

## **FAMILY INFORMATION AND RESOURCES PROVIDED BY AFRC AND 10<sup>TH</sup> AF**

Please note that there may be some duplicates and some information that may not be relevant to your specific situation, these items were consolidated from several resources

NOTES: (a couple of these reference “Texas” – but check out your locality – for many of the same offers!)

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER (SLO) can offer information about what school districts may be best for your family situation. Also he can help answer questions or assist in problems regarding education. The SLO has a variety of resources and information for many scenarios. For example, being able to send your teen to school online full-time or to make up classes... FOR FREE?

LIBRARY renewed its FREEGAL opportunities! Just stop on by or call 817-782-7735 to create an account for FREE music downloads! Also expect some cool summer classes and events... Have Book Will Travel is a summer reading program for adults, teens, and children! Running now through August 10th. See the library webpage for more information at <https://usn.evanced.info/ftworth/sr/homepage.asp>. Check your local base for their programs!

Not endorsed by the military but still cool:

-Militaryoneclick.com has great resources that connects military families with community resources in areas like home relocation, jobs, finances, health, vacations, shopping, education, and so on.

-Cup of Joe at <https://www.greenbeanscoffee.com> is a neat program that allows you to donate a cup of coffee to a deployed service member. Brownpapertickets.com is a great site just like VetTix to find discounted or free event tickets.

-Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) has new password requirements. Heads up that you need to take action on this email to avoid delays in accessing MyPay.

-Military.com has a great tool that will translate your military skills to civilian resume terminology. This is just one great resource on military.com... Go to the site to check out much more!

Texas Rangers are offering military discounts for the 2013 season! Visit: [www.texasrangers.com/military](http://www.texasrangers.com/military) to obtain the discounted tickets. Select: U.S. Military personnel. Password is rangersmilitary. Check your local teams for great deals!

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER (CLC) - [www.clcinc.org](http://www.clcinc.org)

-- Offers great training programs and career placement through their extensive and competitive employer network... like Lockheed or Barnett Shale.

-- Training programs are free or very low cost. Job placement assistance is 100% free.

-- Open to Service Members and Dependents. To qualify for services, CLC must see you DD-214, drivers license, and social security card (plus documentation of the dependent connection, like a marriage or birth certificate).

-- Very high success rates and satisfaction with programs!

-- More info from Mandy Livingston at [mlivingston@clcinc.org](mailto:mlivingston@clcinc.org) or 817-569-9008 x16. (Although Texas based...they are willing to help anyone and have resources/jobs all over)

SITTERCITY! Military Program - [www.sittercity.com/DoD](http://www.sittercity.com/DoD)

- Find the right caregiver to fill in the gaps... Use Sittercity for FREE to find local sitters & nannies that fit your family needs.

- Caregivers registered and monitored for before/after school, last minute needs, PCS helping hand, infant care, school closings, pet sitting, and senior care.

- Available to all branches for Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard families.

- Membership to Sittercity is fully paid for by the Dept of Defense.

HERO 2 HIRED! See [www.h2h.jobs](http://www.h2h.jobs) for more info and assistance. Dept of Defense program. Resource open to all service members. They can apply for jobs through the website and military-friendly employers can post jobs also. Smart phone app available. Great tool to convert military jargon to good resume wording. Lots of promotional material available for units. Another great method to help SMs find work. See website for job fairs too. \* Can contact Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for more info AND promotional materials: NAS/JRB Bldg 1525, first floor, 817-386-7326 or [vee@txesgr.net](mailto:vee@txesgr.net).

**Reminder: Post-9/11 GI Bill Changes August 1:** Starting August 1, service members who elect to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to an eligible family member will be required to serve an additional four years, without regard to their time in service. [Read more>](#)

## ***Monthly Report eNewsletter – June 2013***

**MyAirForceLife mobile app:** Team AFPC/SVK Marketing is proud to announce the MyAirForceLife mobile app is officially live in both the on-line Android and Apple Stores for FREE download! At this time six locations who entered content into the app as part of the BETA group (JBSA Randolph, JBSA Lackland, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, Minot, USAF Academy and Patrick) are featured with more on boarding soon. The content management system is easy to use and allows individual installations to upload information directly to the app in real time. Besides the basics of a Services activity (hours of operations, specials, etc.), a few of the major features of the app include:

- Geo Map directions
- What's "near me"?
- Integration with "NAF Jobs" to view activity-specific job vacancies
- Ability to "add" activity contact information into the phones/contacts folders
- Favorites
- Activity ratings

Version 2.0 is in development and will include Facebook integration (push events to Facebook), Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) integration, and changes based on feedback from the initial test bases and users.

**Air Force 4-H Partnership Offers Air National Guard Camp Grants:** In an effort to expand outreach services to youth and teens from Air National Guard (ANG) families and support the Total Force, the Air Force 4-H Partnership has provided grants for youth/teen camp opportunities this summer. State 4-H Military Liaisons in connection with their Land Grant University and 4-H Cooperative Extension office worked jointly with their Air National Guard units to identify family needs in order to provide fun, safe camping experiences in close proximity to ANG units. Seventeen states were recently awarded grants to offer summer camp opportunities with the purpose of helping geographically dispersed military youth connect with other military youth, develop resilience, learn new skills, and have fun. These camp grants were made possible due to the long standing partnership that Air Force Child and Youth Programs has with USDA and 4-H Cooperative Extension. For more information on the AF 4-H Partnership, the June edition of their Newsletter is attached to this eNewsletter.

**Interstate Compact:** The goal of the compact is to replace the widely varying policies affecting transitioning military students. The compact leverages consistency: It uses a comprehensive approach that provides a consistent policy in every school district and in every state that chooses to join. The compact addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation. Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders, and members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year are eligible for assistance under the compact. 46 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the compact with remaining unsigned states being OR, MN, MY and NH.

**Warrior and Survivor Care Division:** Wounded, ill and injured Airmen and representatives from the Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard and Special Operations Command competed in track and field, shooting, swimming, cycling, archery, wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball during the 2013 Warrior Games in mid-May. Events took place at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. This year's team is the epitome of adaptability, determination, resilience and grit. To learn more, visit <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil/> and <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil/news/>.

**Operational Fitness Program:** The Operational Fitness Program provides three levels of fitness conditioning for all users: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. It allows users to follow a set program or build their own according to their individual fitness level, provides a recommended daily workout routine which is updated every month. The program, along with the videos described below, can be found at <http://www.usafservices.com/>.

**"Fitness on Request":** AF Services centrally purchased "Fitness on Request" kiosks for over 60 bases, which began arriving at installations last month and will continue throughout the summer. The kiosk provides "virtual" instructors leading exercise ranging from kickboxing to cardio exercises, stretching and flexibility, and will be updated quarterly. These kiosks will allow fitness centers an alternative to offering group exercise classes and a method for relieving budgetary constraint pressures.

**Fit for Duty "Xtreme Wednesday Workout" Videos:** AF Services partnered with The Pentagon Channel (TPC) to produce 20 videos as part of their "Fit for Duty" series. These workouts concentrate on core, aerobic, arms, back, chest, shoulders and legs. The videos are available on cable networks offering TPC, overseas American Forces Network, and also online at: <http://www.pentagonchannel.mil/Shows/FitforDuty>. In addition, we are sending the collection to installation Fitness and Sports Centers this month.

**Air Force Club Member Scholarship Program Assistance in Defraying the Cost of College Tuition:** This annual initiative, running 1 May-1 July 2013, is a club member program. To be eligible for the scholarship, participants must be club members in good standing or family members. Participants will write a 500 word essay with the topic: "Who or What Inspires You to Be Successful?" Why? Winners will be announced on 17 September 2013. The Top 25 winners will each receive \$1K and a high performance Dell sponsored laptop.

**AF Lodging Waiver to Fund Source:** AF Services recently obtained approval to a waiver to fund source request for AF Lodging. This enables AF Services to utilize Nonappropriated Funds from the Air Force Central Lodging Fund to pay for items historically funded with Appropriated Funds in AF Lodging (except utilities and SRM). This allows installations to focus scarce Appropriated Fund monies on high priority mission requirements.

**AF Lodging: Ease Your Mind...Make Your Reservations Early:** There are so many things on your “To Do” list when you are preparing for your PCS move. One that is often overlooked is making hotel reservations. Seeing as the peak PCS season is fast approaching, it is imperative you make your reservations as soon as possible. Air Force Inns provides several avenues to make these reservations. You can log on to the Department of Defense Lodging website ([www.dodlodging.net](http://www.dodlodging.net)) where you can make your reservation, email the base or look up the phone number to call the base directly.

**AF Libraries Hosting DoD Summer Reading Program - “Have Book - Will Travel!” :** This is the 4<sup>th</sup> DOD-Wide Summer Reading Program sponsored by DOD MWR Libraries and the Military Community and Family Policy Office (OSD P&R). Over 250 installations will host a range of free activities for children and families that encourage and support literacy and reading. The program goal is for readers of all ages to keep reading skills sharp over the summer. The programs run between Memorial Day and Labor Day, but vary by installations based on school calendars. Last year across DOD, participants read more for more than 13.2 million minutes; Air Force participants (54,000!) read 6 million minutes – almost half of the DoD total! Interested individuals can enroll for the 2013 program at their installation library.

**SVPY Specialty Camp for Soccer and Technology:** Soccer and Technology Camps have been awarded for 10 CONUS installations. Soccer Camp includes ages 9-18 and focuses on enhancing youth’s knowledge, skills and abilities. Tech Camp for ages 9-18, focuses on teaching youths a variety of computer- based technologies. Camps can be held at the installations from now until 31 May 2014.

**Single Airman Programming Initiative (SAPI):** Phase III of the Single Airman Programming Initiative kicked off on 1 May! Installations are already planning exciting events for their single Airmen. Schriever AFB will be taking to the skies for a Hot Air Balloon Trip. Airmen at Robins and RAF Menwith Hill will be able to experience the high adrenaline rush of skydiving. Spangdahlem AB Airmen will be taking trips to enjoy a variety of the historical sites around them. Check out what is happening at your installation, in support of the single Airmen!

**PGA Junior League Golf:** Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) installations will be participating in an Air Force pilot for a new Professional Golf Association (PGA) Junior League Golf program beginning in June. We anticipate that the pilot program will expand Air Force wide in 2014. The PGA Junior League Golf is designed to bring a “Little League” atmosphere to the game of golf by providing a structured environment for young golfers to compete and have fun. The program targets youth, ages 8-14. The JBSA golf teams will compete against each other, as well as other teams within the local San Antonio area. The objective of the PGA Junior League Golf program is to make the game of golf fun by introducing a team concept to an individual sport. The PGA Junior League Golf is a great way to get the entire family involved in golf. To learn more about PGA Junior League Golf program visit [www.pgajrleaguegolf.com](http://www.pgajrleaguegolf.com).

**Outdoor Recreation:** Outdoor Recreation delivers a wide range of activities and trips to “Feed Your Rush” for adventure and great opportunities to relax and decompress with family and friends. Returning from deployment and going from that high-adrenaline mindset downrange to the home front can be a stressful time for Airmen and their families. The RecOn initiative was launched in January to offer Airmen time to relax and release any pent up energy while providing high-adventure recreational learning programs. So far, 228 support requests have been submitted 145 approved for a total of \$332K – about a third of the FY13 budget. Phil Heeg, AFPC/SVPCR, shared a few tips with the installations for a successful program "Try charging a nominal participation fee, \$15 to \$20, your no-show rate will decline and you can stretch your funding", he added, "The best ideas include multiple activities, for example a camping, hiking and whitewater rafting trip or a whitewater rafting adventure trip that leaves participants with a skill like whitewater rafting guide or swift water rescue training. Participants can then flip this into a part-time job or a future career." The best part is this provides lifelong learning skills and directs our Airmen to sports that they can focus their energy constructively. POCs: Mr. Ben Evers, 969-7238; Mr. Phil Heeg, 969-7234

**Sacred Mission: Pilots Bring Fallen Heroes Home, By Christin Michaud, Air Force Mortuary Affairs:** Three planes sit on a small section of the runway at Dover Air Force Base and help fulfill the wing’s motto: “Deliver!” They aren’t the typical big cargo planes like the C-17 Globemaster or the C-5 Galaxy people are accustomed to seeing on the runway here. The Falcons, although smaller in size, have a big mission – they carry sacred cargo – the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Three flight crews from Kalitta, a contract carrier with the government, are responsible for bringing fallen heroes to airports close to their final resting place as part of the reverse dignified transfer process. The crews consist of a captain and a first officer for each flight as well as two mechanics that provide ground support here. Their team stands by before takeoff as various volunteers from units across the 436th Airlift Wing here conduct a reverse dignified transfer placing the flag-draped casket onto the Falcon. The plane carries the remains of the fallen service member and the military escort to a local airport by the final resting place. Ryan Wetzel, of Midland, Mich., a captain with Kalitta, made his first flight carrying a fallen hero more than six years ago. Since then, he has spent a considerable amount of time supporting the mission. “This has actually turned into a second home for us,” he said. “We come out for two weeks at a time, and then go home for a week. I’ve been doing that pretty much since the beginning.” Kalitta initially began with a bridge contract Jan. 1, 2007, when alternate methods of returning fallen heroes were being explored. The full story can be found at: <http://www.mortuary.af.mil/pressreleases/pressreleasesearchive/story.asp?id=123348268>

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## Information from Barbara Jackson, Senior Spouse

### Upcoming Events

**May 16, 7:00 p.m.** - Mexi-can Fiesta Dinner at the home of the Gour-leys. Spouses included! RSVP to Carla by May 13!

**May 28, 11:30 a.m.** Book Club at the base golf course. Contact Peggy Vivori, 919-3513 or Lynn Anzjon, lan-zjon@cox.net. The book of the month is: *Caleb’s Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks. This is the last book club meeting until the fall.

# AFRC Spouses

This is a private organization. It is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no governmental status. IAW AFI 34-223

## A Note from Carla Gourley, Senior Spouse

Barbara

### May Luncheon

**Mexican Fiesta!**

**Thursday, May 16**

**7:00 p.m.**

**at Carla Gourley's home**

**210 Carriage Run**

**Warner Robins**

**Spouses are included!**

**Please RSVP by Monday, May 13, by emailing [deltaspad@cox.net](mailto:deltaspad@cox.net)**

Carla and Gen. Gourley will provide the main course. We will bring a salad, dessert, or side to share. When you RSVP, tell Carla how many are coming (you or you and your spouse) and what dish you will bring. Come enjoy the fun. You know we have fun wherever we are!

Our time of meetings and gathering together each month is coming to a close for the summer. May is our final get-together before the summer break. We would like to invite you and your spouse to our house on Thursday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. for a Mexican Fiesta! We will provide the main dish. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share with everyone. RSVP to me at [deltaspad@cox.net](mailto:deltaspad@cox.net) by Monday May 13 with how many are attending and what side dish you will be bringing. If your spouse cannot make it, please come anyway! This is *not* a couples only event! Feel free to come.

Since turnout for our last meeting was so small, we will elect committee chairs this month. Sorry, men! A short business meeting is in order at the dinner!

We switched banks to Robins Federal Credit Union since they will not charge us monthly fees. A permanent address is required with the account. We opted to open a PO Box since treasurers and their addresses change regularly. Our address is: **AFRC Spouses' Group, PO Box 98494, Robins AFB, GA 31098**. Feel free to use it for any correspondence you may have.

We voted to ask for a \$20 donation from members of the group to help with our yearly operation rather than fundraising. *This is completely voluntary and in no way includes/excludes you from anything.* If you wish to make a donation, you can make it during the May meeting or mail it to the above PO Box.

Have a great summer everyone! See you at our house on May 16!

Carla

Hello Everyone! It has been quite busy here in Virginia. Ginger Haddad recently attended the 2013 Spouse Summit Conference sponsored primarily by **USAA, Military.com** and the **Home Depot Foundation**. With so much information gathered at the conference, I have sifted through and selected some of the most critical information and websites for the May newsletter. I will post the remaining items in June's newsletter and on my Facebook page. Please visit <http://afrspouses.webs.com> for additional information.

First of all, please assist us in encouraging all AF Reserve military spouses to relay and disseminate this information, especially to our young officers and enlisted Reserve members and their spouses. Let's spread the word!

**SCHOLARSHIP SOURCES FOR MILITARY SPOUSES AND CHILDREN**

**ThanksUSA** is a charitable organization that has joined with Kaplan University to offer college, vocational, and technical school scholarships for children and spouses. They offer both FULL and 55% scholarships that can be used at Kaplan or any other accredited college/school, renewable for 4 years. They have given away more than \$20 million dollars in scholarships to military families. According to Ginger from the meeting, if the military spouse has served at least 180 days active duty since 9/11, the member/spouse/children under 24 are eligible. This probably applies to many of our Reserve families! **IMPORTANT: Their deadline for this year is MAY 15!** They also

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## News from You!

provide financial assistance to spouses who have moved from state to state and need to take classes or meet other licensure requirements to “transfer” their licensure or certification to the new state. For all those teachers, nurses, engineers, etc..., here is a painless, FREE way to get licensed/certified in your new location! Find them at <http://www.thanksusa.org>

The **National Military Family Association**, which has been around for 45 years, gave \$2 million in scholarships to 2500 military spouses last year. Closed for the upcoming academic year beginning in the fall, however, it is a great resource for families looking at college for the spouse the following year. In the past, they have sent 45,000 military children per year to their “Operation Purple” summer camps, offering retreats for families following long deployments and separations, and doing research on the effect of the military environment on family structure and dynamics. Their website is [www.militaryfamily.org](http://www.militaryfamily.org)

### SPOUSE CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

**Blue Star Families**, has an extensive program for spouses seeking to build careers, particularly “portable careers” that can easily move with the military family and looking for employment. Their *Blue Star Spouse Employment Toolkit*, is designed to help military spouses build a resume that takes advantage of ALL their experience, including volunteer service, and to embark on the job hunt. They also maintain an ONLINE listing of available jobs for military spouses in 75 different categories, emphasizing companies that are “military spouse friendly.” They have a partnership with **ODEsk**, the world’s largest online workplace, which offers many jobs that are online contract work PERFECT for military spouses in areas like customer service, writing/editing, marketing, finance, accounting, soft-ware development, paralegal and more. Find them at [www.bluestarfam.org](http://www.bluestarfam.org)

The **US Chamber of Commerce** “Hiring Our Heroes” Military Spouse program, offers assistance to spouses in SIX core areas: Nation-wide Network (a large group of spouse-friendly employers, public partners, and service organizations who employ military spouses), Resume Refining, Certification and Licensing, Entrepreneurship, Portable Careers (quality flex and temporary employment options) and Government and Contracting (preparing spouses for employment with the federal government and its contractors). They conduct job fairs throughout the country, with the calendar listed on their website and also on **Military One Click**. Find them at [www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/milspouse](http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/milspouse)

### OTHER RESOURCES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

**Home Depot Foundation**. In 2012, they financed 550 projects performed by employee volunteers renovation the homes of wounded warriors and improving transitional housing for homeless veterans. They announced a new initiative to promise EMPLOYMENT TO ANY HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF DISCHARGE! More information forthcoming on their website. The Foundation also offers grants of up to \$5000 in

**Home Depot** products for projects offering positive “community impact.” The grantees must be 501 (c)(3) organizations (nonprofits), public schools, or public service organizations such as police/fire departments. For more information visit [www.homedepotfoundation.org/page/veterans](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/page/veterans)

More information to come in the following months. A very special “thank you” to Ginger Haddad for attending the conference and providing us with all these valuable resources. Additionally, if you have additional information, websites or items you would like to share please drop me a note at [BarbaraCJacksonFL@me.com](mailto:BarbaraCJacksonFL@me.com) and we will be sure to pass it along.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Jackson*

# AFRC Spouses

## ***Information:***

**How to Help Military and Veteran Families Publications Released:** This series of publications offer valuable information for various audiences to help them assist and support members of the military, veterans and their families. The *How to Help* 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. 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. Available issues are obtainable in "web-friendly" and "printer-friendly" formats at: <https://www.mfri.purdue.edu/publications/how-to-help.aspx>

**New Spouse Employment and Career Opportunities – MySECO:** The Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program provides expert education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide and offers comprehensive information, tools and resources to support SECO lifecycle phases: career exploration, education and training, employment readiness, and career connections. The new MySECO website ensures spouses have 24–7 access to online education and career information, resources, tools and assessments. Using the tools and assessments, spouses can begin to explore their interests, skills, passions and personality type to determine the best fit for education and career choices and start to build a portable and meaningful career path. The information below outlines the new features and functionalities, design elements, Navigation, vital content and the mobile site. The new site can be found at <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil>.