



The Family Programs Flyer



APRIL 2011

OPERATION READY FAMILIES
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

Yellow Ribbon Events



Garden Grove, CA

2 April 2011

9 April 2011

10 April 2011

Keep it together before, during, and after your Servicemember's deployment! Learn methods to help cope with unanticipated problems and questions; develop mechanisms to address issues such as separation anxiety and stress; understand unique perspectives and behaviors of children of deployed Servicemembers; and discover resources and benefits available to you and your Family. Find out when these events take place and register now at:

<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/gl/YRRP/Pages/Registration.aspx>

April We Care Meetings

PLEASE CALL THE NUMBER LISTED TO CONFIRM DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF MEETING PRIOR TO ATTENDING

Wednesday April 6	Saturday April 9
* NEW* Moffett Field Wescoat Clubhouse @ 6:30 pm 408-595-9847	Bell @ 11:30 am 213-503-4472 Escondido @ 12 pm 619-405-7190
Tuesday April 12	Saturday April 16
Bakersfield @ 6 pm 559-217-9976 Chico @ 6:30 pm 530-513-0478 Sacramento @ 6 pm 916-416-8320 Santa Rosa @ 6:30 pm 707-974-8004	Walnut Creek @ 1 pm 707-580-3319 Join Us for a Month of the Military Child We Care Fun Day! Food and Family fun, Crafts and Easter egg decorating, First aid and 911 training for the kids! RSVP: Ms. Deborah Burrow @ number listed.
Tuesday April 19	Tuesday April 26
Modesto @ 6:30 pm 209-402-4114 Visalia @ 7 pm 559-217-9976	Fresno @ 6:30 pm 559-994-6102
Wednesday April 27	Saturday April 30
Los Alamitos @ 6 pm 562-370-7680 Paso Robles @ 6 pm 805-896-4029 San Bernardino @ 5 pm 909-801-9411 Ventura @ 7 pm 805-431-3866	Azusa @ 12 pm 818-383-8643 San Diego @ 12 pm 760-828-7116

April is the month for...

National Volunteer Awareness



"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain love for one another."

~ Erma Bombeck

and also the

Month of the Military Child!



A Message from the

State Family Programs Director:

April brings exciting events for Operation Ready Families. Not only is it Month of the Military Child but the week of April 10th is National Volunteer Week. Child and Youth has many fun activities planned throughout the month for kids of all ages. During National Volunteer Week we have a special day planned at the new Okinawa Armory to honor our volunteers from around the state.

Volunteers are the heart of Family Programs, and without them we would not be so successful. We depend on our volunteers who give so much of themselves and take time away from their Families and jobs. To all the volunteers in Family Programs, a heartfelt thanks! You are appreciated beyond words.

Our new Family Assistance Network Manager, Mary Orr, started on March 21st. She brings a wealth of experience in management, team leadership, and organizational development. She's been the spouse of an active-duty Air Force member for more than 20 years and understands the unique challenges Military Families face. We are thrilled to have her on our team.

Have a Happy Spring! Each season, many rabbits are purchased by well meaning people who think they'll make great kids' pets. If you're tempted to get a bunny, make it a stuffed animal or chocolate!

- Lt Col Kimberly Lalley





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FAMILY PROGRAMS WELCOMES

Ms. Mary Orr - Family Assistance Network Manager
 Ms. Kerra Cornell - Fresno Family Assistance Network Specialist
 Mr. Elmer Payes - Burbank Family Assistance Network Specialist
 Ms. Barbara Rugani-Kyser - San Jose Family Assistance Network Specialist
 Mr. Ronald Woods - San Diego Family Assistance Network Specialist

ISFAC is back! You are cordially invited to the Northern California Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) Quarterly Meeting. The intent of ISFAC is to bring agencies offering various resources and information together to assist Servicemembers and their Families. There is no cost to your agency for participation in this event. Please reserve your calendar for 15 April 2011.



Contact Ms. Debbie Skolnik at 707-974-8004 or debbie.skolnik@us.army.mil for more info!



ATTENTION ALL MILITARY SERVICE PROVIDERS!



Coming Home Project

Learn to recognize signs of compassion fatigue; explore early intervention to avert burnout; identify common, but hidden, beliefs and conflicts; grow capacity for well being; and make our compelling work emotionally sustainable and gratifying over the long haul.

Who is eligible? Service providers working directly with a caseload of at least 50% OIF and OEF veterans and/or Families. Priority will be given to applicants working directly and full-time with OIF and OEF veterans. Service providers may include government employed caregivers, care coordinators, advocates, mental health and other health professionals, counselors, veteran service officers, chaplains, military leaders, veteran service organization staff, and others.

What does the retreat cost? This program is completely free. There is no cost for lodging, meals, or workshops. Air travel from Southern California or out of state included. Please visit <http://www.cominghomeproject.net> for more info!

ATTENTION ALL COMMISSARY SHOPPERS!

Channel Islands Air National Guard Station is hosting a Commissary Case Lot Sale

When: April 2 & 3, 2011 *Join us for bargain shopping, raffles, a jolly jumper, and food tasting!*

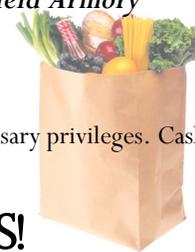
The Lemoore NAS Commissary is hosting an on-site sale at the Hammer Field Armory

Where: Hammer Armory, 5574 East Airway Blvd, Fresno, CA 93727

When: Friday, April 8th from 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday, April 9th from 10 am to 4 pm

To shop, customers must present a valid Department of Defense identification card that authorizes commissary privileges. Cash, checks, debit, and credit cards are accepted for payment. The use of coupons is highly encouraged!



ATTENTION ALL MILITARY SPOUSES!

Introducing the Spouse READI (Resilience Education and Deployment Information) Study.

This study will implement telephone groups for spouses with Servicemembers who have returned from Iraq or Afghanistan. The groups will focus on education, skills building, and support. The purpose includes building resilience through education and learning, better communication, and coping skills. The program is based on the Department of Defense (DoD) face-to-face post deployment Soldier and Spouse BATTLEMIND program.

This program is voluntary and all information will be kept confidential!

For more information or to enroll, please call: 901.577.7485 or 800.636.8262, ext 7485 and ask about Spouse READI - or you can email at vhamemsbm@va.gov.





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APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

California National Guard

Child & Youth Program's

2 April- Safety Fair Sacramento Mather Armory 10am-2pm

Helicopters, Fire Trucks, American Red Cross and more! CYP is bringing fun and safety classes aimed at the youngsters, but come with the whole family! Prize for first 200 to register! POC Ms. Jerica Lovett

22 April- Bring Your Child to Work Day

Show your children what you are working with- a day in the life of Mom or Dad at participating Armories.

30 April- Reagan Museum Trip (departs from Los Alamitos) 9am-5pm

Visit the Ronald Reagan Museum. Students in grades 5 – 12 will have an exciting opportunity to visit the award winning Air Force One Discovery Center. This free trip includes roundtrip bus and lunch; register by April 18th. POC Rhonda Sparks

Operation Purple CAMP registration Opens March 31, 2011

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/traditional-camps/>

Child & Youth Team:

Jerica Lovett– Northern CA

(Sacramento) 916-854-3713

jerica.e.lovett.ctr@us.army.mil

Victoria Singleton– Central CA

(Camp SLO) 805-217-2974

victoria.a.singleton@us.army.mil

Rhonda Sparks– Southern CA

(Azusa/Los Al) 818-402-329

rhonda.sparks@us.army.mil

Spotlight Partner

National Guard Mobile Energy Lab- The Energy Lab to bring the world of math and science to life for 11th- and 12th-grade students. Check out site with upcoming school dates!

http://www.nationalguard.com/events/energy-lab?cid=energy-lab_20100928

Upcoming May Event

MCEC- Guard & Reserve Institute 5/11-12 in San Jose. Please call or go to www.militarychild.org for more information.

April 2011

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2 ☆	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 ☆	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 ☆	

If you have any questions on any upcoming events please contact the POC in your area.





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OPERATION SHOWERS OF APPRECIATION BENEFITS EXPECTANT GUARD PARENTS

While touring white tables stacked with baby clothes, toys and other gifts, expectant military wives and their Families created new connections and entertaining memories during a baby shower hosted by the Tri-Cities Girl Scouts and a nonprofit organization Saturday. Military wife and Sacramento resident, Erin Sander, said she was shocked to see all the gifts for her first baby. "I feel like I'm on Oprah," she said.

Girl Scout Troop 32271 and their Families transformed a basketball gym at St. Joseph Church in Fremont into a "Bundles of Joy" party for Military Families living in Pleasanton, Walnut Creek, Hayward, Richmond, Sacramento, Modesto, Seaside, and Tracy. The event was co-hosted by [Operation Showers of Appreciation](#) (OSOA).

Saturday's baby shower marks the first Northern California-based event for OSOA, which has been supporting Military Families since 2006. Sander and her husband, SGT Aaron DeCanio with C Company, 1-168th Medevac, are expecting their first baby. According to Sander, she'll find out the gender of their newborn in a couple of weeks. "I think it's a boy," Sander said. SSG Michael East and his wife, Kristen, are Pleasanton residents who are also expecting their first baby in July.

"We're crossing our fingers for July 4," said Kristen East. The couple said they were overwhelmed when they saw all the gifts for their baby boy that were donated by businesses and residents in Newark, Fremont, and Union City. Since November, troop members and their parents have worked to collect donations and funds for Saturday's party.

"They did a tremendous job," said Michael East, who serves as a survey team chief for the WMD Response Unit in the 95th Civil Support Team in Hayward. According to East, his unit responds to major disasters like the huge wildfires in Southern California. East says he may spend up to six months away from home as military leaders deploy his unit to sites around the state and country. "It's hard for military Families when the spouse is not around," he said. Kristen East supports other military Families as a Family Readiness Group volunteer coordinator. She says she's grateful for a chance to meet more women like her at Saturday's party. "It's good to make these connections and to meet strong moms," she said. The Easts joined other party guests in baby shower games like identifying melted chocolates in the dirty diaper game and chugging water in the bottle-guzzling contest.

National Guard Family Assistance Specialist, Deborah Burrow, said she had no idea what to expect as she connected military Families to the baby shower. "I'm so blown away," she said. Burrow, a Walnut Creek resident, says gatherings like this one help build bonds between military Families who do not live on bases. According to Burrow, many military wives use social media tools like Facebook and cell phones text messages to keep in touch, organize events and let each other know they can lean on one another.

Burrow says it's important to create these relationships before a deployment period. That's when Family members feel vulnerable as they worry over loved ones who risked their lives to serve their country. "It affects the entire Family: mothers, fathers, brothers, everyone," said Burrow.

Walnut Creek mom, Olivia Currie, says her baby girl is due on April 28th. "I'm a little nervous," she said after she showed off a white baby doll dress with a tiny pair of sequined black slacks. Her baby boy was named after her husband, Specialist Michael Currie, who serves with the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in the 1-143 Field Artillery Battalion. "I'm really excited to have all this girl's stuff because we have all boy's stuff at home," Currie said. Burrow says Currie's husband and the 1-143rd FA are scheduled to deploy sometime next year.



The FP Flyer would like to thank Newark Patch and Kris Vera for sharing this story.





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MONEY MATTERS

The Veteran's Home Buyer Tax Credit program will soon end. Under the program, veterans who served overseas in the past two years are probably eligible for an \$8,000 tax credit when purchasing a home. Under the extension passed late last year by Congress for veterans, a contract must be signed by April 30, 2011, but applicants have until June 30, 2011 to close the deal. Veterans should check with their professional tax preparer in regards to their eligibility.

The Servicemember's Civil Relief Act (SCRA) expanded and improved the former Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA). The SCRA provides a wide range of protections for individuals entering, called to active duty in the military, or deployed Servicemembers. It is intended to postpone or suspend certain civil obligations to enable Servicemembers to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on the Family members of those deployed Servicemembers. A few examples of such obligations you may be protected against are: Outstanding credit card debt, Mortgage payments, Pending trials, Taxes, Terminations of lease.

Wells Fargo & Co. will pay \$175 to eligible veterans who had a Department of Veteran's affairs (VA) loan refinanced between 20 January 2004 and 7 October 2010. For more information go to <http://www.military.com/military-report/bank-to-payback-military-families.html>



FREE CAREER OPPORTUNITY EVENTS

Sacramento - YOUTH Job Fair (ages 16-22) 2 April / 10 am to 3 pm / downtown at I St between 9th & 10th Sts.

Employers onsite. If you have a resume, bring a few! Free workshop: *Learn How to Dress to Impress & How to Nail an Interview.*

San Diego - Veteran Opportunity Expo 7 April / 11 am to 3 pm / 2875 Dewey St

RecruitMilitary is producing this expo in cooperation with the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Military Spouse Corporate Network to benefit Veterans, transitioning Military personnel, Guard, Reserve, and Military Family members.

Sacramento - HIREvent 12 April / 12 to 4 pm / 1123 J. St

A fresh crop of jobs is in, so don't miss this chance to cultivate numerous career opportunities at Sacramento's premier career event. Positions in a variety of fields will be ripe for the picking, with representatives from private and public sectors on hand seeking to fill bushels of openings. Dress for success and be prepared for a productive afternoon because every employer is eager to hire!

Santa Clara - 6th Annual Resource Fair 16 April / 10 am to 4 pm / Fiesta Bldg. Santa Clara County Fairground

No entry fee, free parking, no cost for participating, free lunch, silent auction, door prizes, Keynote speaker: m MG Eldon Regua

El Monte - Putting or Community Back to Work Job Fair 27 April / 9 am to 1 pm / 3130 N Tyler Ave

Fortune 200 companies will be in attendance, applications accepted, resume critiquing, and workshops to include *Preparing for Success and Interview Techniques.* Dress in appropriate attire and bring multiple resumes!

Inglewood - Second Chance Career and Resource Fair 28 April / 10 am to 2 pm / 1 Manchester Blvd

Over 30 hiring employers; services and information on housing, training, and government benefits; onsite computers with Web access for job applications; information about workshops on record expungement; and job hunting tips will be offered.

... AND VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN PREPARATION FOR A CAREER!

For demobilizing Servicemembers of the National Guard, Reserve, Wounded Warriors and their Families. Start charting your course to transition by participating in these online learning events designed exclusively with you in mind! Facilitators will teach you to translate your Military experience into civilian terms, create a new financial plan or even understand the federal employment system. Sessions are designed to provide you practical information which can be put to use immediately!

Requirements include: a computer with broadband internet access, a telephone line, and a commitment to a successful transition!

5 April @ 8 pm EST - Building Better Resumes

12 April @ 9 pm EST - Social Networking and the Job Search

19 April @ 6:30 pm EST - Job Fair Success and Strategies

26 April @ 9 pm EST - Art of Career Networking

28 April @ 8 pm EST - Acing the Interview

Seats are limited & fill quickly so register today! For more information go to TurboTAP.org



"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."

~ Seneca

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES:

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/> - provides practical tips from the Federal government and the technology industry to help you be on guard against Internet fraud, secure your computer, and protect your personal information. Games, videos, and tip for kids and adults alike!

<http://www.4militaryfamilies.com/militarydiscounts.htm> - An extended list of businesses offering Military discounts!

