



A Message from Mr. Glenn Welling

Acting Executive Director of the DoD Yellow Ribbon Program



I'm proud to introduce the first issue of *The Ribbon*, a quarterly update from the DoD Yellow Ribbon Program Office. This electronic publication features news and information about the program and its partners for Commanders and leaders. It also highlights the successes that the Service Components are achieving in the field.

Since the program's inception in 2008, more than 2,200 Yellow Ribbon Events have been held providing needed information to 270,000 Service members and their families. I'm very proud of this achievement, and remind those of you in charge of caring for our National Guard and Reserve Service members and their families that we must continue building on this success.

I joined the DoD Yellow Ribbon Program in January, and since then have had the opportunity to attend several YRP events and witness the impact this program is having on the lives of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and their families. I look forward to seeing you at a Yellow Ribbon Event in the near future, and thank you for your ongoing support of our Service members and their families.

If you have feedback on the Yellow Ribbon Program or the newsletter, please contact Ms. Marie Balocki (marie.balocki@osd.mil), the Yellow Ribbon Program Outreach Director.

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WANTED DYNAMIC SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS

If you have witnessed a powerful presentation on deployment-related topics, we want to hear about it!

The Yellow Ribbon Program Office seeks dynamic speakers who are interested in participating in future Yellow Ribbon Events.

Fill out this brief recommendation form and send to Ms. Marie Balocki [marie.balocki@osd.mil], Yellow Ribbon Program Outreach Director.

DoD Yellow Ribbon Event Planning Tool

The Event Planning Tool is a Web-based Event Management Application that allows Commanders and leaders to plan, schedule, and conduct Yellow Ribbon events. Additionally, it gives National Guard and Reserve members – and their families – the ability to identify, register, and attend Yellow Ribbon events at a location most convenient for them.

The Event Planning Tool (www.yellowribbon.mil/events) mirrors Department of Defense guidance regarding how Yellow Ribbon events should be structured. It also offers assistance to Event Planners for coordinating the necessary resources, based on the stage of deployment when the event is being conducted.

Not sure where to start? Contact your Component's Yellow Ribbon Program Manager (www.yellowribbon.mil/contacts.html) for assistance.

DID YOU KNOW...

the Yellow Ribbon Event Planning Tools lists almost 600 Events in the 54 states and territories through November 2010?

Find an event near you!



Visit www.yellowribbon.mil/events to find an event near you!

Partner Spotlight : Department of Veterans Affairs Post - 9/11 GI Bill

The Yellow Ribbon Program relies on its partners to help provide National Guard and Reserve members, and their families, with information, services, referrals, and proactive outreach opportunities throughout the deployment cycle.

One of those partners, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), participates in most Yellow Ribbon Events by providing referrals, one-on-one consultations, assistance with VA form completion, and education on all available VA benefits, including the new Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, effective since August 1, 2009, provides eligible Service members with funds for tuition, housing allowance, and a stipend for books and supplies. Generally, Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are payable for 15 years after release from active duty, and up to 36 months of benefits may be provided through the program.



For more information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill and other VA education benefits, visit www.gibill.va.gov.

ABOUT YELLOW RIBBON

The Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) is a DoD-wide effort to help National Guard and Reserve Service members and their families connect with local resources before, during, and after deployments, especially during the reintegration phase that occurs months after Service members return home. 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 on health care, education/training opportunities, financial, and legal benefits. The DoD works in conjunction with Federal partners, including the Small Business Administration and Departments of Labor and 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 originates from the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. For more information or to locate an event, visit www.yellowribbon.mil.