



Army Strong Community Center

Connecting Soldiers, Families, & Communities

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BRISTOL, CT



AUGUST 2013

Operation Camp Farnam

August 5 – 9 | Durham, CT

Day Camp free tuition for 100 Military Children. There will be 2 pick up locations (one in Stratford; one in New Haven) the children can be taken to where transportation to and from camp will be provided.

For more information about registration and application contact Shari Dell at (203) 877-9900 Ext. 10 or via email at shari.dell@psllct.com. ★

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Bristol Marathon & Relay Race

To benefit Fisher House Connecticut

August 18, 2013
Starts at 7:30 am
Healthtrax
842 Clark Avenue
Bristol, CT

Join Fisher House Connecticut, Bristol Firefighters Local 773 and American Legion Post #2 for a challenging Half Marathon and Relay Race in Bristol.

For more information or to register go to www.BristolHalfMarathonandRelay.org. ★



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

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A Little Known Gem



Did you know Connecticut is home to a National Iwo Jima Memorial Monument? Well, it is. The Monument is located on the New Britain/Newington town line, on Ella Grasso Boulevard (Rte 9 Exit 29).

This 40-foot monument, similar to the Iwo Jima Memorial located in Washington DC, was dedicated in 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi. It pays honor to the sacrifice and courage displayed by 100 Connecticut Service Members during that historic battle.

The Monument also includes a World War II Memorial Eternal Flame and two 8-foot granite plaques honoring clergy and medical personnel.

Another unique features to the Connecticut Monument are the Memorial Walkway and Time Capsule. The Time Capsule contains the names of 6,821 men who were killed in action on the island and memorabilia from the time.

The Time Capsule is scheduled to be opened on May 30, 2045, on the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Monument.

There is no charge to visit the Monument, which is open year-round.

The Monument and its maintenance are completely funded through the Survivors of Iwo Jima Association.

Parking is limited.

For more information, contact the Army Strong Community Center. ★



Contact ASCC Bristol—We Can Help!

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Step Up for Veterans

Effective July 1, 2013, the definition of a “Veteran” under the Step Up for Vets program has changed, to include all Veterans of any of the military branches, not just post 9/11 Veterans. The program does exclude veterans discharged under conditions “other than honorable”.

The Step Up for Vets is a subsidized training and employment program for unemployed Service Members that might not be eligible for any of the other vocational rehabilitation or training programs.

The Step Up for Vets is geared toward helping veterans gain employment and is open to any company in the State of Connecticut, regardless of size.

Companies that hire individuals that meet the program criteria receive a wage subsidy for the first 6 months to cover the costs associated with training the new employee.

The employer must be a business in good standing with the payment of local and state taxes and must be registered to conduct business for at least 12 months and has operations based in Connecticut.

Contact the Army Strong Community Center for the Step Up for Vets Program Coordinator for your area. ★

DoD Safe Helpline

Providing sexual assault victims with the help they need anytime, anywhere.

Department of Defense (DoD) Safe Helpline is a crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. Safe Helpline provides live, one-on-one support and information to the worldwide DoD community. The service is confidential, anonymous, secure, and available worldwide, 24/7 by click, call or text.

Online Helpline: provides live, confidential help through a secure instant-messaging format at SafeHelpline.org. The website also contains vital information about recovering from and reporting a sexual assault.

Telephone Helpline: provides live, confidential help over the phone — just call 877-995-5247. The Telephone Helpline staff can even transfer callers to installation/base Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Coordinators, Military OneSource, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and civilian sexual assault service providers. The phone number is the same in the U.S. and worldwide via the Defense Switched Network (DSN).

Text for Info: provide referrals by text to your mobile phone. You can text your zip code, installation/base name to 55-247 (inside the U.S.) or 202-470-5546 (outside the U.S.), and Safe Helpline will text back contact information for the SARC on your installation/base and other resources available on and off base. Message and data rates may apply.

Safe HelpRoom: group chat service that will allow sexual assault survivors in the military to connect with one another in a moderated and secure online environment at SafeHelpline.org.

Safe Helpline App: (for iOS or Android) allows sexual assault survivors in the military to create a customized self-care plan and connect to resources from anywhere in the world. You can use the self-care exercises and information in the app whenever you'd like. Your personalized plan will be stored only on your mobile device so it will remain completely confidential. Once you download the app, you don't need an internet connection to use it.

For more information, visit <https://www.safehelpline.org>. ★

Coming Together Around Military Families

This is a comprehensive packet of materials for parents, caregivers, and professionals who work to meet the needs of young children challenged by the stressors of military life, such as deployment and relocation.

For more information or to order toolkit, visit www.militaryonesource.mil. ★

What is ADPAAS?

U.S. Army Disaster Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (ADPAAS) standardizes a method for the Army to account, assess, manage, and monitor the recovery process for personnel and their families affected and/or scattered by a wide-spread catastrophic event. ADPAAS provides valuable information to all levels of the Army chain of command, allowing commanders to make strategic decisions which facilitate a return to stability.

Includes Active Duty, all Reservists, National Guard, Army Civilian Employees, OCONUS Contractors and their dependents.

ADPAAS allows Army Personnel to...

Report Accounting Status
 Update Contact/Location Information
 Complete Needs Assessment
 View Reference Information

One of three (3) options for personnel and family to account:

- (a) Self-Accounting
 - Go to [HTTPS://ADPAAS.ARMY.MIL](https://ADPAAS.ARMY.MIL) and select the Army Family Member button.
 - Log in with Sponsor's SSN and DOB.
 - Walk through steps to account for self and Family.
- (b) Call your unit or organization accountability POC
- (c) Call 24-Hour Army Reserve Family Programs Fort Family Outreach and Support Center: (866) 345-8248

For more information, contact the Army Strong Community Center. ★



Military Scholarship

H&R Block is a partner with the various military branches and offers a Scholarship providing FREE Income Tax Course (ITC) for military spouses and wounded warriors. In the event of a permanent change of station (PCS), our global presence provides military spouses an opportunity to continue employment with another HRB office almost anywhere an HRB office is located; which is great for the military spouse employee and H&R Block. While employment is not guaranteed, the Income Tax School scholarship is provided to any military spouse or wounded warrior fitting the defined criteria described below.

Who is Eligible for the Scholarship providing FREE Income Tax Course? Any I.D. holding military spouse of an active, retired or reserve military service member, Wounded Warriors (as defined by the DoD) and the wounded Warrior's spouse are eligible. Active Duty service members are not eligible for this scholarship, but can choose to attend classes if they wish to pay the required tuition. The local Employment Readiness Program Managers (ERPM) or Employment Readiness Specialists (ERS) should verify the eligibility potential students' before referring them to an H&R Block to register for the tax course. An additional verification of status will happen at the site of the course, so eligible candidates must have their military I.D. available.

Offer/Benefit: H&R Block offers a Scholarship that provides FREE Income Tax Course registration and covers tuition. Although we would like to hire a large percentage of eligible military spouses and wounded warriors, there may be situations that prevent candidates that have completed the course to be immediately hired with a local HRB tax office. Each situation will be examined on an individual basis.

For Potential Students: Where to Obtain Scholarship Certificate

Potential students can obtain the Military ITC Scholarship Certificate from:

1. The employment services office on the installation
2. Local military job fairs
3. Local H&R Block District Office (Visit www.hrblock.com)

Availability: Scholarship is available only in participating locations. Not available in the states of Arizona and Tennessee or where restricted by local state law.

How to Redeem Scholarship Certificate:

1. Obtain the Scholarship certificate with valid code from your employment services on your installation.
2. Call 1-800-HRBLOCK (472-5625), enter zip code when prompted to be routed to an operator that will help you register for classes in your area.
3. Inform operator that you are a military spouse and provide the code located on the Scholarship certificate.
4. The operator will be able to inform you of the schedule of classes to find the course that best fits your schedule.
5. On your first day of classes, bring the scholarship certificate with you along with your military ID, as these items will be needed to verify your status as an eligible military spouse or wounded warrior.

Note on Coupon Code: The code provided on the Scholarship coupons will be used to identify any student who takes the Income Tax Course as a military spouse or wounded warrior. This code is ONLY VALID to I.D. carrying Military Spouses and Wounded Warriors. The coupon code changes every season, so potential students will not be able to use a previous year's coupon for the current year's Military Income Tax Course.

For Employment Readiness Offices: Where to Obtain Scholarship Certificate: Any Employment Readiness office staff can call 1-800-HRBLOCK (472-5625), enter zip code when prompted to be routed to the nearest HRB district office. When speaking with the office, explain who you are and ask to speak to the District Manager (DM). The DM will be able to provide you the Scholarship Certificate and flyers (if needed). Recruitment and registration for new students starts in July and classes will start in late summer and go through November. Registration will end at the beginning of September. Consult with the local DM to get the schedule of classes for the upcoming season.

Note: Because Income Tax Course registration occurs from June through August, potential students must be registered before classes begin in September to be eligible to begin working as a Tax Professional with H&R Block in January.

Contact the Army Strong Community Center for Scholarship coupon. ★

Strong Bonds

Stronger Relationships Mean a Stronger Army

Strong Bonds is a unit-based, chaplain-led program which assists commanders in building individual resiliency by strengthening the Army Family.

The core mission of the Strong Bonds program is to increase individual Soldier and Family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.

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.

For more information or to find an event, visit www.strongbonds.org. ★

How to Help Series

How to Help Military and Veteran Families is a series of publications that offer valuable information to various audiences to help them assist and support members of the military, veterans and their Families.

Each issue provides evidence-based guidance on how a particular group can help, with short, practical suggestions and links that point to additional resources.

Each issue has been carefully reviewed both by subject matter experts and Military Family Support organizations.

The series is the result of a joint effort between the Department of Defense and the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University and the National Military Family Association.

For more information, visit MilitaryOneSource.mil or contact your Army Strong Community Center. ★

Help for Homeless Veterans

The single best way to help Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless is to connect them with the VA.

Each VA medical center has a homeless coordinator on staff and specific programs that provide Veterans the support they need to establish or maintain safe, stable housing.

VA has also established the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (877-4AID-VET, or 877-424-3838), a toll-free hotline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Trained responders—many of them Veterans themselves—are available to provide support to Veterans and their loved ones who lack safe, secure housing.

These services are also available on an online chat at va.gov/homeless.

For more information, visit <http://va.gov/>. ★

American Red Cross Tools and Resources

Recovering after a Disaster or Emergency

The American Red Cross has a Disaster and Safety Library to assist you in preparing your home, school and workplace in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Here you will find fact sheets, preparedness checklists, recovery guides and other helpful information to keep you informed and safe.

For more information, visit <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster-safety-library>. ★

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