



# FAMILY READINESS

WISCONSIN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

JANUARY 2018

## THE NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAM

The National Guard Family Program exists for the sole purpose of supporting and educating families along the path of their National Guard life. The State Family Program Director, the Family Assistance Center (FAC) specialists, the Family Readiness Support staff, Child and Youth Services, and volunteers are here to connect you to the available services, information, resources and programs over the course of the military lifecycle.

Since September 11, 2011, the Global War on Terrorism and the subsequent operations have altered our lives and the uncertainties of local, regional and overseas deployments have challenged our abilities to cope. Whether your loved one is supporting a military operation overseas, performing duty in a local or regional location, or performing training at the local armory or reserve center, you may face challenges during these periods similar to active

duty service. The geographic dispersion of many Guard and Reserve families is unique and at times can make it more difficult to obtain information about benefits and in some cases to use them. Our mission is to provide the assistance you need, when you need it.



## MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE

### Your One Stop Call for RESOURCES and REFERRALS

Military Family Assistance Centers (FAC) provide information, resources, referrals, and outreach for all our service members of all military branches and their families. Additionally, services are also provided to retirees, veterans, and their families.

The service member, family member, or veterans need for

resources can occur before, during, or after any phase of their deployment cycle.

Military family assistance specialists are subject matter experts for six essential services:

- Crisis Information and Referral
- Community Information and Referral
- Financial Information and Referral

- Legal Information and Referral
- TRICARE Information and Referral
- DEERS & ID Cards Information

**Military Family Assistance Centers are available 24/7 by calling:**

**1-800-292-9464, option 3**

## HEAT FOR HEROES

Winter brings higher heating bills. HEAT FOR HEROES is a Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) that provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Operating with

federal and state funding, the program offers partial assistance to approximately 230,000 Wisconsin households annually, including more than 17,000 Wisconsin veterans. To find the Home Energy Plus/WHEAP

application site in your county, visit: <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>, or call the staff at HEAT FOR HEROES at 1-800-891-9276



## EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

Are you or your service member unemployed, underemployed or looking for a career change? The Wisconsin Employment Resource Connection (WERC) / Citizen- Soldier For Life (CSFL) Program is holding their first quarter workshop at the end of January. Free classes will be conducted on resume writing, interviewing, and creating an effective LinkedIn profile.

The workshop is open to all branches, service components, retirees, veterans, and family members.

If you have any questions regarding this workshop or would like to talk to an Employment Coordinator please contact:

SGT Cassandra Kautzmann  
(608) 242-3466  
[cassandra.m.kautzmann.mil@mail.mil](mailto:cassandra.m.kautzmann.mil@mail.mil)

# SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, January 27**

9 a.m. - Noon  
Onalaska National Guard Armory  
910 Oak Forest Drive

### Career Prep & Hiring Event for military personnel and their families

Meet with recruiters and hiring managers to learn about career opportunities at LHI.

**Career Workshops:**

- 9 a.m. Resume writing
- 10 a.m. STAR interview method
- 11 a.m. Using LinkedIn

**Contacts:**

Carolyn Moe  
[cmoe@logisticshealth.com](mailto:cmoe@logisticshealth.com)

Cassandra Kautzmann, M SGT USARMY  
[cassandra.m.kautzmann.mil@mail.mil](mailto:cassandra.m.kautzmann.mil@mail.mil)



Sponsors: LHI, Citizen-Soldier for Life, and WERC



## STRONG BONDS EVENTS

**Strong Bonds** is a unit-based, chaplain-led program which assists commanders in building individual resiliency by strengthening the Army and Air Force Family. The core mission of the Strong Bonds program is to increase individual Soldier, Airmen and family members readiness through relationship education and skills training. Strong Bonds is conducted in an offsite retreat format in

order to maximize the training effect.

The retreat or

“getaway” provides

a fun, safe, and secure environment in which to address the impact of relocations, deployments and military lifestyle stressors.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2018 (16-18) – EAU CLAIRE AREA: SPEED OF TRUST

MARCH 2018 (16-18) – WAUSAU AREA: 7 HABITS – FAMILIES

APRIL 2018 (20-22) – DOOR COUNTY: FEARLESS MARRIAGE

AUGUST 2018 (17-19) – WI DELLS AREA: 7 HABITS - FAMILIES

Dates, locations, and event types are tentative and subject to change. You may email or call the fulltime State Support Chaplain office for further information and updates. Please note that couples are **required** to be married if attending together, however single soldier parents and their children are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Childcare for 6 and under available at Couples events.

Childcare for all ages available at Family events.

Please include the names and ages of your children when registering.

#### Registration Process:

1. Go to <https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/support/chaplain>
2. Click “**Register Here**” for the event you wish to attend.
3. Open the invitation and click the **RSVP** button if you wish to attend.
4. Complete and **submit** registration form.
5. If you cannot register online please contact the Chaplain office for assistance

#### State Support Chaplain

CH (LTC) Douglas Hedman

(608) 242-3450

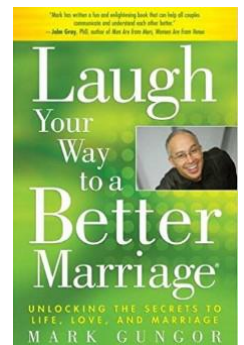
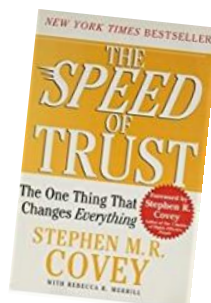
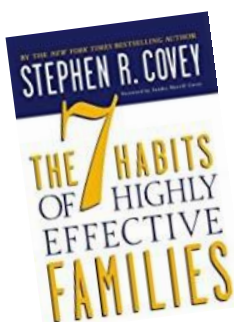
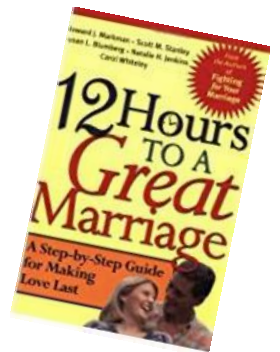
[douglas.v.hedman.mil@mail.mil](mailto:douglas.v.hedman.mil@mail.mil)

#### State Support Chaplain Assistant

SSG Bryan Gaulke

(608) 242-3741

[bryan.j.gaulke.mil@mail.mil](mailto:bryan.j.gaulke.mil@mail.mil)



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



The Wisconsin Family Assistance Centers (FACs) connect families in financial crisis to various emergency assistance and grant programs. Specialists can be reached **24/7** at **1-800-292-9464 option 3**.

**Wisconsin Military Family Financial Aid Fund (MFFA)** was established to provide emergency, financial assistance to military families living in the state of Wisconsin and is codified in Wisconsin Statute, Chapter 321, Section 321.45. MFFA distributions are fully supported by taxpayer donations and are grants to eligible military families. Service members and military families who meet the eligibility requirements may apply for financial relief for unexpected financial emergencies. Aid will generally be considered for financial emergencies greater than \$100 and not more than \$2,500 in one, twelve month period. Exceptions may be granted in situations of extreme hardship.

Applications may be requested by contacting a FAC at 1-800-292-9464 option 3 or by visiting [www.wisconsinmilitary.org](http://www.wisconsinmilitary.org)



## MILITARY ONESOURCE

24/7 Resource for all Military Members & Families - Call.Click.Connect

At Military OneSource, we have one mission – to connect you to your best MilLife. How can we help you achieve your goals today?

### **MilTax: Free Tax Services from Military OneSource**

Service members and military families – here's a benefit that helps you master your taxes. **Free**, easy-to-use MilTax software and support services can make quick work of tax time. No need to pay for outside tax assistance or risk missing specific military tax breaks. MilTax is made for military life, so you get more, including:

#### **Tax preparation and filing software**

From mid-January to mid-October, use our MilTax software to prepare and file your taxes online. This free software is tailored to military life – addressing scenarios including multiple moves, deployments and more. You can work anytime, anywhere, at your own pace. Plus, calculations have a 100 percent accuracy guarantee.

#### **Specialized phone support**

You can talk with a trained MilTax consultant free during tax season (January through April 18) seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST at 800-342-9647.

#### **In-person tax assistance**

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program offers free in-person tax preparation and assistance at locations on and off base worldwide. Work with a trained tax professional on site. Or, arrange to drop off your paperwork and come back to e-file when your return is ready.

**CONTACT US 24/7 AT 1-800-342-9647 or connect with us online at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>**

# WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM

In 2002, the Wisconsin Army National Guard Family Program developed a joint services youth program. The program hosts events focused on building resilience, leadership and character in our military youth from all branches of service and all over the state. The Child and Youth Program acts as a resource and referral clearing house for child and youth related benefits and programs for WI Military Families.

Registration is now open for the 2018 Winter Camp, which is being held near Rhinelander, WI and is open to all military connected youth. All military dependents and military connected youth ages 11 – 17 are invited to register. Space is limited.

To register please visit:

[www.cyp\\_wintercamp2018.eventbrite.com](http://www.cyp_wintercamp2018.eventbrite.com)

Or contact:

Cameron Campbell

Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator

Office: (608) 301-8246

Cell: (608) 658-6358

[cameron.l.campbell6.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:cameron.l.campbell6.ctr@mail.mil)

## WISCONSIN STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

**The State Advisory Council** advises the WI NG leadership on quality of life issues and concerns impacting Service members and their families. Each member of the State Advisory Council has over 10 years' experience as a primary point of contact supporting a Service member and serving the Wisconsin National Guard as a family readiness volunteer. Are you interested in connecting with other military families? Do you have a questions about your being a military family member? Do you have questions about becoming a volunteer? If so, please email one of the council members listed below:

JFHQ: Andrea Simonis at [andrea.m.simonis@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.m.simonis@gmail.com)

64<sup>th</sup> TC: Catrina Bennett at [slip@tds.net](mailto:slip@tds.net)

157<sup>th</sup> MEB: Susan Genz at [genzsb@comcast.net](mailto:genzsb@comcast.net)

32<sup>nd</sup> IBCT: Vacant

