



The Program



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

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Connecting Families and Service Members: Distributive Training Technology Project

By Edelina Villavicencio

Marketing and Communications Specialist, NGB-J1-FP

On 16 December, NGB-J1-FP sent a memo to all Family Program Directors and Wing Coordinators regarding the importance of connecting families with their deployed Guard members abroad using the Distributive Training Technology Project (DTP). This service makes it possible for families to reach out and not only talk to but to see their family members at any time but more importantly during this holiday season. Coordinat-

ing a session for a soldier is as easy as scheduling a time with your local Distance Learning Coordinator.

To learn more about the DTP system, check out: www.dttp.ngb.army.mil



TRICARE Reserve Select Premiums Increase

By Alex Baird

Veterans Affairs Liaison, NGB-J1-PA

Premiums for the Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) Health Care plan will increase 8.5 percent on 1 January. The monthly premiums for 2006 will be \$81 for an individual National Guard or Reserve member and \$253 for a family. Those are increases of \$6 and \$20 above 2005 levels.

TRS coverage is available to eligible Guard members who were called or ordered to active duty, Under Title 10, in support of a contingency operation on or before September 11, 2001 and served continuously on active duty

for 90 days or more under those orders.

TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) coverage must be purchased. TRS members pay a monthly premium for health care coverage (for self-only or for self and family). TRS premiums are adjusted January 1st each year.

Additional information can be found by clicking on the link below:

<http://tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserve/select/index.cfm>

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Guard Teen Panel Members Announced

By Kathy Goedde

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

Congratulations to the following youth representatives who have recently been selected as members of the inaugural Guard Teen Panel. Modeled after the Army Teen Panel, the Guard Teen Panel consists of two teens from each geographic region representing both Army and Air. Members selected completed an application revealing their experiences with, dedication to, and willingness to speak on behalf of National Guard

children and youth.

Sarah Smith (AL), Megan Jensen (NY), Portia Grant (TX), Laura Hadaway (OK), Joseph Kessler (IL), Mike Hepler (MN), Trent Carda (NE), Erica Anderson (NE) were selected from Regions 2-6. Members of the Guard Teen Panel will participate in four meetings per year in various locations. Their primary responsibility will be to bring to the forefront the unique challenges of military deployment with the intention of making recommendations that may

improve the quality of programs for National Guard children and youth.

Their first meeting will be held in Puerto Rico prior to the State Family Program Director/Wing Coordinator/State Youth Coordinator mid-year training event. Regions 1 and 7 are vacant as are the Air positions from Regions 2 and 3. Applications will be accepted in late Spring for those positions. Lauren Breckenridge (WY), Camerand Ersch (TX), and Ariel Waite (ID) will participate as Junior Advisors.



Military One Source



Military One Source is a 24/7/365 information and referral service available via toll free telephone and Internet access, worldwide. A personal, operational and family readiness tool, Military One Source is a virtual extension of existing community support resources for Active Duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status) and their immediate family members at no cost. The assistance provided is especially beneficial to those deployed, geographically separated from installation services or those who are unable to seek assistance during traditional working hours. If you need any assistance, please contact the following numbers.

Stateside: 1-800-342-9647

Overseas only: access code,*800-3429-6477

Overseas deployed or in remote areas can call collect: 1-484-530-5908 *Use access code before dialing the toll free number.

Access codes can be found under the "Contact us" tab

www.militaryonesource.com User ID: military Password: onesource

En español llame al 1-877-888-0727 TTY/TDD accessible 1-866-607-6794



Hail and Farewell



Hail:

NGB

- Ms. Bobbie Krynicki, Senior Analyst
- Darren Taylor, Analyst
- Maria Meloro, Volunteer Specialist
- Edelina Villavicencio, Marketing and Communications Specialist

States

AZ: CPT Jon Cookson

MI: MAJ Mary Jones

MO: LTC James Allison

PA: Chief Jennifer Sadler

VT: MAJ William McKern

Farewell:

None

This section will be devoted to new faces at NGB or in the States. If you have a Hail or Farewell to include in the monthly newsletter, please send their name, state, position and e-mail in case anyone else would like welcome or send best wishes to them, to:

familyprogramsnewsletter@ngb.ang.af.mil

Please send in your submissions for January by the 30th of December to be included in January's newsletter.

Division Chief's Corner

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

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Family Program Office at NGB. I want to welcome you to our first edition of "The Program," a newsletter provided to you by the Family Program office highlighting new and evolving training, services, and programs. Information you need to serve our soldiers and service members families' anywhere, anytime. Each issue will



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

highlight all of our major areas: Training, Youth, Volunteer, Family Readiness, & Resource Mgt. I encourage you to also send in your state stories of interest and each month we will highlight one state's best practice or good news story. I look forward to reading your submissions.

I also want to reiterate the importance of promoting the use of the DTTP system referenced in the article

above to connect families with their soldiers. At this time of year, it is very important for our families to be able to reach out, see and talk to their serving family members. Let's do all we can to connect those families.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a safe and Happy Holiday and New Year.

Upcoming Training Dates

By Michael J. Conner, Sr.
Training Specialist, NGB-J1-FP

All Staff Training

The GFTB Instructor Course and the Advance Instructor Trainer Course is scheduled for 9-13 Jan 06 at the National Guard Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. Registration can be done at www.pec.ngb.army.mil. Select the **Register for an Event** button in the upper left margin then scroll down to [GFTB ITC/AITC](#).

Worldwide AFAP 2005
23-27 January
Washington, D.C.

Details coming soon!

Paid Staff Training

The SFPD/WFPC/SYC Training Seminar is scheduled for 30 Jan – 3 Feb 06 in the Wyndham Condado Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We currently have 163 of our 233 staff registered. If you have not registered yet please do so at www.mpscrc.com/puertorico



Volunteer Staff Training

The Army Family Team Building Senior Spouse Leadership Seminar for spouses of service members attending the SGM Academy or service member's equivalent in rank is scheduled for 1-3 Feb 06 at the Sergeants Major Academy in Ft Bliss, Texas.

The Army Family Team Building Senior Spouse Leadership Seminar for service members attending the Army War College or service member's equivalent in rank is scheduled for 14-18 Feb 06 at the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA.

Registration for either seminar can be done at www.myarmylifetoo.com

Resource Management

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

In order to protect Family Program funding, NGB-J1-FP has an obligation to report all family program expenditures to NGB-ARC and NGB-FM. On numerous occasions States and Wings have been reminded through numerous emails and phone calls to submit their quarterly reports. To date this action has not been completed. States quarterly reports not received by 2 December as briefed on the VTC will

have **25%** of their QACS funding placed on hold until receipt of these reports. Funding will be pulled on the next funding document out scheduled for 13 December 2005.

All States that have initially submitted their FY06 budget (July) requesting non-appropriated funds (NAF) funds will be fully funded for the fiscal year providing quarterly reports are current on file with NGB-FP. A NAF check will be cut ASAP when NGB-FP has been funded by the US Army

Community and Family Support Center. To date (15 Nov 05), NAF funding has not been allocated to NGB-FP. Please keep in mind that any "additional NAF funding requested above your FY06 budget submission" may be denied.

Wings operational funding will be reduced in order to meet the Presidents Budget. The adjusted figures have been based on prior year execution and current quarterly reports on hand at NGB-FP, approved by the Air Chief of Staff.

Highlight on the National Outreach Program

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

As National Guard members transition from being citizen soldiers to serving on the lines in the war on terrorism, dealing with life-changing demands becomes critical. The National Guard is committed to providing Guard families with the services they need and formed a National Out-

reach Program that will allow the National Guard to enhance already existing military programs to families and service members. The thrust of this program is to compliment National Guard family and service member readiness efforts and existing DoD programs. The program has the potential to strengthen support systems for children and youth care and services, community support systems,

communication and information dissemination. Just some of the organizations presently involved in this partnership are the American Red Cross, American Veterans, United Service Organization, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans, Dept. of Veteran Affairs, and the American Legion. Every month this section will be devoted to highlighting one organization and its contributions to Guard life.

Announcing the Traumatic Injury Protection Program

By Alex Baird

Veterans Affairs Liaison, NGB-VA

The Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs have announced the establishment of the Traumatic Injury Protection under the Service members' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) Program.

The purpose of TSGLI is to provide financial assistance to Service members during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury. TSGLI is not disability compensation and has no effect on entitlement for compensation and pension benefits. It is an insurance benefit ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 based on 44 categories of injuries that include loss of sight,

hearing and speech as well as loss of a limb. TSGLI and SGLI coverage are linked so an individual who selects one will automatically have the other. TSGLI premiums are \$1 monthly added to the SGLI premium effective 1 December.

Retroactive TSGLI provides coverage from 7 October 2001 to 1 December 2005 for a qualifying loss that was a direct result of injuries incurred in the theater of operations of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Effective 1 December 2005, any member who has SGLI will be insured for Traumatic Injury Protection up to \$100,000. This coverage is not limited to injuries

that occur on a duty status. Like SGLI, TSGLI is an insurance benefit payable regardless of whether the injury occurred as a direct result of duty.

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

Additional information is available on the Department of Veterans Affairs website at: <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/legislation/TSGLIFacts.htm>

Family Programs Supports the Severely Wounded

By Maj. Zoilo J. Lopez,

Family Programs Readiness Officer
NGB-J1-FP

Each of the Services has initiated an effort to ensure that our seriously wounded Service members are not forgotten – medically, administratively, or in any other way. To facilitate a coordinated response, the Department has established a Joint Support Operations Center. We are collaborating, not only with the military Services, but also with other depart-

ments of the federal government, non-profit organizations, and corporate America, to assist these deserving men and women and their families.

A number of National Guard severely injured Service members will be able to return to duty, some, however, will transition from the military and return to their hometowns or become new members of another civilian community. NGB Family Program Office in conjunction with each State/

Territories State Family Program Director (SFPD) is goal-oriented to support these men and women – the best of our nation on any needed assistance to enhance their lives.

If you are or know about a service member that may need assistance please call your State family Program Director or the NGB-FP representative; Maj. Zoilo J. Lopez at 703-607-5409 or via e-mail at zoilo.lopez@ngb.ang.af.mil

Family Assistance Center Information

By Chief Bonny Bell

Army Resource Management Executive Officer, NGB-ARM

The first quarter of FY06 has been somewhat of a challenge for the Family Assistance Center (FAC) mission. I applaud each of you for your patience with short suspense dates and numerous requirements necessary to keep the centers open.

The announcement of the award of the National Contract is anticipated on or about 15 December. Please ensure that your current FAC employees have a copy of their resume and a W4 available for the transition period.

Monthly and Quarterly FAC reports continue to be an issue. Accuracy in reporting is necessary for the success of procuring the resources to fund the FAC mission. One item that is often

overlooked in reporting are your Volunteers working in your FACs and providing outreach to mobilized family members. Please ensure that they are included in your reports.

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Bonny Bell at 703-607-9196 or via e-mail at bonny.bell@ngb.army.mil

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

Contact the NGB-J1-Family Programs Office

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Helpful Links



NATIONAL GUARD PROGRAMS:

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

ACTIVE DUTY:

Active duty roster:
www.defenselink.mil/news/March2004/d20040331ngr1.pdf

My Army life too: Supports families covering issues such as; moving, basics, deployment, and careers.
www.myarmylifetoo.com

Air Force Crossroads: Learn about eldercare, education, employment, parenting, relocation, and more.
www.afcrossroads.com

HEALTH:

TRICARE (Health Benefits):
www.tricare.osd.mil

US Army Wounded Warrior Program, the Army provides its most severely disabled Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow-up. www.armyds3.org

EDUCATION:

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC): Contains links and information about schooling and distance education, scholarships and organizations devoted to the military family. www.militarychild.org

Information on military education resources including scholarships and other school benefits.
www.military.com

YOUTH:

Site devoted to helping military children with transition and deployment issues. www.militarystudent.org

Operation Purple Camps give military children tools to help deal with the stresses that result from parent's deployment. www.nmfa.org

Operation Military Child Care: is a child care subsidy and resource service to help activated/deployed military families find affordable, quality local child care options
www.childcareaware.org

Military One Source is the primary, single source of quick access to help and support mobilized military personnel and their families. Call to request assistance on parenting and child information; discipline, communication, developmental stages, family relationships, adoption assistance, and more. 1-800-342-9647 English/1-877-888-0727 Spanish
www.militaryonesource.com

Operation Child Care providers have volunteered a minimum of 4 hours of free service for service members home on R&R.
www.childcareaware.org