

Joint Family Support Assistance Program

...supporting West Virginia military families where they live

Operation Purple Camps (OPC) Return to West Virginia

Spring 2010

GREAT NEWS! for military youth in West Virginia—the National Military Family Association recently announced the locations for the 2010 Operation Purple summer camps and WV will once again play host to two of these exciting camping opportunities—Camp Sandy Cove in High View and Camp Twin Creeks in Minnehaha Springs. This free summer camp program was developed by the Association to support military children dealing with the stress of war. Traditional camp [registration](#) begins March 15. In addition to the camps being offered in WV there will be 66 others nationwide.



**Registration Opens
March 15th**

Upcoming Events

- Operation Purple Registration—Online, Mar 15
- Living in the New Normal Training—Beckley, Mar 27
- Ready, Set, Go! Training—Wheeling, Apr 15
- WV National Guard State Family Workshop—Camp Dawson, Apr 23-25

Dealing with the Separation from a Spouse or Child Due to Deployment?

A Red Cross training course ‘Coping with Deployments: Psychological First Aid Training for Military Families’ enables you to learn about:

- Your strengths and how to become even stronger.
- Ways to apply your strengths during times of stress.
- How you can support your family and other military families during challenging times.

Coping with Deployments aims to create hope and give the confidence that not only can we take care of ourselves, but also we can effectively seek help for ourselves during challenging times and assist others in need. Scheduling or attending a Coping with Deployments course is easy, contact [Karen Allen](#) of the American Red Cross at 304-340-3655.

Did You Know?

You can register for Family Programs events at: www.jointservicessupport.org

New Childcare Program for Service Members and their Families



Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force families – you now have a paid membership to Sittercity to help you find the perfect local caregiver for your family.

Sittercity is America’s largest and most trusted website for connecting families with local in-home care providers; **babysitters & nannies, elder care providers, dog walkers** and more!

Find local babysitters, nannies and military caregivers through DoD paid membership to Sittercity!

Sittercity has more than one million in-depth caregiver profiles showcasing the nation’s best sitters with reviews from users, background checks, references and more. Through this program, Sittercity is also a national resource for you to find **CDH/FCC certified, military subsidized or authorized access to an installation** care providers.

Activate your membership today to find sitters right in your neighborhood/installation- takes less than 2 minutes! www.sittercity.com/dod

National Guard Welcomes New Survivor Outreach Specialist

Leigh Ann Hill is the new Survivor Outreach Service Coordinator for the West Virginia Army National Guard. The goal of the program is to improve services for survivors, improve responsiveness and streamline the assistance process for families.

Survivor Outreach demonstrates the Army’s commitment to families of the fallen. This service is a multi-agency approach to delivering services to families where they live. The SOS program identifies the needs of those touched by the loss of a loved one.

The coordinator provides long-term support for survivors; from groups and networks that will give surviving families the opportunity to receive support; works closely with benefits coordinators and the Casualty Assistance Officer to ensure survivors receive needed services, guidance and assistance in regards to State and Federal benefits and entitlements and works with Military Family Honors and offer support services to survivors of our retired service members.

For more information please contact [Leigh Ann Hill](#) at (304) 561-6830.



Survivor Scholarship Opportunities



FOLDS of HONOR FOUNDATION

Deadline: April 10

PAT TILLMAN FOUNDATION

Deadline: April 30

Ready, Set, Go!

Explore Military Culture, the Deployment Cycle, and Get Connected.

What is it like to be a military family in today’s challenging times? What do all those crazy acronyms stand for? What is the Emotional Cycle of Deployment?

The face of military service has changed dramatically. The families of our service men and women face unique challenges—before, during, and after deployment. ‘Ready, Set, Go!’ offers an opportunity to explore military culture, the emotional cycle of deployment, homecoming and reunion, and offers practical information about military groups in your community, the military structure, and those bewildering acronyms!

There are a variety of local and national programs and services for military families—but awareness, access and utilization remains a challenge. ‘Ready, Set, Go!’ provides an opportunity to learn about what’s out there, network, share best practices and build connections for more effective assistance to military families.

The trainings are co-sponsored by the American Red Cross and WV Operation: Military Kids. It is designed to bring individuals and organizations together with the goal of building community capacity to assist military families. Typical participants include educators, counselors, social workers, government agencies, and faith based organizations.

Find out more:

Contact [Richard F. Switzer](#) with Operation: Military Kids at 1-866-731-5733.



NEW from Military OneSource Chill Drills: Relaxing your body and mind

This new audio of relaxation routines designed specifically for service members is provided on a self-contained “Playaway” listening device.

Ease stress before, during, and after deployment

The drills are specially designed to keep service members calm and focused on deployment, and to help ease the stresses of returning home after combat. Service members who start using *Chill Drills* before deployment can find it easier to handle stress later on in the deployment cycle.



For more information on *Chill Drills* please go to www.MilitaryOneSource.com/chilldrills



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Questions or comments? E-mail us at travis.willard@us.army.mil or call (304)561-6831