

Latest Updates

Issue: 26 March 2009

The State Family Programs Office is available 24/7.

You can go to the following website to get a copy of the current Family Program Office roster.

www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/home.html

In case you can't remember the above address or you are on vacation on a strange computer all you really need to remember is:

www.nj.gov

From there you can search for the Family Programs Office and find the information you need.

The web based newsletter is complete. The information is all on the web and can be found at the above address.

This update document will show 3 things:

- 1) **Items this office wants to highlight even though it may not be new for this issue**
- 2) **The newest items since the last publication date and**
- 3) **The previous weeks update**

All of the information listed in this document will be posted in the other parts of the newsletter found in one of these documents:

- 1) **Family Events** – Here you will find items and activities that are for the family to participate in. The events may or may not be for children.
- 2) **Fundraisers and FRG Events** – Items that you can participate in but not related to an FRG are here. Usually the fundraising activity will help Our Soldiers and Families in some way. Also, you will find FRG events that you can participate in and help the Soldiers and Families of OUR New Jersey National Guard.
- 3) **Deals and Services** – Many companies offer free or reduced priced services. Check out the great deals available to you.
- 4) **Helpful Programs** – Find out about programs designed to help you get through your Soldiers deployment and offers to help you with bill payments, ID cards, and the all important Red Cross procedures in case of personal or family emergency.

The nice thing about web based news is that you can view the webpage any time you wish even while on vacation. For those of you receiving this by mail, you will still receive a copy once a month.

REUNION BRIEFINGS

We know it is early to mention reunion briefs but we wanted to get the dates and locations out now so you can make plans to attend the one most convenient for you. All briefs are the same - they are not unit specific. Attend the one that is most convenient for you. If you have any questions, please call Marie at 609-530-6884

Yellow highlight is for ease of reading only and signifies nothing else.

Soldier & Family Reunion Brief Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Armory</u>	<u>Time</u>
April 4, 2009	Jersey City	9:30 a.m.
April 5, 2009	Vineland	1:00 p.m.
April 16, 2009	Cherry Hill	6:30 p.m.
April 19, 2009	Toms River	1:00 p.m.
April 27, 2009	Woodbridge	6:30 p.m.
May 6, 2009	Somerset	6:30 p.m.
May 11, 2009	Mount Holly	6:30 p.m.
May 16, 2009	Woodbury	9:30 a.m.
May 21, 2009	Teaneck	6:30 p.m.

The Latest Items:

0. Please read the note above about our newsletters

1. Youth Event
2. Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program
3. Tír na nÓg State Family Readiness Council Fundraiser
4. EANJNG Scholarship
5. NJ Aviation FRG T-Shirt Fundraiser
6. National Guard Child Care Use Survey
7. Baby & Toddler Expo
8. Hershey Park National Guard Day Update
9. Update on Great Adventure Tickets
10. Ft Monmouth ACS Presents A Prevent Child Abuse Training Workshop
11. Marie's Message To Our Volunteers
12. Sears Salutes Our Military Heroes (SHORT NOTICE GREAT DEAL!!)
13. Sesame Street Live "Elmo Makes Music" is coming to New Brunswick
14. Preliminary Welcome Home Parade Information

Volunteers

By Penny Bennett

**You hold the hand of many
 Listen to the words of all
 You become more than company
 And are there at the slightest call
 Bringing joy, laughter, warmth and song
 Leaving with what you knew all along
 That shared peace with a willing heart
 Can be found in all of us
 When we each do our part
 Volunteers**

Weekly Trivia

The prize is knowing that you honestly thought about this and can't wait till next week to see if you're correct.
 This week's trivia:

Native American tribes have traditionally been led by male Chiefs. However, in modern times (say the last 200 years) one tribe eventually had a female Chief. What was her name and what tribe did she lead?

Last week's trivia:

What was the only character in Disney's *Alice in Wonderland* that did not appear in Lewis Carroll's books? You may need to get your kids involved!

The Doorknob was the only character in Disney's *Alice in Wonderland* that did not appear in Lewis Carroll's books. Not really a trivia but just a fun fact, Marie Durling also did not appear in the Lewis Carroll book or the movie.

Marie's Message To Our Volunteers

FRG Leaders - Please send me a list of all your volunteers and or supporters and what they did for your FRG's so I can start doing certificates for you to give out in May/June. I personally appreciate all your assistance during this deployment and for stepping "up to the plate" and going above and beyond. I have enjoyed getting to know majority of our Leaders and Volunteers and it has been a pleasure. Thank you!

****The end of the deployment is a few months away and you have all done a great job! I do hope that all FRG's will continue to be active and supportive of our family members and our soldier's/airmen when they return. FRG's are still needed during non deployment times. Our office is always available to assist you and or

your FRG anytime. I am planning another State FRG Leadership training in April 2010. I hope to see everyone there and have another weekend of informative breakouts and speakers.*****

Top Volunteers/Hours for Fiscal Year 2009 (as of 21 March 2009):

Nancy LaCorte	441
Lorraine Mercier-Robertson	328
Carol Sheridan	275
Linda Pagan	236
Lisa Lepre	225
Crystal Marone	175
Cathy Jefferson	136
Beth Clink-Cahill	133
Tom McKenzie	128
Carol Schuren	124
Shari Madera	116
Juanita Hickman	114

I would like to thank all of you for your valued time and dedication to our families and service members of the NJ Army and Air National Guard. I will update stats at the end of each month.

Sears Salutes Our Military Heroes

WHAT: In Sears' continued effort to support America's military servicemen and women, the retailer invites military heroes to its 'Friends and Family' event. Sears is extending its exclusive discount to all active duty, military retirees, veterans, reserve and National Guard members. Sears will open its doors after hours and offer the best value of the season with additional VIP savings of 20 percent off apparel and 10 percent off almost all store items. Exclusive offers include:

- 20% VIP savings on regular, sale and clearance prices of women's, men's and kids' apparel, accessories, shoes and fine jewelry (including Lands' End merchandise in the retail store)
- 10% VIP savings on almost everything else
- 20% savings on all Kenmore appliances or 10% on all other brands appliances, PLUS the 10% VIP savings
- 10% VIP savings on clearance-priced electronics
- Save 40 to 60% on all fine jewelry PLUS the 20% VIP savings

All offers valid on regular, sale and clearance prices at Sears, Sears Grand, Sears Essentials and Sears Hardware stores. Some exclusions apply. Customers can visit Sears.com/vip for details.

WHEN:

- In-Store: **March 29, 2009; 6:00pm – 9:00pm**
- Online: Sears.com: **March 29, 2009 at 6:00pm through March 30, 2009 at 6:00am**

WHERE: All Sears locations.

For more information, contact Carolyn Goldberg (Carolyn.goldberg@eurorscg.com) or 212-367-6947.



Tír na nÓg State Family Readiness Council Fundraiser

On March 29th from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Tír na nÓg, which is a great neighborhood pub located on 1324 Hamilton Ave in Trenton NJ will be sponsoring a fundraiser for the State Family Readiness Council. It will feature 5 hours of live traditional Irish music.

So if you haven't had enough of your St. Patrick's Day celebrations then here is another opportunity!

March 29th, 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Featuring Musical Guests: Tom Glover, Billy O'Neal, John O'Neal, Tom McCloskey, Kevin McCloskey, Jerry Monk, Ed Wilson, Frank Thewes, Connor, and the Sunday Seisiún Singers.
Line up is subject to change. Come out, make a donation, and give a shout out to your friends in service.
All Proceeds will go to the NJ National Guard State Family Readiness Council. For More Info Contact Joe Rhodes (609) 477-4711.



Tír na nÓg
1324 Hamilton Ave
Trenton NJ
Presents
Super Sunday Seisiún
Supporting Our Soldiers
March 29th
3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Featuring Musical Guests
Tom Glover, Billy O'Neal, John O'Neal,
Tom McCloskey, Kevin McCloskey, Jerry Monk,
Ed Wilson, Frank Thewes, Connor,
and the Sunday Seisiún Singers
Subject to Change
Come out, make a donation, and give a shout out
to your friends in service
*****AND NO RAFFLES*****
All Proceeds Benefit
The NJ National Guard State Family Readiness Council
For More Info Contact Joe Rhodes (609) 477-4711

Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program

With Congressional authorization in Public Law 110-417, the Department of Defense is implementing the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program, providing resources and assistance to spouses of active duty services members, Guard and Reserve with a spouse on orders for one year, supporting their pursuit of a successful, long-term, portable career.

This centralized, virtual program, accessed through Military OneSource, will provide counseling and funding, up to \$6,000, to assist with licensure, certification or education opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities.

- A spouse will call the Military OneSource Center (1.800.342.9647) and speak with a Career and Education Consultant.
- The Military One Source Career and Education Consultant will assist the spouse in selecting a career goal and entering a Career Plan into the online system "My Career Advancement Account."
- Upon approval of the spouse's Career Plan for education, training, certification or licensure, Department of Defense will provide direct payment to the Payee (school, institution, or program) through the designated government Portal.
- The spouse will report back to Military OneSource upon completion of the Plan and receipt of employment.

This Department of Defense funded program will be available April 2009. Program specifics are available for your review at www.militaryonesource.com.

The DoD point of contact is Mr. Mike Tevnan, 703.908.1237, mike.tevnan@moscenter.us

Baby & Toddler Expo

McGuire AFB is hosting a baby and toddler expo for new or expectant mothers. Expo will be held on 8 May 2009 between 10:00am and 1:00pm. The address is:

The Club
Bldg 2508
East 3rd St
McGuire AFB 08641

Call 609-754-9680 for more information.

There will be food, fun and raffles PLUS 30 vendors are expected to come to show their wares and pass out free information through representatives and flyers. This is open to all military ID card holders AND DoD civilian employees. If you are planning on having a baby or have a new baby you won't want to miss this great expo!



Ft Monmouth ACS Presents A Prevent Child Abuse Training Workshop

April 2009 is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Fort Monmouth is holding a Parent Training Workshop on Positive Discipline and presented by Prevent Child Abuse NJ. This will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, from 11:30AM -1:00PM Army Community Service Building 812, Murphy Drive, Fort Monmouth.

Parents who are enrolled in Child and Youth Services (CYS) programs will receive two(2) parent participation points for attending this seminar.

For further information or to register, call 732-532-2077 or email us at MONM-USAGACS@conus.army.mil A light lunch will be served, pre-registration is required.

For further information on how to prevent child abuse, please contact the ACS Family Advocacy Program Manager at (732) 532-2077.

Welcome Home Parade

Save the Date --- Tuesday, 9 June 2009 - Welcome Home Parade in Trenton for our returning Heroes. I will send out more detailed information when everything has been confirmed.

EANJNG Scholarship

EANJNG opens scholarship season to members, dependents The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey scholarship season is open. The CSM Baldassari Memorial Scholarship is open to all members of the Association and their dependents. Scholarship forms can be found at the association's web site - <http://www.eang-nj.org>.

The Enlisted Association offers five \$1000 scholarships. All applications must be received no later than May 15, 2009. Previous winners are not eligible to reapply. The Enlisted Association would also like to announce the USAA Scholarship. This is a \$500 scholarship that is open to all members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. Forms also may be found at the Enlisted Association web site.

For more information on either scholarship, contact retired SGM (Ret) Michael Amoroso at 609-562-0754.

Sesame Street Live "Elmo Makes Music" is coming to New Brunswick

Mark your calendar for a musical event like no other-monsters making music! Elmo, Zoe, Big Bird and all their Sesame Street friends are taking to the stage to share their love of music. Count along with The Count, visit Elmo's World, do the Crumb-A-Rumba with Rosita, and much more!

Event held on April 8-13at the:

State Theatre
15 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick NJ 08901.

Opening night: All seats \$12! (excluding Gold Circle & Premium) Other performances: \$14, \$20, \$26 (Premium), & \$30 (Gold Circle) Additional service charges and facility fees may apply.

Special Military discount: Save \$5 on tickets! Use the code: YELLOW to purchase your tickets at the by phone or online or show your military id at the venue box office. Discount is not valid on Opening Night, Gold Circle, Premium or previously purchased tickets. No double discounts.

Great Seats Still Available! Tickets available at the box office, StateTheatreNJ.org, or call 732-246-SHOW (7469). Hurry for best seats, and we'll see you soon!

NJ Aviation FRG T-Shirt Fundraiser

The NJ Aviation FRGs are selling T-Shirts as a fundraiser. The proceeds from these shirts will support the activities of our FRGs.

All shirts will be delivered to and available for pick-up at one of our FRG locations (South, Central or North) (dates TBD) or will be sent to the unit for our soldiers. We encourage you to ask friends and family to participate in this fundraiser, but please understand that we CANNOT DELIVER T-SHIRTS TO ANYONE DIRECTLY. If you have friends and family members order t-shirts, please have them note your name on the online or paper order form, so you can pick their order up at one of our FRGs.

To order the shirts, go to www.donnavandergrift.com, click on the link that says T-Shirt at the top right. You will need to sign in. Use aviation tshirt for the email/username and blackhawk for the password. Once you are there, you can click on Store to go to the site where you can purchase the shirts online using PayPal (credit or debit card). You could also click on order form which will allow you to print a copy of an order form. You would then mail the form to the FRG, paying by check made out to NJ Aviation FRG. The online store is the most efficient way to order these shirts.

Orders will be taken through April and FRG members will be notified about the pick-up dates through email in May.

Thank you for your support. Donna Vandergrift

National Guard Child Care Use Survey

The National Guard Family Program Division is pleased to announce the National Guard: Child Care Use During Deployment Survey. Information collected in this survey will be used to research perceptions and child care needs of military members. This information will assist in the formulation and improvement of policies for programs that benefit military families. Reports will be provided to the National Guard Family Programs Division. Findings may be used in reports and testimony provided to Congress and other Government Agencies. Some findings may be published in professional journals, or presented at conferences, symposia, and scientific meetings. In no case will individual identifiable survey responses be reported. Please assist the National Guard Child Care Program by distributing this survey link to National Guard members and their families.

Survey Link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228AQH9A7LQ>.

Target Audience: National Guard families with children who are currently preparing for deployment, in a deployment phase, or recently returned from deployment (up to 2 months after return). Providing information on this survey is voluntary. Most people take 10-15 minutes to complete the survey.

Great Adventure Tickets Update

We haven't forgotten about the Great Adventure Tickets! Our POC at Great Adventure is having issues with the printers and therefore our receiving the tickets has been delayed. We have been told to expect the tickets sometime in the first week of April. We will let you know through the newsletter that the tickets have come and the procedures to follow to get them. DO NOT call this office about the tickets.

Hershey Park National Guard Day Update

There is an issue with the website listed below. After talking with Hershey Park officials the best bet is to click on the link from a word document or from a web page (which can be found at http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/family_events.html). Look for the Hershey Park information and click on the link. There are people who are having trouble getting onto the website and sometimes it may take several clicks. Keep trying!

<https://tickets.hersheypa.com/WebStore/shop/ViewItems.aspx?Merchant=ARMY&CategoryGroupExternalID=Army&CategoryExternalID=ARMYTKTS>

Enter Promo Code: 24681

See our webpage (link above) for complete information on the Hershey Park deal.

LAST WEEKS UPDATES

Youth Events

April Is Month Of The Military Child Please take a moment to thank your military child for all their hard work and sacrifice. As a token of my appreciation, I would like to honor your National Guard military child or children with a Certificate of Appreciation as well as some giveaways during the Month of the Military Child.

At the parent/guardian request, I will mail the package addressed to the child throughout the month of April. If you would like your child to receive a package, please contact me with the following information before April 28, 2009:

Parent/Guardian Name:
Family Email Address:
Youth Birthdate:

Military Member's Unit:
Child(ren) Name(s):
Youth Home Address:

Battle Lab Tour & Lunch provided by Salvation Army: Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9:30-12pm for youth ages 10 and up. Activity will take place at the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) Building 3601 on Fort Dix. Youth will be able to view and learn about various flags and countries, learn about military occupational specialties (MOS), weapons marksmanship, walk through desert night fighting lanes and work with virtual combat convoy trainer. After the tour, we will enjoy a delicious lunch (hot dog, chips, juice) provided by the Salvation Army. Only twenty five slots are available on a first come, first serve basis. Youth are responsible for transportation. Parents may drop youth off or walk through with group. Please contact me for the one page permission slip.

Teen Dating Program: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 from 5-7pm at the Fort Dix Youth Center on Locust St. The Family Advocacy Program is offering a FREE class for teens and/or parents on teen dating awareness. There will be separate trainings that will be presented; one for the teens and in another area for the parents. Teens and parents DO NOT have to come together. For more information, please contact Linda Johnson at 609-562-3873.

Celebrating Military Children at Burlington YMCA: Sunday, April 26, 2009 from 1-5pm for ANY military child. The one page permission slip can be found on the NJ NG Family Programs website at http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth_newsletter/Youth%20Newsletter%2001March09.pdf
Please see page 6 for the permission slip.

New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp at Sea Girt: July 19-25, 2009: This year's youth camp will be held for youth ages 9-17 and volunteers 18 and older. Youth ages 9-14 will participate in various activities throughout the week of July 19-25, 2009. Activities include, sports, beach, archery, arts-n-crafts and much fun!! Counselors and Volunteers will be at camp from July 18-25, 2009 as Saturday July 18, 2009 from 1-4pm will be a MANDATORY TRAINING. The fee is \$100 per camper (ages 9-14) and free for counselors and volunteers. Anyone interested in working as a Senior Counselor MUST provide a cleared fingerprint background check. Applications can be found at the bottom of our website at http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html. DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5 June 2009.

Operation Purple Summer Camps: The National Military Family Association is now accepting applications for its popular Operation Purple Summer Camps. Each camp is "purple" and open to children of any uniformed service member, active duty or reserve component. This year the National Military Family Association will host military children at Operation Purple Camps in 62 locations in 37 states and territories. These free, week-long, overnight camps are open to all military children ages 7-17. The program aims to help military kids experience carefree fun while also learning coping skills to deal with deployment-related stress and fostering relationships with other children who know what they are going through. Operation Purple camp allows kids to gain confidence by learning to be stewards of the community and of the environment. The Operation Purple program currently includes traditional summer camps, teen camps, teen leadership camps, family retreats, camps for families of the wounded, and day clinics in overseas locations. Find out where Operation Purple Camps are located at http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=camp_locations.

Financial Information

Countdown to April 15th. If you are Active Duty, Guard, or Reserve, or a family member you are eligible for free tax assistance and e-filing from Military OneSource. Log on now or call 1-800-730-3802 (7a.m. to 11 p.m. EDT) to talk with a tax consultant about your personal tax-related questions.

Financial Readiness Campaign Events. Financial Readiness Campaigns bring local, state and Federal financial experts to Service and family members at their installation. Over 20 events have been conducted within the past 5 months providing information on an extensive range of financial planning topics. To find an event in your area, visit www.MilitaryHOMEFRONT.com for dates and locations.

Uniformed Service Compensation Fact Sheet. The Uniform Services Compensation Fact sheet provides detailed information on benefits and entitlements including pay, retirement, and leave; special and incentive pay; allowances; travel entitlements for PCS moves; survivor benefits; and education benefits. It also provides direct links to official resources for further details. This comprehensive document is a great resource and easily accessible through www.MilitaryHOMEFRONT.com.

FRG EVENTS

Here are the ongoing FRG Events that have been previously published. **Expanded information can be found** on our webpage www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/fundraisers_and_FRG_events.html.

Cherry Hill Armory and FRG Events

McGuire Commissary

McGuire commissary is coming to the Cherry Hill Armory 04 Apr 2009 starting at 10:00 am. Come out and shop bulk items without having to drive to McGuire AFB. Military ID is required to participate. The address of the Armory is the corner of Grove St & Park Blvd in Cherry Hill.

HHC 2-113TH (Riverdale) First Annual Homefront 5K Run/Walk

Funds Raised are for the Welcome Home Celebration Sunday, April 26, 2009:

08:00-09:30 a.m. - Registration

09:30 a.m. - 500 meter Kids Race

10:00 a.m. - 5K Run/Walk

50th Chemical Co FRG (Somerset Armory) Flea Market/Yard Sale

Indoor- Outdoor FLEA MARKET/ YARD SALE:

Sat 25Apr 2009 8am-3pm

Rain Date Sat 2 May 2009 8am-3pm

Table space cost is \$25. Contact Linda at 732-432-7998 OR JLPagan@comcast.net for a vendor application.

HHC 2-113 IN T-Shirt Sale for Riverdale FRG

The Wanaque Police Department is selling T-Shirts to help support the New Jersey Army National Guard "Riverdale Family Readiness Group" in their effort to send packages to our soldiers, assist the families and support their causes while their family members are deployed. If you or any member of your organization would like to purchase a shirt you can contact CPT Ted Norton at 973-835-5600

NJ Aviation FRG T-Shirt Fundraiser

The NJ Aviation FRGs are selling T-Shirts as a fundraiser. The proceeds from these shirts will support the activities of our FRGs. All shirts will be delivered to and available for pick-up at one of our FRG locations. To order the shirts, go to www.donnavandergrift.com, click on the link that says T-Shirt at the top right. Use aviation tshirt for the email/username and blackhawk for the password. Orders will be taken through April and FRG members will be notified about the pick-up dates through email in May.

Thank you for your support. Donna Vandergrift

Freehold FRG T-Shirt Sale

We are selling t-shirts, like everyone else. Here is a description:

The regular sizes-Small thru 2XL are infantry blue (\$15)

The kids sizes are a lighter blue but not baby blue and they run children small-large (\$15)

We also have 3XL & 4XL which are white (\$20)