

Contents

The Moving Van is Empty!

Operation Xtreme: Camp for Military Kids

Honors Awarded to Military Children

Ask Your Ombudsman

The Sesame Street/USO Experience

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.

Visit us online at:



Scan QR Code to access via mobile device

Military Spouse Appreciation

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is May 11: An occasion to honor Navy spouses who support our Sailors and manage the balancing act of military life, family, career and children each day without fail. We thank you for your service through deployments and relocations, and for your resilience while stationed miles away from friends and family.

The life of a military family is a demanding one and your voices have been heard. Caring for military families was made a national priority with the release of the White House's "Strengthening Our Military Families" report. Employment opportunities and career advancement are critical to our families. The White House, Department of Defense, Navy, and other government agencies have been working together to provide better employment opportunities for military spouses.

On 29 June 2011, the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP) was launched by Dr. Jill Biden. In April 2012, First Lady Michelle Obama announced a major expansion of commitment by businesses, which pledged to deliver over 15,000 jobs for military spouses and veterans. Thousands of these are highly-sought-after virtual jobs that can be performed from home. The pledge comes from private companies new to MSEP, which has already partnered with nearly 100 other private sector companies. All partners are focused on increasing job opportunities and career advancement for military spouses at *no cost* to the family member.



"Military spouses often are the most talented and most resilient and most employable people around."

– First Lady Michelle Obama

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.

The ["Joining Forces"](#) initiative has set a goal for all 50 states to pass legislation that addresses professional license portability by 2014. Thirteen states already have passed legislation for military spouses who work in fields such as teaching, nursing, real estate, and social work to transfer their professional licenses easily from one state to another, while 13 more are pending.

continued on page 2



Military Spouse Appreciation

continued from page 1

[The Military Spouse Career Advancement](#)

[Account \(MyCAA\)](#) is an employment assistance program that provides up to \$4,000 of financial assistance to eligible military spouses who are pursuing a license, certification or an associate's degree in a portable career field or occupation. Spouses of service members on active duty in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, and O-1 to O-2 are eligible to apply.



The Military Spouse Preference (MSP) is a Department of Defense (DOD) program that is intended to lessen the career interruption of spouses who relocate with their military sponsors. Family members may be eligible for [non-competitive federal appointment](#) to jobs posted on [USAJobs](#).



Child and Youth Programs

[Child and Youth Programs \(CYP\)](#) offer rewarding and professional environments for portable careers, with competitive salaries, continuing education, and job-related training in addition to a wide range of employee benefits. Multiple pathways to support career objectives are available, including internships and flexible, part-time, and full-time positions around the globe. Military spouses represent nearly 50% of the total cadre of CYP professionals of classroom teachers, administrative professionals, trainers, and directors across all programs. Discover your next career with CYP.

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) also understands the career needs of military spouses. The [Family Employment Readiness Program \(FERP\)](#) is staffed by employment professionals who provide no-cost consultations to help spouses and family members reach their career goals. Consultants are available to guide spouses on launching a job search, career planning, resume writing

and interview techniques as well as providing information on federal employment and volunteerism. Ongoing programs and services are available to help improve the lives of military families.

The [Annual Military Spouse National Virtual \(Online\) Career Fair](#) is on 7 May from 1-4 PM EST. The fair is hosted by Milicruit and supported by Joining Forces and DoD as a part of their commitment to bring jobs to 10,000 veterans and spouses through their company partnerships by December 2013. In the last three weeks, more than 1,000 veterans and spouses have been hired through the 10K Jobs Challenge partners.

To thank you for your service and dedication, many FFSCs are hosting Military Spouse Appreciation Events such as those listed below. Check with your [local installation](#) for additional events and details.

Installation	Activity	Date	Phone
NSA Monterey	Spouse Entrepreneur Event	17 May	831-656-3060
NS San Diego	Military Spouse Appreciation Afternoon Tea, Coffee & Cookies	09 May	619-222-5548
NSB Kings Bay	FFSC Appreciates Our Military Spouses	09 May	912-573-2453
NS Mayport	Resume Writing for Military Spouses	24 May	904-270-6600 ext 1700
	Appreciation Scrolls Presentation at Ombudsman Assembly	29 May	
NAS JRB New Orleans	Spouse Information Fair	TBD	504-678-7569
	Spouse Appreciation Event	10 May	
	Spouse Summit	29 May	
NSA Panama City	Military Spouse Appreciation Day	01 May	850-235-5587
NAS Whidbey Island	Creating your Career Pathway	17 May	360-257-6289
NWS Yorktown	Evening Under the Stars	08 May	757-887-4606
NSA Saratoga Springs	"Thank a Military Spouse " Essay Contest	11 May	518-886-0200 ext 146
Yokosuka Japan	FFSC Military Spouse Appreciation Open House	18 May	DSN 315-243-5582
NSA Bahrain	Military Spouse Appreciation 3K Fun Run	08 May	DSN 318-439-4046
	Military Spouse Employment Fair	29 May	
NSA Sigonella	Military Spouse Appreciation Board	TBD	DSN 314-624-4291
	Military Spouse Appreciation Open House	23 May	
	Appreciation Certificates Presentation	23 May	





The Moving Van is Empty!

The moving van has come and gone, and everything is safely in your new home. Surrounded by boxes and furniture, you think, "What shall I do first?" You are most likely exhausted. It surely has been a long day, so the best thing you can do is take a break and go out for a meal! A relaxing dinner may be a welcome relief.

You may be tempted to empty every box as quickly as possible. However, it is important to take a breather. Explore your new neighborhood by taking a walk, going for a bike ride or taking a short drive. This will help familiarize you with your new location.

If you have not already visited your Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), give them a call or stop by. The Relocation Assistance Program (RAP) can provide you with information on what is available in the area and what recreational facilities are on the installation. If you have children, ask about the base's Child Development Center, Youth Center and teen programs. Before you know it, the move will be done and you will be comfortable in your new home. To learn more about the RAP or to locate your nearest FFSC, visit www.ffsp.navy.mil.

Operation Xtreme: Camp for Military Kids

More than 275 military children throughout the Northwest region participated in the fifth annual Kids Camp Deployment, where they experienced a little bit of military life from their parents' perspective. The day-long camp hosts several activities including a Marine Corps mini boot-camp, a Seabee obstacle course, military working dogs demonstration, and Navy diver exhibits. Campers had the opportunity to interact with others experiencing some of the same challenges of having a parent in the military.

CRISTA Camps hosted this event and created Operation Xtreme: Camp for Military Kids to give children of military families the opportunity to experience a fun-filled week of summer camp. The program returns in June 2012. For more information visit <http://www.cristacamps.com>.

NFAAS

Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS)

NFAAS allows Navy personnel to manage the recovery process for personnel affected by a widespread catastrophic event. It is also helpful in providing commands with information to support IA family members while their sponsors are deployed overseas.

[Watch the Video](#) and [log on to NFAAS](#).

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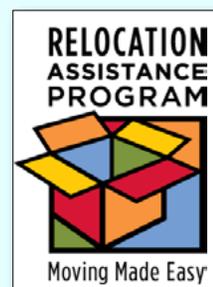


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Time to Bloom Where You Are Planted!

[Adjusting to a New Community](#) is a valuable Web page hosted by MilitaryOneSource. You will find links to articles on relocation survival skills and best practices, along with information about organizations and service providers that may be valuable to you and your family as you move to a new installation.



Honors Awarded to Military Children

On 5 April 2012, during the Fourth Annual Military Child of the Year Awards Gala at the Ritz Carlton in Washington, D.C., the five recipients of this year's Military Child of the Year Awards were presented with their awards by senior leadership of each branch of service. Keynote speakers during the ceremony included Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis.

"I think that our military kids are who they are because of the hardships, the moves, and their adaptability," said Dempsey. "One of the things that sets us apart is that our kids become who they are because of what we ask them to do and because of what they see us do."

Each year, one child from each branch of service is chosen as the military child of the year. This year's Military Child of the Year for the Navy, nine-year-old James "Nate" Richards, was presented with his award by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert. [Read the entire article.](#)



Ask Your Ombudsman

Have you reached out to your command family Ombudsman recently? If so, then you are aware that your Ombudsman is a trained volunteer who has been officially appointed by the Commanding Officer to disseminate information to families. Your Ombudsman may have reached out to you upon your arrival to a new duty station or presented at your command deployment or readiness brief.

Ombudsmen may distribute a monthly newsletter containing vital command information and resources and may also maintain an official Facebook page, where you can connect and communicate with them and other families. Whatever the means of communication, it is important to make sure that you are connected to your Ombudsman and are receiving the valuable information that they provide.

To find out more about whom your Ombudsman is and what he or she can do for you, please visit the [CNIC Ombudsman Program webpage](#).

123

SESAME STREET

The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families is the USO's longest running, free traveling tour based on Sesame Street's military family initiative. To learn where the tour is heading next, visit uso.org/sesame.

NAVY ia

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Returning Warrior Workshops (RWW)

Returning Warrior Workshop Schedule & IA Family Events — www.ia.navy.mil. Click "Links and Resources."

IA Discussion Group Schedule

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

