



110 Airman & Family Readiness

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February 2012 UPDATES

- Did you miss the Red Wings visit in October? We have received a limited number of autographed posters for those of you who did not receive one. Stop by the Family Program Office to pick one up!
- Tickets are available for the Valentine's for Veterans concert sponsored by the VA on Tuesday Feb. 14th featuring BJ Thomas. FREE VIP tickets include special seating and a Meet & Greet event before the show. Concert begins at 7:30 pm at WK Kellogg Auditorium, downtown Battle Creek. Meet & Greet begins at 5:30 pm with light refreshments. Contact the Family Program Office for your free tickets. B.J. Thomas has impacted many areas of popular music with 15 Top 40 pop hits, 10 Top 40 country hits, five Grammys, two Dove awards and 15 Gold and Platinum Records. Some of his well-known songs include "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head", "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry", and "Hooked on a Feeling".
- Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University – Financial Peace Military Edition is an intense personal finance training course that helps military families strategically remove debt and build wealth. Free classes will be offered on base. Registration and a commitment to attend all classes are required. Married members should attend with their spouse. To register, please contact the Family Program Office by phone or email no later than February 8th.
 - Full Timers/Locals - 13 two-hour sessions, once per week. Wednesdays from 5:30- 7:30 pm. Class start Feb 15 and completes by May 16.
 - Traditionals/Out-of-Towners - 4 four-hour sessions, once per month. Saturdays of UTA from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm. March UTA through June UTA.
- "War Letters" - New York Times Best Selling author, Andrew Carroll, will be speaking and offering a book signing at WMU on February 10, 2012 at 2 pm in Brown Auditorium. Carroll founded the Legacy Project, an all-volunteer initiative that preserves wartime letters and emails. His collections include correspondences from every war in U.S. history. Please RSVP by Feb 6th, call 269-387-5050.
- Military OneSource is once again offering a free, electronic tax filing service. Military families you can complete, save, and file your 2011 federal and up to three state returns online free with the H&R Block At Home® tool. To access this free version of H&R Block At Home®, you must start your return from the [Military OneSource H&R Block At Home®](#) link. Once you click the link you will be required to log in to Military OneSource. From the login page you will be directed to a site containing additional information on tax preparation, including the link to the Military OneSource free H&R Block At Home® service. If you have questions about this tax service or about preparing your own tax returns, please call 1-800-342-9647 and ask to speak with a Military OneSource tax consultant. Trained tax consultants are available 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., EST. For information about deductions, exemptions, and filing deadlines visit the [Military OneSource Tax Program page](#). Visit www.militaryonesource.com.

- The Military Family Support Forum is a free monthly program offered for family members of OIF/OEF/OND service members. Join them for an opportunity to network with other families and receive information and support on a variety of topics. Lunch is provided, and there are programs available for children 0-17. To register or for more information, please contact Kate Bullard at 734-763-4904 or email krharris@umich.edu. Upcoming dates include:
 - February 5th - Snow Coming Child & Youth Event Kick-off for the Military Family Support Forum in the Selfridge area. 10am-3pm at Sterling Inn Best Western, Sterling Heights (Indoor Water Park for kids)
 - February 18 (12-2 pm in Ann Arbor)
 - March 10
 - April 14
 - May 5
 - June 9
 - July 21

- TAP Virtual Learning Seminars on employment related subjects will teach you how to translate your military experience, understand the federal employment system, and more. Go to www.TurboTAP.org to register for these free online events.
 - Stepping Stones to Your Career Path February 6th 9:00 pm
 - Social Networking and the Job Search February 9th 8:00 am
 - Landing a Federal Job February 14th 8:00 pm
 - Job Fair Success Strategies February 22nd 8:30 pm
 - Salary Negotiation February 29th 6:30 pm

- Military Saves Month is almost here! The month for Military Saves is February 19-26 2012. Are you ready? The theme this year is "Set a Goal; Make a Plan, Save Automatically!" Please visit the website at www.militarysaves.org for more information.

- Operation: Military Kids would like to announce their first Military Poster Contest. The contest is to celebrate all our military children and youth and the winning posters will be displayed throughout Michigan in the month of April. April is the Month of the Military Child so this is a great way to show what talented military children and youth we have in Michigan and that they are all heroes!!! Deadline for entries is 9 March 2012. Contact the Family Program Office for the entry form and contest rules. A first place prize (digital camera) and an Honorable Mention prize (artist kit) will be awarded in each of the following grade groups: K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th.

- 2012 Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits are open to 15-18 year old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard military members. Applicants will be required to complete entire application to include essay questions. Transportation and Camp costs are funded by Air Force. Additional information and instructions for applicants and adult volunteers are currently available at the following website: www.afrc.af.mil/library/4rfamilies. The online application is now available on the website with the deadline of 13 Apr 2012.
 - Classic Teen Leadership Summit - June 17-22 2012 Wahsega 4-H Center: Dahlonga, Georgia. During this week long adventure, teens will participate in high adventure activities such as high ropes, zip line canopy tour, white-water rafting, hiking, fishing, archery, survival classes, and more! Leadership classes taught throughout the week. This Summit also includes military traditions and community service projects.
 - Adventure Teen Leadership Summit - Aug 7-12 2012 Cheley Colorado Camps: Estes Park, Colorado. During this Summit, teens will participate in daily adventure activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, horse

training, arts & crafts, woodworking, technical climbing, and archery. Leadership classes taught throughout the week. Each evening, teens will gather for programs including campfires and songs, musical performances, and environmental education classes. This Summit also includes military traditions and community service projects.

- Air Force (AF) Services Child & Youth Programs is excited to sponsor AF Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, AL for 2012. 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. Recipients arrive in Huntsville, AL on Sunday, 22 Jul 12 and depart on Friday, 27 Jul 12. Lodging, meals, and activity fees after arrival at Space Camp are centrally funded. 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. For more information or to get the application, please contact the Family Programs Office.
- The Air Force Teen Aviation Camp will be held 2-7 Jun 12 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. Lodging, meals, and activity fees are centrally funded beginning with dinner on Saturday, 2 Jun 12. 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 2012; Previous Teen Aviation Camp attendees may not apply. For more information or to get the application, please contact the Family Programs Office.
- AcademyWomen and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Launch Mentoring Program for Military Spouses. Unemployment among military spouses stands at 26%, largely due to their high mobility and lack of a traditional career track network. As part of the White House's Joining Forces initiative to support veterans and military spouses, AcademyWomen has partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes to address this challenge by launching the MilSpouse eMentor Program, the nation's premiere virtual career-building network for military spouses. Mentors and spouses will be able to register and connect online, creating a national and international support pipeline that extends far beyond the spouse's current duty station. Through connections with a diverse pool of mentors, the program allows spouses to increase their job stability and upward mobility, two of the most challenging employment issues for military spouses. The program offers protégés three types of mentors: Corporate Mentors from military spouse-friendly employers, Career Mentors representing various industries or career fields, and Peer Mentors who can advise fellow military spouses on professional and personal issues relevant to military families. The innovative web-based eMentor platform is designed to afford flexibility to both mentors and protégés while enabling very meaningful dialog. A wide range of participation levels is offered from forming one-to-one ongoing mentoring relationships to simply responding to or posting questions in group discussion forums. For more information or to register in the

MilSpouse eMentor Program please visit www.ementorprogram.org/p/milspouse or contact the program's director, Stefanie Goebel at goebel@academywomen.org or 520.955.3370.

- DoD Reserve Affairs has introduced its Hero2Hired (H2H) website: www.H2H.jobs to connect job-seeking Reserve Component Service members and veterans with employers. Established in conjunction with Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, H2H.jobs is a free online search engine and community that enables job seekers to search for jobs using military specialties and other criteria, take a career assessment to match skills and interests with careers, learn about different industries, and find a wealth of training and informational resources to assist in seeking a job.
- Applications for the 2012 Scholarships for Military Children Program are available online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Awards will be based on funds available, but the program awards at least one \$1,500 scholarship to a student at each commissary. If there are no eligible applicants from a particular commissary, the funds designated for that commissary are used to award an additional scholarship at another store. To be eligible for a scholarship, the student must be a dependent, unmarried child, no older than 21 – or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university – of a service member on active duty, reservist, guardsman, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military ID card. The applicant must also be planning to attend or already attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2012 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Applicants must submit an essay and applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 24, 2012. The scholarship program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to service members and their families. Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship-management services organization, evaluates applications and awards these scholarships. If students have questions about the scholarship program application, call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or email.
- The Department of Defense (DoD) launched a new website for children experiencing the challenges of military deployments. The highly interactive website, www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org created by psychologists at the DoD's National Center for Telehealth and Technology, helps children of deployed parents cope with the stress, changing responsibilities, and concern for the safety of their parents. The center, known as T2, developed the website with informative videos, educational tools, and engaging games and activities for three age groups: Youth, ages 6 to 8; Tween, ages 9 to 12; and Teen, ages 13 to 17. The site features monitored online social network forums for the groups to safely share their experiences with deployments. MilitaryKidsConnect.org is the first DoD website to connect the more than 2 million children who have had one of their parents deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan in the widely separated active, reserve, and National Guard military communities. The website has features that will help children, parents, and educators navigate the wide range of practical and emotional challenges military families must live with throughout the deployment cycle.
- Is starting/growing a small business on your list of New Year's resolutions? If so, check out "Endure and Grow" - a new online training experience for National Guard members and families that have a business, want a business or need to grow their business. The Operation Endure and Grow program is a new online training experience focused on the fundamentals of launching and/or growing a small business, offered by the Whitman School of Management in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Administration. The 8-week training program is open to National Guard and reserve members as well as their family members. For more information, go to The Endure and Grow website:

<http://whitman.syr.edu/endureandgrow/>. The program will include two different tracks (startup and growth) and will offer training in the following:

- Core component parts required to develop a business or nonprofit organizational plan
 - The interrelationship/interdependency of marketing, accounting/finance, operations/production, and human resources required to formulate a business plan for either a "for profit" business or a nonprofit organization.
 - Develop and write an objective, cohesive, and integrated business or nonprofit plan.
 - A number of analytical tools, methodologies, and frameworks useful in creating a great business plan.
 - Presenting to prospective investors, lenders, or other financial backers of the proposed business or nonprofit organization.
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- The Battle Creek VA will be hosting a phone-in focus group for OEF/OIF/OND veterans on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 from 3:00 pm -3:50 pm. Call in to speak about access to care at the Medical Center and the Community Based Outpatient Clinics. Call 1-800-767-1750 (access code 63514).
 - The Vets4Warriors peer support line, 1-855-838-8255 (1-855-VET-TALK), and website: www.vets4warriors.com provides easy access to supportive, non-attribution conversations with trained veteran peers representing all branches of the military. This team of veteran peers has immediate access to behavioral health clinicians to respond to potentially emergent issues and can offer referrals to local community services, military veteran centers, and military healthcare providers based upon the needs of the Service Member. A variety of services will be provided to include non-clinical (legal, financial, etc.) and referrals for clinical services (substance abuse, behavioral health, etc.).
 - Hiring Fair Comes to Detroit. The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the annual National Veterans Small Business Conference, the government's premier event for Veteran-owned small businesses, will be held in Detroit 25-29 June 2012. Previously held in Las Vegas and New Orleans, the conference is expected to attract up to 6,000 veteran business owners. In addition to the small business segment, the VA will hold a VA for Vets Hiring Fair for veterans seeking jobs in either the public or private sectors. "VA is committed to bringing more Veteran-owned businesses into the public-private partnership," said VA Chief of Staff John Gingrich while announcing the event this week in Detroit. "In addition to the National Veterans Small Business Conference, our Detroit Hiring Fair will provide Veterans with on the spot job opportunities and interviews, while also offering career search classes and one-on-one counseling." The Detroit Hiring Fair will feature federal agencies as well as representatives from corporations seeking to hire veterans. It builds upon the successful 18 Jan. event in Washington, D.C., which attracted over 4,100 Veterans and resulted in over 2,600 on the spot interviews and more than 500 tentative job offers. More information is available at www.nationalveteransconference.com.
 - Members of the International Health Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) offer free memberships to immediate family members (ages 13 and older, where applicable) of deployed reservists and National Guard members. Clubs may also provide additional benefits such as childcare, children's programming, group classes, discounts for veterans, and discounts for active duty families. Spouses and teen-age children can find participating clubs in their area online at www.healthclubs.com. The website also offers a free digital subscription to Get Active! Magazine, a publication dedicated to promoting healthy living through exercise. (Blue Moon Fitness in Battle Creek is listed).

- For some great resources on health and fitness, check out this website: <http://www.acefitness.org/joiningforces/>. Free workouts and exercises, reviews of fitness programs and products, online health information, healthy recipes, and more.
- Save the date! National Guard Youth Leadership Camp for kids aged 9-12 will be held June 24-29, 2012. Watch for more announcements!
- 2012 Anheuser-Busch Parks: FREE for Military Members!! Calling all military members and their families!! The "Here's to the Heroes Program" is offering up a FREE admission at participating Anheuser-Busch parks to all active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman. You will be required to show a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three (3) direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may even take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependent ages 10 and over must present a valid dependent I.D. This offer is valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, during the regular operating schedules at one of the following: SeaWorld (Orlando, San Diego, San Antonio), Busch Gardens (Tampa Bay, Williamsburg), Sesame Place, Water Country USA, and Adventure Island.
- Fed Center MWR Upcoming Trips. Sign Up & Pay in the MWR Recreation & Travel Office. For more information contact: Steven Gales @ 269-961-7032 or Steven.Gales@dla.mil or Kevin Raber @269-961-4946 or Kevin.Raber@dla.mil. Visit the web site at www.hdifederalcentermwr.com
 - 7 Day Eastern Caribbean Cruise from Miami, FL on Carnival Valor @ December 9, 2012
Interior - \$396.00 *Ocean View - \$476.00 *Balcony - \$626.00
* 3/4 – Person starting at \$179.00
Cruise to Nassau, Bahamas, La Romana, Dominican Republic, San Juan, Puerto Rico, & Grand Turk. Book through MWR and receive a \$100.00 per stateroom onboard credit. \$250.00 per person full deposit due by June 30, 2012. Full Payment due by September 11, 2012 Airfare, Transfers, and Pre/Post Accommodations may be added at additional cost.
*prices per person based on double occupancy, government taxes/fees not included

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