



Welcome to the original Military Family Network
Online since October, 2003

Your Monthly Newsletter For December 2011

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MFN TEAM

Hello Everyone,

A year has passed through our doors and has come to an end. Let's hope that 2011 was a very good and safe year for all of our readers. We thank God for the safe return of all our troops and gave Honor to all of our fallen. May our troops have a safe 2012 and may they all return home to their families and live long lives. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Until Next Month (year)
(or email us at [Connections](#) if you just can't wait!),

Megan, Luis and Darrell

THIS MONTH'S FOCUS

Nominate Your Employer for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

It is only possible for our National Guard and Reserve members to perform at their best with the support of loved ones, friends, neighbors and, particularly, employers. Thousands of employers across the nation employ National Guard and Reserve members, fully aware that at any moment they may be called to serve. And when this happens, both the employee and employer face challenges. We are grateful for the many employers who remain patriotically steadfast in support of their military employees, both financially and emotionally, going well beyond the law. Supportive employers allow service members to perform their duties while alleviating concerns about their jobs and loved ones back home.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, invites nominations for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and

ORGANIZATION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Let's Celebrate the Constitution and Military Kids!

Military Family Network and K¹² are offering fun, free, informative, and interactive online activities about the United States Constitution.

[K12](#)



BUSINESS FEATURE

MFN Helps Businesses Reach Military Families

We all know how the Military Family Network serves military service members, veterans, and their families by providing resources, information and trusted expert and community advice to help them navigate through military life.

But did you know that MFN also helps businesses with their outreach as well? By introducing the military community to trusted businesses, MFN can help you tap into a market that is traditionally hard to reach, but desires your services. And with our new website nearly ready to go, we will offer even more possibilities, both for businesses and the community we serve.

For military and family friendly businesses, we offer a variety of communication services that allow you to promote your programs, products and services while demonstrating your support for our military service members, veterans and their families. MFN encourages its business partners to offer military deals and discounts as their way of thanking our military community for their service to our nation. And, while MFN can provide the sophisticated marketing reports that you've come to expect from your campaigns, your biggest reward will come from knowing that your advertising dollars are taking care of military service members, veterans and their families. In fact, your support saves lives.

Reserve. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible, and encouraged, to nominate their employers now through January 16th, 2012 at FreedomAward.mil.

Freedom Award recipients support their Guard and Reserve employees and their families in important ways, both large and small. Past recipients have provided differential pay during deployments, continued insurance benefits and sent comfort items in care packages. Some of the most valued assistance has been the support extended to deployed service members' families. When one National Guard member was deployed, his employer filled his seat at his sons' sports games. After another service member's family hit hard times during a deployment, his employer stacked gifts under the family's Christmas tree. And during the deployment of a single father, his employer sent his daughters off to school each morning with a wake up phone call. These seemingly small acts have a significant impact on the lives of National Guard and Reserve members and their families.

Any employer supportive of its National Guard and Reserve employees or their families is eligible for Freedom Award nomination. Past recipients of the award have ranged from a small family owned farm in Iowa to larger corporations, including Microsoft and Wells Fargo, to public sector employers including the Town of Gilbert, Arizona and the State of Hawaii.

The 2012 recipients will be announced by early summer and honored at the 17th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony in Washington, D.C. early next fall. Past recipients of the Freedom Award have met with the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense. [Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

[NEWS YOU CAN USE](#)

Biden Spotlights Military Support at Kids' Holiday Party

Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, invited about 25 elementary school students, a few teachers -- and one special guest in Afghanistan -- to a military-themed holiday party in their home at the U.S. Naval Observatory here today. Read more: [Here](#)

President Obama Welcomes Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

President Obama met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on Monday to discuss the end of the Iraq war and the steps necessary to realize a new phase in the relationship between the two countries. Read more: [President Obama](#)

For our military community, there are numerous new features to look forward to like improved and simplified navigation, enhanced forums, the ability to add your own blog, and a dedicated server giving MFN much more bandwidth and processing power to provide you with a greatly improved user experience.

You've already seen the ever increasing number of experts in various fields who are coming on board with MFN to give you the information you need. Now, enhanced search and tagging capabilities will make it easier for you to find this information.

And there is so much more. How many times have you read one of our news articles and wanted to respond? Or perhaps you saw an informational piece on our site, and wanted to contribute your own knowledge and experience? Well, now you will be able to! You will be able to leave comments, discuss topics with your fellow community members, easily syndicate the content to your RSS feeds, and a few surprises that, well, our lips are sealed!

So as they say in show-biz: Don't Go Away! There's More to Come!

[TRICARE AND HEALTH](#)

TRICARE VIDEO SERVICE ON HEALTH CARE

Tricare is offering videos on types of Health Care. Watch this video to find out what TRICARE provider types are the best choice for the health plan you're using.

[TRICARE](#)

[COMMUNITY](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NATIONAL GUARD

National Guard Marks its 375th Birthday

The origin of the nation's state National Guard organizations sprang from the forming of militia in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the early 17th century. Read more:

<http://www.militaryfamilynetwork.com/article.php?aid=15694>

[MONEY, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT](#)

Welcome to the Loan Guaranty Service, Home Loan Program. Help is here if you need it!

Benefits.va.gov

FAMILY SUPPORT

Here is a very important message from our friends at Gift From Within.

GIFT FROM WITHIN

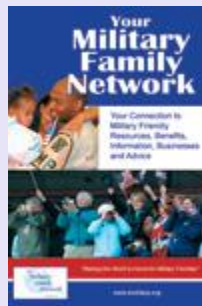
Military Children may be more frequent targets of bullying

The first part of a "The Pentagon Channel" series on bullying looks at how military children may be frequent targets of bullies. Read more: [Here](#)

Your Military Family Network

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"Your Military Family Network reference book is the most complete source of information for the active military, veterans and their families that I have seen. At first I just skimmed through it, but when I read the contents and your instructions on how to use this book, I realize this book was worth much more than the purchase price. Thank you for providing a helping hand for our military who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. Your book it is a treasure for me and for all military personnel." - Curt M.



Military Friendly Deals.

Be sure to visit www.gogoshopper.com and look for great deals!

Why pay full price for clothes, shoes, beauty products, home accessories and more when there are thousands of coupons available at GoGoShopper.com that can save you money? They list coupons from major department stores such as Walmart and JCPenney, to thousands of online only merchants.



VETERANS

New Videos Feature Military Service Stories of Women Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs has released a series of videos in which women Veterans describe their experiences serving in the military, ranging from their significant contributions to national safety and security to the challenges they faced during their service and after returning to civilian life.

See more: [Here](#)