

# FAMILY TIES

## MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD

### FAMILY PROGRAM

April 2012

Volume 51



## Welcome Home 1-182nd Infantry Battalion



Celebrations were going on all over eastern Massachusetts the last week of March as over 400 soldiers with the 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion returned by company to their respective armories after a year-long deployment in Afghanistan.

Chances are if you were in Ayer, Braintree, Melrose or Middleboro you saw people walking around with flags, signs and an ever-present smile as Family members welcomed their Soldiers

home! Despite the early hour of the arrivals of the Soldiers to their respective Armories, hundreds of Family members patiently waited the last few minutes together before the buses arrived. As one Family stated, "The earlier the better, it just means they get home that much sooner!"

The excitement was overwhelming in the Armories leading up to the actual returns. There was music, food, photo booths, poster making and raffles that only made the events more festive. Wives, children, parents, siblings and other loved ones all created an atmosphere of celebration that was hard to contain. The whole purpose was to celebrate the end of this mission and the return of a husband, dad, son or friend. Everyone had a great time as they ran around, talked, texted, snacked and eagerly kept an eye on the door and an ear peeled for any updates concerning arrival times.



The Soldiers of Bad, Celidon, Dog and Hammer Companies completed their mission with a triumphant entrance through the mass of Families and Friends that bordered the walkway into the Armories. Those friends and Family members followed them in for a brief formation and welcoming remarks before the Soldiers were dismissed and released to their loved ones. An astute politician who was part of the Welcome Home celebration at one location summed it up well when he simply stated "We missed you, we love you and we're so proud of you, – Welcome Home!"

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## Strong Bonds Family Wellness Weekend Retreat

The Chaplains Division supported by Family Program teamed up once again to offer Strong Bonds Retreat in March. For the second time since Strong Bonds was brought to Massachusetts a Family Wellness Weekend was offered and held March 23rd to 25th at the Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster, MA. A total of 23 families attended for this fun filled weekend! On Friday families checked in, enjoyed dinner and received an overview of the weekend. Saturday and Sunday Parents and



children age 7 and up participated in discussions, problem solving exercises and role playing. Topics of the sessions included Parents in Healthy Families, Children in Healthy Families, Adults Working Together in Families As Children Grow: Change in Healthy Families, Solving Family Problems and Sex Drugs & You: Passing on your Values to your Children. Children under 7 enjoyed games (table tennis, table soccer, board games, activities and arts and crafts). Guard Support sponsored Rich Archer during the Saturday dinner. He dazzled children of all ages with a magnificent Magic show and then closed his act with his famous rabbit and allowed the families to have pictures with "Abra".

"My eyes were opened. There was a lot of excellent information. It was great to learn new tools and to hear what other parents/couples are doing. I re-learned some of the basics that I had lost touch with over the years." ~ Family

"Seeing situations from the children's perspective. Hearing from and talking with other couples/parents and gathering new ideas and realizing how similar everyone's issues are." ~ Family

"The portion of the training that dealt with family and child interaction. Many of the themes we already use with our oldest, who is present, and served as a validating re-enforcement of some of our style. Looking at some of the communication issues with children from their perspective was a real eye opener and has influenced most." ~Family

"The thing that influenced me most was discussing ways to communicate with children and spouse. I learned today that the source of old habits might need to change, because things change and what worked before might not anymore." ~Family

There will be another Strong Bonds Family Workshop offered in July from the 27th –29th.

### Marriage Enrichment (Strong Bonds) WORKSHOP: The PREP® Approach

Upcoming Strong Bonds Workshops are open for registration:

Couples (LINKS) 22-24 June 2012  
Family Wellness Weekend 27-29 July 2012  
Couples (Laugh Your Way) 24-26 August 2012

Registrations will be accepted on a first come-first serve basis.

Please enroll through the State Family Program Office as soon as possible.

For further information you may contact:

CH (CPT) Jeremy Pickens at 508-233-7163/ [jeremy.pickens@us.army.mil](mailto:jeremy.pickens@us.army.mil) or  
SGT Sharee Holmes at 508-233-7220/ [sharee.holmes@us.army.mil](mailto:sharee.holmes@us.army.mil).

You can also visit: [www.strongbonds.org](http://www.strongbonds.org).



## Family Readiness Groups

### April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and there's no Volunteer like a National Guard Family Readiness Group Volunteer. National Volunteer Week is April 15- 21, 2012.

*Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another. ~Erma Brombeck*

The Family Program is always appreciative of all the hard work our volunteers do each and every day to help support our Service members and their Families.

- planning meetings to keep Families in the information loop
- making phone calls to unit Families and sending emails filled with resources for Families
- decorating for unit events
- organizing fundraisers and managing unit funds
- recruiting other volunteers to join in the fun
- hosting social events to build camaraderie among unit Families and so much more...



#### How can you say Thank You to Your Volunteers:

- Say thank you to your volunteers. Say it in person, on the phone; text your volunteer; use social media sites.
- Send a note every now and then to show how much you appreciate them.
- Recognize your volunteers in your newsletters.
- Praise your volunteers publicly.
- Ask you're volunteer if there is anything you can do for them.
- Send volunteers an e-mail pointing out what you appreciate about them specifically.
- Give your volunteers a "Round of Applause." Cut a piece of paper into a circle with a photo of people cheering that lists to, from, why, and the date. To say thanks to anyone give them a "round."
- Write a Thank you Poem; [http://charity.lovetoknow.com/Volunteer Appreciation Poem](http://charity.lovetoknow.com/Volunteer+Appreciation+Poem).



Hundreds of people give their time, talent and energy to help strengthen our Military Families. Volunteers range from young teens to seniors, to businesses and community organizations, and all share in common the act of choosing to make a difference. It is through their stories and acts of generosity that other people are inspired to serve. Here are some ideas on how you can celebrate and recognize the efforts of your volunteers:

- For a group or individual that has done an exceptional service effort you can submit a nomination on their behalf for a Daily Point of Light Award. This award honors individuals and groups that create meaningful change in communities across America. Each weekday, one volunteer or volunteer effort is selected to receive The Daily Point of Light Award. Only 260 awards are issued each year. Learn more at [www.PointsOfLight.Org/Recognition/dpol](http://www.PointsOfLight.Org/Recognition/dpol).

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- Send thank you letters to donors, sponsors, volunteers, speakers, and others who have contributed to your project and include a picture of the project at work.
- Publicize volunteers' activities through newsletters with pictures.

### 2012 State Family Program Volunteer Workshop

April 27-29, 2012  
Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center





## Spring is here, Think Green. Going Green, that is.

Did you know that 49 million people could be fed by the edible food that is thrown away each year in the U.S.? You and your family could begin being environmentally friendly simply by only putting on your food plate what you think you will really eat. Parents can guide their kids to an environmentally friendly lifestyle with a few tips. If you are going to a local playground or a nearby friend's home, walk or ride bikes. This save you gas money, helps reduce pollution and gives everyone a chance to get off the couch and exercise instead. Sharing books and magazines with friends and neighbors or going to the library is a great way to be environmentally friendly. Do your kids bring a lunch to school? How about packing their sandwich in a container that can be reused rather than a baggie that will be thrown out? Instead of packing a water bottle, how about a sports bottle that can reused? You can even get a thermal bottle that will keep the water cold. It might cost to buy the sports bottle initially, but you'll save it in no time without having to buy cases of bottled water. Don't forget that Earth Day is April 22. Check out your local papers to see what kind of kid friendly activities are happening. There are so many simple ways to go green and spring is a great time to begin going green.

### OMK Family Day at Camp Marshall

July 7th, 2012

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Camp Challenge  
Archery  
Riflery  
Swimming

Arts and Crafts  
Paddle Boats  
Kayaking  
Canoeing

Pony Rides ( 1:00 to 2:00)  
Visit our Farm  
Garden Terrarium Project  
Family Cookout at 12:30



Come spend the day with your family and meet so many others.

Registration Deadline June 28th, 2012. Contact Paula Burgielewicz at paulab@umext.umass.edu or call 413-545-2646 or 1-800-374-4446

## "Purple Up! For Military Kids"

Friday, April 13th

April marks the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor youth impacted by deployment. In celebration, Massachusetts Operation: Military Kids (OMK), part of the 4-H Youth Development program of UMass Extension, invites you to join us for the 2nd annual **"Purple Up! For Military Kids."**

We are encouraging everyone across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to wear purple on Friday, **April 13th**, as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. OMK hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes.

*These announcements are provided for the benefit of members of the National Guard. It is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by the Massachusetts National Guard, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the United States Armed Forces. Any participation is solely the responsibility of the individual.*





# MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD PROCLAMATION

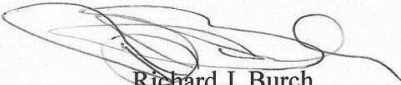
To the Children and Youth of Our Brave Soldiers:

Since 1986, the Department of Defense has celebrated April as the “Month of the Military Child” and has teamed with various partners to recognize the courage and sacrifices of military children. More than 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 have at least one parent serving in the military. It is estimated that the Army (Active, Guard, and Reserves) has more than 900,000 military children with one or more parents having deployed multiple times. Of those, nearly 40 percent are children of Army National Guard Soldiers.

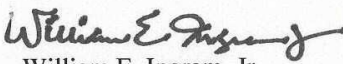
You know firsthand that Soldiers often have to leave their homes to defend our homeland or respond to state emergencies. That is what it means to be an Army National Guard Soldier. Your parents are brave men and women who make tremendous sacrifices when they leave their Families behind to serve this country and its citizens. These Soldiers, your parents, are heroes. Our Nation is grateful every day for what they do.

Every Army National Guard child makes sacrifices. We recognize these sacrifices and applaud your courage; today's military kids are tomorrow's heroes. The Army's sustained commitment to the promises, made in the Army Family Covenant, recognizes that the strength of our Nation comes from the strength of our Soldiers and their Families, including you.

You are the future of our Nation. Thank you for being strong and resilient, and for supporting your parents when they need you the most. We are proud of you, and we will continue to empower you. You are our “Military Kids: Heroes for the Future!”



Richard J. Burch  
Command Sergeant Major, US Army  
9th Command Sergeant Major  
of the Army National Guard



William E. Ingram, Jr.  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Director, Army National Guard



## Family Assistance - What's Happening Around the State

### Worcester Family Assistance — Stephanie Winslow

With spring in bloom, many of us are just emerging from our winter caves. The military community is bustling with family programs and outings. Keep an eye out for those scattered e-mails and Facebook postings for updates and new events going on around the state. The Worcester OMK team has activities and functions for military families in Central MA, and Home Base Adventure Series is hosting outings across Massachusetts.

The **26<sup>th</sup> Signal Company** will be having a Welcome Home Luncheon this month at the armory. Keep an eye out for those notices coming in the mail. With the holiday gifts still waiting to be handed out and a lovely meal being planned, it is sure to be a heart warming afternoon. Contact the Worcester office at [Stephanie.a.cox@us.army.mil](mailto:Stephanie.a.cox@us.army.mil) for more information on any resources that may interest you.

### Springfield Family Assistance — Jennifer Remillard

Families and Friends of the **182<sup>nd</sup> ENG DET (Sappers)** held a Care Package day on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Troops will be receiving lots of goodies just in time for the Spring holidays! "Thank You" goes out to all of those who donated and attended to help pack the items and to the Women's Auxiliary of VFW Post 8006 helping to ship them overseas!

Join the 182<sup>nd</sup> ENG DET (Sappers) FRG on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Florence Armory to hear speakers from the American Red Cross. Find out about their services before you need to use them. Also, Barbara Powers, Youth Military Family Life Consultant, will speak about youth camp options and how she can assist you during the deployment. Operation Military Kids will be there with the Mobile Technology Lab for the kids to make cards for their loved ones!

#### **Save the Dates!**

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> Movie and Pizza Afternoon – Florence Armory

Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> Family Day and Mid-Deployment Meeting – Look Park

### Reading Family Assistance

The Yankee Brigade Soldiers have been home now with their families for a month. Family Program would like you to know that we are here for any questions or concerns that you may have. There are many opportunities for veterans. Please be sure to attend the Yellow Ribbon event that is happening in May and learn what is available for you. If you have any questions please call Tanya at 508-233-7338.

### Mobile Family Assistance — Rebecca Jennings

**182 En (Sappers)** The FRG 's held a Care Package Event at the Amesbury Town Hall, to send everyone in the unit care packages. Amesbury and Newburyport Veterans Services partnered with the FRG to make the event a huge success! The Patriot Riders of New England and the local VFW provided support by sorting, packing and helping to pay for the shipping cost of the packages. The FRG would also like to recognize and thank the local Girls Scout Troops: from Taunton and Amesbury, who donated Girl Scout cookies to the unit. The FRG would like to extend a very Special THANK YOU to everyone who came out and supported this event and our troops.

The next FRG meeting will be on Saturday April 14, 2012 at the Armory. After the meeting the Youth Coordinators will be conducting an Easter egg hunt and a party. Families will need to RSVP to Kate or Trina no later than April 6 for this event to ensure that the Easter Bunny brings enough eggs and prizes for all the children.

If you are interested in attending this meeting or future meetings please contact the FRG at [182ENCOFRG@comcast.net](mailto:182ENCOFRG@comcast.net) Please remember if you have any questions or concerns now or in the future please feel free to reach out to me at: [Rebecca.Jennings@us.army.mil](mailto:Rebecca.Jennings@us.army.mil) or (508) 822-6024.

## Family Assistance - What's Happening Around the State (cont.)

### Wellesley Family Assistance — Dawn Wetherbee

HHC, B and C Companies of the 182 Infantry welcomed home their soldiers in late March. All three companies did a fantastic job planning, decorating and entertainment. The soldiers all came home to an amazing out pouring of support from family, friends, fellow soldiers, and the surrounding community. HHC had a their reunion at the Town Hall, where Melrose came out in droves to welcome home the soldiers and support the families as they awaited their arrival. B Company got to see their new armory for the first time as they came home to Devens where they were met by their new neighborhood as well as their friends and family. C Company Came home to a huge celebration in Braintree and welcome home from friends, family and the local community.

Plans for the Welcome Home Parties are in the works, please keep an eye out from emails from your FRG leaders for details: HHC [Yvonne.Helbert@us.army.mil](mailto:Yvonne.Helbert@us.army.mil); B Co [Carynreilly1@us.army.mil](mailto:Carynreilly1@us.army.mil); C Co [Lauraerickson00@hotmail.com](mailto:Lauraerickson00@hotmail.com)

If you attended the Reunion Brief you received the Reunion Guide. Anyone who RSVP'd that they were unable to attend should have received a copy of the guide in the mail by now. If you haven't received the Guide, and would like a copy please get in touch with Dawn Wetherbee at 508-233-7221 or [dawn.wetherbee@us.army.mil](mailto:dawn.wetherbee@us.army.mil). You may also reach out to her if you have any questions or concerns regarding Reunion, Reintegration, or Veteran's Benefits.

### Milford Family Assistance — Charlie Pinder

Families of Wounded and Recovering Warriors, if your Servicemember's orders have been extended, we can help ensure that any dependent ID cards are up to date. Also please let us know if there are changes in phone numbers and addresses so we can keep in touch with you.

Here are some online resources that you can take advantage of, as well:

Wounded Warrior resources: <http://wtc.army.mil/resources/resources.html>

Massachusetts Veterans Services: <http://www.mass.gov/veterans/>

Veterans Crisis Line: [http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/index.asp](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/index.asp); 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

TBI Helpline: <http://www.mass.gov/veterans/tbi-helpline.html>; 1 (888) VET-1TBI

### Taunton Family Assistance — George Pontes

**"Dog" Company, 1-182<sup>nd</sup> INF** had its Soldiers to return home from deployment in late March. Decorations and preparation to Welcome Home the Soldiers were done during the March FRG meeting at the Armory and decorated the drill-shed. The Town of Middleboro, led by the VFW, supported the Welcome Home with food and refreshments. Military Friends and the USO were also present supporting this great event. Families should expect Welcome Home calls from the FAC over the next month just checking in with you. Those of you who were unable to attend either Reunion meeting held in February, a Reunion Guide has been sent to your home. If you did not receive it please contact George. You can call anyone in the Reunion Guide or your Family Assistance Center Specialist (FAC) for more information. If you have any questions or want to participate or join the e-mail roster, please contact Bethany at [pinardwbnn@hotmail.com](mailto:pinardwbnn@hotmail.com), Nicole at [nicole.mckay2@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.mckay2@gmail.com) or the FAC, George at (508) 823-0891 or [george.pontes@us.army.mil](mailto:george.pontes@us.army.mil).

The **387<sup>th</sup> EOD** Families and its Soldiers have begun leave rotation. The Family Readiness Group (FRG) Chairs, Becca Walters and Caitlin Roberts are trying to schedule a time when most Families can attend a Mid-Deployment meeting. Becca and Caitlin will continue to reach out to Family members working towards the next get together. If you have any questions or ideas for upcoming Family gatherings please contact Becca at [beccawalters@comcast.net](mailto:beccawalters@comcast.net) or George anytime.

The **181<sup>st</sup> Vertical Engineers Co** FRGs, both Camp Edwards and Methuen groups, are meeting to refine plans for upcoming Family/Soldier events. If you would like to be more involved with the FRG and Family events you can contact Denise Woolf at [dee1992@aol.com](mailto:dee1992@aol.com), Julie Donoghue at [donoghue42801@yahoo.com](mailto:donoghue42801@yahoo.com) or your Family Assistance Center Specialist (FAC), George Pontes.



## WING Family Assistance

### 104th Fighter Wing—Barnes ANGB

**Sandy Wakefield, Wing Family Program Coordinator**



Brownie Troop 20155 from Wilbraham, MA donated 110 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to the members of the 104 Fighter Wing who are deployed or deploying. The troop has made a generous donation of cookies for the past three years and this year they were given a tour of the Engine Shop. While there they spoke with women who in different areas of the Base and they explained to the girls just how diverse the job offerings in the military are for women. The Girl Scout Troop had a great time and the members of the 104 Fighter Wing are very grateful for their donation of cookies.

The 104 Family Readiness Group hosted their annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 25, 2012. Approximately 105 children and their families enjoyed a great afternoon with coloring, crafts and egg coloring. Of course the Easter Bunny arrived to high fives and hugs from the children and then they proceeded to age specific areas to hunt for eggs. Children and families were then able to get individual pictures taken with the Bunny and the Family Program office will email the pictures to each family. Refreshments were served to all who attended and a great time was had by all.

The Family Readiness Group has many events planned in the future including an Ice Cream Social, Pasta Night and a Family cook-out. Families are encouraged to attend any event they are able to and volunteers are always needed to help with events.

Barnes also has a new Director of Psychological Health who will be attending many of the events to get to know not only the military member but their families as well. Her name is Dr. Shannon Mandle and she is always available to military members as she is a full time asset for the Base. If you have any questions please contact her at 413-568-9151 x698-1536.



### 102nd Intelligence Wing (102IW)

**Erin Creighton, Wing Family Program Coordinator**

#### Month of the Military Child Spring Fling

Saturday April 28th, 11 am—1 pm  
Hanger 3172, Air Station Cape Cod

Open to All MWR Patrons  
Free Games & Prizes  
Free Hot Dogs & Drinks  
Arts & Crafts  
Three Bounce Houses  
Face Painting  
Clowns & Balloon Sculptors

Wendy Weston  
NAF Clerk  
USCG Air Station Cape Cod  
Morale, Well-Being & Recreation  
[Wendy.w.weston@uscg.mil](mailto:Wendy.w.weston@uscg.mil)  
508-968-6689

#### Red Sox Tickets are Here!

On Sale Thursday, April 12 & Friday, April 13  
from 9 am – 4 pm  
MWR Admin Office,  
5205 Ent St, Buzzards Bay, MA  
First Come, First Serve to all MWR eligible patrons

Games are:

SUN 6/10 vs. Nationals @ 1:35  
FRI 7/20 vs. Blue Jays @ 7:10  
FRI 8/3 vs. Twins @ 7:10

For prices and seats, please see the complete announcement online (<http://www.mwrcapecod.com/forms/redsoxtix2012.pdf>)



## **WING Family Assistance**

### **Announcing the 2012 Air Force Reserve & Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits**

We are thrilled to announce we have received funding for two Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits for 2012! Marketing materials to include postcards and posters will be mailed to Airman & Family Readiness Program Managers for distribution. Please disseminate the information to all Air National Guard members. The Teen Leadership Summits are only for Air Guard and Air Force Reserve youth. Transportation and Camp costs are funded by Air Force.

Additional information and instructions for applicants and adult volunteers are currently available at the following website: [www.afrc.af.mil/library/4families](http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/4families). The online application became available on the website January 16, 2012, with an application deadline of April 13, 2012.

The AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summits are open to 15-18 year old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard military members. Applicants will be required to complete entire application to include essay questions.

#### **Classic Teen Leadership Summit - June 17-22, 2012 at the Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonaga, Georgia**

Nestled in a valley of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Wahsega 4-H Center plays host to the Classic Teen Leadership Summit. During this week long adventure, teens will participate in high adventure activities such as high ropes, zip line canopy tour, white-water rafting, hiking, fishing, archery, survival classes, and more! Leadership classes taught throughout the week include True Colors and the General Hugh H. Shelton Leadership Challenge. Attendees will be introduced to community partners such as 4-H, BGCA, American Legion, YMCA and others who provide support to military families in communities across America. This Summit also includes military traditions and community service projects.

#### **Adventure Teen Leadership Summit - August 7-12, 2012 at Cheley Colorado Camps in Estes Park, Colorado**

Bordering Rocky Mountain National Park, Cheley Colorado Camps, a family owned and operated summer camp for over 90 years, will host the Adventure Teen Leadership Summit. During this Summit, teens will participate in daily adventure activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, horse colt training, arts & crafts, woodworking, technical climbing, and archery. Leadership classes taught throughout the week include True Colors and the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. Each evening, teens will gather for programs including campfires and songs, musical performances, and environmental education classes. This Summit also includes military traditions and community service projects.

The POCs for the 2012 Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits are:

Ms. Brandi McGonagill, [brandi.mullins.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:brandi.mullins.ctr@us.af.mil) , 478-327-2090, DSN 497-2090

Chaplain Bob Leivers, [rclivers@aol.com](mailto:rclivers@aol.com) , 719-554-3610, DSN 692-3610

Ms. Krystal Shiver, [krystal.shiver@us.af.mil](mailto:krystal.shiver@us.af.mil) , 478-327-1294, DSN 497-1294



## Schedule of Events April

- 1 April - April Fools' Day
- 1 April - Palm Sunday
- 5-6 April - MCEC, LINN Institute, Wheelock
- 6 April - Good Friday
- 7 April - Passover
- 8 April - Easter
- 11 April - Community Outreach Program Career Fair
- 12 April - Hanscom Career Fair
- 12 April - Recruit Military Veteran Expo
- 13 April - Air Force Teen Leadership Summit application deadline
- 13 April - Purple Up for Military Kids
- 14 April - 182 EN Sappers FRG Meeting
- 14 April - Volunteer Leadership Training, Wellesley
- 15-21 April - National Volunteer Week
- 17 April - National Cheese ball Day
- 22 April - Earth Day
- 22 April - 182 EN Sappers DET FRG Mtg
- 25 April - Veteran's Job Fair
- 27-29 April - Extreme Makeover: Military Family Readiness Network
- 28 April - Boston Firefighter Exam
- 28 April - Month of the Military Child Spring Fling, Air Station Cape Cod

## APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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					

**For more information on any of the listed events, please contact your local Family Assistance Specialist!**

## MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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	31		

## Schedule of Events - Plan ahead for May

- 1 May - May Day
- 5 May - Cinco de Mayo
- 8 May - V-E Day
- 11 May - Military Spouse's Day
- 12 May - Limerick Day
- 13 May - Mother's Day
- 19 May - Armed Forces Day
- 20 May - 182 EN Sappers DET FRG Movie Night
- 28 May - Memorial Day

**DEERS and Military Healthcare Information****The Doctor Is In—TRICARE's Wounded Warrior Support**

From BG W. Bryan Gamble, M.D.

Years of wartime deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan have taken a toll on many service men and women. Wounded warriors and their families sacrifice greatly for our country and deserve the highest quality health care. The Military Health System and TRICARE are committed to providing seamless health care coverage through each stage of treatment, recovery and rehabilitation.

Many benefits are available to wounded warriors injured while serving on active duty. These cover everything from diagnosis to rehabilitation and assistive technology devices, to institutional care and respite care in some cases. The National Resource Directory for wounded warriors, [www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov](http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov), offers a comprehensive list of programs and benefits available to service men and women injured in the line of duty. This includes health materials, employment resources, caregiver support and compensation information.

If you are a wounded warrior, you may receive care from military treatment facilities and before moving to a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health facility. Benefit counselors and liaisons at military hospitals help arrange your care at VA facilities, explain other VA services and facilitate discharge planning. If you are separating from active duty, you and your family may be eligible for benefits under the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) in addition to what the VA provides. TAMP gives you and your family 180 days of health care after you separate from active duty.

To see if you are eligible for TAMP, go to [www.tricare.mil/TAMP](http://www.tricare.mil/TAMP). To apply for VA benefits, please visit [www.va.gov/healtheligibility/application](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/application) and fill out the electronic application, or call the VA's Health Benefits Service Center toll-free at 1-877-222-8387 for more information.



Brigadier General  
W. Bryan Gamble, M.D.  
Deputy Director  
TRICARE Management  
Activity

Many specialized programs exist to help wounded warriors and their families heal and return to duty or transition to civilian lives. They vary according to health care need and service branch. The Fisher House Foundation, [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org), provides free or low-cost housing to families who want to be close to loved ones receiving treatment. The VA Vet Center program, [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov), offers local, community-based readjustment counseling for veterans and their families. Another resource you may not think of is the Social Security Administration, which has information about disability benefits for wounded warriors at [www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors).

At TRICARE, our mission is to provide the best possible care and services to our wounded warriors who have sacrificed so much. You can find information about many programs designed to help you make the transition back to civilian life at [www.tricare.mil/InjuredonAD](http://www.tricare.mil/InjuredonAD).





## JOB & CAREER FAIRS!!!!

**11 April - Community Outreach Program Career Fair - Methuen, MA**

679 Lowell St, Methuen; 1300-1800; Contact ESGR for more information!

**12 April - Hanscom AFB Defense Tech & Intel Career Fair - Hanscom AFB**

<http://www.transitioncareers.com/careerfair.php?171>

**12 April - Recruit Military Veteran Opportunity Expo - Gillette Stadium**

<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/boston-opportunity-expo-april-12-2012>

**25 April - Veteran's Job Fair - Boston, MA**

[http://northeastern.experience.com/stu/cf\\_details?fhnd=5549](http://northeastern.experience.com/stu/cf_details?fhnd=5549)

**25 April - Job Fair & Benefits Fair - Melrose, MA**

Contact Melrose Veterans Services at (781) 979-4186

**26 April - Plymouth Career Center Job Fair - Plymouth, MA**

[http://www.quincycareercenter.org/hot\\_jobs.htm](http://www.quincycareercenter.org/hot_jobs.htm)

**27 April - Bay State Jobs Fair - Hyannis, MA**

<http://www.scottbrown.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/april-2012-bay-state-jobs-fair>

**For more information on any of the above listed Fairs or Expos,  
please contact ESGR!**

### Massachusetts ESGR

Ellie Cash

Program Support Specialist

Joint Forces Headquarters

50 Maple Street

Milford, MA

508-233-7249 Direct

508-233-7638 Fax

256-7249 DSN



*These announcements are provided for the benefit of members of the National Guard. It is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by the Massachusetts National Guard, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the United States Armed Forces. Any participation is solely the responsibility of the individual.*

## Firefighter Exam April 28, 2012



### Qualifications for the city of Boston at the time of the exam

- You must be at least 19 by April 1, 2012 and must not be older than 31 as of the date of the exam. People that have served on active duty in the military may add up to five years of active service to a maximum age of 35.
- You must be a resident of the City of Boston at least one (1) year prior to the examination date to qualify for residency preference. Returning Veterans must establish residency within 30 days of discharge to qualify for the residency preference.

For more information or to apply online please visit [www.cityofboston.gov/fire](http://www.cityofboston.gov/fire) or call (617) 343-3024.

### Crowley Transportation is hiring for:

Class A—Ludlow, MA      Class A Route Driver - Ludlow, MA  
Class A - Danvers, MA      Class A&B - South Hadley, MA  
Send resume's to Bill Crowley at [bill@crowleytrans.com](mailto:bill@crowleytrans.com)  
[www.crowleytrans.com](http://www.crowleytrans.com)

### Careers with NSTAR

For over 25 years, NSTAR has been a leader in providing quality energy efficiency programs to residential, commercial and municipal customers. From single family homes to multi-million-dollar manufacturing facilities, our experienced program managers and customer support staff work closely with local service providers to ensure NSTAR customers receive the products and services they need to reduce energy use and lower utility costs.

Our career site: [http://www.nstarcareers.com/job\\_opportunities.htm](http://www.nstarcareers.com/job_opportunities.htm)

### Security Guard

#### Brighton Marine Health Center, Inc -Brighton, MA 02135

Brighton Marine Health Center, a real estate management company, is look for Security Guards to work flexible hour shifts including overnights and weekends. The ideal candidate will have 2-5 years security experience, preferably in property management security.

Michael P. Dwyer  
President & CEO  
Brighton Marine Health Center, Inc.  
R.E. Hawes Medical Building  
77 Warren Street - Executive Office/7th Floor Brighton, MA 02135  
617-562-5233 (fax)

[michaeldwyer@brimarine.org](mailto:michaeldwyer@brimarine.org)

[www.brimarine.org](http://www.brimarine.org)

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### President Obama Announces New Steps to Provide Housing Relief

On March 6, 2012, the President announced two steps to provide significant housing relief to thousands of service members and veterans who have faced wrongful foreclosure or been denied a lower interest rate on their mortgages. While the announcement outlines additional avenues for service members to pursue benefits, it does not expand the benefits provided under the Expanded Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP), established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or change the eligibility requirements of the HAP. More details regarding this announcement can be viewed at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/03/06/fact-sheet-president-obama-announces-new-steps-provide-housing-relief-ve>

For Further Questions:

- Any Service member who believes his or her rights were violated by Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, Ally, Citi, or Wells Fargo can contact the Department of Justice (DoJ) directly at 1-800-896-7743. The DoJ will have access to information to determine whether or not service members are victims and the settlement requires those individuals to be contacted.
- . Service members and their dependents who believe that their Service member Civil Relief Act rights have been violated should contact the nearest Armed Forces Legal Assistance office. For the relevant contact information, please consult the military legal assistance office locator at <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil> and click on the Legal Services Locator.
- Additional information about the Justice Department's enforcement of the SCRA and the other laws protecting service members is available at [www.servicemembers.gov](http://www.servicemembers.gov).

### TSA Expands Pre✓™ Program to Service Members

On March 20, 2012, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will expand their trusted traveler program known as Pre✓™ to Service members out of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Service members, active drilling Reservists, National Guardsmen, and members of the Coast Guard, who present a valid Common Access Card (CAC) at security checkpoints will receive expedited security screening.

To participate, members must go to the TSA Pre✓™ lane at the security checkpoint in terminal B (gates 10-22), and present their CAC to a TSA officer who will scan the card to verify their status as an active Service member. Once verified, members will not be required to remove their shoes, outerwear, belts, laptops and any small liquid containers from carry-ons when going through security.

Eligible Service members do not need to be on official travel or in uniform to take advantage of TSA Pre✓™. Family members ages 12 and under traveling with an eligible member can also process through expedited screening.

For more information on TSA's Pre✓™ program, visit  
[http://www.tsa.gov/what we do/rbs dod.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/rbs_dod.shtm).

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### 1-182 Infantry Homecoming

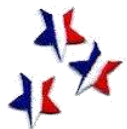


### 104th FW Easter Event





182 EN (Sappers) Care Package Drive  
and Girl Scout Cookie Donation



**APRIL 2011**

**MASACHUSETTS  
NATIONAL GUARD  
FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE**

**Find Family Program  
on Facebook!**



**Email or write to us.  
Your opinions matter!**

**Helpful Websites**

**American Red Cross**

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Concordia Dental Plan**

[www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com)

**DEERS**

[www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/)

**EANGUS**

[www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org)

**ESGR**

[www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)

**Military Friends Foundation**

[www.militaryfriends.org](http://www.militaryfriends.org)

**Guard Support of MA**

[www.guardsupport.org](http://www.guardsupport.org)

**Legal Services**

[www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal)

**Military Child Care**

[www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org)

**Military One Source**

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

**NGB Family Online Community**

[www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)

**Tri-Care Information**

[www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil)

**USFamily Health Plan**

[www.usfamilyhealth.org](http://www.usfamilyhealth.org)

**Veterans Affairs**

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**Veterans Affairs Kids K-12**

[www.va.gov/kids](http://www.va.gov/kids)

**Youth Online Community**

[www.guardfamilyyouth.org](http://www.guardfamilyyouth.org)

**MANG Family Program**—(visit for information on benefits, quality of life, financial assistance, and other information):

[http://www.mass.gov/guard/family\\_program/family\\_support\\_ma/index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/guard/family_program/family_support_ma/index.htm)

**Important Numbers**

**Taunton Armory**

111 Hon. Gordon Owen Riverway, Taunton, MA 02780

Tel# 508-823-0891 Tel# 508-822-6024

Fax# 508-823-0892

**Springfield Armory**

1505 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, MA 01109

Tel# 508-233-7950 Fax# 508-233-7975

**Wellesley Armory**

14 Minuteman Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481

Tel# 508-233-7221 Fax# 508-233-7232

**102D Intelligence Wing (102IW) Family Program Office**

Otis Air National Guard Base

58 Reilly St, Box 70 Otis ANG Base, MA 02542

Tel# 508-968-4855

**Reading Armory**

25 Haverhill Street, Reading, MA 01867

Tel# 508-233-7444 Fax# 508-233-7441

**Worcester Armory**

50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, MA 01605

Tel# 508-753-3164 Fax# 508-753-3165

**Milford Armory Headquarters**

50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757

Tel# 508-233-7358 Fax# 508-233-6774

**104th FW Family Program Office**

Barnes Air National Guard Base

175 Falcon Drive, Westfield, MA 01085

Tel# 413-568-9151 Ext#1183