



Ready Families... Anytime, Anywhere

BUCKEYE FAMILIES

July 2007

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Educate, Communicate and Market Family Readiness

Contracted Family Assistance Centers

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Cyndi Caron – Walbridge	866-278-5755
Brian Via – Cincinnati (New FAC)	866-278-5757
Jennifer Moore – Portsmouth/Chillicothe	866-270-8283
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Army

Angie Dyer – Columbus*	614-332-3620
Bonnie Swaney – Cincinnati*	937-436-3505
Lorie Venable – Kettering	937-878-9890
Michelle Buck – Toledo*	419-265-4663
Lillian Collins – Portsmouth/Chillicothe*	740-707-6743

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Transition Assistance Advisor

Terry Dean	614-336-7349
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* Denotes: – Joint Family Council Member

If you would like to contribute to the Buckeye Family Newsletter about what's happening in your unit, please forward your submission to the editor. The next edition is scheduled for October 2007.



- ✓ **Cincinnati Zoo Family Fun Day, Saturday, July 28th**
- ✓ **Mark your Calendars for the 2008 Annual Family Readiness Conference, 4-6 April 2008, in Columbus.**
- ✓ **Please see our new regional map along with your FAC and Regional Volunteer info on our website @ www.ong.ohio.gov/family**

*From the
State Family Program Director
Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Robert Bramlish*

2007 – Family Readiness State Conference

The weekend of April 13-15, 2007 was filled with education, fun, and families. Attendance this year at the Family Readiness Conference topped the charts with 600 adults and 147 children for a total of 747 present. Our group utilized 250 rooms at the Marriott NW and 10 rooms at the Ameri Suites NW. Wow, what a group!

There were also 23 vendors who supported our conference with display tables, handouts, information, and even cookies! Special Guests in attendance were: GOV and Mrs. Ted Strickland – Governor of Ohio, MG Gregory L and Deb Wayt (Adjutant General for Ohio), MG Harry W and Mary Feucht (Assistant Adjutant General for Air, BG Matthew and Patty Kambic (Assistant Adjutant General for Army) and COL and Mrs. Anthony Baker- Director, Family Programs – NGB. There were also representatives from Operation: Military Kids, Our Military Kids, Ohio State University, VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, USAA, Red Cross, and USO.

Post conference surveys:

- Everything was extremely well coordinated and enjoyable.
- By far the best conference I have EVER attended in 10 years of Active Army FRG Training.
- Fluid and dynamic.
- Wonderful opportunities and support now available to children and families.
- Relaxed atmosphere, the Governor's appearance, NGB Director presence.
- Friday Night Mixer was great
- Well planned and provided answers to our questions
- Kept the crowd fed, entertained and informed
- Notebook of slides and presentations, utility bag and back pack all helpful.
- Kids programs
- Theme, setup, coordination... Best conference I have been to.
- Well planned and a "blast". Great location.
- Facility was very nice.
- Liked the casual atmosphere

Our conference was a tremendous success. Thanks for all your support and continued participation. We are already brainstorming themes and activities for - "2008"... If you are a Family Readiness Group Leader, Assistant Leader, Secretary, Treasurer, Military Liaison, or Unit Commander this conference is for you.

LTC Bramlish (SFPD)

AMVETS Operation DVD

AMVETS' Operation DVD collects new and used DVDs to distribute overseas to U.S. military personnel. Americans can donate their new and used DVDs, which will then be shipped to our fighting men and women overseas. If you have DVDs to donate, or want to make a donation for postage, write AMVETS, Operation DVD, 1395 E Dublin-Granville #222, Columbus, OH 43229, or visit the [AMVETS Operation DVD website](#).

Beware of Casualty Notifications from the American Red Cross

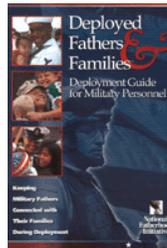
SCAM ALERT:

On Tuesday, May 29 the American Red Cross (ARC) learned of a new scam targeting Military families. The caller calls a military spouse and identifies herself as a representative from the ARC. The caller says the deployed spouse was hurt while on duty and was med-evacuated to a hospital in Germany. The caller says that to complete the paperwork, she will need the Service Member's Social Security Number and date of

birth. This scam has happened to an Army Reserve family in Ohio. The American Red Cross will not call a family unless the family has contacted them first. If your loved one would possibly get injured, you will be notified by Air Force Personnel, not the American Red Cross. Do NOT give out any personal information should you receive this type of call and please notify the Family Program Office immediately.

From the FRG Tool Box

Deployed Fathers & Families: Deployment Guide for Military Personnel



Developed by the National Fatherhood Initiative, this booklet offers tips and exercises to help fathers and families prepare for deployment and stay connected during the deployment separation. The ideas and suggestions in the booklet can help fathers increase their involvement in their children's

lives even when separated. The guide is available through Military OneSource at no cost to service members and families. Call 1-800-342-9647 or visit us online to order your free copy.

One Call Now Phone Message System

If you are a Family Readiness Group Leader who has not yet used the One Call Now phone message system, you are missing out on a great communication resource. It is a great time saver that sends the same message to all on your phone tree with one call from you! This results in accurate information being passed onto your families. If you have not sent a message using One Call Now, please contact your local FAC for information on how to use the system.

Staying Close

It can be very challenging for adults to understand and cope with separation due to military service, but it is even more so for children of deployed Service Members. Here are some ideas from the book "I'm Already Home" by Elaine Dumlar to help your children stay close.

- Change your computer screen saver to a message from the deployed parent, so every time the child logs on they see a special message from Mom or Dad.
- Have your teenagers use their computer skills to write a family newsletter. Fill it with events and thoughts and comments from extended family.
- Help your children create their own stationery to write letters to Mom or Dad.

Our Military Kids Grant Program

If the answer is YES to any of the following questions, **Our Military Kids** grant program may be able to help.

- Are you or your spouse deploying or deployed overseas?
- Do you have school-aged children who play sports?
- Or do they take dance, music or arts classes?
- Maybe they would they like to try something new... like Karate?
- Could your child benefit from a tutor to stay at grade level?

Our Military Kids grant pays the fees (**one activity per child up to \$500**) for children in grades K–12 of deployed Reserve and National Guard to participate in youth sports, fine arts, and tutor programs. This is a way of recognizing the sacrifices the entire family is making while the service member is deployed overseas. **Please keep in mind the one activity limit so you might want to be selective about which activity in order to get the most benefit.**

Questions:

www.ourmilitarykids.org or call:

Toll Free: 1-866-691-6654 or 703-734-6654

CHILD CARE COSTS GOT YOU DOWN? CHECK OUT NACCRRRA!

<http://www.NACCRRRA.org/military>.



WOW! \$100 per month minimum for eligible service members! Operation: Military Child Care: (OMCC) is Child care fee assistance for families of activated or deployed National Guard and Reserves

for licensed child care. All income levels and ranks are eligible. If your service member is currently deployed or getting ready to deploy, you **WANT TO CHECK THIS OUT!!**

To apply for this program, families and service members can call 1-800-424-2246 or visit <http://www.NACCRRRA.org/military>.



Ohio is very excited to tell you about Connect and Join. We have agreed to “pilot” this program for our upcoming surge of deployments. This pilot will benefit our service members by offering a no charge subscription for 12 months for any Guard or Reservist who is deployed/deploying. We are encouraging our

families to “Stay Connected” and this is a great way to do it. Visit www.connectandjoin.com

One of our favorite features of this site is the on line calendar that you build as you go....lets say little Sally has a soccer game on Wednesday, you can put that on the calendar which is viewable by your service member who is deployed overseas....this will serve two purposes, it will remind them of the game so they can ask little Sally how it went or it can be a place to create a journal entry to include the score and that little Sally kicked the winning goal! ☺ It can be later used to create a scrapbook page as well! The possibilities are exciting! The bottom line is this is FREE and it could be a Fun and interactive way for you to create lasting memories of your loved ones deployment.

If you are **not** currently deployed or getting ready to deploy and are still interested in subscribing to this service, you can do so for a minimal fee of \$5 per month as a member of the National Guard or Reserve.

Interested? Questions? Call 1-888-729-9828 or email INFO@CONNECTANDJOIN.COM

College Preparation Resource

College Circle is a website designed to give college-bound students and their parents the very best information available about planning for college, finding scholarships, paying for college, choosing the right college, developing a career path that will lead to a lifetime of success. If you have a junior high or high school student, check out this free information at www.collegecircle.com.

838th MP Unit Sets pace for “New Model” for Family Mobilization Briefs

The evolution of the Family Mobilization process was launched this past Saturday, June 23 in Youngstown. For the first time, programs for the entire family were on the agenda! The adult agenda included the normal nuts and bolts i.e.; Tricare, finance, AKO as well as a new program called BATTLEMIND for the **service member, spouse and parents** to help prepare them for deployment. The day also kicked off our Youth Mobilization Day Camps which will run parallel to the adult program and will provide the youth with a full day of age appropriate fun activities as well as some interactive activities focused on teaching the youth positive ways to deal with the deployment of a loved one.

We are very excited about this “New Model” for our Family Mobilization Briefs. We are dedicated to and continue to work hard to meet the needs of the service member, spouses, parents and youth.

Fact Sheet: Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)

The Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) is a supplemental program to the TRICARE Basic benefit. ECHO provides eligible active duty family members with an additional financial resource for services and supplies designed to help reduce the disabling effects of a beneficiary's qualifying condition. In 2005, ECHO replaced the TRICARE Program for Persons with Disabilities (PPPWD).

To view the full fact sheet, please visit:

<http://www.tricare.mil/Factsheets/viewfactsheet.cfm?id=329>

Summer Travel Smarts

Making summer travel plans? Learn about military lodgings, from mountain cottages to luxury resorts, from experts at Military OneSource. One of the most unique benefits available to service members and their families is the use of temporary military lodging facilities around the world.

Most military members know about lodging facilities they are assigned to while on temporary duty. But military lodging can also mean cottages on the beach, world-class resorts, or recreational facilities intended specifically for military families. Most military lodging facilities are priced well below the going rates in the local area. Learning how to find and take advantage of these facilities will help save money and provide a great selection of safe and fun places to stay while traveling. Call Military OneSource to help plan your summer vacation today!

KID'S KORNER

Ohio National Guard Youth Program

Upcoming Events

Summer Fun at the Cincinnati Zoo

When: **Saturday, July 28, 2007 Noon – 4 p.m.**

Things to bring:

- Military ID
- Discount Code # 6812 or Operation: Military Kids!

Event Highlights:

- **FREE** refreshments will be served at our "Cool Zone" located at shelter #1, Maasai Mara in the Safari Camp. (1-3 p.m. for the first 400 people)
- **Free** Family "Fun" Photos
- Fun children's activities to entertain your kids while you take a break in the shade!

Cost:

- Show your Military ID and above discount code at any gate to receive your tickets for **\$5.00** a 50% average savings for adult/youth.
- Parking **\$6.50**

For more information contact:

Sue Ann Carroll, Ohio National Guard Youth

Coordinator @ 877-460-2177 or

Operation: Military Kids @ 614-292-3758

Military Day at the Ohio State Fair Sunday, August 5, 2007 – 9:30am-4:00pm

Mark your calendars! The Military Day this year at the fair is on August 5. All Military members get in FREE! So bring your family and don't forget to stop by our Operation: Military Kids "House" located in the Discovery Center. We will have tons of fun activities and some "Make and Take" Crafts for the family to work on.

Operation: Military Kids Camp Kelleys Island August 14-18, 2007

We are very excited to announce that camp is FULL! We are currently working off a waitlist for the first time. Please check our website regularly for updated information about upcoming family and youth events. <http://www.ong.ohio.gov/family/youthprogram.htm>

2008 -2009 Youth Day Camps!

WE are very excited to tell you about our plan to host 12 day camps over the next 2 years. These 1-day camps will be located all over the state and will be on Saturdays. More details will come as we lock down our dates and locations! I am very excited about these camps that will accommodate up to 150 youth per camp ages 6 and up. This will be a great opportunity for our youth to get involved and participate in a camp that is close to where they live! These camps will be a day long schedule of your "normal" fun camp activities as well as some focus on creative ways to help our youth "Cope" with the deployment of a loved one.