

State Family Program Office

Pennsylvania National Guard



December 2008
Newsletter

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Message from the State Family Program Director

Seasons Greetings,

During the Holiday Season, we have much to be thankful for. Our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have served or are currently serving overseas as well as to those warriors who continue to recover from wounds sustained in theatre. It is in this spirit that we say... Thank You to our Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Sailors for your selfless service and commitment to our Country and our Families. To everyone, a special holiday blessing from the Pennsylvania State Family Program Office.

Very Respectfully,

CPT Quinn
State Family Program Director

Pay 2009 Increases

The **Base pay** increase for 2009 will be **3.9%**.

The **BAS** rate increase will be: Officers from **\$202.76** to **\$ 223.04**, Enlisted from **\$ 294.43** to **\$ 323.87**.

The **BAH** rates will also increase for 2009. This rate varies widely based on rank, zip codes and dependant status.

The Following website has a convenient calculator for BAH rates:

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>



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State Family Program Director

CPT Ryan Quinn – 717.861.9676

State Family Program Office Staff

717.861.2650

1LT Elizabeth Wagner – Assistant Director

PFC Bremer-Family Program Assistant

SPC Crespo – Family Program Assistant

Dr. Janet Marquis- State Youth Coordinator

Family Assistance Center Coordinator

Melinda Mendoza – 717.861.2650

Family Assistance Center Specialist

Allentown –Amanda Pueyes – 610.871.2246

Carlisle – Corrie Wadel – 717.249.3609

FTIG –Stacy Leonhard – 717.861.8772

Johnstown – Denise Todero – 814.248.3674

Lancaster – Kim Houck 717.392.8115

Lewisburg – Mark Bennick – 570.522.6557

Oil City – Linda Adams – 814.676.5840

Phila –William Blackman –215.560.6043 x233

Scranton –Steffie Hood –570.614.1197

Wash –Becky Chearney –724.223.4584

Family Readiness Assistant

Western –Annie Ostrom –570.321.0964

Eastern –Kim Ferrere –717.861.8772

Family Readiness Support Assistant

55th Bde East –Renee Laws –215.324.1332

55th Bde West-Sarah Bainbridge-570.522.6557

56th Bde East –Miranda Weaver –215.560.6043

56th Bde West –Laci Applegate –814.618.1005

CAB - FTIG –Donna Brown – 717.861.9571

628th - FTIG - Jan Kulnis – 717.861.6409

WingFamily Program Coordinators

Middletown Air Wing – 193rd SOW
Sandy Scott– 717.948.3155

Pittsburgh Air Wing – 171st ARW
Deb Krall – 412.776.7365

Willow Grove Air Wing – 111th FW
Jean Moretti – 215.443.1409

Pennsylvania Military Family Relief Assistance Program (PA MFRAP)

The Pennsylvania Military Family Relief Assistance Program (PA MFRAP) provides financial assistance, in the form of grants, to eligible Pennsylvania Service members and their eligible Family members. Eligible members must have a direct and immediate financial need as a result of military service. The Program applies to Pennsylvania residents who are serving:

On 30 or more consecutive days of active duty with the Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard or Reserve Components of the Armed Forces (Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve).

- On 30 or more consecutive days of active duty with the active armed forces (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard).
- On 30 or more consecutive days of state active duty for emergencies or duty under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact in the Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard.
- In cases such as assistance needed to visit a hospitalized service member, parents and siblings of the service member may apply, as long as they and the Service member are residents of Pennsylvania. (No more than two relatives of the Service member may apply and the total amount combined will not exceed the maximum grant of \$2,500.)

Application forms are available online at: www.dmva.state.pa.us (Service Member Benefits), from the PA MFRAP office at the Family Program Office (FtIG, Building 7-3) Toll Free 1-866-292-7201 or from the PNG Family Assistance Centers.

Family Assistance Centers (FAC) and Wing Family Program Coordinator (WFPC)

Pennsylvania has thirteen (13) FACS/WFPC regionally located across the Commonwealth, each of these locations are staffed with one Family Assistance Center Specialist (FACS) or Wing Family Program Coordinator (WFPC) from 8:00-4:30 and are available 24/7 via cell phone. The FACS/WFPC mission is to provide information and referrals regarding the following issues: Financial assistance, TRICARE, Legal, ID/DEERS, Chaplain, and other military Family issues. FACS/WFPC are proactively reaching out and building relationships with local and regional community leaders and are the conduit for information, resources and benefits for the Soldiers and their Families of all the branches of service, including veterans. They are there to assist military Families before, during, and after mobilization. When a military Family experiences unexpected situations, FACS/WFPC are able to use the resources of the community to assist in sustaining the quality of life for the military Family. The FACS/WFPC locations include: Allentown, Carlisle, FTIG, Johnstown, Lancaster, Lewisburg, Middletown, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Oil City, Washington and Willow Grove.

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Upcoming Events

Farm Show Butter Sculpture (0930) Jan 09

Family Pre-Deployment Briefing (1300) Jan 11

Regional FLO and FRG Trainings

POC: Kim Ferrere (Eastern) – 717.861.8772
Annie Ostrom (Western) – 570.321.0964

Harrisburg Feb 28

Philadelphia Mar 07

Pittsburgh Mar 14

Johnstown Apr 04

Lewisburg May 02

Allentown May 09

Oil City Jun 06

Wilkes-Barre Jun 20

National Guard Child Care Program

Operation: Military Child Care is a Department of Defense (DOD) initiative to support the child care needs of parents of who are activated/deployed.

Helps eligible families locate child care options in local communities. Reduces child care fees for eligible families who are already using licensed or legally-operating community child care programs and providers.

For more information Contact
NACCRRRA

Toll Free 1-800-424-2246

Email: www.NACCRRRA.org/Military

RESEARCH REPORT FROM THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Between the months of July 2007 and October 2008, I was engaged in a large research project that examined how the 54 National Guard State & Territory Youth Coordinators were determining what parent expectations were as they planned their youth summer camps. Also, during the project I took the liberty of asking parents of 230 PA NG children who attended a summer camp during the summer of 2007 if their expectations were met. I also delved into a few specific questions of what the specific expectations of NG parents are of their children's military summer camp. While most of the findings were predictable, I did learn a few things from this study.

I was successful at determining only two factors that differed in the expectations from deployed parents vs. non-deployed parents. First, deployed parents (more than non-deployed parents) are interested in the children learning about how to deal with the different range of feelings they experience during the deployment cycle. Second, deployed parents (more than non-deployed parents) want their children introduced to military friendly extra-curricular groups. Other than these two factors, both deployed and non-deployed families have the same expectation of what their children should receive through participation in youth summer camp.

When asked what parents in NG families expect their children to learn/experience during their stay at a military sponsored summer youth camp, parents reported:

- Drug & Alcohol education (93%)
- Exposure to military equipment (87%)
- Introduce children to military friendly extra-curricular groups (87%)
- Offer training about feelings associated with deployment (84%)
- Address issues related to the feelings associated with separation from a family member (80 %)
- Introduce children to FRG Unit Youth Programs (71%)
- Teach effective communication with their parents (66%)
- Offer a military style of program (55.5%)

After interviewing 20% of the nations NG State Youth Coordinators, I found out that they determine the content of their summer camp programs without first investigating what NG parents are expecting. Interestingly enough; however, 89% of parents felt that their expectations were being met. It is my belief that parents are pleased that there are good summer programs available to their child (ren), and that this fact alone is meeting an expectation. It is my desire that as we progress with our youth program that parents develop more expectations and feel free to share them with their Youth Coordinator. Here in PA...that would be me.

Thank you to all parents that participated in this research project!

Janet R. Marquis, Ph.D.
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