

Community Covenant Quarterly

Issue: Oct-Dec 2012



JCF: The BIG picture

While the Community Covenant team continues to bring the program to cities and towns all across the state the Joining Community Forces movement has taken the nation by storm. Joining Community Forces (JCF) focuses attention on community-level efforts to support Service members, Military Families and Veterans on a national level.

What is Joining Community Forces?

Formerly referred to as “Inter-Service Family Assistance Committees (ISFACs),” Community Forces focus the efforts of local providers with a common goal: to strengthen the local military community. Because Community Forces work in communities around the country, they are uniquely positioned to find and consolidate the best local resources, and that means providing better and faster assistance to Service Members, Military Families and Veterans when they need it.

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JOINING FORCES

TAKING ACTION TO SERVE
AMERICA'S MILITARY FAMILIES

JOININGFORCES.GOV

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We can thus think of the JCF as a large umbrella that covers such state programs as the Community Covenant Program here in Utah and throughout the Nation. JCF meetings are held Quarterly at the Salt Lake Readiness Center located at 1640 N 2200 W SLC. The next JCF meeting will be held on or around Jan 9th. Webinar capabilities will be available through USU Extension offices throughout the state. For more information please contact CPT Earl Simmons 801-380-1378.

COVENANT CORNER

There's a big need for communities to step up, support and embrace our military families. People don't completely understand. It's much more challenging now because these families are under so much stress, they're deploying so much, over and over again," (Elaine Sanchez, DOD Family Matters Blogger) Sanchez, a mother of three young children, served in the Air Force for 8 years before going to the Army as a civilian employee at the American Forces Press Service.



Her father is a retired colonel in the Air Force Reserves.

"Military families have a built-in resilience because they've gone through so much. They are so resilient that they don't always reach out for help or people might assume that there are other people helping them," she said.

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So, what can we as communities do to help? What are some of the hardships that military families are going through? Finances are always a hardship for military families. This is why the utility abatement program is so much appreciated throughout the state. Service members have expressed appreciation for this. There are many times when a service member gets deployed loses wages, and that is a big stressor on the family. Multiple deployments can strain marriages and family ties. We need to be aware of the families that have loved ones who are deployed. There is much we can do for them. With the spring and summer months fast approaching and the kids

getting out of school, these families will be busy and may not have time to take care of things around the house and yard. Military families have had to build resilience to this and may not be aware or even be able to ask for help. Public awareness and service projects are always appreciated. The summer time is full of patriotic and other holidays where these military families can be missing their deployed loved ones. It is important that they are remembered and included in these holidays. Remember that "Freedom isn't Free" and, "Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to this country and to mankind is to bring up a family." (George Bernard Shaw)

This Quarters Signing Events in Utah

October 2012		November 2012		San Juan County	12 th
Goshen	9 th	Utah State University	3 rd	Piute County	12 th
Honeyville	10 th	Tabiona	6 th	(to include Marysville, Circleville, Kingston, Junction)	
Stockton	10 th	Nibley	8 th	Vernon	12 th
		Orderville	9 th	Smithfield	12 th
		Moab	9 th	Mount Pleasant	12 th
		Riverton	11 th	Harrisville	13 th
		Apple Valley	12 th	Deweyville	17 th
		Antimony	12 th	Midvale	20 th
		Panguitch	12 th		

Mayors Minute

Robert A. Rasmussen
Mayor, Enoch City

Even though I have not served in a branch of the Military myself, I come from a Military family and its influence upon me has been profound. I consider myself a very patriotic person influenced greatly by the military service of my father, Howard Rasmussen. My dad served in the Military during a very hard period of this nation's history, World War II. He was assigned to Artillery Headquarters V, participated in the D Day Invasion, landing on Utah Beach, and participated in the liberation of a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. The war had a long lasting effect upon my father; he had a hard time dealing with the sights and sounds of war, not talking much about it in our home as I grew up. I did however know that he loved his County deeply and he passed that love for country and those who serve in the Military on to me.

It is a great honor to be serving as the Mayor of Enoch City, especially during this time of participating with our local Military leaders and personnel in the Community Covenant Program. If we as a city can be of assistance to the families of the Soldiers serving our Nation, from Enoch City and surrounding areas, this is our desire. Deployed military can apply for a

credit for the basic Enoch City services. As a liaison between Enoch City Government and all branches of the military, our City staff is ready to provide information for other benefits from the hundreds of organizations that provide various services to all active duty, reserves, and veterans. Enoch City is proactive in our approach to assisting the community so if anyone living in our community feels we should and can be doing more for our Military Families please let me know of your ideas and we will certainly look into the possibility of incorporating them into our Covenant to serve those in the Military whom we appreciate and love.

May God watch over and protect our soldiers and their families and may God bless and watch over the United States of America.

Thanks for your help.

Robert A. Rasmussen
Mayor, Enoch City



In The News:**“Olympic Gymnast Thanks Military Organization for Helping her through Deployment”**

Gabby Douglas Received Grant from ‘Our Military Kids’ when Father Deployed to Iraq



WASHINGTON – July 2, 2012 – Gabrielle Douglas is not a typical teenager. At just 16, Gabby is headed to the 2012 Olympic Games in London, vying for multiple gold medals as part of the U.S. women’s gymnastics team. Earning the nickname “Flying Squirrel” due to her natural skill on the uneven bars, she’s not the first person in her family to fly through the air.

Gabby, like millions of others in the United States, is a military kid. Her father, SSgt Timothy Douglas, has been deployed overseas three times with the Air National Guard. The first deployment to Iraq in 2003 was an adjustment for the family, and while it prepared them for his second deployment in 2006, they also had some help from the national nonprofit organization Our Military Kids.

Our Military Kids provides grants to children who have a parent deployed overseas with the National Guard and Reserves. Grants pay for a child’s

participation in activities like sports, fine arts, and tutoring programs to help them stay focused on the positive as they cope with the difficulties of deployment.

Gabby received her grant to attend a gymnastics camp in Texas with renowned coaches Bela and Marta Karolyi. According to her mother, Natalie Hawkins, the grant couldn’t have come at a better time.

“Gymnastics is an expensive sport, and the grant from Our Military Kids was a financial blessing,” said Hawkins. “Gabby had just entered into elite gymnastics, and this camp gave her the opportunity to train with gymnasts on the U.S. team.”

Without the \$500 grant, it would have put further financial strain on the family during an already difficult time. Being able to attend the invitation-only camp gave Gabby the opportunity to shape the future of her gymnastic career.

“When I received the grant, I was so honored and happy,” Gabby said. “I know I speak for all military kids when I say thank you for making this fund available to help us pursue our dreams!”

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Gabby has gone on to do just that. She made the move from her hometown of Virginia Beach, Va., to Des Moines, Iowa, to train with Liang Chow, the same coach who trained Olympian Shawn Johnson for the 2008 Beijing games. The training paid off Sunday night when she placed first in the Olympic trials and was granted an automatic bid to the London games.

As she prepared for a potential Olympic bid, Gabby's family raised money so they could make the trip to London. Gabby and her mother decided if she didn't make the team, all of the money raised would be donated to Our Military Kids.

"In the grand scheme of things, \$500 may not seem like that much money, but it made the difference between keeping Gabby at home and sending her to a camp that would play a part in molding her into the Olympic gymnast she is today," said Hawkins.

While not all of Our Military Kids' grant recipients will go on to become Olympic athletes, the impact of the grants is no less.

"When a parent deploys with the National Guard or Reserves, many times they leave a family behind in a non-military community, far from resources that could help the kids cope with that separation," said Linda Davidson, Executive Director of Our Military Kids. "Getting a grant from Our Military Kids allows these children to participate in activities that interest them, keeping their minds off of the fact that

mom or dad is serving our country in a war zone while ensuring their physical and mental fitness.

"Our Military Kids is extremely proud of what Gabby has been able to achieve," Davidson continued.

"Her commitment to the sport and determination to succeed serve as an inspiration to the millions of other military children who hope to follow their dreams."

To date, Our Military Kids has awarded 38,000 grants totaling more than \$15 million.

About Our Military Kids

Our Military Kids was founded in 2004 to support children ages 3 to 18 of National Guard and Reserve families that often become financially stretched during a deployment. The organization provides \$500 grants for activities such as sports, fine arts, and tutoring programs that nurture and sustain children while a parent is serving our country overseas.

Additionally, the program is available to children of Fallen and Wounded Warriors of all branches of the military. Our Military Kids is funded by corporations, foundations, private donors, and government grants. For more information, please visit www.ourmilitarykids.org.

UtahStateUniversity
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

OPERATION:
Military

Kids

ATTENTION:**Military Liaisons and Full Time Support Personnel**

The Joining Community Forces, formally known as the ISFAC, meets the first Wednesday of January, March, June and September.

Next Meeting:

January 9th from 9:00am to 12:00pm
North Salt Lake Readiness Center
1624 N. 2200 West
Salt Lake City (by the airport)

Contact your local CC member below for more information.

**To find out more contact:**

Family Assistance Center UTARNG

(435)986-6714

shellie.cox@us.army.mil

Important Websites

Utah Family Programs

<http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family/index.htm>

Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.mil

Utah Department of Veteran's Affairs

<http://veterans.utah.gov/>

Community Covenant Program

<http://www.army.mil/community/>

*These websites contain information about resources available to military service members and their families

Community Covenant Contact Information**Northern Utah Team**

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If your city or town needs assistance or has questions regarding the Community Covenant Program please call one of our team members above. If you are a city who has not yet heard our Community Covenant Presentation please contact us, we would love to share this program with you. We would also like to hear from anyone wishing to provide success stories or ideas that might be included in future issues of this newsletter.

Need To Talk To Someone?

Military and Family Life Consultants (MFLC) provide solution-oriented consultations to individuals, couples, families, and groups.

The Military and Family Life Consultant (MFLC) Program is designed to provide support and assistance to active duty soldiers, National Guard & Reserves, military family members and civilian personnel. Military and Family Life Consultants can help people who are having trouble coping with concerns and issues of daily life.

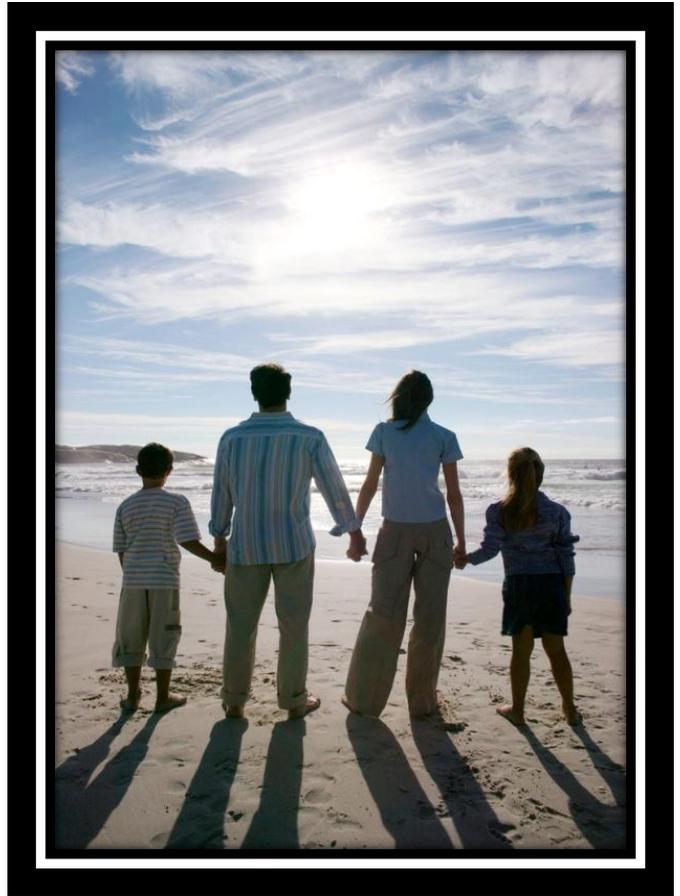
Some Examples of Issues Include:

- Adjustment/Transition
- Stress
- Marital/couples
- Anxiety/Sadness
- Deployment Cycle Issues
- Communication
- Aggression
- Work, parenting
- Grief/loss

MFLC Solutions:

- Flexible appointment times
- Flexible meeting locations
- *Confidential
- No Records Kept
- FREE

• After-hours and weekend appointments are available **Duty to warn does apply in cases of threat to self, others, and any reportable abuse issues.*



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Family Assistance Centers (FAC) are located throughout the State and are designed to assist Service Members and their families during peacetime, training or mobilization. Centers are open to all branches of the military (Army Guard, Air Guard, active duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve components). Locate and contact your local FAC.

For more information, visit us at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family

FIND-A-FAC



Please take a few moments now to locate the FAC nearest you. Note that the nearest FAC may be behind you.

- Armory and Family Assistance Center Locations
- Armory Locations
- Logan (801) 476-3811
- Ogden (801) 476-3811
- Riverton (801) 878-5037
- Salt Lake City (801) 715-3708
- Orem (801) 722-6913
- Vernal..... (435) 770-9104
- Spanish Fork (801) 794-6011
- Cedar City (435) 867-6513
- Richfield (435) 896-4326
- Manti (435) 835-5241
- Blanding (435) 678-2008
- St. George (435) 986-6705

Basic services provided by FACs include the following, regardless of location:

- TRICARE/TRICARE Dental assistance
- Financial assistance/counseling
- Community Information & referral
- Point of contact (POC) for legal and pay issues
- ID Cards referral
- Crisis Intervention & referral

- POC for community support
- Emergency-assistance coordination
- Counseling support/referral
- Family/household emergencies
- Family care plan information
- Site for family communication

POC for Casualty Assistance information, referral, follow-up and outreach
DEERS information (Defense Enrollment and Eligibility System)
Support FRG programs

Please do not hesitate to contact our FACs for any questions or issues you may have. We are here to serve you!