

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

∞ MILITARY CHILDREN ∞



ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD ~Education Outreach Program~



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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE
ILLINOIS ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
1301 North MacArthur Boulevard, Springfield, Illinois 62702-2399

August 23, 2011

Dear Administrators, Teachers and Counselors:

It has been 10 years since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Since that infamous date, National Guard and Reserve service members have deployed in record numbers – more than at any time since World War II.

With less than 1 percent of the U.S. population serving in the military, most do not realize the effects of war on military families. Our military children are suffering emotionally and behaviorally after multiple separations due to deployments. Educators are struggling to help children cope with separation, behavioral management, lack of structure at home, readjustment of a returning parent, and a society where images of war are on the local news.

We want to improve our local communities by helping these families. The Illinois National Guard placed resources across the state to aid and assist families and educators at all levels to improve and understand the necessity of family resiliency.

In September 2010, we began our Education Outreach program. This spring it was recognized as a best practice by the Second Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden. Our goal is to ensure educators know what resources are available to the sons and daughters of service members who attend their schools. Through this program, the Illinois National Guard Family Program provides you with information and resources on the impact of deployment or state active duty on our families.

The Illinois National Guard needs your support to continue these efforts. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you in providing the necessary resiliency and coping skills for your military children. Thank you for inviting us into your school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Enyart".

WILLIAM L. ENYART
Major General, ILARNG
The Adjutant General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2011

Governor Quinn Takes Action to Protect Veterans and Support Military Families
Three New Laws Support Servicemembers and Their Families

SPRINGFIELD – August 23, 2011. As part of his ongoing commitment to servicemembers and their families, Governor Pat Quinn today signed three laws that will protect Veterans and support military families.

“Our servicemembers are the heart and soul of Illinois,” Governor Quinn said. “Whether they are returning home from service or defending our country overseas, we want them to feel confident that they and their families are taken care of back home.”

Sponsored by Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia (D-Aurora) and Sen. David Koehler (D-Pekin), House Bill 2870 will provide schools with another way to identify students with active duty parents and provide much-needed counseling and support. The new law requires K-12 public and private schools to allow students to voluntarily identify themselves as having parents actively serving in the armed forces. This allows the school to provide counseling and support for students whose parents are currently or will soon be deployed.

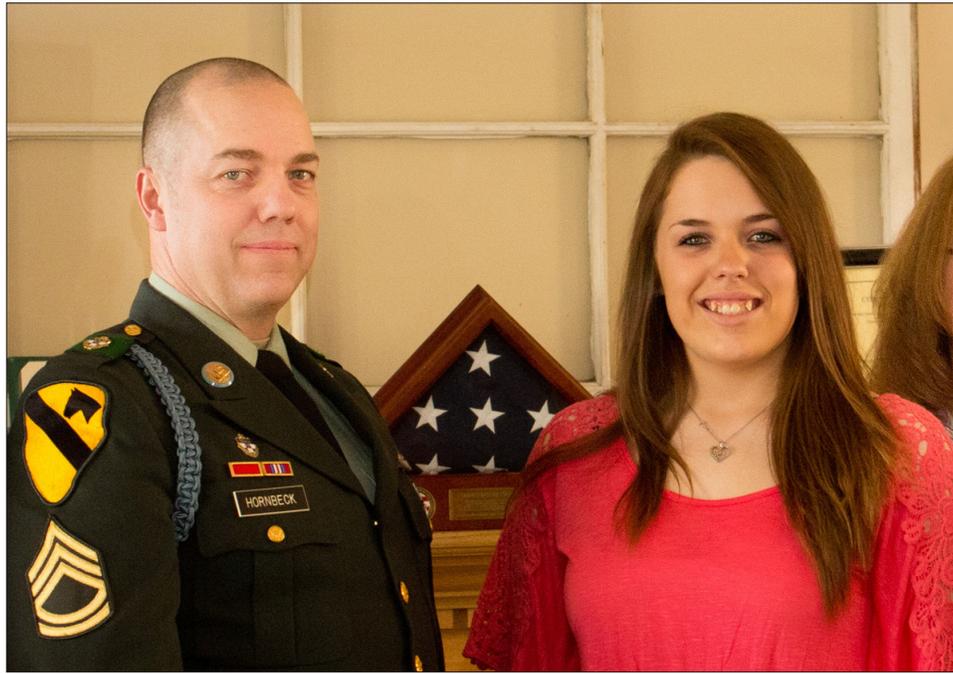
“Governor Quinn stands with Veterans and their families on military issues, and we will continue to fight together to improve life for our Veterans,” Rep. Chapa LaVia said. “This new law will help make sure that we are giving the children of servicemembers the support they need.”

House Bill 3255 allows Illinois State Police troopers, Illinois National Guard members and volunteer nonprofits serving small populations to apply to a fee waiver for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. Sponsored by Rep. Donald Moffitt (R-Galesburg) and Sen. Carole Pankau (R-Bloomington), this bill will encourage more first responders, including state troopers and members of the National Guard, to complete additional emergency medical training and become certified EMTs, which will also improve unit safety when servicemembers are deployed.

“Many times, troopers, volunteer ambulance members, volunteer firefighters or members of the National Guard are the first to reach a victim of an accident, disaster or other situation involving life-threatening injuries.” Rep. Moffitt said “The more emergency medical training they have, the better they will be able to help until paramedics or doctors can take over.”

Sponsored by Sen. Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago) and Rep. Kevin McCarthy (D-Orland Park), Senate Bill 1672 requires all pension funds and retirement systems to comply with the federal Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (HEART ACT). This law ensures that additional tax and pension benefits are granted to Illinois servicemembers who are absent from work due to duty in uniformed military service.

The new laws all take effect immediately.



Angela's English Paper

The following was written by Angela Hornbeck for an English assignment. She is the daughter of SFC Bill Hornbeck, who deployed to Afghanistan in 2008-2009 with the 178th Infantry Regiment, Illinois Army National Guard

You wake up in a comfortable bed. You get into a hot shower, brush your teeth with clean water, and put on a clean pair of clothes. You get to eat a good breakfast, and then start the rest of your day. You get to go sit in at a desk at school and educate yourself without having to worry about being in danger. After school, you go to basketball practice, do homework, or hang out with your friends. After a long day, you get to spend time with your family. By that time, it's just about time for bed. This sounds like a typical day of an American teenager, not a worry in the world...

Across the world, it's 0600 hours, March 15, 2009 in Nangarhar, Afghanistan. It was a hot and sunny day outside. Members of the PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) Nangarhar and their SECFOR (Security Forces), and two trucks from Hot Rod 5 are preparing to visit and assess schools in Kot, Afghanistan. Meanwhile, other PRT members and elements of Hot Rod 5 are preparing to convoy to a nearby base to pick up mail and supplies. While they were at the base picking up mail, soldiers took turns guarding vehicles

and weapons while others visited the PX (Post Exchange) and picked up items they don't have access to every day such as snacks, toothpaste, shampoo and other things. Others went to retrieve the mail. Hot Rod 2 was one of the men that were guarding the trucks when another soldier mentioned, "Someone must be in trouble, the MEDEVAC (Medical evacuation) crews are in a hurry." Moments later, two Blackhawk helicopters lifted off to go help the soldiers that were in trouble. After that, they pulled the truck up to the post office and began loading mail. That's when the Team Leader, Hot Rod 2 Bravo ran up and told Hot Rod 2 that the MEDEVAC had just left and was heading to help Hot Rod 5. Their lead truck had just run over an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). They stopped loading mail and rallied the rest of the soldiers to head back to base and wait for news about their friends. Once they returned, Hot Rod 2 was instructed to gather all of the soldiers and collect all cell phones while outside internet access was turned off. This is known as a media blackout. This usually means that someone

is dead or wounded and they don't want anyone back home to find out before Military officials have notified the next of kin. As the soldiers were gathered, everyone was quiet and fearing what news might come. One of the officers came in and tried to find the strength to deliver the news that two of their friends were killed and others were seriously injured. The casualties were flown to a nearby hospital. Over the next few hours, word came that the two wounded soldiers died from their wounds. It was the darkest day of Hot Rod 2's career. Few words were spoken as members of the PRT Nangarhar mourned the loss of their brothers.

I woke up that morning at 6:30 A.M. to get ready for school. I took a nice hot shower, brushed my teeth, and put on a clean pair of clothes. After that, I got a ride to school from my neighbor Angel. I went through my normal day of school and everything was the same as always. During my 6th hour art class, Mrs. Banks paged me down to the office. The first thought in my head was that something bad had happened, so I got very nervous. I asked what was wrong and she told me that my dad was okay, but we had lost four

soldiers. I would tell you how the rest of my day went, but it was all a blur. All I remember was crying for days. It amazed me how people that I personally knew had made the ultimate sacrifice so that everyone else and I could live in freedom. The difference between most teenagers and I is that I don't take my warm bed, my education, or even spending time with my family for granted. I know that I have these luxuries all because these people that put their life on the line for us each and every day.

These four men, along with millions of other U.S. soldiers and their allies have made the ultimate sacrifice for over three hundred years so we can sit in school and get an education. They fight for us to live in freedom every single day. They fight to defend their country in hopes of preventing another terrorist attack. They fight so we don't have to. These brave men and women do the unthinkable every single day of their lives, so we at least owe them some respect. I believe that we can never thank them enough for all that they have and continue to do for us. By the way, Hot Rod 2 is my father, SFC Hornbeck.

➤ The intent of this information is to provide guidance to leaders in the education system about the military, military children and the issues that may arise from the deployment of a military parent(s). This collection of information should also be used as a resource to learn what signs to look for when a military child may have an issue, different suggestions as to how to approach a military child and tend to their needs.

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For Questions or Concerns Contact the
Illinois Military Education Outreach Coordinator
Office: 217-761-3842