



Montana National Guard

FAMILY PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

Get the Official Word (Concerning our Social Media)

Last month there was an attack in Iraq where military members lost their lives. Because of social media, word quickly got out that there were four casualties. Word quickly spread through family and friends of Montana Soldiers. Many were afraid that the casualties were from the Montana National Guard.

Please know that if one of Montana's Soldiers is a casualty, the Department of Defense has a very streamlined process that is utilized to notify the family.

If a Soldier is injured, the Soldier may notify his primary next of kin. If injury is significant or of a serious nature, the rear detachment and/or the Department of Defense will call the primary next of kin to notify them of the incident (whether the soldier is able to call or not).

If a Soldier is killed, a Casualty Notification team will notify the primary and secondary next of kin in-person. Once the state receives the casualty report, the next of kin will be notified within four hours between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and midnight.

We understand and are aware of social media and how quickly news can spread. If you receive "unofficial news" -- do NOT panic! If you are concerned about an incident, please call the military personnel office at 406-324-3226 or 406-324-3230 for verification.

If you are concerned because you have not heard from your Service Member for a while, contact your FAC and we can start working through channels to verify your Service Member is fine and for them to let the family know they are doing ok.

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!



Welcome Our New Billings FAC - Mark Fraser

We are excited and pleased to announce the selection of Mark Fraser as the new Billings Family Assistance Center Specialist starting on 5 July 2011. Mark is married and has four children. He is an Army Veteran who served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mark has expressed his eagerness to serve the Families and Service Members within Montana.

Welcome to Family Programs.

Julia Holder—Helena
FAC Coordinator
406-324-3232
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Kerry Cunningham
Helena FAC Specialist
406-324-3202
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Mark Fraser
Billings FAC Specialist
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Holly Swartz
Missoula FAC Specialist
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Linda Sundby
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Toll Free 24 hours:
1-877-706-7598



INSIDE ESGR



ESGR CONTACTS:

Genna Ibsen
Program Support Specialist
Helena HAFRC
406-324-3128

Parker Sullivan
Program Support Manager
Great Falls 120th FW
406-791-0895

The Montana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is dedicated to fostering positive relationships between employers and service members. The program provides information on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and offers mediation with fair and equitable application of the law. They also provide employer recognition opportunities and encourage service members and their spouses to nominate supportive employers for Patriot Awards and Bosslifts (employer airlifts). ESGR would like to thank all MT civilian employers for their support of the National Guard!

What can ESGR do for you?

- Need employment? ESGR is sponsoring a Job and Education Fair on 13 August in Great Falls. Can't attend? Contact ESGR for contacts across the state.
- Returning from a deployment? Know your rights and responsibilities under the USERRA law. ESGR can provide useful information about your employment protections.
- Want to thank your employer? Complete a nomination form at www.esgr.mil ESGR will publically present it at an event or function.
- Require Mediation Services? Contact ESGR at 1-800-336-4590 to open a case.

Safety During Deployment *Things to consider.*

Keep your house looking the same. Just as a pile of newspapers and mail is a signal to criminals that you're gone on vacation, a previously immaculate lawn looking overgrown and weedy can tip off others that you're at home by yourself.

Don't hang service banners. This may be both the easiest and hardest thing to do. It can be a frustrating decision, but you should only hang service banners inside your home where they are not visible from the outside. Also, if you are having service or repair work done in your home, be sure to remove anything that might notify a stranger that your spouse is away.

Avoid distribution lists. Many groups create lists of deployed soldiers and distribute them to those who ask how they can help support our troops. Their purpose is often to give others the opportunity to send packages or letters. However, many people with good intentions will often photocopy and distribute the list even further. Once this happens, there is no way to control who knows that your spouse is deployed.

Invest in additional safety features. Even if a high-tech security system is not an option, there are many other inexpensive ways to make your home safer and help give you peace of mind. Motion sensors can be installed on previously existing exterior lighting and can alert you if someone is nearing your home.

And,

- Avoid using "Keep my soldier safe" ribbons on your vehicle
- Ensure your home is well lit at night and entryways are visible
- Mow your grass often and keep your yard tidy
- Be wary of adding your name to support lists. Ask questions and ensure that the list will not be distributed to others.
- Talk to children about who they can and can't tell about your spouse's deployment
- Keep cars parked outside clean and move them frequently

by Whitney Bailey (MilSpouse.com)





Camp season is upon us! We have a **busy summer...** Find a camp that works for your kiddos!

Many camps still have room, visit the website below and select the "youth" tab. Or ask your FAC for other opportunities in your area!

Phone: 406-324-5120

Cell: 406-459-7819

E-mail: sara.cease@us.army.mil

**Sara Cease, State Youth Coordinator
MT National Guard Child & Youth
Program**

Family Camp at Loon Lake, Ferndale MT a GREAT success! Despite the rain, 12 military families got to enjoy a weekend of family time and time with other military families! Motivational speaker, wilderness survival demonstration, canoe and paddleboats on the lake, scavenger hunt and a cut-throat Pictionary tournament made for a great weekend! We came as separate families but left as **one big** military family!



Reunion through a child's eyes...

**Montana Guard Kids
Find us on facebook!**

The Youth at the Missoula Yellow Ribbon got to work on a care-package for their deployed loved one. This care package consisted of:

- Handmade card: for continued communication between the child and their loved one.
- Workbook: We went through an age appropriate workbook with each child. The workbook is designed to create a discussion about how the deployment has been for the child and how the reunion event looks for them. Sending this to the deployed Service Member will let them see

what the child is thinking and feeling and hopefully ease some stress!

- There were many other items created by the children with all designed to encourage communication!

Sometimes the reunion event is so exciting! And then after the "honey moon" period the child feels anxious, depressed and confused about how to go for-

Yippie for Reunion!!

ward. Working through these things now with your child will help to ease that transition for both your child and your Service Member. For information or activity ideas to help your child count down the days, continued communication, and Reunion or Reintegration issues, please don't hesitate to contact me!



Family Readiness Group Chairpersons

163rd CAB Battalion

HHC Company

Brenda Baker—(overcomingdaily@msn.com)

A Company

Jamie Granzella—(jgodzilla2004@yahoo.com)

B Company

Paula Wood—(woodshack7@hotmail.com)

C Company

Renee Little—(reneelav@hotmail.com)

E Company 145th FSC

Annie V Parker—(bird-lady4@hotmail.com)

190th CSSB Battalion

HHC Company

Barb Klang—(billingsgranny@yahoo.com)

484th Military Police Company—Billings

Jamie Moran—(zoomama@cheerful.com)

67th Signal Company

Kristi Negrette—(Kristi.negrette@us.army.mil)

1063rd Maintenance Support Company

Lynn Reiland—(dnlreiland@nemontel.net)

189th GSAB Battalion

HHC Company

Jay Hellbusch—(jaymiles4@gmail.com)

A Company

Faye Eidt—(wolftrack2000@hotmail.com)

B Company

Nancy Erb—(nmsquidlet@juno.com)

C Company

Amber Guge—(adguge@yahoo.com)

640th Aviation ASB

Tammy Pershall—
(tpershall@heritagepropane.com)

C12 Unit

Cathy Fandrich—(cathyfandrich@mac.com)

495th CSSB Battalion

HHC Company

J.P. Breitbach—(only_jens@yahoo.com)

631st Chemical Company

Melanie Timblin—(meltimblin@gmail.com)

103rd PAD & 1049th ENG FFTG

Erin Dey—(erinroger07@yahoo.com)

1941st Contracting Detachment

Ann Willcockson—(willcockson@msn.com)

My Life in a Box Training Coming to Billings!

My Life in a Box...A Life Organizer...if there was an emergency and you had to leave your home could you...

- Leave in 5 minutes with everything you need to rebuild your life?
 - Quickly locate all of your personal, legal, and financial documents?
 - Grab a "get away" bag with clothing, toiletries, medication and personal items for every member of the Family (including your pets)?
 - Locate a backup for your computer files?
- This is just a little reminder once again that it is better to start preparing, than face an emergency unprepared and be sorry you procrastinated.

Date: 10 July 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Billings Armed Forces Reserve Center (2915 Gabel Road, Billings, MT 59102)

Seating is limited, please register as soon as possible in order to reserve your seat.

To register please contact

Bret Anderson, 95th Troop Command FRSA

Email : bret.landerson2@us.army.mil

Phone: 406-324-3358

Montana Yellow Ribbon Events

July 9—10 Billings
(67th SIG/1941st 30 Day)

July 23rd Billings
(1-163rd During Event)

July 24th Billings
(1-163rd During Event)

August 13th Great Falls
(1-163rd During Event)

August 14th Great Falls
(DET 2 640th Co B During Event)

Yellow Ribbon contact numbers are
406-324-3925 or 406-324-3984

Consumer Awareness Month

Materials

Identity Theft Packet
Taking Charge of Your Money CD
Avoiding Frauds and Scams After a Natural Disaster article
The Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) article
Credit and Your Consumer Rights article
Solving Consumer Problems article

Tools and Services

Morningstar Investment Research Center online library
ScamCasts - FTC podcast series
Financial Counseling

Events

Webinars: Consumer Awareness Series with the FTC (7/25, 7/26 & 7/28)
Moderated Chat: Work at Home Tips (7/27 – 3pm ET)

www.militaryonesource.com

