



FRG FAMILY READINESS GROUP

Newsletter Date
APRIL



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Welcome Home Preparations

At this writing the FRG Council has begun making plans to welcome our soldiers home. Two welcomes are currently in the works, one at Volk Field, WI when their plane arrives from Kuwait and the second at North Riverside when they return from Ft McCoy.

The Volk Field Welcome will be only a short 1 – 1 ½ hour visit when the soldiers arrive back in the states. This welcome requires extensive coordination. The only way visitors will be allowed at Volk Field is if they are on buses authorized to enter the facility. Buses will leave North Riverside taking families to the airfield in Wisconsin. Additional buses are being arranged to transport families that drive to Wisconsin from a central meeting point to the airfield. Arrangements are also being planned for the families of our attached soldiers from downstate.

Since the flights from Kuwait are not scheduled and the exact date and time of their arrival will not be known until the plane is in the air. This will require that everyone attending be notified quickly and then get their bus on time to ensure that we arrive before our soldiers. Anyone that would like to join us at Volk Field must contact the Council (frg1244tc@yahoo.com) or call a Council member with the names, 2 phone numbers to reach you to notify you of time and date, your soldier's name, and where you will join us (Armory or meeting point near Volk Field) by Saturday April 3rd. It is imperative that we have these names so that we have the correct number of buses available

We must reiterate there will be only 1 – 1 ½ hour so visit with the returning soldiers. No one will be permitted to visit their soldier while they are being processed at Ft McCoy. Attempts to visit will only result in all our soldiers being delayed in their return home.

The North Riverside Welcome will be more of the same, last minute notice but without the 3-4 hour drive. We expect to be notified of their scheduled travel times in advance but this is not definite. At North Riverside we expect to have a few snacks and beverages, a police escort to the armory and lots of people with welcome signs, etc. We do not anticipate any lengthy ceremony but also do not know how long the soldiers will be required to stay at the armory that day.

This Friday (April 2nd) at our regularly scheduled Pizza Night we will be making welcome signs to be used for both welcomes. Please join us for this fun event.



Demobilization Briefing

Our National Guard higher headquarters, the 733rd QM BN is arranging Demobilization Briefings Saturday, April 3rd at the Armory in North Riverside everyone is encouraged to attend. Important information regarding your soldier's redeployment will be provided for families. Additional information about the event will be available in a separate mailing from the battalion.

IN MEMORY OF

SSG Ivory L Phipps Sr.

SSG Ivory L. Phipps reenlisted in the 1244th Transportation Company in February 2003. When the 1544th Trans CO was mobilized in December 18 soldiers were transferred from the 1244th to be deployed with them.

Wednesday, March 17th during a mortar attack at a base outside of Baghdad SSG Phipps was fatally wounded. In recognition of his efforts to warn another soldier of danger SSG Phipps was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star.

SSG Phipps is survived by LaToya Ragsdale, his fiancée, a 15-month-old son and 4 adult children. All families of the 1244th express our sincere condolences to the Phipps family.

Comments From LT Petersen

Not available at press time

If you have an email address, please let us know. This information is very important to us. Contact us by emailing the FRG at frg1244tc@yahoo.com as soon as possible. In the subject box write:

Family of 1244th email address request.

Be sure to include your full name, your soldier's name, your relation to the soldier, and your phone number so we can reach you if we have any questions. Thank you so much. **AS CONFUSING AS IT SEEMS WE ARE NOW BACK ON YAHOO! EMAIL IS THE MOST EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER AND OTHER INFORMATION.**

<http://yahoogroups.com>

<http://www.il.ngb.mil.1244/trans>

Family Readiness Conference 2004

The 15th Annual Illinois National Guard Family Readiness Conference will be held April 23-25 in Champaign, IL. The conference is open to ALL Army civilian volunteers. Volunteers must have a Volunteer Agreement on file with the State and must complete Level 1 of the Army Family Team Building program on the internet. (<http://www.armyfamilyteambuilding.org/home.asp>), if these requirements are met funding for lodging at the conference is available. The cost to those attending will be \$25 registration and meals (except continental breakfast) both lodging and mileage will be reimbursed.

This is a very good conference for all FRG volunteers. Last years conference consisted of many very important and educational sessions. As the 1244ths FRG evolves into a new area of Family Readiness during non-deployed times this years conference will be very important to those family members that will carry on the FRG mission.

If you are interested in learning more about this conference and are considering attending, please contact Bob Brown (630) 393-1413 or frg1244@yahoo.com.

IG Tip of the Week # 73 - Army One Source

The Army has recently stood up a program called Army One Source, which is designed to assist soldiers and family members with a host of topics. They offer a 24hr/7 day a week toll free number (800-464-8107) in which callers can actually talk with a live person and not a recording. This is a great tool for unit family support groups to share.

This free service offers referrals to military and community resources such as credit counseling, basic legal information, day care and school information and other local community services that service members may not be aware of. They also have a very useful website at <http://www.armyonesource.com>.

It will ask you for a User ID, type in "ARMY"; it will also ask for a password, type in "ONESOURCE".

Site for local tax help

You can refer to the above site for tax assistance for military personnel.

<http://www.cpaspi.org/icpas/consumer/military.asp>

Chicago Land CLEP Testing

The state education office is proposing administering CLEP and/or any other type of civilian or military testing on 21 and 22 May 04 at the N. Riverside Armory, start time 0930. If interested, or know someone who may be, please let me know what test and what day you will participate.



Birthday Wishes

Congratulations to the following soldiers that have **BIRTHDAYS** in the month of **APRIL**;

ANTUNEZ RICARDO SANTOLIVA, JUAN BURGOS SANTOS GARBER SASHA MATTHEWS, DANIEL MIRANDA, JAMES BOLIAN, TONNISHA BENNETT LARRY WAYNE WHITE DAVID LEE ANDERSON MARCUS ANDREW JOHNSON TAMMY BERNADETTE DRABEK SCOTT ROBERT SAUCEDO JUAN CARLOS JR WELLS STEVEN BRYAN DIXSON, JOSEPH MORALES ERIC BENJAMIN BATILLER, JOSEPH PEREZ, RODOLFO

Coming Events

FRG Council Meetings Every third Wednesday, 7PM at the Armory, Open to all, next meeting **Apr 14th**.

Apr 2nd, 7 PM, Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. We will be making Welcome Home.

Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Apr 3rd, 10 AM, Demobilization Briefing at the Armory, presented by the 733rd QM BN.

Apr 23rd, 7 PM, Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. 733rd QM Battalion representatives are scheduled to answer questions.

Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

TBD, Homecoming Reception, North Riverside Armory

May 14th, 7 PM (if required) Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment.

733rd QM Battalion representatives are scheduled to answer questions.

Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Acontecimientos Que vienen

Las sesiones del Consejo de FRG cada tercer miércoles, los 7PM en el arsenal, se abren en todos, reunión siguiente de Abril el 14.

De Abril 2do, 7 el P.M., noche de la pizza en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Haremos el hogar agradable. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 bajo 10

De abril 3ro, 10A.M., informe del demobilization en el arsenal, presentado por el 736 BN.

de abril 23ro, 7 el P.M., noche de QM de la pizza en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. 736 Los representantes del batallón de QM programar contestar a preguntas. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

TBD, recepción de Homecoming, noche del norte

de la pizza de mayo 14to, 7 del P.M. del arsenal de la orilla (si está requerido) en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. 736 Los representantes del batallón de QM programar contestar a preguntas. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

The FRG Council and Committee Chairs;

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/frg1244tc/>

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We're on the Web!

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