



# Family Readiness Assistant NEWSLETTER

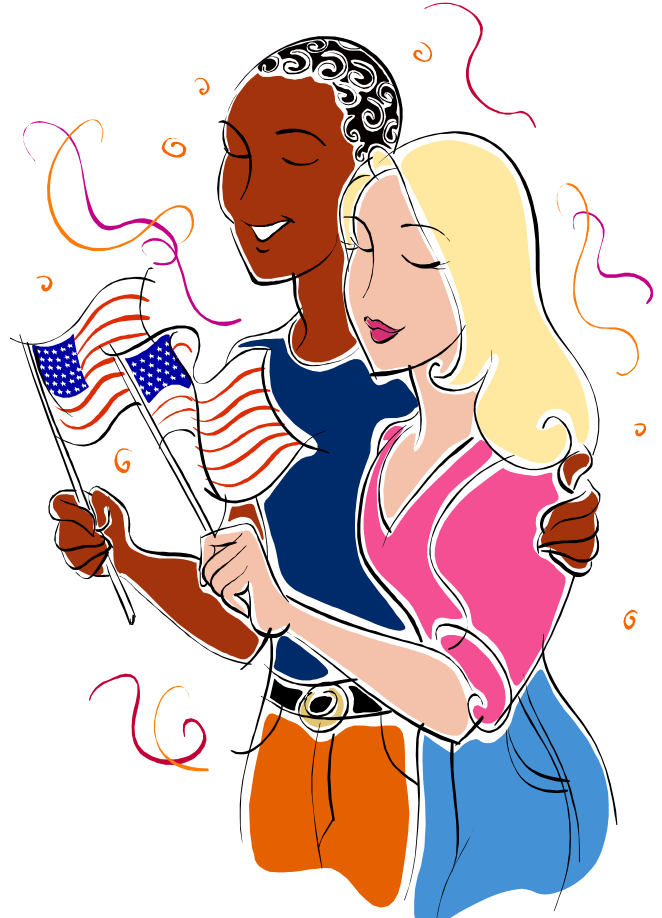
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## Get Involved — Volunteer!

Have you ever heard someone utter the phrase, "I'm just a volunteer"? The fact is that no one is *just* a volunteer. Volunteers are an indispensable component of the National Guard, and the success of family readiness programs depends on volunteer involvement and dedication. Additionally, the unit's mission would be adversely impacted without volunteers. Volunteerism has been a part of the military lifestyle from the very start. Volunteers accomplish a great deal through their contributions. For example:

- Volunteers provide valuable services measurable not only in terms of time and money but personal satisfaction and increased quality of life for the volunteers themselves and the Guard members and families they serve.
- Volunteers save the Department of Defense (DoD) millions of dollars each year.
- Volunteers share their knowledge and skills with others and gain valuable on-the-job training, a sense of purpose, and commitment to our Guard members and families, as well as a unique love and understanding of Volunteers have a deep love of country that they apply to their work and share with others.



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*The State Family Readiness Group Leader and Volunteer Workshop for 15-17 September 2006 has been postponed to a later date.*

*www.MilitaryOneSource.com, Real help, Anytime, Anywhere 24 hours a days, 7 days a week. Services are private and provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to you. Consultation, Research, and Referrals Interpretation and Translation, and Counseling are available in your community.*

## INFORMATION TIDBITS

### Volunteer Categories

Statutory volunteers - are those volunteers who serve in an official capacity and seek credit for their volunteer hours in direct support of the National Guard Family Program. Statutory volunteers must have a job description outlining the qualifications for the volunteer position, the role and responsibilities, a supervisor, must receive required training and the estimated numbers of hours required per month. These positions include Family Readiness Group Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Community Outreach Specialist, and Child and Youth Coordinator.

*Gratuitous Volunteers - are volunteers who offer to help support meetings, events, and activities without any expectation of compensation and who do not wish to serve in an official capacity. Gratuitous volunteers are not covered by 10 U.S.C., subsection 1588 and are not afforded the benefits of statutory volunteers. Gratuitous volunteers do not require a formal job description. Some examples of gratuitous volunteers are: A person that set up, tear down in support of a Family Program Function or event, and a person who helps with a welcome home ceremony.*

### Acceptance of Statutory Volunteer Services

*Before statutory volunteer services can be accepted on the behalf of the National Guard Family Program a volunteer orientation must be provided. This orientation will include, at a minimum; overviews of the national volunteer program, volunteer status, volunteer duties and responsibilities, volunteer reimbursement, and local procedures and practices.*

*Upon completion of the orientation, volunteers (Army/Air Guard over the age of 18 must complete and sign DD Form 2793, Volunteer Agreement for Appropriated Fund Activities and Non-appropriated Fund Instrumentalities. All volunteers (Army/Air Guard) under the age of 18 must complete the DA Form 5641, Parental Permission.*

*Army Guard volunteers must complete DA Form 4162, Volunteer Service Record.*

*Air Guard Volunteers must complete AF IMT 2805, Family Support Center Volunteer Data Card and Service Record.*

**Volunteer Orientation Training is available for Family Readiness Groups through contacting Cora A. Byrd, Family Readiness Assistant (FRA) at 609-562-0557 or by email [cora.a.byrd@us.army.mil](mailto:cora.a.byrd@us.army.mil)**

## NGB-FP Family Programs Online Community

**The National Guard Bureau-Family portal ([www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)) is an online community that enables the Guard Community to access information on NGB-FP programs, benefits, resources and training. This portal is aimed at increasing support through improved communication for: Family members, Youth, Volunteer Core, Family Program Paid Staff, Service Members, and School Educators and Administrators and other supporting groups. For the community as a whole, it is one stop shop for everything that relates to the Guard.**

### Family Readiness

**It is imperative to have a Family Readiness Group operational in each unit within the New Jersey National Guard, with the emphasis being 100% ready at all times. Readiness is the key to having strong, self-sufficient families that are always prepared to face whatever tasks they are ask to face. Deployment, whether for the fight against terrorism or to help with natural disasters such as "Hurricane Katrina," does not impact the servicemembers; it impacts their entire family and community. Having a sound FRG is the foundation of support that our families need during times of pre deployment, deployment and just as importantly post deployment. Because of the Nature of the National Guard occasionally there is time to prepare before a service member leaves, but often there is no time at all, hence the families always need to be READY.**



## **Sesame Street**

**Talk, Listen, Connect – Sesame Workshop and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc are proud to present ‘Talk, Listen, Connect,’ a bilingual kit to help military families and their young children cope with feelings, challenges, and concerns experienced during various phases of deployment: pre-deployment, deployment and homecoming. All Kits include: A Sesame Street DVD, A Parent/Caregiver Magazine, and Children’s Activity Poster. Request your FREE Talk, Listen, Connect Kit on line at [www.sesameworkshop.org/flc](http://www.sesameworkshop.org/flc) beginning 1 Aug 06.**



## **WOMEN’S OPPORTUNITY CENTER AT YMCA OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ**

Grants are available to spouses of deployed or recently deployed military. These funds have been available since January 2006, but they haven’t received any applicants. For this reason, they are extending the application period for those of you who have been recently deployed.

The Women’s Opportunity Center at YMCA of Burlington County in Mount Laurel, NJ is pleased to remind military members that grants are available not only for financial emergencies and crisis situations, but also to provide recreational and stress relieving activities such as camps and classes. This grant provided by the Department of Community Affairs is available to spouses of deployed military personnel in all branches of service in the State who are income eligible. Applicants can expect to fill out very minimal paperwork (one page) and receive their approval and funds within a week of completed application

For more information and an application, please contact Fawn Mutschler at 856-234-6200, ext 235, or email [fawnm@ymca-bc.org](mailto:fawnm@ymca-bc.org).