



Massachusetts Deployment Cycle Support Operations (the Yellow Ribbon Program)





Briefing Agenda



- **Program Origins/Intent: Congress Response to Needs (NDAA 08)**
- **MA Deployment Cycle Support Operations Mission Statement**
- **Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) Core Competencies**
- **Supporting the Deployment Cycle**
- **Our Target Audience (Supported Elements)**
- **Our Partners (Supporting Efforts)**
- **Additional DCS Program Features**
- **Program Summary and Next Steps**



Program Origins/Intent

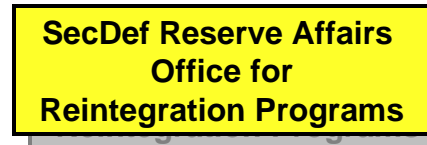
“Military Members and Families are a unique audience who have made an honorable commitment that requires a determined response”



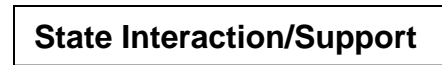
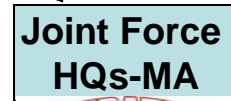
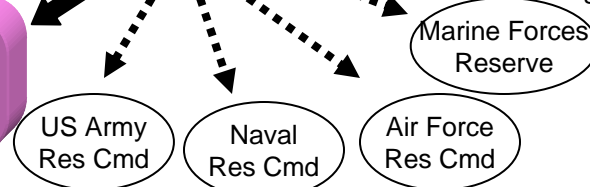
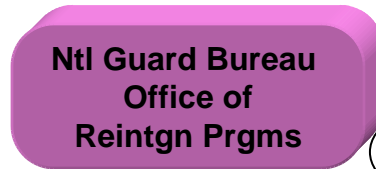
- *Total Warrior*/Yellow Ribbon: a series of dynamic, interactive, supportive, thought provoking seminars for deploying and returning Reserve Component units
- Active Component Service Members (SMs) and Families receive extensive support; Reserve Component received scattered support; old 60 days “hands off” policy results in increased difficulties and significant distress
- Congressional response: “Yellow Ribbon” program established in National Defense Act of 2008, Section 582 (“reintegration” a misnomer – covers full deployment cycle)
- Directs establishment of Deployment Cycle Support teams in the National Guard HQs of each State to support all Reserve Commands (a new interaction)
- Mandates series of pro-active events via Under Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs at 30, 60 and 90 days (repeals “hands off” policy)
- Intent: leverage the National Guard’s natural strength of local community involvement (ex. Bay Colony legislation mandated community support for deployed militia)
- The Adjutant General of Massachusetts directs creation of “Operation Total Warrior” and the “Military & Family Support Center” in July ’08
 - Military environment offers a unique opportunity to significantly impact the life strategies and Family infrastructure of our 17,000+ Citizen-Warriors (unlike corporate entities)
 - Serves to preserve the Force by taking pre-emptive measures to care for Families and needs
 - Provides a means for the State and communities to participate and thank our Veterans



Program Origins/Intent



(provides program oversight)
*Funding: still flows separately through each Service



- Deployment Cycle Support office established in each National Guard HQs
- *Dual Role: DCS acts on behalf of the Dept of Defense and the Commonwealth/Governor!

- MA Department of Vet Services: primary partnering agency to obtain and vette local resources
- Governor's Advisory Council: provides support and legitimacy
- Inter Service Family Assistance Committee a key linking agency





DEPLOYMENT CYCLE SUPPORT MISSION STATEMENT



The Massachusetts National Guard Deployment Cycle Support Team implements “Operation Total Warrior” (the MA Yellow Ribbon Program) to coordinate and synchronize all available local, state and federal resources in support of deploying or recently demobilized Reserve Component service members and their families.

It employs the organizational skills and operational resources of the MANG to leverage the wealth of resources provided by our veterans’ support agencies (VSAs) to insure that every Citizen-Warrior in the Commonwealth is fully equipped **emotionally, spiritually, physically and mentally** to deploy, accomplish the mission and transition back to families and civilian roles as smoothly as possible.

We are committed to excellence in service coupled with a determined commitment to complete confidentiality.



DCS Target Population (Supported Elements)



*Approximately 17,000 RC members in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Army National Guard

➤ 6,400 Soldiers



USCG Reserve

➤ 600 Coast Guardsmen



Army Reserve

➤ 3,700 Soldiers



Air National Guard

➤ 2,300 Airmen



Navy Reserve

➤ 310 Sailors



USAF Reserve

➤ 2,600 Airmen



USMC Reserve

➤ 1,152 Marines



Deployment Cycle Support Staff Core Competencies



- **Conduct Seminars:**
 - **Generate Dynamic Product:** develop innovative and effective curriculum that pushes comprehensive resources to real or anticipated needs of deploying/returning Service Members and Families in a conducive setting
 - **Engage Joint Services:** provide guidance, mission plans and infrastructure to every RC in the state for mandated pre-mobilization, deployment and re-integration seminars > Goal: merge events and efforts
- **Coordinating Support Agencies:** interact with Veterans Support Organizations and Agencies (VSO/As) activities to avoid duplication of effort and provide critical resource information via OTW website, calendars and coordination meetings
- **Conduct Individual Outreach:** subject matter experts provide effective response and follow-up to Military members and Families in need; emphasis on information and referral services insuring complete confidentiality throughout



UNIT OTW TIMELINE

(*all events are Joint)



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Pre-Mobilization Seminar

- "Mission Ready, Family Ready!"
- one day at off-site location
- Seminar Topics focus on Pre-MOB
- "Battle Drills" for Families

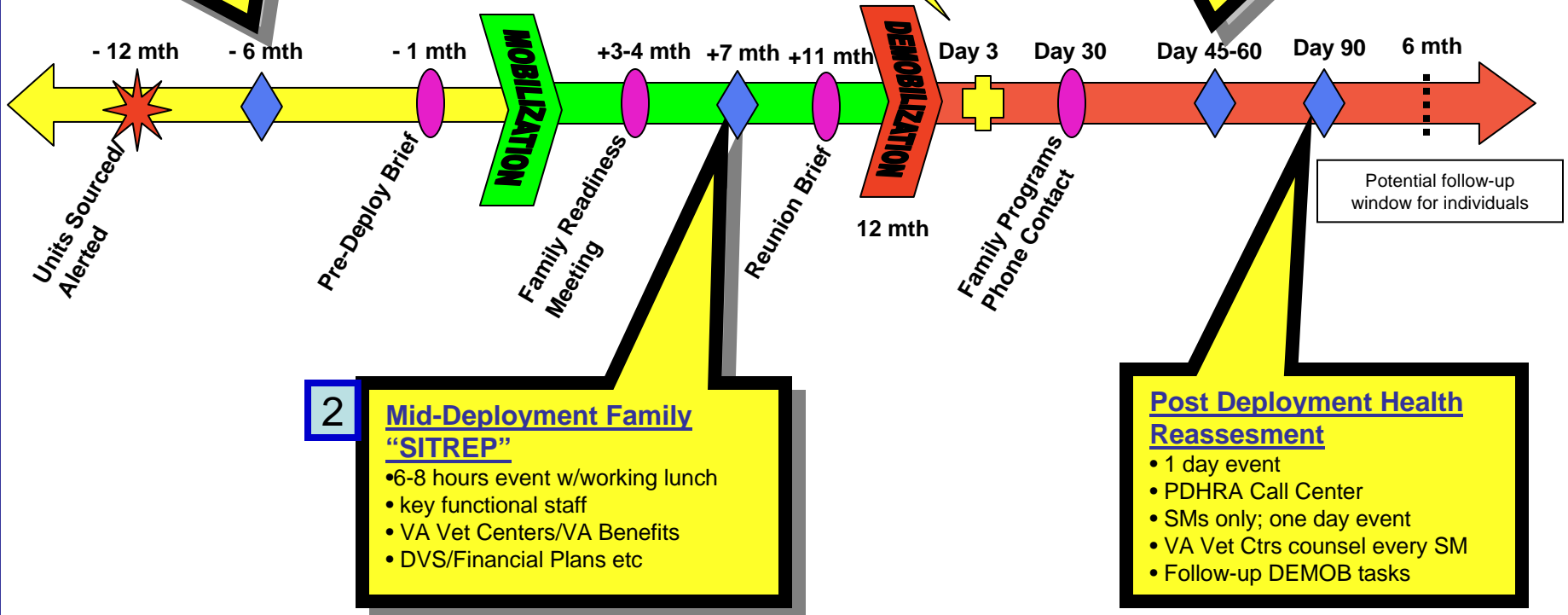
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Post-Mobilization Reintegration Seminar

- 2 day event off-site
- Families w/child care
- Full Spectrum Briefings
- Done in IDT/drill duty status
- "Freedom Salute" Ceremony conducted on 2nd Day

JFHQ Initial DEMOB RSRP

- done w/in 3 days of arrival at HS
- SMs only @ JFHQ
- Va Vet Ctrs counsel every SM
- Va Benefits brief every SM



2

Mid-Deployment Family "SITREP"

- 6-8 hours event w/working lunch
- key functional staff
- VA Vet Centers/VA Benefits
- DVS/Financial Plans etc

Post Deployment Health Reassessment

- 1 day event
- PDHRA Call Center
- SMs only; one day event
- VA Vet Ctrs counsel every SM
- Follow-up DEMOB tasks

Pre-MOB (12 months)

MOB/Deployment (12 months)

Post-MOB (45 days/90 days-6months)



OTW Seminar Formats



Event Scenario and Features

- Attendees choose up to 4 sessions from selection of 16 electives
- Conducted at off-site relaxed atmosphere settings (hotels/conference centers)
- Continental breakfast and hot lunch provided (working lunch)
- Invitation Travel Authorization/Orders provided for 2 X guests
- Child care and Youth activities provided on-site (Opn Military Kids/4H)

TOPICS

- Family Counseling
- Safeguarding Your Home
- Single Soldier Workshops
- Vet Affairs Information
- Military One Source Programs
- Tri-Care & Dental Info
- VA Vet Center Counselors
- Financial Planning strategies
- Military Life Consultant Support
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Career Services/Workforce Development/Job Opportunities
- Operation Homefront
- SM and Family “Battlemind Training”
- Interactive Workgroups – Family Issues
- Business Plans and survivability
- Defeating the Substance Abuse Threat



Some of Our Partners (Supporting Efforts)



- MA Department of Veteran's Services



- MA One-Stop Career Services



- MA Statewide Advocacy for Vet Empowerment



- ESGR

- MA DHHS



- Transition Assistance Program

- NE TBI Consortium

- Operation Homefront



- Chaplain/Military Ministries



- Strat Outreach to Families of All Reservists

- VA Benefits/Services/Tricare



- Military Family Life Consultants



- VA Vet Centers



- Military Once Source



- MA Financial Planning Associates

- Local/Regional Behavioral Health Counseling Centers

- Local Veterans Service Officers

- American Legion

- Local Universities & Colleges



- VFW



- USO





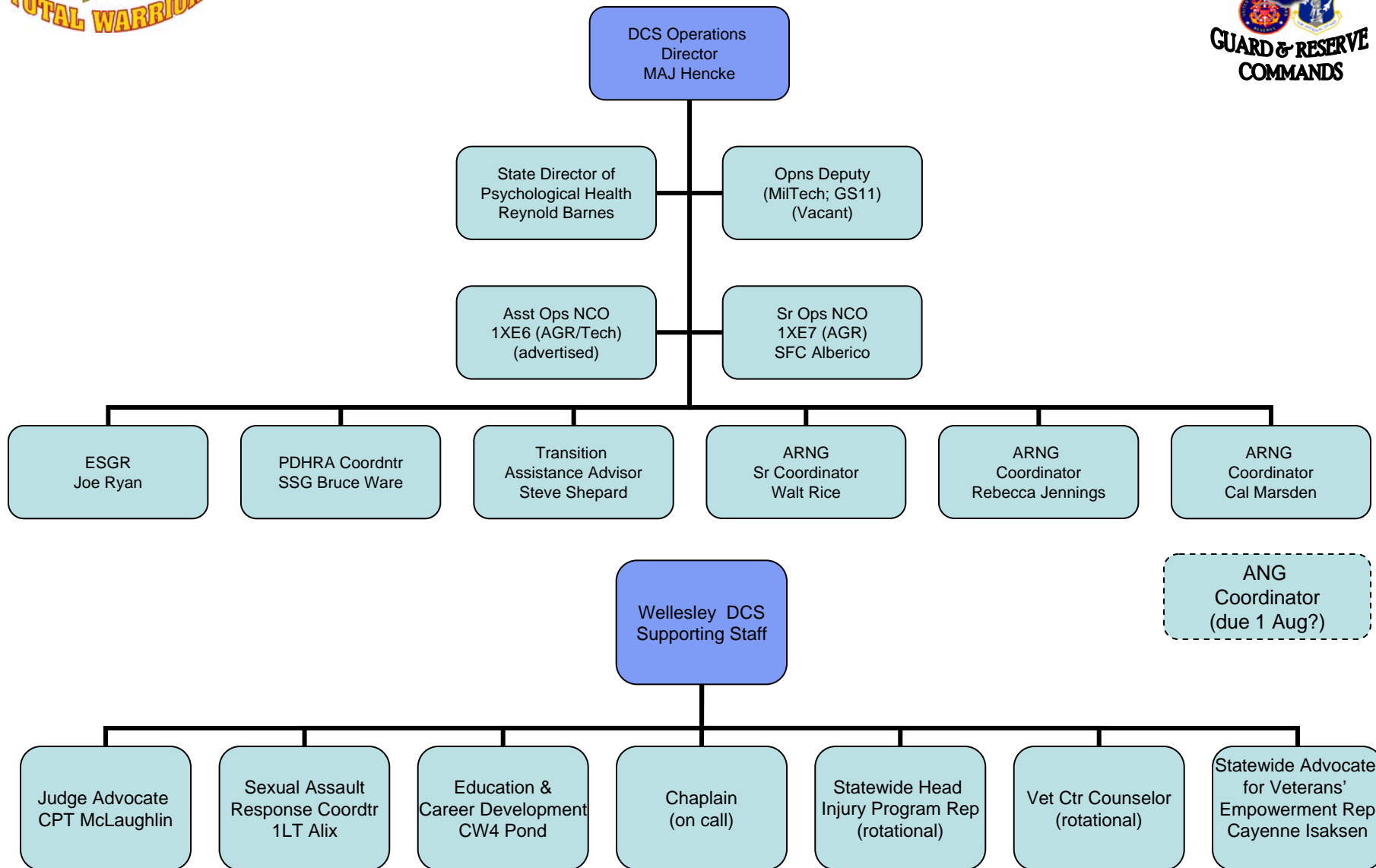
Other Program Features



- **Military & Family Support Center** - “one stop” open access facility at 14 Minuteman Lane, Wellesley, MA providing:
 - DCS operations staff cell (supports RC commands in YR event planning)
 - Individual counseling, SARC, Family Support and Youth Services, legal affairs, education services, ID cards, pay and finance, Tri-Care guidance all available on-site
 - Training Facility: conference rooms, Distance Learning center support staff training, career services, financial planning, benefits claiming
- **Veteran’s Benefits Information Kiosks** at 12 store front/mall locations throughout the state (automated computer display with 40 links)
- **Total Warrior Website:**
 - Information sharing and marketing for veterans to use
 - Event coordination center via central calendar and links
- **Community Outreach** – DCS team briefs to agencies and supports veteran’s events
- **1-800 Resource Phone Access** – manned by on-call DCS staff 24 hours



Wellesley DCS Staff





Program Summary/Next Steps



- Over 2,500 SMs and Families engaged to date
- Gain buy-in of all RC Commanders and coordinate deployment calendars
- Grand Opening and Statewide Reserve Component Commanders Meeting
 - > June 23, 2009, 1100, Wellesley Military & Family Support Center
 - > ISFAC Meeting to re-establish the committee
 - > Open House for Veteran Support Agency representatives
- The Adjutant General's Employer Outreach Initiative

Next events:

- June 27-28: Post-Mobilization seminar, Natick Crowne Plaza
- July 18: Mid-Mobilization seminar, Milford, MA
- September 13-14: Pre-Mobilization seminar, Hyannis, MA



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