



# 41ST BCT ANA FAMILY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1

MAY 2006

## Commander's Corner

By LTC Neal Conrad

41 BCT Deputy Brigade Commander

It is my honor to write the first installment of the Family Newsletter for Task Force Phoenix. I know this is a time of great anxiety for many of you, especially those who have never lived through a deployment. Whether you are new to the 41<sup>st</sup> Brigade family or have been around for a while, I look forward to the opportunity to support you and your family in any way possible.



The Oregon Army National Guard and the U. S. Army has many resources to meet the needs of the families of deployed Soldiers. We have access to all the traditional services which are common on an Active Duty installation, and many unique means to meet your needs. Some of these assets, like Military One Source (<http://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx>) you may access yourself. We are here to assist with emergency issues which cannot be addresses through this self help website.

As the Commander of the Rear Detachment, my pledge to each of you is to do everything possible to keep you informed on what is going on with your Soldier. My staff and I will make every effort to assist you with any issues which may arise while your Soldier is deployed. In order for us to best address your needs, we ask that you bring the issues which require our attention to your unit Family Readiness Coordinator. They will then send them to Mrs. Laura Higgins, the Brigade Family Program Coordinator, whose office is located across the hall from mine.

We will log in your request for assistance, task it to the appropriate staff section and assign a reasonable suspense for when we should contact you with a solution. The Rear Detachment staff will then access the appropriate resource to meet the needs of you, your family, or your Soldier. We will reply to you as quickly as possible to provide the answer or required assistance.

Again, welcome to the Task Force Phoenix Family and let us know how we can assist you.

## MISSISSIPPI LEAVE DATES

The leave dates for our soldiers have been set. These Dates are firm **HOWEVER this is the military and sometimes things DO get changed.** If you are purchasing an airline ticket for your soldier or yourself, please make arrangements with the airline in case the flight needs to be rescheduled. The military is not responsible for reimbursements for airline tickets or hotel costs if leave dates are changed. Dates are listed below. Also listed are the hotels that have been recommended as nice, clean and close to the base for those of you visiting during leave.

### Leave Dates:

**Advon (Advance Party): 30 April - 9 May 2006**

**Main Body: 24 May - 2 June 2006**

**The soldiers will be transported from Camp Shelby to the airport by the brigade logistics team or the mob site. Most soldiers need to fly out of Jackson, Gulfport, Hattiesburg or New Orleans.**

### Hotel Information:

Best Western (601) 264-7668  
Best Western (601) 268-8816  
Inn on the Hill (866) 225-9330  
Belmont Inn (877) 261-1619  
Howard Johnson (601) 268-1410  
Comfort Inn 1-800-251-3651



## Free Summer Camps for Children of Deployed

26 camp sites in 22 states

Open to children of any member of the uniformed services including the National Guard and Army Reserve

Register between **March 15th and May 31st** at  
<http://www.operationpurple.org>

Priority given to children whose parent(s) are or will be deployed during May 2005 and September 2007

For AR Child & Youth Services go to [www.arfp.org/cys](http://www.arfp.org/cys)

# 41st BCT Family Program Coordinators

## 41 BCT Coordinator

Laura Higgins  
C: 503-932-2809  
W: 503-557-6052  
*Brigade Coordinator*

## 41 Special Troops Battalion

Michelle Stanley  
H: 503-848-7119  
C: 503-956-1188  
*Battalion Coordinator*  
Elana Torres  
H: 360-909-6885  
*Battalion Assistant*

## **HHC 41 BCT**

Deja Cairns  
H: 503-246-1999  
*Unit Coordinator*  
Nancy Shrick  
H: 503-256-4461  
*Unit Coordinator Assistant*

## **HHC 41 STB**

Richell Warren  
H: 503-675-0376  
*Unit Coordinator*  
**A Co Engineer**  
Julie Pettis  
H: 503-887-8074  
*Acting Unit Coordinator*  
Debra Spriggs  
*Acting Unit Coordinator Assistant*

## **B Co Intelligence**

Brandon Black  
C: 503-313-5464  
*Unit Coordinator*  
**C Co Signal**  
*Open Position*

## 141 Support Battalion

Jeanie Albin  
H: 503-722-8117  
C: 503-519-6375  
*Battalion Coordinator*  
**HHC (-)**  
Chris Blakney  
H: 503-434-5753  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
Linda Gates  
H: 503-717-2486  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
**A (-) Company (Salem)**  
Tigger Lemke  
H: 503-897-2186  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
LaVelle Nott  
H: 503-767-2332  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
**Det 1, A Company (Portland)**  
Linda Fandrey  
C: 503-449-1679  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
Tiffany Crop  
H: 503-324-7022

## *Unit Co-Coordinator*

**B Company**  
Michelle Christensen  
H: 360-258-3879  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
Sara Hadley  
C: 503-702-1994

## *Unit Co-Coordinator*

**C Company**  
Jennifer Beck  
H: 360-546-2125  
*Unit Coordinator*

## 2-162 Infantry Battalion

Chelle Young  
H: 503-831-3744  
*Battalion Coordinator*  
**HHC**

Kris Bagley  
H: 541-261-8149  
*Unit Coordinator*  
**A Company**

## *Open Position*

**B Company**  
Mandy Hernandez  
H: 541-923-1258  
*Unit Coordinator*

**C Company**  
Marianne Bradley  
H: 503-653-6385  
*Unit Coordinator*  
**D Company**

Suz Denker  
C: 503-367-4285  
*Unit Coordinator*  
**E FSC 141 Support Battalion**

Melissa K Bennett  
H: 541-258-2955  
*Unit Coordinator*

## 1-186 Infantry Battalion

Barbara McClenathan  
H: 541-882-4182  
*Battalion Coordinator*  
**HHC**

Linda Day  
H: 541-474-2255  
*Unit Coordinator*  
**A Company**

Pam Dintleman  
H: 541-830-8861  
*Unit Coordinator*  
Britney Kinman  
H: 541-475-4274

## *Unit Co-Coordinator*

**B Company**  
*Open Position*  
**C Company**

Shelly McDowell  
H: 541-935-2233  
*Unit Coordinator*  
**D Company**  
Shannon Richardson

H: 541-476-1244

## *Unit Coordinator*

**F FSC 141 Support Battalion**  
Kathy Maxwell  
C: 541-659-6453  
*Unit Coordinator*

## 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion

Joyce Hamerlynck  
H: 503-558-0927  
C: 503-502-6353  
*Battalion Coordinator*  
**HCB**

## *Open Position*

**A Battery**  
Betty Clem  
H: 360-260-8360  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
Mary Parker  
H: 360-258-0336

## *Unit Co-Coordinator*

**B Battery**  
Donna Herr  
H: 503-873-6941  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*

Jennifer Ing  
H: 503-984-0355  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
**B Battery (Forward)**

Jen Gatke  
H: 503-554-0814  
*Unit Co-Coordinator*  
Melissa West  
H: 503-630-2723

## *Unit Co-Coordinator*

**G FSC 141 Support Battalion**  
Dana Anderson  
C: 503-866-8862  
*Unit Coordinator*

## 82nd Cavalry Squadron

Meredith Browning  
O: 541-383-0970  
C: 541-788-0311  
*Battalion Coordinator*

## **HHT 1-82nd CAV**

## *Open Position*

**A Troop**  
Carrie Fox H: 541-451-8088  
*Unit Coordinator*  
Angela Muse  
H: 541-327-3616

## *Unit Co-Coordinator*

**B Troop**  
Tammy Parish  
H: 503-263-2138

## *Unit Co-Coordinator*

**C Troop**  
*Open Position*  
**D FSC 141 Support Battalion**  
*Open Position*

## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Daniel Thomas  
41 BCT Chaplain (503) 932-2571

There is a lot of help out there. The challenge of keeping the family together and happy in this busy world can be overwhelming. Add to the mix a long term deployment and the fight is on! Many of us have been there. The stress, loneliness and pain of living without the spouse are hard to deal with. Yet, life goes on and you have to keep moving. The day will come when all this will be done and your family will be whole again. In the meantime we love you and want to help.



### Here are a couple of tips

*A positive attitude gives the family stability.* The children follow the lead of the parent. During my last deployment, there were times when my wife would get upset or overwhelmed. She was not aware of how much it really freaked out our children. Everybody has to let those emotions out every now and then and vent the pressure. She just had to find somewhere other than around the kids to let that happen. My wife was always ready to go again after a crying spell with a good friend.



*Relationships are what get you through the rough times.* Value and sustain those relationships that give you strength and encouragement. Some people can fill you up and others can drain you. During a deployment you will need those who can fill you back up again. There is nothing that can replace a good friend when down or in trouble. Warning: don't overwhelm them...go to the well too often and you will wear out your welcome! While they are filling you up, you may be draining them. Every healthy relationship has clear and understood boundaries. Good friends are hard to find, so take care of them and they will take care of you. If you need help, we want to listen. The Bible says "ask and you shall receive". Please feel free to call me anytime.

## JAG's Corner

By LTC Rudy Murgio  
41 BCT JAG (503) 932-2754

41 BCT Members, spouses and children are eligible for military legal assistance on a wide variety of legal issues. A JAG lawyer is available to brief deploying soldiers and their families as well as those soldiers and their families who are being demobilized.



To obtain assistance you may call 503-584-3571 or 800-452-7500 and ask for JAG. A JAG lawyer is available both at the Tigard Armory and the JFHQ Facility depending upon the day of the week, and mission availability. Please call to make an appointment.

JAG assistance may include advice on family law issues including, marriage, divorce, adoption, and family support issues; free preparation of wills, powers of attorneys, health care directives and living wills; assistance on real property issues involving issues involved in buying, selling and financing your house, as well as assistance on landlord tenant issues, personal property advice including contracts and small claims issues, economic issues including debtor/creditor issues, civil administrative issues including advice on name change and immigration, advice on torts and taxes. It may include advice or referral on military Justice issues.

We work closely with the Family Support Coordinator, the Chaplain, and the ANA Cell to assist 41st BCT soldiers and their families as the deployment begins, during the deployment and upon the return home of the 41st BCT. Deploying Soldiers and their soldiers have special legal rights under federal and state law. The JAG may assist you in understanding and asserting your legal rights.

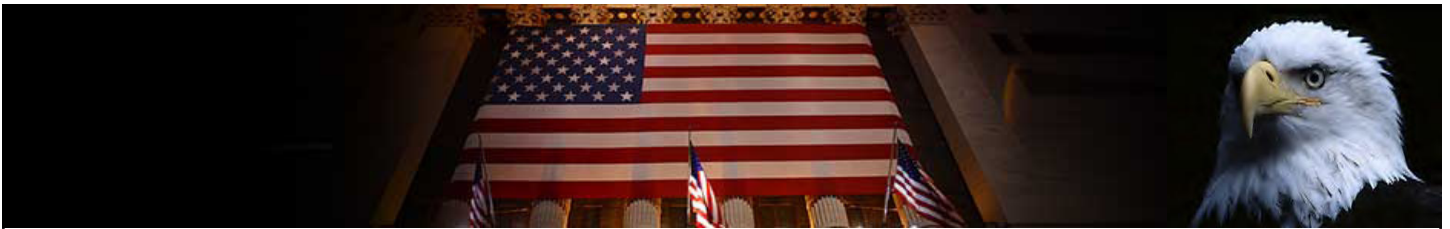
In addition the Oregon State Bar has a dedicated volunteer group of approximately 150 civilian attorney's state wide



**Saturday May 20, 2006**  
**Noon-7 pm**  
Active, deployed, or reservist military personnel and their immediate families ride FREE!

- PATRIOTIC MUSIC
- FLAG SALUTE
- FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY
- CAKE
- BALLOONS

**WWW.OAKSPARK.COM**



### *Planning before departure to Afghanistan – 5 Helpful Hints*

1. Go through and make sure all legal documents are in order. Do that now so that when your soldier comes home on leave, he can take care of anything that is missing before he leaves country, i.e. a Power of Attorney.
2. Please try your best to not watch the news. We know it's difficult but remember they are covering the entire country, possibly the whole Middle East area, and may not have information specifically on our soldiers. The Family Program Coordinators will keep you apprised as events unfold in country. If you don't know who your coordinator is yet, please call Laura Higgins.
3. Triwest Dental (United Concordia) insurance – Remember that dental is not included with medical. You have to apply for United Concordia separately. You can do this on line at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com).
4. The Department of Defense will never call you on the phone requesting your soldier's personal information, i.e. social security number, address, etc. Be very careful who you give information to on the phone. If you think about it, they should know that information but there are scams out there where people are calling families and saying they are with the DoD and want to verify personal information.
5. Notification.
  - a. If a soldier is killed in action (KIA), the family will always be notified in person. You will never receive a phone call, an e-mail or a letter if something of that magnitude happens.
  - b. However, if it's a very serious injury, it can come in two ways. You may get a phone call from your local unit as well as a visit from the military department, depending on the situation. You will not receive anything in the mail or e-mail.
  - c. In case of a light injury you can get as phone call from your local unit but it will probably be someone you know.

*The important thing* here is to understand the military policy on this subject. If you feel something isn't right, please call your coordinator. Deployments are stressful enough.





**1-186 IN**

*Battalion Family Program Coordinator*  
**Barb McClenathan**

Hello everyone I am Barb McClenathan the 1/186 Battalion Family Program Coordinator. We are doing many things this month and in the coming months to support you and keep you informed while your soldiers are deployed.

The Blue Star Mothers is helping to support our families and will be hosting support groups in the future. They are also sending Military Support letters and care packages. There is also a church group who has pledged to support our families with activities in the near future. If you would like to volunteer to be on the phone tree, or would like to help plan activities or meetings we would really appreciate your help. Please call your unit coordinator or myself, our numbers are listed in this newsletter.

Thank you.



41st STB Easter Egg Hunt Camp Withycombe

**2-162 IN**

*Battalion Family Program Coordinator*  
**Chelle Young**

Hello 2-162 soldiers and families. I am looking forward to working with your unit coordinators over the next months. If you haven't heard from your coordinator as of yet, please let me know, or give them a call directly. They would like to hear from you. We are all eager to assist in any way that we can. I know that each of the units is working on upcoming events and activities and look forward to your participation. If you are interested in helping out, let your coordinator know.

**141 Brigade Support Battalion**

*Battalion Family Program Coordinator*  
**Jeanie Albin**

We are planning activities for families to attend at Kliever throughout the deployment. These events will allow you to gather with others sharing your deployment experience. We hope to liven up these gatherings with demonstrations such as scrap-booking or rubber stamping. We welcome ideas for our gatherings. We also welcome the opportunity to meet with you at Kliever in our freshly painted and cozy Family Program Room, located just to the right of the main lobby as you enter the building.



41st STB Easter Egg Hunt Camp Withycombe

**2-218 FA**

*Battalion Family Program Coordinator*  
**Joyce Hamerlynck**

Hi, I would like to introduce myself I am Joyce Hamerlynck the 2-218th Battalion Family Program Coordinator. This month we have had two family support meetings and plan on having them again next month. Please call us for the dates as they are just now being planned...some of the activities we are having include a picnic at Oaks park on Armed Forces day, I hope you can all join us.. Please call your coordinator for details. If you have not been contacted by your Family Program Coordinator please feel free to call and ask them any questions you may have or let them know of any needs you may have. We are here to support you during this deployment. We are planning a camp out for his summer at the coast. If you would like to volunteer please call me at my number listed in this newsletter.

**1-82 CAV**

*Squadron Family Program Coordinator*  
**Meredith Browning**

We have some exciting things coming up, such as: Deployment information briefings, Swim day at the Recreation Centers, Mom's night out at Pappa's pizza, and we are trying to once again have military days at the local county fairs. All dates are to be announced. If you have not yet received a personal phone call from a family program volunteer within the 82 CAV it is essential that you let me know. It is extremely important to me that each family has personal contact with a volunteer. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns!!!



41st STB Easter Egg Hunt Camp Withycombe

**41 STB**

*Battalion Family Program Coordinator*  
**Michelle Stanley**

As our troops continuing to prepare for this deployment, so are we. We've had a battalion meeting each month with (almost) all the coordinators since February and they have all been productive. We've met our Battalion Chaplain Delbridge, talked about Red Cross Calls, upcoming events, had a briefing from the battalion XO and S1 regarding the military pay system, and met with the VFW and American Legion folks who have adopted us and will help support events and families of our battalion.

We had a battalion Easter Egg hunt on April 9th. Our little ones were troopers in the rain! It was a great event, and all had fun. Our Easter Bunny was a hit with a group of about 5 little girls that would not leave him alone. Amazing what noise can come out of such cuties!

HQ 41st Brigade Combat Team  
Attn: Laura Higgins  
6700 SW Oak Street  
Portland, OR 97223-11241



24/7 help with issues large and small.

**Guard Family Website**

<http://www.guardfamily.org/>

An on-line community to share information and provide links to resources that will address your financial and emotional needs and improve your well-being.

**TRIWEST Healthcare Alliance**

1-888-874-9378 [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com)

Find a local doctor or view your benefits.

**TRIWEST DENTAL PROGRAM**

[www.tricare dentalprogram.com](http://www.tricare dentalprogram.com)

Apply online for dental insurance coverage.

**TF Phoenix BLOG site**

[www.beloblog.com/KGW\\_Blogs/afghanistan/](http://www.beloblog.com/KGW_Blogs/afghanistan/)

KGW has an embedded reporter who will be deploying with the 41st BCT and will update the blog daily.

Army One Source

[www.armyonesource.com](http://www.armyonesource.com)

**Military HOMEFRONT**

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>

The official Department of Defense web site for reliable Quality of Life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers

**Hero Salute**

<http://www.herosalute.com/>

Three direct dependents may enter any one of Anheuser-Busch's SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission.