

# 164<sup>th</sup> AW FAMILY PROGRAM NEWS

## TGIF – THE GUARD IS FAMILY!



Airman & Family Program Office

April 2012

### **A FEW WORDS FROM THE AIRMAN & FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE...**

By: Betty Gaskins

We have a couple of openings left for the Strong Bonds weekend retreat for married couples that will take place April 20-22. The Strong Bonds event will be held at the Hilton Hotel (Memphis). You will gain skills that fortify your marriage and enjoy a time of relaxation, recreation, fellowship, and fun.

The event will be open to any of our Air Guard Members and their spouse. This event is limited to 25 couples. Lodging, most meals, and curriculum are provided at NO COST. Childcare is NOT available. No one will be placed on military orders to attend the event. Participants will NOT be reimbursed for mileage expenses.

Strong Bonds events are designed to strengthen relationships and rekindle marriages. As a couple, you will practice communication and relationship building skills, as well as share intimate moments.

If you're interested in signing up for the 164 AW's first Strong Bonds event, please contact **Chaplain Bell at 615-596-7340.**



**The COMMUNITY COLLEGE of the AIR FORCE (CCAF)** is a regionally accredited school that is exclusive to the Air Force. CCAF awards airmen with Associates of Science degrees in their Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC). The 164<sup>th</sup> AW will host its first biannual CCAF graduation on May 6, 2012 at 1300 in the Wing Auditorium. This is not a mandatory event, but we encourage you to show support. Please congratulate the following individuals:

Katherine Atkinson  
Daniel Freeman  
Shane Heard  
Readus Hudson  
Jonathan Jennings  
Marquette Jones  
Robert Jones

Wayne Knight  
Arthur Martin  
Tammy Pollet  
Kevin Swihart  
Thomas Walker  
Corey Wampler  
Thomas White



Holly Petraeus is the head of the office of Servicemember Affairs, within the consumer bureau created by Congress last year as part of the financial system overhaul.

If the name sounds familiar, there's a good reason: She is married to Army Gen David Petraeus, the US commander in Afghanistan.

Holly has a passion for military families that comes from a lifetime of experience. She is the daughter of a general. Her son, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather all served in the Armed Forces. And she has been a military wife for more than 35 years. It's something that helps her connect with service members, like those at a town hall meeting that was held at the **164<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing** on April 3.

The topics covered: Financial education, products and services targeted to military, consumer fraud, scams, rip-offs, predatory lending, for-profit schools, identity theft and much more. She recommended checking out: <http://www.consumerfinancial.gov>



## **2012 NATIONAL GUARD SUMMER YOUTH CAMP**

This year there will only be one weeklong summer camp for TN NG youth. It will take place in Greenville (east TN).

The cost per camper is \$50.00, which covers expenses such as giveaways, snacks, and activities. Lodging and meals are provided by the Tennessee National Guard Youth Program.

The Tennessee National Guard Youth Development Week will be conducted at Clyde Austin 4-H Center, 214 4-H Lane, Greeneville, TN 37743. This facility, located in the beautiful mountains of East TN, offers over 75 acres in their private, outdoor setting with modern facilities and more activities than any camp location we have ever had before. We are so excited about this new facility for our Youth Development Week!

We will be offering supervised transportation for youth to attend Camp who are not coming from the East TN area. Youth will be in-processed at locations near their home and bussed from West and Middle TN to the Camp. Please indicate on your application if your youth will require pick-up at one of these locations by placing an "X" in the box next to the location closest to you.

The activities offered will include, but are not limited to, swimming, skating, archery, crafts, paintball, fishing, boating, Blackhawk helicopter and tactical vehicle displays, climbing walls, class instruction, outdoor water games, slip-n-slide, dance and talent show, and much more. Campers will be responsible for cleaning barracks and will participate in various other activities throughout the week.

The overriding objective of the Tennessee National Guard Youth Development Weeks is to provide a positive experience for our TNNG youth in a safe and caring environment while placing emphasis on life skills. This initiative designed for the youth of our National Guard members demonstrates the spirit of the Soldier and Family Readiness Operations department that we care about the quality of life for the citizen TNNG member and his/her family.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, 29 June 2012, or until we reach maximum capacity. All campers will be notified via the email address provided on their application of their acceptance into camp.

Camp Application and information sheet have been posted on SharePoint. Go to 164HQ then click on Family Readiness. Or you may email [betty.gaskins@ang.af.mil](mailto:betty.gaskins@ang.af.mil).

There will also be a Day Camp in West, Middle, and East TN. Applications for the Day Camps will be available at a later date.

The dates for the DAY CAMPS:

- Lavinia: 23 June
- Smyrna: 30 June
- Catoosa: 7 July



## The WALL TO WALL BICYCLE RIDE Arrives In Memphis April 17<sup>th</sup>

Jeremy Staat, USMC (ret.), Iraq Veteran, former NFL player – Wesley Leon-Barrientos, ARMY (ret.), Iraq Veteran, 3 Purple Hearts, double amputee – and Dale Porter, NAVY, Vietnam Veteran have set out on an incredible bike ride journey from the *Wall of Valor* in Bakersfield CA to the *Vietnam Memorial Wall* in Washington DC! The distance between the two cities is about 2,638 miles. They began the ride Feb 19<sup>th</sup> and plan to be in Washington DC on May 28<sup>th</sup> for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Vietnam Memorial Wall*. Along the way they will visit Veteran Memorials, schools, churches, Veteran posts and sporting events – increasing their miles covered to 4,163! They will make 71 City stops in 15 States. They should arrive in Memphis on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Their goal is to raise awareness of and support for our nation's veterans through veteran organizations, veteran suicide awareness, and to promote veteran centers on all college campuses throughout the nation.

You can learn more about this amazing cause at: [TheJeremyStaatFoundation.com](http://TheJeremyStaatFoundation.com)



## VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL

You can see the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall May 10 (7pm) through May 13 at the Landers Center in Southaven MS. This Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was built to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War. Call 662-429-1460 for more information.

**ALSO:** There is an interesting website where friends and family can look up names, bio's and other information on our lost comrades from the Vietnam War.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



### ATTENTION:

Are you familiar with the **Retired Air Guard Association**? The group is open to **all** retired Air Guard Members with a 20-year letter. The Association members get together and hang out

monthly, on the first Tuesday at 0730 in the dining hall. They also gather twice per year for dinners, fellowship and war stories.

If you wish to join or find out more, contact CMS Billy Baxter (ret.) at [baxterbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:baxterbc@bellsouth.net). Come check it out!



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<https://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx>



## CLEANER AND HEALTHIER FINANCIAL READINESS



Spring is here and as we start thinking about spring cleaning, don't forget to clean and reorganize financial record keeping habits. Here are some guides to a cleaner and healthier financial readiness:

- **Put papers in their proper place** - Tax filling time is about over, which mean it's the perfect time to establish some smarter paper-tracking habits. Establish a file system to easily store receipts that pile up throughout the year. For example, have separate files for expenses related to your car, household, and child care.
- **If you don't need it, toss it or archive it** - You'll probably need to hang on to important documents (some states require to keep up to ten years of tax filings on hand), but much of your old paperwork belongs in the trash or the shredder. Store most important documents, such as certificates, in an archival box or locked metal file cabinet that's separate from your day-to-day files.
- **Go electronic** - Just about everything these days is online, so all the old rules about what you need to keep are changing. Credit card statements, bills, pay records, investment account

statements, and even tax paperwork can often be shifted online. If you still need to maintain paper statements, try this: as soon as your quarterly account statements arrive, shred two previous monthly statements.

- **Check your credit score** - Your credit report deserves care as well. Visit your installation Personal Finance Manager to get your FICO score or get free annual credit report at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) to check for any errors, and fix any mistakes that could be dragging down your score.
- **Pay it down** - If you're still carrying debt on credit cards, check their interest rates and balances, and make a plan to pay them off. If you're due for a tax refund, consider using it to pay off that expensive debt.
- **Thrift Savings Plan** - It's a great time to assess the status of your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), both for 2011 and 2012. Look at maximizing or increasing contribution to your TSP account.
- **Review your tax withholding** - Since taxes are still fresh on the mind, now is the perfect time to revisit whether or not you're withholding the correct amount from your pay.
- **Insurance coverage** - Check on your insurance coverage, including renters, homeowners, life, and car. Do you have enough? Or do you have too much?



**Watch for news about the DINING OUT that will be held in November. This is a very special event for guard members and their spouses!**

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER THROUGH THE MAIL, PLEASE LET THE FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN ADDRESS CHANGE, SO WE CAN KEEP OUR MAILING LIST UP TO DATE. – THANKS! 901-291-7125

This newsletter is published for members, family and friends of the 164th Airlift Wing, Memphis, TN. Contents of the 164<sup>th</sup> AW Family Program News are not necessarily the views of the U. S. Government, The Department of Defense, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

**FOR THE FAMILY OF:**

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