



NAVY JOINT TRANSPORTATION RESERVE UNIT OMBUDSMAN NEWSLETTER

Special points of interest:

- JTRU Family Day
- PEDs no longer allowed in USTRANSCOM Buildings.
- April is Military Children's Month
- Pre-Deployment Checklist

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Command Leadership

Commanding Officer:
CAPT Christopher Ryan
Executive Officer:
CAPT (sel) Craig de Beaumont
Senior Enlisted Leader:
YNC Dan Monahan



Always Moving Forward!

APRIL 2008

JTRU FAMILY DAY

Date: May 3, 2008
Time: 10:00 to 16:30
Place: SAFB, Bldg 1900 (10:00 to 12:00) - Presentations & DDOC Tour
Picnic Area Pavilion #11 (12:00 to 1630) - Picnic & Games

Cost: -Adults: \$10
-Children: \$5 (12 and under)

Please RSVP/confirm to CDR William May by Sat. April 5 with number attending at Ph: 251-928-6661.

Payment can be given at the April Drill or mailed immediately to:
DEPT OF THE ARMY
HDQRS, ARMY RESERVE ELEMENT
U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

ATTN : SGM NELSON-GEORGE/LTC MARQUERITE TAYLOR
508 SCOTT DRIVE, BLDG 1911, SCOTT AFB, IL 62225-5357

-Make Checks payable to JTRU Booster Club
-Tickets will be held for you at Pavilion Check-in Desk

\$5/FREE GATEWAY GRIZZLIES BASEBALL TICKETS

Gateway Grizzlies offering \$5.00 field box tickets with military I.D. for the May 18, 2008, 5:05pm pre-

season game vs. U.S. Military All-Stars
Every Tuesday - Free Entry with Military ID

<http://www.gatewaygrizzlies.com/schedule/promo/>

Command News

Interim Policy on the Use of Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) in USTRANSCOM Facilities and Areas

Due to security concerns a new policy governing the use of Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) has been established by USTRANSCOM. The policy went into affect in January

2008 strictly prohibiting personal cell phones, laptops computers with wireless capability, audio/video recording devices, wireless message devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and Blackberries being brought into a USTRANSCOM Facility.

This policy means to most of us that the US-

TRANSCOM and JTRU Personnel will not be allowed to bring their electronic devices, like cell phones, into the buildings. Even when the device is turned off, this is still considered a security risk.

In Cases of Emergencies, you can reach the JTRU members at this number: 618-229-8277

*The Navy Fleet
and Family
Support Center
Website,
www.nffsp.org
contains a wealth
of information
to support
families Prepare
for and
Successfully
Manage Navy
Life and
Deployment.*

POSTAL SERVICES OFFERS DISCOUNT SHIPPING

Planning to send a care package to a military service member serving abroad? Take advantage of a new flat-rate box from the Postal Service that is 50 percent larger and delivered for \$10.95 to an APO/FPO address -- \$2 less than for domestic destinations.

The new priority mail large flat-rate box (12" x 12" x 5-1/2") will be available in post offices nationwide, but

they can also be ordered at www.usps.com/supplies or by calling 800-610-8734. Some of the new boxes are co-branded with the logo of "America Supports You," which is a Department of Defense program that connects citizens offering support to the military and their families.

The \$2 discount is applied when the priority mail large flat-rate boxes are shipped to

an APO/FPO destination. The two existing flat-rate boxes (11-7/8"x3-3/8"x13-5/8" and 11"x 8-1/2"x5-1/2"), currently retail for \$8.95 for U.S. addresses, are not available for the military discount. All flat-rate boxes can be used for international shipping.

SPACE-A TRAVEL

Military families of deployed personnel may be able to save some travel money thanks to a new Space-A policy. As of December 6, 2007, Spouses and children of personnel deployed 120 days or longer now can use military trans-

port in CONUS, to/from CONUS, and within/ between theater, provided they have a verification letter from the military member's commander. For more information regarding the Space-A travel visit the Air Mobility Command website at

<http://www.amc.af.mil/questions/topic.asp?id=380>

GUARD AND RESERVE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

TurboTap is an easy to use, interactive WEB portal that provides life-long support to separating military service members (active duty, Guard and Reserve) and their families. It is a single source starting point for accessing key resources available for service members transitioning out of the military at any point in their military career.

Features include: Guard/Reserve Transition Guide, Personalized Individual Transition Plan, Employment Hub, Benefits Hub and much more. For more information go to <http://www.transitionassistanceprogram.com>

APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

OPERATION PURPLE CAMP

The 2008 Operation Purple Camp locations have been selected and this year they will be in over 30 states. Information on camp locations will be available early March 2008 and actual enrollment for the camps will be from 24 March - 5 May 2008.

Any military child can apply; however, priority is given to those children who have a parent/guardian or family household member deployed between May 2007 and September 2009. This program is designed to

give children the opportunity to come together in a fun environment, learn from each other and give them the tools to face the challenges of deployment with success. The camp is provided at no cost to the family. Families are encouraged to apply at the location closest to their home as transportation costs are not covered. For more information please visit their Web site at

<http://www.operationpurple.org/>.

Links to Family Readiness and Fun

<http://www.deploymentkids.com/>

--Deployment Kids helps military kids have an easier time with a parent's deployment.

<http://mylittlemailbox.com/militarymail.htm>

--My Little Mailbox offers this feeling of excitement and joy to the boys and girls who wait while their parents are deployed.

http://www.operationhomefront.org/Info/info_kids.shtml

--Links to Fun Stuff for Kids

<http://www.daddydolls.com/>

--Daddy Dolls provides your family with quality products to ease the stresses of separation

<http://www.monthofthemilitarychild.com/>

--April is the Month of the Military Child--lots of arts & crafts ideas

<http://flatdaddies.com/>

--Flat Daddies & Mommies are life-sized printed posters of parents who are actively serving overseas in the military, free (+s/h) to children of deployed service members

<http://navyreserve.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/8139DEB4-F3B5-4F6B-8FEF-DBE3C21F6D2C/0/DeployChecklistkids.pdf>

--Deployment Checklist for Kids

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/>

--Helping families during deployment

<http://navyreserve.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/9E7D8E8C-C2B9-45FA-B3EF-A42D00CDCF50/0/Guardianchecklist.pdf>

--Non-military Guardian Information & Checklist

<http://www.militarystudent.dod.mil/>

--Military Student.org Information for parents, students and educators

*APRIL is the
month to
CELEBRATE
the Military
CHILD, but we
CELEBRATE
them EVERY
day!*

Do You Have any Comments or Suggestions Regarding the Newsletter?

We are looking for suggestions/ideas for topics you feel would be helpful to you or others. Please email your suggestions to Michelle Monahan, JTRU Ombudsman at:

jtruombudsman@yahoo.com

*Preparedness is
the key to
successful
transition to
deployment for
all family
members
involved.*

FAMILY LAW PRE-DEPLOYMENT CHECKLIST

This checklist should be reviewed/updated periodically and ALWAYS prior to deployment. It is very important for the military family to keep copies of important documents and other valuable information in a safe place. It is equally important that families organize this file together so that everyone knows how and where to find the documents when they are needed and that all the information is correct.

****A copy of this checklist is attached to the newsletter email.****

WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION

The St. Louis VA Medical Center Welcomes Home
Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Veterans & Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Veterans

Saturday, May 17, 2008
Soldiers Memorial (Downtown St. Louis)
1315 Chestnut, St. Louis, MO
10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Ceremony at 10:45 a.m.

OEF and OIF Veterans and their families are invited join us for music, food, fun, informational booths, games for kids, and a great celebration of their dedication and service to our country.

For More Information Contact Gregory Campbell 314-289-7641

OMBUDSMAN NEWS

- If you haven't already done so, please complete and return the ombudsman survey. If you need a new survey emailed please let me know.
- Here are some of the suggestions for the title of our newsletter, please let me know which you prefer or if you have any other suggestions.
 - "Shipmates"
 - "Belay That"
 - "The Wheelhouse" (It's from the house and home that we steer our moral compass; and from where we navigate our way home to our loved ones after long voyages.
 - "Homefront Home Page"
 - NAVY JTRU NEWS

JTRU OMBUDSMAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Michelle Monahan
Home Phone: 618-625-7120
Cell Phone: 618-292-6650
Email: jtruombudsman@yahoo.com

PLEASE NOTE: Michelle is unable to carry a cell phone while at work in the NICU, if your need is NOT an emergency please leave a message and she will return your call, if your need IS an emergency you can reach YNC Monahan at 618-292-1462