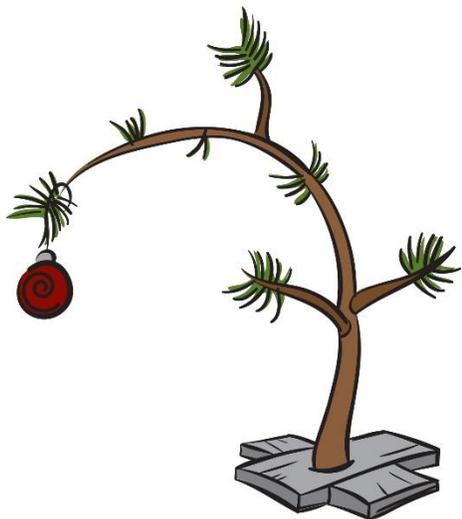


Every Member Counts

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD 



December Family Focus

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

Service Member & Family Support

Phone: 1-800-658-3930

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

IN THIS ISSUE

How safe is your vehicle?

Reprinted from the October 2018 SDNG Safety Sense

Proper inspection will assist in surviving winter driving. One major factor for making it from point A to point B is to take your time. Leave a few minutes earlier than normal, be prepared to slow down for hazardous driving conditions. Here are a few other tips:

- Keep a survival package in your car: food stuffs, water, candle, matches, tissues, sand or cat litter, blanket or warm clothing, flash light and batteries, a flag or cloth to tie to an antenna (for signaling), shovel, first aid kit.
- Don't let your fuel gauge drop below 1/4.
- When you're on the road, let someone know when you leave and an approximate check in time. Then check in along the way and when you arrive at your destination.
- Do not drive fatigued, intoxicated or distracted.

There is no way to mitigate every risk on the road other than to not travel. But if you maintain your vehicle, drive responsibly, defensively and respectfully, and be pre-pared for delays or road closures, your odds of a successful trip will greatly increase. Preparation takes minutes; catastrophes can last rest of your life.



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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.



Blended Retirement System (BRS) Deadline is 31 December 2018

The deadline for those eligible to opt-in to the Blended Retirement System (BRS) is 31 December 2018. The Office of the Secretary of Defense's guidance is that the decision window will not reopen.

There are many Soldiers who can benefit from switching to the BRS. We encourage leaders to identify these Soldiers, and ensure they understand the benefits to BRS before time runs

c

Additionally, 26% of the BRS Opt-In population have zero TSP contributions. This means that over 4,000 Soldiers have switched to BRS, but they have not adjusted their base pay withholding in MYPAY to receive the TSP matching contribution from the government.

If you or your Soldiers have specific questions regarding the Blended Retirement System please contact one of the financial planners listed or utilize the [BRS link](#).

East River

Marli Erickson

City - Sioux Falls

Phone - (605)496-5288

Email - PFC.SD.NG@zeiders.com

West River

Brian Bickett

Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone - (605)787-1255

<http://www.imfinancialplanning.com>

<https://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/>



Congratulations to CPT Chad Carlson on his selection as the SD ESGR Program Manager. He comes to SMFS from the Public Affairs Office where he spent the last 9 years of his career.

CPT Carlson is replacing MAJ Christensen who transitioned to her new role as the JFHQ Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). MAJ Christensen gave the better part of 14 years to SMFS and the ESGR program and we can't thank her enough for her many years of dedication to Service Members, Employers and the Families of our Service Members.

Lona's transition has left "Big Shoes" for Chad to fill, but we are sure he is up to the task.

2018 Winter Clothing & Toy Drive

Volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard are organizing a 2018 winter clothing/toy drive to benefit needy individuals in their communities. New or gently used coats, gloves, hats, scarves or blankets -- new or gently used toys--are being donated by Guard members to help the most impoverished in need of warm clothing this winter season. The clothing/toy drive is not limited to only volunteer members of the Guard, but is intended as a community activity.

Members of the public who'd like to donate items are encouraged to bring winter clothes or toys to any SDNG Armory or the Sioux Falls Air National Guard base from now until 10 DEC18. The all-volunteer effort to collect winter clothing/toys, while not an official function of the National Guard, is a welcome adjunct activity showcasing volunteers' commitment to serve our most needy. Attachments are organizations you may donate to + a flyer you can use. Below my message are the Armories or Shops you can bring your items.

See the Next Page for Drop Off Locations

Third, and finally, my friend, SSG (retired) Bull Thompson is an additional POC for the 2018 Clothing/Toy Drive. If you need any help collecting or distributing items, Bull can be reached @ #605.770.3698 or www.ssgbull@hotmail.com

God bless! - Chaplain Lynn Wilson



2018 Winter Clothing and Toy Drive

Accepting new or gently used coats, scarves, hats, gloves or blankets for adults and children, and new or gently used toys.

Accepting donations through December 10.

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Clothing & Toy Drive Donation Locations:

Aberdeen Armory
115 South Roosevelt Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401-5205
605-626-2270

Belle Fourche Armory
1202 Lawrence Street
Belle Fourche, SD 57717-0489
605-892-4346

Brookings Readiness Center
300 5th Street South
Brookings, SD 57006-3319
605-696-5400

Chamberlain Armory
202 East Kellam Street
Chamberlain, SD 57325-0496
605-734-5441

De Smet Armory
403 3rd Street Southwest
De Smet, SD 57231-0057
605-854-3762

Ellsworth Air Force Base
1319 Kenny Rd.
Building 1012
Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706
605-737-6996

Flandreau Armory
710 West Community Drive
Flandreau, SD 57028-1061
605-997-2661

Fort Meade
54 Sheridan Road
Fort Meade, SD 57741-0317
605-737-6456

Huron Armory
1030 3rd Street Southwest
Huron, SD 57350-0829
605-352-0200

Madison Armory
1302 N. Washington Avenue
Madison, SD 57042-0030
605-256-5287

Milbank Armory
1001 East Park Avenue
Milbank, SD 57252-0510
605-432-4671

Mobridge Armory
1014 Airport Road
Mobridge, SD 57601-0328
605-845-2301

Mitchell Armory
5501 Airport Road
Mitchell, SD 57301-0610
605-995-1671

Parkston Armory
102B South Chapman Drive
Parkston, SD 57366-2017
605-928-3420

Pierre Armory
3440 East Highway 34
Pierre, SD 57501-0938
605-773-3449

Rapid City – Camp Rapid
2823 West Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57702-8186
605-737-6200

Rapid City – Range Road Armory
3740 Range Road
Rapid City, SD 57702-8186
605-737-6322

Spearfish Armory
1200 University Street
Spearfish, SD 57783-0520
605-642-6121

Sioux Falls Armory
801 West National Guard Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-0117
605-357-2973

Joe Foss Field – Sioux Falls
1201 West Algonquian Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-0264
605-988-5700

Sturgis Armory
12930 Highway 34 East
Sturgis, SD 57785-0549
605-737-6400

Vermillion Armory
603 Princeton Street
Vermillion, SD 57069-0434
605-677-6787

Wagner Armory
600 East Highway 46
Wagner, SD 57380-9417
605-384-3657

Watertown Readiness Center
1951 N. Hwy 20
Watertown, SD 57201-3048
605-882-9327

Yankton Armory
204 West 31st Street
Yankton, SD 57078-0071
605-688-3045

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Military Kids Adventure Day!

Prouty Pottery - Rapid City, SD
15 December 2018

Registration Deadline:
 7 December 2018

AGES 6-10

*** Calling all South Dakota National Guard Kids ***

Join us as we explore our resilience skills and our artistic side through clay art this holiday season!



Purpose:
 To engage younger military children in an environment that helps them connect with each other, learn life skills, and have fun!

**Saturday, December 15th
 10 am - 2 pm**

Register Soon! Limited to 20

Child will need a sack lunch. Snacks and drinks provided.

AGENDA	
• 10:00	Registration/Ice Breaker Games
• 10:15	Clay Art Project
• 11:45	Lunch
• 12:15	Resilience Skills / Gratitude
• 1:00	Holiday Project
• 2:00	Parent pick up

Drop Off and Pick Up:
 Prouty Pottery
 405 Canal Street
 Rapid City, SD 57701
 (Located above Dunn Brothers)

Send registration forms to:

SDNG Child & Youth Program
 Attn: Taryn Broomfield, CTR
 2823 W. Main St. Bldg. 420 Rapid City, SD 57702
 taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil / 605-737-6919



***** Additional clay art project information for Parents *****

Please note - clay art projects require a minimum of one week to dry and be fired in the kiln. Youth can return to Prouty Pottery and meet me on **22 December from 10-11 am**, or on another date after the 22nd (to be determined by their parents), to apply a glaze to their project. After this, the project will be placed back in the kiln a second time and will be ready for pick up in another week. Projects will be completed in January - right in time for the New Year! I plan to pick up all projects and have them available in my office by January 4th. Please contact me with questions.

See next page for Registration Form!

REGISTRATION
Military Kids Adventure Day (ages 6-10)
 Prouty Pottery
 405 Canal Street
 Rapid City, SD 57701
15 December 2018
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Registrations Due: Friday, 7 December 2018

CHILD'S NAME: _____

Preferred Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Male: _____ Female: _____

List Special Needs, Allergies, or Concerns: _____

PARENT(S) / GUARDIAN NAME: _____

Phone #: Daytime: () _____ Evening: _____

Cell#: () _____ Email: _____

MILITARY MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Branch of Service: _____

Unit: _____ Relationship to Child: _____ Currently Deployed: _____

Registration Fee Due with form: \$10 per child x _____ = \$ _____ Total Child(ren)
(Registration Fee will be used for snacks and additional supplies as needed. Checks payable to SD Military Camps)

~ Participants must be a child/legal dependent of a SDNG Service Member ~

Registration: Military Kids Adventure Day - Rapid City - due by Friday, 7 December 18

1. **Registration:** Please ensure registration form is filled out completely and signed where indicated.
2. **Registration Verification:** Registration Verification information will be sent out upon receipt of Registration Form.
3. **Mail to:** SDNG Youth Program ATTN: Taryn Broomfield, CTR
 2823 W. Main St. Bldg. 420
 Rapid City, SD 57702

I certify that I am the legal parent/guardian of the child listed on this application.
 *I grant permission to the South Dakota Military Kids Adventure Day staff to approve emergency medical treatment for my child.
 *I give permission for the release of my child's name and address to be provided to staff for the purpose of future communications. It will not be sold or distributed for any other use. I grant the South Dakota National Guard the non-exclusive and irrevocable rights and license to make, edit and use pictures/videos of my child in print, electronic and projection for educational and promotional purposes. I release the above from any and all claims of payment for performance rights, residuals or damages for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or any claim based on the use or said material.
 *I hereby waive any claim against the South Dakota National Guard, the South Dakota National Guard Service Member & Family Support Office, SDNG Child & Youth Program and contract employees, the state of South Dakota, or the United States of America, for any causes which may arise in connection with the participation of the below named child in the Military Kids Adventure Day.

 (Child's Name) (Parent/Guardian) Signature Date



Brookings, SD

Preferred Skills

- ✓ Associate's Degree or one year experience with military population
- ✓ Strong understanding of ARNG and related family programs and deployment cycle
- ✓ Knowledge of military well-being programs
- ✓ Self-starter with excellent interpersonal skills
- ✓ Able to work independently and as a team
- ✓ Excellent computer skills

SRI is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer

Strategic Resources, Inc. (SRI)

an international, ISO 9001:2015 certified, CMMI Level 3 rated full service provider with 30 years of Federal and military contracting experience is looking for qualified candidates with an active Security Clearance.

Family Assistance Center Specialist

Responsibilities Include:

- ✓ Assess customer needs and provide resource and referral
- ✓ Enter, manage, and maintain information in Family Management Program system
- ✓ Maintain monthly contact with families of all deployed service members
- ✓ Responds to and efficiently handles time-sensitive calls as received, to include during off-hours
- ✓ Provide information on financial, legal, crisis intervention, TRICARE, ID Card/DEERS, community referrals and outreach services.

Required to pass a National Agency Check

To apply: Please click the link below

www.sri-hq.com

TEL: 703-749-3040



Above is an opportunity to be part of the SMFS team. Please note this is a contractor positions with Strategic Resources Inc., a separate company that works with the SDARNG. The position will be located in Brookings at the Army National Guard Armory.

The FAS will be informally supervised by the Family Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Sheri Bartunek 605-737-6079.

The Contractor is seeking a qualified, trained and capable individual to serve as Family Assistance Specialist (FAS) in support of the SDARNG. The FAS is responsible for coordinating and facilitating data, referral, and monthly follow-up services for Army National Guard (ARNG) Service Members, Family Members, Retirees, and Civilian Government Employees. FAC Specialist possess outstanding communication skills (both written and oral) along with a desire to assist Service Members and their family members with financial, legal, crisis intervention, outreach, available programs, and community referrals.

This link will take you to the company's website for more information and to apply: www.sri-hq.com

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ms. Bartunek or myself.

QUENTEN J. JOHNSON
Director, Service Member and Family Support
South Dakota National Guard

OFFICE ☎: (605) 737-6206

CELL ☎: (605) 391-2724

SDNG CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders from Today's Young Heroes

The goal of the South Dakota National Guard Child & Youth Program is to support the social, emotional, and academic needs of military children and youth throughout the state. This is done through implementing programs and activities that promote leadership and character development, build confidence, facilitate connections between youth, and help them to better understand their role as a military child. The Child & Youth Program also provides resources and information to military youth and to their families and communities, as well as partners with other local and national organizations that serve youth as well.

Taryn Broomfield
Lead Child & Youth Coordinator

Cognitive Professional Services Contractor
2823 W. Main St.
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-737-6919 / 605-377-8244
taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil



Candice Bloom
Child & Youth Coordinator

Cognitive Professional Services Contractor
1951 Hwy 20
Watertown, SD 57201
605-882-9376 / 605-787-3312
candice.l.bloom.ctr@mail.mil

RESOURCES



The Military Child Education Coalition provides training to educators, counselors, and community members on supporting military youth during times of transition.

www.militarychild.org



Our Military Kids provides grants of up to \$500 for six months for extracurricular activities for dependents of deployed Service Members.

www.ourmilitarykids.org



The Zero to Three program provides resources and educational information to parents and service providers working with young children.

www.zerotothree.org



Military Kids Connect is a Department of Defense-funded website that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children dealing with the unique challenges of military life. This site also includes resources for parents and educators.

www.militarykidsconnect.org



The Child Care Aware program provides eligible Army families with child care assistance that suits their specific needs.

www.usa.childcareaware.org/fee-assistancerespite/military-families/army/



Tutor.com provides eligible military youth and teens (active duty/deployed dependent) access to highly trained educators who can provide help with homework, writing assignments, and study skills.

www.tutor.com



National Fatherhood Initiative

www.fatherhood.org

The National Fatherhood Initiative works to provide education and information to help fathers strengthen relationships with their children.

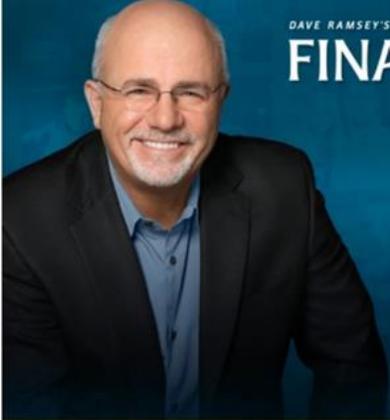
www.fatherhood.org



Military OneSource is a 24/7 resource for those in the military community. Resources are available online or by phone at 1-800-342-9647.

www.militaryonesource.mil

SDARNG CHAPLAIN CORPS PRESENTS...



DAVE RAMSEY'S
FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

This changes
EVERYTHING!
Your money. Your story. Your life.

Learn God's ways of handling money with
Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*!
The average turnaround is \$8,000 in just the
first three months!

** TUESDAYS **

January 8th, 2019 - March 5th, 2019

Camp Rapid (1730 HRS)
(Sioux Falls FPU TBD: may move to
different night than Tuesday)

To Register: Contact CH Lynn Wilson
lynn.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil
605-431-5182

Materials Needed: FPU Workbook (cost TBD)

How to purchase Microsoft Office for home use



Home Use Program

1. Go to <http://hup.microsoft.com>
 2. Select the country to which you want your order to be shipped to and choose the language for viewing the order Web site.
 3. Enter your Army e-mail address and insert the following program code: ABAD56oADo
- Note: This program code is assigned to the Army for Army's sole use in accessing this site. You may not share this number with anyone outside the Army.
4. Place your order online, and it will be shipped to the location you have chosen. Please note that a fulfillment fee will be charged to cover packaging, shipping, and handling costs.

Note that the SDARNG CIO does not endorse this or any other product

Dine in Tonight: Feast on More Savings in Retirement

A night of pizza and drinks is fun, but nights out add up. Chill at home and watch your savings increase for your financial future. You'll thank yourself when you have more savings in your Thrift Savings Plan.

Forgo one night of pizza and drinks a month ...

... and invest that amount in your retirement account!



If you're under the Blended Retirement System, you'll get an automatic 1% Department of Defense (DoD) contribution and up to 4% DoD matching funds.



Learn how to supersize your retirement pizza.

Speak with an accredited Personal Financial Manager at your installation's Family Center or search Personal Financial Management Services at <http://militaryinstallations.dod.mil>.

Visit the Thrift Savings Plan website at <https://www.tsp.gov>.



Follow the Office of Financial Readiness.

<https://www.facebook.com/DoDFINRED>
<https://www.twitter.com/DoDFINRED>
<https://www.instagram.com/DoDFINRED>

Save on Movie Night and Walk the Red Carpet to Retirement

Movie night can be quite the production when you add costs for a sitter, popcorn and sodas. Instead, ask a friend to babysit, and grab a bite before you go. Then invest the cash and create more wealth for retirement.

Lower your monthly movie budget ...

... invest that amount in your retirement fund ...



★ COMING JANUARY 2018! ★

If you're under the Blended Retirement System, you'll get an automatic 1% Department of Defense (DoD) contribution and up to 4% DoD matching funds.



Take charge of your future and create more wealth for your retirement.

Locate an accredited Personal Financial Manager or Counselor near you: <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil>.

Visit the Thrift Savings Plan website: <https://www.tsp.gov>.

a month
... for five years \$6,408

... for 10 years \$15,395

... for 20 years \$45,678

*Most recent 10-year rate of return to the Thrift Savings Plan C Fund



Follow the Office of Financial Readiness.

<https://www.facebook.com/DoDFINRED>
<https://www.twitter.com/DoDFINRED>
<https://www.instagram.com/DoDFINRED>

Honorably Discharged Vets Now Have Online Exchange Shopping Privileges



By Chris Ward, Army and Air Force Exchange Service

DALLAS, Nov. 14, 2017 Some 18.5 million honorably discharged veterans now have a lifetime benefit enabling them to shop online marking the first expansion of military exchange privileges since 1990.

"The Exchange is honored to open its virtual doors to millions of deserving veterans," said Tom Shull, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's director and CEO, a Vietnam-era Army veteran.

"There are many generations of service members who have not been properly recognized," he added. "This new benefit acknowledges their service and welcomes them home. This is something veterans can enjoy the rest of their lives."

Purchases Improve Quality of Military Life

Every purchase veterans make online will help to improve the quality of life for those who wear the uniform today, Shull noted, as exchange earnings support programs such as combat uniforms below cost, fitness centers, child development centers and youth programs on Army garrisons, Air Force outdoor recreation programs, school lunches for warfighters' children overseas and more.

"This is a virtuous cycle," he said. "As a veteran myself, it is an honor to pay forward support to active-duty service members and their families."

Excitement for the new benefit has been building for months, AAFES officials said, thanks to social media shout-outs from Mark Wahlberg and Marcus Luttrell, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Richard Rawlings and other celebrities. As a result, they said, more than 255,000 veterans verified their eligibility for the benefit before its official Nov. 11 launch.

To verify eligibility and begin shopping, Veterans can visit : <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans>



I WANT YOU

ENROLL IN VA HEALTH CARE

Did you deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn?

Then your service may have earned your access to VA health care benefits.

In order to take advantage of these benefits, you need to enroll in VA's health care system.

Contact your Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) today to get started!

Christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil or 605-737-6669

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

December 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!

