

# HHD, 437th MP Bn Welcomes New Family-Readiness Group Leader

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HHD, 437th MP Bn



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The Family Readiness Group (FRG) program is an Army-wide effort to provide much-needed support to the families of deployed soldiers. In addition to providing families with local resources to help prepare for a loved one's deployment, a unit's FRG creates for families a symbiotic community in which its members create for themselves a mutually-supportive foundation of moral support.

At the heart of every FRG is the FRG leader—a volunteer position that can be held by a member of any soldier's family. However, in order to qualify all FRG leaders must complete state-mandated training. Without the strong, centralized, and constant leadership of a dedicated FRG leader, a unit's FRG program cannot function. The Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment of the 437th Military Police Battalion has, until recently, been lacking this central leadership.

Tonia Hartlev, a small business owner and single mother of two, has recently stepped up to fill the FRG Leader position—and she has wasted no time organizing multiple family-oriented events over the past few months.

When asked why she volunteered for the responsibility, Ms. Hartlev explained: "There was a real need for it. Our soldiers only spend a couple days together every month, and only know each other by rank and last-name. A unit needs to be a community *before* being deployed."

Captain Leslie Stroud, commander of HHD, 437th MP Bn, shared a similar opinion during a recent FRG briefing: "The FRG program is, in a way, even more important to National Guard soldiers [as opposed to active-duty]. Active-duty families tend to be surrounded by other active-duty families. That's really not the case here, because our families live all across the state."



**Tonia Hartlev (center) & family pose with SSG Jeremy Martin & family during the HHD, 437th MP Bn Thanksgiving social**

Tonia Hartlev is the mother of SPC Corey Hartlev, a Petroleum Supply Specialist who graduated Initial-Entry Training this past autumn. "I'm very proud of him," said Ms. Hartlev. "My father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and all of my uncles were in the Army. It's a great thing for anybody to put their life on the line for our country."

Though Ms. Hartlev has only been serving as an FRG leader for three months, her exceptional dedication and tireless volunteer spirit have earned her a nomination for the Adjutant General's Volunteer of the Year Award. A passage from the citation, submitted by the HHD, 437th MP Bn commander, reads: "She [Ms. Hartlev] really knows how to build Esprit De Corps amongst the unit."