



Yellow Ribbon Program Hosts Fourth Advisory Board Meeting

The Yellow Ribbon Program's fourth Advisory Board meeting in October addressed critical issues facing the Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) as it continues to evolve. "We solicited input from the Board members on hosting Joint regional Yellow Ribbon Events and on measures of performance and effectiveness..." said Mr. Glenn F. Wellington, Jr., the YRP Executive Director. As a result, the Board tasked the YRP Office to work with Service Program Managers to develop measures of effectiveness; a course of action to plan and execute Joint events; and discuss these plans with each Reserve Service Chief.

This Board meeting marked the first time that Family members from the Reserve and National Guard were invited to attend and participate in the meeting. The Family members from the Army National Guard, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Air Force Reserve provided valuable perspectives on the Program and the challenges they faced during the deployment cycle. Family members from the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Air National Guard will be invited to attend the next meeting.

The purpose of the Board is to provide organizationally-independent counsel and recommends ways to improve the delivery of the Program's services. The Board is chaired by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Dr. Clifford L. Stanley and includes Senior leadership representatives from the Reserve Components, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, Small Business Administration, and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, plus other DoD advisory agencies. The next Advisory Board meeting will take place during the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2011.

State Specialist Program Expanding Across the Country

During the past 16 months, The Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) Office conducted a pilot program which placed 10 Program Specialists around the country to assist the Reserve Components with YRP. As a result of this highly successful pilot program, the YRP Office has expanded this program from 10 to 27 Program Specialists. They are located across the country in areas with dense populations of Reserve and National Guard Service and Family members. The Program Specialists supporting YRP Event Planners have played a large role in developing YR Programs, and facilitating Service collaboration. By expanding the program into a regional concept, these efforts can be conducted across the nation to enhance YRP.

This expansion increases YRP's ability to provide information on local, state, and federal programs and benefits available to Service and Family members throughout the deployment cycle. By dividing into four regions, (Northeast, Southeast, West, and Central) Program Specialists form an extensive nationwide network providing uniform and streamline information to Service members and their Families. It also gives additional support to Event Planners in planning and coordinating with, or identifying service providers for their Yellow Ribbon Events.

IN THIS ISSUE

Yellow Ribbon Program
Hosts Fourth Advisory
Board Meeting

State Specialist Program
Expanding Across the
Country

Partner Spotlight :
Project Y.E.S!

The Program Specialists are located in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, California (2), Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, and Washington. To locate a Program Specialist in your state or for more information, please contact the YRP Office at yrrp@osd.mil.



Partner Spotlight : Project Y.E.S!



Project Youth Extension Service (Y.E.S!) is a national service-related internship dedicated to delivering quality youth development programs to military Families. Project Y.E.S! interns facilitate dynamic, interactive activities designed to enhance leadership, life skills and other current issues.

Everyone feels the impact of military deployments and separations, but younger family members can be especially vulnerable. Launched publicly in December 2010, Project Y.E.S! focuses on the opportunity to assist Families during these difficult times. It also expands and enriches the efforts of programs like Yellow Ribbon and Operation: Military Kids as well as provides individually tailored one- and two-day events for Families impacted by military deployments. The program can also support other programs benefitting military Families and children (youth symposiums, teen leadership councils, youth camps, etc).

Project Y.E.S! interns are accomplished college students selected through a rigorous national recruiting and interview process. After selection, they receive education and training through the nationally acclaimed General H. Hugh Shelton Leadership Center. Upon completion, they are armed with high level training in leadership and youth development, group facilitation, and varied age-specific curricula. They are also supported by 4-H and Cooperative Extension System professionals.

We know military Families don't always live near a military installation, so Project Y.E.S! is fully mobile. Project Y.E.S! team members located across the nation, partner to bring the program to your meeting or event... That's right, we come to you! We're eager, we're mobile, and we're *free-of-charge!*

Project Y.E.S! stands ready to support your programs. Requests for support are already pouring in, so please don't delay!

Project Y.E.S! is made possible through a DoD and United States Department of Agriculture partnership, and is housed in the Department of 4-H Youth Development and Family and Consumer Sciences at North Carolina State University. Project Y.E.S! stands ready to support your programs. Requests for support are already pouring in, so please don't delay! To request support or learn more about Project Y.E.S! please visit us at: <http://militaryfamilies.extension.org/yes-intern-program>.



ABOUT YELLOW RIBBON

The Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) is a Department of Defense-wide effort to help National Guard and Reserve Service members and their Families connect with local resources before, during, and after deployments. Commanders and leaders play a critical role in assuring that Reserve Service members and their Families attend Yellow Ribbon Events where they can access information topics such as employment, health care, education/training opportunities, financial, and legal benefits. The Yellow Ribbon Program works in conjunction with Department of Defense and Federal partners, such as the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide up-to-date and relevant information to the members of the all-volunteer force and their Families.

The Yellow Ribbon Program is part of the Family and Employer Policy & Programs Directorate within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. For more information or to locate a Yellow Ribbon Event, visit www.yellowribbon.mil.