



The Program



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

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First Advanced Instructor Trainer Course at PEC

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

What an exciting week of learning at PEC in Little Rock, Arkansas the week of January 8th! Many of the participants were volunteers, family readiness assistants or even state family program directors! Everyone came eager to learn about topics that can help everyone carry out not only their everyday duties but also assisting them in their journeys to carrying out the Guard Family Team Building (GFTB) mission to, "increase

family self reliance, which will promote individual and unit Readiness, family readiness and well-being."

Lead by Mrs. Pam Hall, Program Manager; Specialists teach courses geared toward how to present to your audience. Each course contained clear objectives and students were able to ask questions, and actively participate in exercises to reinforce the stated objectives.

AITC courses took this learning one step further and learned about how to prepare Instructor-Trainers within their respective states. Some of the topics covered were; suggestions for presenting

effective feedback, theories of learning styles, and how people learn, among others.

Both the beginning and advanced courses ended with a presentation of certificates to all participants. These certificates were presented by the GFTB Program Specialists, LTC Cory Lyman (for ITC) and MAJ Zoilo Lopez (AITC) of the NGB-FP office. Mrs. Grass, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Haynes (ARNG spouses) and Teresa Newton-Terres (Commandant's spouse) from PEC were also all on hand to observe and thank everyone for their efforts and dedicated service.

The GFTB Team & the NGB-FP staff would like to congratulate

late all of its new graduates!

ITC: Jennifer Benson, Sherri Blasengame, Suzanne Buemi, Peggy Cambell, Cecil Cobb, Erin Cobos, Kristyn Duenas-Brown, Marie Durling, Vicki Edgren, Betty Eissfeld, Darla Fox, Wendy Gladbach, Lourdes Gonzalez, Terry Guidry, Tonia Johnson, Bobbie Krynicky, James Mancinelli, Sherry Marsh, MSG Pamela Martin, Maria Meloro, Veronica Meyer, William Mudd, Connie Phipps, Beth Sattizahn, Henri Schepens, Shannon Valenzuela & Edelina Villavicencio

AITC: continued on page 2, GFTB

"Without your dedicated efforts, this program could not be as successful as it is. We thank you for your commitment, time, and dedication to the Family Program." Mrs. Dee Murphy, ARNG Senior Spouse

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Trained Crisis Responder Training at PEC

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

Many family readiness assistants participating in the Instructor Trainer Course or advanced course also took part in the Trained Crisis Responder (TCR) Training held in Little Rock, AK.

Taught by Family Readiness Assistant Program Manager, Donna Crews, students covered topics ranging from understanding the nature of terrorism and disasters, psychological crisis intervention, crisis communications, demobilization for emergency re-

sponders and handling crisis management briefings. The objectives of the course include teaching responders to be able to define terrorism, defining the characteristics of psychological crisis and the goals of intervention, and to be familiar with the most common signs and symptoms of psychological crisis (especially those linked to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD). Classes participated as one unit for class discussions but **continued on pg 3, FRA Training**



Donna Crews leads a practical exercise

Donna Crews leads a practical exercise



Military One Source has new on-line features



By Maj. Zoilo Lopez

Readiness Officer, NGB-J1-FP

On 12 December two new online features were integrated into Military OneSource online.

Audio Self-help

On 12 December a new online feature was integrated into Military OneSource online. Soldiers, Airmen, and family members now have the ability to download and listen to award winning self-help cds directly from the Web site. This new feature is one of several that Ceridian is working on to offer innovative web-based solutions designed to provide soldiers, airmen, and family members with immediate access to information.

An individual is able to listen to or download tracks of an entire cd onto their computer and view or print the text version. It can also be downloaded to an ipod or mp3 player as well. Anyone with a hearing disability can quickly access cd transcripts and view or print the text version or have the ability to order cds via hard copy.

To access a cd online, click on any cd from a resource room with an option to "listen/download." From there an easy-to-use interface makes it simple to listen and download materials. Some of the topics for download are deployment, education, and parenting.

Translation Services

Military One source now has the ability to translate documents, here's how: By logging onto:

www.militaryonesource.com, and creating a username and password, in the search function type in Translation. On that page a link exists called, "Using translation services." This link gives detailed instructions on how to get a case number assigned to your document and provides submission instructions.

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

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AITC: Robyn Aiken, Renee Bangura, Raymond Calvo, Diane Coffill, Sherri Daigle, Deanna Fullerton, John Gafford, Jennifer Gallegos, Cathy Hammack, Jessica Hurt, Roseann Kryszak, Terry Guidry, William Lockhart, Wayne Parker, Sundee Peterson, Karla Rodriguez, Joy Scott, Ronald Strahle, Alana Underwood, Shannon Valenzuela, Angie Yount, Tim Lahitf, Penny Baker, Miranda Blackwell, Sherri Blasengame, Stephanie Bragg, Al Hall, Connie Hurt, Katherine Jenkins, Fred Lane, Deb Lutz, Maria Meloro, Mary Myers, Julie Persson, Connie Phipps, Dorothy Russell, Donna Sapp, Lori Waters, Gerda Weekley, Cheryl Whipple and Shannon Valenzuela.



AITC Graduates outside of Militia Hall at PEC in Little Rock, Arkansas

Division Chief's Corner

By Col. Anthony E. Baker, Sr. Chief,
NGB-J1-FP

Congratulations to all of the ITC and AITC graduates of the GFTB courses held in January in Little Rock, Arkansas. As you can see from the front page story, the week was full of excitement and many "learning opportunities." Please remember to congratulate your respective volunteers who participated in these training courses. They should know how much we value them. If you have not previously had volunteers participate in the GFTB training, I encourage

you to have them log-in to www.gftb.org to register to take the beginning on-line courses, once those are completed, they may be able to register for the classroom courses taught by GFTB Program Specialists.

The Worldwide AFAP Conference is taking place from 23-27 January, at this conference GFAP topics will be discussed and evaluated for Department of the Army review.

Our next big event is the SFPD/WFPC/SYC Professional Development Seminar. The training will be taking place

in San Juan, Puerto Rico from 29 January to 4 February. Please view the informational website at <http://www.mpsrc.com/puertorico> if you have not already done so and contact Arnold Westphal at 831-760-2759 to secure final registration.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Puerto Rico for a great learning conference and an exciting information packed week! On behalf of NGB-FP, we hope all of you come ready to participate and learn all we can to help the families we serve. See you in Puerto Rico!

Training...in a Word

By Mr. Michael J. Conner, Sr.
Family Services Coordinator, NGB-J1-FP

“Creative thinking may mean simply the realization that there’s no particular virtue in doing things the way they have always been done.”

- Rudolph Flesch

Never has a quote resonated so loudly in my mind. It amazes me how we continue to do things the same way over and over again and then expect to get a different outcome. It’s not that our information isn’t pertinent or that the services we offer are not needed or for that matter wanted.

I continue to hear comments from the field about the challenges with attendance at FRG meetings, Marriage Enrichment and other training events. Research studies also continue to sup-

port the fact that there is a steady decline in volunteer participation for all organizations.

That being said what are some creative ways we can entice folks to come to our training events? Choosing the right words when marketing our training is critical. Think about it. If you had a choice between going to a meeting and going to an event which would you choose? The word meeting usually brings with it many negative thoughts. However, an event sounds exciting!

I recently saw a flyer announcing a Marriage Enrichment Seminar. The title read “Does your Marriage need help?” Do I need to even address that further?

If you are having challenges with

choosing the right words for your events it might be time to think creatively. Align yourself and look for a volunteer who is successful in the marketing world. Empower them to choose the right words and put them in the right places at the right time. Doing so may result in you only having to choose one word... *thanks* and your families choosing the word... *praise* when referring to your program.

This article is the first of a four part series to help you increase your training attendance, maximize your training locations, and 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

Resource Management

By: Mr. Ron Lacasse
Resource Manager, NGB-J1-FP

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!! Paragraph 5a, page 2, of the FY06 National Guard Family Program Funding Guidance is now **rescinded**.

A contractor may **NOT** travel on an ITA per *JFTR/JTR, Appendix E, change 216/470, E1-3, E1-4, and E1-5.*

When Wing Family Program Coordinators (contractor) must travel in support of a family program function or

any other related event, the contractor must travel on funding currently in place on “their” contract even if he/she is performing other duties outside his/her contracted duties. If no funding is in place on his/her contract for travel then an amendment must be done to cover travel expenses.

If you have a contractor in your office performing tasks under contract in your office, that person travels pursuant to the contract. Most contracts have travel clauses built in them and the government has already paid for

the travel and related expenses, that person must travel on the company’s dime, and not the government’s.

Please disseminate to all levels and adhere to the important interim change for your own protection and or future audits. This change will be reflected in the next revision of the National Guard Family Program Funding Guidance.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Lacasse at 703-607-5407 or at Ron.Lacasse@ngb.ang.af.mil.

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also broke out into smaller groups for role-play exercises where he/she was able to play the part of observer, crisis manager, or person in crisis. In each scenario, participants exchanged roles in order to be able to share in the unique experience or perspective that each might have had role-playing. Mrs. Crews followed up each role-play session with notes of observation that Family Readiness Assistants might note when carrying out their everyday roles.

James Mancinelli, a Family Readiness Assistant from Delaware commented, “Coming into the class, I was not sure this was pertinent, but having completed the class, I see the value of the skills learned to assist with our everyday involvement with families.” Veronica Meyer, Family Readiness Assistant from Arizona echoed Mancinelli’s comments by saying, “There is a lot of information that I learned that I will be able to use in other areas supporting military families.”

Donna Crews, TCR Instructor reiterated her hopes for the class, “I hope that our National Guard volunteers and families receive out of this training; people that are well-trained in crisis communication.”

If you have any questions regarding this program, contact your State chaplain or Donna Crews at donnampsc@directway.com



State Benefits Advisor Coming Soon



By Mr. Alex Baird

Veterans Affairs Liaison, NGB-J1-PR

The State Benefits Advisor initiative will place an individual at each State Joint Forces Headquarters to act as an advocate for Guard members and their families within the state and serve as an advisor on Veterans Affairs issues for the Family Programs and Joint Forces Headquarter staffs. State Benefit Advisors will assist Guard members with access to care at Veterans Affairs health facilities, and will also assist Guard members and their families with other Department of Veteran Affairs entitlements like compensation and education.

Additionally, they will work with other Joint Forces Headquarters staff members to build a state coalition of sup-

port for Guard members and their families. The state coalition is a model that ties together the resources of the Guard, Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and state and local resources in an effort to ensure Guard member and their families receive the benefits and support to which they are entitled.

State Benefit Advisors will receive training in February on Veteran Affairs benefits. They will also receive awareness training on TRICARE programs. The State Benefits Advisor will work with the State Director of Veterans Affairs and other state coalition members to remove barriers members and their families experience in gaining access to the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, and will work through the National Guard Bureau to resolve system-

wide issues related to TRICARE.

We recognize that many of the State Family Program Directors and Wing Family Program Coordinators family program staff and volunteers have already built strong relationships with their local Veteran Affairs counterparts. It's important that you help your State Benefits Advisor understand the existing relationships within your state so that they may build on the relationships that you have already created.

If you have any questions, please call NGB Veterans Liaison, Alex Baird at 703-607-5485. He can also be reached via e-mail at alex.baird@ngb.ang.af.mil.

NGB-FP Partners with the Drug Demand Reduction Program

By Ms. Kathy Goedde

Child and Youth Program Coordinator, NGB-J1-FP

The National Guard Bureau Family Program office (NGB-FP) is partnering with the National Guard Bureau Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Program with the intention of meeting the unique needs of military families and children in the communities in which they live.

The DDR National Program is comprised of three initiatives. The first is a motivational program that is being developed to bring awareness of the military community to civilian schools. Entitled, Freedom Calls, it will be framed around a relationship between a deployed father and his son and the father's attempts to provide counsel on challenges the son faces throughout the deployment. This program will be presented to more than one million youth in high schools throughout the country

The second initiative involves a curriculum called Stay on Track that will

be utilized in elementary and middle schools to educate students in grades 3-8 on tools of substance abuse prevention, as well as character, life, and social skills.

The third initiative involves a DDR-Family Program partnership. DDR personnel that currently exist in each state and territory will work closely with State Family Program personnel and Commanders to identify and train, volunteer adult points of contact within each National Guard unit's family readiness group (FRG). Through this partnership, the resources developed above and promoted by DDR will be made available to National Guard families, children, and youth. These resources will allow each unit an opportunity to engage in ongoing and regularly scheduled child and youth training that provides participation in organized clubs and involvement in meaningful service to the community which ultimately builds resilience to the stresses that accompany deployment.

For the DDR-FP initiative, training,

materials, and community contacts will be made available to State Youth Coordinators during the 2006 Youth Symposium in Philadelphia, PA.

The National Guard Child and Youth Program welcomes this partnership and looks forward to working closely with state and territory DDR personnel to strengthen the wellness of military members and their families before, during, and after the deployment of the military service member.

For more information contact Ms. Kathy Goedde, Child and Youth Program Coordinator at 703-607-5416 or at Kathryn.goedde@ngb.ang.af.mil



New Program Aims to Mobilize Community Support

By Delisa Davis

Public Relations Coordinator,
Citizen-Soldier Program

National Guard and other Reserve Component family program representatives know the many challenges faced by our Army and Air Guard service members and their families, including demands associated with military mobilizations and combat deployments.

The Citizen-Soldier Support Program (CSSP) is a demonstration project established by Congress to help mobilize local civilian community agencies to support these Guard members and their families.

In March of 2005, CSSP Community Program Liaisons began operating in North Carolina. These liaisons work with local libraries, parks and recreation departments, family service agencies and civic leaders to help initiate local activities that enhance the lives of Guard members and their families.

The CSSP also has targeted public schools and local faith communities to further develop support. The CSSP Child and Youth Team has conducted training for school psychologists and counselors to help them recognize and

respond to the needs of the children of deployed Guard members. Meanwhile, the CSSP Faith Team has encouraged the efforts of local faith congregations to extend support to families during mobilizations and deployments.

“We still have work to do to help connect National Guard & other Reserve families to the important local community services we are attempting to mobilize,” said Mr. Jim Martin, Col. (Ret) Program Director and Professor of Social work & Social research at Bryn Mawr College. “This will be a priority in the coming year.” One of the major challenges facing the program is helping families of citizen soldiers to become better aware and more effective consumers of the services currently available to them within their own civilian communities.

The CSSP has developed strong partnerships with the Family Program of the National Guard and the military reserves and received enthusiastic support from Guard and reserve leaders. For example, the Adjutant General of the N.C. National Guard, MG William Ingram, has played an integral role in developing and promoting the CSSP concept in North Carolina.

The CSSP provides a model and potential partnership opportunities for other states trying to address many of the same issues—seeking ways to encourage their own communities to be more effective in supporting their Guard and reserve families. With new funding this year, UNC-Chapel Hill plans to develop a national training and technical assistance center that will build upon CSSP accomplishments in North Carolina and assist other states in their efforts to mobilize local support of military families.

The Program is spearheaded by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in partnership with N.C. State University, UNC-Charlotte, East Carolina University, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-TV, Duke University, Virginia Tech University, and Bryn Mawr College. CSSP is administered through the H. W. Odum Institute at UNC Chapel Hill.

To learn more about this exciting initiative and ways that your state and local community can participate, please visit the CSSP Web site at www.RibbonsToReality.org or contact James Martin at: jmartin@brynmawr.edu or call (919) 966-2450



Helpful Links



National Guard Family Program Online Communities www.guardfamily.org

Guard Family Team Building provides online training and access to contact information and links to assist in meeting the challenges of Guard life. www.gftb.org

The Guard Family Action Plan website provides information on actions to improve Family Programs, benefits, and entitlements for the National Guard Community. www.gfap.org

National Guard Family Program Youth Site: www.guardfamilyyouth.org

Was this information helpful? Would you like to submit an article of interest?

Do you have a state best practice or a story you want us to feature?

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.ang.af.mil

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Family Programs in the News Nationwide

By Edelina Villavicencio

Marketing and Communications Specialist,
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This section will appear every other month in an effort to keep you informed of Family Program news nationwide.

If you have article that you would like linked in this section, please send it to familyprogramsnewsletter@ngb.ang.af.mil with the link and title of the article. We hope to hear from all 54 states and territories! We're looking for stories about any branch or component. We support all of our service members! Click on the story title to be linked to the article.

AR

Northwest Arkansas News Source/21 December

[National Guard's Youth Rendezvous](#)

IA

Courier Press/22 December

[Avery bills would benefit families of deployed](#)

KS

Kansas City Star/27 December

[Our hero's on the home front: their mission: helping troops families](#)

MN

Coon Rapids/ECN Publishers/27 December

[Adjutant general declares ground war to support Guard member families](#)

UT

PRNewswire/20 December

[A holiday gift for the Troops: National Guard Family and Survivor Protection Act sponsored by Utah Rep. Greg Hughes](#)

VA

The National Guard/9 January

[Guard Soldiers depart for Afghanistan tour, Family Readiness Group lends support](#)

Roanoke Times/22 December

[Support Center helps military families cope](#)