



The Family Programs Flyer

OPERATION READY FAMILIES
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2011

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4



Yellow Ribbon Events

January 4, 2011
217th Finance
Deployment Ceremony
San Luis Obispo, CA

Yellow Ribbon News

On December 5, 2010 Chico, California said farewell to approximately 165 Soldiers of the 649th EN, who are deploying to Afghanistan. Around 700 Soldiers, Families, and community supporters gathered at the Chico Elk's Lodge for the Yellow Ribbon Farewell Ceremony. The Elk's Lodge was packed to capacity, with standing room only. The Soldiers and families were addressed by several honored guests, including local Congressman Wally Herger and Chico Mayor Ann Schwab. See photos below.



Photos courtesy of Ms. Angie Avritt, Family Assistance Network Specialist out of Chico, CA

January We Care Meetings

On December 11, 2010 Ms. Carolann Wunderlin, Airman & Family Readiness Manager at Moffett Field, and Ms. Myra Valle, Family Assistance Network Specialist out of Azusa, CA co-represented Operation Ready Families Network at an "All-phases" Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Event. Presentations included a "Spouse Battlemind" course presented by Ms. Carolann Wunderlin, "My Life in a Box" training presented by certified trainer, Ms. Zakiyyah Moore; as well as Teen Breakout sessions with subject matter expert, MSgt Alan Barnett.

On December 14th, the Chico Rotary Club invited the Chico "Operation We Care" to be their special guests at its annual Rotary Club Holiday Party. A buffet accompanied by live music and Christmas program were provided. Santa also made a special appearance to sing Christmas carols with the children, followed by the reading of "The Night Before Christmas."



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JANUARY 6	JANUARY 8
<u>SAN DIEGO @ 7 PM</u> 760-828-7116	<u>ESCONDIDO @ 12 PM</u> 619-405-7190
JANUARY 11	JANUARY 13
<u>BAKERSFIELD @ 6 PM</u> 559-217-9976 <u>CHICO @ 6:30 PM</u> 530-513-0478 <u>SACRAMENTO @ 6:30 PM</u> 916-416-8320 <u>SANTA ROSA @ 6:30 PM</u> 707-974-8004	<u>WALNUT CREEK @ 6 PM</u> 707-580-3319
JANUARY 18	JANUARY 19
<u>VISALIA @ 7 PM</u> 559-217-9976	<u>BELL @ 6 PM</u> 213-503-4472
JANUARY 25	JANUARY 26
<u>FRESNO @ 6 PM</u> 559-994-6102	<u>LOS ALAMITOS @ 6 PM</u> 562-370-7680 <u>SAN BERNARDINO @ 5 PM</u> 909-801-9411 <u>PASO ROBLES @ 6 PM</u> 805-896-4029 <u>VENTURA @ 7 PM</u> 805-431-3866
JANUARY 29	PLEASE CALL THE NUMBER LISTED TO CONFIRM DATE, TIME, & LOCATION OF MEETING PRIOR TO ATTENDING
<u>AZUSA @ 12 PM</u> 818-383-8643	





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Call for Submissions..



**2011
Military Child
of the Year
Award**

Nominate a
military child
today!

Operation Homefront announces the opening of the nomination period for the 2011 Military child of the Year Award. For the first time, the award will be given to an outstanding Military child from *each* Service - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The winners, who each will receive \$5,000, will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C. for a special ceremony on April 7, 2011.

Ideal candidates for the Military Child of the Year Award demonstrate resilience and strength of character, and thrive in the face of challenges of Military life. They demonstrate leadership within their Families and within their communities. Nominees must:

have a valid Military ID or currently be enrolled in DEERS, be between the ages of 8 and 18, and be able to travel to Washington, D.C. for the ceremony on April 7, 2011. Finalists also must have a background check to confirm legitimacy of information provided in the nomination and must provide references.

Nominations are being accepted until January 31, 2011; applications can be found at www.operationhomefront.net/mcoy/



In recognition of the Month of the Military Child in April, "Soldiers," the official U.S. Army Magazine, is putting together a special layout called, "Letters from Home." This section/layout will feature actual letters from children of deployed Soldiers, along with a photo of the Soldier and child. They are currently looking for submissions to fill the pages.

The letters, scanned and/or saved as a PDF file, and high resolution photos should be emailed to:

assignmentdesk@afn.dma.mil

**The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2011.
Contact Tom Lasser at lassertom@aol.com with any questions**

Soldiers



Remember My Service (RMS) is a full-service Command and Unit History program created by StoryRock Inc., the world's leading provider of core technology for interactive and print historical archiving for both the Military and the personal consumer markets. The mission of RMS is:

- To **honor and recognize** the service of each individual Servicemember with the presentation of a personalized Unit historical and current record of service. This is not a souvenir, memorabilia, or even a "yearbook"—it is their historical record, their legacy of service.
- To **educate the families and communities** about what their Servicemembers do through distribution by unit commanders of these historical records to schools, media outlets, civic leadership, chambers of commerce, etc.
- To **broaden the scope of the required annual historical record** to include relevant photos, text, newsletters, press releases, and multimedia content in addition to the required annual historical data (unclassified), to make the record engaging, relevant, and meaningful in today's highly personalized and customized world.
- To **ensure that each Servicemember receives a record of service** in accordance with the recognized importance of such a record, as stated in the Army Historical Program: "Educating the Soldier on the value and utility of history is vital to the future of the Army."
- To **assist Servicemembers as they process their experience within a factual, not emotional, context**--which is known to help individuals deal with difficult, even traumatic, circumstances. Visit: <http://www.remembermyservice.com/index.html> to learn more!

If you have any content applicable to the Units listed and are interested in participating in this project, please forward info to Lauren DeVoe at ldevoe@remembermyservice.com NLT January 31, 2011

185th MP BN, 184th IN BN, 1-18th CAV, 49th MP BDE, 40th IN DIV HHQ, 1-143 FA BN, 1-185 AR BN, HHC 40th CAB, 49th MP CO, 578th ENG BN, 100th TC, 40th CSG, HHC 1-160th IN, 224th Sust BDE, 579th ENG BN, 115th RSG/749th, 115th RSG/340th, Air Div JFHQ, 250th MI BN/ 746th MI BN, 1-144 FA, HHC 79th SPC TRPS BN, 40th BSB, 1106th TASMG, 640th ASB





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Scholarships & College Grants



2011 Scholarships for Military Children

Dependent, unmarried children of active-duty Servicemembers, Reservists, Guardsmen, Retirees, or Survivors of Servicemembers who died on active duty or while receiving Military retired pay may apply for this scholarship. Applicants must be under the age of 21 (or 23 if currently enrolled in as a full-time student at a college or university). Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsors, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current Military ID card. Applicants must be planning to attend, or already attend, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall of 2011 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Applicants must also submit an essay on the following topic that answers the question: "Our nation has a goal of improving health and wellness. What are your ideas and, more importantly, how do you propose to put these ideas into action in your local community?" **Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business on February 22, 2011.** At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary with qualified applicants. Scholarship applications are available in commissaries worldwide and online at: www.militaryscholar.org

Julie Foundy Leadership Scholarship for Military Daughters

For the third year in a row, The Julie Foundy Leadership Foundation will continue to honor and support families who are serving our country by offering full scholarships to military daughters interested in attending the Julie Foundy Sports Leadership Academy. These scholarships have been generously funded by TriWest Healthcare specifically for military families. Applications for 2011 will be available the first week of January at the Foundation's website: www.foudyleadershipfoundation.org



NATIONAL
MILITARY FAMILY
ASSOCIATION

The Joan Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship

The National Military Family Association recognizes the unique challenges today's military spouses face in pursuing additional training or education. Frequent moves make it difficult to complete programs or establish a career, but the NMF is here to help ease the financial obstacles that accompany pursuing higher education.

The Joan Holbrook Patton Military Spouse scholarships are awarded to spouses of all uniformed Servicemembers to include: Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve, Retirees, and Survivors. The scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees, and scholastic room and board for GED or ESL, vocational training, professional certification, post-secondary, graduate school, in-class or on-line, and full-time or part-time. A valid Military ID is the only requirement to apply for this program. Scholarship selection is based on your completion of several survey and short answer questions, as well as an essay question. **Deadline to apply is January 31, 2011;** applications are available online at: www.militaryfamily.org

Air Force Aid Society Grants

This program is open to dependent children of Active Duty, Title 10 Reservists on extended Active Duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time Duty, Retired, Retired Reservists, and deceased Air Force Servicemembers. Spouses of Active Duty Servicemembers and surviving spouses of deceased personnel are also eligible. All applicants must be enrolled as full-time undergraduates at an accredited college or university during the 2011-2012 academic year and are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 Grade Point Average. **Completed applications must be received by AFAS no later than March 11, 2011** and are available from the AFAS website: www.afas.org



To find the closest Military ID card facility, simply go to this website: <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil/appointment/default.aspx>
You can also make an appointment with your ID card section via this website.





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Hello! And Farewell...

“What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.”

~T.S. Eliot~



Family Programs Welcomes...

Family Readiness Program Senior Volunteer Representative, Mrs. Linda Harrel

The Family Programs SVR represents the Operation Ready Families Program at events to consult with organizations, agencies, and individuals who can enhance Family Readiness for the California National Guard. The SVR serves as a primary liaison between the Adjutant General's Family Readiness Working Group on Military Families, and the Operation Ready Families Program.

Army Division Family Readiness Volunteer, Ms. Valerie ClaudeMurray

Air National Guard Key Volunteer Representative Volunteer, Ms. Laurie Rushie

Congratulations goes to...

Ms. Jerica Lovett - New California National Guard Child & Youth Coordinator

Ms. Rebecca Lambert - New Southern California Regional Family Assistance Network Coordinator

Family Programs is also pleased to welcome to the Family Assistance Network

Ms. Cara Mia Borm - Los Alamitos Family Assistance Network Specialist

Ms. Valerie Nickels - San Diego Family Assistance Network Specialist

Ms. Pam Plamondon - Modesto Family Assistance Network Specialist



And Bids a Fond Farewell to...

Ms. Estella Wimberly, Southern Regional Coordinator



We wish Ms. Wimberly all the best in her future endeavors as well as send her off with an enthusiastic

THANK YOU for her years of dedicated service to our Families and our program.

FAN News from the Field

The Walnut Creek Wellness Center is now open and buzzing with new life. It has freshly painted bright walls, clean carpets, a stocked food pantry, and toys in the toy bins. With the news of the refurbished Wellness Center come lots of new and old visitors. Servicemembers pop in during the week to use the computers and printers. Servicemembers ask if the center will be open during their drill weekend because it is a pleasant place to hang during their breaks. FRG leaders hold their organizational meetings at the round table, and Families bring their children in to play with all the fun things. One comment I continue to hear is...

“WOW what a difference, we have not seen this room look so nice and clean in years!”

The new energy has also flowed over into the monthly We Care meetings which are held at the Wellness Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Children love the Wellness Center with the new Wii game unit, available craft projects, and all the fun games. Babies like the new baby/toddler area with toys and spotless carpet to crawl on. In only two months time, our We Care Meetings have doubled from 14 to 33 attendees and with new faces appearing each month. The children never want to go home but at 9:30, I insist that they go home and get some sleep for school on Friday morning. So we say good night and agree to come back the following month and do it all over again.

So, that is just a few of the things that are happening at the new and improved Walnut Creek Wellness Center. So please come and visit the center...everyone is welcome!



Ms. Deborah Burrow, Walnut Creek Family Assistance Network Specialist





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Retreats, Meetings, & Programs

JAN 21, 2010
FREMONT, CA
10 AM - 2 PM
RSVP BY JAN 13



For more information contact:
Ms. Debbie Skolnik at
debbie.skolnik@us.army.mil



Retreat for Female Veterans and Servicemembers

This four-day retreat focuses on healing, connecting, & rediscovering strengths.

- Connect with other women veterans by sharing stories, experiences, and community
- Learn stress management techniques
- Exercise your creative side
- Enjoy a beautiful setting

*February 10-13, 2011
Mission San Luis Rey
Oceanside, California*

Who is eligible? All women who have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since September 11th, 2001-without regard for race, religion, politics, or sexual preference.

What does the retreat cost? Lodging and meals for the entire weekend is FREE. We strive to make our retreats as free as possible but can no longer provide transportation for our participants. Upon acceptance, you are responsible for your own transportation. We offer a travel stipend on a per mile basis, up to \$150.

Apply at: <http://www.cominghomeproject.net>

Preference is given to those applicants within 300 miles of the retreat site in Oceanside, CA.



Survivor Outreach Services

demonstrates the Department of the Army's (USA, USAR, & ARNG) commitment to the Families of the Fallen. The mission of the SOS is to provide enhanced services to these Families.

SOS takes a holistic and multiagency approach to delivering services to Survivors in their local communities. Among many more services, SOS Coordinators provide Survivors with expertise on state and federal Survivor benefits; arrange for estate and financial advice; connect Survivors with appropriate mental health support and counseling as requested; and provide resource referrals.

For more information, please visit the Survivor Outreach Services Program website at:

<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/G1/Pages/default.aspx>

Holiday Benevolence Thank You!

Family Programs would like to send a hearty "Thank You!" to the overwhelmingly generous organizations, publications, businesses, and civilians who, through toy drives and donations, helped make the holidays extra special for over 1,000 Guard Children and Youth this year! We **recognize** and **salute** you for your commitment and support to our National Guard Families.

