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WHY WE CELEBRATE ON NOVEMBER 11

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. World War I, the “war to end all wars” was over.

November 11, 1919 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace. On Armistice Day, soldiers who survived the war marched in a parade through their home towns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and held ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won.

Congress voted Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, 20 years after the war ended. But Americans realized that the previous war would not be the last one. World War II began the following year and nations great and small again participated in a bloody struggle. After the Second World War, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11.

In 1953 townspeople in Emporia, Kansas called the holiday Veterans’ Day in gratitude to the veterans in their town. Soon after, Congress passed a bill introduced by a Kansas congressman renaming the federal holiday to Veterans’ Day. 1971 President Nixon declared it a federal holiday on the second Monday in November.

Americans still give thanks for peace on Veterans’ Day. There are ceremonies and speeches and at 11:00 in the morning, most Americans observe a moment of silence, remembering those who fought for peace.

HONORING OUR VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES

In this issue of our newsletter we would like to honor our veterans and their families with a poem and information beneficial to all our military families.

DEFINITION OF A VETERAN

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard, or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to The ‘United States of America,’ for an amount of ‘up to and including my life.’

Remember

by Brittany Vigoreaux

American soldiers sacrifice so much,
All for the freedom of our country.
Leaving their families and heading off to war,
Not knowing what the future holds.

Working day and night
Determined to stay strong.
Watching friends be killed every day
Letters from home inspiring them to keep fighting

So little is given to them
Although there is little to do,
For those who have died in war
We can still remember

Remember all the men who have died.
Remember all the battles fought
Remember all the tears families cried
Remember it was freedom the soldiers brought

To this very day soldiers are under-appreciated
Veterans Day is the day
For the dead, living, and fighting soldiers
To be remembered

YOUR BENEFITS IN THE COMMUNITY FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILY

NEW DISCOUNTS

National Parks: To honor America's service men and women, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced that areas managed by the department will not charge entrance fees on Thursday, November 11, 2010.

McCormick & Schmick's: Veterans will be able to choose a complimentary lunch or dinner entrée on November 8. Some of the mouth-watering selections include Cashew-Crusted Tilapia, Grilled Atlantic Salmon, Seafood Fettuccini Alfredo and Cedar-Planked Salmon.

Outback Steakhouse: As an expression of Outback Steakhouse's appreciation to our Country's veterans and active duty military, a free Bloomin' Onion and beverage of choice (one non-alcoholic drink or one draft Anheuser Busch beer except where prohibited by law) will be available to them at every Outback in the country on Veterans Day. Please visit www.outback.com for locations.

Cabela's: Veteran's Day weekend, Cabela's outdoor store is offering their employee discount to all veterans, active duty military and reserves, law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel on Nov. 11 and 12. Dubbed a "Hometown Heroes" event, eligible shoppers will need to check in at a table at the store to receive a coupon for the discount.

Colonial Williamsburg: honoring America's Veterans with a procession down Duke of Gloucester Street, 4:30 p.m., beginning at the Capitol. The parade culminates in a public ceremony, with militia and cannon crew firing volleys in recognition of those who serve. Active duty military, guard and reservists, retirees, veterans and their dependents enjoy free admission passes Friday through Wednesday, Nov. 6-11.

Krispy Kreme: This year, Krispy Kreme Doughnut Corporation is honoring America's service men and women on Veterans Day by giving away free doughnuts to all veterans and active military personnel. Veterans and active military personnel are invited to visit any participating U.S. Krispy Kreme store on Veterans Day, November 11, and enjoy one free doughnut of any variety.

Applebee's: Military veterans and active-duty Service Members will be able to eat free at any Applebee's across the U.S. on Veteran's Day, Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010. There will be six entrées available from the menu. Guests will be asked to show one or more of the following as proof of service: a U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, a photograph in uniform, or wearing a uniform in person. For more information about Veterans Day at Applebee's, visit the Applebee's website <http://www.applebees.com/vetsDay/default.aspx>

Golden Corral: Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be held on Monday, November 15, 2010, from 5 to 9 pm in all

Golden Corral restaurants nationwide. The free dinner meal is a special "thank you tribute" to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, currently serving, or in the National Guard/Reserves, you are invited to join us for Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner. To date, Golden Corral restaurants have provided over 2.2 million free meals and contributed over \$3.3 million to the Disabled American Veterans organization. Website for more information: <http://www.goldencorral.com/military/>

Knott's Berry Farm: paying tribute to past and present U.S. armed forces personnel during Veteran's Month with free park admission for them and a guest November 1-26 only. Up to six additional tickets can be purchased for only \$15 each. Military ID or DD214 presented with a photo ID required for discount.

Anheuser-Busch Parks: Complimentary admission for active duty military representing all five service branches, active members of a reserve or National Guard unit, and/or up to three direct dependants. Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks. Offer valid through 12/31/2010. For more information: http://commerce.4adventure.com/store/os_application.asp

SERVICES

Sittercity.com: Sittercity is the nation's largest online source for local babysitters, nannies, elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors, and contains more than 1 million caregiver profiles. The Sittercity Corporate Program, funded by the Defense Department, offers military families, including active-duty, Guard and Reserve members, with a paid membership to the site.

The paid membership enables military families entry to a custom-built Defense Department Web site portal where they can match up caregivers to their situation; gain instant access to caregiver profiles that include background checks, references and reviews; and find military-certified care providers as well as caregivers who are military-subsidized and authorized access to a military installation. Military members and their families can activate their membership by going to <http://www.sittercity.com/dod>.

Tutor.com: The Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families program gives eligible military families access to free online tutoring and free homework help from live, professional tutors in more than 16 subjects. Tutors help K-12 students, college students, and service members and spouses going back to school or through a career transition. K-12 students can get help in more than 16 academic subjects, including algebra, chemistry, calculus, and physics. Adult learners can get back-to-school and career help, including GED prep and resume writing. Eligible members and the tutor work together in a secure online classroom, where they can chat, draw on a shared whiteboard, upload files, and browse the web together. To determine eligibility, visit <http://www.tutor.com/military/eligibility>. Installation staff can also download brochures from the "spread the word" section of the website.

SHIPPING OUT THE HOLIDAYS TO MILITARY HEROES

Recommended Mailing Dates for APO/FPO Destinations

Ensuring care packages arrive in time for the holiday season is a priority for friends and family members of military personnel serving around the world. To help get packages on their way, the U.S. Postal Service offers a discount on its largest Priority Mail Flat Rate Box.

The recommended mailing date for the most economical postage to overseas military destinations, including Iraq and Afghanistan, is Nov. 12.

Mail sent to overseas military addresses is charged only domestic mail prices. The domestic mail price for the Priority Mail Large Flat Rate Box is \$14.50, but for packages to APO/FPO addresses overseas the price is reduced to \$12.50. Additional discounts are available for customers printing their Priority Mail postage labels online at Click-N-Ship.

Environmentally friendly Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes are available at no cost at any Post Office, or can be ordered online at shop.usps.com. Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online anytime using Click-N-Ship.

The Postal Service continues to show support to those serving in the armed forces by offering free Military Care Kits, designed specifically for military families sending packages overseas. The mailing kits can be ordered by phone by calling 1-800-610-8734 and asking for the Military Care Kit. Each kit includes two “America Supports You” large Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes, four medium-sized Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes, six Priority Mail labels, one roll of Priority Mail tape and six customs forms with envelopes.

For online ordering of the large Priority Mail APO/FPO Flat Rate boxes featuring the “America Supports You” logo and information about mailing letters and packages to military destinations, go to Supporting Our Troops.

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25 to military APO/FPO addresses overseas, the Postal Service recommends that mail for service members be sent no later than the mailing dates listed below. Mail addressed to military Post Offices overseas is subject to certain conditions or restrictions regarding content, preparation and handling. APO/FPO addresses generally require customs forms. To see an online table of updated APO and FPO addresses and mailing restrictions by individual APO/FPO ZIP Codes, click here, select “Pull-Out Information” and click on “Other Information.”

MILITARY MAILING DEADLINES

Military Mail Addressed To	Express Mail Military Service (EMMS)1/	First-Class Mail Letters and Cards	Priority Mail	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) 2/	Space Available Mail (SAM)3/	Parcel Post
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec-18	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-26	Nov-12
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec-4	Dec-4	Dec-1	Nov-20	Nov-12
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec-18	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-26	Nov-12
APO/FPO AA ZIP 340	Dec-18	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-26	Nov-12
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec-18	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-26	Nov-12

DEPLOYMENT EMOTIONS ~ LIVING IN THE NEW NORMAL

“Living in the New Normal: Deployment Cycle Emotions”

What do you think of when you hear the words: deployment, reunion, redeployment, reintegration? Do you start to react emotionally just at the mention of those words? To Military Families these aren't just buzz words. This is the new normal. For children, this is a very frustrating “new normal”.

From the very moment, an alert is announced all members of the family begin the emotional journey that is deployment. We often marvel at the number of service members that have deployed multiple times; but, have you given any thought to the most overlooked deployment survivors? The children. How do we best serve the youngest “Homefront Heroes”?

The process that most Military Families go through when dealing with deployment is best described as a form of anticipatory grief. This is very similar to dealing with a terminally ill loved one. Family members may become depressed, experience appetite changes or mood swings just to name a few.

Adults generally cope with separation by practicing the “4 M's”: Maintenance of self, Management of time and resources, Monitor any changes, and Maneuvering in order to practice a few coping skills. Children aren't always as cognitive as adults regarding their feelings. There are cases where students' grades and/or behavior have improved during a deployment due to them feeling that if they had made better grades or behaved in a different way their service member wouldn't have deployed.

As parents and guardians, we often overlook the insights that can be gleaned from the people who spend the most time during the day with our children: their educators. In addition to being as consistent as possible with children during deployment and allowing them to creatively express their feelings, one of the most important things a parent or guardian can do to help a child live in the new normal is to maintain an open line of communication with the teachers and administrators at the child's school.

Being open and honest with educators and guidance counselors during deployment can unlock the secrets to your student's emotional welfare. If you are unsure how you might approach your local

educators and counselors and do not have a School Liason Officer (SLO) available, consider contacting the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC).

The Military Child Education Coalition has the resources available to present a “Living in the New Normal” practicum (1 day) or institute (2 day). The curriculum is geared toward educators and guidance counselors regarding how to help our “Homefront Heroes” better cope with the stresses of deployments. It is a great way for guard volunteers to partner with local educators by providing additional resources available to Military Families. For more information about the Military Child Education Coalition and “Living the New Normal”: www.militarychild.org.

Children:

- Be consistent with discipline
- Help children communicate with absent parent
- Spend special time with children
- Insure proper rest, nutrition, and exercise
- Encourage them to spend time with friends
- Discuss feelings about missing absent parent
- Praise your children
- Be proud of your children and their contributions
- Take good care of yourself



SHOWCASE OF REGIONAL/STATE ACTIVITIES

REGION 2

New York - Army

When and where is your state workshop?

September, 17-19, Saratoga Springs, NY

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Family Programs award showcase is sent out to all staff, Unit Commands/MPOC's and volunteers.

New York - Air

When and where is your state workshop?

September 17-19, Saratoga Springs, NY

How many regional workshops do you have?

2-4 per year

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Volunteer of the Year, FRG of the Year

REGION 3

Delaware

When and where is your state workshop?

25-27 March 2011 Bethany Beach, DE

How many regional workshops do you have?

NA – we have Unit specific training for Deploying Units.

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Choose two of our most active volunteers from the previous year.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

We have a team of adult Volunteers that work in support of Teen Council, Junior Counselor Corps and other youth related events.

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Our first Youth Volunteer training is scheduled for Nov 13.

District of Columbia

When and where is your state workshop?

Sept 24-26, 2010 Leesburg, VA

How many regional workshops do you have?

Once a year

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Volunteer Family of the Year both Air & Army, Outstanding Volunteer

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes.

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes, four times a year at the DC National Guard Armory

Virginia

When and where is your state workshop?

Apr 2010 Virginia Beach, VA

How many regional workshops do you have?

Two

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Awards for all volunteers

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes, 8 members.

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

March 2011, Richmond

REGION 4

Florida

When and where is your state workshop?

There were some funding shortage in the past, but one not schedule ast this time.

How many regional workshops do you have?

3 this year

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Currently drafting a formal volunteer award SOP

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes, 3 volunteer adult advisors with 12 youth members (10 army, 2 air)

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Semi-Annual, next scheduled: fall 2010

Kentucky - Army

When and where is your state workshop?

August 27-29, Lexington

How many regional workshops do you have?

Two

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Outstanding Family Readiness Support and State Volunteer.

Kentucky - Air

When and where is your state workshop?

August 27-29, Lexington

How many regional workshops do you have?

Two (East and West Regions)

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Honorary Guardsmand and Kentucky Colonel

Mississippi

When and where is your state workshop?

September 17, Biloxi

How many regional workshops do you have?

3-4 per year

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Certificate of Appreciation

North Carolina

When and where is your state workshop?

Next on planned for 2011

How many regional workshops do you have?

Five

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Certificate of Appreciation

Tennessee

When and where is your state workshop?

Planned one for 2010

How many regional workshops do you have?

Two

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Volunteer of the Year, FRG of the Year, Commander of the Year.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Re-establishing one currently, both Army and Air Youth.

REGION 5

Illinois

When and where is your state workshop?

In conjunction with NGAI conference in April, location rotates

How many regional workshops do you have?

3 (North, Central, and South)

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Spouse of the Year, Family of the Year, Elizabeth Armstrong and IL plaque

SHOWCASE OF REGIONAL/STATE ACTIVITIES

REGION 5 (continued)

Indiana

When and where is your state workshop?

April, French Lick

How many regional workshops do you have?

None

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Volunteers who attend State Workshop receive certificate based on hours. There are 4 levels and they may receive a lapel pin. Family of the Year (Army/Air), Volunteer of the Year (Army/Air), MPOC of the Year (Army/Air), Community Organization or Individual of the Year.

Michigan

When and where is your state workshop?

April 9-11, Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Individual Meritorious Service Awards, Army/Air Volunteer of the Year, Army/Air Family of the Year

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes, Army and Air Youth

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes, two per year at various locations throughout Michigan

Minnesota

How many regional workshops do you have?

4 (once per quarter)

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

In the works.

Ohio

When and where is your state workshop?

No date given, Columbus

How many regional workshops do you have?

1 (Air)

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Air Family, Air Commander, Air Volunteer

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes, State Conference

Wisconsin

When and where is your state workshop?

April 9-11, Wausau

How many regional workshops do you have?

One

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Certificates of Appreciation, Plaques, State Conference Awards (Rookie of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Innovation Award, and Partnership Award for a MPOC/Volunteer Team).

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Youth Advisory Board

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes, Youth Advisory Board meets quarterly. Youth Symposium is held annually the same weekend/location as annual volunteer workshop

REGION 6

Louisiana

When and where is your state workshop?

21-23 May 2010, New Orleans

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Volunteer of the Year, Family of the Year, FRG of the Year,

and Newsletter of the Year. Both for Army and Air Guard

New Mexico

When and where is your state workshop?

Late Spring/early Summer. Held in different areas of the state.

How many regional workshops do you have?

One

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

FRG of the Year; Deployed FRG of the Year; State Volunteer of the Year; Extra Mile Volunteer of the Year.

Oklahoma

When and where is your state workshop?

We try to hold it the last weekend of FEB

How many regional workshops do you have?

None but we do hold up to four FRG:OP Ready Workshops: (2) Tulsa, (2) OKC

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

The General Spirit Award, FRG of the Year, MLO of the year, FRG Leadership of the year, Volunteer of the year, Community Support of the Year

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

No, it is in the works

Texas

When and where is your state workshop?

11/1/2010 Dallas

How many regional workshops do you have?

Two

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

We have 9 and Hourly Awards.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes - SOMK

REGION 7

Iowa

When is your state workshop?

2010

How many regional workshops do you have?

Twice a year

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Youth Symposium in conjunction with state conference.

Kansas

When and where is your state workshop?

25-27 March – Lawrence, KS

How many regional workshops do you have?

5 times a year in various locations

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Volunteer of the Year, Warrior of the Year, Unit of the Year, Newsletter of the Year, Family of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year. Recognize all volunteers for their hours with a Pioneer award, Frontier award or Horizon award both Army and Air.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

4 December. Topeka, KS

SHOWCASE OF REGIONAL/STATE ACTIVITIES

REGION 7 (continued)

Missouri

When and where is your state workshop?

3rd weekend in April – various cities in state.

How many regional workshops do you have?

Working on putting one together for national. For state we have 4 or more.

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Volunteer of the year for both army and air, 3 additional awards which are presented according to hours and dedicated time put in for the year.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Work in progress.

Nebraska

When and where is your state workshop?

Currently we combine with Wellness Conference and we have it in Omaha, NE

How many regional workshops do you have?

None right now want to implement

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Certificates

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Not yet

REGION 8

Colorado

When and where is your state workshop?

Breckenridge, 2010

How many regional workshops do you have?

Twice a year

North Dakota

When and where is your state workshop?

Bismark 2010; Fargo 2011

How many regional workshops do you have?

Twice a year

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Somewhat the same as Nationals.

Montana

When and where is your state workshop?

Missoula, April 2010

How many regional workshops do you have?

Twice a year in various states in the region

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

FRG of the Year; Volunteer of the Year; Meritorious Service Award

South Dakota

When and where is your state workshop?

Oacoma 2010

How many regional workshops do you have?

Twice a year

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

We follow the ones set for Nationals

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes, we have a State Youth Council with 10 members

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes, we have quarterly Youth Council meetings

Utah

When and where is your state workshop?

November 6 & 7, 2010

How many regional workshops do you have?

Once a year

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

FRG of the Year; Volunteer of the Year; Meritorious Service Award.

Wyoming

When and where is your state workshop?

Currently, Wyoming does not have State Workshop

How many regional workshops do you have?

Twice a year in various states in the region

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Presidents Volunteer Service Award and Army Volunteer Award

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes.

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes, at various locations twice a year

REGION 9

Arizona

When and where is your state workshop?

August 2010, Phoenix March 2011, Phoenix

How many regional workshops do you have?

4 – quarterly. This year starting Welcome to the Guard Family Training for new families, Volunteer Orientation and FRG Leader Round Table/Advanced Training.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Working on it.

California

When and where is your state workshop?

Apr/May – location changes

How many regional workshops do you have?

6 in three main locations – Southern, Northern and Central California

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

(1)Adjutant General's Award for Family Readiness Excellence, (2)Outstanding Family Readiness Group Leader Award (3)Exceptional Volunteer during a Deployment Award (4)Volunteer Hours Awards – California Poppy, Sunshine, Grizzly and Golden State awards.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes.

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

As needed in South, North & Central.

Guam

When and where is your state workshop?

Tentatively planned for Feb 2011

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

None, they are given at the MACOM or unit level.



SHOWCASE OF REGIONAL/STATE ACTIVITIES

REGION 9 (continued)

Hawaii

When and where is your state workshop?

August, Waikiki.

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

From Advisory Council – one Volunteer of the Year from each island.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Working on it.

Nevada

When and where is your state workshop?

Planning March 12-13, 2011 in Reno and March 26-27, 2011 in Las Vegas.

How many regional workshops do you have?

None

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

None at this time.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes.

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

April in Las Vegas and May in Reno.

REGION 10

Alaska

When and where is your state workshop?

May 21-22, Anchorage

How many regional workshops do you have?

12 Regional and 1 State

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

Air and Army Volunteer of the Year; Business of the Year; Family of the Year; Regional Awards.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes we do

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes, Trainings monthly

Idaho

When and where is your state workshop?

April 23 – 24, Nampa

Oregon

When and where is your state workshop?

September 24-25, Seaside

What type of state awards are there for the volunteers?

In the works.

Do you have a State Youth Team Panel?

Yes

Is there training for Youth Volunteer Panel?

Yes

There were no responses from Region 1 and several states, in various other regions, did not respond to this survey in time for this issue.

We hope to provide this information to you in a later issue. And include updated information from those listed in this issue!

MILITARY FAMILY MONTH, 2010 THE PROCLAMATION

We owe each day of security and freedom that we enjoy to the members of our Armed Forces and their families. Behind our brave service men and women, there are family members and loved ones who share in their sacrifice and provide unending support.

During Military Family Month, we celebrate the exceptional contributions of our military families, and we reaffirm our commitments to these selfless individuals who exemplify the highest principles of our Nation.

Across America, military families inspire us all with their courage, strength, and deep devotion to our country. They endure the challenges of multiple deployments and moves; spend holidays and life milestones apart; juggle everyday tasks while a spouse, parent, son, or daughter is in harm's way; and honor the service of their loved ones and the memory of those lost.

Just as we hold a sacred trust to the extraordinary Americans willing to lay down their lives to protect us all, we also have a national commitment to support and engage our military families.

They are proud to serve our country; yet, they face unique challenges because of that service. My Administration has taken important steps to help them shoulder their sacrifice, and we are working to ensure they have the resources to care for themselves and the tools to reach their dreams.

We are working to improve family resilience, enhance the educational experience of military children, and ensure military spouses have employment and advancement opportunities, despite the relocations and deployment cycles of military life. Our historic investment to build a 21st-century Department of Veterans Affairs is helping to provide our veterans with the benefits and care they have earned.

We are also standing with our service members and their families as they transition back into civilian life, providing counseling as well as job training and placement. And, through the Post-9/11 GI Bill, our veterans and their families can pursue the dream of higher education.

However, Government can only do so much. While only a fraction of Americans are in military families, all of us share in the responsibility of caring for our military families and veterans, and all sectors of our society are better off when we reach out and work together to support these patriots.

By offering job opportunities and workplace flexibility, businesses and companies can benefit from the unparalleled dedication and skills of a service member or military spouse. Through coordination with local community groups, individuals and organizations can ensure our military families have the help they need and deserve when a loved one is deployed.

Even the smallest actions by neighbors and friends send a large message of profound gratitude to the families who risk everything to see us safe and free.

As America asks ever more of military families, they have a right to expect more of us -- it is our national challenge and moral obligation to uphold that promise. If we hold ourselves to the same high standard of excellence our military families live by every day, we will realize the vision of an America that supports and engages these heroes now and for decades to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2010 as Military Family Month. I call on all Americans to honor military families through private actions and public service for the tremendous contributions they make in support of our service members and our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

MONTH OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY

We have all heard the heart warming stories of citizens paying for a Soldier's meal at a restaurant, applauding their presence on an airline flight and thanking them for their service, but this month we will be thinking of their families.

Take a moment to reflect on all they do for our Armed Forces and our country. Military families remain steadfast during the unique hardships that only military families face.

Frequent moves, deployments, long-distance parenting, and reunions after deployment are just some of the demands of military life.

Military families are aware that active service has its risks, yet we find the family members providing encouragement and support to our Soldiers as they protect our freedom.

Military families are independent, patriotic and strong allowing our Armed Forces to stay strong and focused on their mission.

November is the month we recognize our military families for all their contributions to our country and communities.



IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

Military Spouse Intern Program Extended through 2011: This program is for Non-DOD federal agencies. Participating agencies are reimbursed by DOD for salary, benefits, and training costs for the first year of employment of the military spouse. Visit the OSD Office of Civilian Personnel web site at http://www.cpms.osd.mil/MilSpouse/milspouse_index.aspx <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/MilSpouse/milspouse_index.aspx

ON LINE WEBINAR TRAINING

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION SERIES (VMDS)

Have you participated with any of the FREE Volunteer Webinar Training? NO? Why not?

The Volunteer Management Discussion Series – (VMDS) are online webinars (visual online and audio with a toll free telephone number) and discussions offering resources and tools for volunteers. Each month we will offer a different TOPIC that consists of 3 Sessions. Each session begins with a video, followed by a group discussion.

For more information on future VMDS trainings, please go to www.jointservicesupport.org and click on Events and then calendar, or e-mail Deanna.l.cole@us.army.mil.

Take the time and join us. You will be amazed at the great information shared here! And remember, this has been created for YOU - the volunteer. Why not visit?

November 2010

TOPIC:

Volunteer Activity Tracking & Discussion Board.

11/16 - Session 1: 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM EST

11/18 - Session 1: 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM EST

December 2010

TOPIC:

Communication is Key – Volunteer Involvement

12/2 - Session 1: 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM EST

12/7 - Session 1: 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM EST

12/9 - Session2: 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM EST

12/14 - Session 2: 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM EST

12/16 - Session 3: 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM EST

12/21 - Session 3: 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM EST

To access the webinar schedule document follow these steps:

- Log into the JSS web site.
- Click on Events
- Click on Calendar View
- Within the date of event click on the correct session time you want to attend.
- In the Document block, click on VMDS - date.doc
- A Word document will open with all the sessions for the month with the links to access the webinar. This includes the Topics and talking points.



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