

**STATE OF OHIO
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
2825 West Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789**

AGOH-JO-FR

6 October 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR All Ohio Army National Guard Family Readiness Groups

SUBJECT: Reunion Briefs for Units Returning From Mobilization

1. One of the most critical goals for the state family readiness program is to ensure that soldiers' families receive the highest quality Reunion Brief prior to their loved one returning from deployment. This guidance letter applies to all Family Readiness Group Leaders (FRGL) and Rear Detachment Officers (RDO), it outlines what is expected of this brief, what should not be included as part of this briefing day, and how to ensure the brief is planned and scheduled appropriately. The purpose of the Reunion Brief is to prepare family members for reunion with the soldier considering the different perspectives of both the deployed soldier and the family during the separation. The soldier will be receiving a similar briefing for their preparation at the mobilization station just prior to their Welcome Home Ceremony.
2. The brief will include an introduction by one of my Family Readiness staff. This introduction will include a brief explanation of some TRICARE/VA benefit requirements. A professional counselor will follow with a short presentation focusing on soldier and family well being issues tied to a mobilization and subsequent reunion. The final presentation will be hosted by one of our chaplains. The Chaplain will have a short reunion presentation followed by an informal group question and answer "town hall" type meeting. This format has proven to provide the right blend of critical information and opportunity for sharing prior to soldier – family reunion without overwhelming families with too much information that sometimes misses the purpose of the brief.
3. There should be no other brief scheduled for this days briefing. If a unit FRGL or RDO wishes to have additional speakers, they must participate on another day. The approved model for the Ohio Army National Guard Reunion Brief is as outlined above. There is no reason that other organizations could not be in attendance during the Reunion Brief, hosting information tables in place of giving presentations. We recognize that the Reunion Brief will likely be tied to a scheduled monthly Family Readiness Group (FRG) meeting and that some FRG business will be necessary. Please consider limiting this FRG business as is practical.

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4. Reunion Briefs should be scheduled directly with Larry Hale at the State Family Readiness Office at (800) 589-9914. Mr. Hale will be contacting unit RDOs to work with their FRGs 90 days in advance of a unit's expected return from duty. Please contact his office 60 days prior to the expected return of your soldiers' unit if you have not been contacted. Finally, if at all possible, please schedule these briefs on a Saturday as most of our chaplains are leading Sunday church services. Sunday's certainly can be accommodated if it best serves your families.

5. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your regional Family Assistance Center or LTC Bramlish, at (614) 336-7352 or robert.bramlish@oh.ngb.army.mil .

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

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