



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
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☆  
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JOINT BULLETIN NO. 2\*

21 June 2016

**STRONG BONDS RESILIENCY PROGRAM**

1. **PURPOSE.** The Strong Bonds Program reinforces relationships and is a key resiliency program for Commanders. Strong Bonds is designed to assist Commanders in building, strengthening, preserving and restoring National Guard families. The core mission of the Strong Bonds Program is to increase individual soldier, airman and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training. Strong Bonds remains one of the National Guard's premier opportunities to help with the reduction of stressors within relationships and for fostering resiliency within National Guard families.

2. **OBJECTIVE.** Strong Bonds is a force multiplier. Statistics show that Strong Bonds is a vital and necessary program. With increasing demands placed on families, soldiers and airmen, including frequent deployments and relocations, intimate relationships are tested and many marriages end in divorce. Research shows that training in communication, intimacy and conflict management increases relationship satisfaction significantly, thereby providing stabilization across the National Guard.

3. **APPLICABILITY.**

a. **Army National Guard Guidance:** If approved by the Commander, Traditional Drilling Guardsmen will attend in a SUTA status. On board ADOS personnel can attend with approval from their Commander and Directorate in which the order was published. No ADOS order will be published just to attend a Strong Bonds event. AGR soldiers can attend with approval of their Commander and/or Director.

b. **Air National Guard Guidance:** Air National Guard members will attend in a non-paid for points only military status. Commanders will not place Airmen in a paid status or allow an Airman to attend in a non-military status.

\* *Supersedes Joint Bulletin No. 2, dated 10 March 2011.*

4. **SCHEDULING.** All attendees are expected to arrive Friday afternoon for hotel check-in and the program will begin Friday evening. The training will conclude Sunday.
5. **EXPECTATIONS OF ATTENDEES.** All participants are expected to attend all sessions.
6. **EXPENSES.** All rooms and meals will be provided. Incidental expenses, such as room service, telephone calls etc., must be paid for by the service member/spouse.
7. **DRESS CODE.** Dress code for military and civilians will be business casual. Anyone wearing attire deemed inappropriate will be asked to change immediately.
8. Information about the Strong Bonds Resiliency Program can be found online at: [www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/](http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/). You can also request additional information from your unit chaplain, chaplain assistant, and your unit family programs.
9. POC is Chaplain, LtCol Yaakov Bindell, 609-562-0617.



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