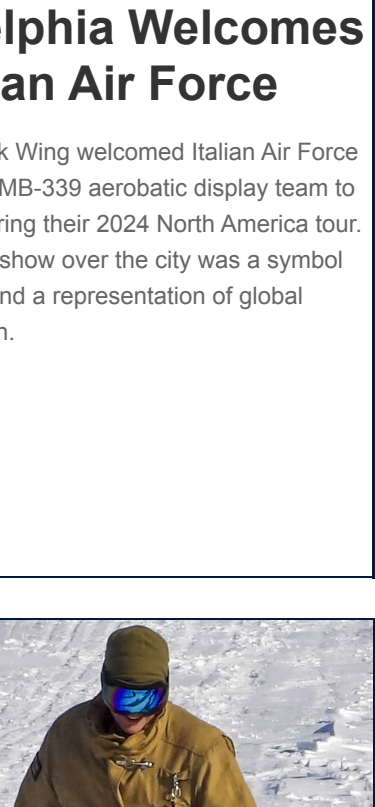


Director of Joint Staff

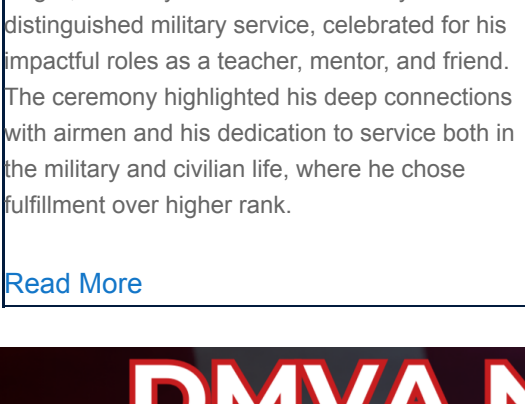
Counter Drug Helps Combat Illicit Narcotics in our Communities

Pennsylvania's Counterdrug Joint Task Force (CJTF) is a federally funded, joint program consisting of both Army and Air National Guardsmen, which has been in existence for over 30 years and provides various areas of support to law enforcement and community-based organizations to assist in combatting illicit narcotics in our communities...

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PA National Guard Army

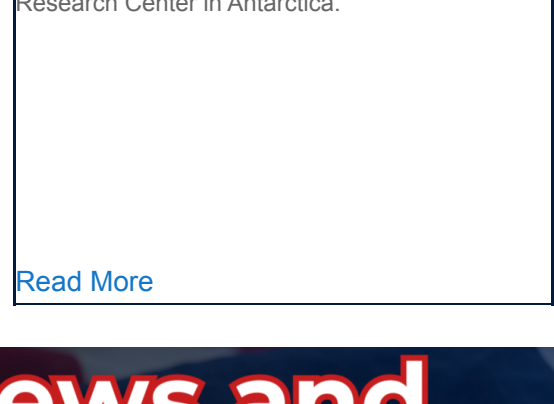


Support of the Pennsylvania National Guard

The Servicemembers of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard are thankful for the DMVA's support as they continue to proudly serve the state and the nation across the globe.

There are currently over 2,000 members of the PAARNG serving outside the commonwealth and overseas providing stability and security operations, protecting our borders, and helping to prevent threats to the United States in support of the Global War on Terrorism...

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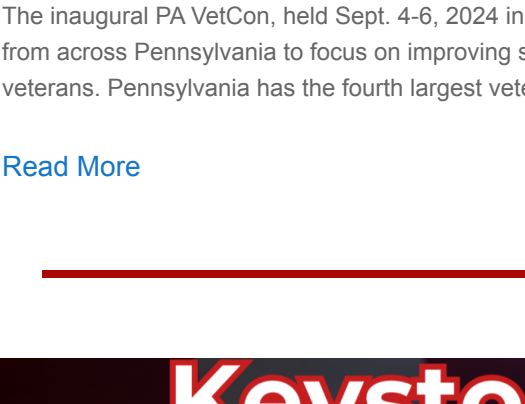


Latina Style Distinguished Military Service Award Goes to Member of PANG

Master Sgt. Alejandra Long, SR Human Resources NCO for the 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, was recently selected as the recipient of the 2024 Latina Style Distinguished Military Service Award for the US Army...

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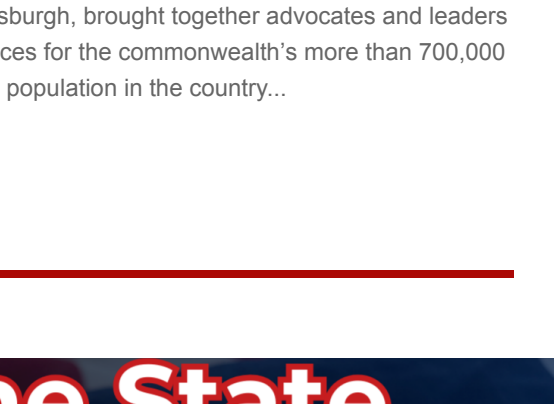
PA National Guard Air Force



Air Force and Navy Train Together

The 193rd Air Operations Group played a pivotal role in helping our U.S. Navy Reserve counterparts enhance their familiarity with joint operations and receive specialized system training directly connected to real-world scenarios. Through the work of our exceptional airmen, this joint training operation was a success in highlighting the invaluable importance of collaboration in the efforts of combat readiness for the events of tomorrow.

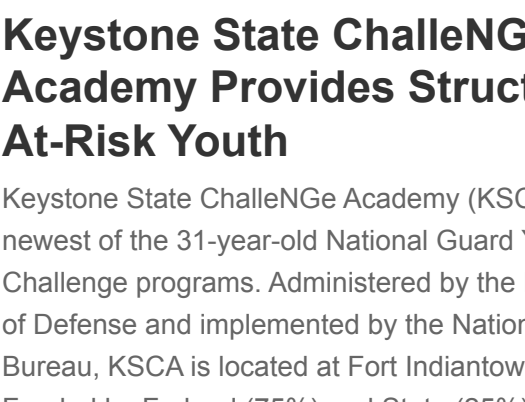
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Philadelphia Welcomes the Italian Air Force

The 111th Attack Wing welcomed Italian Air Force Frece Tricolor MB-339 aerobatic display team to Philadelphia during their 2024 North America tour. Their aerobatic show over the city was a symbol of partnership and a representation of global security strength.

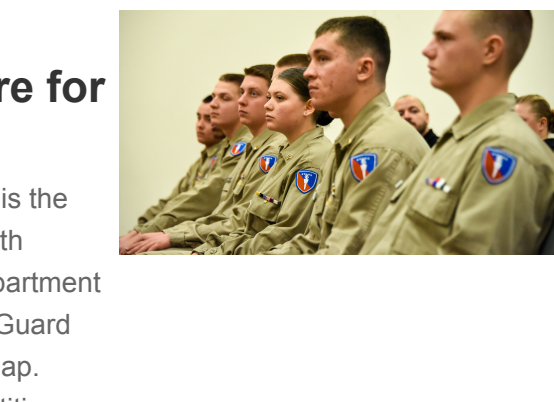
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111th ATKW's "Big E" Retires After 37 Years of Service

Master Sgt. Earl Scott, the 111th Force Support Squadron's former chaplain assistant known as "Big E," recently retired after over 37 years of distinguished military service, celebrated for his impactful roles as a teacher, mentor, and friend. The ceremony highlighted his deep connections with airmen and his dedication to service both in the military and civilian life, where he chose fulfillment over higher rank.

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Supporting Operation Deep Freeze

Four firefighters from the 171st Air Refueling Wing became the first from their unit to participate in Operation Deep Freeze, supporting the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Research Center in Antarctica.

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DMVA News and Events



PA VetCon 2024, An Event For Veteran Advocates

The inaugural PA VetCon, held Sept. 4-6, 2024 in Pittsburgh, brought together advocates and leaders from across Pennsylvania to focus on improving services for the commonwealth's more than 700,000 veterans. Pennsylvania has the fourth largest veteran population in the country...

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Keystone State Challenge Academy

Keystone State Challenge Academy Provides Structure for At-Risk Youth



Keystone State ChalleNGe Academy (KSCA) is the newest of the 31-year-old National Guard Youth Challenge programs. Administered by the Department of Defense and implemented by the National Guard Bureau, KSCA is located at Fort Indiantown Gap. Funded by Federal (75%) and State (25%) entities, KSCA targets potential high school dropouts 15 1/2 to 18 years of age.

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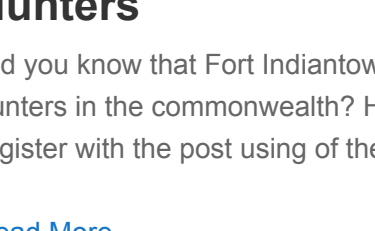
Policy and Legislation

Be Part of Change with the DMVA Office of Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs!



The DMVA is inviting you to contribute to the policy-making process! Our Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs (PPL) Office serves as a vital link between the DMVA, the U.S. Congress, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and other state agencies. We are actively seeking innovative policy and legislative proposals for the upcoming session, and we want to hear from you!

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Key 2023-2024 Legislative Wins for Pennsylvania

To date, the 2023-2024 legislative cycle has been a major success for the DMVA Policy, Legislative, and Planning Office. As of September 2024, we've passed 16 bills and five resolutions, with 13 additional bills under consideration. Our legislative focus has been on supporting military families, veterans, and key communities, while addressing broader public needs across Pennsylvania.

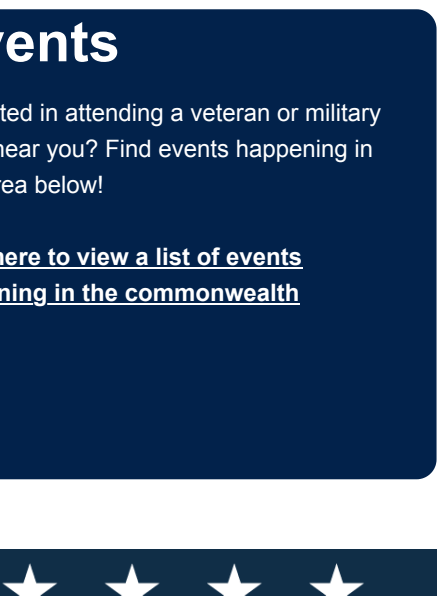
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Facilities and Engineering

Fort Indiantown Gap Open to Hunters

Did you know that Fort Indiantown Gap is open to hunters in the commonwealth? Hunters are required to register with the post using of the sportsman website.

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Another Busy Training Year

After another very busy training year that began on Oct. 1 2023, and which will end on Sept. 30, 2024, Fort Indiantown Gap (FTIG) is poised to be once again one of the busiest National Guard Training Centers in all of the United States and its territories.

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Fort Indiantown Gap to Hold First Open House in 10 Years

On Nov. 16, 2024 the Fort Indiantown Gap Training Center, in conjunction with the DMVA, and the Pennsylvania Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), will host an Open House for members of the general public.

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Jobs

Are you interested in state jobs at DMVA or federal government jobs in PA? Click the links below to find your new career today!

[Click here to find available jobs at DMVA](#)

[Click here to find available federal government jobs in Pennsylvania](#)

Events

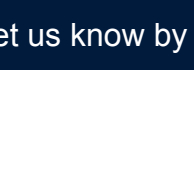
Interested in attending a veteran or military event near you? Find events happening in your area below!

[Click here to view a list of events happening in the commonwealth](#)



Register to Vote

The last day to register: **Oct. 21, 2024**



Election Day is Nov. 5 vote.pa.gov

We want your feedback!

Do you like our new DMVA Digest?

Let us know by filling out our [feedback form!](#)

Need to contact us? [Click the button below!](#)

