



# The Program



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

VOLUME II, ISSUE IV

Month of the Military Child-April 2006

## Child and Youth Program Update

**By Dr. Kathy Goedde**

Program Manager, Child and Youth Program, NGB-J1-FP

The National Guard Child and Youth Program was established in 2005 as part of a Department of Defense (DoD) initiative to address the unique challenges of National Guard children and youth. Through a coordinated effort, the Program Manager and seven regional coordinators assist each state's Family Program maximize the effectiveness of their child and youth programs. Understanding that the accomplishment of a mission requires: vision, affirmation, passion, accountability, and training; the National Guard Child and Youth Program applies all of the above to the accomplishment of its mission: to support the social, emotional, and academic needs of National Guard children and youth.

This is achieved by the structure of a strategic plan that includes 17 areas of focus: Awards and Recognition, Child Care, Command Support, Curriculum, CYS Initiatives, Educational Support, Faith-based initiatives, Marketing, Partnerships, Research, Resources, Retention, Service Learning, State Support, Technology, Training, and Youth Camps.



Following the Boston Symposium, several activities have enabled states to move forward with their child and youth programs. The first State Youth Coordinator Training was held in Puerto Rico 31 January-3 February 2006. The draft State Youth Coordinator Manual, state assessment, and budget worksheet were shared. Youth specific courses including Empowering Youth, Counseling vs. Coordinating, and Diversity were provided. A partnership that will enable State Youth Programs to expand into community-based child and youth programs was introduced. Finally, the new youth online community web site was unveiled to great acclaim.

Regional Youth Coordinators continue to support their states by holding region meetings, providing resources, and supporting state events with their attendance and participation. Because of these efforts, the

National Program now boasts 47 states with paid Youth Coordinators with the remainder in the process of hiring for those positions. The goal is 54.

Thirty-three states are involved in Operation Military Kid programs which are providing a variety of activities and resources in the geographic areas in which these children live. These include deployment/reunion activities, leadership training opportunities, **continued on page 2: Child**

## New State Family Program Director Training

**By Mr. Michael Conner, Sr.**

Family Services Coordinator, NGB-J1-FP

The second State Family Program Director Initial Training Course was held at the National Guard Bureau Jefferson Plaza 1 building in Arlington, Virginia from March 13-17, 2006. The twelve students that participated in this class included a Deputy J1, a Family Program Manager and ten State Family Program Directors. The course is primarily for newly appointed State Family Program Directors (SFPDs), however, after all ap-

plicants meeting the prerequisite are accepted any remaining seats are open on a first come first serve basis.

The course introduces the new SFPD to the duties and responsibilities of a State Family Program Director. It outlines the components of the National Guard Family Program and the various programs that support those components. It identifies and defines the policies that regulate those programs. It provides the guidance to implement those **continues on page 4-SFPD**



Colonel Baker addresses the new State Family Program Directors at NGB on March 15, 2006.



## Division Chief's Corner

This newsletter is full of valuable information. On the front page, we pay tribute to "Month of the Military Child," with an article about the constantly improving and evolving Child and Youth Program, headed by Dr. Kathy Goedde, Pro-

gram Manager. Taking care of our military children is a vital part of taking care of our families.

Congratulations goes out to the participants in both sessions of the Guard Family Management System Training held in Little Rock, AR at the beginning of the month. As you will read on this page, many participants left with positive impressions! I hope this is just the beginning of a more effective way of keeping track of vital information.

Page 3 provides further information on the Soldier Family Life Consultants that are instrumental in our ability to strengthen our families and retain our soldiers. This is a resource to use in any stage of the deployment cycle.

On page 4, in honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week, we celebrate Brian Jolicoeur of Rhode Island who developed a wonderful project to benefit children of a local Family Readiness Group. We congratulate and thank him for his efforts!

## Guard Family Management System Training Roll-out

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

Family Assistant Center employees and Wing Family Program Coordinators (WFPC) headed to the Professional Education Center (PEC) on the week of March 6th to learn all about the new Guard Family Management System (GFMS), set to roll out in July of 2006.

This new tool for the Family Program will assist Family Assistance Centers (FACs) throughout the United States to be able to more effectively track requests from service members and their families. Family Assistance Centers act as the primary entry point for all services and assistance that a fam-



Ms. Pattie Reynolds (WFPC-Maine) checking out the GFMS program

has been a challenge to track requests and make those requests accessible to various employees within the same center. Participants were happy to hear about this new tool and couldn't wait to get it started in their own states. Some of the comments on evaluations were, "A worthwhile application, thank you for giving FACs this new tool." Another commented, "I love the program, it was nice to be able to add personal input and suggestions." Lourdes Gonzalez, 156th AW, Puerto Rico said, "I'm excited about this new system." The system is set to begin in the FACs in July.

For more information on the Guard Family Management system, please contact Mr. Michael Conner at 703-607-5410 or at [Michael.Conner@ngb.ang.af.mil](mailto:Michael.Conner@ngb.ang.af.mil).

ily may require during all the phases of deployment and beyond. In the past, it

**continued from page 1-Child** and communication/networking initiatives through the provision of mobile technology labs.

Several states have received grants to host National Guard Operation Purple Camps designed for children of all military branches who are experiencing the deployment of a parent. Children who attend learn how to cope with the challenges deployment creates. For more information about Operation Purple Camps, click on the picture below.



Many states provide deployment and reunion briefings, mock soldier readiness processes (SRP's) for children, grief programs, Youth Leadership Training weekends, Youth Financial Training Workshops, Survival Training, Service Learning opportunities (Statewide Easter Egg Hunts, Operation Warm Hug, Build-A-Bear), Character Counts Training, Train the Educator Training, as well as numerous other activities. All efforts reinforce that they are not alone and that there are many advocating on their behalf.

The annual Youth Symposium which will be held in Philadelphia 23-27 July will begin the next phase of child and youth programming. Themed 'National Treasure', State Youth Coordinators will train sample curriculums highlighting

character treasures that will be made available as a resource to support community-based unit/armory child and youth programs. A curriculum to train unit/armory child and youth volunteers will be demonstrated. In addition to the training opportunities, local Philadelphia community resources will be utilized to demonstrate the impact of community support on National Guard children and youth. Each state and territory will choose two youth leaders to attend representing both the Army and the Air. The event will culminate with a presentation by the youth representatives.

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)

# Family Programs partners with America Supports You

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

The National Guard Family Program office has partnered with *America Supports You*, a DoD program who's mission is to connect families and service members with military support organizations. "They include traditional military and government programs, but also corporate, grass roots, and individual efforts to help meet the needs the Defense Department simply can't," said Allison Barber, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. Barber, came up with the *America Supports You* program concept and oversees its operations.

These organizations provide services such as computer donation, a place for frequent flier mile donation, gift certifi-



cates, help for the wounded, letters and messages, military family support, scholarships for military children, service aid societies, training for Veterans, tragedy assistance, Veteran service organizations, and video conferencing.

Since it was created in November, *America Supports You* has provided a direct link between America's public

and the country's men and women in uniform.

"What *America Supports You* has done is connect America's passion for the troops to the troops." Allison Barber, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

The program has gained steady momentum during the past year, expanding to a vast network that includes 25 corporate and 188 grass roots organizations. In next month's issue of *The Program* look for a pull out section of resources brought to you by *America Supports You*.

For more information on *America Supports You*, check out their website at [www.americasupportsyou.mil](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil)

## Soldier Family Life Consultant Initiative

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

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) recognized an emerging need to provide informal support to soldiers and families in addition to the resident counseling services.

The Soldier Family Life Consultants (SFLC) program is out and will be dedicated to providing seamless; in place centralized support, for as long as it may take, to make sure that service members and their families achieve the highest level of functioning and quality of life possible. SFLC will engage all National Guard service members or the family member and help them understand what benefits are available.

The components of the program are as follows:

- utilizes licensed clinicians, with master's degrees and at least five years of experience in Social Work, Counseling or a related clinical discipline. Consultants are trained on military specific topics including a basic orientation to the deployment cycle, military culture, the chain of command, and reporting

requirements in accordance with (IAW) AR 608-18, the Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP).

- the goal is to prevent family distress by providing education and information on family dynamics, parent education, available support services, and the effects of stress and positive coping mechanisms. The consultants aid in supporting the Reunion and Reintegration Deployment Cycle. Consultants can provide a wide range of educational services to include information on the emotional impact caused by natural or man made disasters, mobilizations, and or deployments. These consultants can be used during the following events at the request of the State Family Program Director or chain of command at a very minimum.

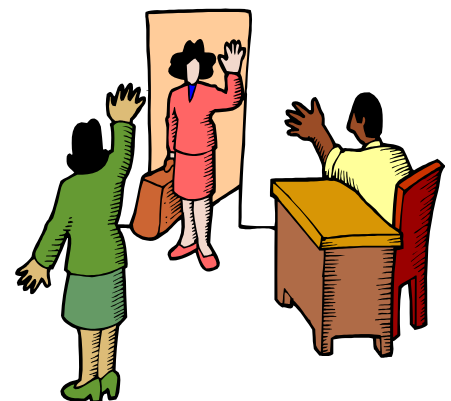
Events where consultants might assist are: Marriage Enrichment Seminars, Reunion and Reintegration Training, Mental Health Screenings, Pre-Deployment activities, Family Day Activities, Freedom Salute Ceremonies, Natural or man made disasters, and Post-Deployment Activities.

Consultants will assist in dealing with

issues such as: grief, loss of home and possessions, employment loss, new life planning, financial losses, creating a support network, children's reactions, children changing schools

Consultants can provide counseling in the follow areas: relationship counseling, crisis intervention, stress management, depression and grief after loss, occupational and family issues.

For more information, click [here](#) for the complete SFLC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).





continued from page 1-SFPD programs and the procedures for delivery of the services within each program. This course also provides tools for day-to-day operations of the staff. The course is divided into four parts: Plans and Operations, Family Readiness, Family Assistance, and Program Services.

We congratulate all of our participants and welcome them to the Family Program family!



March 2006 SFPD Training Graduates!

Your new State Family Program Directors are : Maj. Mary Jones – SFPD, MI; Maj. Patrick Osmond – SFPD, UT; Maj. Harvey Fitzgerald - SFPD, SD; Maj. Robert Crisostomo – SFPD, GU; Capt. James Hicks – SFPD, ID; 1st Lt. Gabriel Stokes – Acting SFPD, CO; 1st Lt. Dale Janice Cowan – SFPD, NC; Chief Warrant Officer Jennifer Sadler – SFPD, PA; Master Sgt. Kathryn Gilding – SFPD, MT; Master Sgt. Jeannette Wittman – SFPD, MD. Also participating in the training were: Maj. Garry Porter – Dpty J1 NC; Maj. Dana Sanders-Udo – Family Program Manager, MA.



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

**Invitational Travel Authorization:** The Invitational Travel Authorization (ITA) contains many rules that govern conferences and travel orders. The following is included in the Air National Guard Family Program. For the National Guard State Family Program, invitational travel of selected Guard Family Program volunteers to attend command-approved family support seminars, workshops, and meetings; paid and volunteer staff development

## Resource Information



training (necessary to provide required family support services) guard family member youth training support; Program personnel TDY and local travel costs; contract services for program support; training, volunteer and family program support items; informational items and recognition events are funded as prescribed in NGR 600-12/ANGR 211-1; National, State, and local volunteer awards programs; program approved volunteered reimbursement. The Responsibility Center Cost Center (RCCC) is 891655 (State Head-

quarters) or 241655 (Wing) with PEC 59220F for both RCCCs.

**One restriction is that "ITAs may not be used to authorize travel and transportation for Government contractors/contractor employees."** Refer to JFTR/JTR, Appendix E, or the Federal Acquisition *Regulations (FAR) b 31.205-46*.

For more resource information, please contact Mr. Ron Lacasse at 703-607-5407 or at [Ron.Lacasse@ngb.af.mil](mailto:Ron.Lacasse@ngb.af.mil)

## Eagle Service Project benefits Guard children in Rhode Island

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

Brian Jolicoeur wanted to do something great for his community, he thought a good idea would be to collect donated bicycles and restore them, buy locks and helmets and present them to children of National Guard service members in Rhode Island.

Brian's first step involved calling State Family Program Director for Rhode Island, LTC Robert Behm to ask him if he thought this project was a good idea. He then presented a thorough plan of how he intended to carry this out. First, he would need to collect the donated bicycles, coordinate bake sales and collect cans to raise money for materials, and teach his troop to assist him in repairing the bicycles. Brian's interest in bicycles started by helping his father when he was younger, he was happy to teach his troop (Troop

What Brian did was a remarkable thing, there were many happy children and parents at Christmas because of his efforts." -Lt. Col Robert Behm, State Family Program Director for Rhode Island

1139 from Slatersville, Rhode Island), what he knew about bicycles to help these children. Brian and his troop worked on the bicycles from October to December of 2005.

Throughout the project, Brian was careful to make sure all of the bicycles were dismantled and reassembled safely for those working on them and those who would receive these items as gifts. When asked what Brian hoped at the completion of his project, he said, "I just wanted to give some kids a great Christmas."

In total, 23 bicycles were completed, 3 over the estimated 20 planned at the beginning of the project. Brian's pro-



Brian Jolicoeur and State Family Program Director, Lt. Col. Robert Behm with bicycles Brian repaired for his Eagle Scout project

ject fulfilled his requirement for the Eagle Scout Service Project, the highest rank a Boy Scout Can attain before the age of 18).

Brian has been quite busy this year! He also earned the National Leadership Award from Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. His future plans are to attend Norwich University in Vermont as a member of the Corps of Cadets.

# Military One Source Operation Military Child Care



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

Operation Military Child Care is a Department of Defense (DoD) initiative in partnership with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) to support the child care needs of military parents who are activated/deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This initiative helps eligible military families locate affordable child care options in local communities. Military families who are using licensed/legally operating community-based child care programs and providers will pay reduced fees. Military families living near installations will be referred to on-base child care programs.

**Q.** *Who is eligible to participate?*

**A.** Families/child guardians of deployed Active Duty Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and National Guard and Reserve members serving at geographically dispersed locations, including AGR, technicians, temporary tour, and other special duty orders who are unable to access care on military installations are eligible during the deployment period and for 30 days after the return of the Military Parent.

**Note:** The subsidy program is intended to help support military spouses' employment, education, or special medical circumstances. Subsidies will only be provided to single parent families, families with a working spouse, or one who is enrolled in school. It will also be provided to families where the spouse is looking for work for a period of 60 days. Military Child Care services are not an entitlement and are subject to geographic availability of care and DoD and Military Service Funding.

**Q.** *How do you apply for Operation: Military Child Care reduced fee child care?*

**A.** A military member, spouse, or legal guardian contacts Child Care Aware toll-free at 1-800-424-2246 or via the web at [www.childcareaware.org](http://www.childcareaware.org) or you can call Military OneSource toll-free at 1-800-342-9647 and a consultant will assist you with in accessing these services.

## Contact the NGB-J1-Family Program Office

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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)

## Features for May

- National Military Appreciation Month, pull out section devoted to organizations helping service members from *America Supports You*
- GFAP Mid-level Conference May 1-5, 2006

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