

Airman & Family Readiness

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Barnes Family Flyer

6 December 2013



Thank you for subscribing to the Barnes Family Flyer, a weekly newsletter for the Airmen and Families of the 104th Fighter Wing! The Flyer will be distributed every Friday and offers you a concise overview of the programs, benefits and opportunities for Military Families.

104th FW Annual Children's Christmas Party!!!

The 104th FW Family Readiness Volunteer group invites you to this year's Children's Christmas Party!

Sunday, 8 December 2013 1230-1530

Army Aviation Support Facility Hangar

****NOTE - NEW LOCATION!!****



2014 Barnes ANGB Holiday Angel Tree Program



Angel Tree is now open and looking for sponsors!

For any who are interested in sponsoring one or more of our Angels, the information is now available in the Airman & Family Readiness Office. Please call, email or stop in to pick out your angel!

****Gifts for your Angel are due back to our office NLT Wednesday, December 18th. ****

ALL Angel presents will be available for pick up on Thursday and Friday, December 19th and 20th.

Please call Jennifer at (413) 568-9151 x 698-1183 if you have any questions or email at Jennifer.cesaitis@ang.af.mil.

2013 Military Special Needs Holiday Guide

Military Special Needs Network is a peer - to - peer organization founded to provide emotional and family support for military families around the globe, regardless of medical, educational, or behavioral diagnosis.

Recognizing the additional demands of the Holidays can bring, MSNN has brought you their 1st Holiday Guide. Full of helpful articles, supportive advice, and wonderful tips on surviving and thriving during the season.

[View this Holiday Guide online here!](#)





Join
**Operation
Homefront**
for
**holiday
TOY DISTRIBUTION**

Eligible recipients include:

- Active Duty, E1-E6, or
- National Guard, E1-E6 on Title 10 or 32 orders; or
- Activated Reservist, E1-E6; or
- Wounded, active duty or retired, any rank

December 14, 2013
**At the Wellesley, Taunton,
And Springfield Armories**
From 10 a.m. ~ 1 p.m.
Register at
<http://www.operationhomefront.net/event/list?id=2701>

Priority Two

This event is open to ALL military families. The flyer is created nationally, so we cannot change some of the wording. Those who have difficulty registering on-line or who do not fit the published criteria can register with us at MassNGYouth@aol.com. All are welcome to receive one premium toy per child and their choice of stocking stuffers. We hope to see you there!



6 December 2013

Fuel Assistance Guidelines

The Massachusetts Low Income Energy Assistance Program for the 2013-2014 heating season began November 1st. This program is designed to provide relief to low-income households. The income eligibility guidelines and the required documents **are listed below:**

HOUSEHOLD SIZE GROSS INCOME : 1 \$32,065 2 \$41,932 3 \$51,798

To Apply you will need: Identification for head of household along with Social Security #'s and birth dates for all household members.

Income Verification: Last four (4) weeks gross income for everyone in the household 18 years and older. All income must be documented such as Child Support, Odd Jobs, Veterans, Pension, AFDC, Social Security, Interest/Dividends, etc. Any adult receiving income for a minor must have proof of that income. For the self-employed, a copy of 2012 federal tax returns with all pages and schedules. If self prepared, signature page must be notarized. Full time students need documentation from the school or college. Copies of complete electric bill, heating bill, Verizon phone bill, Mortgage statement, real estate tax bill, homeowners insurance or for renters a signed lease or letter from landlord stating amount of monthly rent.

[Learn more here!](#)



Cold Relief Helpline
1-800-632-8175

WARNING: Marketing Scam! VA National Call Center & VA GI Bill Call Center

The marketing company has established two toll-free numbers that differ by one digit from the VA National Call Center and the VA GI Bill Call Center. If the caller happens to dial the wrong number, the veteran is offered a gift card in return for providing personal and financial information, including credit card information.

Note that VA will never ask you for a credit card number or banking information over the phone. Veterans are encouraged to use care when calling VA national lines and to be aware that the Veterans Benefits Administration office does not sell gift cards or ask for credit card information.



The correct phone numbers are:

- The VA National Call Center number is 800-827-1000.
- The VA GI Bill Call Center number is 888-442-4551.

Find out more at <http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>



Employer Support Freedom Award for 2014 - nominations open!

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's HIGHEST HONOR presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen and Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil by January 20, 2014.

Each year, up to 15 deserving employers are selected as Freedom Award recipients and honored in Washington, D.C. Examples of past recipient support include continued benefits and healthcare for deployed service members, home maintenance and childcare support and veteran hiring initiatives. Service members who have received exemplary employer support should submit their nominations for the Freedom Award today.





6 December 2013

Federal Employee Open Season closes December 9

With less than 1 week left in Open Season, here are 7 reasons for you to visit the [Open Season](#) website today!

1. Informative [videos](#) from Federal benefits experts
2. New dental and vision plan choices
3. Updated [quality outcomes](#) information for health plans
4. Saving money with [FSAFEDS!](#)
5. Do you have the right plan for you? Check out our [comparison tools](#).
6. Understand [FEHB and Medicare](#)
7. Did we mention you can save money with [FSAFEDS?!?](#)



TSA Pre-Check Changes for Service Members

As the holidays are fast approaching, many service members and their families will be traveling.

Beginning Dec 20, 2013, Transportation Security Administration and Department of Defense has announced a partnership to expand TSA Precheck expedited screening benefits to all members of the US Armed Forces, including those who are serving in the US Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and Reservist. This will also include Wounded Warriors (as well as the caregivers for Wounded Warriors). This partnership expands the current TSA Precheck lanes to **all** 100 airports offering TSA Precheck.

Department of Defense and Transportation Security Administration Partner to Provide Military TSA Precheck at 100 Airports. Find out more [HERE](#).



VA Offers Dental Insurance Program

VA is partnering with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible Veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance beginning 15 NOV 13.

Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can choose to purchase one of the offered dental plans. This three-year pilot has been designed for Veterans with no dental coverage, or those eligible for VA dental care who would like to purchase additional coverage. There are no eligibility limitations based on service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. People interested in participating may complete an application online through either [Delta Dental](#), or [MetLife](#). Coverage for this new dental insurance will begin January 1, 2014.

Also eligible are spouses and dependent children who are reimbursed for most medical expenses under VA's CHAMPVA program. Dental services under the new program vary by plan and include diagnostic, preventive, surgical, emergency and endodontic/restorative treatment. Enrollment in the VA Dental Insurance Plan (VADIP) is voluntary. Participants are responsible for all premiums, which range from \$8.65 to \$52.90 per month for individual plans. Copayments and other charges may apply. For more visit the [VA online](#), or Delta Dental at 855-370-3303 or MetLife at 888-310-1681. Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply at any time [online](#), by calling 877-222-8387 or visiting their local VA health care facility.





6 December 2013

Effective Job Search Strategies Workshop

MON 09 DEC 11:00—1:00

Learn how to identify your skills, use networking to increase employment options, & how to research industries to find job opportunities. Feel free to bring your lunch!

Taught by Bob Dolan, Certified Job Search & Career Transition Consultant.



To register please call 781-225-2765 or email 66.fss.fsfr.cmb@hanscom.af.mil. A&FRC programs are available free of charge to military personnel, DoD civilians, retired military and family members.



www.militaryfriends.org | **thinking of you makes me smile**

You have been nominated as a



V.I.P. (Very Important Parent / Grandparent) of a 1-16 year old

MILITARY FRIENDS FOUNDATION in partnership with
Massachusetts Gold Star Families
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Massachusetts National Guard the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services
Invites you to attend the

3RD ANNUAL OPERATION MILITARY SMILES ANNUAL TOY GIVEAWAY

This is an event for Veterans, Service Members and Families of the Fallen to come select toys for the special children in your lives. Come choose from 1,000's of toys and stocking stuffers and join with other parents/grandparents for light refreshments.

*****Please note this is an event for adults only*****

SANTA SHOP LOCATIONS – 10:00am to 1:00pm

December 14, 2013: Government Center Atrium, City Hall Plaza, Fall River, MA

December 15, 2013: Brockton VA Medical Center, Building 22, Brockton, MA

Please visit www.militaryfriends.org for more info!

If possible, to help us ensure we have the best selection of toys for your children, please RSVP with each child's name and age to info@militaryfriends.org or call (617) 733-7994.

****Please remember to bring a copy of this invite and proof of military service to the event.****

MilitaryFriends.org/smiles

(617) 733-7994