



FAMILIES IN FOCUS

Virginia Army & Air National Guard

Volume 2, Issue 6

September 2006

Guard Children Enjoy First Virginia Guard Summer Camp

Inside this issue:

Don't Lose TRICARE Prime Coverage	2
RIRP	3
"America Support You' Freedom Walk	4
The White House Internship Program	4
Youth Group to Open Christmas Store	5
VIDI Talk	6
Armed Forces Voters Week	7
Family Programs Staff	

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. -- More than 50 sons and daughters of Virginia National Guard troops from around the state participated in the first Virginia National Guard Summer Camp Aug. 6- 11 at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach, VA.

"We want them to have fun but we also want them to develop resiliency for parental separations during deployments," said Maj. Leslie C. Myers, the State Family Programs Director. "About half of these kids have experienced their parents being deployed."

The 53 participants were divided into two age groups- 8-12 years old and 13-16 years old.

During the weeklong camp

they participated in everything from team building exercises and youth sports to responsibility and leadership training and "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs." The campers learned about digital photography to create memory books and how to create their own website using the Connect and Join web-based service.

Among the seminars they participated in were depression, improving self esteem, solving conflicts and staying stress free, and "how deployments affect you." They also got to travel to Ocean Breeze water park in Virginia Beach and Busch Gardens in Williamsburg.

"We originally had more than 120 kids interested in the camp," Myers said. "So we

hope to have even more participants next year."

This is the first year for the National Guard Child and Youth Program in Virginia and Myers said they've had more and more kids at each event.

In the future, the goal is to expand the program and partner with other organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA and veteran service organizations. This way they can reach more and more children from National Guard families and, maybe in the future, expand to include children from other military families, such as Army and Air Force reservists by hosting an Operation Purple Camp.

Article by:
Staff Sgt. A.J. Coyne

MAJ Myers
Family Programs Director
(434) 298-6365
lc.myers@us.army.mil

Angeli Wade
Family Wing Coordinator
(804) 864-7036
angeli.wade@varich.ang

1LT Kyle Duffer
State Family Assistance Center
OIC
(434) 298-6260
kyle.a.duffer@us.army.mil

Julia Alaric
Family Readiness Assistant
(434) 298-6336
julia.alaric@va.ngb.army.mil

Kay Baber
Youth Program Coordinator
(434) 298-6129
kay.baber@us.army.mil

Dana Ivory
Family Programs Assistant
(434) 298-5330
dana.ivory@us.army.mil



SEPTEMBER 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



*Schedule of
Events*

Family Day for the 192nd Air Wing

Date: 16 September 2006

Location: Sandston

Focus Group Meeting

Date: 23 September 2006

Location: TBA



Reactivated? Don't Lose TRICARE Prime Coverage

The families of National Guardsmen and Reservists enrolled in TRICARE Prime under the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) lose TAMP Prime coverage when their sponsors are recalled to active duty. They are automatically switched to TRICARE Standard, but new rules allow them to re-enroll up to 30 days after activation and keep their Prime coverage.

TAMP offers TRICARE Prime coverage for 180 days to some service members leaving active duty, and their eligible family members, for a limited time. But if Reserve Component members are recalled to active duty they and their families lose their eligibility for TAMP coverage and are

disenrolled from TRICARE TAMP Prime.

In the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System (DEERS) these service members regain active duty service status, but their family members revert automatically to TRICARE Standard. Before the new rule, even if the member reenrolled them right away, TRICARE Prime coverage was not instated right away. For example, enrollment after July 20th would not get Prime coverage reinstated until September 1st.

"That situation could cause a break in coverage, which seemed unfair to our National Guard and Reserve family members," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of TRICARE

Management Activity. "So I've changed the policy to allow for a seamless transition between TRICARE Prime coverage under TAMP and the same coverage as an active duty family member."

The new policy authorizes a 30-day retroactive TRICARE Prime enrollment period for these transitioning family members. As long as the family is reenrolled in TRICARE Prime within 30 days of the member's reactivation, the coverage will remain unchanged, with coverage retroactive to the date the sponsor was recalled to active duty. A TAMP fact sheet explains details of this policy, at

www.tricare.osd.mil/Factsheets/viewfactsheet.cfm?id=317.

Insurance Scammers Prey on the Bereaved

The Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA) has issued an alert to funeral service establishments that scam artists posing as insurance companies are preying on bereaved families. The scam artist contacts the funeral home or in some cases the families directly, with a false story about life insurance policies. Typically, the funeral director or the family is told that the deceased has a life insurance policy that has recently lapsed, but they can reinstate it (or upgrade it) if the funeral director or the family member makes an immediate credit card payment over the telephone.

The VFDA was first alerted to this scam last week by the South Carolina Funeral Directors Association. At that time, the activity was reported as directed towards funeral directors. However, this week, funeral directors in Richmond report that families have been solicited directly, and we would like to warn the public.

Please be aware that there are scam artists operating in this fashion. If you have questions about an insurance policy the best thing to do is to contact a representative of the company that issued the policy directly yourself. As with anything, don't give your credit card information out over the phone, your banking information, or your social security number or that of anyone whose policy may be in question. Legitimate insurance companies do not do business in this manner.

For additional information contact Susan Motley, Executive Director, Virginia Funeral Directors Association, 804-264-0505, or 804-426-4023 (mobile).

Source: VFDA website



Reserve Income Replacement Program (RIRP)

The Reserve Income Replacement Program (RIRP) was developed to provide specific payments to eligible members of the National Guard and Reserve who are involuntary serving on active duty (the term active duty includes full-time National Guard duty) and who are experiencing a monthly active duty income differential of more than \$50.00, as determined by the member's Service Secretary.

An active duty income differential is the difference between the average monthly civilian earned income of the member before mobilization and the member's total monthly military compensation while involuntarily mobilized, when the member's average monthly civilian income exceeds the total monthly military compensation.

RIRP is an entitlement that must be paid to all eligible service members. To be eligible for RIRP payments, the member must be currently serving on active duty in an involuntary status and have:

- Completed 18 consecutive months of active duty, or
- Completed 24 months of active duty during the previous 60 months, or
- Been involuntarily mobilized for 180 days or more within six months of the previous involuntary period of active duty of more than 180 days.

RIRP is effective as of August 1, 2006, the first full month following the 180-day period after enactment of P.L. 109-163. Income replacement payments will be made only for full months of qualifying involuntary active duty performed from August 2006 through December 2008.

The first RIRP payments for eligible service members will occur in September 2006, for duty performed in August 2006 (the first full month authorized for payments). RIRP payments will be made to an eligible member on a monthly basis. RIRP payments may not exceed \$3,000 per month.

Source: Reserve Affairs website http://www.dod.mil/ra/html/rirp_factsheet.html



Send a Postcards to Troops Overseas

The mission of Let's Say Thanks is to provide a way for individuals across the country to recognize U.S. troops stationed overseas. By submitting a message through www.letsaythanks.com, you have the opportunity to send a free personalized postcard greeting to deployed servicemen and women.

All you have to do is visit our website, click on your favorite design and either select the message that best expresses your sentiment or draft a personal note. The postcards are then printed on the Xerox iGen3[®] Digital Production Press and mailed in care packages by military support organization [Give2TheTroops[®]](http://Give2TheTroops.com).

Xerox is committed to helping people across the nation express their gratitude to our troops overseas. The launch of this program is aimed at reminding them how much Americans appreciate their service.



Defense Department to Host Second Annual 'America Supports You' Freedom Walk

The Defense Department announced that it will hold the second annual "America Supports You" 'Freedom Walk,' Sunday, Sept. 10, the night before the five-year anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.

Monday, Sept. 11, 2006, marks the five-year anniversary of the tragic attacks at the Pentagon, the Twin Towers in New York City, and Shanksville, Pa. Last year, as part of an ongoing effort to commemorate Sept. 11, 2001, the Department of Defense hosted the first "America Supports You" 'Freedom Walk' bringing together more than 15,000 walkers including family members of the victims of Sept. 11, members of Congress, administration officials, federal workers, corporate employees, civic organizations and citizens from across the country. All walked to pay tribute to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11 and to honor the brave service of U.S. troops and veterans protecting the nation's freedom.

This year the "America Supports You" 'Freedom Walk' will begin at 7:30 p.m., EDT, Sunday, Sept. 10, and follow a two-mile route from the National Mall in Washington D.C. passing several national memorials, across Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery and ending at the Pentagon in Arlington, VA. Immediately following the walk, musical star Denyce Graves will perform for those who completed the Freedom Walk in tribute to the family members.

In addition to the national "America Supports You" 'Freedom Walk,' many cities will be hosting their own 'Freedom Walks.' Information on those walks can be found at the "America Supports You" Web site - <http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil>.

The "America Supports You" 'Freedom Walk' is free and open to the public. Individuals interested in walking in the Washington, D.C. 'Freedom Walk' must register to participate at the "America Supports You" Web site. Registration closes at 10 a.m. EDT on Friday, Sept. 8, 2006.

Persons interested in starting their own 'Freedom Walk' can register it on "America Supports You" Web site and download the 'Freedom Walk' planning guide for assistance and recommendations.

For a complete list of events the Department of Defense will be participating in to mark Sept. 11, check the "America Supports You" Web site for updates.

"America Supports You" is an ongoing nationwide program launched by DoD to help showcase Americans' support for U.S. military men and women and their families and communicate that support to members of American forces at home and abroad. Information on the program is found at <http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil>.

Source: DoD website <http://www.defenselink.mil/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=9792>

THE WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The White House Internship Program offers an excellent opportunity to serve our President and explore public service. We are seeking exceptional candidates to apply for this highly competitive program. In addition to typical office duties, interns attend weekly lectures, tours, and complete an intern service project.

Interns may serve a term in the Fall, Spring or Summer. *Every candidate must be a United States citizen, enrolled in a college or university, and at least 18 years of age.*

An application and additional information about the program can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/wh-intern.html>.

Strong applications exhibit:

- * sound academic credentials
- * a history of community involvement and leadership
- * solid verbal/written communication skills
- * a demonstrated interest in public service

Applications should be submitted to Karen Race, Deputy Director and Intern Coordinator, White House Personnel, at intern_application@whitehouse.gov on or before the following deadlines:

- * **October 13, 2006 for SPRING 2007 - (January 9 to May 11, 2007)**
- * **March 6, 2007 for SUMMER 2007 - (May 22 to August 24, 2007)**

If you have questions you may contact Karen Race at (202) 456-5979 or intern_application@whitehouse.gov.



Poster Contest Promotes Military Families

Promoting "My Military Family" as its theme, the Armed Services YMCA is sponsoring a nationwide poster contest for children of military families. The winner will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond.

The YMCA will produce and distribute the winning poster in commemoration of Military Family Week, held each November during the Thanksgiving period. The contest is open to military children in grades kindergarten through six.

Drawings should depict children and their parents in a military family setting. Poster designs should be on 8 1/2 by 11 inch, regular white, unlined paper. Color or black and white drawings are acceptable. Entries must arrive at the Armed Services YMCA by Sept. 30.

Each entry must include a cover

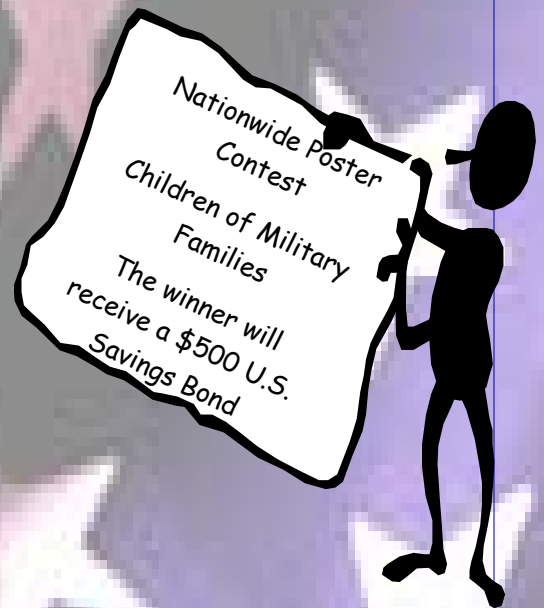
letter with the name, age, grade level and address of the child. In addition, entries must include the parents' full names and the military sponsor's unit.

"We hope that the contest will help draw attention to the importance of military families and the tough challenges they face each and every day," said Frank Gallo, national executive director of the Armed Services YMCA.

Officials said entries may be sent through a local armed services YMCA branch, base human services agencies and post chapels. Artists may also send their projects directly to:

Armed Services YMCA National Headquarters
6225 Brandon Ave., Suite 213
Springfield, VA 22152-2510.

Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/>



Youth Group To Open Christmas Store

Christmas is just down the street... so the Virginia Air National Guard Youth Group is hosting a Christmas Store at the *All Ranks Club* for Air National Guard Kids ages 4 through 12.

The idea of this event is for kids to be able to shop for their family and friends, while having a great time with us. There will also be an appearance from Saint Nick, goodies, snacks and crafts.

All Base Personnel are asked to donate gift items, gift boxes or wrap and ribbons. If you can help, please drop the items) off to the Family Program office in Wing Headquarters, Ste 10, before the

October drill.

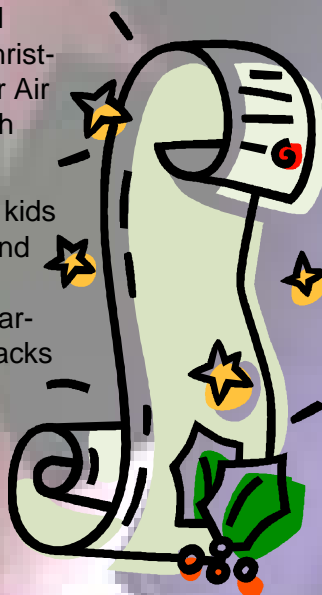
Parents, don't forget, these shoppers need a wish list of people they want to shop for, but we will take care of everything else.

Also, **Remember to register your child or children by e-mailing your child's name and age to Ashley Harper before the October drill.

Youth Volunteers Needed!

Article by:

Ashley Harper,
Youth Editor of VaANG Family Programs Youth Bulletin
E-mail: Auntash23@aol.com



VIDITalk™ for Troops, Families, & FRG's

Stay Connected with *Video* Messaging



VIDITalk...

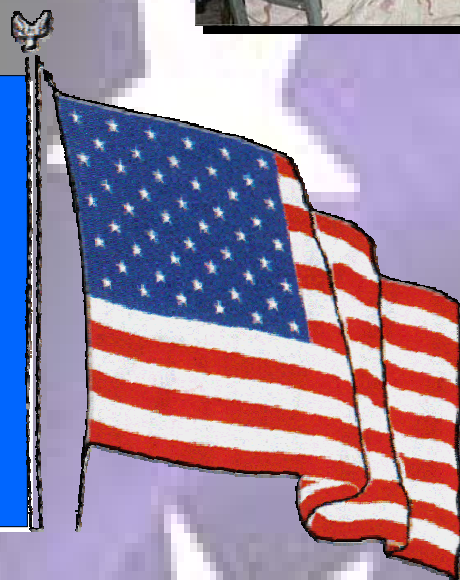
- Easy-to-use and affordable
- High quality streaming video
- No attachments or downloads
- Viewable on high-speed or dial-up
- Built-in email functionality

The hardest part of serving ones country is being away from family and friends. The easy-to-use Family Readiness Group **VIDITalk** video messaging system makes it possible to stay in touch with loved ones around the world.

Create a personal **VIDITalk** message from your PC using a webcam and send it instantly to family or friends as a hyperlink in an email message. Recipients click on the hyperlink and view



Ease the strain of separation with **VIDITalk**. It's the easiest way to create and send personal video messages to your family and friends around the world.



The Family Readiness Group **VIDITalk System** costs less than \$20 a month. Sign up today at www.frq.viditalk.com.

ANSWERS TO LAST
MONTH'S ISSUE

7	1	2	3	5	6	8	4	9
6	8	9	1	4	7	5	2	3
5	4	3	8	2	9	1	6	7
1	3	7	4	6	2	9	8	5
8	2	6	5	9	3	7	1	4
9	5	4	7	1	8	6	3	2
4	6	5	2	7	1	3	9	8
2	9	8	6	3	5	4	7	1
3	7	1	9	8	4	2	5	6

Armed Forces Voter Week

The Department of Defense has declared the week of September 3-9, 2006 as Armed Forces Voters Week. It is during this week that the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) motivates Voting Assistance Officers to promote voting awareness programs and publicizes the importance of requesting your absentee ballot early. This is your opportunity to complete your [Federal Post Card Application](#) and mail it to the locality in which you eligible to be registered to vote, and research the candidates who are running for office in the state in which you claim residency. Voting ensures that there are people in office that represent and protect your rights and freedoms. Voting is a right that you are fighting to protect and preserve. Do not let your vote go to waste. Get involved. Get informed. Vote!



FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

Family Assistance Centers (FAC) State FAC

1LT Duffer
Emergency: (800) 542-4028
(434) 298-6114

kyle.a.duffer@us.army.mil

Lynchburg FAC

Mrs. Annette Prough
(434) 582-5167 *13
(540)521-0966 (M)

Annette.prough@us.army.mil

Manassas FAC

Mrs. Kat Higgins
(703) 392-8858 *41
(703) 554-5520

Kat.higgins@us.army.mil

Norfolk FAC

Mrs. Tina Harrison
(757) 455-0829 *812
(434) 294-1237 (M)

Tina.harrison@us.army.mil

Chatham, Danville, Martinsville & South Boston

Ms. Knyla Robin Harris
(434) 432-7228
(434) 770-3284 (M)

Knyla.harris@us.army.mil

Sandston FAC

Mrs. Tricia Riggs
(804) 328-3004 *811
(804) 380-6343 (M)

Tricia.riggs@us.army.mil

Staunton FAC

Mr. Maurice Harrison
(540) 332-7859
(540)292-2636 (M)

Maurice.harrison@us.army.mil

Virginia Beach FAC

Mrs. Tammy McQuigan
(757) 961-6545
(757) 353-9621(M)

Tammy.c.mcquigan@us.army.mil