



# The Program



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

VOLUME II, ISSUE V

Military Appreciation Month—May 2006

## “Protecting Today– Improving Tomorrow” at the 2006 Guard Family Action Plan Conference

**By: Edelina Villavicencio**

Marketing and Communications Specialist, NGB-J1-FP

Delegates from as far as Hawaii came to participate in this year’s Guard Family Action Plan (GFAP) Mid-level Conference held in Arlington, Virginia, the first week of May. The purpose of the conference is for delegates to evaluate, discuss and prioritize critical issues that effect service members and families across the National Guard. These issues have been raised through the unit and state levels, at the national level (at GFAP), then continue onward to the

*“The Guard cannot get along without the families; we have seen develop an absolutely exceptional relationship between families and units, between commanders and leaders and their staff. It is a team that is inexplicably tied for the betterment of the National Guard.”*

*-Brigadier General Raymond Carpenter, Army National Guard Assistant to the Director*

Department of Defense for resolution. Delegates evaluate issues in the areas of Medical/Dental, Education, Entitlements, Family Readiness, and Force Support. Delegates are selected by being nominated by their State Family Program Director and are a mixture of volunteers, family members, retirees and active Guard members.

Ninety-three delegates came to Arlington for the GFAP Conference. Several senior leaders provided opening remarks, Brig. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, Army National Guard Special Assistant to the Director inspired delegates by saying “Volunteerism is a basic building block for Citizen Soldiers in the National Guard, you have answered the call to service, we cannot do this without you, you are essential.” Col. Michael Hillestad, Chief of Staff, Air National Guard, spoke about the beginnings of Family Programs in the Air National Guard, how far the program has come and recent developments. Of these developments, Col. Hillestad mentioned senior leader support leading to the funding allotted for full-time, permanent employees at the Wing bases starting in October 2006. Colonel Baker, Chief of Family Programs, reiterated the importance of what delegates came to this conference to achieve, “What you do here will help our families, service members, retirees, now and in the future.”

Throughout the week, delegates reviewed seventy issues, each group coming up with new and creative ways to explore all components of each issue. One group came to a stalemate on an issue and needed to step away from deliberating for a few minutes and broke tensions by building cardboard houses. Little did they realize that this exercise mirrored the frustrations they were having breaking the issues down. “They learned by putting this house together piece by piece, that this was how they would have to work the issue and in the end they would have a worked issue or a completed house,” said Terri Guidry, group facilitator.

**Story continues on page 2; see GFAP**



Delegates vote on whether or not to keep an issue active in a Guard Family Action Plan break-out section on May 1, 2006.

### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">State/Territory Youth Coordinator Training, a Program Multiplier!</a>	3
<a href="#">Resource Information</a>	4
<a href="#">Training Article on Evaluations (Part 4 in a 4 part series)</a>	4
<a href="#">Scholarships for Severely Injured Service Members</a>	5
<a href="#">Instructor-Trainer Registration Now Open!</a>	5
<a href="#">Nominate your VIP Volunteers</a>	5
<a href="#">America Supports You member pull-out guide</a>	6

**Story continued from page 1, GFAP**  
 In closing ceremonies, all six working groups presented to Senior Leaders in attendance, Maj. Gen. Terry Scherling, Director of the Joint Staff at the National Guard Bureau; Maj. Gen. Ronald Young, Director of Manpower and Personnel (J-1); Col. Michael Hillestad, Chief of Staff, Air National Guard; Col. Kent Milliken, Director of the G-1; and Col. Anthony E. Baker, Chief of Family Programs. In total,

twelve issues were presented, after a group vote, the top five issues were:

1. #63/#139 Permanent Funding for ARNG/ANG Marriage Enrichment Seminars (MES)
2. #82 Combat Stress Reintegration Training
3. #156 Inequities in the Reserve Component (RC) Retirement System
4. (a tie) #73 Funding for ANG Family Programs

4. #134 Military Spouse Employment Protection
5. (a tie) Issue # 35/149 Funding specifically for GFTB Instructor Trainer Course and Advanced Instructor Trainer Course (ITC/AITC)
5. #51 Time Restriction on Reserve Component (RC) Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Chapters 1606/1607



## Guard Family Action Plan 2006



Entitlements 2 Group

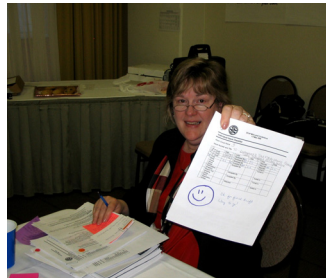
Entitlements Group 1

Force Support Group

Medical/Dental Group



Delegates collecting Military One Source information at GFAP



All groups looked forward to a "smiley face" meaning that the issue had been formally completed.



A house built by the Family Support Group

**G 2  
F 0  
A 0  
P 6**



Colonel Baker, Chief of the Family Program, provides opening remarks to delegates and Senior Spouses



The Medical/Dental Group provides its report out to Senior Staff



The group with the #1 issue at GFAP: Permanent Funding for ARNG/ANG Marriage Enrichment Seminars (MES): the Family Support Group





## Division Chief's Corner

**By: Colonel Anthony E. Baker, Sr.,**  
Chief of Family Programs, NGB-J1-FP

Many thanks to the 93 Delegates, Subject Matter Experts, FRTIs (Facilitators, Recorders, Transcribers, and Issue Support Persons), General Officers, Senior Spouses, Visitors, and the GFAP Program Committee who prepared and participated in this year's GFAP Conference. As you read on the first couple of pages, the issues raised

and discussed are all critical to the Family Program as all of them affect our service members and their families. By creating the Guard Family Action Plan everyone has a way of being actively involved in the process of making these issues known, talking about them, and actively participating in how senior leadership is involved in bringing about those changes. An issue can be submitted at any time for the following year's conference. For more information about the GFAP process or to submit an issue, visit the website at [www.gfap.org](http://www.gfap.org).



In honor of Military Appreciation Month, this month's newsletter includes a pull out

guide from *America Supports You*, spotlighting spouse, child, and family focused organizations; Little Patriots Embraced, Our Military Kids, and the National Military Family Association. All three organizations provide support and resources any service member can apply for and receive. In the Volunteer and Veterans' Affairs sections; scholarships and volunteer awards are highlighted. We can't thank our Veterans' and Volunteers enough.

As always I thank you for your continued hard work and support of Family Programs and ask that you distribute all of this important information throughout your states and territories to help your families and service members!

## State/Territory Youth Coordinator Training – a Program Multiplier!

**By: Dr. Kathy Goedde,** NGB-J1-FP  
Child and Youth Program Manager

*"Only a group of people who share a body of knowledge and continually learn together can stay vital and viable." –Dupree*

The Youth Coordinator is a valuable member of the State Family Program Team. They are responsible for providing systems of support for ALL of the NG children and youth in your state or territory. According to their position description, the purpose of this position is to *'serve as a team supervisor and advisor on Youth Deployment issues, responsible for the development, planning, implementing, and administering of the Guard Family Youth Program concerning family and quality of life issues while a family is in any of the three phases of the deployment cycle'* and is accomplished by:

- coordinating child and youth services for the families of deployed personnel
- acting as liaison with other agencies to provide services to children and youth
- conducting child and youth assessments
- establishing communication links between children and youth and de-

ployed family members

- developing and gathering age appropriate materials for distribution
- distributing information relating to childcare service
- providing assistance to State and Wing Family Program Coordinators and representing the state on all matters regarding child and youth programs

With any new position, training that provides guidance, information, resources, materials, and an opportunity to network is essential. Therefore, NGB-J1-FP has graciously provided both funding and guidance in order to support the training needs of youth coordinators. The Yearly Training Guidance identifies each opportunity. Twice yearly the State and Territory Youth Coordinators will meet as a whole to receive training and resources developed by NGB to enhance the State and Territory Program. The first opportunity occurred in Puerto Rico and the second will occur in Philadelphia. Twice yearly they will meet in regions to network, share individual program development, discuss concerns, and build a support team.

The regions who have participated fully in regional training opportunities have exponentially increased their effectiveness and utilized their relationships with 'region-mates' to further the growth of their own programs. Com-

ments from a recent training include, "I get so much out of our other youth coordinators as well as the speakers. The networking is great. I have gotten calls from other states and have called them since being back. Our region has decided to meet sometime on our own to discuss best practices and continue sharing information and to support and encourage each other. We truly have a great team".

National Guard children and youth are fortunate to have these dedicated individuals advocating on their behalf all across the nation. All they require is the support of their state leadership in order to take advantage of these opportunities. Let's continue to ensure the vitality and viability of every state and territory youth program by encouraging participation in opportunities to learn together.



For more information on the Child and Youth Program, please contact Dr. Kathy Goedde at 703-607-5416 or via e-mail at [Kathryn.Goedde@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Kathryn.Goedde@ngb.ang.af.mil)



## Resource Information



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

First, as we prepare to enter the second half of this fiscal year, I wish to take a moment to update all of you concerning the funding allocation plans for next year. Soon, you will be asked to provide me your FY07 budget request with the exception of the Air Guard (WFPC) as we have last year. In early June I will be sending out the FY07 budget request spreadsheet to all SFPDs for your input with further instructions to follow. The plan is to distribute FY07 funding (QACS and QYDP) on a "quarterly" basis as previously mentioned in our last VTC for the following reasons:

- 1) NGB-ARC is currently allotting funding to all headquarters program managers on a "quarterly" basis.
- 2) To prevent migration of future funding to other unknown accounts without

proper authority.

- 3) To ensure quarterly reports to be submitted timely.
- 4) Reports to NGB-ARC to be submitted with 100% accuracy.

Secondly, as everyone is aware, quarterly reports have a huge impact concerning Family Programs future funding. Without it Family Program funding will suffer immensely. The impact to mission readiness will fail with no future funding. In order to continue the funding stream flowing in your direction, all States and Wings are required by regulations to provide quarterly expenditure reports on-time for future funding to flow on time. This is also a recent tasking required by NGB-J8 for all program managers to submit this data to General Blum's office on a regular basis.

Third, all States and Wings have now been allocated all their funding up

front for the year. This does not dismiss the requirement to turn-in quarterly reports. Funding in FY07 will not flow in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter unless all FY06 quarterly reports are currently on file with NGB-FP.

Fourth, States requiring assistance with additional funding for the National Family Program Conference in Philadelphia should submit requests to [ron.lacasse@ngb.af.mil](mailto:ron.lacasse@ngb.af.mil) NLT 31 May to ensure funding is allotted in a timely manner. States requiring additional funds without a current quarterly report on file will be placed on hold.



## Training Evaluations

*"What is it going to be – reasons or results."*

*Art Turock*

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

Evaluation of your training is the most critical component of your training program. Through evaluations you can; identify the need for improvement of your trainers; receive suggestions from trainees for improving future training; and determine if training matches the participants needs and the Family Program's mission, goals, and objectives.

All too often our evaluations focus on the trainer's ability or performance and the logistics of the training, (i.e. too hot, too cold, breaks were too short or too long). While these are important aspects of your training event, they are not critical. Your focus as a Program Director should be on meeting the needs of the participants and the Family Program's mission.

Evaluations that identify whether or not you met the needs of the participants and the Family Program's goals and objectives can help you improve efficiency and effectiveness of training content and methods. They help maximize the use of organization dollars, personnel, and other resources. They help improve volunteer/employee performance. Most importantly they help increase organizational productivity.

One common way to do an evaluation is to use a survey. When using or developing a survey, it is important to be able to recognize and avoid writing bad questions.

The best way to know if your questions are going to get the answers you need is to test your survey before you use it to gather data. Have a person who has the same understanding of the issues being addressed as those people the survey is intended for review the survey and tell you: 1) if the questions are clear, 2) what he or she thinks each question is asking, 3) if there should be response options other than the ones you have listed, and

- 4) if they think valuable information will be obtained from these questions.

At the conclusion of your training event, compile the data from your survey and write an Executive Summary for your leadership to review. This will keep them informed of what you are doing and what challenges you may have.

You can use your summaries to track your improvements. They will also help you measure your success in meeting the needs of the volunteers while ensuring you stay focused on the Family Program's mission, goals and objectives.

If you need further information or would like more examples, please contact Mike Conner at 703-607-5410 or at [Michael.Conner@ngb.af.mil](mailto:Michael.Conner@ngb.af.mil)

## Scholarships for Severely Injured Service Members

**By: Ms. Johanna Altland**  
Grantham University

Grantham University, specializing in educating working adults, offers Military Severely Injured Scholarships in 2006 to U.S. service members from any branch of the United States Military. In order to qualify, scholarship applicants must have received a 60 percent or higher disability rating from the Veterans Administration as a result of being wounded in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom

and have been retired from active military duty.

The four-year scholarship program provides tuition and fees to pursue any Grantham University degree program. The estimated value of a bachelor's degree is \$28,000 with an additional value of approximately \$11,000 for a master's degree. Required textbooks and software are the responsibility of the student. The estimated textbook costs are \$80 to \$120 per course.

Grantham is also extending its 2006 Military Severely Injured Scholarship program to spouses and children of severely injured service members. This scholarship program provides a 25 percent tuition discount on any Grantham University degree program and includes the cost of required textbooks and software. The estimated cost for a bachelor's degree is \$21,000, and for a master's degree, \$8,000.

For more information about application and eligibility, please check out the Grantham homepage at [www.grantham.edu/msi](http://www.grantham.edu/msi) or call 1-800-955-2527.



## Instructor Trainer Registration Now Open



**By: Meagen Bunten,**  
GFTB Program Specialist

*Did you know that the number one fear by individuals is public speaking?* Would you like to conquer that fear? Your State Family Program Director can register you for the upcoming ITC course where you can learn skills to conquer your fear, gain confidence and be more comfortable speaking in public. These combined skills can also be used to instruct the standardized Guard Family Team Building courses.

Participants are provided with the tools

to enhance and develop their presentation skills through planning, instructional aids, personal experiences, and professionalism. Participants put the skills learned in action by giving a short presentation on a Guard Family Team Building (GFTB) course.

The Advanced Instructor Trainer Course (AITC) is a comprehensive look at additional strategies & techniques instructors can use including: how audiences learn, audience communication, techniques for opening and closing presentations, and putting it all together. This course pro-

vides the tools necessary for instructors to train other trainers in their state or territory.

Your state/territory can utilize your ITC or AITC graduates to provide on-site GFTB training in your local state or territory. AITC graduates can be utilized to teach the GFTB courses, as well as the Instructor Training Course.

To register for these courses, please contact your State Family Program Director. SFPD's can register students here, <https://events.pec.ngb.army.mil>

## Nominate your "VIP" Volunteers

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

The National Military Family Association Very Important Patriot (VIP) Award recognizes exceptional volunteers worldwide whose outstanding service contributes to improving the quality of life in their military and/or neighboring communities. Due to the challenges of the current pace of military operations, volunteers are playing an increasing role in providing support and stability in their communities. The role of active volunteers has become a critical element in mission readiness. We are thankful for those who have been serving the community for years and welcome the new volunteers who

have answered the call to serve on the home front. NMFA and the VIP Award sponsors want to recognize those volunteers, old and new, whose selfless actions have made a lasting impact on their community.

The VIP award recognizes five Very Important Patriots, five Award of Honor recipients, and five Award of Merit recipients. Each of the five VIP recipients, and a companion, is flown to Washington, DC to be honored. During their stay in the Nation's Capital, the VIPs receive an award of \$1000, meet with senior leaders of their individual services, visit with their elected officials on Capitol Hill, and meet the generous sponsors of the VIP Award. The recipient of an Award

of Honor will receive a check in the amount of \$500, and the Award of Merit winners will each receive a check for \$250.

**Q:** Who is eligible? **A:** Active duty, National Guard and Reserve, & retired members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, their family members, and survivors.

**Q:** How can I nominate a volunteer? **A:** Nominations will only be accepted online at [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org). A complete nomination includes a 500-750-word narrative and a completed VIP Nomination Form with references. Apply quickly, **the application deadline is MAY 19, 2006!**

## America Supports You

Last month, The Program highlighted *America Supports You*, a DoD program whose mission is to connect families and service members with military support organizations. We hope you enjoy this pull out section and are able to use it to connect service members and their families with valuable resources. For more information on other members of *America Supports You*, log onto their website at [www.americasupportsyou.mil](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil)

## Little Patriots Embraced

**By: Ms. Kim Sexton,**  
Little Patriots Embraced

Little Patriots Embraced is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose specific focus is to show support from the American people for the immediate family members of active military personnel. These stresses are even greater during deployment. Our organization was created to assist these families in coping with daily stresses by providing a "family package" of products similar to those that are known to reduce emo-

tional and psychological stress.

Our future plans are to activate a fund that will provide supplemental financial assistance for higher education in the form of scholarships for tuition, childcare allowances while attending school and emergency funds for spouses of active military personnel called the Military Dependant Tuition, Emergency, and Child Care (MD-TEC) fund. To apply for a family package or to learn more about Little Patriots Embraced, please visit our website at: [www.littlepatriotsembraced.com](http://www.littlepatriotsembraced.com).



**By: Ms. Linda Davidson**  
Executive Director, Our Military Kids

*Our Military Kids* is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) dedicated to making essential extracurricular activities such as sports, fine arts and tutoring available to school-aged (K-12) children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard military personnel. When a parent is deployed, extracurricular activities become all the more important for keeping kids involved and on track.

At this time, the *Our Military Kids* program is accepting applications from across the nation. Eligible fami-

## Our Military Kids

lies are encouraged to apply for funding by completing an application downloaded through the *Our Military Kids* website or by calling the *Our Military Kids* office to receive an application. Each applicant is required to provide documentation that confirms his or her eligibility as a child of a deployed or severely injured Reserve or National Guard service person. Applicants must also specify the qualifying activity for which funding is requested, and identify the organization that provides the activity. Upon approval, a grant check is issued on behalf of the child and mailed directly to the designated organization. The

child is sent a congratulatory letter, a certificate and an *Our Military Kids* patch. The maximum grant award is \$500.00 and a child may apply for an award only one time while the parent is deployed.

*Our Military Kids* believes that every child of deployed military personnel is important. For more information on the *Our Military Kids* program, visit [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org) or contact the office at 6861 Elm Street, Suite 3-F, McLean, Virginia 22101, 703-734-6654.



## Military Families eligible for NMFA Family Award

**By: Ms. Michelle Joyner**  
National Military Family Association

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) is now accepting nominations for the NMFA Family Award to be presented to 12 families each year who exemplify the best of the military family lifestyle.

Each winning family will receive \$500, and a \$250 donation will be made in their name to a charity of their choice. Additionally, one winning family will be chosen as the NMFA Family of the Year and will receive \$1000 and a trip to Washington, D.C., where they will be honored at a reception with key military leaders and the program sponsors. They will also have the opportu-

nity to present a check in the amount of \$500 to the charity of their choice.

Any active duty, reserve component, or retired family of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as surviving families, or families of wounded service members who were injured in the line of duty within the past three years and have since been discharged, are eligible to apply.

To give military families the special attention they deserve, NMFA will recognize one winning family each month as the NMFA Family of the

Month. That family's personal story will be featured on our website and in our newsletter. If a National Guard family is chosen, they will be featured in the following month's, "Program."

Nominations must be submitted only online at [www.nmfa.org/familyaward](http://www.nmfa.org/familyaward). The first five winning families and the 2006 NMFA Family of the Year will be announced in May but the nomination period will never close. Each month thereafter, NMFA will select one deserving family to receive the NMFA Family of the Month Award from the most recent nomination submissions.

For more information about NMFA visit their website at [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org).

# Military One Source Announces Non-medical Counseling



By: **Mr. Peter Murdock**,  
Military One Source

Did you know that since the Army was introduced to Military OneSource over 21,000 Soldiers and/or family members have been referred to private face-to-face counseling in their local neighborhoods? The word is spreading that Military OneSource offers private, no-cost, non-medical counseling in your local neighborhood and all you have to do is call 800-342-9647 to get a referral. This is not medical treatment, but it can help you with a variety of issues that affect your emotional quality of life including:

- Adjusting to deployment (separation, reunion and life after deployment)
- Marital, family or relationship issues
- Parent (or guardian) and child issues
- Divorce or separation stress
- Interpersonal skills and parent training
- Grief and loss
- Stress management and learning to cope
- Felling depressed, angry or anxious
- Substance abuse and addiction education

Typically the issues that are appropriate for this type of counseling can be resolved in a short period of time and within six sessions. In some circumstances Military OneSource non-medical counseling can be helpful for people who are waiting for appointments with installation-based or VA behavioral health services. When you call, a consultant will listen to you and you can discuss non-medical counseling and other options for assisting you.

Military OneSource has counselors in local neighborhoods throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. All of the counselors are licensed and credentialed and have extensive experience in providing these types of services. When you call Military OneSource, the consultant will assist you in getting an appointment with a counselor via a three-way call or you will be called back by the counselor within 24 hours to arrange an appointment. Appointments are typically provided within 3 business days but consultants can arrange emergency appointments based on the callers situation.

## Contact the NGB-JI-Family Program Office

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

[Anthony.Baker@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Anthony.Baker@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5405

Lt. Col. Richard Flynn, Chief Family Readiness Branch

[Richard.Flynn@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Richard.Flynn@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-1476

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

[Cory.Lyman@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Cory.Lyman@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5547

Maj. Zoilo J. Lopez, Family Readiness Officer

[Zoilo.Lopez@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Zoilo.Lopez@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5409

Mr. Michael Conner, Family Services Coordinator

[Michael.Conner@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Michael.Conner@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5410

Dr. Kathryn Goedde, Program Manager Child & Youth Program

[Kathryn.G Goedde@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Kathryn.G Goedde@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5416

Mr. Ron Lacasse, Resource Manager

[Ron.Lacasse@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Ron.Lacasse@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5407

Mrs. Pam Hall, GFAP/GFTB Program Manager

[phall@mpscrc.com](mailto:phall@mpscrc.com) / 571-451-9563

Ms. Bobbie Krynicki, Senior Analyst

[Bobbie.Krynicki@us.army.mil](mailto:Bobbie.Krynicki@us.army.mil) / 574-229-2326

Mr. Darren Taylor, Analyst

[Darren.Taylor@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Darren.Taylor@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5441

Ms. Edelina Villavicencio, Marketing & Communications Specialist

[E.Villavicencio@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:E.Villavicencio@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5526

Ms. Tamara Washington, Administrative Specialist

[Tamara.Washington@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Tamara.Washington@ngb.ang.af.mil) / 703-607-5411

**Was this information helpful? Would you like to submit an article of interest or be added to the distribution list?**

**We want to hear from you!**

E-mail your request/comments/submissions (no later than the 20th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter) to:

[familyprogramsnewsletter@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:familyprogramsnewsletter@ngb.ang.af.mil)

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