



"Building Strong Families and Strong Communities"

Military Families Connection

A bi-monthly newsletter of Military Families Connect
1209A Eastern Ave, Plymouth, WI 53073 920-892-6706/920-457-1888
www.frc-sc.org email: mfc@excel.net

August/September 2009

Meeting Information:

Location: **American Legion Post 243**,
40 Stafford St.,
Plymouth.

When: 4th Monday of
each month,
5:30-7:30 pm.

Please bring a dish to
share and own
beverage. Plates,
napkins & silverware
are provided.

Registration is
appreciated for
meeting planning.
Child activities and
care is provided.

September 28 -
Military Kids Night at
the Above & Beyond
Children's Museum

October 26-
Christmas Cards
for our Troops

Military Families
Connect Coordinator
and Editor:

Karen Degner
mfc@excel.net
(920) 892-6706



The July Military Families Connect (MFC) picnic in the park was held at the Plymouth City Park. While it did rain, we stayed dry in the shelter, enjoyed a picnic meal and spending time together. The Aquatic Center passes were given a rain date for the next day, as were Tom & Jerry's Mini-Golf passes.

Special thank you's to the City of Plymouth for the use of the lower shelter and complimentary Aquatic Center passes and to Tom & Jerry's Mini-Golf for complimentary golf pass for our members at the July 27th MFC picnic.

Military Kids Night—September 28 at the Above & Beyond Children's Museum.

Plan to join us in recognizing our young heroes. Pizza, refreshments and activities will be provided. Registration is needed for this meeting to provide the meal.

Call 892-6706 or email mfc@excel.net to register for MFC meetings
or for more information.



Our Military Kids Organization

Supporting National Guard and Military Reserve Families One Child at a Time

If you or your spouse are in the National Guard or Reserves and are deployed overseas, *Our Military Kids* can help pay for sports, fine arts and tutoring programs for your children. For more information, eligible program activities or to apply for a grant; go to www.ourmilitarykids.org



More Resources for Military Children Affected by Deployment

When parents are deployed, this can place a great amount of stress on children. The website provides an extensive list of resources (books, kits, DVDs, and web sites) targeted at helping children and parents cope during deployment.

[Resources for Military Children Affected by Deployment \(PDF 25KB\)](#) can be found at: www.myaremyonesource.com *Child, Youth & School Service-Parent Information.*

Army OneSource also offers wellness resources for the military community.



The Family Resource Center of Sheboygan County (FRC) will be sending a survey via email to all members of MFC. You can help us by taking a few minutes to answer—your opinion is important to the FRC.

The catalog and website surveys can also be found at: www.frc-sc.org. Learn all that the FRC has to offer, check out the calendar and more, by checking out the website.

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County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) Corner - Charlene Cobb

SCHOOL DAZE

It's that time of year to think about school. Not only for the little ones heading back after summer break; but for anyone wanting to pursue further education. For those that served on active duty after 9/11/01, the federal Veterans Administration has a new Post 9/11 GI bill (Chapter 33 benefits). These benefits potentially affect everyone who served on active duty after 9/11/01. Some of you may have qualified for one of the other VA education programs – MGIB, MGIB-SR, or REAP. If you qualify for one of those and the Post 9/11 you will need to choose one. Once this decision is made it is irrevocable (in other words "Your final answer") there will be no going back. If you contemplate using VA educational benefits do your research. Go to the VA website: www.gibill.va.gov. There you will find information on eligibility, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and even scenarios that will show you what you would get depending on the program you choose. Additionally, those of you that have a DD214 that shows Wisconsin as your home of record are also potentially eligible for the Wisconsin GI Bill. However, if eligible you will have to apply for the Post 9/11 GI Bill and use that first in order to keep those Wisconsin GI Bill benefits. These are great educational opportunities for our service men and women, and possibly some dependents, you just need to be thorough in your investigation as to what is right for you. School is around the corner and education is always a smart choice!



Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)

If you are a servicemember, retiree, or dependent, DEERS registration is the key to getting your TRICARE benefits eligibility established. DEERS is a computerized database of military sponsors, families and others worldwide who are entitled under the law to TRICARE benefits. Active-duty and retired service members are automatically registered in DEERS, but they must take action to register their family members and ensure they're correctly entered into the database. Mistakes in the DEERS database can cause problems with TRICARE claims, so it is critical to maintain your DEERS information. Sponsors or registered family members may make address changes, however, only the sponsor can add or delete a family member from DEERS, and proper documents are required such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree and/or birth certificate.

You can verify your DEERS information by contacting your regional TRICARE managed care support contractor, your local TRICARE service center or the nearest uniformed services personnel office (ID card facility). Sponsors or registered family members may make address changes, however, only the sponsor can add or delete a family member from DEERS, and proper documents are required such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree and/or birth certificate. To update your DEERS information: contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) at 1-800-538-9552, find the nearest uniformed services personnel office at: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/, fax address changes to DEERS at 1-831-655-8317, Mail the address change to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771. Go online to Tricare to update your information: www.tricare.osd.mil/deers



Websites of Interest:

- www.ourmilitarykids.org
- www.myarmyonesource.com
- www.gibill.va.gov
- www.frc-sc.org
- www.militaryonesource.com

- www.helmetstohardhats.org
- www.unmetneeds.com
- www.sauw.org
- www.redcrosssheboygan.org
- www.mhasheboygan.org
- Mental Health America Sheboygan

MFC is planning our upcoming holiday mailings. If you know of a Sheboygan County service member deployed outside of the United States and you would like them included in our package mailing, contact Karen at MFC with their APO or FPO information. All information submitted is confidential and not shared.



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email: mfc@excel.net