

State Family Programs

Volume 2, Issue 1
Spring, 2016

One Force, One Family, One Future

There have been some exciting new staff changes to Family Programs. We said goodbye to Belinda Ireland, who helped make Family Programs great for many years as the FAC Coordinator. Stepping in to more than fill her shoes is Raphael Weaver. Raphael is no stranger to Family Programs, and worked with us in the Soldier For Life program prior to taking over the position as new FAC Coordinator.

Raphael is here at the Family Programs Office should you have need of anything, or just wish to stop in and congratulate him on his new position.

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As we pass the holiday season, it is good to keep in mind that the holidays are not the only time people have need of assistance.

If you are a currently serving member of the Michigan National Guard and you find yourself with an emergent financial need, our Family Assistance Specialists can assist you in submitting an application to the Michigan National Guard Family Fund. The Family Fund has assisted Families since 1991 who have unexpected financial difficulties.

Applications must be submitted through a Family Assistance Specialist, so be sure to contact the FAS in your region for any issues that may arise. Don't know who your FAS is? Contact the Family Programs Office, and we'll be more than happy to assist you.

-CPT Nick Anderson
State Family Programs Director

Best Snowman Competition

Now through Friday, March 18th, 2016, show us your snowman — building skills!

Submit a picture of your best snowman to Family Programs, and may the best one win!

Voting will take place the week of March 21 —25.

Snowmen may be built outside or inside — they don't have to be made of snow!

Families, units, departments, and groups of friends are all encouraged to participate!

Submit pictures to the
Family Programs Office,
our Facebook page, or
ng.mi.miarnng.mbx.family-programs@mail.mil

As part of the contract under which the National Guard Child and Youth Program operates, we have been asked to survey Families who have utilized Child and Youth resources and services (Camps, Resiliency Training, Yellow Ribbon Youth Programs, contacted C&Y for resources, newsletters, etc.) after **1 October 2015**.

The purpose of this survey is to gather valuable information related to current strengths of the program, as well as areas where continued development could be targeted for improvement. We're looking to make the Child and Youth Program operate at the highest capacity for benefits to everyone in the state.

Please take this 10-15 minute, completely anonymous survey in order to improve our program. If you're unable to complete the survey online, a PDF version is available—simply contact one of our Youth Coordinators for a copy!



[Click for survey](#)

We're aiming for greatness!

If you have a military youth who is interested in attending the Teen Symposium on May 20-22, please contact our Child and Youth Coordinators:

Lead Youth Coordinator: Angie Spina
(517) 481-9894

Youth Coordinator: Traci Osterman-Pierce
(517) 481-9890



Click to visit us on Facebook or on the web!



Family Assistance

Finances

Family Assistance Centers provide resources and referrals for 6 Essential Services. In this issue, we will take a closer look at Financial Services.

The Family Assistance Specialists are capable of assisting with any financial difficulty you may encounter. The majority of Federal, State, and community programs and grants that are available to Service Members are funded to provide assistance based on emergent needs. Family Assistance Specialists have the resources to assist with getting applications properly filled out and submitted.

They can also refer you to other resources such as:

- Community Food Banks
- Clothing Banks
- Free or discounted medical clinics
- Free or discounted dental clinics

Don't have an emergent need, but want to get your finances in order? A Family Assistance Specialist can set up an appointment for you with a Personal Financial Counselor, who can assist with your budgetary and retirement needs, among others. These counselors would cost up to \$250/hr in the civilian world, but are free to you, to thank you for your service.

FAC Coordinator
Raphael Weaver: 517-481-9889

Ishpeming
Armory:
(906) 203-7676

Sault Ste Marie
Armory:
(906) 203-7680

Camp
Grayling:
(989) 745-1439

Grand Valley
Armory:
(616) 485-8966

Grand Ledge
Armory:
(517) 395-0840

Bay City
Armory:
(517) 395-0840

Fort
Custer:
(517) 898-4144

Jackson
Armory:
(517) 395-0839

Taylor
Armory:
(734) 558-0217

Family Assistance

New FAC Coordinator, and Other News



Welcome To Our New FAC Coordinator!



Raphael Weaver, the new Family Assistance Centers Coordinator, has been working with Family Programs since 2012 with the ACAP/Soldier For Life program.

He is very excited to be working in this capacity, helping out and giving back to Service Members, Veterans, Retirees, and Families.

Raphael is incredibly knowledgeable, and Family Programs is very excited to have him on board with us.

Welcome, Raphael!



Denise Gardner is the Family Assistance Specialist for Region 5, which covers central Michigan.



Eve Giraud-Prosser is the Family Assistance Specialist in Region 1, which covers the western half of the Upper Peninsula.

What is Military Saves?

Military Saves, a component of the nonprofit America Saves and a partner in the Department of Defense's Financial Readiness Campaign, seeks to motivate, support, and encourage military Families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth. The research-based campaign uses the principles of behavioral economics and social marketing to change behavior. Military Saves encourages all Service Members, their Families, and civilian employees to take the Military Saves Pledge, and for organizations to promote savings both year-round and during Military Saves Week.



Military Saves Encourages:

- Saving a portion of each paycheck
- Developing a personal financial plan
- Establishing good credit
- Enrolling in programs such as:
 - Thrift Savings Plan
 - Savings Deposit Program (when eligible)
 - Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance



Like them on
Facebook



Click to visit
militarysaves.org

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program



Highlights

Upcoming Events

182nd During Deployment
February 13th



OOL 16 During Deployment
February 20th



351st Post Deployment
March 5th

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program has had several wonderful events already in 2016, with more still to come! The Air Guard had an event on January 23rd, the 3/238th had an event on January 30th, and the 182nd already had one great event on February 6th.

Be sure to attend the upcoming events for your Service Member! You can sign up through JSS, or call your local Family Assistance Specialist. Not sure who that is? Call the Family Programs Office, or contact the Yellow Ribbon Coordinator for assistance. We'll be more than happy to help you.



517-481-9893



ng.mi.miarng.mbx.family-programs-yellow-ribbon@mail.mil



Visit us on the web:



Survivor Outreach Services

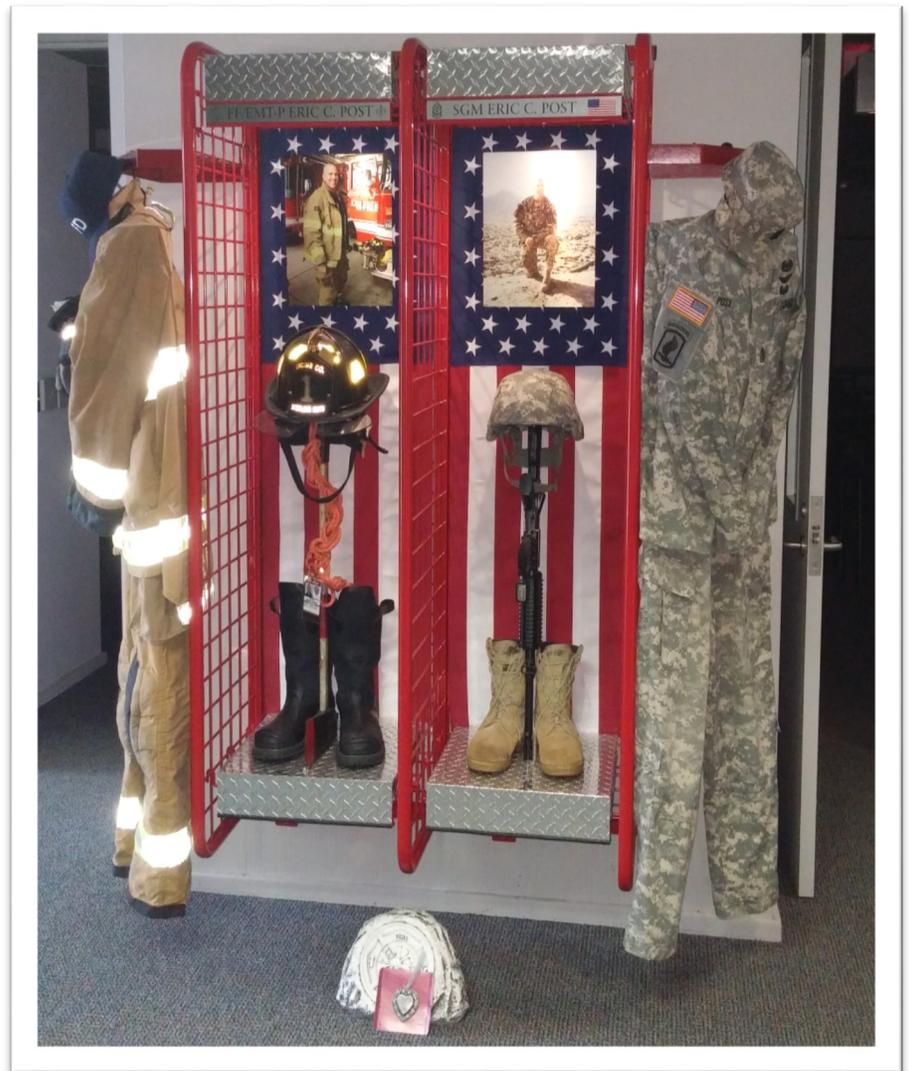


A Touching Memorial

Sergeant Major Eric Post passed away in 2014, leaving behind his family and many friends, both in the Michigan Army National Guard (146th MMB), and in the Sterling Heights Fire Department where Eric worked for many years. Mark Downing and Tom Foster, Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinators, recently visited the Post family to review their Survivor benefits.

While working with Sergeant Major Post's family, Mark and Tom were told of a Memorial that the Sterling Heights Fire Department, Station #5, dedicated to SGM Post and Fireman Post. The memorial consists of his military and fireman uniforms combined with a Soldier's Field Cross and a Fireman's Field Cross.

This Memorial helps us in remembering SGM Post's dedication to service, service to his community by his civilian profession as a Fireman, and service to his State and Country in the Michigan Army National Guard.



(989) 372-1126

(269) 689-5711

(517) 481-9887

(517) 481-9896



Visit **SOS**
on the web

Military OneSource and Lunch & Learns

Upcoming Webinars and Financial Seminars



During Deployment Webinar Series

Feb 16, 2016	6:30pm
Mar 15, 2016	6:30pm
Apr 19, 2016	6:30pm
May 17, 2016	6:30pm

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

Need to talk?

Call us.

Military OneSource

Contact: **April Clipper**

Michigan Military OneSource State Consultant

Phone: 989-415-9846

Email: april.clipper@militaryonesource.com

February 4th:

Getting Your Budget Back On Track

Upcoming Lunch & Learns

Lunch and Learn questions?

Contact: **Joel Kooyman**
Personal Financial Counselor

Phone: 517-424-4981

Email: MI-PFC3@mflc.zeiders.com

February 11th:

Putting It All Together

Upcoming Events

In Family Programs



February

February 26: Youth Council Meeting

March

March 5: Post-Deployment Yellow Ribbon Event

March 12: Stay Guard Event in Lansing

April

April 1-30: Month of the Military Child

April 5: Gold Star Spouse Day

April 15: **Purple Up! Day**

April 29-30: Operation Megaphone (Lock-in)



Click to find us on the web

and

Like us on Facebook!



Don't forget to visit!

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