

Military Family Support Center

MFSC NEWS

Growth



The MFSC has often worked with local organizations to gain discounts for the military for events around the Roanoke Valley. The MFSC's Amanda Baumgardner has been working hard to build a relationship between the MFSC and the area's Civic Centers. The result will be more events that the



MFSC will be able to sponsor for the military and their families. Also, registered members of the MFSC may be able to get discounts to family events not sponsored by the MFSC. As more events become sponsored and available, the website will be updated with the information. We look forward to a more eventful year in which our families can come together and enjoy the freedom that has been so selflessly earned.

February



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Military Family Appreciation Night Fill The Humvee -

The MFSC will be providing the military families with a few nights of baseball and fun in May and June. Free tickets and a hotdog/chips/drink meal will go to each military troop, current or veterans, as well as their immediate family. There will be a multi-service color guard, swearing ceremony for new recruits, all five service anthems played, and a raffle for a bucket of car products from Advance Auto. For more information and how to register, check out the **events** button on the MFSC site.

Important Change: Due to scheduling issues, the Fill The Humvee has been bumped back a week from March 16 to March 23. We will hand out flyers outlining our most current needs for supporters to use while shopping. We have several new members already this year and will need your support to help us in our support of our military families. We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd!

Military Discounts

The MFSC has is currently contacting local businesses in the Valley to find out if they do or will offer discounts to the military. A perfect example of such a business is Baa Da Bing Family Center. They specialize in family fitness, parties, and family oriented events. They are currently offering a 25% discount to the military for parties. They are also willing to allow veterans and their families to take their first class for free. For more information, visit their website at baadabing.net. This is one of the many business that will show up under the Discounts tab on the MFSC website. If you own or know of a business that is willing to offer active, reserve, or veteran discounts, please email the MFSC media director at: trsummerlin@milfamily.org

Operation: Military Kids

OMK is the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support children and youth, of all branches of military, impacted by deployment. Regardless of whether Families are experiencing deployment for the first time, the second time or another in a series of multiple deployments, OMK's goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being.

Virginia Operation: Military Kids has a strong structure of resources within the Roanoke Region. If you would like more information, or to find out about OMK, please visit:

www.operationmilitarykids.org or contact the Virginia OMK Project Director at megan11@vt.edu or 301-401-4878.

MFSC Scholarship

The MFSC is still taking submissions for its 2013 \$1000 scholarship. Any high school Senior interest in applying for the scholarship should check out the MFSC website and look under the Services & Programs tab.

Changes In The Military

As the current government administration moves forward with its program to downsize and reorganize the nation's military branches, we are seeing effects in our area. Some active units are being eliminated, reduced, or re-assigned. Their missions are being placed with the reserve components such as the Federal Reserves and the National Guard. From a budget standpoint, our leaders say that a trained and ready reserve unit can be fielded for only 30% of the cost of an active unit. Thus, more reserve units are being organized.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building a new Army Reserve Center in Bedford. The new three building facility is located on 20 acres in the new commercial center at the Bedford City western



limits, off of U.S. 460. The present construction schedule calls for a May completion date. The roof of the main building can be seen across the road from the Virginia State Police area office.

Army Forces Command has ordered that the first new unit to be headquartered in the new center is to be the 639th Transportation Company. It will be under the 497th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The center is designed to house two complete reserve companies. Command has yet to designate the second company.