



Family Program Staff

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J1 Message

Our Family Programs are in full swing planning for the reintegration of the recently returned 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the host of families that will reunite in May. Concurrently, they are supporting the 1710th Transportation Company’s mobilization this month and our other units scheduled to mobilize this year. The J1 Directorate is fully integrating the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and veterans benefits programs with family programs to ensure that our Soldiers and Families receive the assistance they need regardless of the “door” you knock on.

We are also taking steps to ensure that the right to vote is understood and available to our Families and Soldiers. In addition to voter awareness programs sponsored by the Virginia State Board of Elections, we want to ensure that all of deployed soldiers are able to submit a timely absentee ballot. In partnership with the State Board, we will offer Soldiers the opportunity to register to vote at SRP and assist commander’s efforts for them to submit for absentee ballots after they mobilize. These efforts should also benefit family members who are also able to submit absentee ballots once the Soldier is mobilized. Please visit www.fvap.gov for more information regarding voter registration and absentee ballots for general and state specific elections.

State Family Program Director

You can expect to see a few changes in the Newsletter starting with this issue. We will be highlighting a Family Programs Staff member each month as well as a Volunteer. I would like for the families to get to know each Family Program Staff member and get a clearer understanding of who they are and what services they provide.

We also will be recognizing a different Volunteer each month. Volunteers are out in the units and communities, involved and making a difference. They give so much to their communities and country and we want to THANK them and let them know how much we appreciate their contributions .

Finally, we are adding more dates and information on upcoming events for National Guard Family members. We want to encourage maximum participation by letting you know the information on events as soon as possible so that it is easier for you to make plans to attend.

If you have any suggestions or feedback on what we can do to serve you better, please contact the Family Programs Office. We want your feedback!

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Family Resource Corner

American Institute of Stress	http://www.stress.org
American Red Cross	http://www.redcross.org
DEERS/ID Cards Site Locations	http://www.dmdc.ods.mil/rsl
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	http://www.esgr.org
Healthy Parenting	http://www.healthyparentinghappyfamily.ca/
HOOAH4Health	http://www.hooah4health.com
Military One Source	http://www.militaryonesource.com
Military Student	http://www.militarystudent.org
My Army Benefits	http://www.myarmybenefits.us.army.mil
My Army Life Too	http://www.myarmylifetoo.com
NACARA	http://www.NACCRA..org
National Call Center 211	http://www.211.org
National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	http://www.ncptsb.org
National Guard Family Programs	http://www.guardfamily.org
National Military Family Association	http://www.nmfa.org
Our Military Kids	http://www.ourmilitarykids.org
Operation Military Kids	http://www.operationmilitarykids.org
Salute Our Services	http://www.saluteourservices.org
TRICARE	http://www.tricare.mil/
Veterans Affairs	http://www.va.gov
Virginia Association for Community Conflict Resolution	http://www.vaccr.org/
Virginia Department of Veteran Services	http://www.dvs.virginia.gov

Upcoming Events

Marriage Retreat	8-9 March 08	Alexandria, Virginia	Kay Baber
Reunion & Reintegration	15 March 08	Woodstock, Virginia	Kat Higgins
Kids Fest	20 April 08	Langley AFB	Angie Wade
Spouses Spa Event	20 May 08	Langley AFB	Angie Wade
Marriage Retreat	20-22 June 08	Tidewater VA	Kay Baber
Wilderness Adventure Teen Camp	22-26 June 08	Eagle Landing New Castle	Dana Ivory
Marriage Retreat	18-20 July 08	Central VA	Kay Baber
Marriage Retreat	25-27 July 08	Central VA	Kay Baber
Jr Youth Camp	3-8 August 08	VA Beach, Camp Pendleton	Dana Ivory
Marriage Retreat	15-17 August 08	Tidewater VA	Kay Baber
Marriage Retreat	22-24 August 08	North West VA	Kay Baber
Marriage Retreat	26-28 Sept 08	Tidewater VA	Kay Baber
State Volunteer Workshop	September 08	To Be Announced	Vickie Sais

Volunteer Highlight



Each month, Family Programs will spotlight a Family Readiness Group Volunteer. This month we would like to introduce you to Mrs. Lori Wentworth.

Lori, a native of New York, is married to Major Phillip Wentworth. She and her husband have been married for seventeen years and have three children, Megan, Abigail and Elias. Lori is a full time first grade teacher and a dedicated Family Readiness Group Volunteer. She began volunteering in 1997 when her husband was a company commander. Her involvement at that time was minimal, as there was not a lot of emphasis placed on FRGs. When her husband deployed to Bosnia in 2001, she became more involved including being a key caller for the unit's phone tree.

Between 2001 and 2004, she remained involved in the FRG and helped where her talents were needed. In 2005, she shifted her efforts from company level FRG to battalion level FRG when she became the FRG Leader for the 1-116th Infantry Battalion. Lori distinguished herself through her exceptional performance in this role from December 2005 to February 2008. Lori assisted with helping families prepare for deployments that would send 1-116th soldiers to Kosovo, Kuwait and Iraq, all supporting different missions. This truly took a lot of time and coordination to keep track of which

families had soldiers deploying where. In addition, Lorie was also instrumental in battalion and unit family events, including holiday meals, sendoffs and home comings. When Lori's husband deployed with 2-183rd Cavalry Squadron, Lori remained dedicated to Families of 1st battalion and even began working closely with the FRG Leadership within 2-183 Cavalry Squadron. Lori's leadership and enthusiasm were contagious, earning her respect amongst her FRG peers. In addition to being a FRG Leader, Lori has also been active in the Military Children Education Coalition, a program designed to bring awareness to Virginia educators on the issues that pertain to children of deployed military members.

Lori also volunteered at the Virginia National Guard Youth Camp, in 2005. She has represented Virginia National Guard Families at the National Guard Bureau, Family Programs National Volunteer Workshop in Philadelphia PA in 2006. In November 2007, Lori's hard work and efforts were recognized by the National Infantry Association. She was awarded The Shield of Sparta-Heroine of Infantry award at the 116th Infantry Regimental Muster in Staunton, VA. Then in February 2008, at the Freedom Salute Award Ceremony for the 1-116th Infantry battalion returning from Kosovo, Lori was again recognized and presented the Virginia Bronze Star Medal. Even though Lori announced at the Freedom Salute awards that she would be stepping down as 1-116th Battalion FRG leader, she remains available to provide assistance for those who call upon her for help or guidance. Lori is truly the epitome of the volunteer spirit of the Family Readiness Groups of the Virginia National Guard.

Family Assistant Center Coordinator Highlight



Hello! I am Tina Harrison, your Family Assistance Center Coordinator. It is my pleasure to oversee all of the Family Assistance Centers (FAC) across the Commonwealth. Over the next several months, I will highlight a different Family Assistant Specialist so you can meet our team and get to know us better.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I was born an Army brat! My father retired after serving 20 years in the Active Army. I then became a military spouse. My husband, Burton Harrison, was active duty Army for 10 years, and has been in the National Guard for 11 years. Most recently, I have become a military mom. My daughter, Christina Harrison, joined the Virginia National Guard about 5 months ago! I also have 3 sons', (who have already been told they are joining too) that keeps me busy.

I became a volunteer FRG Leader just after my husband's first deployment in 2002. In October of 2004, I was given the opportunity to join the FAC team as a FAC Specialist and then in 2006 the FAC Coordinator. I truly enjoy working in our Family Programs office and understand the meaning of being a military Family and the challenges we face. I am here to serve and assist you with whatever needs you may have! I have met so many of our Guard families and look forward to meeting many more of you! I can be contacted at tina.a.harrison@us.army.mil, 757-416-2095 or 1-800-542-4028.

2008 Air Guard Youth Of the Year Program

Once more, Air National Guard Youth are eligible to participate in the Air Force “Youth of the Year” Program. This program is conducted in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (B&GCA) Youth of the Year Program and the same criteria are used for selecting the Youth of the Year at each Air National Guard Unit.

The 2008 Air National Guard Youth of the Year will receive a plaque, a bear award, and a congratulatory memo from HQ USAF/A1S. At this time details on the YOY AF Leadership Program are being finalized and will be provided as soon as possible.

To compete, candidates should submit a complete package to the Wing Family Program Coordinator and must meet all criteria. Nomination packets are due into the Wing Family Program Office no later than **March 15, 2008**.

Angie Wade, Wing Family Program Coordinator for the Virginia Air National Guard, will announce our selection with the assistance of a blind panel. The packet will then be forwarded to Sandra Mason, the Child Care and Youth Specialist at NGB for final selection no later than 15 April, 2008.

Our 2006 and 2007 honoree was Ashley Harper, daughter of SMSgt Gary Harper and his wife Debbie. Ashley was selected on the merits of her packet, her home support and community involvement, and her academic achievement. Although Ashley has served as a summer youth volunteer, any volunteer service would qualify a candidate for serious consideration.

I know that there are some more super young people in our Air National Guard family who deserve to be our “2008 Youth Of the Year”. Nominate yours!

To receive a nomination packet, email your request to

angeli.wade@us.af.mil. The packet will be emailed to you.

Army Microsoft Home Use Program

The Microsoft (MS) Home Use Program allows individuals to get a licensed copy of Microsoft Office desktop applications to install and use on a home computer.

The Microsoft Home Use Program (HUP) is eligible to all Army personnel. This includes, Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, and Civilians currently employed by the Army. Contractors ARE NOT eligible.

Note: you must logon to the ASCP using your CAC. You may experience delays as the site is very busy! Lots of Guardsmen are using it. You can get the latest versions of the Microsoft Office Suite as well as the operating system. There is a minimal fee for shipping and handling:

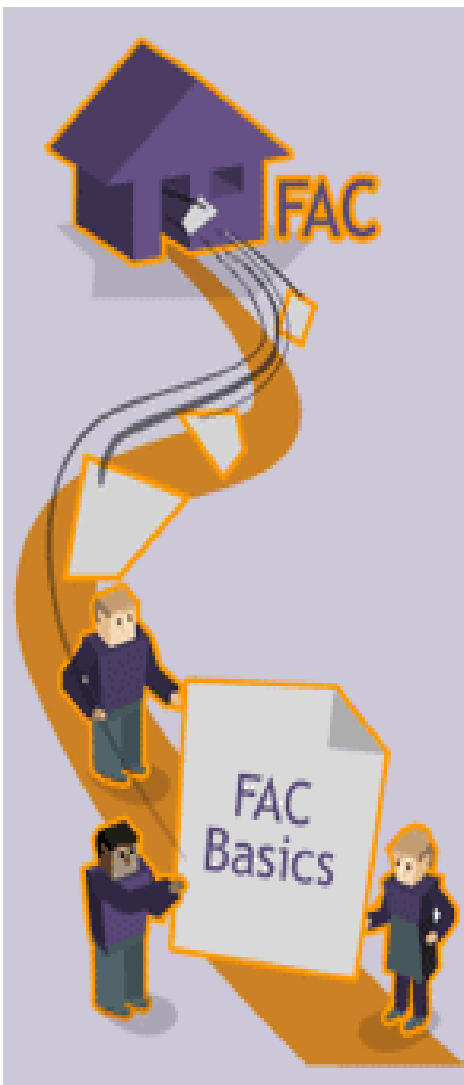
NOTICE: On 19 January 2007, LTG Steven Boutelle, the Army CIO-G6, signed the Army Microsoft Home Use Program (HUP) memorandum, which detailed the Army Home Use Program guidelines. Please refer to the Microsoft Home Use Program page on the ASCP Web site: <https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil/scp/software/hup.jsp> for details and procedures."

Family Assistance Centers

Family Assistance Centers (FAC) were originally established to provide assistance and support to soldiers and their families at times of contingency call-up, mobilization and large scale deployment. However over the past years the FACs have branched out to assist any and all military members and their families during times of need regardless of deployment status or branch affiliation. Each FAC is staffed with a professionally trained FAC Specialist who is dedicated to providing assistance to service members and their families. Each of Virginia's FAC specialists has the added first hand experience of what it means to be either a military service member or member of a military family.

The FACs are considered one-stop shopping for those who need services and support. Through partnerships with agencies such as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), The American Legion, The Red Cross and other local and national organizations and working closely with military personnel such as chaplains, commanders, JAG officers and family readiness group leaders, the FAC specialists are able to provide the very best assistance possible. Some of the areas in which a FAC specialist can provide assistance includes but is not limited to; TRICARE, DEERS, ID cards, financial and legal assistance, service and family member employment/re-employment and crisis intervention referral.

Family Assistance Centers are located through out the state. FAC specialists are available to soldiers and family members experiencing a crisis or emergency no matter when it may occur.



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Emergency

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