

Every Member Counts

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD 



October Family Focus

Mission: Service Member & Family Support enhances and empowers the lives of our customers with consistently exceptional service & support.

Service Member and Family Support

Phone: 1-800-658-3930

THE FOCUS IS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS & FAMILIES, VETERANS, RETIREES & SURVIVORS

IN THIS ISSUE

Service Member and Family Support branch conducts Strategic Planning

by Christian Johnson

The South Dakota National Guard Service Member and Family Support branch conducted a Strategic Planning workshop to improve and increase awareness of the services available to service members, families, veterans, retirees, survivors and local communities.

Major Quenten Johnson, Deputy Director, Service Member and Family Support South Dakota National Guard utilized his training in strategic planning, process improvement and group facilitation to maximize input from all group members. He encouraged creative and collaborative solutions to deliver services in the most effective and efficient manner.

“We want to deliver the best level of service to anyone in need and by utilizing the strategic planning process we can identify strengths, weaknesses,

opportunities and threats in doing so,” said Major Quenten Johnson. “Another area we focused on was how to make people aware of what services we offer, many of which we offer to any branch of service, both active and reserve component.

We also can and do provide services to veterans, retirees and their survivors and want to ensure we are there to empower them in times of need”.

The Service Member and Family Support branch is located on Camp Rapid, but has a presence throughout South Dakota in Sioux Falls, Brookings, Watertown and Mitchell. They man the Assistance Center 24/7 and can be reached at 1-800-658-3930.

For more information contact Major Quenten Johnson at (605) 737-6206 or e-mail quenten.j.johnson.mil@mail.mil.

Disclaimer: The announcements that appear on this page(s) or attached are intended to inform Soldiers, Airmen, veterans, and their families of special offers provided to Service Members, veterans and their families and are not intended to constitute an endorsement by the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard, the United States Army, the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense. It is strictly intended to be used for informational purposes only.



ESGR & Employment Services

Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Nomination Period Opens.

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Strong Bonds Dates & Locations

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Recognize Your Employer Today

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. Each year, Guard and Reserve employees, or a family member acting on their behalf, have the opportunity to nominate their employer for the Employer Support Freedom Award.

Nominate your employer during nomination season (October 1-December 31 each year) by logging on to www.FreedomAward.mil and clicking Nominate Employer at the top of the web page.



QUESTIONS?

Contact MAJ Lona Christensen at 605-737-6540 or at lona.m.christensen.mil@mail.mil



Laid-off, ADOS orders ending, downsized, graduation, retirement, wanting a change in life; what do all these have in common? Many times these are the reasons for starting a new job search. Whether or not this decision is involuntary or planned, it can be a daunting task to start out on the path to a new job.

Starting Your Job Search

by Scott MacDonald, SDNG Employment Services Program Support Specialist

Just like any other undertaking in life, a job search requires planning and active participation by you to be successful. After all, it's your life and future. This does not mean you're in this endeavor all alone.

Employment services are available are broad and are for all current National Guard members, former Guard members, retirees and direct family members. Services include assistance in: organizing your thoughts and desires, preparing a resume, developing a job search plan, preparing for an interview, referrals to

other assistance sources and more. Even though this is YOUR job search, you have a team of people available to help you along the way. Just like a race car driver, there is a crew that helps make the victory lap possible. Employments Services is part of your crew.

If you are currently in a job search or contemplating one in the future, your first step should be to contact Employment Services to help develop a job search plan. Contact me for more information at 605-737-6011 or scott.macdonald.ctr@mail.mil

Careers After Military Service: The Troops to Teachers Program

You know that scientists discovered Pluto in 1930. You know that it's no longer the ninth planet and it is now considered a dwarf planet. You have so much knowledge; why not share it with kids who need it? The skills you honed in the military — leadership, initiative, discipline, integrity and the ability to thrive in an ever-changing environment are a natural fit for the classroom.

Troops to Teachers, a military career transition program, helps transitioning service members begin new careers as public school teachers.

It's never too early to think about your life after separation and start exploring your options. Your next life-changing mission could be to become a teacher. Many service members transitioning to a civilian career find their skills naturally transfer to a career in teaching.



Troops to Teachers can help you identify your best path to teaching by providing counseling, guidance and help with meeting education requirements. You're eligible for the program if you're a current or former member of the

U.S. Armed Forces.

Troops to Teachers career resources include guidance on teacher certification and education requirements and leads on employment opportunities.

The program's financial help can pay for your education and licensure requirements.

There are also bonuses to encourage you to teach in certain types of schools or in a specific part of the country, and also for teaching subjects that are in demand, such as science, math or foreign languages. Time restrictions for registration and other requirements are involved, so contact a Troops to Teachers state or regional coordinator for more information.

For more information contact the SDNG education office at 605-737-6713 or visit the [Troops to Teachers](#) website.

R.E.D. Shirt Friday Honoring the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB)

Please show your support for the 196th MEB and ALL of South Dakota's deployed service members by wearing a **Red Shirt** on October 14th.



Mental Health First Aid Training: Military Members, Veterans, & Their Families

October 12, 2016 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Camp Rapid, Building 802, Classrooms 113 & 114, East side of Camp Rapid

Mental Health First Aid is a **NO COST** 8-hour course that teaches a 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources, and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, and self-help care. The course teaches the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and, most importantly, teaches individuals how to help someone in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge.

This tailored module builds upon this curriculum by focusing on the unique experiences and needs of the military, veteran and family population.

Contact Stephanie Schweitzer Dixon by Oct. 7 to register: 605-348-6692 or ssdixon@frontporchcoalition.org

Monthly Focus

Special Victim Counsel

The **Special Victim Counsel's (SVC)** primary responsibility is to his or her client who was a National Guard member at the time of the offense. SVCs are authorized by law to enter into attorney-client relationships in order to zealously and independently represent their clients.

Through legal advocacy, an SVC will assist their client in building and sustaining a foundation upon which the client may focus on recovery. Whether a victim of sexual assault filed a restricted or unrestricted report, in coordination with a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator or a Victim Advocate, an SVC would be available to assist clients with accessing medical and mental health services. For unrestricted cases, an SVC will further assist their client with obtaining state and federal victim compensation and humanitarian programs; acquiring measures to prevent re-victimization; and to the extent permissible and determined by the client, participating in the investigation and/or disposition of the case.

To empower victims and help with their recovery, SVCs must provide professional and knowledgeable counsel enabling clients to decide the degree of their participation in the investigation and disposition of their case. In return, the client's informed decision will be the basis of SVC advocacy and legal representation.

For more information or assistance please contact CPT Karla MacArthur Harris at 605-737-6561, 605-391-3428 or karla.m.macarthurharris.mil@mail.mil

Upcoming Strong Bonds Events



Strong Bonds is conducted in an offsite retreat format in order to maximize the training effect. The retreat or "get away" provides a fun, safe, and secure environment in which to address the impact of relocations, deployments, and military lifestyle stressors

15-16 October 2016 – Rapid City
5 Love Languages for Couples

14-15 January 2017 – Sioux Falls
7 Habits of Families or 7 Habits of Singles

25-26 February 2017 – Deadwood
Ski Weekend for Singles

18-19 March 2017 – Sioux Falls
Active Military Families

For additional Information contact Chaplain (COL) Wilson at 605-737-6009 or lynn.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil
TSgt Regina Staufer at 605-737-6222 or regina.e.staufer.mil@mail.mil

SPOTLIGHTS



Special Victims' Counsel

Month Spotlight on a resource available



Strong Bonds Information

Dates and locations for upcoming training



Trunk or Treat

Dates and locations for event on pages 5-6



Transition Assistance Advisor

page 7



Camp Rapid
 Duke Corning Armory
 West parking lot
 2:00pm-4:00pm



3rd Annual

SD National Guard Service Member and Family Support Presents.....

Trunk-or-Treat

Trunk-or-Treat is an event that will be offered as an outreach for families of the SD National Guard. The children can go from vehicle to vehicle to trunk-or-treat, while adults will have the opportunity to socialize/network and learn about resources available to them and their family.



Please join us for an afternoon of fun!

Trick or Treating, Games, and Resources available



Pumpkin Contest
 Bring your previously carved or decorated pumpkins for everyone to see.

TRUNKERS WANTED Information and directions on reverse side

Participants pre-registration form for decorating a trunk as an Individual, Team, Unit or FRG ***is required***

Name _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

Theme _____

Type of vehicle _____

UNIT REPRESENTING _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

- Sign up as an
- INDIVIDUAL
 - TEAM
 - UNIT
 - FRG
 - Resource Provider
 - Yes, I would like a table

In the event of bad weather we will have the event inside the Duke Corning Armory Drill floor and utilize tables instead of trunks.

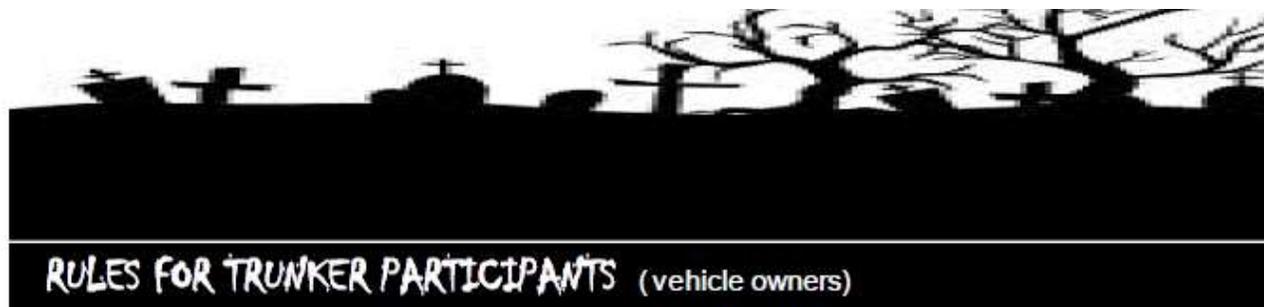


Please return registration form before October 18th, 2016

Taryn Broomfield
 taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil

Or
 Kristin Neuhardt
 jkneuhardt1@live.com

Or
 Fax: 605-737-6088



RULES FOR TRUNKER PARTICIPANTS (vehicle owners)

- The cost of registration is FREE, a CONTEST for most creative decorated vehicle will be awarded (winner will be announced at 4:00pm).
- **Registration Deadline** for participation is **October 18th, 2016 @ 5pm**
 - ◊ **Email:** Taryn Broomfield - taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil
Or Kristin Neuhardt - jkneuhardt1@live.com
 - ◊ **FAX:** 605-737-6088
 - ◊ **MAIL:** SMFS 2823 West Main St Rapid City SD 57702
- Trunk or Treat location will be in the north-west parking lot of Duke Corning Armory
- Event will be held from 2pm till 4pm October 29th, 2016
 - ◊ Vehicle set up time will begin at 12pm or sooner if needed
 - ◊ Parking lot attendant will direct on where to park
 - ◊ No vehicle traffic will be allowed in the secured event area (north-west parking lot) after 1:30pm
 - ◊ If Trunkers would like a table please request on registration form
- For Safety you will not be allowed to move your vehicle from the event area until 5:00pm or about, please plan accordingly. If you run out of goodies, we ask that you just simply close your trunk.
- Trunkers will provide their own decorations and are welcome to bring candy or other goodies. Some Goodies will be provided for Trunkers to hand out to the "treaters"; Ex. pencils, stickers, novelty toys, etc.
- Decorated Trunks must be appropriate for all age groups.
Theme examples: sport, cartoon characters, movies, holiday, BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN, etc.
- Participants should be prepared for 100 kids, we have averaged about that in past years.
- NO electrical support will be available for vehicle decorations
- *In the event of bad weather we will have the event inside the Duke Corning Armory Drill floor and utilize tables instead of trunks.*
For those not registering or attending but wish to support the event please contact us at: taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil or jkneuhardt1@live.com or 605-737-6919

Did you know?

The **Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) Program** serves Active and Reserve Component service members of **ALL** branches of the military **AND** Veterans who have dedicated themselves to serving our nation, often at great personal sacrifice. The program's principal role is to provide direction to Reserve Component service members so that they can secure all benefits, entitlements, and services earned through their military service with the compassion of someone who's been there.

You may not need assistance at this time, but you may have a friend or family member that could use some assistance.



Common services provided are:

- Requesting Military Service records
- Enrollment into the VA Healthcare
- Counseling on Education Benefits
- Supporting deploying and returning units
- Employment
- Tricare
- State specific benefits
- Navigating local, state and federal programs

I am a current service member in the SDARNG, an OEF-Afghanistan veteran, former full-time Soldier, education counselor and will put to use my skills and relationships to ensure your needs are met.

Contact your TAA today at 605-737-6669 or christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil

October Family Focus

Service Member and Family Support
South Dakota National Guard

2823 W. Main St, Rapid City SD 57702

1-800-658-3930



We also recommend that you like and follow us on [Facebook](#) as we continuously update new and exciting information.

Have suggestions of thing you would like to see in a future issue of the focus? Please contact us!

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