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## New Parent Support Home Visitation Program - Fatherhood Appreciation Campaign

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 resilience 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:



This month the New Parent Support Home Visitation Program (NPSHVP) will kick off the Fatherhood Appreciation Campaign. This campaign aligns with the mission of the White House "Strengthening Our Military Families Initiative," to promote family resilience. Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) developed the campaign to bring awareness to the positive impact fathers have on the lives of their children and how the NPSHVP can help meet the individual needs of fathers. One of the campaign's goals is to heighten awareness that active parenting requires more than providing financial support. Research shows that fathers who have healthy parenting practices positively affect their children's lives.

Below are a few examples of the positive impact fathers who actively participate in the parenting process have on their children:

- Positive self-image
- Feelings of safety and a sense of security
- Healthy relationships with peers and adults as they mature
- Better grades
- High achievers
- Lower risk for drug and alcohol abuse
- Fewer behavior problems
- Girls perform better mathematically
- Stronger communication skills
- Good conflict resolution skills
- Healthy social and emotional development

To learn about fatherhood support services available in your community contact the local New Parent Support Home Visitation Program or visit [www.ffsp.navy.mil](http://www.ffsp.navy.mil).



Scan QR Code to access via mobile device

*"I would say my greatest achievement in life right now – my greatest achievement period is – and I'm still trying to achieve it – is to be a wonderful father to my kids."*

– Bo Jackson





## Military teen adventure camps

Military teens (14-18 years old) will have an opportunity to participate in adventure camps being offered through February 2014 for FREE (transportation costs are also covered). These high-energy, high-adventure and high-experience camps are planned across the United States from Montana to Maine and from Colorado to Georgia as well as states in between.

There are even opportunities for military teens in the Pacific Rim. This is the perfect chance for teens to experience the outdoors as they never have before!

Each camp offers a unique outdoor experience that will allow them to build leadership, self-confidence and teamwork skills while participating in activities like camp cooking and archery.

Camps for youth with special needs are also planned in Vermont and New Hampshire. There is something for everyone!

[http://www.extension.purdue.edu/Adventure\\_camps/](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/Adventure_camps/)

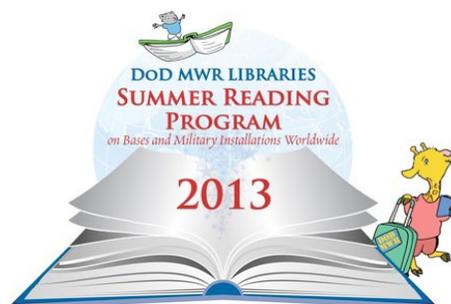
## Military Youth on the Move

Military kids serve too! They feel the effects of deployments, separations and moving every two to three years; starting over with little or no input in the matter. They are often required to pick up, pack up and move across the country or maybe even overseas. [Military Youth on the Move \(MYOM\)](#) is here to help. MYOM is a Department of Defense website designed to make PCS moves easier for school age military kids. This website was designed to support children of military service members who were making a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move. The website is for all school-age children and their parents. Information is divided into age-appropriate sections of Kids (ages 6 to 8), Preteens (ages 9-12), Teenagers (ages 13 to 17) and Parents, and is written on a level that each age group can easily read and understand. MYOM is an easy-to-use website with good basic information covering a range of topics that are very relevant to military families. With the podcasts, videos and networking groups that are available in conjunction with the site, it is definitely worth a visit.

## Have Book-Will Travel!

In June 2013, DOD MWR Libraries will launch their 4th Annual Summer Reading Program, *Have Book-Will Travel!* Over the next few months, MWR libraries around the world will host a range of free activities for children, teens and adults that encourage and support a love of reading. Participants also get the chance to win prizes for reaching their reading goals.

The focus of *Have Book-Will Travel!* is fun, but there is also a serious side to summer reading. Research has shown that reading over the summer helps prevent what educators refer to as “the summer slide,” where developing readers lose the skills they have developed



during the school year because they do not continue to practice them. Studies also show that students who read recreationally

outperform those who do not. Although the activities and prizes all have a travel theme, participants are encouraged to select reading materials based on their own interests.

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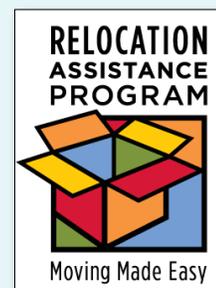


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 (577-6691)



Check to see how the [Loan Closet](#) at your current duty station can assist during the time between clearing your quarters and departing for your new duty location.



Last year, DOD families read for over 13.2 million minutes during summer 2012's *Reading is So Delicious*, shattering previous reading totals by over 2 mil-

lion minutes. Help make this summer another record breaker, visit <http://ila.org/dodsumread/> for more information on the importance of summer reading.

## DOD extends benefits to same-sex partners

On February 11, the Department of Defense announced the extension of benefits to same-sex partners to ensure fairness and equal treatment to the extent allowable under the law. According to Rear Admiral Tony Kurta, Director, Military Plans and Policy, these benefits will be available by October 1. To qualify, Sailors and their same-sex domestic partners will be required to sign a Declaration of Domestic Partnership attesting to the existence of their committed relationship. Service members will file the declaration at their Personnel Support Detachment (PSD), where a DD Form 1173 ("dependent" ID card) will then be issued, allowing access to benefits. Children of same-sex domestic partners will also qualify for the ID card and benefits.

Some of the benefits that will be extended to same-sex domestic partners and families include:

- Commissary and Exchange
- Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR)
- Child and youth programs. This includes child care, youth programs and youth sponsorship
- Space-available travel on DoD aircraft
- Joint duty assignment for dual military partners
- Legal assistance
- Family Center programs
- Family Readiness Groups
- Emergency leave and emergency leave of absence for the military member to attend to partner emergencies
- Sexual assault counseling program. Emergency care is provided; additional care is determined by medical eligibility.

For more details, go to: <http://www.defense.gov/news/Same-SexBenefitsMemo.pdf>

## DECA Guard/Reserve On-site Sales



The Guard/Reserve On-site Sales Program provides the commissary benefit to deserving Guard/Reserve members and their families that live in areas that are not close to an existing commissary store. For more information visit: [http://www.commissaries.com/guard\\_reserve\\_sales.cfm](http://www.commissaries.com/guard_reserve_sales.cfm)

## Planning for your financial future

Now that this year's tax season has come to a close, take some time to review your personal financial situation and set goals for the future. The following recommendations can assist in developing a sound financial plan:

**Develop a budget that works for you and your family.** Look at your financial priorities and determine what expenditures are needs and which ones are wants.

**Pay yourself first.** Make a commitment to save and initiate a savings allotment for the year ahead. Decide how much to save and make it part of your long-term plan.



**Pay off consumer debt, such as high-interest credit cards or car loans.** Credit card debt and late fees can add up significantly over time and can negatively affect your credit score and ability to borrow money when you need it.

**Know your credit report.** This is the primary tool that lenders use to evaluate the risk of lending you money. Obtain a free credit report annually from [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

If you need help, do not hesitate to ask for it. For more information regarding personal financial management, visit your local [Fleet and Family Support Center](#) or [Military OneSource](#).



## Are you ready?

If a disaster were to occur today, would you know what to do? Would you be ready? Disaster preparedness is a key element in helping ensure the safety and well-being of you and your family in the event of a disaster. During the month of June, take the time to assess whether you and your family are prepared.

**Be informed.** Find out what disasters are most likely to happen in your area and the history of their occurrence. Check to see if your city/county has an emergency preparedness website. Local emergency management offices can help you identify the potential hazards and make recommendations for you and your family. Become familiar with different ways to reach evacuation routes and know where emergency facilities are located. Incorporate what you learn into your family's emergency plan.

**Have a plan.** Talk with your family about different disasters and what action to take for each of them. Establish a family communication plan and designate a meeting place. You should also select one or two out-of-state contacts with whom you can "check in" and make contact cards with important phone numbers for everyone to carry. Make it a point to practice your plans, especially if you have children.

**Build a kit.** Having a disaster supply kit for your home and vehicle will permit you to evacuate more quickly and help ensure that you and your family can meet your basic needs. Review both [www.Ready.Navy.mil](http://www.Ready.Navy.mil) and [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) to find out what supplies you should have in your kit. You will be able to find emergency kit shopping lists as well as other useful information.

Everyone should know what to do, where to go and what to take in the event of an emergency. Preparedness is your duty and responsibility. The time and effort you and your family invest in planning will make a difference in your ability to handle any potential emergency situation and will help all of you to stay safe. Know what steps to take. Be informed. Have a plan. Make a kit.



## Employment and Transition Corner

### Spouses Who PCS May Have Preference for Federal Jobs

We wrote about this last year, and as summer approaches, we think it is a good idea to revisit this employment strategy. If your active duty service member is relocating with permanent change of station (PCS) orders, you may have preference for federal employment. This little-known provision authorizes the hire of eligible spouses for federal positions. It is called the Preferred Placement Program for Spouses, also known as PPP-S or Program-S, and you do not have to be a current or previous federal employee to have this opportunity!

To be eligible, you must register for Program-S at your local [Human Resources Office](#) (HRO). Additionally, you must have been married to your service member before the PCS, and you must be accompanying your spouse to the new assignment. The job you are applying for has to be within the new commuting area, and you have to be among the "best qualified."

For more information, [FedHireVets.gov](http://FedHireVets.gov) discusses the preference. The federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has a Q&A about Program-S, but it is complex to read. Some restrictions may apply, so it is best to ask the experts at the Department of the Navy's Civilian Human Resources Office (HRO).



## NAVY U.S. Navy Individual Augmentees

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### Returning Warrior Workshops (RWW)

Returning Warrior Workshop Schedule & 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.



# MY DAD IS A HERO AT HOME TOO!

You're a hero at work. Let the professionals at the New Parent Support Home Visitation Program teach you how to be a hero at home.



To view a video about the New Parent Support Home Visitation Program use this QR Code on your mobile device.



The Navy's New Parent Support Home Visitation Program professionals can help fathers improve their parenting skills in the privacy of their own home and learn new ways of keeping their children safe. Be the dad your child deserves. Contact your local Fleet and Family Support Center or visit [www.ffsp.navy.mil](http://www.ffsp.navy.mil) for more information.



The New Parent Support Home Visitation Program offers free parenting support services to active duty families with children under the age of four.

