



The Program



Your source of information on Family Programs from the National Guard Bureau

VOLUME II, ISSUE II

February 2006

State, Wing and Youth Program Training held in Puerto Rico

By Edelina Villavicencio
Marketing & Communications
Specialist, NGB-J1-FP

State Family Program Directors (SFPDs), Wing Family Program Coordinators (WFPC), and State Youth Coordinators (SYC) gathered in San Juan, Puerto Rico from Jan. 30- Feb. 3, 2006 to hear the latest information from the National Guard Bureau on Family Program updates. The briefings touched topics such as strategic communications, the future of the Family Program model, family readiness, TRICARE, financial reporting, the Military Severely Injured program, Army well-being, reunion and reintegration, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Guard Family Action Plan (GFAP), Guard Family Team Building (GFTB), Family Assistance Center (FAC) information, a first look at the (still under construction) Guard Family Management system, and the new and improved www.guardfamily.org (set for roll-out



LTG Blum takes a question from Mr. Steve Read (SFPD-CA)

by late July). SFPDs and WFPC broke out into work groups to discuss challenges that each sees as unique to their respective areas. This gave everyone a chance to network and share best practices as echoed by Maj. Gen. Ronald Young, Director of Manpower and Personnel, "My hope is that we are sharing best practices, creating educational opportunities, gaining expertise and sharing experiences with each other."

LTG H Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, spoke about the importance of the Family Program and the great job the SFPD and WFPC's were performing in taking care of our families and service members. WFPC Susan Fairhurst from Montana commented, "The presence of General Blum and General Young sent an enormous message to family program staff, that the program is important and needed." Senior Spouse, Mrs. Carol Vaughn, wife of Director of the Army National Guard, **continued on page 4, Puerto**

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Army Family Action Plan takes place in Alexandria, VA

By Edelina Villavicencio,
Marketing and Communications
Specialist, NGB-J1-FP

Representation from all states participated in this year's Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference held at the Hilton Mark Center in Alexandria, VA the week of January 23rd to discuss family issues needing general officer level attention for resolution.

Participants worked in groups of about fifteen (including subject matter experts) to brainstorm and deliberate the Army's most

important issues regarding Family Readiness. The work groups were: Employment/Volunteer, Entitlements, Family Support, Force Support I and II, Medical/Dental, and OCONUS. Fourteen National Guard volunteers participated in these working groups.

Each group came up with a number of issues and were able to come to agreement on one or two main issues the group would focus on to take to the final briefing to General Cody, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, who presided over the AFAP. Issues were

presented by a spokesperson for each group on January 27, 2006.

Also in attendance was the AFAP Teen Panel celebrating its tenth year of participation at the AFAP. It put forward the issue of teen employment on bases. The OCONUS group involved teen issues putting forth the issue of post secondary visitation for OCONUS students.

The General Officer Steering Committee met at the beginning of the week to talk about issues forwarded by various major commands, a listing of the issues **continued on pg.2 see AFAP**

Senior Spouses attend SFPD/WFPC/SYC Training

By **Edelina Villavicencio** Marketing and Communications Specialist, NGB-J1-FP

In addition to the State Family Program Directors (SFPDs), Wing Family Program Coordinators (WFPCs), and State Youth Coordinators (SYCs) in attendance at the training were also Senior Spouses. All of them attended and participated in briefings as well as met with many SFPDs, WFPC, and SYCs throughout the week to understand some of the concerns that are going on in the individual states.

Mrs. Vaughn, wife of Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn said, "What I was most impressed by was the sheer passion to help families, there is not one person in attendance without that desire." Mrs. Sumrall, wife of Maj. Gen.



From left to right: Mrs. Gipe, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Vaughn, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Grass, Mrs. Young, and Mrs. Sumrall

Michael A. Sumrall, Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff, valued the time she was able to spend with those in the field stating, "It gives senior

spouses an opportunity to show their appreciation to those who truly make the organization work." Mrs. Gipe, wife of Command Sgt. Maj. of the Army National Guard John Gipe commented, "Overall, this was a great learning experience for me and I hope that I can continue to strengthen my relationship with Guard Family Programs." Mrs. Della Baker, wife of Col. Anthony Baker, Chief of Family Programs commented further, "Family Programs are such an integral part of the Guard's mission that we should focus on its importance, ensuring the family's health as a priority."

All senior spouses commented that they looked forward to hearing about all of the future positive developments in the Family Program arena.



From page one: AFAP

reviewed, which are either active, completed, or unattainable can be found by visiting the "getting involved" link at

www.myarmylifetoo.com.

If you are interested in participating in the GFAP Conference, it will take place May 1-5, 2006 in Washington, D.C. Guidance regarding participation and nomination for working

groups will be sent to State Family Program Directors and Wing Family Program Coordinators. For more information on GFAP, contact MAJ Zoilo J. Lopez, Readiness Officer, NGB-J1-FP at 703-607-5409 or at Zoilo.lopez@ngb.ang.af.mil.

Top 5 AFAP 2005 Conference Issues

1. Wounded soldier updates
2. Casualty assistance for families of NG/USAR soldiers in an inactive status
3. Advanced life support services on CONUS Army installations
4. Military spouse preference across all federal agencies
5. Health Processing of Demobilizing Army Reserve Component Soldiers

Guard Family Team Building / Guard Family Action Plan

By **Meagen Bunten**

Program Specialist, GFAP/GFTB

GFAP/GFTB Program specialists are committed to helping you train your staff, volunteers, families and service members. We can also assist with issue resolution or assist in the elevation of issues to NGB. We are thrilled to have met many of you at the SFPD/WFPC/SYC conference in San Juan, PR. We appreciate the ideas and suggestions we received. We are continually working to implement and enhance these programs based on your

feedback. Thank you!

Upcoming Events with GFAP/GFTB:

GFAP Mid-Level Conference May 1-5, 2006 at the Sheraton National in Virginia. Nomination forms for delegates are due February 25, 2006. Issue submission for the conference is due March 1, 2006 to Ms. Pam Hall.

Professional Development – Summer 2006! If you have ideas/suggestions for this workshop, please contact Pam Hall by March 15, 2006.

ITC/AITC at PEC, AR/May 22-26, 2006.

More information on registration is coming soon. The Instructor Trainer Course (ITC) means that the student is eligible to go out and teach GFTB classes. The Advanced Instructor Trainer Course (AITC) means the student is eligible to go out and "train the trainer" in their state/territory as well as teach GFTB classes.

If you have any questions, please check view the website at www.gftb.org or contact Pam Hall at 703-303-2420 or via e-mail at pshallmpsc@sbcglobal.net

Location, Location, Location

By Michael J. Conner, Sr.

Family Services Coordinator, NGB-J1-FP

Two key elements that must be taken into consideration during the training's planning phase are the facility and room layout. Typically we utilize a "training room" in an armory or the wing headquarters. I italicized training room because it is typically no more than a multipurpose room that is cluttered with remnants of past events and a climate control system that consists of opening and closing the windows in an attempt to turn on or off the thermostat.

Consider this scenario: *John and Marsha Volunteer coordinated with the 131st Widget Company to conduct Operation Ready - Family Readiness Group Leader Training. They were assured that all necessary equipment to conduct the training would be available on site. Upon arrival they discovered that the screen the unit representative swore is always kept in the "training room" could not be located and the cable for the LCD projector was also missing. Additionally they discovered that the outlets in this older Armory did not accept a 3-prong plug.*

According to The Complete Guide to Training Delivery, a Competency-based Approach, by Stephen B. King, Marsha

King, and William J. Rothwell (AMACOM 2001), "Learning can be positively or negatively influenced by the design or location of a training environment. If learners are uncomfortable, have difficulty seeing or hearing, or are distracted by seating arrangements, then the probability of a successful training event is reduced. A poor physical facility can render your instruction ineffective even if you are an outstanding presenter."

Some of you are lucky enough to have access to a conference room at the wing or state headquarters. While these are usually excellent conference rooms their location adds a logistical challenge for many of your potential attendees. Plus there is always the possibility that the senior leadership may need the room for an emergency meeting.

One solution is to negotiate with local state colleges for classrooms. These resources are often free or at a reduced rate for the military. It also allows our volunteers to see the local colleges first hand as they may be considering going back to college or looking at colleges for their children to attend. College students exposed to your program could learn of the many benefits of being in the Guard. The

college staff will also have the opportunity to witness what we do and may even offer to volunteer their services for our program.

Using universities allows us to provide a professional training environment while building bridges to our community resources. As the great African-American writer and teacher Ralph Ellison once stated,

"Education is all a matter of building bridges"



This article is the second of a four part series to help you increase your training attendance, maximize your training locations, improve volunteer knowledge base and access your results.

If you need further information or would like more examples, please contact Mike Conner at 703-607-5410 or at Michael.Conner@ngb.ang.af.mil

Wing Volunteer recognized by the President

By Edelina Villavicencio

Marketing and Communications Specialist, NGB-J1-FP

On Monday, January 23, Master Sgt. Janet Dunn was presented the Volunteer Service Award by President George W. Bush at Forbes Field in Topeka, Kansas for her dedicated efforts to her unit.

Dunn performs many different functions between the Wing Family Program Office and the at the 190th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Forbes Field. One of the projects she was involved in this past year was the organization and distribution of one

hundred personalized teddy bears to children of guard families who were on active duty.

"It is a true joy to know her and be around her, she is a great asset."
-Ms. Tonya VanSickle, 190th Wing Family Program Coordinator

Volunteers can earn the Presidential Volunteer Service Award when a certified organization sends in a nomination. To certify your State Family Program Office or ANG Wing click [here](#). To nominate a candidate for the Volunteer Service award, click [here](#).



President George W. Bush presents Dunn with the President's Volunteer Service Award

Guard Family Management System

By CW2 Bonny Bell

Family Assistance Center Program Manager,
NGB-ARM

The Guard Family Management System, a web based client tracking and reporting system, was introduced at the SFPD/WFPC Conference. The initial feedback we received was positive from those in attendance.

This tracking system will allow “real time” data to be entered and also add the

ability for the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to “pull” data versus the “push” system that we currently use. The data will enable NGB, the states and territories as well as the unit and Wing Commanders the ability to analyze trends, forecast training needs and validate resource requirements.

During the final development stages of the system, your comments and suggestions are highly encouraged. We brought back many of your ideas (from the confer-

ence) to discuss with the contractor. This is the time to voice your thoughts on ways to improve or enhance the system. I look forward to hearing from you!

For more information, contact CW2 Bonnie Bell, Family Assistance Center Program Manager at 703-607-9196 or at bonny.bell@ngb.army.mil

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Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn commented, “The Family Program is essential to the strength of not only our Guard families but all families regardless of component, we need to make sure we’re serving everyone, every time.”

During the various breaks between briefings, SFPDs and WFPCs were able to get hands-on access to the new website set to be on-line in late July. Col. Baker, Chief of Family Programs commented, “Our aim with the new website was ease of use, functionality, and customizability. We want every-

one in the service member’s support circle to be able to use this resource easily.”

Concurrent with the SFPD/WFPC Conference was the first State Youth Coordinator professional development seminar. Introduced during the seminar was the State Youth Coordinator Manual (draft), an on-line quarterly State Assessment, an excel budget worksheet for forecasting, and the new youth on-line community set to roll out in late July. Additional training included Diversity, Empowering Youth, Working Effectively with your SFPD/WFPC,

Counseling vs. Coordinating, Youth Camps, and the DDR Partnership. Kathy Goedde, Child and Youth Program Manager noted, “This time together allowed us the opportunity to focus on the challenge of meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of all National Guard children and youth and all left encouraged to mobilize an army of volunteers and community resources to make it happen.”

Youth Coordinators recognized for their efforts

By: SSG Billie Jo Lorus
Marketing and Public Relations Specialist,
ND National Guard

The National Guard Bureau announces a unique opportunity for the youth of America. Students who will be high school juniors or seniors in the school year 2006-2007 are eligible to participate in the National Guard’s Youth Rendezvous essay contest. Ten students from each state and territory will be involved in this once-in-a-lifetime experience, and earn an all-expense paid trip to North Dakota August 13-18, 2006.

At the National Guard Bureau Family Program Conference in Puerto Rico, Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum handed out coins to family support coordinators who are doing an outstanding job promoting the National Guard’s Youth Rendezvous essay contest. The recipients were:

Kay Baber, VA – for the execution of an out-of-the-box marketing event to get the word out to the youth of VA and surrounding states.

Adrienne Dickey, KS – outstanding planning and execution of statewide marketing and mentoring outside state points of contact on the development of individual marketing plans.

Sue Ann Carroll, OH – for assisting the Youth Rendezvous Team by providing creative national marketing ideas.

Sylvia Lynch, D.C. – for taking the time to individually mentor and provide guidance to the youth in the District of Columbia.

Marsha Beene, Region 4 Coordinator – Awarded on behalf of the Region 4 Youth Coordinators for encouraging



LTG Blum with Youth Coordinators,
Sylvia Lynch and Kay Baber

her team to be enthusiastic and motivated in the marketing of the Lewis and Clark Youth Rendezvous.

To learn more about planned events, activities and essay contest rules, go to www.lcyouthrendezvous.com

Military One Source

By Maj. Zoilo Lopez
Readiness Officer, NGB-J1-FP



Military OneSource offers new online features this month!!

TurboTax services available! The TurboTax® benefit has been activated and will remain accessible throughout the tax season. Federal and state tax returns can be quickly and easily completed using TurboTax® Basic or 1040EZ (offered by Intuit). In order to access this service without fees, filers must access TurboTax® through the Military OneSource Web site. The online program allows filers to complete their taxes using a simple, step-by-step process that double-checks for errors and audit risks, and identifies deductions for specific tax returns. After taxes have been e-filed, filers will receive an IRS confirmation of receipt from TurboTax®. For assistance in taking advantage of TurboTax® e-filing at no cost and for additional financial resources, please call Military OneSource. If a service member requires additional assistance, Military OneSource will refer to the appropriate resources including the nearest installation.

New log-in process. Per direction of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military OneSource recently changed the login process. Instead of a generic user id and password, each participant must now create a personalized user id and password to gain full access to the site. Please note, creating a personalized User ID and Password will not require you to disclose personal information other than your Branch of service and Unit/Location. This change, called membership, will improve user access to the site as it is a fast and simple process. Military OneSource participants that have previously created a personalized account will continue to log on using their established personal identification and password.

If you need further assistance on accessing Military One Source documents or on their services, call 1-800-342-9647 Stateside or overseas *800-3429-6477 or log onto their website at www.militaryonesource.com

Contact the NGB-J1-Family Program Office

Col. Anthony E. Baker, Sr., Chief of Family Programs Division

Anthony.Baker@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5405

Lt. Col. Richard Flynn, Chief Family Readiness Branch

Richard.Flynn@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-1476

Lt. Col. Cory Lyman, Chief Plans and Operations Branch

Cory.Lyman@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5547

Maj. Zoilo J. Lopez, Family Readiness Officer

Zoilo.Lopez@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5409

Mr. Michael Conner, Family Services Coordinator

Michael.Conner@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5410

Ms. Kathryn Goedde, Program Manager Child & Youth Program

Kathryn.Goedde@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5416

Mr. Ron Lacasse, Resource Manager

Ron.Lacasse@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5407

Mrs. Pam Hall, GFAP/GFTB Program Manager

pshallmpsc@sbcglobal.net / 703-303-2420

Ms. Bobbie Krynicki, Senior Analyst

Bobbie.Krynicki@us.army.mil / 574-229-2326

Mr. Darren Taylor, Analyst

Darren.Taylor@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5441

Ms. Edelina Villavicencio, Marketing & Communications Specialist

E.Villavicencio@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5526

Ms. Tamara Washington, Administrative Specialist

Tamara.Washington@ngb.af.mil / 703-607-5411

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We want to hear from you!

E-mail your request/comments/submissions (no later than the 30th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter)

to:

familyprogramsnewsletter@ngb.af.mil

Features for March:

- DoD Family Readiness Award is presented at the Pentagon
- State Benefit Advisory Conference (February 13-17, 2006) Update on the role of Veteran's State Advisors