



DVEM
ATTN: Family Program Office
State House Station #33
Augusta, ME 04333

CH (COL) Andrew Gibson
*Director, Deployment
Cycle Services*

MSG Barbara Claudel
Director, Family Program

SFC Jeffrey Bickford
*NCOIC Yellow Ribbon
Reintegration Program*

Chain of Concern Newsletter

July/August/September 2014

Family Program Office Buker Center
#33 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333

Recent Events



Military kids are holding the flag while SSG Ryder, MEARNG, sings the National Anthem. Thank you to the Portland Sea Dogs for the 2014 Military Appreciation Day.



Youth gather on the stairs of the State House for the 2014 Honorary State page Day at the Capital with the First Lady.

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The Chaplain's Word

"Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault is attached to the attempt it is mine alone."

- General Dwight David Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

You may or may not be familiar or even aware of the above message from General Eisenhower, because it was never necessary to deliver. As we know, D-Day was a success and WWII was won. Ike discovered this note, which he had written in free hand, in the pocket of his jacket, a few weeks after the fateful day – forgetting that he had written it.

What fear Ike must have had being the one who would be sending so many brave men to their fate! Can you imagine writing the above letter, and then anticipating that you might have to deliver that message not only to the people of the United States, but also the UK, Canada, France, and all the allies, letting them know that literally tens of thousands of their sons had died at his order.

Yet, he did order the launch. This message points out that courage is not the absence of fear, but the suppression of fear that allows you to be bold. There are so many things in our lives that bring about apprehension; so many things that could drive us to paralysis if we allow the fear of failure to invade our thoughts. Of course, some fear is useful; it keeps us from doing irrational things that can get us hurt. However, if we constantly focus on the negative, if we are always looking at the dark side of things, well, we probably shouldn't even get out of bed (though that's dangerous too – you might get bed sores!)

This Summer, focus on the can instead of the can't. Try something new! Make that change you've been thinking of.

Take a chance – after all, no one ever jumped over a chasm in two leaps!

God Bless You,

CH Andy Gibson

Joint Forces, Headquarters – Maine

Chaplain

State Family Program Director MSG BARBARA A. CLAUDEL

Happy 4th of July! With much excitement, we welcome home the 133rd Engineers & 1035 Survey & Design Team. I truly hope that July will be a great month for everyone and you get some time to enjoy the good Maine weather. I personally love July. For the 15th year, I will be spending it with over 200 amazing Maine Military kids at Bog Brook. I am excited just thinking about it! We will be hiking, rock climbing, rappelling, kayaking, swimming, and just having a great time getting to see old friends and meeting new ones. I am so grateful for all the Volunteers who are willing to make this event happen.

Be safe everyone and take some much need time to enjoy each other!

Texas Roadhouse Homes For Our Troops 5K

6 July 2014 • 6PM • Texas Roadhouse, Scarborough, Me
Proceeds benefit "Homes for Our Troops."

\$17 WITH SHIRT Shirt to all registered by June 30th, **\$15 NO SHIRT**

\$20 Race Day Registration 4PM to 5:55PM

Post-race BBQ for all registrants. Family members may join for \$5 pp.

Awards: Overall, Age Group, Top Running Club, Corporate, & Open Teams (4 people minimum to score)

www.baystateevents.com/search/event.aspx?id=24759

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**DEALS, DISCOUNTS
& FREEBIES**

FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Email a request to:

kyra.e.darling.ctr@mail.mil

to receive your weekly copy

Scan to visit the
Family Program
Website



Family Assistant Center Coordinator:

Hello from the Family Assistance Center. Spring just flew by and now we head into the summer, the best part of the year for parents as their kids are out of school.....Kid-ding. Anyway, let's hope for a great summer, and as you read through the Chain of Concern News Letter, you will see all the different things going on and especially camps for the kiddos. The best part of the summer for many will be welcoming back the 133rd Engineers as they had a successful deployment and all are eager to be home. Congratulations 133rd welcome home and enjoy your summer. Remember need anything we are always here and can be reached at 1-888-365-9287 24/7. I want to welcome also our newest Family Assistance Specialist, to the Family Assistance Cen-

ter (FAC) Ms. Jamie Bice, she will be working out of the Augusta Armory sharing an office with FRSA Jill Thibault. Jamie comes to us with experience as a military spouse and lots of volunteer work she did at USM in Portland. In the next three months there will be many family days each unit, and we will be doing, an 60 Day Yellow Ribbon Event for the 133rd and a Freedom Fest, in Fort Kent, Maine 9 August 2014. Also will be a couple of Horseshoe and golf tournaments going on to raise money for military associations. So keep an eye out for the weekly "Stall Talk" that Kyra Darling puts out. Other than that, be safe, and enjoy this great weather this summer. Welcome Home 133rd!

Mark Cater
Military Family Assistance
Center Coordinator



24/7 Availability
For the information you need
when you need it,
Reliable, Free, Confidential
Serving All Military Families
1-888-365-9287



We celebrated all of our sponsors for Christmas Across Maine with the First Lady at the Blaine House.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/family/events.php>

JULY

- 6 Homes for Our Troops 5K (p. 2)
- 13-19 Youth Camp Week I
- 19 Run to home Base
- 20-26 Youth Camp Week 2
- 26 Veterans Appreciation Fishing Tournament

AUGUST

- 9 Wounded Warrior Benefit Game (p.7)
- 19-22 Katahdin Mini Camp (p.4)
- 24 Run for the Fallen, Brunswick (p.12)

SEPTEMBER

- 6 VA ME Veterans Expo, 0800-1300, VA Togus
- 11 Pre-Retirement Seminar Lewiston (p.8)

OCTOBER

- 5 Maine Marathon Tribute March
- 22 Pre-Retirement Seminar Belfast (p.8)
- 28 Pre-Retirement Seminar Portland (p.8)



Free Limited Tickets to current military families to
Circus Smirkus
4 & 5 August 2014 • Freeport
Showtimes 1pm & 6pm
Register at
www.jointservicesupport.org
Serious Requests Only



The American Veteran Traveling Tribute Wall

Arrival: July 2nd, 2014 (Join Us In Greeting Them)
On Display: 1pm July 3rd Until 3pm July 6th
Open To The Public For Viewing 24/7!

Cabela's
Scarborough, Maine

Come Pay Your Respect...
Honor Those Who Gave All...
Take Rubbings...
Thank a Veteran For Giving
Us The Freedom We All Enjoy.



More Details Coming Soon!

If You'd Like To Donate To Or Be A Part Of This Incredible Event,
Call Pam Payer At
(207) 468-1026





The Annual 2014 Teen Symposium at Camp Kieve Wavus in Jefferson, Maine.

KATAHDIN MINI CAMP

19-22 AUGUST 2014

Come join other Maine Military children August 19-22 for our 3rd Annual Katahdin Mini-Camp. This camp will once again be held at the Matagamon Wilderness campground for kids aged 9-18.

There is a \$25 activity fee for this camp. We will be hiking, fishing, river tubing, kayaking, and even taking a day trip to Mt. Katahdin.

Register at www.jointservicesupport.org
Keyword: Katahdin.

Registration Deadline: 31 July 2014

2014-2015 MILITARY KIDS CAMPS AROUND THE US

Military Teen Adventure Camps: http://www.extension.purdue.edu/Adventure_camps/campsloc.html

4-H/OMK camps: <http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/p.aspx?tabid=217>

2014 discount coupons to York Wild Kingdom for service members, veterans, DOD employees



www.yorkzoo.com

\$11 per person (ages 4+) Zoo & Rides

3 under \$4.75 for the Zoo & Ride pass, or \$1 for zoo

Register for discount coupons at www.jointservicesupport.org

Sign up by pick-up or mail location and Search: York Wild

You can register to pick them up or have them mailed to your address or Pick-up your discount coupons at the nearest

Family Assistance Center location

Potland Armory • Augusta Buker Center • Augusta Armory • Bangor AFRC



YMCA CAMP OF MAINE

CO-ED RESIDENT CAMP FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGES 8-15 • ESTABLISHED IN 1915



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT™
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

One week is available FREE at the

YMCA Camp of Maine for military dependents.

Guard/Reserve & Active. It's one free week of camp! Military families can register at www.maineycamp.org On the payment line just write "military family"

Recent Youth Events



The Annual 2014 Easter Egg Hunt



Teen Challenges at the Youth Symposium



Bring your child to work at Camp Keyes Day.

University of Maine in Orono Is Waiving Application fees for currently serving and honorably discharged Veterans.



Applicants should not pay the application fee and note their request for an application fee waiver in the area following the veteran check box in the application or by checking the “qualify for application fee waiver” if applying with the Common Application.

<http://go.umaine.edu/apply/applyinfo/>



Family Camp

29-31 August

Bryant Pond, ME

E-Mail: extension.bryantpond@maine.edu

www.umaine.edu/bryantpond



OUTWARD BOUND

Outward Bound is supplying free adventure Camps for Veterans, these courses are running six days and they have both land and sea programs. All courses are completely FREE for Veterans and promote personal renewal, leadership, and teamwork to support healing an transition back to either future deployments or productive civilian life.

Maine Backpacking

Veterans Dates

08/29/14 - 09/03/2014

Maine Coast Sailing

Veterans Dates

09/19/2014-09/24/2014

<http://www.hiobs.org/courses/?program=7>

The Maine Golf and Tennis Academy is offering a 50% discount to all military and veteran children for their summer camps. They also have scholarships available for military children. The camp owner will work with you to make it affordable - this camp was voted both the best golf and tennis camp for kids by Sports Illustrated.

50% OFF

VETERAN FAMILY'S CHILDREN RECEIVE **SCHOLARSHIPS** TO PREMIER SUMMER CAMP

Enroll Today!

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS
TRADITIONAL CAMP PLUS SPORTS CAMP

KENNEBEC CAMPS, EST 1907
HOOPS COURSE, WATERSKIING, THEATRE, ART, FIELD GAMES, TRIPS & MORE

PLUS THE MAINE GOLF & TENNIS ACADEMY, EST 1997
PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTION & PLAY IN GOLF & TENNIS

EQUALS BEST IN AMERICA!
CHOSEN BEST GOLF CAMP, BEST TENNIS CAMP AND BEST FAMILY CAMP

CAMP MAKES YOU STRONG!

- MAKE FRIENDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
- SUCCEED THROUGH SELF-EMPOWERMENT
- DISCOVER SKILLS YOU NEVER KNEW YOU HAD
- BECOME A MENTOR
- FIND YOUR BEST YOU
- LEARN RESILIENCE
- FACE CHALLENGES & ACCEPT DISAPPOINTMENT
- GET C.R.I.T. - GREAT RESOLVE INSPIRES TRIUMPH

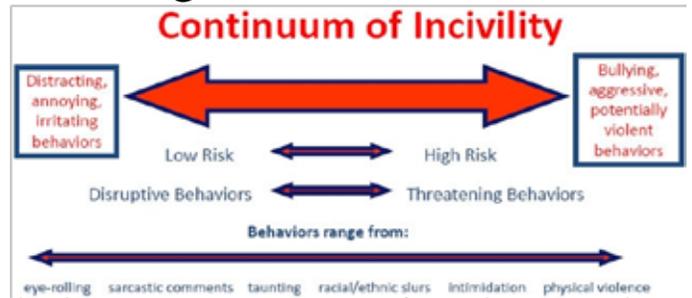
AND HAVE A BLAST DOING IT ALL!

Maine Golf & Tennis Academy 33 Golf Academy Drive, Belgrade, Maine 207-463-3228 www.golftamp.com

Blame Shifting - MAJ Young EO Officer

Blame shifting is a tactic used by individuals who engage in discriminatory behaviors. By insinuating that the a person taking offense was excessively thin-skinned or irrational in taking offense at remarks, situations or discriminatory acts, he or she shifts the focus from his or her unethical, illegal and/or toxic behaviors to the person who is being harassed or discriminated against. Labeling Soldiers who report unethical acts as “troublemakers,” shifts focus away from

the root of the problem – unethical and unprofessional behavior. Leaders should lead by example. Address each and every situation where our Army Values are not upheld. A standard not enforced is a standard set. When someone makes a derogatory remark and it goes unchallenged, this is tacit acceptance, and then an individual making such comments will be emboldened to carry out further discrimination. We need to help all of our colleagues understand



that discriminatory comments and actions are never acceptable. It is not about who was offended or even if anyone was offended. If our Army Values and high standards of professionalism are not being upheld, we owe it to all of our members to address the issue as early as possible, before it becomes a distraction or career ender.

Looking for the Personal Financial Counselor, Military Family Life Consultant or Military OneSource Representative?

Make an appointment by calling, texting, or emailing or stop in when they are in your area. Appointments can be made for other areas.

	Personal Finance Counselor	Military OneSource	Military Family Life Consultant
CONTACT	Gayle-Rose Martinez gmartinez@mflc.zeiders.com 207-274-3987	David M. Duehring david.duehring@militaryonesource.com 207-232-8710	Janyce Beck janyce.beck@ahsg.us 207-210-3365
Augusta	Tuesdays 0800-1600	Tuesdays 0630-1500	Tuesdays 1000-1600
Bangor	Most Thursdays 0900-1400	3rd Thursday of the month 0900-1500	Every other Thurs. 1000-1600
South Portland	SPANG - One or Two Fridays a month 0900-1200		Monday and Friday: Portland and South Portland
Bath- SUPSHIP	Mondays 0800-1500	Wednesdays 8-3	

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response



MCEDV.
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

CPT Jasmine Cain
Maine National Guard
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
Domestic Violence Program Manager
207-430-5824
jasmine.a.cain.mil@mail.mil

Elizabeth Munsey
Suicide Prevention Program Manager
207-430-5762 • 207-520-0277
elizabeth.m.munsey.mil@mail.mil

Lt Col Debbie Kelley
101st Air Refueling Wing
Wing SARC
207- 404-7604
deborah.kelley@ang.af.mil

The 45 Members of the Maine Army & Air National Guard Sexual Assault Response Team are dedicated people who are ready to respond. If you have any questions do not hesitate to click, call or text, You have options!

National: safehelpline.org • 877-995-5247 • Text 55-247

State Wide 24hr Domestic Violence Helpline From Area code (207) 1.866.834.HELP

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-National-Guard-Sexual-Assault-Prevention-and-Response-Program/149128341805240?ref=tn_tnmn



The following is an extract from the June Military OneSource eNewsletter which can be read in its entirety at http://www.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=MO_SNEWS:COVER:0::::MONTH,YEAR:June,2014

Keep Your Summer Fun on a Budget

Being financially stable and prepared for those unexpected expenses is something we all strive for. You may have a realistic spending plan that you're following monthly, which is helping you achieve your financial goals. But as summer approaches for many of our service members and their families, it's easy to go overboard on summer fun. The Department of Defense offers many resources to help you keep your summer fun activities within your budget.

Use military lodging and travel - Eligible personnel can take advantage of DoD lodging and travel benefits. Military lodging facilities range from mountain cottages to full-service modern resorts. Recreational facilities are built to serve service members and their families for short or long getaways. Many recreational facilities offer rental equipment, tours or other services specific to the area, usually at an economical rate. Resorts feature first-class amenities and are located in popular vacation destinations and in areas with a large military presence. For service members and their families, traveling space available - or space-A - on military flights can be a great benefit, if you're able to be flexible. Read more about space-A travel to see if its right for your summer travel.

Plan a "staycation" - Instead of traveling to a vacation destination hundreds of miles away, consider exploring what's nearby instead. Taking day trips eliminates the need for expensive flights and hotel rooms and still allows for fun, together time. Explore museums, parks, zoos, waterfronts and other fun locations near you and see what you've been missing close to home. Take advantage of what the MWR Program has to offer, including marinas, pools, bowling centers, golf courses, stables and special interest programs.

Enjoy the outdoors - You don't have to travel anywhere to enjoy time as a family. Summer fun can happen in your own backyard and can be much easier on your budget. Plan a family picnic or campout, complete with watermelon and a tent. Encourage your children to turn your patio into a work of art with sidewalk chalk, or make your own water park with sprinklers, play equipment and some creativity. For those into crafts, set up projects on an outdoor table, like tie-dying t-shirts for everyone in the family or decorating personal beach towels. With sunshine and more hours of daylight, take advantage of the warmth and get outdoors with your family.

About Military OneSource

This free 24-hour service from the Department of Defense is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve members and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues. Free face-to-face counseling in the local community (up to twelve sessions per issue) is also available to service members and family members. To reach the program call 1-800-342-9647 or access the Web site at

www.MilitaryOneSource.mil

Remember the Fallen, & Volunteer for the Maine Military Tribute March

Michelle Ouellette, Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant, JFHQ, 207.430.5779

The Maine Military Tribute March is comprised of ALL armed force branches, along with Families of service members marching in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice serving the United States of America. The event will be 5 October 2014, Sunday, and is held in conjunction with the Maine Marathon in Portland.

Annually, FRG Volunteers, parents, Family members, and Military kids walk the last leg of the March in support of the fallen, and their Families. Anyone interested in marching the final leg with the group, and/or helping to host the BBQ that follows, please contact Michelle Ouellette at 207.430.5779 or Michelle.L.Ouellette2.ctr@mail.mil. This event is an amazing, heartfelt experience, so act now, and don't miss your opportunity to support your fellow Military Service members, and Families.

00B265 IT'S HAPPENING

Time Warner Cable

99.5 The Wolf

2014 WOUNDED WARRIOR SOFTBALL GAME

NATIONAL GUARD

WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEE SOFTBALL TEAM

Where Baseball Meets the Beach!

The Ballpark in Old Orchard Beach

August 9

Game Time 1:00pm

Donations accepted at the gate

Benefit for WOUNDED HEROES PROGRAM

FMI: Mike Edgecomb 207-620-3318 Sharri MacDonald 207-590-4201

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/WWASTTOMAINE>

Pre-Retirement Seminars 2014

Lewiston – Thur., 11 Sept. (Ramada Inn) 1800

Belfast - Oct. 22 (Fireside Inn & Suites) 1800

Portland – Oct. 28 (Clarion Hotel) 1800

- Retirement application process
- Survivor Benefit Plan
- HealthNet and Martin's Point • US Family Health Plan Tricare benefit
- Other State and Federal benefits available to the retired member and their dependents.

Service members who have received a 20 year letter and those service members within a year and a half of turning age 60 of all branches of service are welcome to attend. Spouses are encouraged to attend. To register, contact Wendy Moody at 430-5778
wendy.j.moody2.ctr@mail.mil

Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator

WHAT CAN THE SAP DO FOR ME?

- Provide information & resources concerning drug and alcohol addiction, for a Service Member or their Family
- Make a referral for substance abuse assessment or treatment, including exploring options for grants and other payment sources if needed.
- Provide education and promotional materials at Yellow Ribbon and other Military and Community Events
- Administer the Unit Risk Inventory to individual units
- Provide annual Substance Abuse Prevention and Resiliency training to soldiers and units

Our mission is to provide prevention training, outreach to military Families, and treatment resources to military Service members in an effort to increase military discipline, individual performance, and combat readiness.

Tracy Richards
207-430-5253 • 207-431-4787
tracy.l.richard8.ctr@mail.mil



MAINE MILITARY & COMMUNITY NETWORK

MM&CN is a community organization made up of Federal, State and local military advocates; coming together to identify unmet needs of Maine's Military, Veterans and their families. Throughout Maine, regional groups meet regularly to develop local solutions to problems facing local Military, Veterans and their families.

Regional Groups:

York County

Leaders: Amy Marcotte/ Pam Payeur
Meets: 4th Tues. of the month
11am-12:30pm
Springvale Vet Center
628 Main St.
490-1513

Lewiston & Auburn

Leaders: Rich Oberg/Jerry DeWitt.
Meets: 4th Wed. of the month at 1pm
Tri-County Mental Health
1155 Lisbon St Lewiston
(207) 783-9141

Portland

Leaders: Cliff Trott/ Rob Liscord/ Phil Allen.
Meets: 2nd Mon. of the month at 4:30-6pm
Alexander Hall, UNE,
Stevens Avenue, Portland,
Rob Liscord rliscord@ptla.org
or 207-400-3232.

Bangor

Leader: Paula Burnett
Meets: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 4:30-6pm
Camden Hall of UMA Bangor
25 Texas Avenue, Bangor
Paula Burnett 262-7926

Hancock County -

Leader: Lucy Barnhart.
Meets: 3rd Fri. of the Month
248 Bucksport Road,
Ellsworth, ME.
207-664-2424

Mid-Coast (Brunswick Area)

Leaders: Paul Loveless/ Don Spann/Rob Crowe
Meets: 1st Tuesday of the month: 5pm-7pm
Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber of Commerce
2 Maine St., Topsham, ME.
207-725-8797 ext. 5.

Kennebec County

Leader: Randy Liberty
Meets: quarterly
25 State Street, Augusta, ME.
Katie Hutchings 207-623-3614

Aroostook County

Leader: Jean Henderson
Meets: 12:30pm-2pm,
Houlton Higher Education Center, 18 Military St.
207-532-3100 ext 3103.

Washington County

Leader: Bobbi Ann Harris. Meets: 3rd Friday of the month at WHCA at 1pm-2:30
7 VIP Lane, Machias, ME
207-610-5916

To join MMCN visit http://www.mainemcn.org/POC_Form.php For more information call 207-430-5651.

Old Orchard Beach Flag Raising Ceremony for Deceased Veterans

Old Orchard Beach Flag Raisers will be honoring Deceased Veterans by name each night from Memorial Day to Labor Day at 6:00 pm in Veterans Memorial Park again this summer. They want to try and fill up the calendar and right now have many openings. To see the open dates go to oobmemorialflagraising.com to see the dates available. For more information call Dennis Robillard at 207-468-0443 or email info@oobmemorialflagraising.com.



133rd /1035th FRG

Happy Spring Families of the 133rd EN BN & 1035th Survey & Design!

Summer will soon be upon us and we're certain you can all agree that there will be no better way to spend this season than with our soldiers!! Soon we will be able greet them with open arms; it's been a long time coming. Take a moment to pat yourself on the back, you did it! We survived a deployment, through all the challenges and difficulties, holidays and events, heartache and tears, the joy of watching your children, whether two legged or four, grow and sadness at the same moment because your soldier wasn't there to experience it. We've made it - Job Well Done!! Take time to simply enjoy the company of your soldier, have fun & be safe. Remember as you transition into the "new norm" if you have any questions or concerns the Family Assistance Center (FAC) will always be there to guide you, 1-888-365-9287.

The FRG does not currently have any meetings planned for the next few months but please keep the following dates in mind:

Yellow Ribbon 30 Day: Sunday Aug. 17th is the Freedom Salute - Open to all Family members and the public. This event is similar to the Heroes Send Off. Further details to come.

Yellow Ribbon 60 Day: Saturday Sept. 6th - Sunday Sept. 7th - Soldiers and Family members. Location: Sunday River. Further details to come.

Thank you and have a most blessed summer!!

-Your 133rd & 1035th FRG Team

WELCOME HOME 133rd EN BN and 1035th Survey & Design!

52nd TC & 1968th CCT Now Seeking Volunteers

52nd TC and 1968th CCT are seeking volunteers to start up the Family Readiness Group. The only qualification required is your desire to be a part of an enthusiastic and energetic organization designed with an extensive outreach program to military service members and their families.

- Looking for individuals who wish to be a part of a team
- Must have the drive and the desire to assist military families
- Above all else must want to serve the military community

Please contact:

Caree Kavanaugh

207-430-5896

Caree.l.kavanaugh.mil@mail.mil

488th MP Co. FRG!

On June 1st we held our annual Family Day at Green Valley Campground in Vassalboro. Thanks to Tiffany, Sam and the family for hosting us! I recommend if you enjoy camping that you check them out.

We basked in the sun and participated in activities such as kayak and canoe races, paddle boating, fishing and splashing, relay races and a bounce house for the kids. We had a backyard barbecue including pulled pork, beans, corn, hot dogs, salads, and watermelon. Thanks to Jeff's catering for an outstanding meal! We are already looking forward to next year!

Our FRG has been laying low since the return of our soldiers last summer. It has been a year now and it's time to ramp it up again. We are currently in desperate need of some volunteers who are dedicated and professional. Training is available. We encourage anyone interested to email us at 488mpfrginfo@gmail.com

Alexis and Amanda
FRG Leaders



488th FRGL Farewall, Guardians, Families and Friends,

I want to thank you for the last 7 years I have been able to share with you. I will be forever grateful for the experiences I have had, the lessons learned and the friendships built. I am proud to say I was part of one of the best FRG's around. It is bittersweet to move on but I know Alexis will carry the torch and there will be family members coming forward to help out with fresh new ideas and enthusiasm. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me anytime, I am only a phone call away. Best wishes to all of you on this journey we call life. Thanks for allowing me to be a part of your military family and you will always be a part of mine.

- Sincerely, Amanda Peacock

262 Engineer Co. FRG

The FRG team has been active on drill weekends at both the Westbrook and Belfast Armory's. During our visits, we have been available for "Office Hours" where we have been available to meet with and assist Soldiers. Additionally, we have met all new Soldiers assigned to the 262 Engineer Company.

During our May visits, the FRG team was able to provide each Soldier with a deployment packet provided by USAA along with a checklist. These booklets provide the Soldier with the tools to better prepare for deployment while leaving their families better organized and prepared to deal with personal matters. If you did not receive the package, one can be picked up at your armory.

The FRG has also opened a "Clink" account for bottle return. At each of our visits, "Clink" bags were handed out to Soldiers and families. These funds will be used specifically to support the FRG and families. If you would like to contribute, "Clink" bags have been left at the armories and can be taken to Hannaford's and Shop and Save locations.

Save the date: We are moving along on the "Family Day" which is scheduled for July 27 2014 at the Sebago Lake State Park. We are planning lots of activities for adults and children. We will also have a resource fair where we will have a lot of the resources that are available

to you and your families present so you can talk with them or pick up information. If you missed the Tricare or Martins Point Brief or you have more questions, make sure you swing by their tables and talk with them. Park access will be no charge for our families on this day. All food and beverage will be provided. Some have inquired about camping the night before at the state park. The FRG team will be sending out a more detailed email within the next few weeks. Please note that we are looking for volunteers to assist with family day. If you are interested please contact us.

Additional family events in planning are family passes to "Aquaboggan" in Saco.

The FRG team is currently designing a t-shirt exclusively for the 262 Engineer Company and as a fundraiser.

If anyone would like to be more involved with the 262 EN CO FRG or has ideas that can help develop or improve the FRG please feel free to contact us at 262FRG@gmail.com.

The FRG team would like to thank all of you for your support and welcome at all of our appearances.

"We support those who serve"
262 Engineer Company FRG team.

Tim DeLuca: Leader
Laurie DeLuca: Co-Leader
Elizabeth Babbidge: Phone Tree Manager.
Carrie DeHahn: Secretary

251st Volunteers Needed

251st Sappers are looking for volunteers to help with the Family Readiness Group! We are looking for the following positions. No previous experience needed.

FRG Leader • Secretary • Other positions available

As you may know the purpose of the FRG is to assist the commander with upcoming family readiness events and activities as well as educate the families on the resources that are available to them. The volunteers play a key role in all of this. It is an opportunity to make a difference for our soldiers and their families.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact:

Jill Thibault, Family Readiness Support Assistant
207-430-5625 or jill.a.thibault.ctr@mail.mil

FRSA CORNER

Family Readiness Groups (FRG) are an important resource for Army families. The FRG is an official Army program established pursuant to Army Regulation 600-20, the Army Command Policy. Often referred to as "The Commander's Program," each FRG is organized, has goals developed with the unit's missions and operation cycle in mind, and works closely with a Family Readiness Support Assistant.

The FRG's mission is to act as an extension of the unit in providing official, accurate information; to provide mutual support between the command and the FRG membership; to educate the soldiers and the families of the resources available to them; and to help families solve problems at the lowest possible level.

Participation in an FRG is not limited to traditional family members such as spouses and children. Soldiers can encourage FRG participation to any person they are close to, girlfriends, fiancés, aunts, uncles, siblings, children caregivers, grandparents, and friends can all take part in and receive information from the FRG. FRGs runs year round, not just during a deployment, to promote self reliance and disseminate information to the members.

Family Readiness Groups are the backbone of support for Soldiers' and their family members. From small things such as directing a family member to the resources available to them, to disseminating information to families from the unit chain of command during a deployment, FRG's provide support, communication and encourage resiliency during all phases of a deployment cycle and beyond.

If you are looking to be a part of an amazing team please reach out to your unit and ask for information or contact one of the FRSA's:

Jill Thibault 52 TC FRSA
207-430-5625

Jill.a.thibault.ctr@mail.mil

Maureen Hickling 120 RSG FRSA
207-430-5932

Maureen.e.hickling.ctr@mail.mil

Michelle Ouellette JFHQ FRSA
207-430-5779

Michelle.l.ouellette2.ctr@mail.mil

Family Readiness Academy Update

Michelle Ouellette, Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant, JFHQ, 207.430.5779

Two sessions of the Family Readiness Academies have been conducted and we are seeing a rise in our Overall State Family Readiness based on National Family Readiness Criteria! That is fabulous! Let's keep it up!

The next session will be in Bangor on September 26-28. It is geared for unit level Commanders, 1SGs, Family Readiness Liaisons, and Family Readiness Group leadership. If you need to sign up, or have questions about this event, please contact Michelle Ouellette at 207.430.5779 or Michelle.L.Ouellette2.ctr@mail.mil.

120th RSG FRG



Left to Right: Irene-Secretary; Janie-Communication Chair; 1SG Pinkham; Sarah-Treasurer, and Marlene Family Readiness Group Leader

The 120th is planning a unit family day at Parks Pond in Clifton on August 3rd. The theme this year will be Child Safety. A brochure and detailed information will be going out to the 120th Soldiers and families in July. Hope to see everyone there!

If anyone wishes to volunteer or has any questions, the 120 FRG email is bangorfrg120@gmail.com or give SFC Irza (Family Readiness Liaison) at 430-5568.



The Special Olympics Parade-June 6, 2014, was such a rewarding experience. If you have never had the opportunity to participate, you might want to try to put together a group to help out next year. It is great Community Support. Thank you to SGT Davis from the 1136th for putting together the Military Vehicle's for the Parade and also for setting up the drivers. Thank you to the 1136th and 120th Families and soldiers and 120th FRG for participating in decorating the float and passing out candy. A big Thank You to Skip and Harry from Operation Community Support INC who donated the monies for the candy that was passed out to the Olympians during the parade. We had a great time and it did not rain on us. 120th FRG, Supporting the Community

1-224th AV

Hello families and Soldiers of the 1-224th. My name is Captain Will Bradbury and I'm the detachment commander. While the 1-224th has been around for a while you may have noticed some changes recently. We have separated from the 3-142nd AHB in order to start training specifically on our unit mission.

We will continue moving forward as a separate unit for training but plan to have a combined Family Readiness Group (FRG) with 1-126th AV and 3-142nd AHB. With that being said we would like to have representation from each unit in the FRG.

In August we have drill on the 8th through the 10th. We will be conducting family day activities on the 10th beginning at 0900 for families. There will be equipment displays, games, and food for all to enjoy. The Family Assistance Center will also have some resource booths/tables set up in order to share some of the benefits that are available to us all.

I would love to have as many family members as possible attend on August 10th so I can introduce myself to you face to face and tell you a little bit more about the unit and its mission. Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you all in August.

CPT Will Bradbury
1-224th AV

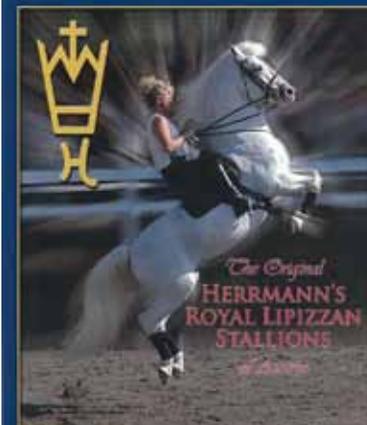
136th FRG

First I would like to introduce myself, Danyall Hallett, as the new leader for the 136th Engineers FRG out of Skowhegan and Lewiston. I would like to start by thanking the unit command staff for their help with our family evening during AT. It has been a slow start by I am confident that we will have a wonderful and successful relationship!

I will be alternating armories on drill weekend, when the soldiers are at the armories, for regular face time, to provide information and support to soldiers and families. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and helping if I am able. I am always available via email frg136th@yahoo.com please feel free to email anytime and I will respond as soon as I am able. Business cards are available at both armories for myself outside the FRG offices. Please keep watch for our new information boards that will be coming.

On a final note we still have some key volunteer positions available and are always interested in new volunteers and free ideas for fundraisers and family events.

I look forward to serving you all and hope you have a wonderful summer! Before you know it we will be looking at back to school.



September 5 @ 5pm September 6 & 7 @ 3 pm

Springfield Fair Grounds, Springfield Maine

Advanced tickets: Adults \$15, Children 6-12 \$10, Military \$10

Day of Show: Adults \$20, Children 6-12 \$15, Military \$15

FMI: 207-738-2248 (Deb)

207-403-4424 (Emily)

email: info@4ranimalshelter.org or 4R Animal Shelter on Facebook

4R Animal Shelter is a 501.c.3 charity

www.4ranimalshelter.org

The Chain of Concern is a publication of the Maine Family Program Office located at The Buker Center, in Augusta, Maine.

Editorial Director
MSG Barbara Claudel

Editorial Assistant
Kyra Darling

Editorial Policy
The Chain of Concern Newsletter may edit the length and content of articles submitted. The Deadline for next quarter 10 September 2014

Please send comments or articles to kyra.e.darling.ctr@mail.mil



Check out the amazing things that the MENG has been accomplishing lately with the newest edition of **The Bayonet Magazine** published by the 121st PAD

<https://www.joomag.com/en/newsstand?q=the+bayonet>



Free Annual National Park Pass for U.S. Military
www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm



24 August 2014 • 1000 Brunswick, ME Naval Air Station
5K race & non-timed fun Walk to remember and honor our fallen military heroes
Registered participants will get T-Shirts
www.runforthefallenmaine.org/

Poland Springs Resort Offers Free Stay to currently serving military families of Combat Veterans

Poland Spring Resort is again this year opening up their doors for current military families that have deployed. (Max 10 families per week) They are offering free stay for a weekend or a 7 day stay. They are also offering this to veterans that are referred by one of our VET Centers in the State. The process will be as follows:
1. Complete the registration at: www.jointservicesupport.org
2. A confirmation email will be sent upon approval with a number to a number to call to make your reservations, with the Resort.
3. Call and reserve. All reservations are required to place a \$25.00 registration fee down (reimbursed upon check in) to hold your reservation, please have a major credit card ready.



Upcoming Free Veterans Camps

2014-2015 Season:
25-29 Aug. 14 - Family Camp
19-21 Sep. 14 - Family Camp
8-12 Dec. 14 - Vietnam only
12-16 Jan. 15 - Women's only
20-24 April 15 - Family Camp
8-10 May 15 - Family Camp

Register today at:
www.kieve.org/veterans/



Portsmouth ITT
207-438-2713

Find fun and discount activities for you and your military family through the ITT office

Deep Sea Fishing Trip

7 Sept. 2014 • 0800-1600
\$55 per person

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard The boat will carry you close to Jeffrey's Ledge in the Gulf of Maine, New England's most productive fishing grounds for cod, haddock and pollack. Bring a lunch, do not bring alcohol, the boat sells beer on board. Boat leaves from the shipyard, Sound Basin Marina. Open to those 15 years and older.

One Direction "Where We Are Now Tour 2014"

7 August, Gillette Stadium
Clubhouse seats \$118

