



Veteran Services
2100 Campus Drive SE,
Suite 200
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 328-6355

A fun, family Holiday Happening, enjoyable for parents and children. Space is limited, pre-register at:

www.mallofamerica.com/events/feature/holiday-for-heroes




MALL OF AMERICA.
HOLIDAY FOR HEROES

You're Invited!
Mall of America welcomes current Service Members and Veterans, along with their family and friends, to a morning filled with memorable moments. Enjoy free rides, character appearances, breakfast, resource fair, and a special visit from Santa!*

DATE: Sunday, December 14, 2014
TIME: 8 - 11 a.m.
WHERE: Nickelodeon Universe*

Space is limited and filled on a first come, first served basis. Interested parties can register at the link below:

www.mallofamerica.com/events/feature/holiday-for-heroes

KARE 11
A GANNETT COMPANY

Hard Rock CAFE
MALL OF AMERICA

Upcoming meetings

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆ **Thursday, December 11 Town Hall Meeting *Feedback to improve VA system***
- ◆
- ◆ **Rochester Armory 1715 Marion Rd SE, Rochester, MN 55904**
- ◆
- ◆ **5pm-7pm**
- ◆
- ◆ **Tuesday, December 16th at 2:00pm and 7:00pm meetings will be held at the Preston cemetery in the maintenance building. This is for the Service Organizations so that they may have questions answered about the new cemetery.**
- ◆
- ◆ **Please RSVP to Jason Marquardt, Fillmore County Veterans Service Officer, by Wednesday, December 10th No later than 4:00pm.**
- ◆
- ◆ **Phone 507-765-4937**
- ◆ **E-mail: jmarquardt@co.fillmore.mn.us**
- ◆
- ◆
- ◆
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Family Assistance Center

What is a Family Assistance Center?

Ask a Servicemember what they need while on deployment and they will say, "Take care of my family."

The mission of a Family Assistance Center, or FAC, is to do just that. FACs provide information and referrals to available resources and services that families may require. A FAC will be there for the family no matter what challenge they may face during the deployment cycle.

The FAC staff understands that most families will only ask for help when the crisis has hit. Be assured that the FAC staff will respond to your needs. In addition, they will make it easier for the family to ask for assistance, as a member of the FAC staff will contact families of deployed Servicemembers on a regular basis.



What can FACs provide?

- Confidential assistance
- Military Family Care Initiative information
- Community support and local Yellow Ribbon Network connections
- Basic information on military pay and TRICARE health benefits
- Referrals for financial counseling and applications for Minnesota Family Foundation grants
- Referrals for home maintenance
- Official unit deployment information
- Information on youth activities
- Resources for parents
- And much more!

BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org | 1-888-234-1274

05/2013



You Make the Call... We Make the Difference!

Family Programs State Office

8180 Belden Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651.268.8200 or 888.234.1274

Mike Farren, FAC Supervisor
651.268.8215 | michael.p.farren4.ctr@mail.mil

Bemidji

1430 23rd St. NW, Bemidji, MN 55601
651.282.4031 | tabitha.d.steinmetz.ctr@mail.mil

Brooklyn Park

5500 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
651.282.4055 | jonell.m.wilson.ctr@mail.mil

Camp Ripley

15000 Highway 115, Little Falls, MN 56345
320.616.3117 | tami.l.klucas.ctr@mail.mil

Detroit Lakes

915 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218.844.1721 | mark.j.sjostrom.ctr@mail.mil

Duluth

4015 Airpark Blvd., Duluth, MN 55811
218.723.4852 | nadine.r.wells.ctr@mail.mil

Mankato

100 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Mankato, MN 56001
651.268.8413 | patrick.j.corrow.ctr@mail.mil

Marshall

500 Timmerman Dr., Marshall, MN 56258
651.268.8475 | jeffrey.l.gay2@mail.mil

Rochester

1715 Marion Rd. SE, Rochester, MN 55904
651.268.8587 | patrick.j.corrow.ctr@mail.mil
Staffed Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Rosemount

13865 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN 55068
651.282.4748
christina.r.rost.ctr@mail.mil
vernon.m.truax4.ctr@mail.mil

Air National Guard ~ 133rd Airlift Wing

631 Minuteman Dr., St. Paul, MN 55111
612.713.2367 | jill.lawrence@ang.af.mil

Air National Guard ~ 148th Fighter Wing

4680 Viper St., Duluth, MN 55811
218.788.7833 | jennifer.kuhlman@ang.af.mil

Air Force Reserve ~ 934th Airlift Wing

760 Military Hwy., Minneapolis, MN 55450
800.231.3517 | family.support.msp@us.af.mil

Helpful Websites

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon:
www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org

MilitaryOne Source:
www.militaryonesource.com

TriCare Health Insurance & Dental Program
www.tricare.mil & www.triwest.com

Operation Military Kids & Speak Out for Military Kids
www.operationmilitarykids.org

National Association of Child Care Resources & Referral Agencies: www.naccrra.org

Minnesota Military Appreciation Fund
www.thankmntroops.org

Minnesota National Guard
www.minnesotanationalguard.org

National Guard Family Programs
www.guardfamily.org

Military Home Front
www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil

Military Education
www.mymilitaryeducation.org



BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org | 1-888-234-1274





Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) invites you to participate in a free:

**DROP-IN LEGAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS
HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, BENEFITS, EXPUNGEMENT, WILLS,
DEBT COLLECTION, FAMILY LAW INCLUDING CHILD SUPPORT**

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Flag Atrium Balcony Room 2S 114 (ask information desk for directions)
1 Veterans Drive | Minneapolis, MN | FREE Parking at the VA Medical Center

Attorneys , MACV Staff, County Veterans Service Officers, and Child Support Officers will be available throughout the clinic to assist veterans with questions, legal forms and counsel.



Olmsted County Veteran's Services



PTSD Support Group for Veterans

SEMCIL Veteran Services is offering a support group for Veterans that have been diagnosed with PTSD, or those who have signs and symptoms of PTSD, and their family members. Maybe you need to talk or just be in the company of your extended Veteran family.

The support group will be a place for Veterans to share, heal and talk about their experiences in dealing with PTSD. We will be there for each other.

We are our brothers and sisters keepers because the oath we took to never leave a fallen comrade has no expiration date. For many of us, combat veterans, there are daily reminders of combat stress.

The group will be facilitated by Jennifer Shumaker, Veteran and Olmsted County Veterans Service Officer.

Upcoming meetings:

Thursday, January 29, 2015

Thursday, February 26, 2015

6:30pm-8:30 p.m.

American Legion Post 92

315 1st Ave NW,

Rochester, MN, 55901

Jennifer at 507-328-6324 or

shumaker.jennifer@co.olmsted.mn.us



PTSD Support Group for Families and Friends of Veterans

PTSD Support Group

for family members and friends of Veterans

SEMCIL Veteran Services is offering a support group for family members and friends of veterans that suffer from PTSD, or those who have signs and symptoms of PTSD. Maybe you need to talk or just be in the company of another Veteran family. The support group will be a place for families to share, heal and talk about their experiences in dealing with being a family member or friend of a veteran with PTSD.

The group will be facilitated by Connie While, Veteran and SEMCIL Veterans Services Coordinator. This will be hosted quarterly, coinciding with the PTSD support group for veterans.

Thursday, January 29, 2015

6:30pm-8:30 p.m.

American Legion

POST 92

315 1st Ave NW, Rochester, MN 55901

SEMCIL at 507-285-1815



Education



Transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, must be completed, while still serving

The transferability option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows Service members to transfer all or some unused benefits to their spouse or dependent children. The Department of Defense (DoD) determines whether or not you can transfer benefits to your family. Once the DoD approves benefits for transfer, the new beneficiaries apply for them at VA.

To find out more, visit the DoD website at: http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/

OR

apply now at: https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/faces/index.jspx?_afLoop=1194187494543957&_afWindowMode=0&_adf.ctrl-state=15g3otw2kn_4

Type of Assistance

Eligible Service members may transfer all 36 months or the portion of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (unless DoD or the Department of Homeland Security has limited the number of transferable months). If you're eligible, you may transfer benefits to the following individuals:

- Your spouse
 - One or more of your children
- Any combination of spouse and child**

Available Benefits and Eligibility

Family members must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and be eligible for benefits at the time of transfer to receive transferred benefits.

The option to transfer is open to any member of the armed forces active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and meets the following criteria:

- Has at least six years of service in the armed forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval and agrees to serve four additional years in the armed forces from the date of election.
- Has at least 10 years of service in the armed forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval, is precluded by either standard policy (by Service Branch or DoD) or statute from committing to four additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.
- Is or becomes retirement-eligible and agrees to serve an additional four years of service on or after Aug. 1, 2012. A Service member is considered to be retirement-eligible if he or she has completed 20 years of active federal service or 20 qualifying years as computed (pursuant to section 12732 of title 10 U.S.C.).

Transfer requests are submitted and approved while the member is in the armed forces.



“To promote the interests and welfare of veterans, their dependents and survivors and to enhance their quality of life through counseling, claims assistance, education, advocacy and special projects.”



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