



BUCKEYE FAMILIES

February 2006

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bramlish, State Family Program Director
1LT Katie Enochs, Assistant State Family Program Director
Major Anthony Lam, State Youth Program Officer
Larry Hale Contracted FAC Coordinator
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**Recruit Soldiers and Airmen,
Retain Families!!**

Educate, Communicate and Market Family Readiness

Contracted Family Assistance Centers

Stephanie Bragg – Columbus*	800-589-9914
Cyndi Caron – Walbridge	866-278-5755
David Chrzanowski – Cincinnati	866-278-5757
Jennifer Moore – Portsmouth	866-270-8283
Gary Reed – Mansfield	866-278-5409
Diane Whatmough – Akron/Canton*	866-278-5756
Jerry Wiggins – Kettering	866-278-5759

After Hour or Emergency Contacts:

Stephanie Bragg	330-523-0055
1LT 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

Bonnie Swaney – Cincinnati*	937-436-3505
Theresa Chilton – Columbus*	614-870-8663
Michelle Buck – Toledo*	419-265-4663
Lillian Collins – Portsmouth*	740-707-6743
Mary Renner – Kettering*	937-886-3575

Air GSU

Amy Hernandez – Blue Ash*	513-936-2949
Sara Wilson – Zanesville*	740-345-4959
Alan Nekoranec – Port Clinton*	419-409-0320

State Benefit Advisor

Terry Dean	800-589-9914
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* Denotes: Volunteer – Joint Family Council Member

From the State Family Program Director Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Robert Bramlish

My daughter asked me the other day, “daddy what do you do in the Army and all those others (service members) on TV.” I tried to explain that we help and protect others and that in my job, I am lucky enough to spend my days helping the families of those “others” that are far away from home.

To really help families means:

- Ensuring that they understand the Family Readiness goals.
- Providing the necessary resources to build a volunteer program
- Maintaining it ALL the time, rather than just during mobilization.

Over the next 9 months we will be hosting many training and educational FR events. Our 7-9 April 2006 Annual conference targets FRG leader teams, unit commanders and military liaisons. We will also be hosting 3 one day regional training opportunities beginning in May for the same audience above.

Do you know about our Joint Army and Air Family Readiness Council? We are one of a few select states that truly have this joint council. Most are volunteers with years of FR experience. They get the credit for our program success – they plan our annual conference and regional training program, mentor new FRG teams and attend mobilized FRG meetings along with our FAC staff. They are all listed in the column on the left. If you need support, ideas, advice or a shoulder... call these heroes.

I am often asked what a FRG is supposed to do during a deployment. The answer depends on the needs of the families, maturity of the FRG (Was it strong prior to the mobilization?), and the unit FRG leadership team. In a

Annual Family Readiness Conference 7-9 April, Columbus

nutshell: the FRG should organize in a way that reaches all the families of the unit even when this spans across the state.

Monthly meetings and newsletters should include comments from the deployed commander or leader... how the unit is doing, what they are eating, what can the FRG do to assist etc. Also important are the communication of resources and information important to the families. Tricare may not be an issue for some until 90 days after a deployment; or where do families in need turn for support. There are too many to list military, volunteer and other type organizations that want to assist families of deployed service members. Many FRGs plan time together sharing their highs and lows via pot luck meals, socials, or holiday gatherings.

Finally, please consider embracing all family members. A perceived "non-participative" FRG member might also be caring for an ill parent, handicapped child or overwhelmed with full time employment and 4 children. So I ask that each and every meeting or newsletter reach out to those with additional responsibilities etc. so that when or if they do attend or participate, it is a positive and uplifting experience. Also, lets not forget that many of our FRG members are parents, siblings etc. of our deployed. Activities should take into account this component of a unit's FRG. THANKS!

Recent Town Hall Meeting

On December 10th, 2005 the state FR office hosted a joint Army and Air town hall meeting. Participants included a sampling of recently, soon, and currently deployed FRG members. The goal was to seek improvement in our FR program and supporting service member support programs. We had over 50 participants who provided terrific feedback. MG Wayt, MG Feucht and BG Kambic fielded many questions from the attendees throughout the meeting and have tasked our joint council to evaluate suggestions and propose improvements to our program. You will see some changes in the future... especially in communication to family members. Overall we determined we do many things as a program very well, but must address a few areas.

Look who joined the team!

I am pleased to announce the addition of 1LT Katie Enochs as the Assistant Director of State Family Programs. In this role LT Enochs will serve both the Army and Air National Guard. She has recently contributed to the Ohio Army National Guard mobilization success the last year and half as a mobilization specialist (ADSW) and as a Platoon Leader with the 2-174 ADA. She joins the family

readiness team with a strong background in family studies and project management.

SPC Terry Dean (Ret) joins us as Ohio's first State Benefits Advisor (SBA) for all Ohio National Guard Veterans and their families. Terry was deployed with the 216th Engineer Battalion in 2004 and earned a Purple Heart. He is married with a wonderful 2 year old daughter. If you are a veteran or veteran's family member, contact Terry if you need any assistance with understanding your earned benefits!

Free Tax Preparation from the Ohio Society of CPA's

"The Ohio Society of CPAs and its members want to show support for the men and women in our armed services who are risking their lives for our country," said Clarke Price, president and CEO of The Ohio Society. "Deployed service members have many challenges to deal with professionally and personally, and tax return preparation is just one more thing to worry about. That's where Operation CPA comes in."

Under the Operation CPA program, Reserve and Guard service members who are currently deployed and who are Ohio residents will qualify for free preparation of their 2005 individual or joint local, state and federal personal tax returns. The qualified service member, their spouse or family member simply needs to contact The Ohio Society of CPAs to request assistance. They will then be matched up with a CPA in their geographic area. To take advantage of this program, call The Ohio Society toll-free at 888.959.1212, in Columbus at 614.791.1212, or e-mail the Society at cpanswers@ohio-cpa.com.

No Cost for TurboTax for Servicemembers

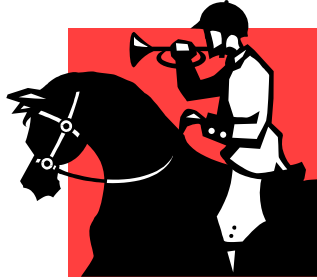
Beginning January 16, 2006, TurboTax is being made available at no cost to servicemembers by the Department of Defense at the [Military OneSource website](#). For more information and current updates, visit the [Military OneSource website](#). To access your 2005 W2 online, visit [myPay](#).

Fundraising

There is some new guidance on fundraising from the Department of the Army that we are evaluating at the State Headquarters. We will be sending out this fundraising information in the next few weeks. Please do not initiate any new fundraising events or activities until we send out the new guidance.

Annual Family Readiness Conference 7-9 April, Columbus

A NIGHT at the RACES!!!!!!



This year at the Annual Family Readiness State Conference scheduled for April 7-9, the Friday night social theme will be a Night at the Races. We will be bringing the thrill of a night at the race track to the Marriott Northwest in Columbus. Hope to see all the FRG leadership teams as well as Commanders and Military Liaisons at the races. See the horses' parade to the post; loading at the starting gate and heart pounding action at the opening gate....and they're off!!! Everyone in attendance will experience the race as if they were actually at the track. All participants will have a chance to WIN something, place their BETS (play money), and SHOW their skills at picking the winning horse. So gather your FRG leadership team, Commander and Liaison and come to a Night at the Races. All materials will be included with the registration fee to the conference. Diana Whatmough will distribute the Registration Packets on February 25th. See you at the Races!



Ohio National Guard Wind Shirts

Family Programs council will be offering an Ohio National Guard Wind Shirt at the Family Readiness State Conference this year. The wind shirt is tan with "Ohio National Guard" embroidered on the left chest. The cost of the wind shirt will be \$35.00 each, and all proceeds will be used for state conference events.

Diana Whatmough
Akron Canton Regional FAC
614-336-6077

DOD Announces Implementation of Traumatic Injury Protection

The Department of Defense announced today the implementation of traumatic injury protection insurance under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program as enacted by section 1032 of Public Law 109-13.

The program, which will be known as TSGLI, is designed to provide financial assistance to service members during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury.

On Dec. 1, all members eligible for SGLI will become insured for traumatic injury protection of up to \$100,000 unless they decline SGLI coverage. A flat monthly premium of \$1.00 will be added to the monthly SGLI deduction, regardless of the amount of SGLI coverage that the member has elected effective Dec. 1.

The retroactive provision of PL 109-13 provides that any service member, who suffers a qualifying loss between Oct. 7, 2001, and Dec. 1, 2005, will receive a benefit under the TSGLI program if the loss was a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For more information, service members should contact their individual service. Points of contact for service members are: Jeanette Mendy at (800) 237-1336 or tsgli@hoffman.army.mil

Department of Defense Launches New Military Spouse Career Center

Education, Training & Career Services Consolidated for Military Spouses

A new Military Spouse Career Center commissioned by the Department of Defense Office of Military Community & Family Policy launched at www.Military.com/spouse. The new resource connects America's 1 million military spouses with education options, scholarships, training programs, career planning tips and employment opportunities. The Center also includes links to the personal support services offered to military families at Military OneSource 24/7 at 1-800-342-9647 and www.militaryonesource.com.

2006 Rates for TRICARE Reserve Select Premiums Established

The TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) monthly premiums for calendar year 2006 shall be \$81 for TRS member-only coverage and \$53 for TRS member and family coverage. This represents an 8.5 percent monthly increase of \$6 per month and \$20 per month respectively over the rates for calendar year 2005.

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Become a Recruiting Assistant and Earn \$2000 with G-RAP

Earn \$2000 for each potential Soldier you bring to your RRNCO who enlists and successfully ships to Basic Training. Recruiting Assistants are embedded in their respective communities and are uniquely positioned to tell the Guard story to potential Soldiers. Citizen-Soldiers can earn valuable additional income by becoming RAs themselves. It's the effective way to promote strength from within.

Go online and get started today at www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com

ESGR Award Recommendations Sought

ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) is soliciting recommendations to recognize employers that have gone "above and beyond" the law in their treatment of service members or their spouses while the service member was deployed. There are many occasions when employers have gone out of their way to provide time off for spouses to prepare for deployments, continued medical benefits, invited families to employer functions and parties, etc, etc. They are limited to honor the very best of these employers. There is an Awards dinner to be held at the Marriott Northwest on 29 April 2006. If you know of a deserving employer contact Chip Augello below.

Anthony Augello, Col, USAF (Ret)
Executive Director, Ohio ESGR
614-336-7444

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSN/ OHIO NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSN AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The ONGEA and ONGEA Auxiliary will be awarding \$1,000 and \$500 scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. There will be a minimum of five and maximum of 10 scholarships awarded.

All scholarship applications must be sent to: **ONGEA Scholarship Chairperson, ATTN: Nancy McDowell, 817 Franklin Ave., Wheelersburg, Ohio, 45694.** Applications must include all required information to be considered. Application forms may be obtained by calling 1-800-642-6642 or (740) 574-5932. **Please submit applications by April 15, 2006.**

Football Players Sponsor Several Million Dollars Worth of SAT/ACT Training

In association with The Department of Defense (DoD), eKnowledge LLC announces that a group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL and CFL football players all represented through the Victory Sports Group Agency, has sponsored several million dollars worth of \$199 SAT and ACT test prep programs for the school year 2005-2006. All military families (all branches—active or retired) are eligible.

To request the \$199 test prep programs, visit MilitaryStudent.org to confirm military status through the secure Department of Defense main Database. That website will then forward you to the sponsorship order page where you can request the programs. The sponsorship will cover the \$199.99 cost for the program. The families pay only the s/h of \$9.95. **Questions:** Please contact: Brandon Chatham - bchatham@eknowledge.com - 951-256-4076

Free Admission to Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks extended

Anheuser-Busch launched "Here's to the Heroes" in February 2005 to acknowledge the service of military men and women and the sacrifices made by their families. The program provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the servicemember and as many as three of his or her direct dependents.

Any active duty, active reserve or Ready Reserve servicemember or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Defense Department photo ID.



From the FRG Tool Box

Regional Training Workshops Scheduled

Our first regional training event for newly assigned FRGS, Company/Unit Commander and Military Liaison is scheduled for 20 May in Toledo. We are also offering this same training event in Akron on 24 June and in Chillicothe on 12 August. Registration information will be released in March.

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Be Heard! – Family Survey

The Army National Guard has created a web based family survey. This survey is an opportunity for family members of guardsmen to give their feedback on how their service members deployment impacted their family, how well the National Guard prepared and cared for the soldier, and finally, how well the family readiness program responded to the needs of the unit family members.

We encourage all members to visit this website and be heard. Let's have a great showing for Ohio so that we may continue to understand the difficulties of our families and seek to ever improve.

<http://www.arngfamilysurvey.com/>

Marriage Enrichment PREP

This years Marriage Enrichment workshops are currently being resourced with the goal of scheduling in the summer and fall of 2006. More information will be released as available

KID'S KORNER

Ohio National Guard Youth Program Submitted by Sue Ann Carroll

The Ohio National Guard Youth Program has been in full swing for nearly a year now! We have had a great year. My intent at the State level is to plan and organize 3-4 events/activities per year that will be state-wide with a target audience of any youth of an Ohio National Guard soldier or airman.

I would like to take this opportunity to **ask you what you want.** I'm looking for some great ideas for events/activities for our youth that will enrich their lives and hopefully build some lasting life skills that will help them throughout their entire life. I am also looking for some feedback on our past events so that we may improve upon them.

I am constantly looking for ways to reach more youth. Any suggestions or great ideas of how to market to our Youth are **WELCOME!** Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or suggestions.

Finally, I would like to form a Youth Program Adult Council. This council will be set up much like the Family Readiness Advisory Council (FRAC) in that representatives would include both Army and Air volunteers. If you or someone you know has a great passion for Youth Programs please contact me or your

local Family Assistance Coordinator as soon as possible.

Upcoming events:



Saturday, June 24, 2006 Summer Fun at the Cincinnati Zoo! This event will include refreshments for Military members and their immediate family members. More information to come as all the details fall into place on this event! Mark your calendar and plan to bring your whole family for a great day of Family Fun!



Operation: Military Kids Camp @ Kelley's Island! August 15-19, 2006. If you were able to attend our weekend camp last year then you know firsthand what a great opportunity is. We have lots of educational and **FUN** activities in store for this week long camp. This camp will be open to dependants of any National Guard or Reserve (any branch) first priority will go to currently deployed service members dependents. **Ages: 9 – 13. Cost: \$35 per camper! WOW!!! What a DEAL!!** Look for more information and a registration packet to come out for this camp on or around **March 1, 2006.** If you have any question about any of the opportunities that you have read about please contact **YOUR Youth Coordinator, Sue Ann Carroll @ 877-460-2177 or email sue.ann.carroll@oh.ngb.army.mil**

Scholarships for Military Children

The Defense Commissary Agency Scholarships for Military Children program begins its sixth year of rewarding academic excellence. Since its inception in 2000, the program has awarded \$1,500 college scholarships to nearly 2,500 military children. For more information see [News: Scholarships for Military Children](#)