

164th AW FAMILY PROGRAM NEWS

TGIF – THE GUARD IS FAMILY!



Airman & Family Program Office

July 2012

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

By: Betty Gaskins, Airman & Family Program Manager

I hope you all have a very happy 4th of July with fun, food, and fireworks! Enjoy time with your family and friends – and be safe.

Let us always remember, our country is free because of those who have served! On Independence Day, I will proudly display my flag and thank all of our military personnel, past and present, for the sacrifices they have made.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

What is a Home?

By: Chaplain Joseph Friedman

One of the most beautiful paragraphs I ever read was written by Ernestine Schumann, the celebrated Austrian, later American, opera singer.

She wrote: “What is a home? A roof to keep out the rain. Four walls to keep out the wind. Floors to keep out the cold. Yes, but home is more than that. It is the laugh of a baby, the song of a mother, the strength of a father. Warmth of living hearts, light from happy eyes, kindness, loyalty, comradeships. Home is the first school and the first religion (or lack) for young ones, where they learn what is right, what is good and what is kind. There they go for comfort when they are hurt or sick. There joy is shared and sorrow eased. It should be where fathers and mothers are respected and loved; where children are wanted; where the simplest food is good enough for kings because it is earned; where money is not so important as loving-kindness; where even the tea kettle sings from happiness. That is home. G-d bless it.”

Go back and read that paragraph again. In fact, do it a third time. There is no more important message for our time than the one you just read. In fact, if every preacher in the country simply recited that paragraph every Sunday (Saturday, in my case, and Friday for a Muslim), week after week, month after month, FOREVER, it would never be repetitive. The philosopher and sociologist, Jane Addams, once said: "America's future will be determined by the home and school. The child becomes largely what it is taught, hence we must watch what we teach it, and how we live before it." We live in a time and place where the most-watched entertainment includes such fare as, "Sixteen and Pregnant," "Jersey Shore," and "Keeping Up With The Kardashians;" if Ms. Addams is correct, we are in deep trouble!

An artist wanted to paint a picture of the most beautiful scene in the world. He asked a Rabbi, "What is the most beautiful thing in the world?" "Faith," answered the Rabbi. "It can sustain you in joy or stress."

A tired soldier said, "Peace is the most beautiful thing in the world for war is ugly."

A young bride was then queried and she responded: "Love. It builds lives, sweetens bitter moments."

"Faith, peace and love! How can one paint these intangibles?" thought the artist for an entire day. Then he went home and as he entered his door he was immediately filled with a sense of peace, he saw faith in the eyes of his children, and he was elated by the love of his wife. So the artist painted the picture of the most beautiful thing in the world - and called it "Home".

Your mission: If you feel like the artist did when he came home, decide how you are going to preserve it. If not, figure out what you need to do to make it so. Remember: the Chaplain Corps is here to help you in any way we can.

Praying always for peace,

Chaplain Friedman



DIRECTOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

Our Wing DPH, Jorge Ramirez, provides free confidential assistance with issues that affect the lives of our service members and family to include, but not limited to; reintegration challenges, stress, anger problems, and relationships.

You can contact Mr. Ramirez at: 901-291-7158



TAA PROGRAM – WHAT’S THAT?

The purpose of the **Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) program** is to provide a professional in each state/territory to serve as the **statewide point of contact to assist Service Members in accession Veterans Affairs benefits and healthcare services**. Each TAA also provides assistance in obtaining entitlements through the TRICARE Military Health System and access to community resources.

What our TAA can do for you:

He can help you navigate through the vast myriad of benefits and entitlements in the DoD and VA system. He will take the time to assist you and not toss you into the “800 number desert”! He will educate you so you will understand the benefits you have earned, such as:

- Guard entitlements and access for healthcare in both the DoD and VA medical facilities
- TRICARE benefits while you are on active duty and when you return as an OIF/OEF Veteran
- Important deadlines that require your action while still on active duty and as a Veteran so you do not miss these time sensitive opportunities
- Dental care programs (time-sensitive benefit)
- Referral for counseling services for you and your family that will not affect your career
- Referral for possible compensation for injuries or illness sustained in OEF and OIF
- Insurance information such as: SGLI, TSGLI, FSGLI
- Rehabilitative care management needed to help you return to a normal lifestyle
- Assist with job search and connection with ESGR for rights of employment
- Assist in connecting you to the Veterans’ Benefits Administration and Veteran Services Organizations to file disability claims
- Assist in the event of financial hardship, healthcare issues, or unemployment needs
- Assist with locating your medical records, DD214s, and other needed documents

Tennessee’s TAA contact info:

Mike Goodrich, TAA

615-517-0967

Charles.goodrich@us.army.mil



GUARD TAGS for TN National Guardsmen who are Mississippi Residents

After a lot of work and time spent on the phone with Mississippi Senators and Representatives, Tennessee National Guard members living in Mississippi are authorized National Guard tags on your vehicle as of **01 July 2012**. The amendment to MS law 27-19-51 was changed in MS

Senate Bill 2661 during this current 2012 legislature and was approved by the Governor of Mississippi on 22 May 2012. This change does not affect the cost of what you will pay for the tag; it just clears up the fact that we are now authorized to have the tags on our vehicles. If you want to get a copy of the bill, <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2012/pdf/history/SB/SB2661.xml>.



Watch Out for Sales Pitches That Promise to Find Financial Aid

With the cost of college outpacing inflation and crimping family budgets, students and their families are anxious to find scholarships and other awards that can help them pay for higher education.

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises students and their parents to be wary of websites, seminars or other schemes that promise to find scholarships, grants or financial aid packages for a fee. The companies may promise a money-back guarantee, but they set so many conditions that it's almost impossible to get a refund. Others tell students they've been selected as finalists but that they have to pay a fee to be eligible for the award.

"Getting a college education can be the first step toward finding a promising career," said Michelle L. Corey, BBB President and CEO. "But students shouldn't squander their scarce resources on companies that promise to find aid but never deliver."

In some cases, companies promise to handle paperwork that can make you eligible for the aid - for a fee. However, the standard application for financial aid is most often the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#), students and their parents can complete themselves. More information is available [online](#) or by calling (800) 4-FED-AID.

College financial aid offices require the FAFSA to assess a student's eligibility for need-based aid, and they may require additional information. Most are willing to advise prospective students on how to apply for aid and answer questions about financial aid packages they offer when a student is accepted for admission.

High school guidance counselors often can help students search for information on scholarships based on their talents, academic achievements, essay contests or other merit-based aid. Information on many awards is available free online or at public or school libraries.

Legitimate companies can help students find aid, but they will never promise results. However, parents and students usually can find the same awards on their own by searching online or going to the library.

The BBB advises students to:

Ask your guidance counselor or a college financial aid office whether they have experience with the company.

Be skeptical of glowing success stories touted on websites or at seminars. Ask instead for the names of families in your community who have used the service in the last year.

Talk to them and find out about their experience with the firm. Ask about fees associated with a professional financial aid search and find out if the company provides refunds. Get the information in writing, but realize the dishonest companies may refuse to provide refunds despite stated policies. For more information visit the [BBB website](#).



ENJOY SOME R&R THIS SUMMER

Vacations are those relaxing little daydreams that always seem to dangle just out of reach. Wouldn't it be great to take a road trip across the country, spend a day at the beach, or visit a major attraction?

With military bases scattered all over the country, and all over the globe for that matter, you always have an opportunity to experience new places and check different to-dos off of your must-see list. There are beautiful spots, historical sites, and popular tourist spots all over country, so you'll never be short on vacation ideas. In fact, with so many options, you need some help on what to see, where to stop, and where to start your search for lodging or tickets. Use some of the resources available to you to simplify your vacation planning:

- Visit the [Armed Forces Vacation Club](#) website to search vacation rentals by location and travel date to discover available discounted rates for service members and families.
- Check with the Information, Tickets, and Tours (ITT) office at the Millington Navy Base (901-874-5455) for discounted prices on vacation packages, tours, concert tickets, and amusement park tickets.
- If you happen to be passing through installations along your route, check out some the ["Best Kept Secrets"](#) named by Military OneSource, and check for lodging options on installations to save yourself even more money!
- Get out and stretch your legs at National Parks. This year, military families will receive free admission to all 397 areas within the National Park System, including national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, lakeshores, recreation areas, and more. Check out the [National Park Service](#) website to learn more.

With a little planning, a little creativity, and a taste for adventure you can plan a great vacation that will create some lasting memories. Whether your ideal vacation is a couple of days on a quiet shore or taking in the historical sites in a bustling city, chances are you can find something that fits your taste and your budget.





The FBI's Child ID App

Putting Safety in Your Hands

Every year, thousands of children go missing.

The FBI's new Child ID App can help.

Simply download the free FBI mobile application from the App Store on iTunes, add the latest photos of your child, enter key information about him or her, and update it regularly.

In the unlikely event that your child goes missing, you can quickly e-mail the photos and information to authorities. The app also includes safety advice and checklists for parents. And please be assured, no information about you or your child will be collected or stored by the FBI or iTunes.

Put your child's safety in your own hands. Download the FBI's Child ID App today.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SUMMER TO-DO LIST – WITH THE KIDS



- **History 101**—Visit local areas of historical interest, such as battlefields or museums. Take pictures and let the children create a scrapbook that retells the history of the area.
- **Build it**—Local hardware stores usually have easy, build-it-yourself kits for projects like birdhouses, or you can find instructions online. Grab the materials and kid-sized tools and build something together.
- **Water world**—Create a water park in your own backyard. Turn on a sprinkler, soap up a tarp to slide across and break out the water guns for a wet game of tag.



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 164th 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.