

DIIGO: Need to Know for Military Families

Instruction sheet

What is the “Need to Know for Military Families” project?

In this day of information overload, there are many links on the web site that will take you to information that is helpful or military families. The problem is often finding the sites, and then sorting through them for useful information, especially for those family members that are new to the military. Our goal with this project was to gather as many pre-existing links to official and unofficial sites along with a way to search within the listing and to make this available to family members no matter where they are located across the world.

We chose to use a social bookmarking site because it allowed us to connect the user to the most up to date official information.

What is Social Bookmarking and why are we using it?

Social bookmarking allows a group of participants to store links to websites in one central online location and share comments about those websites with one another, no matter where the group members are located.

This allowed us to create a listing that will continue to grow over the years. Anyone can join the Diigo bookmarking site and add websites that they have found useful. This way, the collective group of military families, Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, etc... will benefit and also continue to improve the project as time goes by.

Since the links will take you to the official websites that are constantly updated, the information will remain as up to date as possible.

How to get started

1. Go to www.diigo.com.
2. Download the software for diigo and join. It is free of charge.
3. Search for groups “Need to Know for Military Families” and join the group.
4. Once you have downloaded the diigo software, you can go directly to the link:
<http://groups.diigo.com/group/need-to-know-for-military-families>

NOTE: It is a public forum and no classified information should be posted. Inappropriate links that are added, or commercial links will be removed.

How to use the diigo social bookmarking site

A. To find information:

1. Browse through the list of links.
2. Search via the search box in the top right hand corner of the page. It will search through the tags, the description of the website and the url for your criteria/words and provide a list of relevant links.
3. Search using the “most popular” links on the right hand side. The top 10 tags are listed and clicking on any of those links will provide a listing of sites containing that word.

B. To add a website:

1. Click on add “bookmark” – and follow the directions.

2. Cut and paste the url or the website into the pop up window and write a brief description of the site (What does it contain and why is it useful).
3. Add the tags (these are descriptive words), add as many as you like. If using a phrase such as “military family” - use quotation marks around it to ensure that it is not treated as two separate words.

C. To start a discussion, or write a comment about a topic:

1. Click on “Topic” and type in your comments.

D. To generate a list of links to share with a family member or spouse:

Useful if you want to share a list of links with someone who is not comfortable/familiar with a computer.

1. Locate the “Filter” – all/bookmarks/topic line.
2. To the right – you will see three small boxes. Click on the one at the far right.
3. Click on pop up for “More Actions”
4. See the option “Generate report” in the drop down menu.
5. Simply check the desired sites on the list and click on “generate report”.
6. Cut and paste the list to an e-mail or word document for sharing or e-mail a list of the selected links by clicking the “send” option.

Share This With Other Families!!

Please share the information about Diigo with every military spouse/family member that you know. The more people that read it and contribute to it, the more successful it will be. If you have your own website, please feel free to use the group widget to add a link to the diigo group.

Any sites that are added that are not appropriate (i.e. commercial or not related to military information) will be removed from the list by the administrator.