



110 Airman & Family Readiness

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February 2013 UPDATES

- We held our first Strong Bonds Couples Retreat in January. Thank you to the 18 couples who attended! Watch for upcoming marriage retreats, a family retreat, and singles retreat in 2013. Here's a marriage tip - When focusing on your marriage, don't simply generalize goals into a broad idea, like "spend more time with my husband". Get specific! Use your motivation to commit as a couple to scheduled occasions you can put on your 2013 calendar for time devoted to connecting with your spouse alone and in an engaged way—whether it's a class you take together, a day-cation once a month to a peaceful locale, or a weekend retreat. Schedule date nights NOW!
- Free Tax Filing: Military OneSource provides free access to the H&R Block At Home Basic online tax filing service. The service allows you to complete and electronically file your federal and up to three state tax returns or filings. Your calculations are guaranteed to be 100% accurate or H&R Block pays the penalties and interest. Also, the H&R Block At Home Basic tax filing service protects the security and confidentiality of your personal information by using industry-recognized security safeguards. You do not have to complete the return all at one time. When you begin, you create a secure user ID and password, which enables you to log on, save, close and return to the program as needed. For more information, visit the www.militaryonesource.com. Live tax consultants are also available by phone to answer questions and help you complete your return. For some tips on "Filing Your Taxes Without the Headache" visit http://www.militaryonesource.com/pfm/tax-planning-and-preparation?content_id=269644
- Looking for a new career? Upcoming Career Fairs:
 - February 15, 2013, 10 am-2 pm at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor. To register, visit <https://hoh.greatjob.net/sc/viewEvent.action?id=758964>
 - April 4, 2013 from 11 am-2 pm at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn, MI. To register, visit <https://hoh.greatjob.net/sc/viewEvent.action?id=681728>
 - April 11, 2013 from 12 pm – 3 pm at the August National Guard Armory, Augusta, MI.
- There will be a Dept of Labor employment workshop available for local military members at Fort Custer 19-21 February, 2013. Limited slots are available. You must be able to attend the entire 4 day workshop. The workshop will provide you with job seeking skills, resume writing, and more resources to assist you in finding employment. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Family Program Office at 269-969-3493.
- The Friends of the Military Club are volunteers working to help our Family Support Group, and work on projects that will benefit local military families. The Club will be discussing plans for Family Day 2013 at the next meeting. The meeting will be held at Miller's Time Out, 13260 Helmer Road South, in Battle Creek on Monday, February 11th at 5:30 pm. Please come to learn about this new Club and how you can help. If you have questions or would like more information prior to the meeting, please contact Chris Shults at clshults@sbcglobal.net or 269-349-0972.

- The U of M Military Support and Programs and Networks (MSPAN) will be holding the next Military Family Support Forum on Saturday, February 16, 2013 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM at the Rachel Upjohn Building, 4250 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI. The military Family Support Forum is a free monthly program for just the family members of OEF/OIF service members or veterans. They offer military family members information, support, and an opportunity to connect with other families. The forum is moderated by professionals and includes lunch and a separate program for children. The programs are offered in both the Ann Arbor and Clinton-Macomb areas. Registration is required by calling 734-763-4904 or e-mailing krharris@umich.edu. Please visit the website for more information: <http://m-span.org/programs-for-military-families/military-family-support/>.
- On Feb. 25, the Department of Defense will kick off Military Saves Week, part of its larger Military Saves campaign, created to meet the unique financial challenges facing service members. Military Saves Week encourages service members and their families to commit or recommit to securing financial stability by planning for the future and making responsible financial decisions on a daily basis. This week-long focus on creating financial security within military households encourages service members to take the Saver Pledge and formally commit themselves to “saving money, reducing debt and building wealth over time.” Since the first Military Saves Week, more than 128,000 individuals have taken the pledge and committed to focusing on financial readiness within their families. For more information, and to take the Saver Pledge, visit Military Saves <http://www.militarysaves.org>.
- Get your FREE credit score - As partners in DoD’s Financial Readiness Campaign, the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and SaveAndInvest.org are pleased to continue to make the myFICO® credit score and analysis tool available to service members and their spouses free of charge. The program is intended to provide one credit score per service member (and spouse, as applicable) initially and a single follow-up score 90-120 days later. Effective Friday, February 1st, all service members registering via a Group Access Code (GAC) to receive a free FICO credit score and analysis will be required to enter a valid military email address. Spouses of service members who do not have access to a military email address may register using their service member’s email address. It will then be necessary for the service member to forward the registration confirmation email to their spouse. Go to www.saveandinvest.org and use the financial educator code **ENSS1EXR**.
- AF Customers can now set up their own accounts for OVERDRIVE Digital Media- a USAF official email is required to validate your status. Once the account is set up, you should use OVERDRIVE from home, or on your digital device. OVERDRIVE is a collection of downloadable ebooks and audiobooks that check out, just like with print items. They are returned automatically once the lending period expires. To set up an Email Self Registration, go to <http://af.lib.overdrive.com> and click on "Get an Account".
- AF Customers can also now set up their own accounts for UNIVERSAL CLASS via the AF Portal, and once the account is set up, you can take these classes at home. To sign up for an account, visit the AF Portal, click on the word "LIBRARY" on the blue bar across the top. Click Learning Resource Centers. Find the listing for "UNIVERSAL CLASS" near the bottom on the left side and follow the instructions. Use your personal OR official AF email to set up account. UNIVERSAL CLASS has over 500 self- development courses on a variety of topics including customer service, hobbies and crafts, office skills and more. For a direct link, go to <http://airnationalguardtx.universalclass.com/barcode-login.htm?enter+code> and use the code AFPORTAL.
- Applebees Military Mondays - Each Monday, every Active Military Member or Veteran can come in and enjoy 30% off of their meal! It is Applebee's way of Saying Thank You for serving and protecting our Country! Offer expires 1/31/2013. The 30% discount is valid for the military member or veteran's meal only. Not valid on alcohol purchase.

- The Department of Defense pays for memberships to Sittercity for Army, Marine, Navy, and Air Force families, including active duty, Reserve, and Guard. Families can activate their fully paid memberships at: www.sittercity.com/dod
- Teen camps!!! All camps have different eligibility criteria and require applications, which are available by contacting the Family Program Office. Applications must be completed by 22 March 2013. Teens may apply for all camps, but only participate in one.
 - The Air Force Teen Aviation Camp will be held 1-6 Jun 13 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs CO. The intent of the program and scheduled tours are designed to give all attendees an experience that will help them determine if aviation or the Air Force Academy is a career choice. Air Fare or POV travel is the responsibility of the attendee. The applicant must meet the following requirements: Be a dependent of Active Duty Military assigned to or living on an AF/JB installation, AF Retired Military, AF Civilian Employees, Air National Guard or AF Reserve who have been activated within the last 12 months; Youth entering their Sophomore or Junior year in the Fall of 2013; Previous Teen Aviation Camp attendees may not apply.
 - Air Force Services Teen Leadership Camp will be 8-11 July 2013 at University of Texas, San Antonio. The camp is a 5-day program which provides youth a glimpse of what university life is like while developing their leadership skills. Activities include team building, High/Low ropes course, conflict resolution, public speaking, and more. The applicant must meet the following requirements: Be a dependent of Active Duty Military assigned to or living on an AF/JB installation, AF Retired Military, AF Civilian Employees, Air National Guard or AF Reserve who have been activated within the last 12 months. Must be a high school student who has completed their freshman year prior to the camp and is interested in developing leadership skills.
 - AF Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, AL from 28 Jul-2 Aug 2013. Youth will experience, imagine, and interact through Space Shuttle mission simulations, tours of the center, and the chance to witness first-hand the everyday challenges faced by astronauts. Scholarship recipients must be able to attend the entire Space Camp program. Airfare or POV travel costs to Huntsville, AL are the responsibility of the attendee. The applicant must meet the following requirements: Be a dependent of Active Duty Military assigned to or living on an AF/JB installation, AF Retired Military, AF Civilian Employees, Air National Guard or AF Reserve who have been activated within the last 12 months. Must have a minimum GPA of 2.8 (must provide documentation); Must be ages 12-14 to attend Space Academy, which is an intense experience designed to immerse middle school students in the science and technology of the space program. Must be ages 15-18 to attend Advanced Space Academy®. The Academy will immerse teens in science, technology, engineering and math while focusing on college and career preparation.
- Michigan National Guard Youth Council is to empower Michigan National Guard children, youth, and their parents. The Michigan National Guard Youth Council is to create, educate, and promote unity, stability, and community support among members of the Michigan National Guard Child and Youth Program. The Youth Council helps plan youth related events, Month of the Military Child events and various other activities. If you are between the ages of 13-17 (or entering 9th grade) and are interested in meeting other Youth who have a loved one in the military, whether they're deployed or not, join the youth council. For more information call Angela at 517-481-9894 or Traci at 517-481-9890

- The 2013 "Tight Lines for Troops" for veterans and military members has opened its online registration application process. Please register early for this free fishing event! WWII and new participants will receive priority consideration based on Purple Heart, Injured, Disabled, Combat Service, Date of Registration, etc. All service members are deserving, so please register and let them select the full field of participants. They will also field a shore division. The event will be held May 17-18, 2013 in Manistee, MI. New for this year, if selected to participate you will receive a RSVP letter in the mail which you must fill out and return with a deposit check. Your deposit will be returned to you at the Captain's meeting registration. (This is to help prevent the 60 plus last minute cancellations and no shows they had last year). Please visit www.tightlinesfortroops.com
- VetNet <http://www.vetnethq.com/> is a technology-based effort to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment. Think of VetNet as a virtual career resource. We recognize that the number of resources available for veterans and military families can be overwhelming - VetNet is designed to be a one-stop shop for those on the job hunt. There are three tracks to VetNet:
 - 1) Basic Training Track: Help veterans get squared away with resume writing workshops.
 - 2) Career Connections Track: Participate in video chats with industry experts, and get advice from veterans eager to share their career experiences.
 - 3) Entrepreneur Track: Offers college-level business courses to help you turn your idea into a reality.
- The US Chamber of Commerce launched Phase II of their Fast Track map, which identifies the 100 fastest growing job markets in America and the key growth industries in those communities. Now veterans and military spouses can search for thousands of job opportunities either by industry or geographic region. <https://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/fast-track>.
- The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently sent out a mandate that all letter mail being shipped to overseas military installations be addressed with a nine-digit zip code, starting January 2013. The policy change came with an upgrade to USPS's mail sorting system and the opening of an additional centralized gateway for receiving and shipping all government mail. The new mail sorting system will enable mail to be delivered and sorted quicker by giving the sorting machines another way to divide up the mail. The new address format will include the box number as a four digit number at the end of the zip code. For more information, visit the USPS website.
- Veterans Court Debuts in Genesee County - The Genesee County Circuit and District Courts have launched a Veterans Treatment Court. And, court administrators are looking for veterans to volunteer as mentors for fellow veterans. Specifically, the court is seeking veterans willing to donate a few hours, as needed, to provide support on a one-on-one basis for veterans in the court program. Duties will include acting as a primary support person for a veteran. Mentors would be expected to assist the veteran with the discipline of the program and help and encourage them to complete the requirements of the program. It is the program's aim to align mentors with veterans of the same military service and close to the same rank as the person in the program. There are two requirements: a willingness to serve and you must be a military veteran. To apply, please contact Attorney Robert L. Swartwood, 164 West Vienna Street, Suite 1, Clio, Mi. (810) 686-7687.
- Check out the new MOS Website "Plan My Deployment". Whether you're single, married or dual military, "Plan My Deployment" can be customized for your individual needs. This tool can be used for any stage of deployment: Pre-Deployment/Mobilization (Being Prepared), Deployment/Mobilization (Staying Connected), Reunion/Reintegration (Successful Homecoming), and Reintegration (Settling In). Deployments and mobilizations have changed in recent years, getting longer, occurring more frequently, and often putting service

members in harm's way. These changes have caused additional stress for service members and families, and have increased the challenges of maintaining readiness, managing separations, and planning successful reunions. With "Plan My Deployment", you can take some of the stress out of deployment or mobilization, through access to planning tools, checklists, and helpful tips. Whether it's your first deployment or mobilization or your fifth, you will be able to create a unique checklist for each stage that contains only the information you and your family need to successfully navigate the process. <https://apps.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=PMD:ENTRY:0>

- A free copy of many different topic military handbooks (including benefits, scholarships, GI Bill, Guard and Reserve, and more) for active and retired military service members can be down loaded from the following website: <http://militaryhandbooks.com/pdf-download/>
- Wal-Mart has announced a plan to hire every veteran who wants a job, provided that the veterans have left the military in the previous year and did not receive a dishonorable discharge. The program will officially begin on Memorial Day and will eventually lead to the hiring of more than 100,000 people in the next five years. The new program represents one of the largest hiring commitments for veterans in history. Read the full article on Military.com. <http://www.military.com/military-report/wal-mart-to-hire-veterans?ESRC=mr.nl>
- Mark your calendar for 2013 upcoming trips through the HDI Federal Center MWR. For questions, please contact Steve Gales at 269-961-7032. Upcoming trips include:
 - Chicago Summer Bus Trip - July 20, 2013 - \$35
 - Mackinaw City Overnight Bus Trip - August 17-18, 2013 – TBD
 - Birch Run/Frankenmuth Oktober Fest Bus Trip - Sept 21, 2013 - \$35

**** Be sure to pass these latest updates to all of our members and families! ****

***These updates are sent monthly and include information about benefits, services, events, and information for military families. Some programs may be limited to the local area, however, many are available throughout the State/Nation. If you wish to receive these updates by email, please send your request to robin.rogers@ang.af.mil.