Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services

June 2015

CYSS CONNECTIONS

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

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 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.

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

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

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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-initative/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-initative/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/recleisure/sportsandfitness/ymca_memberships.aspx

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

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

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

OperationPurple
A program of the National Military Family Association

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

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

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
Southeast 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
West Coast 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
Atlantic Puerto Rico	July 20-24 Fajardo, PR	Barbara Rodriguez barbara.i.rodriguez.ctr@mail.mil	787-931-2132
Midwest 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
Northeast 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/Unit Updates

THE SPOTLIGHT

Survivor Outreach Services Presents..

A Financial Planning presentation

Topic : Saving and Investing for Your Future

Given by:

Joseph Parisi, CFP

Contact Joe at 609-562-7872 or joseph.m.parisi.ctr@mail.mil

June 4th

Time: 12:00–12:45

99th RSC drill hall

Mission: Army Reserve Family Programs provide Commanders with relevant and responsive quality-of-life programs and services in support of Soldiers, Families, and DA Civilians.

Vision: An Army Reserve community -educated, empowered, and unified by ready and resilient Soldiers and Families.

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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
Military Kids Home Front Deployment Camp	Smyrna	Delaware	5-7 June	Ages 8-12	POC: Rhonda Martell 302-730-4000 delawaremilitary4h@gmail.com http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/
Military Youth: Up for the Challenge Camp	Smyrna	Delaware	13-17 July	Ages 8-12	POC: Rhonda Martell 302-730-4000 delawaremilitary4h@gmail.com http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/
Military Makers Day Camp- Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose	Redwood	New York	19-24 July	Ages 11-15	POC: Lori Robinson 315-788-8450 Ext 319 lmr92@cornell.edu Register: http://www.ccejefferson.org
Saddle Up and Serve	Barnstable	Massachu-setts	27-31 July	Ages 11-14	POC: Kerry Bickford 508-375-6695 kbickford@barnstablecounty.org http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/youth_camps/youth_camp_massachusetts_saddle_up.html
Military Kids Discovery Camp	Burlington	Vermont	3-7 Aug	Ages 13-17	POC: Stephanie Albaugh 802-656-0346 Stephanie.albaugh@uvm.edu Register: https://military-discovery-camp-vt2015.eventbrite.com
Military Camo Kids Camp	Smyrna	Delaware	3-7 Aug	Ages 8-18	POC: Rhonda Martell 302-730-4000 delawaremilitary4h@gmail.com http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/

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

CYSS Events: www.arfp.org/cyssstatecamps.php

4-H: www.4-h.org

YMCA: 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.

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/

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/

Military OneSource provides an online library, web resources, and non-medical counseling to military Families. Visit: 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

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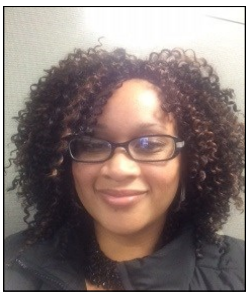
The mission of Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services is to support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between Military Mission requirements and parental responsibilities.

Family Programs Director
Ms. Cheryl Davis
99th Regional Support Command
5231 South Scott Plaza
Fort Dix, NJ 08640
609-562-7057
cheryl.e.davis.civ@mail.mil

Contact **Ms. Davis** for assistance with:
- Family Support Services
- Family Programs Training
- Family Readiness



School Services Specialist (SSS)
Ms. Jamie Avery
Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
99th Regional Support Command
5231 South Scott Plaza
Fort Dix, NJ 08640
609-562-7678
jamie.l.avery4.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Ms. Avery** for assistance with:
- Command/Unit Support
- Educational Events and Activities
- Scholarship Information
- College Prep
- Academic /Tutoring Resources
- School Support Services

Youth Services Specialist (YSS) - Interim
Mr. Clarence Washington II
Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
316th ESC
99 Soldiers Lane
Coraopolis, PA 15108-2550
412-604-8203
clarence.t.washington.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Mr. Washington** for assistance with:
- Command/Unit Support
- Weekend Events and Activities
- Child Care Resources
- Youth Programming
- Teen Council

Stay connected with the 99th RSC!

https://www.facebook.com/99thRSC

If you are not part of the 99th RSC, contact one of the CYSS staff members above and we will connect you with the YSS or SSS in your area.

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