

# Every Member Counts

**SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD** 

## July 2018 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

## Who Can Use Military Campgrounds?

From [Military.com](http://Military.com)

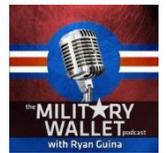
The military has a large system of campgrounds and recreation areas. Most, if not all, military bases include some sort of camping area with RV hook-ups and tent spaces. Other bases have set aside recreation areas and rent cabins and other amenities. Military campgrounds can be especially attractive to travelers because they're affordable, offer easy and reliable camping options in very rural areas with few other amenities, and are generally well-kept.

But who can use a military campground? Although bases tend to have their own specific rules on this, in general, to use a military campground you must be a military retiree or dependent, a spouse or minor dependent of an active duty service member, a National Guard or Reservist or minor dependent, or a 100-percent service-connected disabled veteran.

Surviving family members of service members killed in action who have access to other benefits like healthcare and medical retirees and their families also qualify.

Some bases allow other users such as retired Defense Department civilian workers. Others may allow the guests of ID card holders, or "sponsors," to use the campground. Decisions on whether or not those users are permitted are typically made by the commander at the base in question.

To get specifics on who can use a military campground, give the place you want to use a phone call. It's also worth noting that many campgrounds are completely booked for RVs throughout the summer, so if you do qualify, make reservations well in advance.



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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.

# You May Be Eligible For a State Bonus!

Did you know that South Dakota is paying a bonus to members of the Armed Forces who were legal residents of the state for no less than six months before their period of active duty *to include AGR service* and who served, or are serving, on active duty during one or more of the following periods:

1. August 2, 1990 to March 3, 1991 - All active service counts for payment.
2. March 4, 1991 to December 31, 1992 - Only service in a hostile area qualifying for the Southwest Asia Service Medal counts for payment.
3. January 1, 1993 to September 10, 2001 - Only service in a hostile area qualifying for any United States

campaign or service medal awarded for combat operations against hostile forces counts for payment.

4. September 11, 2001 to a date to be determined - All active service counts for payment.

Veterans with qualifying service from August 2, 1990, to December 31, 1992, (Desert Storm) may receive one bonus of up to \$500.

Veterans with qualifying service after January 1, 1993, may receive another bonus of up to \$500.

Active Duty for training is ***not*** allowed for Bonus purposes.



[Click here for the application](#)

If you have questions please contact Jeri Smith at (605) 773-7251 or [jeri.smith@state.sd.us](mailto:jeri.smith@state.sd.us)



**The Military Wallet** is a weekly podcast that brings the latest news and information in military and veterans benefits. The wide range of topics covering benefits programs is for active duty members, retirees, members of the Guard and Reserves, veterans and their families. Each podcast is accompanied on the site with a full length article –giving viewers a resource they can come to in print and audio.

You can find more information at: <https://themilitarywallet.com/category/podcasts/>

**You can download the podcast at:**

iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/military-wallet-podcastryan/id931039043>

Stitcher

<http://www.stitcher.com/podcast/ryan-guina/the-military?refid=stpr>

## Military Family Assistance

1-800-658-3930



### What Is Military Family Assistance?

Military Family Assistance provides a focal point of information through Six Essential Services. Family Assistance Centers are critical in providing help to all **military** families. This holds especially true for geographically dispersed families who are unable to access services at a local base, installation, or fort. In other words, Family Assistance personnel are the "Easy Button" for assistance and referral for families.

### The Six Essential Services:

#### **Crisis Intervention and Referral**

- Provide assistance with the following:
  1. Domestic Abuse
  2. Child Abuse/Neglect
  3. Danger to Self and/or Others
  4. Abuse/Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult

#### **Legal Resource and Referral**

1. Assistance with Power of Attorney/ Wills
2. Information and assistance with Service Members Civil Relief Act
3. Assistance with referral for ESGR

#### **Financial Resource and Referral**

1. Understanding Military Pay
2. Assistance with financial assistance and loan applications through the American Red Cross
3. Referral to the availability of outside grants
4. Provide referrals for budgeting classes

#### **TRICARE Resource and Referral**

1. Provide general information on insurance benefits
2. Assist with TRICARE Medical and Dental applications
3. Assist with finding local participating providers
4. Assist with writing letters to challenge claim denials

#### **ID Cards and DEERS**

1. Provide information on DEERS Rapids Centers
2. Assist with obtaining an ID card

#### **Community Information and Outreach**

- Provide a list of local Community resources, including but not limited to the following:
  1. Assist with Child Care resource and referral
  2. Assist with referral to local financial resources
  3. Assist with finding a local FRG to assist with Family Readiness

## 1.800.658.3930

#### **Sarah Neugebauer**

Rapid City  
Family Assistance Center Specialist  
Contractor  
605.737.6975 ~ 605.786.8352  
sarah.j.neugebauer.ctr@mail.mil

#### **Corinne Mahlen**

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Family Assistance Center Specialist  
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#### **Ruth Ragels**

Mitchell  
Family Assistance Center Specialist  
Contractor  
605.995.1682 ~ 605.877.2517  
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Please take a few minutes and complete our survey at: <http://go.usa.gov/3WEsQ>



[www.facebook.com/sdfamilyassistance](http://www.facebook.com/sdfamilyassistance)

#### **Rickie Martinmaas**

Rapid City  
Family Assistance Center  
Coordinator  
Contractor  
605.737.6079 ~ 605.415.0471  
rickie.m.martinmaas.ctr@mail.mil

#### **Jennifer Holien**

Brookings  
Family Assistance Center Specialist  
Contractor - Cog-PS  
605.696.5416 ~ 605.415.1013  
jennifer.m.holien.ctr@mail.mil

#### **Rachel VanderZee**

Sioux Falls  
Family Assistance Center Specialist  
Contractor  
605.988.5972 ~ 605.415.2481  
rachel.a.vanderzee.ctr@mail.mil



## Dispelling the Myths about VA/DOD Benefits

**Myth 1. You have to use your Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit within 10 years after separation.**

**Myth Fact 1:** If you were discharged prior to 1 Jan 13, there is a 15-year time limit to use the education benefit. If discharged after 1 Jan 13 there is no limit.

**Myth 2. I am not eligible for the military Tuition Assistance because it is for Active Duty Members only, and I am in the Guard/Reserve.**

**Myth Fact 2:** The program is available to Active Duty, National Guard and Selected Reserve Component Service Members. In addition, it is open to Officers, Warrant Officers and enlisted Active Duty Service Personnel. Enlisted Service Member must have enough time remaining in service to complete the course for which he or she has applied. After the completion of a course, an Officer using TA must fulfill a service obligation that runs parallel with - not in addition to - any existing service.

**Myth 3. I can transfer my Post 911 GI Bill benefits to my wife or children whenever I want.**

**Myth Fact 3:** An individual approved to transfer entitlement to educational assistance under the Post 9/11 GI Bill may transfer such entitlement to the individual's Family Member only while serving in the Military Services (Active Duty, National Guard or Selected Reserve Component), NOAA Corps, or PHS. An individual may not add Family Members after retirement or separation from the Uniformed Services. Transferability has various eligibility requirements. At a minimum you:

- serve on Active Duty or in the National Guard or Selected Reserve Component.
- are in one of the following situations:
  - have at least six years of service on the date of approval and agree to serve four additional years from the date of election, or;
  - have at least ten years of service on the date of approval, are prevented by either policy or statute from committing to four additional years, but agree to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed, and the recipient of the benefit is enrolled in DEERS.

**Myth 4. I have never deployed nor have a service-connected disability, so I am NOT eligible for a VA Home Loan.**

**Myth Fact 4:** If you've served at least six creditable years in the National Guard or Selected Reserve Component

- were discharged honorably, OR;
- were placed on the retired list, OR;
- were transferred to the Standby Reserve or an element of the Ready Reserve other than Active Duty, National Guard or Selected Reserve Component and after service characterized as honorable, OR;
- continue to serve in the Selected Reserve longer than six years, OR;
- serve for 90 days or more on Active Duty during a wartime period, OR;
- were discharged or released from Active Duty for a service-connected disability.

**Myth 5. Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, students attending classes exclusively on-line are not eligible for the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) or the book and supply stipend.**

**Myth Fact 5:** Students enrolled full-time exclusively in on-line classes using the Post-9/11 GI Bill are paid a monthly housing allowance rate of \$754.50 per month and an annual book/supply stipend of up to \$1,000 per academic year.  
<https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool>

**Myth 6. The VA will only reimburse me for one certification exam.**

**Myth Fact 6:** If eligible, you may receive the VA-approved cost of the exam up to \$2,000 per exam. There is no limit to the number of certification exams you can take, but the VA will reduce your remaining months of entitlement based on the cost of the exam that they reimburse. Additionally, you may receive benefits to retake a test you did not pass.

(Source: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/lc\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/lc_brochure.pdf)).

**Myth 7. I retired from the military and have not used TRICARE, so I have to re-enroll.**

**Myth Fact 7:** It would not be a re-enrollment. If you have retired from the military and want to use TRICARE retiree benefits, you will need to enroll. For more information about TRICARE, please make an appointment with your TAA. (Source: <http://www.tricare.mil>)

**Myth 8. As a spouse of Service Member who is deployed, I have to use TRICARE.**

**Myth Fact 8:** As a spouse you are able to use your own health insurance, but you can use your own insurance and TRICARE at the same time. TRICARE is secondary to your primary insurance. Therefore, the deductibles you normally pay, TRICARE would pay.

**Myth 9. You can't use military Tuition Assistance and the Post 9/11 GI Bill together.**

**Myth Fact 9:** The GI Bill can supplement fees not covered by Tuition Assistance, such as books and course materials. Keep in mind that TA will not fund your college courses. You will have to return any VA funds already paid if the following situations occur:

- leave the service before the course ends
- quit the course for reasons other than personal illness, military transfer or mission requirements
- fail the course

**Myth 10. I am a Reservist/National Guard Member and was told my SGLI coverage is only good while I am at drill.**

**Myth Fact 10:** If You are a Reservist or a National Guard Member and have been assigned to a unit in which you are scheduled to perform at least 12 periods of inactive duty that is creditable for retirement purposes, full-time SGLI coverage is in effect 365 days of the year. You are also covered for 120 days following separation or release from duty.

**Myth 11. SGLI or VGLI will not pay if I die in a motorcycle accident if I was not wearing a helmet.**

**Myth Fact 11:** SGLI or VGLI proceeds will be paid to your beneficiary or beneficiaries, regardless of whether or not you were wearing a helmet.

**Myth 12. As a member of the Uniformed Services, my children and/or stepchildren are automatically covered in TRICARE as long as I am covered.**

**Myth Fact 12:** No. They are not covered as long as you are covered. Unmarried biological, step-children and adopted children are eligible for TRICARE until age 21 or 23 if in college. At age 21 or 23, they may qualify to purchase TRICARE Young Adult. They also may be eligible under the following conditions:

- parent of the child and sponsor are married.
- marriage ends in divorce, the step-children lose eligibility on the date the divorce decree is final.
- sponsor adopts his or her step-children, they remain covered as adopted children even if the marriage ends in divorce.
- children with special needs may be eligible for special programs, and children whose sponsor died while on Active Duty remains eligible until their 23rd birthday or marriage.
- child is enrolled in a full course of study at an approved institution of higher learning. Eligibility ends on your child's 23rd birthday or when he or she is no longer enrolled in school, whichever comes first.
- sponsor provides more than half of their financial support.
- Children whose sponsor died while serving on Active Duty remain eligible for TRICARE until they lose eligibility due to age or marriage.

**Eligibility under certain conditions:**

- born out of wedlock and Service Member is named on birth certificate as biological parent
- placed in custody of a sponsor by a court or recognized adoption agency in anticipation of legal adoption.



Contact your Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) for more information

**Christian Johnson**

Transition  
Assistance Advisor  
Skyline Contractor

South Dakota National Guard  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
Office: 605-737-6669  
Fax: 605-737-6088

[christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil)



## Military OneSource Job Opportunity

There is an exciting opportunity to be part of the Service Member and Family Support team in Rapid City. Please note this is a contractor position with Value Options Federal Services, Inc., a separate company that works with the SDARNG. This position will be located on Camp Rapid.

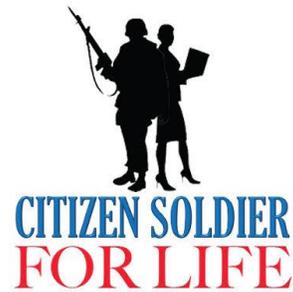
Please share this news with military members, veterans, retiree and families.

The contractor is currently seeking a dynamic Military OneSource State Consultant to join our team in Rapid City, SD.

The Military OneSource State Consultant will serve as the state subject matter expert with regard to Military OneSource and Federal, State and community resources available to support military members and their families.

This link will take you to the company's website for more information and to apply:

<https://chm.tbe.taleo.net/chm02/ats/careers/v2/viewRequisition?org=BEACONHEALTHOPTIONS&cws=41&rid=54964>



## Did You Know?

The Citizen Soldier For Life (CSFL) program offers free assistance with:

- resume building
- mock interviews
- financial literacy
- budget building
- self-assessments for job seekers
- VA benefit assistance

Who is eligible:

- Service members
- Family members
- Retirees
- Veterans (of any status)

To find out more contact:

**Kenneth Wheeler**

Career Readiness Counselor  
 ARNG Citizen Soldier For Life Program  
 605-737-6656 (Office)  
 605-593-7160 (Cell)  
[kenneth.d.wheeler.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:kenneth.d.wheeler.ctr@mail.mil)

## Strong Bonds 2019



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.

### ***Strong Bonds for Couples***

19-20 January 2019 –Rapid City

### ***Strong Bonds for Families***

23-24 March 2019 –Sioux Falls

For additional information contact

Chaplain (COL) Wilson at  
 605-737-6009 or

[lynn.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:lynn.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil)



**SERVICE MEMBER  
FAMILY SUPPORT**  
SOUTH DAKOTA

# MOVIE

*Under the Stars*



**FREE**



**BIG HERO 6** Friday  
JULY 20, 2018  
8:00pm  
on the Lawn  
Camp Rapid SD

**FREE POPCORN!!**

**FREE CANDY!!**

**Please fill out your ticket and send to:**  
wendi.e.albers.ctr@mail.mil to register!  
or call 605.737.6089 with any questions

**ADMISSION TICKET**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Unit association \_\_\_\_\_ # of attendees \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE POPCORN FUN!** 8 PM Friday 20 July 2018 **FRG FAMILY READINESS GROUP** RAPID CITY, SD

FEATURE: BIG HERO 6

to Wendi Albers at wendi.e.albers.ctr@mail.mil **605.737.6089**





**SERVICE MEMBER  
FAMILY SUPPORT**  
SOUTH DAKOTA

## YOU'RE INVITED

# Family Movie Night in Sioux Falls



**FREE**



**BIG HERO 6** Friday  
Aug 17, 2018  
7:00pm  
Sioux Falls RTI Theatre  
Sioux Falls SD

**FREE POPCORN!!**

**FREE CANDY!!**

**Please fill out your ticket and send to:**  
wendi.e.albers.ctr@mail.mil to register!  
or call 605.737.6089 with any questions

**ADMISSION TICKET**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Unit association \_\_\_\_\_ # of attendees \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE POPCORN FUN!** 7 PM Friday 17 August 2018 **FRG FAMILY READINESS GROUP** SIOUX FALLS, SD

FEATURE: BIG HERO 6

to Wendi Albers at wendi.e.albers.ctr@mail.mil **605.737.6089**

# SDARNG EDUCATION BENEFITS



## Federal Tuition Assistance

- Pays \$250 SH
- Use up to 130 SH
- Good at a college listed with [GoArmyEd](http://GoArmyEd)

## State Tuition Assistance

- 50% or 83.5% tuition discount
- Use up to 132 cd/hr
- Good at most SD schools

**CONTACT US DIRECTLY!**

**We are happy to help with any issues or questions!!!!**

**Ms. Linda Abbott**  
[Linda.l.abbott.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Linda.l.abbott.civ@mail.mil)  
 605.737.6675

**SPC Kayleigh Cihak**  
[Kayleigh.e.cihak2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Kayleigh.e.cihak2.mil@mail.mil)  
 605.737.6087

### GoArmyEd Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) / SDNG State Tuition Assistance (STA) Use Example



- This is not an endorsement of any particular school but just a demonstration using SD Board of Regents tuition rates cited at one of its six public universities. The example demonstrates how FTA and STA can cover tuition cost when used to attend one on-line program.

Undergraduate on-line tuition cost: \$335.00 per semester/hr.  
 Three semester hour class cost:  $335.00 \times 3 = \$1,005.00$   
 FTA pays up to \$250.00 per semester hour.  
 Three semester hour FTA payment:  $250.00 \times 3 = \$750.00$   
 Class cost after FTA:  $1,005.00 - 750.00 = \$255.00$   
 SDNG STA max payment for undergrad online: \$167.50/SH  
 Three semester hour STA payment:  $167.50 \times 3 = \$502.50$   
 Remaining class cost after STA:  $255.00 - 502.50 = -\$247.50$   
 Soldier cost = \$0.00  
 Note: Excess STA amount not paid to Soldier

# Nominations for 2018 Pro Patria Award

The SD ESGR committee is accepting nominations for the 2018 Pro Patria Award.

The Pro Patria Award publicly recognizes employers for exceptional support of their employees, who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve. These employers provide support which surpasses the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, USERRA.



This prestigious award is South Dakota's top employer award and is presented annually to one employer who demonstrates exceptional support for National Defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve.

Previous recipients of this award are RENEW Energy Inc., Rapid City Police Department, Iberdrola Renewables, Buffalo Ridge II Wind Farm, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, Northwestern Energy, Daktronics, REI Corporation, St. John's Lutheran Church of Yankton, Midcontinent Communications, Yankton School District, and SAPA Extrusions, Inc.

Nominations of the Service Members employer can be made by the Service Member or a family member April 1 through August 1, 2018. Nomination forms can be obtained at:

<http://sd.ng.mil/Resources/SMFS/ESGR/Documents/Pro%20Patria%20Nomination%20form%20FY%2018.pdf>

Email nominations to LTC Brendan Murphy at: [brendan.t.murphy6.mil@mail.mil](mailto:brendan.t.murphy6.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.

**“Hot Dogs, Horseshoes & Horsepower”**

**JVCC Military Appreciation Night**  
**Wednesday, July 25 @ 5-8 PM**  
*Hot Dogs, Live Music, Horse Rides,*  
*JVCC Games & Prizes*

*Active Duty, Veterans, Retirees & Family Members*

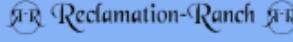
**Food, Music, Horse Rides 5-7 PM    Program/Prize Drawings 7 PM**  
**James Valley Community Center - 300 W 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Mitchell**











**Questions, call JVCC at 995-8048.**

# MFLC

## Military & Family Life Counseling Program

**Q. Who are Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC)?**

A. MFLC(s) possess a master's or doctorate degree in a mental health field and are licensed or certified in a SD to practice independently.

**Q. Who is eligible for support?**

A. Members of the SDNG and their families may receive up to 12 non-medical and financial counseling sessions per person, per issue.

**Q. What types of issues can MFLC(s) address?**

A. Military and family life counselors assist service members and their families with circumstances occurring across the military lifecycle and are aimed at enhancing operational and family readiness. MFLCs provide support to individuals, couples, families, and groups, for a range of issues including but not limited to: deployment stress, reintegration, relocation adjustment, separation, anger management, conflict resolution, parenting, parent/child communication, relationship/family issues, coping skills, homesickness, and grief and loss.

**Q. What issues are not appropriate for non-medical counseling?**

A. Non-medical counseling is not intended to address active suicidal or homicidal thought or intent or other threats of harm to self or others, Family Advocacy Program cases, sexual assault, child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health conditions that have required recurring in-patient hospitalizations, someone prescribed psychoactive medication, someone currently receiving therapy by another practitioner, fitness for duty evaluations and court ordered counseling.

**Q. How do I schedule an appointment with a MFLC?**

A. Contact a MFLC directly at: [NGCampRapidSDSurge@magmflc.org](mailto:NGCampRapidSDSurge@magmflc.org) or 605-390-4273

# 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.



- 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](mailto:christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil)

Common services provided are:

## July 2018 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!