

The Ribbon

For Those Who Serve and Those Who SupportSM



1ST QUARTER FY2013



 **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration ProgramSM**
www.yellowribbon.mil

IN THE NEWS

▶ YRRP FY 2012 Annual Report

Development of the YRRP FY 2012 Annual Report to Congress to be published in early 2013 is now underway. Requests for YRRP event metrics have been sent to the Services and are due at the end of October.

▶ YRRP Center for Excellence Redesign

The YRRP Center for Excellence (CfE) website has been updated with new design and functionality. YRRP event curriculum will be added to the site over the coming months. Check out the new CfE at: <http://www.yellowribbon.mil/center-for-excellence-new>.

▶ Get Benefit Information with milConnect

The milConnect website, hosted by the Defense Manpower Data Center, allows DoD beneficiaries to review personal, health care, and personnel records from one centralized location. Additionally, beneficiaries can now sign up for eCorrespondence to receive electronic updates. To learn more, visit: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 22 – 24, 2012

Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting & Expo

Walter E. Washington Convention Center,
Washington D.C.

View upcoming YRRP events at:
www.yellowribbon.mil/events

DoD YRRP: Building Communities of Readiness through Reintegration

The following is an excerpt of an article published in the Association of the United States Army's October Torchbearer periodical. Read the full version online at: www.yellowribbon.mil/theribbon/ausatorchbearer.



As operations in Iraq draw to a close and those in Afghanistan begin to ramp down, the efforts to reintegrate returning Reserve Component members with their families, employers and communities are continuing at a high tempo. In many respects, reunion and reintegration activities are just beginning, as the medium- and long-term effects of the past decade's numerous deployments start to surface. Service members and families face physical and behavioral health concerns, an unstable economy, communication challenges, suicidal ideations and employers and communities who may not understand their needs or how they can help.

Since 9/11, over 855,000 National Guard and Reserve Service member activations have occurred, impacting some Service members on multiple occasions through recurring mobilizations and deployments. The "Strategic Reserve" is a thing of the past, and the "Operational Reserve" has become a vital component of the Nation's warfighting and stability operations capability. The historic increase in the utilization of National Guard and Reserve forces, combined with their geographic dispersion, has resulted in the need for normalized deployment cycle support and a sustainable structure to meet the needs of the present and future operational force.

As Service members return to their families, employers and communities, their experiences in strengthening nations overseas can be utilized again to help educate community members about the needs and concerns of Service members and their families. Through the YRRP, volunteers, staff, service providers, employers and citizens can become a part of the extended support network.

To that end, the YRRP will continue the "fight" to improve, evolve, inspire and deliver its premier deployment cycle support training and services, maximizing available resources and leveraging the expertise and good works of individuals, agencies and communities throughout the country.



YRRP Resource Guide Goes Mobile!

YRRP has created a smartphone and tablet version of the popular Resource Guide. The app contains the same helpful program information, resources, and contacts for National Guard and Reserve members and their families as the handy pocket print version.

The app is available for download with the use of a free access code card while supplies last. To request a card for individual use or multiple cards for distribution at a YRRP event, please contact your local YRRP Program Specialist via: www.yellowribbon.mil/about/program-specialists.



The YRRP Resource Guide app offers comprehensive and convenient access to Program information and resources.

“...we bless ourselves with the hope that everything is going to be fine in this country. But, very frankly, it doesn't mean a damn thing unless we're willing to fight for it.”

– Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense

On June 27, 2012, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta spoke at the Military Child Education Coalition's national training seminar in Grapevine, Texas where he emphasized [Americans'] need to “fight to improve the education of our children, fight to help our military families and give them the support they need, fight to make sure our children have a better life, and most importantly, fight to make sure that we always protect and strengthen a government by and for the people.”

DID YOU KNOW?

YRRP has obtained trademark approval for its program name, tag line, and the yellow ribbon symbol. Additionally, the U.S. Air Force Reserve has updated its Service seal.



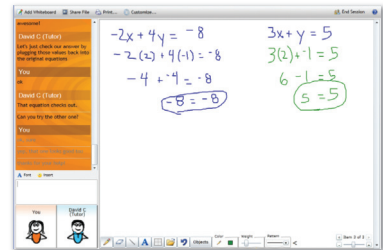
New YRRP branding templates reflecting these changes are available for download at: www.yellowribbon.mil/theribbon/new-yrrp-branding-templates.

Military Kids Get Back to School with Tutor.com

With the start of the new school year, students across the country are relearning how to work those algebra problems, brushing up on biology, and preparing for the SAT this fall. Fortunately, National Guard and Reserve Service members and their families have free online access to Tutor.com to help them excel in the classroom from kindergarten to college.

YRRP, in conjunction with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Library Program, provides 24/7 free tutoring services for eligible National Guard and Reserve members and their dependents through Tutor.com. This resource provides access to a live expert tutor for one-to-one assistance with homework, exam preparation and career help, empowering National Guard and Reserve families with resources to help meet the academic well-being and education needs of their family.

Take advantage of what Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families can do for you this school year, at: www.tutor.com/military.



Students can work one-to-one with a tutor in a secure, online classroom, which features an interactive whiteboard, file sharing and instant messaging.

YRRP IS NOW ON LinkedIn

Professionals who support the YRRP are invited to join YRRP's new LinkedIn group. The group serves as a knowledge management community promoting collaboration and more efficient practices among Event Planners, Program Specialists, Cadre members, and Office staff. Group members can network with one another, share tips and advice, ask questions, and participate in online polls.

Group membership is currently limited to those YRRP professionals listed above, but will be open to all persons interested in participating at a later date. Visit the group today at: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4563510>.



Contact the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program by e-mailing YRRP@osd.mil or calling (866) 504-7092.

To receive The Ribbon quarterly, visit: www.yellowribbon.mil/theribbon