



WARRIOR MEDIC MONTHLY



An Army Reserve Medical Command Publication

Web Site to Open Sign-Ups for Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfers



By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - It's official. The Defense Department signed off yesterday on policies and procedures servicemembers will use to transfer their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouses or children, a Pentagon official said today.

Eligible servicemembers will be able to register their immediate family members to receive those benefits when a new Defense Department Web site goes live June 29, according to Bob Clark, the Pentagon's assistant director for accessions policy.

Defense officials are asking those whose families won't use the benefits for the upcoming fall semester to hold off registering until mid-July so applicants who need immediate attention get processed first.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill takes effect Aug. 1, offering a two-fold benefit, Clark said. It gives the military a tool to help encourage recruiting and retention, while allowing career servicemembers the first opportunity "to share the benefits they've earned with those they love," he said.

The transferability provision -- which Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates pushed after first hearing the idea from a military

spouse group at Fort Hood, Texas -- has generated a lot of excitement.

"We have had an overwhelming response and do expect quite a few of our members to take advantage of this," Clark said.

To prepare for the anticipated response in the run-up to the Aug. 1 effective date, the department will launch a secure Web site next week so servicemembers can register any immediate family members to receive their unused benefits, Clark said.

"What we are doing is queuing up requests and approvals for the many family members that we expect to be going to school this fall" with hopes of using their spouse's or parent's Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, he said.

The site, <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>, will be accessible using a common access card, Defense Department self-service user identification or a Defense Finance and Accounting Service personal identification number.

Eligible servicemembers can register the names of any immediate family member they would like to share their benefits with, even designating how many months of benefits each person named can receive, Clark explained.

The servicemember's 36 months of benefits -- the equivalent of four nine-month academic years -- can be transferred to a spouse, one or more children or any combination, he said. The family member must be

enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System to receive the benefits.

Servicemembers also have the option to use some benefits themselves and transfer what they haven't used to one or more family members.

Even after transferring the benefits, they remain the "property" of the servicemember who earned them, who can revoke them or redesignate who receives them at any time.

However, new names can be added as long as the member is in the military, but not after separating or retiring, Clark said. So defense officials advise erring on the side of caution and including every eligible family member on the registration form.

"We are recommending that every eligible dependent receive at least one month of benefit," he said.

Once the servicemember registers for the transferability provision, the application automatically gets forwarded to the appropriate service for processing. Clark said he expects that process to take about a week, at least after the initial surge.

When the service verifies that the member is eligible to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and processes the transferability provisions, the family member will receive a certificate of eligibility that can be used to cover educational costs.

In a nutshell, any enlisted or commissioned member of the armed forces serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve on

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or after Aug. 1 will be eligible to transfer their benefits -- as long as they qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and meet specific service requirements, Clark explained.

He emphasized that, by law, anyone who has retired or separated from the service before that date -- even if it's July 31 -- won't be entitled to transfer their benefits. Also excluded will be members of the Individual Ready Reserve and Fleet Reserve.

Most servicemembers who have at least six years of military service as of Aug. 1 and agree to serve an additional four years qualify, he said. But department officials have proposed measures to cover several categories of servicemembers whose circumstances don't fit neatly into the formula.

For example, those with at least 10 years of service -- but who can't serve an additional four years because of a service or department policy -- also would qualify, Clark said. They must, however, serve the maximum time allowed before separating from the military, he said.

"What we did not want to do was to penalize those people who had a service policy or statute that would not permit them to commit for the full four years," he explained.

Another sunset provision will cover servicemembers who will reach the 20-year service mark, making them retirement-eligible, between Aug. 1, 2009, and Aug. 1, 2013.

Clark explained the breakdown, which basically enables those affected to transfer benefits as long as they complete 20 years of service:

- Those eligible for retirement on Aug. 1, 2009, will be eligible to transfer their benefits with no additional service requirement.
- Those with an approved retirement date after Aug. 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, will qualify with no additional service.
- Those eligible for retirement after Aug. 1, 2009, but before Aug. 1, 2010, will qualify with one additional year of service after approval to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.
- Those eligible for retirement between Aug. 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011, will qualify with two additional years of service after approval to transfer.
- Those eligible to retire between Aug. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012, will qualify with three additional years of service after approval to transfer.

Related Sites:

Post 9/11 GI Bill Web Site,
www.gibill.va.gov

DoD Announces Transferability Options For "Post 9/11 GI Bill"



From a DoD Press Release

The Defense Department announced today its policy for transferring educational benefits to the spouses and children of service members under the "Post 9/11 GI Bill," which takes effect Aug. 1, 2009.

"This is as it should be in a volunteer force where families also serve," said Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy Bill Carr. "Transferability of GI Bill benefits is the most requested initiative we receive from our service members, and we believe it will assist us in retaining highly qualified military personnel."

Career service members on active duty or in the selected reserve on Aug. 1, 2009, and who are eligible for the "Post 9/11 GI Bill," may be entitled to transfer all or a portion of their education entitlement to one or more family members. To be eligible, service members must have served in the Armed Forces for at least six years, and agree to serve four additional years, from the date of election to transfer.

Service members with at least 10 years of service, who by DoD or service policy are prevented from committing to four additional years, may transfer their benefits provided they commit for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.

Additionally, to maintain proper force structure and promotion opportunities, temporary rules have been developed for service members eligible to retire between Aug. 1, 2009 and Aug. 1, 2012. Depending on their retirement eligibility date, these service members will commit to one to three additional years, from the date of election to transfer.

The services will provide further implementation guidance. Beginning June 29, 2009, eligible service members may make transfer designations by visiting this Web site: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB>. The full transferability policy is available here at www.defenselink.mil/news/DTM_09-003_Post_9-11_GI_Bill.pdf.

Service members may be eligible for the "Post 9/11 GI Bill" if they served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and were honorably discharged. Based on the length of active duty service, members are entitled to a percentage of the cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in-state under-

graduate tuition at a public institution of higher learning. Members not on active duty may also receive a monthly living stipend equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 with dependents, and to an annual \$1,000 stipend for books and supplies.

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers the "Post 9/11 GI Bill," and determines eligibility for education benefits. Further information on eligibility, benefit levels, and application procedures can be found at their Web site, www.gibill.va.gov.

2009 Safe Summer Campaign



What is it?

On May 4, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center launched the 2009 Safe Summer campaign to raise awareness of the increased hazards associated with summertime, off-duty activities and to provide Soldiers, Army civilians and their family members the information they need to manage risk and reduce the chance of being injured or killed in an accident.

The campaign runs from May through to September and emphasizes prevention and vigilance during the summer season and strives to ensure Soldiers, family members and civilians are aware of the hazards and risks involved when participating in the summer fun.

The campaign offers information on everything from grilling and food preparation, to water-related activities and ATV/dirt bike safety. Products supporting the Safe Summer campaign include: posters, videos and articles on topics affecting our Soldiers' safety.

What has the Army done?

Over the past three years, the USACR/Safety Center has initiated a summer safety campaign in an effort to heightened Soldiers awareness of the risk associated with their off-duty, summer activities.

The summer campaign also provides leaders and safety professionals with the tools and resources they need to educate their force and ultimately drive down losses in their formations.

Why is this important to the Army?

Summer is the time of year that the Army typically experiences and increase in off-duty accidental fatalities. Summertime presents numerous challenges for keeping Soldiers and civilians in our charge safe. Everyone wants to enjoy the outdoors and maximize their pleasure with friends and

family. We must remain watchful of the increased hazards associated with off-duty outdoor activities and remain engaged throughout this high-risk summer season. We need everyone to do their part to protect our "band of brothers and sisters."

Resources:

Videos, posters, feature articles and news releases on relevant summer safety related topics/areas of focus as well as links to additional resources can be found on the USACR/Safety Center's Web site <https://safety.army.mil/>

Army Reserve Enrichment Camp



What is it?

Army Reserve Enrichment Camp (AREC) is a five- seven day residential camping experience for youth organized by Army Reserve Child, Youth &

School Services in partnership with an American Camping Association Accredited residential camp. AREC helps to reduce feelings of isolation among Army Reserve youth who do not typically live in communities with large numbers of military youth like those found near an installation. Campers participate in meaningful activities that build skills in leadership, independence, peer relationships, self esteem, adventure and exploration. Campers also develop skills to handle the rigors of deployment and have opportunities to share their personal experiences with other campers and adult advisors who staff the camps.

What has AREC done?

To date, AREC has served 351 Army Reserve connected youth and will serve 1,000 more in the summer of 2009. Youth that have participated in camping activities have reported growth in the specific areas of: self-esteem, independence, leadership, friendship skills, adventure and exploration and spirituality. Through the camping experience, youth create a network of peers and adult advisors that serve to increase feelings of cohesion with the Army Reserve community and support during deployment. Additionally, community youth serving organizations that host AREC become educated on issues important to military youth and are better prepared to meet their unique needs.

What continued efforts does the Army Reserve have planned for the future?

Child, Youth & School Services recognize the importance of providing meaningful opportunities for participation that translates into resilient youngsters. Summer

camp is a proven and enjoyable way to foster that self-righting resilience so imperative to military life. Not surprisingly, the Army recognizes that there is something special about summer camp and thus, through community partnerships, offers the opportunity to attend camp to geographically dispersed youths.

Why is this important to the Army Reserve?

Army leaders recognize that the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their families. AREC can provide Army Reserve youth an opportunity to become proficient in skills needed to successfully cope with the stress brought about by military life like frequent and multiple deployments, relocation, uncertainty about the future and feelings of isolation.

Resources: Army Reserve Family Programs Web site.

Trade Commission Site Helps Identify Scams Targeting Military

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service



WASHINGTON - With the economic downturn causing a spike in consumer scams, the Federal Trade Commission is encouraging servicemembers and their families to report their

complaints to an online site so it can better target its investigations.

The FTC's Consumer Sentinel/Military provides a secure online database for the military community to report concerns about identity theft, deceptive lending or mortgage practices, debt collection, phone fraud or other scams, said Carol Kando-Pineda in the FTC's consumer and business education division.

"Filing via Consumer Sentinel/Military helps us follow the trends of how many military complaints we're getting and from what branches," Kando-Pineda told American Forces Press Service. "We can target investigations better and plan our consumer education efforts more precisely, too."

The Consumer Sentinel/Military site is part of a larger FTC database that includes millions of consumer complaints. The information collected is shared only to appropriate civil, criminal and military law-enforcement authorities.

Military users and their families who access the site designate their service affiliation, then follow the prompts to complete the online complaint form ? a process offi-

cial says takes only about five minutes.

By doing so, Kando-Pineda said, the military community can help authorities target cases for prosecution, shut down scammers, spot patterns of fraud before they become widespread and alert fellow servicemembers and military families to scams.

Military members and their families can be particularly vulnerable to fraud due to nonstandard work schedules, lengthy absences from home, frequent relocations, the privacy of personal information and remote duty locations far from normal U.S. consumer protection channels, defense officials report.

In addition, some scam artists have begun padding their own pockets using the premise of soliciting charitable donations to support military families and veterans, FTC officials said.

The FTC offers consumer education to teach the military community and public at large about these and other fraudulent practices. These Web-based products are posted on the FTC Web site.

Related Sites:

Consumer Sentinel/Military:
<http://www.ftc.gov/sentinel/military/index.shtml>. Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov.

Officials Work to Lessen Impact of Deployments on Children



By Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Defense Department officials are working aggressively to reduce the impact of multiple deployments on the children of military families.

"The department recognizes that these multiple, long-term deployments are really tough on families," said Barbara Thompson, director of the Pentagon's Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth.

Deployments since fighting began in Iraq and Afghanistan have affected nearly 2 million military children, and about 234,000 of those children currently have at least one parent deployed, according to a 2007 Defense Manpower Data Center report.

Surveys of active-duty and reserve-component spouses in 2008 included questions regarding military children. The responses of the more than 13,000 active-duty spouses and more than 16,000 reserve-component spouses reinforced the officials' anecdotal knowledge of the effect of deployments, Thompson said.

"It indicated that children were show-

ing fear and anxiety," she said. "Some were having behavioral issues in school, and some were coping well with the deployments." And in testimony before a Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee, Thompson added, "it was very clear that spouses were concerned about the cumulative effects of deployments on their children."

Sixty percent of active-duty spouses and 67 percent of reserve-component spouses reported an increase in the levels of their children's fear or anxiety in the spouse surveys.

Children of active-duty servicemembers showed a 36 percent decline in academic performance, a number that was matched in increased behavioral issues at school, according to the survey. Children of reserve-component servicemembers saw a 38 percent decline in academic performance, and a 34 percent increase in behavioral issues at school, the surveys revealed.

A deployment can affect children of varying ages differently, Thompson said. Typically, she said, the youngest children, up to 5 years old, may become clingier or regress in some "milestone" areas, such as toilet training. While these children may not be old enough to comprehend the situation, they are reacting to the stress of the parent who is at home, she explained.

School-age children may act out in school or throw tantrums, or their school performance may suffer or they'll lose interest in favorite activities, Thompson said. "Tweens" and teens already may be struggling through their own developmental milestones, she added, and the deployment of a parent can exacerbate the situation.

"Teens can get involved with risky behavior, or the other challenge with teens is that they take on more and more adult responsibility," Thompson said. "That's important, but at the same time, we want them to be kids."

Thompson said it's important for parents to realize that they still need to be involved.

"You still want both the deployed parent as well as the stay-at-home parent to be asking about their [children's] friends," she added. "Where [are they] going? With whom are they hanging out?"

To help parents manage their stress about the deployment, as well as their child's, the Defense Department offers numerous resources, Thompson said.

Through the Military Family Live Consultant program, Defense Department officials have placed behavioral health specialists at family centers on installations. Family members of reserve-component servicemembers can access these resources through "On Demand," a feature of the

Joint Family Support Assistance Program, a Military Homefront program.

In addition, Military OneSource offers life coaching and nonmedical counseling face-to-face, via the Web site or over the phone.

But the Defense Department can't do it alone, Thompson emphasized. "We have help from some spectacular partners," she said, highlighting the Sesame Workshop's DVDs designed to help younger children cope with deployments and homecomings.

Other programs -- including Zero to Three, the Military Child Education Coalition, 4-H and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America -- also work to help military children cope with deployment stress, Thompson said.

Related Sites:

Office of Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/prhome>

Military Community and Family Policy:

www.defenselink.mil/prhome/mcftp.html>

Military OneSource: <http://www.militaryonesource.com>;

Military Homefront: http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/mhf/MHF/MHF_HOME-PAGE>

Group Sponsors Annual Children's 'Freedom Art' Contest



By Sharon Foster
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - As it gears up for its 7th Annual Children's Freedom Art Contest, a North Carolina-based troop-support group is looking for patriotic drawings or paintings that signify the unyielding spirit of America after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"We initially started as a group that put up exhibits of patriotic photos sent to us," said Eileen A. Schwartz, founder of Flags Across the Nation. "About a year after the 9/11 attacks, we decided to launch a Freedom Art Contest for children. Throughout the year, we still do art-related exhibits and activities honoring our flag and America."

The children's artwork collected by Flags Across the Nation over the years has featured the U.S. flag, the U.S. military, the American bald eagle and several national monuments. The artwork has been displayed in local galleries, military and veterans' locations and several airports across the country.

"We have sent the artwork overseas to

troops and wounded warriors in Iraq, Afghanistan and Germany," Schwartz said. "The contest supports the creativity and the patriotic spirit of children. It also uplifts our troops. While participating in this contest, we hope the children think outside of themselves and think about how they can sweeten the lives of our military."

The required entry form is available on the group's Web site. The contest is open to children in grades 1 through 6 across America. They are allowed to use pencils, crayons, paint, markers and fabric -- but not glitter -- for their artwork. The piece should be on 8.5-by-11-inch paper and mailed to Flags Across the Nation, P. O. Box 78995, Charlotte, NC 28271-7045 by Aug. 7. None of the artwork will be returned.

The winner will be announced Sept. 11 on Flags Across the Nation's Web site. The grand prize winner's art will be featured on the Web site, and he or she will receive 13 note cards that feature the winning image. The grand prize winner also will receive a \$50 U.S. savings bond. The art of 12 runners-up will be featured on the group's Web site and sent to deployed troops.

Schwartz said she is excited about this year's contest and believes the children will be inspired by their own artwork.

"The goal of this art contest is for children to express their love for freedom and America through art," she said. "It is our hope that they continue to value the freedoms that are bestowed to them in the USA. This contest supports the creativity and the patriotic spirit of children."

Related Sites:

Flags Across the Nation:
www.flagsacrossthenation.org

USO Opens 'Oasis' in Basra Desert



By Army Sgt. Frank Vaughn
Special to American Forces Press Service

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq - The familiar refrain of "There's nothing to do around here after work" will hopefully be a thing of the past here with the opening of a new center for rest and relaxation.

The local United Service Organizations office and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator for 34th Red Bull Infantry Division are teaming up to create an oasis in the middle of the Basra desert for servicemembers and civilians to escape the pressure of operations.

Sarah McConnell, USO director here, said the center, housed in a former dining

hall, already has undergone a "soft opening," meaning there are some services already available.

"We have 13 Internet stations set up already, along with 18 phone lines for people to call home," McConnell said. "Both services are free of charge to anyone who uses them."

"We wanted to get something started for the troops here right away," she continued. "We're not fully functional yet, but we got the computers and phones set up so we could at least offer some services."

The USO center is designed from the same template as a similar facility that opened recently at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, according to Army Col. Ronald Albrecht, deputy chief of staff for the 34th Infantry Division.

The USO will share the space with MWR, Albrecht said.

The fitness center is under construction now and has a target opening of July 1, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Deborah Allen, MWR and event coordinator for the 34th Infantry Division.

In addition to cardiovascular machines already in place, the fitness center will feature Nautilus equipment, free weights and ample space for aerobic training and various self-defense classes, including Modern Army Combatives, she added.

"We will be putting padding on the floors and walls in one of the large rooms for combatives training," Allen said. "We will still have a large amount of space on the other side of the room for additional fitness machines."

Albrecht said the fitness center will be an important part of the division's emphasis on physical fitness.

"We wanted to create a clean environment for soldiers to work out," Albrecht said. "We'll have all new machines in place for them to train."

Though the USO and MWR areas will be separated by a wall, extensive cooperation between the two has marked a positive beginning for the cohabitants.

"Cooperation with [the USO] has been splendid," Allen said. "I really look forward to working with them in this building."

McConnell added that she is appreciative of the help she has received from the military in making the USO presence a possibility here.

"I am very grateful to the military leadership here for the generous space allotted to the USO," she said. "Thanks to them, their soldiers will have a place to escape when they are able."

Soldiers who are interested in volunteering with the USO may sign up at the center, McConnell said.

"The USO thrives on volunteers," she

said. "They are the backbone of everything we do."

Thrift Savings Plan



What is it?

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a long-term, financial personal investment program intended to improve the well-being of the troops, as well as their quality of life. The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a government-sponsored savings and investment program that offers tax-deferred opportunities similar to the civilian sector's 401 (k) plan. Servicemembers and federal civilians have the opportunity to participate in TSP at any time.

How important is this to the Army?

The Army is urging members of the active-duty, Reserve and National Guard to earn money for their futures. You can contribute any percentage from your basic, incentive, special or bonus pay. If you contribute while in a combat zone, you can avoid paying taxes on the contributions. You will only pay taxes on the earnings upon withdrawal. This program is similar to the civilian world's 401K retirement savings program. You can take your money with you when you leave the service, or leave it in until retirement, or keep it in your TSP account long after you leave the military.

Resources:

TSP Web site: <http://www.tsp.gov/>

A copy of the briefing is available for viewing and download at the: **Military Saves Web site:** <http://www.militarysaves.org>

Privatization of U.S. Army Lodging to Raise Quality of Life for Soldiers on the Move



From a DoD Press Release

Privatization of U.S. Army Lodging to Raise Quality of Life for Soldiers on the Move

The U.S. Army today announced that it will transfer the first 10 installations under the Army's Privatization of Army Lodging (PAL) program on August 15, 2009. The transfer is a reinforcement of the U.S. Army's commitment to improving its transient lodging to enhance the quality of life of soldiers and their families.

Actus Lend Lease will perform the

redevelopment of the lodging facilities and lodging operations will be assumed by the InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG).

"PAL brings world class lodging practices and private sector investment to support Quality of Life requirements of our Soldiers, Families and civilians as they serve," said Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, assistant chief of staff for installation management.

Most of the Army Lodging employees affected by the transfer will receive offers of employment from IHG. Retained employees will have their Army Lodging employment honored as IHG service time. Seven of the ten affected Army lodging general managers have accepted IHG positions.

The 10 Group A installations are: Fort Rucker, Ala.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.; Fort Myer, Va.; Fort Shafter / Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii.

Upon transfer of the lodging rooms, the project will begin correcting commercial code noncompliance issues and overhauling the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems of the existing inventory. These renovations and the conversion of five hotels to Holiday Inn Express hotels will be complete within the first two years.

The end-state portfolio of hotels will be a mix of well recognized and well respected IHG brands such as: Candlewood Suites, Staybridge Suites, and Holiday Inn Express, and renovated historic facilities. Enhanced guest services including complimentary breakfasts, pet-friendly rooms, and the IHG Priority Club frequent-stay program will start upon transfer.

Through the PAL program, the Army has engaged the private sector to manage, build, renovate, maintain and operate transient lodging on Army installations. The program is modeled after the Army's successful privatized family housing program, the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI).

Army Reverses Policy to Allow Troops to Use Social Networking Sites

American soldiers can now tweet, send friend requests and share photos and personal news just like the rest of the World Wide Web.

The U.S. Army is reversing a years-long policy of blocking the Web hotspots on military networks, ordering its network managers to allow access to social media sites including Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

"The Army has recently made access to

several social media Web sites available from the Army home page within the .mil domain," reads an Army order issued to Directors of Information Management and labeled "for official use only."

First reported on Wired.com's Danger Room, the order explains it is "the intent of senior Army leaders to leverage social media as a medium to allow soldiers to 'tell the Army story' and to facilitate the dissemination of strategic, unclassified information, the social media sites available from the Army homepage <http://www.army.mil>, will be made accessible from all campus area networks."

A similar push to expand technology savvy and Internet accessibility can be seen on the Military Health System. The site -- created to provide the latest health information and news to U.S. troops -- has now added social networking sites including MySpace, YouTube and Twitter.

A section dubbed the MHS Social Media Hub allows for a wide range of interactive Web activity, including blogging, uploading videos and photos and logging into social networks like MySpace.

The MHS site targets young soldiers with hip, conversational language, including headlines like "It's Men's Health Month, Man!"

The policy reversal applies only to Army bases in the United States.

Use of Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) for Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Expenses



Announcement of DA Policy Change: Effective 1 Jun 09, the Citicorp individually billed travel charge card can be used for relocation expenses. USARC has endorsed the policy.

Key Points:

- Individuals are required to process through their organization Agency Program Coordinator (APC) to register before they may use their GTCC for PCS relocation expenses.
- Accession, Separation, and Retirement PCSs are excluded from the program.
- Cardholders will benefit because of the convenience of use and eliminating the need to apply for an advance of travel entitlements.
- When properly registered in the program, cardholders have the opportunity to use the GTCC for relocation expenses without fear of delinquency

and subsequent account suspension due to late payments.

Copy of DA Policy Memo and USARC endorsement attached. DA Memo outlines APC and cardholders responsibilities, charges that are authorized, and procedures for implementing program.

Point of contact for this program is Mr. Steven Jeffers, AR-MEDCOM APC, email steven.jeffers@usar.army.mil, phone 727.563.3740.

Obama Pledges More Support for Returning Combat Veterans



By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama promised during an online town hall meeting to ensure returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan receive the benefits and support they deserve.

"When our veterans come home from Iraq and Afghanistan -- and they have performed brilliantly; they have done everything that's been asked of them, regardless of what your views are on these wars -- they have earned these benefits that, all too often, we fail to give them," the president told a questioner during a session otherwise dominated by economic issues.

Obama said his Department of Veterans Affairs budget proposal -- with the biggest funding increase in 30 years -- will help provide more services to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

It also will help clear up the backlog that Obama said too many veterans experience before they receive the benefits to which they're entitled.

The president called the high homeless rate for veterans -- multiple times that of nonveterans -- "inexcusable." "We're going to make sure that homeless veterans are receiving housing and services," he said.

But Obama emphasized that "government alone can't do it" in supporting the country's veterans.

"All of us, individually, are going to have roles," he said. "That's going to be critical." For example, business owners can't discriminate against veterans when they hire. Communities, neighborhoods and churches need to reach out to veterans, and to celebrate when they return home.

"I think we've done a much better job during these wars than we did during Vietnam, where in many cases our treatment of veterans was inexcusable," Obama

said. "But we can always do more. Government is going to ... do its role, and then we've got to make sure that our communities do their role as well."

Obama reflected on his visit to Arlington National Cemetery yesterday, where he met with about 35 of the 98 living Medal of Honor recipients during a Medal of Honor Day ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

"And it just reminds you that we wouldn't be here if it hadn't been for the sacrifices of earlier veterans," he said. "We would not enjoy the same safety and security and liberty that we do."

Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Research



What is it?

According to the Joint Theater Trauma System, 66 percent of the warfighters wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom are from blast injury. Forty-one percent of the warfighters exposed to a blast show evidence of a traumatic brain injury.

Mild TBI is currently defined by the event and through self-report of symptoms. The working definition is any post-event exposure alteration of mental state at the time of injury, any loss of consciousness lasting 30 minutes or less, or post-traumatic amnesia lasting less than 24 hours. There is agreement that this definition does not meet the needs for clinical assessment of brain injury.

What has the Army done?

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command hosted an International State-of-the-Science meeting to assess current state of knowledge on the existence and mechanisms of non impact, blast induced mTBI.

Participants were divided into workgroups to answer four pertinent questions about non-impact, blast induced mTBI.

(1) Is non-impact blast exposure associated with a physical mild traumatic brain injury?

(2) If the answer to question one is yes, is there substantial evidence to support one mechanism as the most plausible explanation for how non-impact blast exposure is associated with mTBI?

(3) What are three research gaps regarding the association between non-impact blast exposure and mTBI?

(4) What are generic recommendations regarding how researchers could standardize research methods to facilitate research synthesis of comparable studies?

Why is researching mTBI important to the Army?

It's important to understand the current state-of-the-science on this topic in order to help us make informed recommendations on Soldier protection, diagnostic and treatment strategies and to help us shape future research efforts that focus on filling knowledge gaps.

As a result of this meeting, we have a clearer understanding of the current state-of-the-science on the existence and mechanisms of non-impact, blast-induced mTBI. We understand the current research findings, and just as importantly, we understand the limitations of these findings. Our panel synthesized the information that was presented during the meeting to produce a list of specific knowledge gaps that will help us focus future research.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

The findings from this meeting will help to focus the current research projects, and to shape future research efforts in this area.

Resources:

U.S. Army Medical Research & Materiel Command:

<https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil>;

Blast Injury Research Program:

<https://blastinjuryresearch.amedd.army.mil>

Group Plans 'National Day of Awakening' on Mental Health



By Sharon Foster
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - A Maryland-based troop-support group is planning a "National Day of Awakening" to highlight the mental health needs of military families and the services available to them.

"We are very excited about this opportunity to raise awareness and awaken the general public to the issues facing our military families," said Barbara Van Dahlen Romberg, founder and president of Give an Hour, which provides free mental health services to redeployed troops. "In addition to a large day-long event in New York City, our goal is to have numerous community events going on simultaneously across the country."

Give an Hour is planning the National Day of Awakening for October, and the New York event will include a gathering of mental health groups that provide services to military families at an outdoor venue. The event will be open to the public, and

speakers and musicians will be invited to "entertain, inform and inspire," Romberg said.

Gatherings across the country will include local and national military and veterans groups, corporations, local governments and community groups, she said.

Organizers hope The National Day of Awakening will fulfill several purposes, Romberg said.

"It will continue the critical process of educating all citizens on issues affecting our returning warriors," she explained. "The event will serve to signal a new era of collaboration and coordination among organizations and individuals who have answered the call to serve this population. The event will also awaken all citizens to the huge resources available to servicemembers."

Romberg added the events will provide an immediate focus for the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act for people interested in serving and helping troops and their families. President Barack Obama signed the act into law April 21. Among other provisions, it created the Veterans Corps as a new national service organization.

Army Spc. Jennifer Crane, a combat veteran who uses Give an Hour services, said she is pleased about the October event.

"I served in Afghanistan in 2003," Crane said. "I was diagnosed with chronic post-traumatic stress disorder. Give an Hour has provided me with amazing free mental health care that I so desperately needed. I have been seeking help through them for about a year now, and it has been a wonderful experience. Today, I am a functioning member of society because of them. I know this event will help many other servicemembers and their families."

Rolando J. Díaz, a licensed clinical psychologist, said he joined Give an Hour because he was searching for a way to support servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He thinks the National Day of Awakening will be a huge success.

"So much of the work of this organization is about creating awareness, not only among providers but also servicemembers? knowing that they can get these services free of charge and that they do not have to feel bad about asking for help," Díaz said. "This is what makes this program work. The National Day of Awakening will be very beneficial. If needed, I plan to participate."

Romberg said she believes the event could have far-reaching implications in assisting military families.

"The National Day of Awakening will be a call to action for all citizens to assist the 1.9 million Americans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and the estimated

20 million directly affected by a loved one's service," she said. "We have the opportunity to unite our country in our concern and compassion for military families."

Related Sites:

Give an Hour

<blocked<http://www.giveanhour.org/>>

'Chaplains' Closet' Helps Landstuhl's Wounded Warriors



By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
Special to American Forces Press Service

LANDSTUHL, Germany, June 26, 2009 - The boxes arrive daily from the United States, 15 to 20 each day, along with \$8,000 to \$12,000 in cash every week from Americans and U.S. non-profit groups.

The boxes and the money are meant for the wounded warriors who pass through here, most coming from Afghanistan or Iraq. More than 54,000 wounded warriors have passed through Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's doors since Operation Enduring Freedom began in October 2001, according to a hospital spokesman.

Lined with shelves organized in a manner that would make even the most obsessive-compulsive supply sergeant proud is the "Chaplains' Closet." The name is a misnomer; it is about the size of an average neighborhood convenience store and its official name is the Wounded Warrior Ministry Center.

The Chaplains' Closet shelves are stacked with clothing, toiletries and shoes. A box of shoes marked "single shoes, left" is for servicemembers who are amputees. Their spirit shows in their humor. Recently, one soldier took a left shoe and another soldier took a right from the same pair. They looked at each other. "We're brothers," one quipped.

The servicemembers who receive the donations didn't expect to be here -- they arrive suddenly, with nothing, because they required treatment for wounds suffered on the battlefield. The medical center is a jointly staffed, Army-commanded, 138-bed hospital near Ramstein Air Base, Germany. It is the largest American hospital outside the United States.

"We have Conex boxes full of stuff," said Air Force Lt. Col. Curtis Wagner, a Protestant chaplain from the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing, serving a 120-day rotation here. "We have a whole warehouse at Ramstein that's filled with these donations. We just get so much

in, and then we distribute it to the soldiers."

About 1,200 servicemembers visit the Chaplains' Closet each month. If they are bed-ridden, a liaison officer gets their supplies for them. On average, servicemembers spend three to five days here before they are sent to the United States or back into theater.

A team of volunteers -- family members and the local community -- donates 500 to 600 hours each month to help the chaplains accomplish their mission.

"We have distributed over \$2 million of financial support in these last seven or eight years," Wagner said.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, the chaplains take wounded warriors on trips in the local area to help them relax and sightsee. The chaplains use some of the donated money to pay for transportation and meals. "That helps break up their time here," Wagner said.

Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Barry of the Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Airlift Wing, a Roman Catholic chaplain and teacher from Chicago, is serving his sixth tour at the hospital in five years. "It's the best ministry I've ever done," he said.

Until Sept. 11, 2001, the medical center had two chaplains and two assistants. Since then, that staff has grown to seven chaplains and six assistants. The chaplain staff mirrors the jointness increasingly found throughout the Defense Department. Two chaplains and two assistants are active-duty Army; two each are Navy; two each are National Guard; and one is from the Canadian armed forces.

Servicemembers at the medical center can talk with chaplains from a variety of religious backgrounds, including Buddhist. When they do not want to talk to a chaplain, the chaplains encourage servicemembers to talk with someone, because they believe talking helps with stress.

"One of the things we try to do is to get the guys to talk about what they've been through," Wagner said. "It's a privilege to me. I get a front seat to these incredible, heroic things that they've done."

Gates Establishes New Cyber Subcommand



By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates signed a memo yesterday establishing a subcommand focused on cyber security, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell told reporters today.

Details about the new U.S. Cyber Command, which will report to U.S. Strategic Command, still are unfolding. But Gates reportedly plans to recommend Army Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander, director of the National Security Agency, to receive his fourth star and take on the additional responsibility of commanding the cyber command.

Initial indications are that the cyber command will have its headquarters at Fort Meade, Md., pending results of an environmental impact statement.

"This is not some sort of new and necessarily different authorities that have been granted," Morrell told reporters today. "This is about trying to figure out how we, within this department, within the United States military, can better coordinate the day-to-day defense, protection and operation of the department's computer networks."

Morrell emphasized that the new command will focus solely on military networks.

Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III noted the importance of cyber security to national defense last week at the Center for International and Strategic Studies.

"Just like our national dependence, there is simply no exaggerating our military dependence on our information networks: the command and control of our forces, the intelligence and logistics on which they depend, the weapons technologies we develop and field? they all depend on our computer systems and networks," Lynn said. "Indeed, our 21st century military simply cannot function without them."

Because cyberspace is critical to joint military operations, it's critical that the Defense Department ensure they're protected, Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Butterbaugh, a Defense Department spokesman, told American Forces Press Service.

"To do this, the Department of Defense needs to ensure it has the right balance of integrated cyber capabilities," Butterbaugh said. "We're increasingly dependent on cyberspace, and there's a growing array of cyber threats. To effectively address this risk to its networks, the Defense Department requires a command possessing the required technical capability and which remains focused on streamlining cyberspace operations."

Morrell called the standup of Cyber Command an internal reorganization that will consolidate and streamline its cyber capabilities within a single command. The effort in no way represents any attempt by the department to "militarize" cyberspace or take over the responsibility for defending civilian networks, he said, noting that responsibility falls to the Homeland Security

Department.

"This is part of a holistic, government-wide effort to better organize and situate ourselves to deal with this very real threat," he said. "And it is a complement to efforts that are taking place elsewhere within the United States government."

Marine Corps Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, indicated during a June 4 address at the Center for International and Strategic Studies that a decision on the new subcommand was in the works.

"There will be a cyber capability at the tactical level, and ... we do deploy it forward," Cartwright said. "There is an operational level, which tends to be based regionally, and there is a strategic capability. And we will, over the next few days, start to roll out the organizational constructs associated with that."



Use of Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) for Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Expenses

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. - Announcement of DA Policy Change: Effective 1 Jun 09, the Citicorp individually billed travel charge card can be used for relocation expenses. USARC has endorsed the policy.

Key Points:

- Individuals are required to process through their organization Agency Program Coordinator (APC) to register before they may use their GTCC for PCS relocation expenses.
- Accession, Separation, and Retirement PCSs are excluded from the program.
- Cardholders will benefit because of the convenience of use and eliminating the need to apply for an advance of travel entitlements.
- When properly registered in the program, cardholders have the opportunity to use the GTCC for relocation expenses without fear of delinquency and subsequent account suspension due to late payments.

Copy of DA Policy Memo and USARC endorsement attached. DA Memo outlines APC and cardholders responsibilities, charges that are authorized, and procedures for implementing program.

Point of contact for this program is Mr. Steven Jeffers, AR-MEDCOM APC, email steven.jeffers@usar.army.mil, phone 727.563.3740.

Gas for Rental Cars



PINELLAS PARK, Fla. - The government does not reimburse for prepaying of gas for the rental car. If you know absolutely that you will use a full tank of gas you can use the

prepay. Approvers need to look at the rental car receipt to ensure the government is not paying for gas that was not used. The mileage is on the receipt. If they drove 50 miles and paid for a full tank of gas, it is not reimbursable.

GPS- The government does not pay for use of a GPS.

Go to <https://home.cards.citidirect.com> to pay your Gov't Travel card online.

General Counsel Looking Into 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' Gates Says



By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

ABOARD A MILITARY AIRCRAFT - A day after President Barack Obama reaffirmed his pledge to overturn the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said today he has Defense Department lawyers exploring ways to make it more flexible until the law is changed.

The law prohibits officials from inquiring into a servicemember's sexual orientation in the absence of statements or acts that indicate the servicemember is homosexual, but allows the services to take action against servicemembers who disclose their homosexuality by word or action.

Gates told reporters traveling with him from U.S. European Command that he talked with the president last week about "how to achieve his objective, which is changing the policy." The issue also came up at last week's Defense Leadership Council, he said.

"And the issue that we face is, How do we begin to do preparations and, simultaneously, the administration move forward in asking the Congress to change the law?" he said.

"What we have is a law, not a policy or regulation," Gates said. "And as I discovered when I got into it, it is a very prescriptive law. It doesn't leave a lot to the imagination or a lot of flexibility. So one of the things we are looking at is, Is there flexibility in how we apply this law?"

Gates cited the example of someone who's been "outed by a third party," possibly the result of blackmail or a jilting.

"Does that force us to take an action?" he questioned. "I don't know the answer to that. I don't want to pretend to. But that is the kind of thing we are looking at."

Gates said he believes there's "at least a more humane way to comply with the law until the law gets changed."

Exactly what that might be is up to legal interpretation, he said. "We have general counsel working on it," he added.

Independence Day Message from Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz



The birthday of the United States of America, July 4, 1776 - was the day Congress approved the words that declared America a free and independent nation.

While our founding fathers anxiously drafted the Declaration of Independence, General Washington, from his headquarters in New York, wrote letters to Congress and his generals pleading for arms, men, and provisions to defend against an imminent British attack. His Army of volunteers and regulars -- made up of our nation's youth who left their farms, families, trades and professions to fight for the principles of freedom and independence -- formed the legacy of the Citizen-Soldier that lives on in today's Warrior-Citizens.

This tradition continues as every Army Reserve Soldier, Family Member, and Army Reserve Civilian plays a fundamental role in the defense of our nation.

Your duty, honor and commitment during these times of persistent conflict around the world embody the same spirit of liberty and community demonstrated by those early volunteer militiamen who secured our independence as a free nation.

As you celebrate this Fourth of July holiday, take pride in knowing that you share with generations the great tradition of duty, honor, and patriotism. Every day you make unprecedented sacrifices in response to lengthy and repeated deployments. You are serving at a time when the stakes for our national security are high and the demands on you and your Families are significant. Moreover, you serve with an unwavering pride that is appreciated by the American people and me. Finally, and most importantly, you are a positive investment for America's freedom, defense, and independence.

AR-MEDCOM'S Marriage Enrichment Retreat 14-16 August 2009, Orlando, Florida.



PINELLAS PARK, Fla. - The AR-MEDCOM Commanding General is sponsoring a Marriage Enrichment Retreat (MER) from 14 - 16 August 2009 for all pre/post deploy-

ment married Soldiers and their spouses at the Embassy Suites Hotel International Drive/Jamaican Court, 8250 Jamaican Court, Orlando, FL 32819. This MER will be using "The 8 Habits of a Successful Marriage" workshop series based on Stephen R. Covey's No. 1 bestsellers The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and the 8th Habit. This workshop offers an outline for relating to a common, self-discovery approach that encourages couples to communicate about their problems and resolve them successfully. Upon completion of this workshop, Soldiers and their spouses should be able to clearly define their vision as a family unit. They will build a common sense of purpose, values, and goals as a couple. From this MER, the couples should also learn a process to accomplish family goals and discover how to achieve better communication with each other.

All Soldiers MUST submit a registration form to SSG Jennifer Fey, AR-MEDCOM Chaplain Assistant NCO at jennifer.fey@usar.army.mil and also to your Unit Administrators (UA) with every block completed. Registration Deadline is 22 July 2009 and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Soldiers who have recently returned from deployment or are currently tasked for deployment in the near future will have first priority. On Friday evening, there will be a sign in at 1830. The MER sessions will begin at 1900 on Friday, 14 August and conclude by 1200 on Sunday 16 August. Soldiers must sign in before every session at the registration table.

Once your registration is received and accepted by the AR-MEDCOM Chaplain Office, you will be added to the rooming list and given instructions on how to register at the hotel. Orders must state that government quarters are not available or directed. Check in time for the hotel is at 1600 hrs on Friday. There are no parking fees at the Embassy Suites Hotel International Drive/Jamaican Court.

Steps for Filing an IG Complaint

- ➡ Ensure you have personally taken all necessary steps possible to get your issue resolved.
- ➡ Give your Chain of Command every opportunity to resolve your issue, to include the UA.
- ➡ After ALL steps have been taken and no results have occurred then fill out DA Form 1559.
 - ✓ Include your name, rank, email address, telephone #s, unit name, unit address, and home address (unless anonymous)
 - ✓ Include all detailed information outlining your issue.
 - ✓ Place in chronological order each event that took place.
 - ✓ List all individuals you have contacted from both your Chain of Command and any outside agencies involved in your issue / complaint. (Include phone #s)
 - ✓ Use continuation sheet if necessary.
 - ✓ Submit ALL relevant documents about your issue.
- ➡ You may file your complaint by regular mail, email, or fax.



Fax: 727-563-3926



NOTE: When faxing, send an email (to the address above) or call us PRIOR to faxing.

- ➡ For questions, contact ARMEDCOM IG at (727) 563-3638

Hasbargen's Hit List

To all Commander, CSMs, FTUS,
First Line Leaders...

*We must do a better job taking care of
our "Warrior Medics"*



G-1 Personnel

- ★ Foster a climate of taking care of soldiers. This includes....
- ★ Timely submission of deserved awards.
- ★ Completing evaluations on time plan ahead be proactive.
- ★ Ensuring Line of Duties are completed for soldiers.
- ★ Take care of soldiers issues before they become Congressional. If they do, answer the Congressional in a timely and accurate/factual manner.
- ★ Get away from the inflexibility, think outside the box, preventing non participants is easier than recovery.
- ★ All Soldiers should attempt to recover non participant soldiers.

G-4 Logistics

- ★ Commanders need to schedule equipment inventories and put them on a training schedule.
- ★ Serviceability of Equipment - While conducting inventory check if the piece of equipment can perform the mission.
- ★ Recon Supply Transactions - Have the supply sergeant tell you what they have ordered.
- ★ Reporting - There are regulatory reporting times that are mandated by DA. Have your supply and maintenance brief you on your readiness.
- ★ ARMY Food Management Information System (AFMIS) - Input your units requirements 90 days in advance and close the transactions monthly.
- ★ Bulk Fuel Credit Card - Submit your report and only use the type of fuel authorized.
- ★ Lodging In Kind - Talk to the soldier about the program so they can use it.
- ★ Logistic Planning - Start planning your needs ahead of the event NOT the day before.
- ★ Government Purchase Cards - You can be held liable for illegal procurements. Learn the do's and do not's or if you have a question call the Program Manager.
- ★ Kentucky Logistics Operations Center (KYLOC) - Is a clothing program that supports the soldiers. Abuse it and we will lose it.
- ★ Mission Success is Dependent Upon Logistics.

G-7 Training

- ★ Maximize training opportunities and resources.
- ★ Mentor Junior Officers and Enlisted Soldiers.

G-8 Finance

- ★ Timely submission of orders for pay for TPU Soldiers. If the orders are not submitted and certified for pay in the system by the UA, then no other orders can be paid for other Soldiers. This means that one Soldier not submitting for pay can hold up pay for 50 other Soldiers.
- ★ Timely submission of travel vouchers in DTS. Soldiers need to submit their voucher NLT 7 days from end of duty. This is not happening and it leads into delinquencies in the government travel card.
- ★ Soldiers need to ensure that split disbursement is utilized to ensure that the government travel card is paid on time.

- ★ Maximize training during Battle Training Assemblies.
- ★ Schedule necessary MOS/ASI schools for your Soldiers.

Safety Office

- ★ Complete mandatory online safety training.

Staff Judge Advocate (SJA)

- ★ Investigate allegations of misconduct early. Appoint smart people to conduct them. Make the investigation a priority.
- ★ Prepare notifications of administrative separations expeditiously. Notify the Soldier and process the action through the chain of command for disposition as quickly as the regulations allow.
- ★ Report high profile incidents of misconduct through the chain of command to the AR-MEDCOM SJA Office immediately. Don't let your commanders be blind sided.

Surgeon's Office

- ★ Physical Health Assessments (PHA) MUST BE 100% in 2009. All Soldiers are required to have a PHA annually.
- ★ Improve Dental Readiness. Command Statistics currently are at only 65%.
- ★ Improve Post Deployment Health Re-Assessment (PDHRA). USARC goal is 100% of all Soldiers mobilized and deployed. WE ARE NOT THERE!

Deputy Commander Readiness (DCR)

- ★ Commanders and leaders must develop an Individual Training Plan (ITP) on every Soldier who is not DMOSQ. The ITP provides the roadmap for each Soldier to fit into the structure for mobilization readiness.
- ★ Commanders and leaders must become directly involved in effective recruiting to build their "Go-to-War" team. Direct involvement means that you know recruiting leaders within your 50 mile radius and are engaging them for your readiness needs.
- ★ Readiness metrics are important indicators or leaders doing their job. Identify your high priority readiness measures and hold subordinate leaders to the same standard. This is called "power-down" "measure-down". Accountability is a key enabler to improving readiness.

Inspector General (IG)

- ★ The solution to your problem starts with your Chain of Command.
- ★ Take care of your family issues before you deploy.

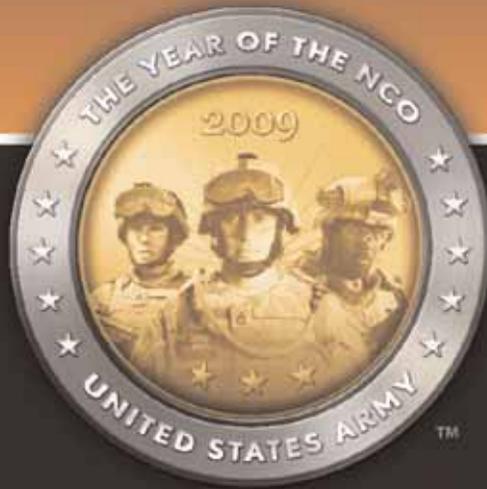
Public Affairs Office (PAO)

- ★ Help promote Command Information - Keep you Soldiers informed as to what is going on in the Army Reserve that effects them.
- ★ Help promote Community Relations - Get your Soldiers and units involved with community events. It promotes understanding and support amongst the community.
- ★ Help promote Media Relations - Get your Soldiers and units coverage in the local media. Get your story out there! Tell the public about the great things your Soldiers are doing.



**These are all essential for retention and morale. It's all about
taking care of our Soldiers and Readiness. Get it done!**

Maj. Gen. James A. Hasbargen, Commanding General, AR-MEDCOM



2009

The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer



Army NCO - No One is More Professional than I...

2009 "Year of NCO"

From the Desk of the CSM:

Leaders,

DA has opened the door for us to tell our story. Energize your folks to get some articles, photos, etc. put together and submitted for publication. This would be a great project for one (or more) of your junior / mid grade NCOs. 2009: The Year of The NCO; Lets show them we have some Great NCOs!

**ROGER B. SCHULZ
COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR**

From the Desk of the PAO:

Leaders,

We want to market at least two stories a month in 2009 about our outstanding NCOs, but we need your help.

If you have an outstanding NCO who truly stands out in your unit or within the community, contact us at

ARMEDCOMPAAO@usar.army.mil

We will need their name, unit, contact information (phones, address and email) as well as a short paragraph explaining why you feel they deserve some publicity for the work they are doing at home, school, work, in the community or as an outstanding NCO.

PAO will contact the NCO, draft an article and or news release about them and market their story in their hometown news outlets as well as other media avenues.

Please ensure the NCO is aware that you are recommending them for a feature story and that they are not "camera shy".

**MAJ. WILLIAM RITTER
CHIEF, PUBLIC
AFFAIRS**

United States Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland



Hospital Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & Explosive Incidents Course

Will you know what to do if you are faced with mass casualties from a catastrophic event?



FOR INFORMATION ONLY: See your training officer/NCO for the availability of funds and training days if you are interested in attending these courses. Contact the schools directly, at the number below, for more information.



HM-CBRNE Course Date • 3 - 7 August 2009

- Expert Classroom Instruction
- NIMS, NRE, HICS
- Multistation Practical Exercise
- Group Activities & Discussions
- Multi-Hospital Mass Casualty Tabletop
- Equipment Demonstrations
- Hands On Training Exercises

We would like to present to you an advanced-level education opportunity from the US Army, the HM-CBRNE course. It offers healthcare professionals state-of-the-art instruction that may save lives in a major WMD incident. Designed for civilian and military healthcare managers and providers, it is presented by some of the nation's leading authorities in biological, chemical, and radiation incident management.

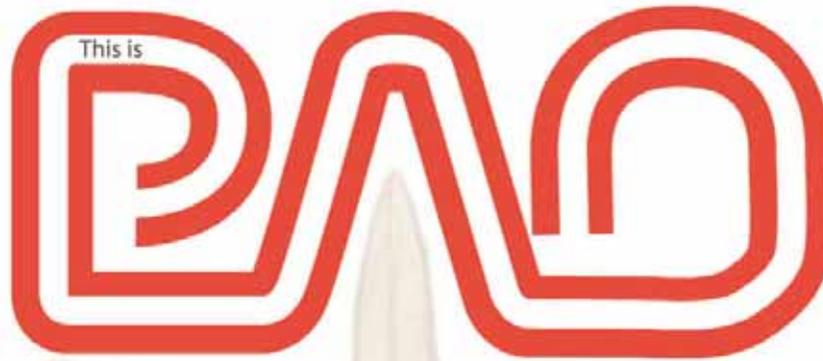
This course was developed with hospital level objectives – clinical and non-clinical. It features interactive seminar discussions and dynamic exercises. The HM-CBRNE course is intended to help mitigate the existing gaps in support of hospital operations during a major WMD event. Additionally, it benefits all other routine and crisis hospital operations. It also provides a great opportunity to meet other professionals from across the nation who faces the same challenges you do.

To join us or to learn more about this opportunity, contact the Chemical Casualty Care Division. CME/CNE/CEU available.

US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense
 3100 Ricketts Point Road, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD 21010-5400
 Commercial Phone: 410-436-2230 Fax: 410-436-3086 DSN: 584-2230
<https://ccc.apgea.army.mil>

Attention To All:

- Hospital Management
- Emergency Planners
- Emergency Responders
- Public Health Officials
- Physicians
- Nurses



Army Reserve Medical Command Public Affairs

❖ Telling the Army Story ❖

- ❖ Do you have a unique mission? ❖ Do you have an outstanding Citizen-Soldier in your ranks? ❖
- ❖ Are you training on new equipment? ❖ Do you have an upcoming training event or deployment? ❖
- ❖ Are you training in a Joint or International environment? ❖

Help Us Cover Our Soldiers & Events!

Submissions are welcome. Story ideas, as well as written articles and photos for consideration, should be emailed to ARMEDCOMPAO@usar.army.mil, or call 1-877-891-3281, extensions 3730 or 3962.



See Stories about Army Reserve Medical Command Soldiers, Families & Events at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARMEDCOM>

<http://www.dvidshub.net/units/AR-MEDCOM>

The Army Makes You Strong, We Make It Known!

❖ What's Your Army Story? ❖