

# Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services

June 2015



## CYSS CONNECTIONS

### Monthly Highlights:

National Child Vision Awareness Month



- June 14 Flag Day
- June 14 Army Birthday
- June 21 Father's Day

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## Easter Seals

## Military and Veterans Services

Easter Seals has been providing services to help children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as support to their families for nearly 100 years. They assist more than one million individuals and their families annually at more than 550 Easter Seals service sites across the



### MILITARY & VETERANS SERVICES

country, providing innovative, top-quality services. In addition to offering services specifically related to Autism Spectrum Disorder, children, adults, seniors, employment and training, medical rehabilitation, camping and recreation, and brain health, Easter Seals also offers resources and services tailored to meet the needs of veterans and military Families. Through the Easter Seals Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services, the organization seeks to break down barriers, drive a new conversation about the potential of veterans, engage organizations and communities, and connect veterans and military Families with what they need for meaningful employment, education and overall wellness. Easter Seals Dixon Center offers Camp Yellow Ribbon for Military Kids, which offers military Families a break by providing a week of summer fun for 50 military kids, ages 7-14, whose parents have been, are currently, or will be deployed. Camp Yellow Ribbon is offered to military Families of any service branch and provides children with emotional support through traditional summer fun camp activities, while connecting and sharing with other children who understand their military experience.



Easter Seals also offers Community OneSource to veterans and their Families. It can become very challenging for veterans to locate services and benefits, and Easter Seals wants to be able to assist those with challenges to learn, work, play and live within their communities. Community OneSource is available at no charge to all veterans, mobilized reservists and their Families and emphasis is placed on identifying local resources whenever they are available. Contact them at (866) 423-4981 or [veterans@easterseals.com](mailto:veterans@easterseals.com).

Compiled by Courtney Adams, CYSS Specialist, Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC

*CYSS Mission: To support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between military mission requirements and parental responsibilities*



This information has been provided by Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services. For more information on resources and programs, please visit:

[www.ARFP.org/CYSS](http://www.ARFP.org/CYSS)

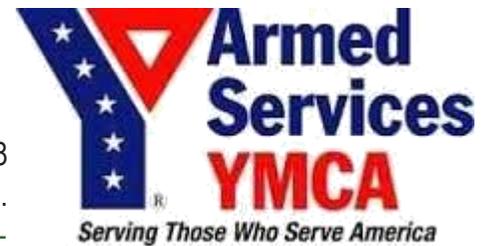
Fort Family Outreach & Support Center assistance is available 24/7 at 866-345-8248 or visit: [www.ARFP.org](http://www.ARFP.org)

## YMCA - DOD Military Outreach Initiative

The YMCA understands that military Families are under enormous strain, and that military life comes with unique challenges. Deployments can be a stressful and uncertain time for Soldiers and their Families. In partnership with the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA), the YMCA offers memberships and respite child care services to eligible military Families and personnel through the Department of Defense's (DoD) Military Outreach Initiative. The ASYMCA has partnered with YMCAs, as well as national and independent fitness centers nationwide, to offer Soldiers and their Families free access to fitness centers and respite child care services. The Military Outreach Initiative gives Soldiers and Families extra support and access to vital resources that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. It's another way of giving back to those who dedicate themselves to serving our country. More than 1,500 Community YMCAs, and more than 1,400 national and independent fitness centers nationwide participate in the Military Outreach Initiative, and since 2008, more than 125,000 military children have been impacted by this program.

Memberships will be funded at participating YMCA's throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for individuals in the following groups and their Families:

1. Families of Guard/Reserve personnel who are deployed for a minimum of six months under Title 10 orders are eligible for YMCA membership not to exceed 18 months (which includes Service member three months pre and post deployment). <http://www.asymca.org/programs/ymca-dod-military-outreach-initiative/families-of-guardreserve-personnel/>
2. Respite childcare is available for military children up to age 12 at participating locations for up to 16 hours of respite child care per month, per child, based on the requirements by the Department of Defense. For additional information, go to: <http://www.asymca.org/programs/ymca-dod-military-outreach-initiative/7371-2/>



Approved personnel may join any **participating** YMCA branch.

The initial membership is six months. In order to extend, the Soldier or a Family member must use the YMCA at least eight days each month. Soldiers who are TDY may make arrangements to log "away" visits while they are gone.

Typically, YMCA locations have a pool and most offer free child care while parents exercise. Some also offer a military discount on fee-based services like swim lessons and youth sports. The YMCA can be a great place to meet new friends, relieve stress, enjoy swimming and other activities with the family, and improve health and fitness.

**For more information about Armed Services YMCA and the YMCA - DOD Outreach Initiative go to:**

[http://www.armymwr.com/recreisure/sportsandfitness/ymca\\_memberships.aspx](http://www.armymwr.com/recreisure/sportsandfitness/ymca_memberships.aspx)

*Compiled by Harpa Magnusdottir and Virginia Brannan, CYSS Specialists, Contractors: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC*



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# National Military Family Association

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) was founded in 1969 by a small group of military wives to ensure widows were properly taken care of. The Survivor Benefit Plan became law 2 years later, and the Association has been hard at work ever since. Today, the NMFA is comprised mainly of military spouses and former military members. They are advocates and subject matter experts in the area of military family needs, issues, and benefits.



**NATIONAL  
MILITARY FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION**

Together we're stronger

NMFA has worked hard advocating for the Families of the men and women who serve. They offer a wide variety of information and resources through their website that includes helpful topics such as health care, deployment, special needs, survivors, and more. NMFA also offers many programs and camps for Army Reserve youth and their Families.

**Operation Purple Camps** are unique and memorable summer camps for military kids age 7 to 17 with the goal of helping kids deal with the stresses that result from their parent(s) being deployed. Operation Purple Camps Fact Sheet: <http://www.militaryfamily.org/assets/pdfs/fact-sheets/operation-purple-camps-fact-sheet.pdf>



For more information on the National Military Family Association and their programs and services visit:

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/>

Compiled by Daniel Aukst, CYSS Specialist, Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC



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**Operation Purple Family Retreats** provide Families with the opportunity to reconnect by offering fun family-oriented activities and the ability to spend quality time together.



Operation Purple Family Retreats bring Families from all uniformed services, including National Guard and Reserve, to beautiful outdoor locations to spend quality time reconnecting after a deployment. With other military Families there to share the experience, it's the perfect environment to meet and bond with others in the same phase of military life. Operation Purple Family Retreat Fact Sheet: <http://www.militaryfamily.org/assets/pdfs/fact-sheets/family-retreas-fact-sheet.pdf>



**Operation Purple Healing Adventure** is a special retreat program that is designed to support wounded service members and their Families. Operation Purple Healing Adventures Fact Sheet: <http://www.militaryfamily.org/assets/pdfs/fact-sheets/healing-adventures-fact-sheet.pdf>

**MyMilitaryLife APP** is a smartphone app that is a trusted one-stop-shop providing Families with credible information tailored to a specific situation. MyMilitaryLife App Fact Sheet: <http://www.militaryfamily.org/assets/pdfs/fact-sheets/mymilitarylife-fact-sheet.pdf>

# Youth Leadership, Education and Development (YLEAD): Summer 2015 Dates & Cities

Youth Leadership, Education and Development (YLEAD) trainings support CYSS' mission, and provides an opportunity for Army Reserve teens to come together, learn new skills and build new connections.

At YLEAD, Army Reserve youth:

- ◆ Connect with one another
- ◆ Participate in activities that promote success at home, in school, and within the community
- ◆ Learn more about the Army Reserve
- ◆ Find out how to make a difference in the lives of Army Reserve Families
- ◆ Discover ways to become involved through partnerships with teens, adults, and community-based programs.



YLEAD participants engage in several sessions that promote resilience and leadership skills such as communication, decision making, exploring interests, and youth-adult partnerships. Team building activities help youth make connections and learn to work together. A service learning project is also conducted, and past YLEAD participants have done beach clean-ups, sorted and packed food at a food bank, and helped paint The Fisher House. Youth have the opportunity to visit the city where YLEAD is held through educational and fun outings.

YLEAD is open to Army Reserve teens ages 14\*-17, who are entered in DEERS, and who reside in the states indicated for each region.  
\*must be 14 **and** entering the 9th grade

YLEAD is offered at no cost, as youth are placed on travel orders which cover transportation, lodging and meals. The youth then becomes a volunteer for the Command, and is able to apply lessons learned at the next Family Day, FRG meeting, Yellow Ribbon event or other Family Programs-approved event. To register, visit <http://arfp.org/cyssstatecamps.php>

Region	Date/Location*	Contact CYSS Specialist Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	Phone
<i>Southeast</i> AL, AR, TX, MS, FL, GA, LA, SC, NC, TN	July 6-10 Dallas, TX	Andretta Smith andretta.j.smith.ctr@mail.mil	832-380-7341
<i>West Coast</i> CA, WA, OR, NV, AZ, ID, MT, UT, NM, CO,	July 13-17 Dallas, TX	Danielle Peschon danielle.s.peschon.ctr@mail.mil	910-396-8562
<i>Atlantic</i> Puerto Rico	July 20-24 Fajardo, PR	Barbara Rodriguez barbara.i.rodriguez.ctr@mail.mil	787-931-2132
<i>Midwest</i> WY, NE, MN, WI, IN, IL, IA, MI, KY, MO, ND, SD, KS, OK, OH	August 3-7 Bloomington, MN	Valerie Morgan valerie.m.morgan5.ctr@mail.mil	504-558-5603
<i>Northeast</i> MA, NH, VT, ME, DE, RI, CT, NY, NJ, MD, VA, DC, PA, WV	August 10-14 Bloomington, MN	Joyce Hall joyce.m.hall.ctr@mail.mil	502-624-2450

\* Note: AR CYSS is awaiting USARC HQ final approval for the YLEADs



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## Command Teen Council Joint Training July 13-17, 2015

Command Teen Council members are educators, representatives and the voice of Army Reserve youth. They provide valuable, accurate information and support to their peers, Families, community members and the command they represent. Members of Teen Councils from commands listed below are invited to attend the training in Dallas, TX from July 13-17, 2015.

Teen Council members will have the opportunity to build their skills in resilience, by participating in the newly-released teen version of the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) Training.



Teens will increase their awareness of volunteerism by participating in a service learning project, and will build new relationships with other youth while participating in team building exercises.

At the training, youth will engage in the Teen Issue Forum, which helps identify quality of life issues currently affecting Army Reserve youth, and will recommend solutions to resolve those issues.

For questions about Teen Council, or to register for the training in Dallas, TX, contact the appropriate CYSS command specialist listed below.



Command	CYSS Specialist	Phone Number	Email
1 MSC	Barbara Rodriguez, Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	787-931-2132	<a href="mailto:barbara.i.rodriguez.ctr@mail.mil">barbara.i.rodriguez.ctr@mail.mil</a>
75 TNG CMD	Andretta Smith, Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	832-380-7341	<a href="mailto:andretta.j.smith.ctr@mail.mil">andretta.j.smith.ctr@mail.mil</a>
80 TNG CMD	Ann Nacino, Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	562-936-7633	<a href="mailto:xania.d.nacino.ctr@mail.mil">xania.d.nacino.ctr@mail.mil</a>
84 TNG CMD	Joyce Hall , Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	502-624-2450	<a href="mailto:joyce.m.hall.ctr@mail.mil">joyce.m.hall.ctr@mail.mil</a>
108 TNG CMD	Carlisha Martin, Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	704-339-5002	<a href="mailto:carlisha.m.martin.ctr@mail.mil">carlisha.m.martin.ctr@mail.mil</a>
316 ESC	Clarence Washington ,Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	412-604-8203	<a href="mailto:clarence.t.washington.ctr@mail.mil">clarence.t.washington.ctr@mail.mil</a>
335 SC(T)	Wendy Golden, Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	678-420-1610 ext. 2941	<a href="mailto:wendy.m.golden2.ctr@mail.mil">wendy.m.golden2.ctr@mail.mil</a>
416 TEC	Matthew Mundy, Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	630-739-7281	<a href="mailto:matthew.p.mundy.ctr@mail.mil">matthew.p.mundy.ctr@mail.mil</a>
200 MP CMD	Prince Amartey, Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	301-677-1579	<a href="mailto:prince.amartey.ctr@mail.mil">prince.amartey.ctr@mail.mil</a>



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## Command/Unit Updates



Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) staff, visited Colegio Santisimo Rosario, Yauco and Colegio Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, San Juan both private local schools. Mrs. Elsa Cortes, Family Programs Director (FPD) provided an Army Reserve Family Programs (ARFP) overview. Meanwhile, the Youth Services Specialist (YSS) provided a CYSS overview and supplied teachers with printed material with tools to work with military children. School, Academic, Homework, Tutoring and other CYSS information and resources can be found at <http://www.arfp.org/resources.php#cyss>.

CYSS staff work with educators to increase their understanding of the military lifestyle, deployment cycle and school transition issues and their potential impact on the social, emotional and academic well-being of Army Reserve children and youth.

If you would like a Youth Services Specialist to coordinate a visit to your child's school, please contact the nearest staff member:

Fort Buchanan:  
Mrs. Janeska Barrientos  
Contractor, Odyssey-TCI  
787-707-4079

Aguadilla:  
Mrs. Barbara Rodriguez  
Contractor, Odyssey-TCI  
787-931-2132



Ms. Elsa Cortes, Family Program Director at the 1st MSC, speaking to teachers about Family Programs

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## Community Events JUNE 2015

Please note that events listed in this newsletter, with the exception of AR CYSS events, are not endorsed by the Army Reserve and are provided only for community awareness.

# What's Happening in Your Neck of the Woods...

Name of Event	City	State	Dates	Age Group	POC/Website
Teen Bowling	Fort Buchanan	PR	Mondays- Thursdays 3pm-5pm	Teens	787-707-2695
Family Martial Arts Taekwondo	Fort Buchanan	PR	Fridays 5pm-6pm	5-18 years old	787-707-3787
Amazing Stars	Fort Buchanan	PR	Saturdays 10am-11am	2-5 years old	787-707-3541
World's Largest Swimming Lesson @ The Water Spout	Fort Buchanan	PR	June 18	4 years old & up	787-707-3550
Junior Summer Golf Camp @ Fort Buchanan Golf Course	Fort Buchanan	PR	July 13-17	7-16 years old	787-707-3980

**YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN CHECKING THE FOLLOWING LINKS REGULARLY FOR EVENTS IN YOUR AREA:**

**CYSS Events:** [www.arfp.org/cysssstatecamps.php](http://www.arfp.org/cysssstatecamps.php)

**4-H:** [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org)

**YMCA:** [www.ymca.net/](http://www.ymca.net/)



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## Resources and Web Links

# For Deployed, AGR, Wounded, Ill, Injured or Fallen Soldiers



**Army Fee Assistance** is provided by General Services Administration (GSA,) working with those who serve in the military find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through the fee assistance program, Families are eligible to receive monthly fee assistance to help offset the cost of child care in their communities. For more information visit, [http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare\\_portal](http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare_portal).

**Army Respite Care** The Army Respite Child Care will provide the family between 8 to 16 hours of hourly child care each month for each of the eligible children. Parents can use this time to run errands, attend appointments, or just take some well-deserved time out for themselves. The Army recognizes the challenges and extraordinary stress the parents and their Families may be experiencing, and wants to help support them in meeting their unique child care needs. Eligibility: Deployed; Temporary Change of Station; Unaccompanied Permanent Change of Station; Temporary Duty; Wounded, Ill or Injured Status; Survivors of Fallen Warriors.



**Our Military Kids** provides grants for K-12 youth dependents of overseas deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel or severely injured Service Members. Visit: [www.ourmilitarykids.org/](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/)

## For Various Duty Statuses



**Army Reserve Family Programs** provides programs, training, services, resources, youth programming and camping opportunities to Army Reserve Families. Visit: [www.arfp.org/](http://www.arfp.org/)



**Military OneSource** provides an online library, web resources, and non-medical counseling to military Families. Visit: [www.militaryonesource.mil/](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/)



**Military Kids Connect (MKC)** is an online community of military children (ages 6-17) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return. Visit: <http://militarykidsconnect.t2.health.mil>



**Zero to Three** has information and resources for parents of infants and toddlers. A new phone app, "Babies on the HomeFront", provides military and veteran parents with strategies for enhancing everyday moments with their child. Visit: <http://zerotothree.org/>



**Military Child Education Coalition Military (MCEC)** is a non-profit organization focusing on academic and school-related needs of military-connected youth. Visit: [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)



**National Military Family Association** has programs that provide military Families with camps, Family retreats, and healing adventures during deployment, reintegration, and coming together after an injury. Visit <http://www.militaryfamily.org/>



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The mission of Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services is to support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between Military Mission requirements and parental responsibilities.



**Family Programs Director**

**Ms. Elsa Cortes**

1st Mission Support Command  
Family Programs Center  
353-A, Wilson Rd  
Fort Buchanan, PR 00934  
Phone: 787-707-4082  
Email: [elsa.f.cortes.civ@mail.mil](mailto:elsa.f.cortes.civ@mail.mil)

Contact **Ms. Cortes** for assistance with:

- Family Support Services
- Family Programs Training



**Youth Services Specialist (YSS)**

**Mrs. Janeska Barrientos**

Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC  
1st Mission Support Command, 166th RSG  
353-A, Wilson Rd  
Fort Buchanan, PR 00934  
Phone: 787-707-4079  
Email: [janeska.m.barrientos.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:janeska.m.barrientos.ctr@mail.mil)

Contact **Mrs. Barrientos** for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
- Weekend Events and Activities
- Child Care Resources
- Youth Programming
- Teen Council



**Youth Services Specialist (YSS)**

**Mrs. Barbara Rodriguez**

Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC  
1st Mission Support Command, 210th RSG  
Cliff Road Bldg. 807, #126  
Ramey USAR Center, Aguadilla, PR 00604  
Phone: 787-233-5191  
Email: [barbara.i.rodriguez.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:barbara.i.rodriguez.ctr@mail.mil)

Contact **Mrs. Rodriguez** for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
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- Child Care Resources
- Youth Programming
- Teen Council



**Stay connected with the 1st MSC!**



Find us on  
**Facebook**



If you are not part of the 1st MSC, but you reside in Puerto Rico, contact one of the CYSS staff members above.



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