

FRG NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

From the FRG Leader	2
Passport Information	2
Preparing for Deployment	3
Camouflage Kids	4
Resources	4
Dates to Remember	4

Commander's Corner

1LT Anthony Caldwell

Charlie Company Soldiers and Family members,

It is time again for our monthly FRG Newsletter. I hope each of you had a wonderful Holiday and Happy New Year and are enjoying the extended break between December and January drills. This month I'd like to provide some information about our upcoming drills.



KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Company Commander
1LT Anthony Caldwell
anthony.caldwell@us.army.mil

FRG Leader
Renee Delawder
717-993-5351 (home)
443-965-8182 (cell)
renee9802@aol.com

Family Assistance Specialist
Wayne Stinchcomb
(410) 576-6019
wayne.a.stinchcomb@us.army.mil

During January's drill weekend all soldiers will be conducting the second step in the Soldier Readiness Process (SRP) by having medical evaluations at Camp Fretard. Soldiers remember this is a MUTA 5 and we will report to the armory Friday night. Soldiers bring any medical documentation that you feel may be needed to complete the process.

Looking forward to February's drill the Battalion will be conducting Individual Weapons Qualification (IWQ) at Fort A.P. Hill. In addition, we will utilize the training team to conduct training for those soldiers who have missed prior events and conduct new training as well. Unfortunately the Dining Out we had been planning for February will not occur but a family event will take place prior to Charlie Company's deployment.

I cannot express enough the importance of these two drill weekends. All of the events occurring during January and February's drill will set the conditions for a successful mobilization. If you think you may have a work conflict or personal issue that will prevent you from attending; your chain of command must be made aware immediately. The ISG or I are the only individuals with the ability to grant an absence for these drills.

As always, if at any time you have questions or concerns I can easily be reached through email at Anthony.caldwell@us.army.mil.

1LT Caldwell

"The Nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools." - Thucydides

SRP Follow-up for Families:

Do you know where all your important family documents are located? This includes will, Power of Attorney, financial documents, etc. Prepare for the upcoming deployment by making sure you talk over with your Soldier where all of these things are.

From the FRG Leader

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! As the beginning of the year approaches we have a lot to plan for. The Sinai Deployment is right around the corner. I know a lot of you have many questions and concerns. We are here to help you. During the deployment we will have monthly meetings for the families, friends or anyone that wants to support their soldier. We are going to start with a meeting this month on Sunday January 23, 2011 at 12pm at the Towson Armory, please bring a dish to share. This is going to be a time that the family can mingle and meet one another. Remember these are the families of the soldiers that your soldier is going to be deploying with. Its nice to get to know one another, it makes for the year to go by faster! I have a few things that I would like to do at this meeting that I am checking on. I will put out an agenda the week prior to drill as an email, so if you have not been getting emails from me please send me your email. Any Adult Female that comes out to the meeting will receive a special gift!

We still need volunteers, anyone interested in volunteering please contact me for more information. I look forward to seeing you at the Meeting! As always any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me anytime.

Also please be advised if the weather is bad the meeting will be canceled, I will send out an email for any cancellations.

-Renee Delawder

Passport Basics—For Military Family Members

Adapted from article by Amy Preston, Family Assistance Coordinator, MDNG

Who needs them? Why should I have one? Do I have to have one? Three very basic questions asked with great frequency by military Family Members.

Who Needs A Passport?

Any individual* traveling outside of the borders of the United States requires either a passport or a pass card depending on where they are traveling to.

Why Should I Have A Passport?

Freedom of spontaneous or short-planned travel is the number one reason most people apply for and maintain a current passport. Also, many military families opt to enjoy their Service Members R&R period overseas, and frequently these travel plans are not made until the Service Member has actually deployed.

Did you know that if your Service Members becomes ill or injured, (not necessarily combat related) that in order for you to visit him/her you must have a current passport even though you are the family member of a Service Member on active duty deployment orders? (Please note that the military will not pay for your travel unless the physicians treating your Service Member have requested your presence.)

(continued on page 3)

Passport Basics—For Military Family Members *(continued from page 2)*

Why Should I Think About a Passport Now, *Before* the Deployment?

It will be one less thing to worry about once your Soldier is gone. In addition, current waiting periods to obtain a first time passport are 4-6 weeks as of December 20, 2010. It is recommended that you apply for your passport a minimum of 10 weeks prior your planned travel date.

Another factor to consider is children—minors under 16 must apply in person and have BOTH parents present. If there is any possibility you will travel outside of the U.S. sometime during the deployment, get your child's passport now!

Do I Have To Have A Passport?

No. No one has to have a passport and no one can tell you that you must have a passport unless you are planning travel outside of the United States borders. However consider, can the benefits of having a passport outweigh the lack of having one? The decision is yours.

For additional information please refer to the US Department of State at <http://travel.state.gov/passport> or you may call the National Passport Information Center at 1-877-487-2778.

If you think this is a topic worth having more information on at an FRG meeting, please contact Renee Delawder.

Preparing for Deployment MILITARY ONE SOURCE TAX SUPPORT

The Military OneSource Tax Program will begin on Monday, January 17, 2011. The program will provide **FREE** access to a customized version of the basic H&R Block at Home® electronic tax filing product. This customized product allows for free federal filing and free state filing (up to three states). In addition, free telephonic tax consultations are available to help with tax related issues. Please visit www.militaryonesource.com for more information.

***An Important Note:** Please do not create a user account on the public H&R Block Web site. You will incur a fee if you file using the public H&R Block Web site/product. If you create an account on the public H&R Block Web site, regardless of how you access the account in the future, the H&R Block system will view you as a public user (the system tags the account when it is created, according to the version of the product being used at that time).

Please wait until Monday, January 17th, when the customized MOS version is made available via a link on the Military One-Source Web site to create your account.

SAVE THE DATE!! FAMILY EVENT

All Charlie Company Family members are invited to attend the Family event at the end of February drill!

Time and location TBD. Look for details in next month's newsletter.

Have a question? Need more information? Want to get more involved? Contact Renee at 717-993-5351 (home) or 443-965-8182 (cell).

Camouflage Kids: ****FREE** Basketball Game (Colgate vs. Navy)**

Camouflage Kids, Inc. is a national non-profit organization that support the children of our military by providing them an opportunity to attend and experience a college athletic event. Tickets are FREE (for adults & children), LIMITED IN NUMBER and provided on a FIRST-COME FIRST SERVE basis.

When— Saturday, February 26, 2011

Family arrival time— 3:00PM, **Game time**— 4:00PM

Where— Alumni Hall, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD

Camouflage Kids will provide game tickets and t-shirts to all registered family members. Limit is 6 tickets per family, for immediate family only. All children must have adult supervision at the game.

For registration information, contact Beth Stoddard, State Youth Coordinator, at theresa.stoddard@us.army.mil or 410-576-2994. *****Registration deadline is February 18, 2011*****

Resources You Should Know About

FREE YMCA MEMBERSHIP

Family members of deployed Soldiers can receive a FREE membership to the YMCA. Eligibility begins 3months prior to the deployment, and continues until 3 months after the end of the deployment.

For more information and to find a participating YMCA, go to:
<http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/Tools/MilitaryRecreationMWR/YMCAProgramMWR.aspx>

Are you on Facebook?

Get info and all the latest offers from the State Family Readiness Program by friending "MDNG FRP".

Websites to Check Out

www.mfo.org

www.sittercity.com/dod
(Free service to find child care provider, pet care, elder care)

www.militaryonesource.com

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil
(for free SAT/ACT Prep software and other resources)

DATE\$ TO REMEMBER

Sunday, January 23rd

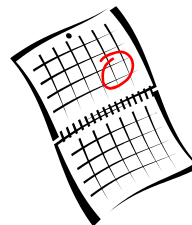
****FRG MEETING & POTLUCK****

12pm at the Towson Armory

All Families are welcome. Please bring a dish to share.

Sunday, February 6th

Save the date for an event for all Soldiers and their Families.
Time and location TBD.



Upcoming Drill Dates

January 21-23

February 3-6

March 5-6

Have something you think should be included in the newsletter?
Contact Rachel Flanders at 443-955-3771 or brflanders@comcast.net.