



Ready Families... Anytime, Anywhere

# BUCKEYE FAMILIES

## January 2008

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*Educate, Communicate and Market Family Readiness*

### Contracted Family Assistance Centers

Angela Dyer/Gary Reed – Columbus*	800-589-9914
Michelle Gire – Columbus	800-589-9914
Cyndi Caron/Margret Szymanski – Bowling Green	866-278-5755
Brian Via – Cincinnati	866-278-5757
Jennifer Moore – Portsmouth/Chillicothe	866-270-8283
Joyce Stingel/Melissa Wise – Akron/Canton	866-278-5756
Jerry Wiggins/Robin Robbins – Kettering	866-278-5759

### After Hour or Emergency Contacts:

Diana Whatmough	330-523-0055
CPT Katie Enochs	614-302-8228

### Contracted State Youth Coordinator

Sue Ann Carroll	877-460-2177
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### Air Wing Program Coordinators

Carolyn Ebert – Rickenbacker*	614-492-4417
Jane Esprit – Springfield*	937-525-2583
Faline Rowland – Mansfield*	419-520-6600
Judy York – Toledo*	419-868-4550

### Key Support Volunteers

Tina Lee – Treasurer*	614-878-2634
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### Army

Angela Dyer – Columbus*	614-332-3620
Bonnie Swaney – Cincinnati*	937-436-3505
Lorie Venable – Kettering*	937-878-9890
Michelle Buck – Toledo*	419-265-4663
Lillian Collins – Portsmouth/Chillicothe*	740-707-6743

### Air GSU (Geographically Separated Units)

Amy Hernandez – Blue Ash*	513-936-2949
Sara Wilson – Zanesville*	740-345-4959

### Transition Assistance Advisor

Terry Dean	614-336-7349
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### Military One Source Consultant

Mike Magnusson	614-336-7319
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### Military Family Life Consultant

Drew Henderson	614-336-6000 ext. 1413
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\* Denotes: – Joint Family Council Member

*If you would like to contribute to the Buckeye Family Newsletter about what's happening in your unit, please forward your submission to the editor. The next edition is scheduled for April 2008.*



- ✓ **ML, Commanders and FRG Leader Teams - Mark your Calendars for the 2008 Annual Family Readiness Conference, 4-6 April 2008, in Columbus.**
- ✓ **Annual Reports and Volunteer Award Nominations due 1 February (reports are based on annual training year of Oct. 1, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2007). See our website for forms & samples from last year**
- ✓ **Regional Foundation Course (RFC) Letter Of Instruction was published on 29 September**
- ✓ **Please see our new regional map along with your FAC and Regional Volunteer info on our website @ [www.ong.ohio.gov/family](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/family)**

*From the*

**State Family Program Director**  
**Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Robert Bramlish**

What's new? Well quite a bit. Let me quickly talk about our staffing, while the Joint Volunteer Council continues to provide leadership and guidance to our program; and our FAC staff focuses on working with deployed FRGs and developing local resources for military families and service members – we are hiring a full time family readiness staff member for each of the 5 Army major commands in Ohio. These team members will assist the month to month operations of their respective organization's FRG.

Did you hear about how the Family Mobilization Briefs (FMB) has evolved in Ohio? Not only are the briefings more streamlined but the chaplains added a session called BATTLEMIND which mentors Service Member and spouse/family member on the rigors and changes that will take place before and during a mobilization. We like to say that we added something for the heart in our FMBs. Do you know about the new "Youth Camps" that are conducted on-site during the FMB for all kids 6-17 years old? We are the first state in the union to actually put on a program for the kids as part of the deployment process... team building and building resilient youth. Since we started this new program in SEP 07, we have had over 300 of your children attend... and they loved it! Just ask any spouse in the 37<sup>th</sup> IBCT who had their kids participate this past fall.

ATTENTION: The Adjutant General (TAG) is hosting 6 town hall meeting around Ohio. The intended audience includes: legislators, employers, civic and non-profit groups, local community organizations etc... who have a desire to support our military Families. The goal is to ensure that the general public in Ohio knows were to go if they know of a military Family member who needs assistance OR if they or their organization wants to contribute and assist our military Families. Simply – it is outreach to our communities to enable them to assist you all in meaningful ways.

Finally, if you have questions about your family program or family readiness group... make a call. Contact your unit or contact one of our team members: our FACs, Wing Family Program Coordinators, Volunteer Council members etc. We are here to serve.

### **Joint Family Support Assistance Program – JFSAP**

Ohio serves as one of 15 states participating in the JFSAP three year pilot program. JFSAP; purpose is to create a united community to connect military families with each other and with supportive resources. The JFSAP team will partner with and augment activities of Family Assistance Centers, Guard and Reserve programs including Inter-Service Family Assistance Committees (ISFACs), unit Family Readiness Group Leaders, and other programs and services to build coalitions to connect Federal, state, county and local resources to support Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Service Members and their Families.

The Ohio JFSAP team includes a Military OneSource Consultant, Military and Family Life Consultant, Child and Youth Consultant, Transition Assistance Advisor, Operation Military Kids, and Red Cross representatives. JFSAP Team Members Include:

**Drew Henderson – Military Family Life Consultant**  
Travels throughout the state to provide solution-focused counseling services to individuals, couples, and families for situations resulting from commonly occurring life circumstances. The focus is on hope—identifying problems and then restoring balance to life. Also provides educational programs addressing life skills and military lifestyle topics.  
614-336-6000 ext. 1413 or 614-787-3101  
[drew.henderson@mhn.com](mailto:drew.henderson@mhn.com)

**Mike Magnusson – Military One Source Consultant**  
Serves as MOS regional expert on resources available in the communities where Service Members and their Families reside. Identifies, catalogs and publicizes resources available to Service Members and their Families, including MOS resources. Expands partnerships to bridge the gap between need and current program delivery.  
614-336-7319 or 740-294-4398  
[michael.j.magnusson@militaryonesource.com](mailto:michael.j.magnusson@militaryonesource.com)

**Terry Dean – Transition Assistance Advisor**  
Works with veterans as a conduit to resources within the state. Acts as an advocate for those newly discharged who are transitioning back into the local community, helping to ensure they receive timely, accurate, and appropriate service.  
800-589-9914 or 614-336-7349  
[terry.w.dean@us.army.mil](mailto:terry.w.dean@us.army.mil)

**Vacant – Military Child/Youth Consultant**  
**Vacant – Operation Military Kids**  
**Vacant – Red Cross**

### **HB 372 – Signed into law Effective March 20, 2008**

- Exempts estates of armed forces members who died while serving in a combat zone from probate fees
- Exempts military retirement pay from the income tax
- Provides that reservists and National Guard members may renew their professional licenses within six months after active duty service
- Extends continuing education reporting periods for National Guard members ordered to duty by the Governor
- Provides that standard "Purple Heart" license plates be issued without charge.
- Designates Interstate Routes 70 and 71 as the "Purple Heart Trail"
- Authorizes the display of combat battle stars on certain special combat or military license plates – (No later than June 20, 2008)

- Prohibits discrimination under the Ohio Civil Rights Commission Law and certain other laws on the basis of military status
- Requires the Attorney General to appoint a staff member of the Consumer Protection Division to expedite certain cases or issues raised by a person, or the person's immediate family, who is deployed on active duty
- Grants certain military persons additional civil service
- Requires relevant military experience to be considered in continuing education determinations

### **Tax Season!!! ... And the Good News Is...**

#### **Military OneSource**

Beginning January 14, 2008, Military OneSource will once again provide free tax preparation services to military service members and their families during this tax season!

- ❑ Military OneSource is offering free tax preparation services through the H&R Block TaxCut program.
- ❑ Those eligible for the program are active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status), spouses and dependent children (authorized in DEERS), family members handling the affairs of a deployed service member, and severely injured service members or family members handling their affairs.
- ❑ To take part you must register by going online to Military OneSource [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

#### **Operation CPA**

The Ohio Society of CPAs is once again sponsoring Operation CPA in partnership with the Ohio National Guard and Ohio's Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee. CPAs from throughout Ohio have volunteered their time and expertise to prepare 2007 tax returns free of charge for deployed Ohio residents this filing season.

- ❑ Military personnel who are Ohio residents currently deployed outside of the state will qualify for free preparation of their 2007 individual or joint local, state and federal personal tax returns.
- ❑ To take part in Operation CPA, qualified service personnel or their spouse or family member may call The Ohio Society of CPAs toll-free at **888-959-1212** or e-mail [cpanswers@ohio-cpa.com](mailto:cpanswers@ohio-cpa.com) Military personnel will be matched with a CPA volunteer from their area.

### **Spirit of Truth Church provides 40 bikes to National Guard families just in time for Christmas!**

In mid December the Family Programs office received a call from Chuck Vaughn of Columbus Ohio who explained that their church organization does an annual ministry in Southern and Appalachian Ohio. They had an abundance of new bicycles for distribution this year and their desire was to help National Guard families.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> FAC Specialists Brian Via (Cincinnati) and Jennifer Moore (Portsmouth/Chillicothe) traveled to Spirit of Truth Church in Washington Courthouse to pick up 40 bikes that were graciously donated to our National Guard Families.

Pictured below are Brian Via, Chuck and Mary Alice Vaughn, and Jennifer Moore getting ready to load a National Guard truck with brand new bicycles. Also pictured are Jennifer Moore and Mary Tackett (1191<sup>st</sup> EN) with her son picking up a 26 inch 12 speed Jeep Cherokee bicycle. You should have seen him take a test trip down the armory hall on his new bike!

We'd like to thank Spirit of Truth Ministries and Chuck and Mary Alice for making Christmas special for our military kids. Also, special thanks to Ed Swaney, Recruiting Administrative Support (RSP), SFC Kevin Wallace, and SSG Eli Palmer (1191<sup>st</sup> EN) for assisting with the pickup and delivery of these bikes to Cincinnati and Chillicothe for distribution to our National Guard Families.



Brian Via, Chuck & Mary Alice Vaughn, Jen Moore



Mary Tackett with her son and FAC Jen Moore



## Automated Phone Tree Vendor Change

We are currently working with a new vendor who will maintain our automated phone tree system. Remember that the automated phone tree does not replace your manual phone tree. It is simply a tool used to help you to make mass calls by recording one message. We believe that this new system will offer additional flexibility as well as other features that include ease of use. Stay tuned for more information on using this new system within the next several weeks.

## PREP 2008 Marriage Enrichment Workshops

The Ohio National Guard Chaplain's and Family Programs Office in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives have teamed up to offer you a truly outstanding program known as PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program).

Eligibility: This free program is available to any of the following *married couple*:

- Any CURRENT Ohio National Guard or Reserve service member and their spouse.
- Any RETIRED OR FORMER Ohio National Guard or Reserve service member and their spouse who deployed post SEP 11, 2001 for the GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR OR OTHER CONTINGENCY TYPE MISSION.

Saturday's event begins at 9:00 am, continuing all day (including lunch) and concludes in time for you and your spouse to enjoy a relaxed evening on your own. Sunday's session begins with breakfast and runs from 8 am to 12 pm. As this year's spring events are all hosted at Ohio state parks, following the workshop you can enjoy the outdoors before traveling home.

Register on-line at [www.ong.ohio.gov/family](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/family)

### Sat/Sun 15 & 16 March 2008

Punderson State Park/Cleveland area  
11755 Kinsman Road  
Newbury, OH 44065-9684

**Suspense date for Registration: February 29**

### Sat/Sun 29 & 30 March 2008

Hueston Woods State Park/Dayton area  
5201 Lodge Road  
College Corner, OH 45003

**Suspense date for Registration: March 14**

### Sat/Sun 26 & 27 April 2008

Deer Creek State Park/Columbus area  
20635 Waterloo Road

Mt. Sterling, OH 43143

**Suspense date for Registration: April 11**

### Sat/Sun 26 & 27 April 2008

Maumee Bay State Park/Toledo area  
1750 State Park Road  
Oregon, OH 43618-9713

**Suspense date for Registration: April 11**

### Sat/Sun 3 & 4 May 2008

Salt Fork State Park/Cambridge area  
14755 Cadiz Road  
Lore City, OH 43755

**Suspense date for Registration: April 18**

## **KID'S KORNER** **Ohio National Guard Youth Program**

### **Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo 2007**

A recent event that was a huge success was our Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the hard work of many people and the Columbus Zoo for offering the ½ price admission for military families, we had nearly 500 military members and their families take advantage of this special event! We had FREE hot beverages, sandwiches and cookies at our "Warming Station" and we also took lots of "Fun Family Photos". This was another great event that offered our families the opportunity to come together with other military families and share in a wonderful evening of family fun at a great price!



1LT Mark Federle and family at the Columbus Zoo

### **Our Military Kids Grant Program**

Our Military Kids is a Grant Program that has been a huge success in Ohio. They have provided over \$50,000 to Ohio's Military kids to help them stay involved in extracurricular activities during their loved ones

deployment. With the recent Brigade deployment now is the time to contact them to apply for your grant.

If the answer is YES to any of the following questions, **Our Military Kids** grant program may be able to help.

- Are you or your spouse deploying or deployed overseas?
- Do you have school-aged children who play sports?
- Or do they take dance, music or arts classes?
- Maybe they would they like to try something new... like Karate?
- Could your child benefit from a tutor to stay at their grade level?

**Our Military Kids grant** pays the fees (**one activity per child up to \$500**) for children in grades K–12 of deployed Reserve and National Guard to participate in youth sports, fine arts, and tutor programs. This is a way of recognizing the sacrifices the entire family is making while the service member is deployed overseas. **Please keep in mind the one activity limit so you may want to be selective about which activity you choose in order to get the most out of the grant.**

**Questions:**

[www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org) or call:

Toll Free: 1-866-691-6654 or 703-734-6654

**CHILD CARE COSTS GOT YOU DOWN?**  
**CHECK OUT NACCRRA!**

<http://www.NACCRRA.org/military>.



**WOW! \$100 per month minimum for eligible service members! Operation: Military Child Care: (OMCC)** is Child care fee assistance for families of activated or deployed National Guard and Reservist is utilizing licensed child care. All income levels and ranks are eligible. If your service member is currently deployed or getting ready to deploy, you will **WANT TO CHECK THIS OUT!!**

**To apply for this program, families and service members can call 1-800-424-2246 or visit <http://www.NACCRRA.org/military>.**

## Upcoming Events

### **HERO CAMPS**

#### **1 Day Regional Youth Camps**

Beginning in May 2008 the first of 6 regional youth camps will be scheduled. These one Day youth camps focus on leadership, character, critical thinking, and fun with the specific theme of being part of a military family. These camps will be open to youth age 6-17

Also, Parents will have the option of dropping their kids off for this camp or staying for the day to participate in our Parent Course: "Taking time for You". More information will be published in February with registration information, dates and locations.

Also, parents have the option of dropping the kids off for this one day camp or stay themselves and participating in a fun Parents Course: "Taking Time for Yourselves".

More information will be published in February along with registration information.

## **Save the Date!**

**Operation: Military Kids Camp @**  
**Kelleys Island**  
**Our 4<sup>th</sup> Year in a row!!**

Every year just keeps getting better! Our Camp Planning team was the proud recipient of the "National Excellence in Camping Team Award"! A new addition to camp this year will include a Closing Ceremony that the Parents will be invited to attend...watch your unit newsletters and keep checking our website for more info.

**Dates:** August 11-15, 2008

**Registration Begins:** April 1, 2008

**For more information visit:**

<http://operationmilitarykids.ohio4h.org/> or

<http://www.ong.ohio.gov/family/>

**Contact:** Sue Ann Carroll @ 614-336-7456 or  
ILT Aaron Testa @ 614-336-7152