

**Branch Chief Volunteer  
and Child/Youth**

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**National Volunteer  
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**LEADERSHIP  
SPOTLIGHT**



Darla  
Haines

We would like to welcome and introduce Darla Haines, the new Assistant Volunteer Coordinator. She is prior Active Guard Reserve (AGR) from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and also a commissioned officer with the guard, from 1981 through 2004.

Darla has since worked at the Family and Morale Welfare Recreation Command in Alexandria, VA, with MyArmyOneSource as the vFRG Program Manager, between 2004 and 2007. At which time she then accepted a position as Army Volunteer Program Manager at USAG Walter Reed.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and is currently working on a second Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Information Technology.

She volunteers with Fancy Cats; a cat rescue organization, and she enjoys playing poker and riding roller coasters.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: APRIL 10-16, 2011**

**Regional Volunteer  
Representatives**

Region 1 – Dee Dee Rice  
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Region 2 – Vacant  
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Region 3 – Alice Capehart  
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Region 4 – Wallace Paschal  
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Region 5 – Susan Webb  
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Region 6 – Dennis Schroeder  
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Region 7 – Jeanne Zerbonia  
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Region 8 – Arla Ruitter  
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Region 9 – Pati Montemayor  
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Region 10 – Chris Yriarte  
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Tammy Chase (Member at Large)  
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The act of volunteering is one of those tasks that often go unnoticed and underappreciated. That is not to say that people don't generally feel thankful for those that volunteer their time and effort to just causes, organizations and programs, but it is not always obvious whether an individual is donating their time for free or getting paid to do what they do. The National Guard Family Program is a prime example of this statement.

Volunteers are often the strongest link in the chain of concern. It is the volunteer who is in the trenches that will express the concerns or needs of the membership at large. There are multiple web sites that can provide you with inexpensive and clever ideas for recognizing the unsung heroes at home. Thank you for your dedication to serving our military and family members. Your unselfish service is what makes our volunteer family strong!

So here's to you and all you do! Honor the efforts of unselfish people who donate their time and energy to their passion. Say thank you to anyone you know who is a volunteer for any organization. Because they put their heart into something they believe in.

## Resource Corner:

### From A to Z

#### Beach Homes for the Brave:

<http://www.beachhomesforthebrave.com/>

Beach Homes for the Brave is a program for military veterans and those wounded while serving in support of operations OEF and OIF. This program provides the war veterans with a complimentary weekend getaway to Palm Island, FL.

The program includes free ferry transportation to the island, lodging in a fully furnished beachfront home, meals at the Palm Island Resort's Rum Bay Restaurant, complimentary golf carts and other resort-like privileges on the island.

#### Budweiser Theme Parks:

[www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com)

Budweiser is honored to salute the men and women of our armed forces and their families. Members of the military and as many as three direct dependents may enter any one of Anheuser-Busch's Sea World, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission.

#### Camp Jellystone:

<http://www.campjellystone.com/military-discount.html>

You have made an extraordinary sacrifice for our country and we want to say thank you with a military discount to many of our campsites and rental units. Here you will find a list of Jellystone Parks that provide special military discounts to active and retired military personnel.

#### Cove Pocono Resorts:

<http://www.covepoconoresorts.com/military/index.aspx>

With our all-inclusive military discounts, servicemen and women can save up to 50% on honeymoon and romantic getaway packages.

## SPRING CLEANING IN YOUR FRG

### DOES YOUR FRG NEED SPRING CLEANING?

Can you feel it? The days are getting longer. Have you already packed away your heavy winter clothes? Spring is coming! As you begin spring cleaning; consider your FRG. Spring is a time of change and it is no different within the Guard. Most often, spring is when units change commanders or service members may consider transferring. Has your unit recently returned from deployment? Have you had a change of FRG leadership?

Any of the previous situations translate into a good reason to "Spring Clean" within your FRG. How is this accomplished? Here are few suggestions:

- ✓ Each state program is unique and there may be state specific documents to maintain your FRG; review them for needed updates and revisions.
- ✓ Has the leadership introduced themselves or been introduced to the new commander?
- ✓ Consider auditing the FRG funds, if there are any.
- ✓ Do all members of the FRG leadership team know where to find important FRG information? This is just as important to the FRG as it is for individuals to know where their important documents are.
- ✓ FRG leaders and volunteers may become burned out. Consider rotating volunteer assignments to bring a fresh outlook to a position and to revitalize the FRG.

It is easy for an FRG to become complacent, especially after a unit returns from deployment. An active pro-active FRG can be a valuable retention tool. If you find that your unit's FRG is lackluster, a little spring cleaning and communication with the commander may just be the polish needed to restore its shine.

## APRIL IS: MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

### CELEBRATE HOMETOWN HEROES

Who are Hometown Heroes? When someone asks a military child about their parent's job, they say, "I'm proud of what my dad does. Even though he doesn't get to spend as much time with me as we'd like, it's good to know he's helping our country." At a young age, these children also say "Spending time with Gold Star Families is a privilege. If my dad didn't do what he does I wouldn't get to spend time with the Gold Star Moms doing fun things." Military Children are Hometown Heroes!

In 1986, Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger designated April as the Month of the Military Child to honor military kids for their sacrifices and courage. Since then, military installations, organizations and communities have created special events to pay tribute to these little

military heroes. One example is a Hometown Hero ceremony sponsored by a unit where the children are called into formation in front of their parents and presented with a special plastic medallion and a certificate of appreciation.

It doesn't take a lot to put a smile on a child's face. If you're looking for celebration ideas, two excellent resources are:

[www.monthofthemilitarychild.com](http://www.monthofthemilitarychild.com)  
[www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org)

If you cannot find events or activities in your area, don't worry, the solution is easy. Pick a date and have your son or daughter choose how they'd like to spend the day. You may be surprised at their simplistic request.

Regardless of how you fill the hours, make sure they understand the day is meant to honor and celebrate them—the military child, your Hometown Hero.

# VOLUNTEER WEBINARS

## ON LINE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We're gearing up for some more exiting webinar sessions. Have you joined us yet? What are you waiting for?

Volunteer webinars are online/web-based seminars (visual online and audio with a toll free telephone number) and discussions offering resources and tools for volunteers. Each month is a different TOPIC that consists of 1 to 3 sessions.

For more information on future Volunteer Webinar trainings please go to [www.jointservicesupport.org](http://www.jointservicesupport.org) and click on Events and then Calendar, or e-mail [cheryl.d.smith@us.army.mil](mailto:cheryl.d.smith@us.army.mil) or [tammychase.vtt@gmail.com](mailto:tammychase.vtt@gmail.com).

Take the time and join us. You will be amazed at the great information shared here. And remember, this has been created for YOU – the volunteer. So why not visit?

### APRIL 2011

**TOPIC:** Handling Challenging Behavior by Volunteers

#### Session 1

##### **April 5th**

10:00 AM -11:00 AM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/205746722>

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/817213834>

##### **April 7th**

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/365970850>

#### Session 2

##### **April 12th**

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/408036002>

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/115132898>

##### **April 14th**

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/738909819>

#### Session 3

##### **April 19th**

10:00 AM – 11:00AM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/262719419>

3:00 PM – 4:00PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/595687786>

##### **April 21st**

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/586020826>

### MAY 2011

**TOPIC:** Encouraging and Using Input from Volunteers

#### Session 1

##### **May 3rd**

10:00 AM -11:00 AM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/977120195>

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/231547107>

##### **May 5th**

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/527905738>

#### Session 2

##### **May 10th**

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/816973187>

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/928647099>

##### **May 12th**

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/>

#### Session 3

##### **May 17th**

10:00 AM – 11:00AM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/357342651>

3:00 PM – 4:00PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/795804867>

##### **May 19th**

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Eastern

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/346941914>

**Volunteer Training Team**

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