



Army Strong Community Center

Connecting Soldiers, Families, & Communities

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BRISTOL, CT



JUNE 2013

Heroes 4 Hire Job Fair

The 9th Annual Heroes 4 Hire job fair was held on Tuesday, April 16th at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, CT.

Representatives from over 60 businesses, 14 schools and community service providers, including the ASCC Bristol, participated in this annual job fair hosted by the Connecticut Department of Labor, Veteran Workforce Development.

Governor Dannel Malloy opened the event and was inspired to see so many Connecticut businesses making a commitment to hire our Veterans.

Over 1,100 Veterans visited the various business and service providers that day. ASCC Customer Support Coordinator Donna Dognin was able to assist and provide additional resources to a number of Veterans. ★



Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Governor of Connecticut

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OFFICE HOURS:
Monday–Friday, 8am–5pm



Army Strong Community
Center (ASCC) is an
Army Reserve Family Program



Transfer of Post-9/11 GI-Bill Benefits to Dependents (TEB)

Beginning August 1, 2013 every Soldier who elects to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to a Family Member will incur an additional four years in the Army without regard to their time in service. This is in addition to any requirements from Veterans Affairs (VA).

The new rule will largely affect senior officers and enlisted Soldiers who are retirement-eligible. Currently, retirement eligible Soldiers would incur zero to three additional years of service, as of August 1, those Soldiers will also be required to serve an additional four years.

If a Soldier is unable to serve the additional time incurred due to transferring benefits, he or she may be required to pay back those benefits. If a Soldier is separated involuntarily under the force-shaping initiatives and previously transferred their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their dependents may retain the transferred benefits, without needing to repay them to the VA.

For additional information, go to http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/transfer_of_benefits.html. ★

Middlesex Chamber of Commerce Career Fair

Tuesday, June 18, 2013 | 11 am – 2 pm
Crowne Plaza Hotel | Cromwell, CT

More information can be found Connecticut Career Fairs at <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/jobfairs/default.htm>. ★

Dress to Impress!

ASCC Bristol still has career wear available for Service Members and Veterans - men's suits, slacks, shirts, jackets, ties; women's skirts, blouses and slacks. ★

Mental Health Community Advisory Board (MHCAB) Meeting

2nd Wednesday of every month | 2 – 3 PM
Errera Community Center, Room 28
114-52 Boston Post Road, 2nd Floor
West Haven, CT 06516

Attention Veterans: Let your voice be heard!

Every month, the Veteran's Community Advisory Board meets with VA staff, members of other agencies, and other Veterans to discuss mental health treatment services.

If you have a suggestion, a concern, something to share, or would just like to hear more about what the VA has to offer for services and treatment options, please consider joining the next meeting.

For more information, contact Steve Frank (Vietnam Veteran) or Matt McDonald (OIF Veteran), at ctvamhcab@gmail.com. ★

Parent Support Group

Tuesdays: June 4th, July 16th, and August 6th | 6:30 pm
Service Member and Family Support Center
Armed Forces Reserve Center
375 Smith Street | Middletown, CT

**Are you the parent of a Military Service Member?
Join the Parent Support Group!**

Discuss the rewards and challenges of your son or daughter's service, learn more about the military and enjoy the camaraderie of other military parents. The Parent Support group is sponsored by the Service Member and Family Support Center, and is facilitated by the Adult Military and Family Life Consultant, Cindy Hould. It is open to all parents, step-parents, parental figures and grandparents.

For more information, call 800-858-2677 or email fachartford@ng.army.mil. ★



Northeast YLEAD

**Northeast YLEAD is coming to Fort Washington, MD
 July 8 – 11, 2013**

Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services Presents: YLEAD – The Youth Leadership, Education & Development Summit is a four-day, residential training experience for teens ages 14 – 17 who have a Family member serving in the Army Reserves. YLEADS are conducted regionally.

Youth living in the following states are invited to register for this event at www.cyssevents.com

Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Maine
 Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut
 Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire
 Vermont, and the District of Columbia.

Youth Participants will:

- Meet other youth connected to the Army Reserves
- Participate in activities that promote success at home, in school and within their community
- Find out how to make a difference in the lives of Army Reserve Families
- Discover ways to become involved through partnerships with teens, adults and community-based programs

Parents want to know:

- The event is fully chaperoned
- Children will be engaged in positive youth development activities
- Youth are placed on travel orders to cover transportation, lodging expenses and most meals at the hotel
- Youth will learn about the Army Reserves and Military Life, including how to manage deployments

For additional information, contact Clarence Washington II at clarence.t.washington.ctr@mail.mil or 412-604-8160.★

College Grant for Surviving Children

The Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant is provided by the U.S. Department of Education to children of U.S. Servicemembers who died as a result of injuries incurred in Iraq or Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001.

Eligible students may receive the full Pell Grant of \$5,645 for the 2013-2014 academic year. If applicants are not eligible for Pell Grants, they may receive an equivalent amount from the Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant.

Applicants may receive one or the other, but not both. The Pell Grant is based on a family's financial need. Both it and the Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant are not loans and do not have to be repaid.

For more information, contact the Federal Student Aid Office at Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC): 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or by visiting the Contact portion of their website at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/contact>.★



For support 24/7, 365 days a year,
 contact the Outreach & Support
 call center at 866-345-8248.



House of Heroes

New Britain VFW Hosts—House of Heroes

The Connecticut Chapter of House of Heroes, Inc. has expanded under the leadership of LTC Bill May, CTARNG Retired and Steve Cavanaugh, President and founder of Biltmore Construction of Hamden.

The mission of this Columbus, GA based nonprofit organization is to recognize, honor and serve military, public service Veterans and their spouses for their faithful and sacrificial service to our country.

Volunteers perform minor repairs in a single day to the homes of Veterans and their spouses, at no cost to the Veterans, through the generosity of individuals, civic organizations and corporations. One person really can make a difference by donating their time for just one day.

On Saturday, May 25 2013, three homes were repaired in New Britain, Berlin and Plainville.

To qualify for assistance you must be a military, public safety service Veteran, or their spouse, need financial and/or physical assistance with home repairs, and own and occupy the home to be repaired.

For more information, visit www.houseofheroes.org or contact Kathy Eastburn at Kathy@houseofheroesct.org. ★

New App for Health Care Providers

Military health care providers now have a mobile application to help stay productive and emotionally healthy as they attend to Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families. "Provider Resilience," from the Defense Department's National Center for Telehealth and Technology (T2), is the first mobile app to help health care professionals build resilience against the stress in their lives through short self-assessments that rate their risk for compassion fatigue, burnout and secondary traumatic stress.

For more information on the new App, visit the Defense Centers of Excellence website at www.t2health.org/apps/provider-resilience. ★

Salute Dinner 2013

On May 4th, the Bristol Veterans Council held their Third Annual Salute Dinner.

Honored at the event were graduating students who have chosen to enter the Armed Forces or to continue their educations at one of the military academies.

Saluted at the event were 13 young men and women graduating from the Bristol high schools.

These young adults being honored are entering the US Army, US Navy, CT National Guard, US Coast Guard and US Marine Corp, including two that were entering military academies.

The highlight of the evening was the swearing-in ceremony led by LTC Janice Gravely, Battalion Commander of the US Army Recruiting Battalion Albany.

Congratulations to these exceptional individuals and to the Bristol Veterans Council. ★

Meet the New ASCC Customer Support Coordinator

Sandra Hoffman was born and raised in Connecticut. She has over 20 years of experience in the insurance field. She loves to solve problems by doing research and thinking outside of the box. Her Family Members have served in different branches of the military and in the community.

Sandy is a Navy Veteran who was proud to serve her country and is honored to have the opportunity to support Military Members, Family Members, and Veterans in obtaining the services and information they need to live happy and healthy lives. ★



Army Reserve Association (ARA) Scholarship

The Army Reserve Association Scholarship, funded by USAA, will be awarding 50, \$700 scholarships to deserving Army Reserve Soldiers and their dependents based upon applications submitted and verified by their Command Sergeant Major.

The minimum qualifications are:

- ⇒ ENLISTED member of the USAR not under flag or pending disciplinary action
- ⇒ MOS qualified in position of assignment
- ⇒ Attending or entering a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher learning of 2- or 4-year college or vocational school (Graduate School is not eligible)
- ⇒ Dependents registered in DEERS may apply if sponsor meets all qualifications

All eligible applications must submit the following documents:

1. ARA Scholarship Soldier or dependent Information Sheet
2. ARA Scholarship Validation Form
3. Soldier or dependent Consideration Letter (one page)
4. Major Support Command (MSC) CSM Letter of Recommendation (one page)

All packets should be submitted electronically to the following address by the MSC CSM or elected MSC CSM representative to the following address no later than **15 July 2013**: usarmy.usarc.ocar.mbx.csm-ar-staff@mail.mil .

Contact the Army Strong Community Center (ASCC) for the application. ★

Nutmeg TV Show “The Veterans Corner”

ASCC staff was interviewed as one of the inaugural guests on a new community access TV show, "The Veterans Corner" hosted by American Legion Post #2 Commander Chuck Woodin on Wednesday, 29 May 2013 in Farmington, CT.

This new bi-weekly TV show will highlight various Veterans' programs and services within the viewing area, which also covers a portion of the ASCC AOR.

In conjunction with the new TV show, there will be a website viewers can visit to post comments, questions, concerns, and get additional information about the guests and their respective programs/services.

The goal is to have the ASCC staff be reoccurring guests to continue to help outreach efforts.

This inaugural episode will air in approximately two weeks; the reoccurring bi-weekly shows will begin in August.

For additional information, contact **Donna Dognin** at (860) 584-6258, donna.m.dognin.ctr@us.army.mil. ★

Contact ASCC Bristol We Can Help!

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