

## Contents

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

New Website for the 21st Century Sailor and Marine

Transition and Employment Corner

A Backpack Journalist Helps Military Youth Find their Voice

Get Help Finding and Paying for Child Care

Priceless Rewards of Fatherhood

School Talk with DoDEA

101 Days of Summer Fun

Family Connection is a publication of the Fleet and Family Support Program.

The Navy's Fleet and Family Support Program promotes the self-reliance and resiliency of Sailors and their families. We provide information that can help you meet the unique challenges of the military lifestyle.

If you have questions or comments, contact Timothy McGough at [timothy.mcgough@navy.mil](mailto:timothy.mcgough@navy.mil).

Visit us online at:



Scan QR Code to access via mobile device



## STAY INFORMED

### Through Social Media This Hurricane Season

There are several new ways to stay informed of a tropical storm or hurricane threat in your area. June 1 through November 30 marks the annual Atlantic hurricane cycle. The Eastern Pacific season began on May 15. Although most hurricanes occur during these time-frames, they can occur earlier and later in the year.

Even with forecasting improvements providing more lead time to warn of approaching hurricanes, changes in a storm's path can be unpredictable. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) offers several social media sites to help users stay apprised of tropical storm activity.

 During the hurricane season, the [NHC Facebook page](#), contains a daily tropical weather update for both the Atlantic and Eastern North Pacific basins, to include alerts regarding any tropical cyclone activity. Click icons to join Facebook or follow on Twitter.



U.S. National Hurricane Center (Atlantic) — [@NHC\\_Atlantic](#)



U.S. National Hurricane Center (Eastern Pacific) — [@NHC\\_Pacific](#)



The Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System

(NFAAS) is a web-based tool used to account for, assess, manage, and monitor the recovery process of personnel and their families affected by a widespread catastrophic event. Log into [NFAAS](#), to muster and report your status. If an Internet-ready computer or mobile device is not accessible, call the Navy Personnel Command Emergency Coordination Center at 1-877-414-5358 or 1-866-297-1971 (TDD) instead. Visit [Operation Prepare](#) for more information.

### Did You Know?

Command ombudsmen play a major role in crisis response by helping families prepare. Ombudsmen are trained to respond to command situations and family emergencies as well as catastrophic events such as hurricanes, typhoons, earthquakes and fires.

Do not wait for an emergency to contact your ombudsman. Take a minute to add your ombudsman's phone number and email to your list of important contacts. Should you need assistance, your [ombudsman](#) is just a call away!



## The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) are working together to roll out a new program on July 1, 2012. The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers 12 months of training assistance to veterans who meet the following requisites:

- Are at least 35 but no more than 60 years old.
- Are unemployed.
- Received an other-than-dishonorable discharge.
- Are not eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g., the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance).
- Are not in receipt of VA compensation due to un-employability.
- Are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program.

Participants will receive a monthly payment equal to the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill–Active

Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month). The program must lead to an associate’s degree, a non-college degree, or a certificate, and train the veteran for a high-demand occupation. The program is now accepting applications. For more information, [click here](#).

## New Website for the 21st Century Sailor and Marine



The Department of the Navy (DoN) has launched a dedicated website to serve as an additional resource for the 21st Century Sailor and Marine. The new website, located at [www.21stcentury.navy.mil](http://www.21stcentury.navy.mil), features frequently asked questions, articles, blogs, and videos to update Sailors, Marines and their families on important policies and programs, which impact today’s force. The programs are divided into five areas; readiness, safety, physical fitness, inclusion, and continuum of service.



Stay Organized. Create a personal moving calendar with checklists, phone lists, to-do lists, and links to critical moving processes and information. Use the

[Plan My Move](#) website to get organized!

### Transition and Employment Corner

Need help building a resume that translates your military skills or tips for that first private sector interview? Looking for networking opportunities or how to begin a career search? No matter where you are in the process, Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSCs) are the best place to start. FFSCs offer FREE programs and services to help you transition smoothly into the civilian workforce.

Remember to sign up for the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). This 4-day workshop prepares separating/retiring service members and their families with the skills, tools and self-confidence to ensure successful re-entry into the civilian work force. Learn more about these services at your local [Fleet and Family Support Center](#).

### Virtual Resources



[Turbo TAP](#) offers 24/7 access to helpful pre-separation and transition guides, employment, education, relocation and benefits checklists and more.



The [U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Hiring Our Heroes](#) program and

RecruitMilitary announced they will collaborate on 50 hiring fairs for veterans and military spouses from April through December 2012.



The [Military Spouse Employment Partnership](#)

(MSEP) is a comprehensive web-enabled recruitment and career partnership solution connecting military spouses to employers seeking a 21st century workforce with the skills and attributes possessed by military spouses.



DoD Veterans: View upcoming [career fairs](#).

*“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”*

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*





## A Backpack Journalist Helps Military Youth Find their Voice

A *Backpack Journalist* provides workshops and events for military youth to assist them through the deployment cycle, including reintegration. The program's training is provided in an open classroom setting or mobile lab, and allows youth to express themselves and to connect with their parents, family and friends. Curriculum contents include: Basic Writing, Narrative Writing, Photojournalism, Songwriting, Broadcast Journalism, Cowboy Poetry, Film Making and Little Backpackers (activities for ages 8-11).

The program hosts events for Child and Youth Programs, Yellow Ribbon Program, YLEAD weekends and CAMPS, weekend retreats that support Military Youth and FRG Volunteer Symposiums. To learn more and get involved, [click here](#).

## Get Help Finding and Paying for Child Care

Child Care Aware® of America (formerly NACCRRRA) is working with the U.S. Navy to help parents find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through fee assistance programs, Navy families are eligible to receive a monthly subsidy to help offset the cost of child care in their communities.

Navy Fee Assistance programs available include:

- Operation Military Child Care (OMCC), which provides fee assistance for families of Sailors who are deployed or attached to a ship.
- Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN), which provides fee assistance for families of active duty Sailors who are unable to access on-installation child care. Families living within 15 miles or 20 minutes of a Navy base must be on the base child development center waitlist before applying for fee assistance.



■ Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Respite Care, which is specifically designed for Navy families who have children ages birth to 18 identified as Exceptional Family Members, category IV or V. The program provides 40 hours of respite care per month to support the unique child care needs of EFMP families.

To apply for fee assistance, [click here](#). Questions? Call 1-800-424-2246 or email: [msp@naccrra.org](mailto:msp@naccrra.org)



Joint Services Support

### Returning Warrior Workshops

Returning Warrior Workshop (RWW) Schedule and IA Family Events — [www.ia.navy.mil](http://www.ia.navy.mil). Click "Links and Resources."

### IA Discussion Group Schedule

[View the Fleet-wide list of classes, support groups and events.](#)



### U.S. Navy Individual Augmentees

[Like us on Facebook.](#)





## Priceless Rewards of Fatherhood

A father's presence in his child's life has many benefits. Research has shown that a healthy father and child relationship promotes positive self-esteem, increases academic achievement, and develops strong character. These children are less likely to become victims of abuse, participate in risky behaviors or experience poverty. Strong character traits are often the result of the nurturing and bonding that are formed early in the father and child relationship.

Fathers who promote healthy social and emotional development of children often engage in parenting practices that involve:

- Activities with their children that allows them to ask questions.
- Engaging in conversation with their children so that they are able to identify and promote each child's strengths.
- Consistently giving words of praise and affirmation.
- Teaching their children age appropriate ways to express their emotions.
- Showing affection through words or acts of kindness such as giving a hug, a kiss or high five.

These parenting practices promote healthy child development and strengthen families. For more information contact your local [New Parent Support Program](#) [Home Visitation Program](#).

## School Talk with DoDEA

School Talk is a monthly radio forum for the community of the Department of Defense Education Activity and your chance to interact directly with DoDEA's leaders as they discuss topics related to educating the children of America's service members. Listeners can call in or email questions/comments. In case you miss an airing, on-demand podcasts are available on [BlogTalk Radio.com/DoDEA](#) or [iTunes](#).

Upcoming dates: 5 June: Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) — 3 PM EDT; 12 June: Europe — 3 PM CET; 19 June: Pacific – 3 PM JST. Tune in at BlogTalk Radio, or listen by phone at (347) 884-8340. Overseas callers can use Skype and email: [director.blog@hq.dodea.edu](mailto:director.blog@hq.dodea.edu).

## 101 Days of Summer Fun

### Blue Star Families

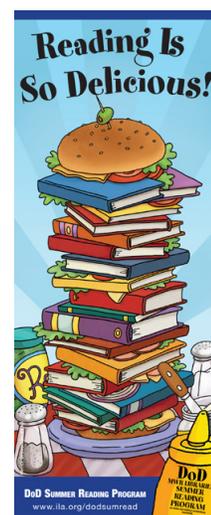
Blue Star Museums offer free admission to all military personnel and their families from Memorial Day, May 28, through Labor Day, September 3, 2012. For museums participating this summer, [click here!](#)

### 2012 DoD Summer Reading Program

For more information [click here](#), or contact your installation library.

### Military Teens Adventure Camps

Military teens (14-18 years old) will have an opportunity to participate in adventure camps scheduled April 2012 through March 2013. These high energy camps are planned across the United States. Each camp offers a unique outdoor experience to build leadership, self-



confidence, and teamwork skills. Camps have funding available to assist with transportation costs. Camps for youth with special needs (mental, physical, and emotional) are also planned

in California, Ohio, and New Hampshire. For more information and how to register, [click here](#) or [here](#).

