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# Family Program News

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## The National Guard

The National Guard, the oldest component of the Armed Forces of the United States and one of the nation's longest-enduring institutions, celebrated its 368th birthday on December 13, 2004. The National Guard traces its history back to the earliest English colonies in North America. Responsible for their own defense, the colonists drew on English military tradition and organized their able-bodied male citizens into militias.

The colonial militias protected their fellow citizens from Indian attack, foreign invaders, and later helped to win the Revolutionary War. Following independence, the authors of the Constitution empowered Congress to "provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia." However, recognizing the militia's state role, the Founding Fathers reserved the appointment of officers and training of the militia to the states. Today's National Guard still remains a dual state-Federal

force.

Throughout the 19th century the size of the Regular Army was small, and the militia provided the bulk of the troops during the Mexican War, the early months of the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War. In 1903, important national defense legislation increased the role of the National Guard (as the militia was now called) as a Reserve force for the U.S. Army. In World War I, which the U.S. entered in 1917, the National Guard made up 40% of the U.S. combat divisions in France; in World War II, National Guard units were among the first to deploy overseas and the first to fight.

Following World War II, National Guard aviation units, some of them dating back to World War I, became the Air National Guard, the nation's newest Reserve component. The Guard stood on the frontiers of freedom during the Cold War, sending soldiers and airmen to fight in Korea and to reinforce NATO during the Berlin crisis

of 1961-1962. During the Vietnam war, almost 23,000 Army and Air Guardsmen were called up for a year of active duty; some 8,700 were deployed to Vietnam. Over 75,000 Army and Air Guardsmen were called upon to help bring a swift end to Desert Storm in 1991.

Since that time, the National Guard has seen the nature of its Federal mission change, with more frequent call ups in response to crises in Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and the skies over Iraq. Most recently, following the attacks of September 11, 2001, more than 50,000 Guardsmen were called up by both their States and the Federal government to provide security at home and combat terrorism abroad. Today, tens of thousands of Guardsmen are serving in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, as the National Guard continues its historic dual mission, providing to the states units trained and equipped to protect life and property, while providing to the nation units trained, equipped and ready to defend the United States and its interests, all over the globe.

## Why Family Readiness Groups?

A Family Readiness Group (FRG) is an organization of family members, volunteers and soldiers as well as others interested in the welfare of the service member. The FRG provides an avenue of mutual support, assistance and a network of communication among family members, the chain of com-

mand and community resources.

The primary purpose of any FRG is to encourage self-sufficiency among its members by providing information, referral assistance, and mutual support.

Well trained and well equipped soldiers and airmen

who are able to perform their assigned mission to the best of their abilities PLUS well informed and resourced families capable of successfully sustaining periods of deployment EQUALS total unit mission success.

# Chaplain's Corner

## Hope for the Holidays

I was surprised to see the amount of decorations displayed in the neighborhoods as I drove to a Halloween party a few weeks ago. It wasn't the homes decorated with pumpkins, goblins and ghouls that caught my eye. Rather, it was the red, white and green decorations that stood out. Several people had already begun to decorate for Christmas! And it wasn't even November!

Though I balk at putting up anything related to Christmas until at least the turkey leftovers have been tossed for the season, I understand why some may jump the gun to get the trees decorated, garland hung and presents wrapped. For most, the holidays are a time of joy, giving and memories with friends and family. We

get a break from the routines to which we are accustomed and usually get time off from work. Many fill their holidays with traditions that have been practiced for years. Others are devout in observing religious services that give a foundation to the holidays they celebrate.

Yet there are others who will be able to take little time off from their work. Nor will they be able to decorate, visit their families or carry out the traditions they may have practiced for years. They are our American service men and women. Those of us who have served overseas during the holidays know that this can be a tough time of year. But you can help. This year you can spread the hope of the season by doing things that may seem small but are significant to those who feel left out of all

the celebration taking place at home. Try things like sending pictures or cards. Send emails on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to let them know you are thinking of them. If you have a family member overseas communicate the time and location where you will be on Christmas Day so that you can receive a phone call. And all of us can say a prayer. Pray for their safety, courage, and encouragement and that the Hope of the Holidays may fill their lives with joy this season.

Chaplain Hanna can be reached at the Oklahoma Military Department.

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JFHQ-Oklahoma  
405-228-5178  
DSN 628-5178  
Fax 405-606-7212



# Family Assistance Centers:

Family Assistance Centers are here to support guard and family members. Guard and family members may call a FAC employee at any time for information and to ask questions.

For families of guard members who are deployed or recently returned from a deployment, your specific contact is as follows:



245 Aviation, HHC:  
245 Aviation, E Company:  
249 Aviation:  
245 MI Company:  
Med Hold:  
Other:  
158 FA:  
137th AW:  
138th FW:

Billy Nichols: 918-832-6536  
Jessica Hurt: 918-832-6543  
Peggy Campbell: 405-228-5387  
Peggy Campbell: 405-228-5387  
JoAnne Evans: 405-228-5841  
JoAnne Evans: 405-228-5841  
Gerda Weekley: 580-595-4455  
Jennifer Lain: 405-686-5683  
Connie Hurt: 918-833-7732

# SAT/ACT Training Available for All Families in The Armed Forces

**Los Angeles California, Oct \_\_\_\_ , 2005** In association with The Department of Defense (DoD), eKnowledge LLC announces that a group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL and CFL football players all represented through the Victory Sports Group Agency, has sponsored several million dollars worth of \$199 SAT and ACT test prep programs to every family in the U.S. Military (all branches—active or retired) for the school year 2005-2006. Specifically, the sponsorship allows any military person (active or retired) to request as many programs as they need for the students in their lives—for example a military uncle can use his military status to order a program(s) for the students in his extended family back home—any military person can order a program to help any student in his or her life. To have access to the sponsorship the person placing the order must be military (active or retired). The Department of Defense has created a secure website to quickly confirm a person's military status. Personnel can access the confirmation and order pages through several military related associations and organizations, including: The Department of Defense [MilitaryStudent.org](http://www.militarystudent.org) and Military HOMEFRONT websites for families, The Military Child Education Collation, The Military Impacted Schools' Association, and The National Military Families Association all have access to confirm military status and process the order. Programs ship to domestic U.S. addresses and APO addresses. The sponsorship covers the regular purchase price of \$199 and the family pays only the S&H. The programs have a one-year license and are intended for the sole individual use of students on their personal home or laptop computer and are not intended for group or classroom instruction through the schools. Requests to receive the sponsored program can be placed now on the website or over the phone.

## About Victory Sports Group

The Victory Sports Group represents NFL, NFL Europe, AFL, and CFL football players. It is the sports agency section of the Enslin, Pinkston and Courtney, LLP law firm—an international, full-service sports agency/firm. Some of the football players that have contributed to this effort are: Ahmaad Galloway, Scott Young, Garrick

Jones, Corey Williams, Jon Bradley, Jason Radar, Dominique Dunbar, Bradly Chavez, Kelly Johnson, Elgin Hicks, Kevin Breedlove, Tim Blackwell.

## About eKnowledge LLC

eKnowledge LLC provides online and CD-ROM e-learning products and services. The company specializes in the custom design of interactive programs utilizing rich media.

## About The SAT/ACT Power Prep CD-ROM Programs

The SAT/ACT test prep training programs each have two CD-ROMs, that includes more than ten (10) hours of training video and require approximately 40 hours of student participation—it can be used as a stand-alone complete course or as a supplement to other SAT/ACT prep materials. The students select the training they most need and can study at their own pace by picking which of the 120 video lessons they want to view. The program also provides progress tracking and much more.

To view a flyer that has been made to assist in the effort, please go to:

[http://www.sat.eknowledge.com/information/00\\_SATACT\\_Flyer2Parents\\_Armed\\_Forces\\_v3.pdf](http://www.sat.eknowledge.com/information/00_SATACT_Flyer2Parents_Armed_Forces_v3.pdf)

## How Military Families Request The \$199 Programs

A military person visits one of the websites to confirm their military status through the secure Department of Defense main Database. That website will then forward the person to the sponsorship order page where they can request the programs. The sponsorship will cover the \$199.99 cost for the program. The families pay only the s/h of \$9.95.

**Questions:** Please contact: Brandon Chatham - [bchatham@eknowledge.com](mailto:bchatham@eknowledge.com) - 951-256-4076

## Family Program Website a Valuable Resource



Family members and Family Readiness Groups (FRG) can now access information on-line in the new Family Program Website. Simply go to [www.ond.state.ok.us/FamProg](http://www.ond.state.ok.us/FamProg) to visit the new site where you will find new and exciting information. This site also contains information relating to pay issues, legal issues, Tricare, etc. There are links to various websites needed by members and their families, such as Military One

Source, Red Cross, GuardFamily.org, Tricare, MyPay, etc. There are also deployment preparation checklists, FRG coordinator tools, and Family Assistance Center contact information. We are making changes and updating this website daily and we are looking for your suggestions.

To make suggestion please contact MAJ Iverson at (405) 228-5591.

# National Guard's 2006 Lewis and Clark Youth Rendezvous Essay Contest



**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Guard Bureau announces a unique opportunity for the youth of America. Students who will be high school juniors or seniors by August 2006 are eligible to participate in the National Guard's Youth Rendezvous essay contest. Ten students from each state and territory will be involved in this once-in-a-lifetime experience, and earn an all-expenses-paid trip to North Dakota August 13-18, 2006.

“Throughout its involvement in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, the National Guard has emphasized the educational applications of this extraordinary American adventure. To culminate its involvement in the Bicentennial, the National Guard is sponsoring this Lewis and Clark Youth Rendezvous. By way of an essay contest, our nation's high school junior and seniors will be afforded the opportunity to compete for one of the 540 spots in this immersion

into history. The Lewis and Clark Expedition will come alive through a week-long series of events and activities in the Bismarck, North Dakota area,” said Steven L. Stearns, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration project officer.

Students need to write a Lewis and Clark focused-essay in order to be a state finalist. Through multiple activities and events, selected students will follow the Lewis and Clark trail, experience American Indian culture of yesterday and discover military history firsthand.

The Lewis and Clark-focused essay needs to address the following question:

*“In your opinion, what military value most describes the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery journey and why?”* (Military values are outlined on the website below.) The essay must be a minimum of 1,000 words,

but not more than 1,500 words; and can be submitted online or by mail and must be received between **Nov. 12, 2005, and midnight Feb. 28, 2006.**

Students will be immersed in the experience by walking in the footsteps of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Through multiple activities and events, selected students will follow the Lewis and Clark trail, experience American Indian culture of yesterday and discover military history firsthand.

The hands-on activities and events will take place throughout western North Dakota. The adventure will showcase daily activities of the original Lewis and Clark expedition that will create a unique educational opportunity. To submit an essay or learn more about planned events, activities and essay contest rules, go to [www.lcyouthrendezvous.com](http://www.lcyouthrendezvous.com).

## Free TurboTax on Military OneSource!



Although tax season is a little while off, now is the time to start locating your resources. TurboTax is now offered through Military OneSource online at no cost to Active, Guard and Reserve members and their families.

Users must access TurboTax Web through the Military OneSource link for the surcharge to be waived. TurboTax will allow users to quickly file state and local taxes through a simple step-by-step process.

Phase two of the comprehensive tax filing program for tax season 2005 will be launched in December 2005.

To locate TurboTax on the Military OneSource home page go to:

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)  
User ID: **military** Password: **onesource**

“Other Helpful Resources,” and “TurboTax”.