



YRRP
YELLOW RIBBON
REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

GUIDE
PURPOSE AND PHASES OF YRRP

History and Purpose of YRRP

The National Guard, under direction of Congress and the National Guard Bureau, has created a comprehensive program to help military Families who have loved ones who are deploying. The National Defense Authorization Act 2008, section 582 directs the implementation and staffing of a “Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program” in every State. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a “one stop shop” for services, training, and resources to help both our Service People and their Families as they go through the entire process of a deployment.

This program is open to all units and all branches of military service and gives units, Families, and individual Service Members the tools and resources to be successful from the time the unit receives an alert, through mobilization and deployment, to re-deployment and beyond. The Yellow Ribbon program doesn’t end once our Service Members are home safely. It continues to assist Families with finding jobs, dealing with the entire scope of mental and spiritual needs that might arise, and focusing on getting our men and women fully integrated back into the daily lives they left.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a group effort by the National Guard, State and local governments, our communities, our Families, and most importantly our returning heroes. When our men and women deploy, everyone is affected: individual Service Members, Families, communities, and employers. This program is designed to assist everyone in preparing, coping with, and overcoming the challenges of deployment.

Deployment Phases

Pre-Deployment (YR1 and YR2)

The goal of the Pre-Deployment Yellow Ribbon events is to educate the Family, unit, and individual Service Member on what resources they can utilize; and what they can expect while the unit is deployed. The initial alert and pre-deployment mobilization phase is a stressful time for everyone. Service Members are worried about leaving Families behind, leaving jobs, and deploying into harm's way, while Families are concerned with the void that will be left when their Service Member leaves. Questions about finances, being away from their Service Member, and wondering what the Service Member will be doing are just a few of the issues Family Members face. The pre-deployment briefs and assistance offered by the Yellow Ribbon program are a huge help to the units, Families, and individual Service Members.

These events are typically held at a conference center, hotel, or school close to the unit. Attendance is mandatory for Service Members, who will be in a drilling status. Pre-Deployment events are normally held about sixty days prior to deployment, and spouses, Family, and community leaders are encouraged to attend.

Typically, our Yellow Ribbon Pre-Deployment events are held over one day during the weekend. They consist of representatives from the State Family Programs Office, Chaplains, TRICARE, Veterans Affairs/Veterans Center, Military OneSource, MET Life, Family Readiness Programs, Child & Youth Programs, community partners and a Judge Advocate General, to name a few. These representatives offer small presentations and are available on site all day to help with paperwork, answer questions, and assist the unit and Family in any way possible with the upcoming deployment.

During Deployment (YR3)

Once a unit has deployed, the Yellow Ribbon During event is a chance for the Families and rear detachment Service Members to gather for a one-day event much like the Pre-Deployment event. Representatives from various agencies available to military Families are present to assist with pay issues, legal issues, education benefits, and others. These

organizations and representatives are available throughout the deployment cycle, but this event is a chance for Families to regroup after adjusting to the unit being deployed and receive assistance and information regarding any issues or problems they might be facing.

Post Deployment (YR 4, YR5, & YR6)

A. The first Post-deployment event is the 30-Day (YR4) event. It occurs during the unit's first drill upon returning from deployment. This event is usually conducted at a non-military facility such as a local hotel. The Freedom Salute Ceremony is conducted and awards are given during this event. The YR4 allows the unit to get together with their Families and reconnect for the first time as a group. It focuses on connecting the Service Members and Families with providers who can offer assistance in overcoming the challenges of reintegrating back into civilian life. Other topics of the YR4 include legal issues, drug use, safety, and veteran's benefits. The Service Member's supporters and community leaders and partners are highly encouraged to register attend the YR4.

B. The second Post-deployment event is the 60-Day (YR5) event. The 60-Day event is conducted on the second drill weekend following the unit's return from their deployment. The venue space used for the YR5 is usually located at a non-military facility such as a hotel or local community center or school. This event continues the outreach to Service Members and their Families and offers education and information as it pertains to reintegration. The YR5 may include one-on-one time with counselors and financial advisors, assistance with job placements/applications in the form of a mini job fair, and information and education on the mental health of Service Members who are dealing with certain combat stress factors. The Service Member's supporters and community leaders and partners are highly encouraged to register and attend the YR5.

C. The final event is the 90-Day Post-Deployment (YR6) event. The Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) event is conducted along with the Reintegration Unit Risk Inventory (R-URI) survey during the returning unit's third drill weekend following its deployment. This event is usually conducted at the unit armory or at a local VA Hospital or Center. Families are not authorized to attend this event. However, Families are strongly

encouraged to talk with their Service Member about the benefits of the PDHRA program and encourage the Service Member to fully participate. The PDHRA is a medical event that gives Service Members the opportunity to receive invaluable care and documentation for any injuries or ailments that occurred during their deployment.