Yellow Ribbon program available for deploying reservists, families

Senior Airman Joe Yanik 512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

 $The \ Yellow \ Ribbon \ Reintegration \ Program \ is \ a \ congress-approved \ support service designed to assist reservists and their families who are transitioning between their military and civilian roles- before, during and after deployments.$

The YRRP hosts a series of events that take place during key stages in the deployment cycle of an eligible reservist. These events take place every month at select locations throughout the country.

An eligible reservist is a member who is called to active duty to support a deployment of 90 days or more during a 12-month period, either in or outside the continental U.S., that results in a separation from their family for the duration of the tour.

Reservists and their families may attend one or several YRRP events to learn about a variety of support services available to them, said Senior Master Sgt. Larry Reed, the 512th Airlift Wing YRRP representative.

The member and designated guests can attend events together during pre-deployment and post-deployment phases; designated guests can also

attend events while the member is away. The member and his guests are not responsible for any travel and lodging costs or for attending the events.

"Subject matter experts (at the events) are available to provide information and assistance on legal and financial matters, education benefits through Veterans Affairs, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and various counseling services to name a few," said Reed.

Attendees from the wing should go to these events with an open mind," said Reed. "So, they can learn how to take advantage of the benefits that exist for family members of reservists who have been activated."

Master Sgt. Hakim Tutt, 512th AW career assistance advisor, traveled with his parents to a YRRP event in Orlando, Fla., in 2011 after he returned home from a fourmonth deployment to Southwest Asia.

"I didn't even know I was supposed to register with Veterans Affairs when I came back from my deployment," said Tutt. "Now that I am registered, if any medical issues come up

in the future that may have begun during my deployment, the VA now has a record of the dates I was away."

Interested reservists and families, like the Tutts, can verify eligibility and register for future YRRP events by contacting the wing's YRRP representative at (302) 677-3566.

Get picture with Santa

Santa and Mrs. Claus are scheduled to make a stop here between noon and 4 p.m. Sunday to pose for photographs with children of military members.

Children and teenagers under the age of 18 are invited to have their picture taken with the visitors on a C-17 aircraft.

Guests will be required to select a time slot for the event. To register online, visit the 512th Airman and Family Readiness Enterprise Information Management site. For questions about this event, call the 512th AF&R at (302) 677-3120.

Guest speaker briefs AFSA

The Vice Chairman of the International Legislative Committee for the Air Force Sergeants Association is scheduled to give a briefing on a vast array of issues beneficial to Airmen 10 a.m. Saturday at the 3rd Airlift Squadron auditorium on base.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. James E. Lokovic will address topics ranging from the impact of the current fiscal situation on the careers of military members to how private military associations influencing on the lives of military members.

Master Sgt. David Jackson, 512th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is the event point of contact and can be reached at (302) 677-5908.

DFAC serves holiday meal

The 512th Airlift Wing's Holiday Meal is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Patterson Dining Facility.

The menu includes:

- roast turkey and gravy,
- baked ham and roast beef;
- mashed and sweet potatoes and
- pies and cake.

Commanders and first sergeants are scheduled to serve the meals.

Just a click away

Transition Assistance Program mandatory for some reservists

New aviator retention program expands eligibility

Air Force meets recruiting goal for fiscal 2012

DTS training available

The staff of the 512th Lead Defense Travel Administration invites travelers to attend a Defense Travel System training seminar Saturday at the base theater. The first class is scheduled for 9 a.m., and the second class is scheduled for 1 p.m. Each session is expected to last about an hour.