

FAMILY TIES MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAM

August 2012

Volume 54



Family Program focusing on Community Collaboration

The Massachusetts National Guard Family Program's mission and commitment to our Servicemembers and Military Families has been enhanced and strengthened with the increase in regional community collaborations. The Family Assistance Center (FAC) team across Massachusetts has always partnered with these community based organizations that support our Military with the goal of improving Military Quality of Life.

To accomplish this, the Family Assistance Centers are venturing further into their respective communities to identify multitude of additional resources for Servicemembers and their Families. The FACs are constantly working on their partnerships with the Veteran Service Officer (VSO) and private organizations that assist the Military by improving this network of support for Veterans, Servicemembers and the Military Community. The FAC's goal is to connect Military Families with the best support avenues closest to them.

As these community collaborations continue to grow, the FACs work at educating these resources on the hot topics and challenges facing Massachusetts Servicemembers and Military Families; topics such as employment, homelessness and financial issues. Because of today's changing Military environment, the community collaborations supporting the need to adapt to those changes by addressing some of these challenges.

Some of the well known partnerships in Massachusetts that the Family Program is proud to have an established history with are already working at addressing some of these challenges. Partnerships such as the UMASS Ext, Operation Military Kids and the 4H Clubs continue to support with the deployment Hero Bags. Also, the Back to School Brigade, organized by Operation Homefront, which provides backpacks and school supplies from Dollar Tree Stores to children of all Massachusetts Military Families whose Servicemember is E-6 or below.

Due to the generosity and support of our partner organizations, the Family Program is able to provide quality services and programs to Military Families. On behalf of our Families and our Family Program Team, **"Thank You"** for all you do.



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Family Readiness

Family Care Plans



Mission readiness dictates that you must be ready to deploy throughout the world on short notice, and your ability to meet this requirement is directly linked to prior family care planning. A Family Care Plan is required for all single parent service members and dual military members to ensure that family members are adequately cared for when you are absent due to military commitments. In turn, you will be more productive and feel less family-related stress knowing that your family is taken care of at home.

A viable Family Care Plan takes time, organization, and careful planning. It is much more than completing a form for your unit to meet the requirement. You are responsible for keeping your Family Care Plan current and for providing your family or caregiver all the necessary information and documentation needed in your absence. Family Care Plans should include pertinent information specifying how you want family business conducted in your absence. Taking time to develop a well thought out plan now will ensure that your family members will have the best resources and care during your absence.

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In preparation for completing the form, consider the following recommendations:

- Short-term absences of 30 days or less
- Long-term absences of 31 days or longer
- Caregiver documentation
- Arrangements for child care, education, medical care, and family activities (sports, clubs, scouts)
- Outline the legal, logistical, educational, financial, and religious arrangements for the care of the family.
- Provide information on medical care
- Provide contact information for relatives, neighbors, and friends.
- Provide a list of military and community resources with points of contact and telephone numbers.



It is imperative that you keep the lines of communication open between your unit, family, caregiver, and specific agencies (medical, legal, education, religion). Share your Family Care Plan and discuss it thoroughly. The more your caregiver knows about your family dynamics, the smoother the transition will be during your absence. Include your children in the discussion. Their viewpoint is critical to the open communication and efficient transfer of responsibility from the parent to the guardian.

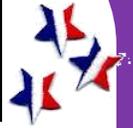
Most importantly, take this responsibility of having an accurate and complete Family Care Plan seriously. It represents the personal care and attention your family needs and deserves. For more information contact your unit or Family Readiness Support Assistant.





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Teen Council Applications Accepted Now!

Teen Council Application deadline is AUGUST 15, 2012. This summer we are forming the Massachusetts National Guard Teen Council. It will consist of teen volunteers from across the commonwealth. The council will act in an advisory role to support Guard members and their families, and most importantly, their youth. Teens between the ages of 13-17, going into grades 9-12 for the coming school year who have a connection to a Massachusetts National Guard member are eligible to apply for this state leadership position. All teens Applications are available through the Child and Youth Program Office. Please contact Susan or Debbie if you would like to receive and application.



Operation Youth Deployment Days

The 972 MP Co, 181 EN, 181 Detachment and 182 Sappers jointly held a very successful Operation Youth Deployment day on July 21st. Volunteers from the units manned stations where the kids were able to run an obstacle course, eat MRE's, put on camouflage, and try on some ACU's. There was even a section to show the kids how soldiers live "in the field". Operation Military Kids provided a button making station, a hat and T-shirt making station, and a magic wallet station. The Frank E. Demars Post 235 American Legion provided some great snacks and pizza for all. Everyone had fun and of course the kids went home with lots of goodies!

Volunteer Youth Coordinator Training

On July 22nd, Susan and Debbie held training on the new direction of our State Child and Youth Program. Va Shon Hiltbold from OMK engaged the volunteers in some team building exercises. After everyone got to know one another, Rebecca Jennings from Military One Source (MOS) talked about how MOS can help enhance the coordinators ability to do their job successfully. Susan and Debbie then filled the group in on where we are headed in the next year. Some great ideas were gained from the round table discussion during which the volunteers voiced their training and resource needs. For any Volunteer Youth Coordinator who was not able to make it to this training, we're looking at presenting the information via webinar.



Family Assistance - What's Happening Around the State

Worcester Family Assistance — Stephanie Winslow



D Co of the 223 MI BN is off and running with their 12 month deployment to Kosovo. The families are adjusting to their new routines and so far things seem to be going fairly smoothly for all affected. Should you come across an issue or hard day, feel free to reach out to the Worcester office. Family program staff is here to support you through this complex and exciting year.

The FRG is working on their yearlong calendar of events that start next month, so keep an eye out. But if you should have any questions, want to volunteer with them or have any ideas you can contact them via email at dco223mibnfrg@gmail.com

The Worcester FAC office is also reaching out within the community of Central Massachusetts and Worcester County so be sure to like Stephanie's Facebook page for the latest messages, services and resources for Military and Veteran Families.

Springfield Family Assistance — Jennifer Remillard

The **182nd ENG** will be hosting an ice cream social/school supply event on Saturday, August 25th at the Newburyport Elks Lodge Pavilion. Please RSVP to Kathy at 182ENGCOFRG@comcast.net.

The Families of the **182nd ENG** attended an amazing Retreat at the Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center on Sunday, July 28th. The event included yoga, military family scrapbooking, information and presentation on healthy cooking during stressful times, labyrinth walks and several other activities for all to enjoy. Thanks to all of the volunteers who donated their time for this great event.

The Operation Youth Deployment Day for the **182nd ENG, 181 ENG, 181 ENG DET and the 972 MPs** on Saturday, July 14th was a huge success. Many Families came out to enjoy this fantastic, fun filled day. Thanks to all of those who helped pull it off!

Save the Dates!

We are in the home stretch for the **182nd Sappers Homecoming!**

The Reunion Brief for the **182nd ENG DET** will be held on Sunday, September 30th in Florence.

The Reunion Brief for the **182nd ENG (Newburyport)** will be held on Sunday, October 14th in Wellesley. Stay tuned for more details to follow.

Back to school is almost here! Stop by the Springfield FAC office to pick up your school supplies. Please call the Springfield FAC to schedule a time to stop in. The school supplies are courtesy of donations by Operation Homefront and Dollar Tree Stores.



Milford Family Assistance — Charlie Pinder

There are still plenty of Dollar Tree school supplies available for pick-up. These were generously donated by the Dollar Tree stores and their patrons in conjunction with Operation Military Kids. Families may pick them up Monday – Friday from 7AM – 3 PM, and on 25 Aug from 9AM – 1 PM at the Milford Family Assistance Center office.

The Family Assistance Center Specialist will be on hand at the "Town Hall" meeting for the **CBWTU** of Massachusetts on August 6th in Concord, MA. If you are not able to attend and have questions regarding the Support for Families of Wounded Warriors, please contact Charlie Pinder at (508) 233-7358 or by email at Charles.pinder@us.army.mil.

The **126 Military History Detachment** is doing well and are expected to return soon. In anticipation of their homecoming there will be a Reunion meeting held for the Families. Details will be provided as soon as possible.

Family Assistance - What's Happening Around the State (cont.)

Wellesley Family Assistance — Dawn Wetherbee

The **972 MP Company** is finishing up their mobilization in Mississippi. All Families have received a letter or a phone call from the Wellesley FAC, Dawn Wetherbee, introducing you to the Family Program. The 972 MP Company had their OYD day in Marlborough on the 21st of July. There was a great turnout and all of the children participating had a great time. The FRG will be holding their first Meeting virtually with the Military OneSource Representative. Please keep a close eye out for an email from the FRG team to let you know the time and date of the first meeting. If you have any questions please contact me, Dawn Wetherbee at 508-233-7221 or at dawn.wetherbee@us.army.mil.

Taunton Family Assistance — George Pontes

The **181st Vertical Engineers Co** had a busy month in July. They held a Family Readiness Check on July 14th at Camp Edwards. The briefing was well attended by both adults and children. A morning of information for the grown-ups and bowling by the kids was followed up by the unit Family Day. For those Families unable to attend, the information packets will be available at the Send Off. On July 21st many families packed the kids up and headed off to the Operation Youth Deployment Day. There were many creative "camouflage" patterns sported by the kids as they went from station to station. A very special shout-out goes to 2LT Bower and PFC Meucci who provided the tent, cots, HMMVW as well as setting up and running the obstacle course for the kids to run through. The next big event is right around the corner as the Send Off has been scheduled for Labor Day weekend at Camp Edwards. The 181 Eng Vert T-Shirts are in and will be for sale at the Send Off. A table with donated Back to School supplies will be available too. If you need further details or have any questions please contact George, the Family Assistance Center Specialist, (FAC) at (508) 823-0891 or george.pontes@us.army.mil. You can also contact one of the Family Readiness Group leaders at dee1992@aol.com, ChelLee35@verizon.net, donoghue42801@yahoo.com, bdebeaucourt@comcast.net, or Terri.lyn@me.com.

"Dog" Company, 1-182nd INF held their Family Day in July at Myles Standish State Park and it was a great success. Thank you to everyone who participated and gave of their time. The unit is looking for some new leadership in the FRG as our Chairpersons have been reassigned and cannot continue. If you have any interest please let Bethany, George or SFC Mahan know, we will be happy to talk to you about what the job entails. The Middleboro VFW is hosting a fund raiser this month for a D Co Soldier. More info is available through the unit or VFW. If you have any questions, ideas, want to participate or join the e-mail roster, please contact George at (508) 823-0891 or george.pontes@us.army.mil anytime.

387th EOD Families will be receiving a Reunion Pamphlet by August 15th. The Reunion Guide has a great deal of info relating to Reintegration from many sources. It has been reviewed and all info is up to date. George will calling after that date to answer any questions you may have after reviewing it. As we get closer to the return of the Soldiers more accurate information will be available to you. If you have any questions or ideas please contact the FAC, George, or Becca at beccawalters@comcast.net anytime.

FAC Quick Finder

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WING Family Programs



104th Fighter Wing—Barnes ANGB

Sandy Wakefield, Wing Family Program Coordinator



The 104 Fighter Wing welcomed home over 200 deployed member on July 10, 2012. Over 300 family members, relatives and friends gathered in the hangar to await their arrival. Sponge Bob also made an appearance and entertained the children while they awaited the arrival of the plane. General Gary Keefe and many dignitaries from Western Massachusetts were on hand as well to greet the troops. The Family Readiness Group was also in attendance providing information for families and meeting many of the loved ones they had been in contact with during the deployment. The Pioneer Valley USO provided refreshments for everyone and greeted the troops when they arrived.

Family Day for the 104 Fighter Wing will be held on August 12, 2012. All members and their families are invited to attend a fun filled afternoon. There will be Car Seat checks, bounce houses, bead making, button making, informational booths such as the Red Cross, CHIPS, OMK and many more. The Family Readiness Group will be distributing back to school supplies as well as offering cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn free to all. There will be sporting events for adults and children, basketball, volleyball, kick ball and other children's activities. The children will be able to participate in a Fun Run which will happen just before a three mile race for adults. Another offering will be an Antique Car Show with current and retired members showing off their wonderful Antique Cars. The Pioneer Valley USO will provide entertainment for the afternoon and also desserts after lunch. A great burger burn is scheduled to run for most of the afternoon. It will be a fun day for all.



102nd Intelligence Wing (102IW) Erin Creighton, Wing Family Program Coordinator

Cape Cod Stand Down 2012

Saturday, August 11, 2012 from 10:00am – 4:00pm

Cape Cod Academy, 50 Osterville-West Barnstable Road
Osterville, MA

Free: Food & Clothing, Acupuncture, Health Care Services,
Job Fair, Housing Resources, Massage, Personal Care Items,
Counseling, Legal Services, RMV Access

The Nam Vets Association in partnership with Duffy Health Center are pleased to bring the very first Stand Down to Cape Cod. A number of medical and alternative therapy providers will be present and this will very much be a hands-on day. There will be assistance with housing issues, enrollment in healthcare, enrollment in our food pantry as well as information on home buying. Spend the day with us, have some fun and be with other veterans and their families.

More than 30 local Service Organizations will be in attendance! Transportation available if needed. Lunch will be provided.

For Information or Registration, contact Allison Fennell, of [Duffy Healthy Center](#), at 508-771-9599 x271 or Merrill Blum, of [NamVets](#) at 508-778-1590 x11

Save the DATE!

Sunday September 16th
102nd IW Family Day at
Otis ANG Base!

Food, Fun, Games & More!
Stay tuned for more details.



Schedule of Events August 2012

- **4 Aug** - Volunteer Leadership Training, Wellesley
- **6 Aug** - CBWTU-MA Town Hall Meeting
- **11 Aug** - Cape Cod Stand Down
- **12 Aug** - 104 FW Family Day
- **13 Aug** - Coast to Coast Job Fair
- **13 Aug** - Boston Career Fair
- **15 Aug** - Teen Council Application Deadline
- **15 Aug** - Diversity Job Fair
- **18 Aug** - Artist for a Day at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- **19 Aug** - Back to School Brigade, Wellesley
- **21-23 Aug** - Military.com Virtual Career Fair
- **21 Aug** - Milicruit Virtual Career Fair
- **22 Aug** - Summer Job Fair
- **23 Aug** - Targeted Job Fairs
- **24-26 Aug** - "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage"
- **25 Aug** - 182 EN Ice Cream Social, Newburyport
- **25 Aug** - School Supplies pick-up, Milford FAC
- **29 Aug** - Dice Career Fair

AUGUST 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5	6 	7	8	9	10	11
12 	13	14	15 	16	17	18 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 
26 	27	28	29	30	31	

For more information on any of the listed events, please contact your local Family Assistance Specialist!

SEPTEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 	12	13	14	15
16 	17 	18	19	20	21	22 
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 						

Plan Ahead! Schedule of Events September 2012

- **3 Sept** - Labor Day
- **11 Sept** - Patriot Day
- **16 Sept** - 102IW Family Day
- **17 Sept** - Registration opens, Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- **22 Sept** - First Day of Autumn
- **30 Sept** - 182 EN DET Reunion Brief
- **30 Sept** - Gold Star Mother's Day





DEERS is Key to Your Benefits!

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. The following overview will assist you in registering for DEERS and verifying and updating your DEERS information.

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.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- Each family member's eligibility record must be updated separately when changes occur.
- Any changes that impact you or your family (e.g., marriage, birth, divorce, death) need to be reported to DEERS so that eligibility can start or stop under DoD and Service guidance.
- If you are active duty and re-enlist, separate, retire, or move, make sure your information gets updated in DEERS as soon as possible. If you do not, you and your family might experience a break in eligibility, which means a break in health care coverage.
- As soon as you re-enlist, take your reenlistment paper to your personnel support center or ID card facility so your information can be updated before your previous enlistment expires rather than waiting for the paperwork to go through distribution.
- Once you retire, you need to make sure DEERS reflects your change from active duty to retiree status.

Note: If you or your family were previously TRICARE Prime under your active duty status, you need to re-enroll in TRICARE Prime under your retiree status. Contact the regional managed care support contractor (MCSC) in your retirement location to find out if TRICARE Prime is offered in your retirement area ZIP code.

It is important to update your and your family's home addresses because TRICARE Program information will be sent to that address.

If you have a child that is over age 21 and a full-time student, you need to get his or her student status entered into DEERS so that TRICARE eligibility is not interrupted and access to health care is not lost.

For more information or question please contact your nearest personnel services department or our Family Program Milford FAC, Charlie Pinder at Charles.pinder@us.army.mil or by phone at (508) 233-7358.



Marriage Enrichment (Strong Bonds) WORKSHOP: The PREP® Approach

The Family Program and the Chaplain's Office have teamed up to offer you outstanding weekend retreats for Couples, for Families and for single Service Members under the national Strong Bonds program - **all FREE TO YOU!**

Upcoming Strong Bonds weekend:

August 24-26 - "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage"

Registrations will be accepted on a first come-first serve basis. Please enroll through the State Family Program Office as soon as possible.

CH (CPT) Jeremy Pickens at 508-233-7163/ jeremy.pickens@us.army.mil or
SGT Sharee Holmes at 508-233-7220/ sharee.holmes@us.army.mil.

You can also visit: www.strongbonds.org.



August 2012 Job & Career Fairs!

We have so many job fairs coming this month from the DOL, Hiring our Heroes, Millicruit, Chamber of Commerce, Military.com, Monster and more! Please be sure to visit the links and pre-register when possible to ensure that you receive maximum exposure of your credentials to participating companies. Hiring companies will have access to the resume submitted with your pre-registration before and after the career fair. Pre-registering also gets you into the event faster and does not require on-site registration. This holds true for virtual and traditional career fairs.



August 13, 2012 11-2 PM

Coast-To-Coast Job Fair

Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 50 Park Plaza at Arlington Street, Boston, MA

Preregistration: http://www.coasttocoastcareerfairs.com/career_fairs/details/MA/Boston/August/13/2012/

August 13, 2012 11-2 PM

Boston Career Fair

Revere Hotel, 200 Stuart Street, Boston, MA

Preregistration: http://www.nationalcareerfairs.com/career_fairs/details/MA/Boston/August/13/2012/

August 15, 2012 10-2 PM

Diversity Job Fair

Westin Copley Plaza, 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA

Information: <http://www.diversityjobfairs.com/JobSeeker/viewEvent.asp?eid=780>

August 21-23, 2012

Military.com Virtual Career Fair

To Register: www.veteransvirtualcareerfair.com

August 21, 2012

Nationwide Virtual Career Fair

Brought to you by Millicruit

Register: www.veteranscareerfair.com

August 22, 2012

Summer Job Fair

Four Points Sheraton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster

Exclusive Veterans "Meet and Greet" with employers beginning at 8:30AM BEFORE the doors open!!!

August 23, 2012 11-3 PM

Targeted Job Fairs (Tech/Eng/Sec Clearance)

Boston Marriott Burlington, One Mall Road, Burlington, 01803

Preregister: <http://www.targetedjobfairs.com/tjf/preregister/?eventid=3852>

August 29, 2012 10-3 PM

Dice Career Fair for Technology and Engineering Professions

Virtual Career Fair-East Coast

Technology and Engineering Employment

<http://www.targetedjobfairs.com/tjf/events/detail.jsp?eventid=3853>

Massachusetts ESGR

Ellie Cash, Program Support Specialist
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Massachusetts ESGR has consistent job opening and career fair announcements!

Visit <http://maesgr.com/> for the latest information.

NEW Veterans-themed License Plate Unveiled

Massachusetts drivers can now show their support on their cars as Veteran groups unveiled a Veteran-themed license plate available at the Registry of Motor Vehicles:

<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/rmv/>.

The new license plate depicts a Soldier kneeling before a flag that represents the three longest wars in the last hundred years of American history – those are the wars of Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. This license plate will be available for purchase to everyone in the state and up to half of that money will go toward the New England Center for Homeless Veterans, Operation Troop Support, and Fisher House; three organizations that assist Veterans and their Families. If you would like to order a plate, visit www.supportourvets.org.



There's a Hanscom app for that



Want to know what events are going on at Hanscom? Download the Hanscom community base app and see what's happening with different organizations on base. The new mobile application, part of an Air Force-wide initiative, called My Military Communities or MyMC2. The app is a free download and is now available through both the Android Market and Apple's App Store.

To download the app, users should open their smartphone app store and search "My Military Communities" or "MyMC2."

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

All military-connected youth in grades 7 through 12 are invited to submit original art and writing to the 2013 Awards to compete for regional and national awards and scholarships (over \$25 million offered in the past five years).

Registration opens 17 September 2012.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are the nation's largest and most prestigious source of recognition and scholarships for creative teens. To learn more apply online at: www.artandwriting.org



Museum of Fine Arts presents Artist for a Day!

Please join us for a fun-filled day at the MFA on Saturday, August 18, 2012! Children between the ages of 3 and 15, along with accompanying family members, are invited to explore and look at some of the amazing artwork in the Museum's collections and then create their own masterpiece to take home.

Upon arrival children will be divided into groups by age and have the opportunity to explore some of the galleries for an hour with Museum instructors. Toward the end of their gallery exploration they will be able to make a sketch of their favorite gallery piece. Afterward, everyone will meet in the studio and Museum instructors will guide the group in an art-making activity for an hour. For younger children a story will be read to the group before the tour.

The Artist for a Day Program is FREE for active service men and women and their immediate family members. Parking will be complimentary as part of this program.

To register, please call 617-369-3303 or e-mail artfuladventures@mfa.org. Registration must be received by August 6, 2012

These announcements are provided for the benefit of members of the National Guard. It is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by the Massachusetts National Guard, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the United States Armed Forces. Any participation is solely the responsibility of the individual.

104 FW Homecoming



Operation Youth Deployment Day 972 MP, 181 EN, 181 DET, 182 Sappers



AUGUST 2012

**MASACHUSETTS
NATIONAL GUARD
FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE**



**Find Family Program
on Facebook!**



**Email or write to us.
Your opinions matter!**

Helpful Websites

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

Concordia Dental Plan

www.ucci.com

DEERS

www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/

EANGUS

www.eangus.org

ESGR

www.esgr.org

Guard Support of MA

www.guardsupport.org

Legal Services

www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal

Military Friends Foundation

www.militaryfriends.org

Military Child Care

www.naccrra.org

Military One Source

www.militaryonesource.com

NGB Family Online Community

www.guardfamily.org

Operation Military Kids

www.operationmilitarykids.org

Tri-Care Information

www.tricare.osd.mil

USFamily Health Plan

www.usfamilyhealth.org

Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov

Veterans Affairs Kids K-12

www.va.gov/kids

Youth Online Community

www.guardfamilyyouth.org

MANG Family Program

<http://www.massguardfamily.org>

Important Numbers

Taunton Armory

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Springfield Armory

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Tel# 508-233-7950 Fax# 508-233-7975

Wellesley Armory

14 Minuteman Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481
Tel# 508-233-7221 Fax# 508-233-7232

102D Intelligence Wing (102IW) Family Program Office

Otis Air National Guard Base
58 Reilly St, Box 70 Otis ANG Base, MA 02542
Tel# 508-968-4855

Reading Armory

25 Haverhill Street, Reading, MA 01867
Tel# 508-233-7444 Fax# 508-233-7441

Worcester Armory

50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, MA 01605
Tel# 508-753-3164 Fax# 508-753-3165

Milford Armory Headquarters

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