



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Weekly News for National Guard Families

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National Guard Family Program Online Communities for families and youth:

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<http://www.guardfamilyyouth.org/>

TRICARE website for information on health benefits

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

Civilian Employment Information (CEI) Program Registration for Army and Air National Guard, Air Force, and Coast Guard Reserve

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/esgr/index.jsp> (Note to those viewing this page in Word or PDF format: You may have to copy this address and paste it into your browser's address window.)

Cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve who are currently on active duty

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2004/d20040331ngr1.pdf>

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) contains links and information about schooling, distance education, scholarships, and organizations devoted to the military family

<http://www.militarychild.org>

Militarystudent.org is a website that helps military children with transition and deployment issues. It has some great features for kids, parents, special needs families, school educators, and more—even safe chat rooms for kids.

<http://www.militarystudent.org>

Disabled Soldiers Initiative (DS3)

This website provides information on the new DS3 program. Through DS3, the Army provides its most severely disabled Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow-up.

<http://www.armyds3.org>

Have an article, announcement, or website that you'd like to share with the National Guard Family Program Community? Send your suggestions in an e-mail to Michelle.Bohlen@ngb.af.mil.

Guard Carries Out State Missions Despite Deployments

7-11-2005

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Courtesy of Department of Defense

WASHINGTON – While more than 77,000 **National Guard** members are deployed in support of the global war on terror, their comrades at home are demonstrating that they're still fully capable of carrying out their state missions.

They're pulling security duty in New York City, preparing for hurricane response in the Southeastern United States, conducting high-altitude rescues and preparing to provide wildfire-fighting support, if needed.

New York Gov. George Pataki mobilized hundreds of New York National Guardsmen from throughout the state today to provide security support in New York City, according to Kent Kisselbrack, a spokesman for the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs in Latham, N.Y.

The call-ups came one day after a series of terrorist attacks rocked London and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff raised the terrorism alert level for mass-transit systems nationwide to code "orange."

Due to operational security considerations, Kisselbrack did not reveal exactly how many Guard troops were activated or what units they hail from, or when they will begin security duty in New York.

To the South, National Guards were eyeing Hurricane Dennis as it approached Cuba and preparing to respond when it reaches U.S. soil.

On July 7, the Florida National Guard began to activate its planning cells and alerted units in a possible response to Hurricane Dennis as the hurricane gains strength.

"We have about 150 troops in planning cells today, with about 2,000 troops ready to mobilize," said Air Force LTC Ron Tittle, state public affairs officer. "It's important for the people of Florida to know the citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Florida National Guard are prepared to respond to Hurricane Dennis as assigned by the Florida Division of Emergency Management," said Army MG Douglas Burnett, the state's adjutant general.

Last year, the Florida Guard mobilized more than 6,000 soldiers and airmen to support hurricane relief. They provided humanitarian aid, security support, equipment, debris removal, and search and rescue assistance.

Meanwhile, Guard troops from Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Georgia are on standby, keeping an eye on the hurricane's path as it approaches Cuba.

National Guard units in Arizona, Nevada and Utah are also standby, ready to handle

wildfire-fighting duties, if needed.

Air Force CPT April Conway, a Nevada National Guard spokeswoman, said much of the equipment the Guard typically uses to fight fires is deployed, but that back-up systems are in place and ready for action. "We know it's only a matter of time until we'll be needed, so we're watching and staying vigilant," she said.

In the Pacific Northwest, Guard members were already getting a jump on the summer search-and-rescue season. On July 7, the Oregon National Guard's 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) conducted a high-altitude rescue, saving four climbers who fell into a crevasse while crossing a snow bridge on Mount Rainier, WA.

Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters responded, lowering a hoist to lift the climbers from their 13,000-foot elevation, according to Air Force CPT Mike Braibish, an Oregon National Guard spokesman. Two Guard medics, Army SGT Chris Skidmore and SGT Mike Barber, lowered themselves into the crevasse to help the climbers into the hoist, he said.

The rescue was the unit's fourth so far this month, Braibish said. On July 5, the 1042nd rescued a 40-year-old man on Mount Rainier; on July 4, they rescued an injured hiker from Cascade Locks on the Columbia River; and on July 1, they conducted a rescue on Mount Washington, Ore.

"We generally do rescues two to three times a week," said CPT Braibish.

Meanwhile, the Oregon National Guard has about 850 troops deployed in support of the war on terror. Just two months ago, almost twice that many were deployed, CPT Braibish said. Army LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said he's committed to ensuring that deployments don't leave state governors short of enough Guard troops to carry out their state missions during emergencies.

It's a balancing act, considering the major role the reserve components are playing in support of the global war on terror and other military missions worldwide, he acknowledged. In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee in February, LTG Blum said 120,000 Guard members were deployed in 44 countries around the world. The Army Guard makes up more than 40 percent of the combat forces in Iraq and the Air National Guard, about one-third of Air Force's combat power in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

LTG Blum said state governors have demonstrated overwhelmingly that they understand their National Guard members are needed to reinforce the active Army and Air Force overseas, particularly during the war on terror.

But they also recognize the important work they could be required to carry out at home in the event of emergencies, insurrections, attacks or acts of nature, he said.

"We will make our fair contribution," LTG Blum said the governors tell him. "But we don't want to make a disproportionate contribution that leaves our own constituents at risk."

Sebelius Signs Bill Changing Guard Death Benefits into Law

Associated Press

July 14, 2005

TOPEKA, Kan. - Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has signed into law a bill limiting the state's costs in providing \$250,000 in benefits to families of **Kansas National Guard** members killed while on active duty in combat zones.

The families still will receive the \$250,000, but the state will buy life insurance for Guard members rather than pay the benefits directly. The cost of the insurance premiums is \$390,000 annually.

The new law takes effect next week.

"No amount of money can ever replace a loved one, but by providing Kansas National Guard soldiers on active duty with cost-free life insurance, we can give their families a measure of financial security," Sebelius said in a statement.

Legislators approved the changes during their recently completed special session, called to deal with a Kansas Supreme Court mandate for more money for schools.

Lawmakers originally decided to provide \$125,000 in benefits to Guard members' families, then doubled the amount on the last day of this year's regular session on May 20. The special session gave them an opportunity to find away to protect the state's finances while still helping families.

"With more Kansas guardsmen deployed in combat than at any time since Vietnam, this is a much-needed benefit that is long overdue," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, R-Independence.

About 1,400 Kansas Guard members are serving in Iraq and three have died.

Two deaths in Iraq were on Nov. 8, those of 1st Sgt. Clinton Wisdom, 39, of Atchison and Sgt. Don Clary, 21, of Troy. Sgt. Derrick J. Lutters, 24, who grew up in Goodland but lived in Burlington, Colo., was killed May 1.

Glendale Extends Funding for Workers Called to Duty

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The Arizona Republic

July 18, 2005

By Louie Villalobos -- Jon Paladini spent about five months in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, advising U.S. battalion commanders on military justice issues.

The assistant city attorney for Glendale served as a member of the Army **National Guard's** 42nd Infantry with the knowledge that his family was taken care of despite his

military salary being about half of his city salary. Paladini knew Glendale was picking up the financial slack for his wife, a full-time mom, and his three children.

"There was really no way to supplement that income," Paladini says. "It would literally have been impossible to make ends meet."

The difference between his military and civilian salary was taken out of a fund that City Council members created in 2002 when they approved setting aside \$48,000 to be used for the differential pay.

Three years later, the city has helped about 10 employees maintain their salary level while serving on active duty, but it is close to running out of money. The fund's remaining \$3,000 is expected to be spent in the new few months.

Council members recently approved a continuance of the program, which is currently helping five employees. The funds are used to pay employees serving as military reservists or in the National Guard the difference between their city wages and their base military pay. Combat pay or any other "extras" are not taken into account.

Alma Carmicle, human-resource director for Glendale, said the council approved up to \$50,000 a year to be used to help employees on active duty. The money is taken from the city's general fund and will be available each year as long as it is needed, Carmicle said.

"We feel this is a very important way for us to support employees," she said.

Paladini, who returned home in February, said his fellow employees were glad to hear of the extension. It means employees called up to serve will know the bills are getting paid at home, he said.

There are about 25 current employees who could be called up and who would benefit from the program.

"Even if it's not a huge amount, for people living paycheck to paycheck, a few hundred dollars can force people to change their lifestyle," Paladini said. "It's actually harder for the family that gets left behind."

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Group Helps Educators Reach Out to 'Suddenly Military' Children

7-12-2005

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

Courtesy of Department of Defense

WASHINGTON – Because of the high number of National Guardsmen and Reservists

fighting the global war on terrorism, the Military Child Education Coalition has created a program to teach educators and others how to help "suddenly military" students of deployed citizen-soldiers.

The coalition established a workshop, called Supporting Children and Families of Guard and Reserve Institute. The institute is a professional development program to help schoolteachers, counselors, administrators and members of the Guard and Reserve and their families to reach out to the children of Guard and Reserve members.

"What we talk about in this course are issues and insights to the kinds of things that children will deal with when a parent deploys," said Joan Barrett, chair of MCEC's Guard and Reserve initiative. The coalition ran a session of the workshop before its recent conference in Atlanta.

"What moms and counselors are going to find, hopefully, are clues to resilience -- how to deal with their child as they experience the loss of the other parent to deployment and give them some tools on how to come back and be a stronger, more resilient child as a result of this," Barrett said.

Most workshop participants are volunteers or employees of Guard and Reserve family programs all over the United States, Barrett noted. Other attendees are school counselors who are "cognizant of the need to support the kids whose parents have been deployed," she said.

"I think this is a phenomenal opportunity for school personnel to become aware of what the issues and identifiers are for their children whose parents are deployed," Barrett noted.

The purpose of the institute is to identify key folks within each state's department of education, Barrett noted. "We try to focus on one state at a time and identify key educators, administrators and student-service personnel," she said. "Workshop participants will take back information and concepts to the personnel in their districts.

Guard and Reserve personnel are typically not clustered around military installations, Barrett said. "So, therefore, they don't have the same support services as active-duty personnel," she said. "They may not even be aware of what's available to their kids."

The workshop helps participants understand what children's reactions to a parent's deployment might be.

"Focus is the child," Barrett said, adding that, "there's an essential connection between what happens to that child and the parent that's left behind, or the caregiver that's not the parent -- the aunt, uncle, grandma." Walter Yourstone, the MCEC project director, pointed out that the nature of Guard and Reserve duty has fundamentally changed with the global war on terrorism. "We've gone from a mindset where Guard and Reserve duty meant one weekend a month, two weeks a year, to a dynamic where many guardsmen and reservists have been mobilized in the U.S., or deployed overseas to combat duty," said Yourstone, a retired Navy submarine captain from Kings Bay, Ga.

He said deployments are happening more frequently, for longer periods of time, and they're into combat zones. "We're also seeing the cycle repeating itself where some servicemembers are on their second, possibly third, deployment in support of the global

war on terrorism," CPT Yourstone noted.

"What we're seeing is something that the active duty realizes -- the necessity to provide strong family-support structures," he continued. The workshop also discusses the types of challenges families and children face through the process of deployment and the emotional cycle of deployment. This includes preparation for return and the homecoming itself.

Organizers ask participants to identify folks who can sponsor support networks for these "suddenly military families."

Since all states are impacted by the global war on terrorism, CPT Yourstone said, MCEC is trying to get as many states as possible involved.

He pointed out that the first such workshop was conducted in Texas in 2004 and a several workshops were piloted during the past school year, training 241 persons. "We sat down in November 2004 and tried to craft a concept of this institute," CPT Yourstone noted. "

The coalition plans to institute training sessions in eight more states the rest of this year. They include Georgia, Florida, South and North Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, Texas and Maryland. The organization earmarked these states because of their large numbers of deployed guardsmen and reservists, said Larry Moehnke, MCEC's chief of staff. On average, he noted, each state has had at least 4,000 deployed at any given time. Ultimately, he added, MCEC hopes to bring the workshop to 25 states annually.

Officials said to go to the MCEC Web site for more information on the institute workshops.

GENERAL

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Soldiers, Families Enjoy Day of Fun

The Metro-West Daily News

July 18, 2005

By Kathy Uek / Daily News Staff

NATICK -- Members of the **Massachusetts Army National Guard**, 1060

Transportation Company, yesterday got a chance to get out of their camouflage fatigues and enjoy family day at the AMVETS post on Lake Cochituate.

"On a day like today and at the Christmas party, we get to interact with friends with no peer pressure -- no chain of command," said Sgt. Jim Scanlon of Waltham, who attended the function with his wife, Karen, and two daughters, Autumn, 10, and Amber 6.

Scanlon, a truck driver with the transportation company, knows the importance of his military family if his unit is deployed.

"Family day provides a time for the soldiers to celebrate with their kids, spouses and

parents," said Col. Charles Maguire, commander of the 79th Troop Command. At the event, female members of families each received a rose in appreciation of their support.

"The social setting is a way to express appreciation of family members who, without them, we couldn't do the job," said Capt. Wayne Libbey, commander of the Framingham-based 1060 Transportation Company that operates out of the Concord Street Armory.

While the focus was on family fun, the day began with a brief medal ceremony with seven members of the unit awarded the Army Achievement Medal. The seven were recognized for attention to detail, ensuring safety during practice and motivation during their annual training period at Fort Pickett, Va. After the award ceremony, the soldiers changed into civilian clothes and joined friends and family for a barbecue of hot dogs, hamburgers and a 12-foot buffet. Sgt. Joseph McLellan of Framingham enjoyed family day with his two children, 4-year-old Joe, who eyed the potato chips, and 18-month-old Chloe, who feasted on macaroni salad from the buffet.

In addition to the feast, the party had fun events for children and adults from a swim on the beach to go carts, but the main attraction for the children was climbing on and examining the 48-foot tractor-trailer many of their parents drive while on duty. Spc. Shelly Nelson, 21, from Pembroke, enjoyed the festivities with three generations of her family, who served in the military including her father David McSweeney, a former U.S. Marine. George Ballard of Rockland, a medic in the Korean War, although very proud of his granddaughter, worries, with his wife, Lorraine, she will be sent to Iraq.

As one of two transportation companies in Massachusetts not yet deployed, members talked about the war in Iraq. "I pray for them (in Iraq) every day and if they need me to go, I'll be there," said Nelson.

Family day provided an opportunity for Nelson's mother, Gail McSweeney, to meet people she's involved with. Scanlon had a family crisis to contend with. His children wanted to take home one of the black kittens with white markings given away free at the function. Waiting for a positive response, the girls already had decided on the name of "Twinkles." For Scanlon, family day was a chance to enjoy those with whom he serves. In the interim, Scanlon answers questions from his daughter, Autumn, who worries he will be sent to war.

"She asks me every couple of months, if I'm going to Iraq," said Scanlon. "They need to know that their parent will be gone for awhile and instill in them for every waking moment, safety is on the forefront. I've explained today's Army is very concerned with safety. After every action, we review to find out what could better the task."

About 200 gathered for family day yesterday, where it was all about patriotism. After being out of the U.S. Marines for 15 years, Pvt. John Fraizer, re-enlisted in the Guard. "After the war in Iraq, I wanted to do my part," said Frazier, a dispatcher with the 1060 Transportation Company.

"That was my motivation to get back in uniform, said Fraizer, who attended the event with his significant other, Diana Grady, and their children, Chad, 7, Dustin, 9 and Ashley, 11.

S.C. National Guard to Help with Teacher Crisis

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The Associated Press

July 18, 2005

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- Members of the **South Carolina Air National Guard** will help fight a teacher shortage in Richland District One classrooms. A district official says about 50 Guard members are expected to join the list of 500 substitute teachers.

The program will focus on placing Guard members in middle and high schools, where the shortages are the most pressing. Organizers for the National Guard hope to make an impression on students.

Lieutenant Colonel Less Carroll says officials hope the Guard will be role models, --not-- just as military members but as hard working citizens. National Guard members will use leave time and be paid by the school district for teaching. Sanita Savage with the school district says --no-- recruiting will be permitted.

Fund Helps National Guard Families

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

July 13, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- A relief fund is helping some families of **Indiana National Guard** members pay bills and cover the costs of unexpected emergencies.

Making ends meet can be more difficult for families when income is reduced by deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan. If a soldier or airman sent overseas experiences a wage gap between civilian and military pay, that can create a hardship on families, said Indiana Army National Guard spokeswoman Capt. Lisa Kopczynski.

"If (they're losing money) and we're sending them over for a year, that's a significant impact on their lives and the lives of their loved ones and families," she said.

That's why the relief fund was established in 2004 by donations from the Lilly Endowment and the Evan and Susan Bayh Foundation.

"It's a great thing," Kopczynski said. "For members of the National Guard, this is a way for their families to get relief for financial hardships due to deployment."

About 95 families have received help so far, she said.

Families apply for assistance and fund administrators pay the requested bills, including medical bills, utility service and disaster aid.

DoD Honors Supporters of National Guard, Reserves

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American Forces Press Service

July 12, 2005

WASHINGTON, July 12, 2005 – Defense officials have announced that 15 organizations have won the 2005 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award for supporting employees who serve in the Reserves and **National Guard**.

"The 15 recipients of the 2005 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award, by the above-and-beyond support of their employees who serve in the Reserve and National Guard, set a high standard for all of America's private and public employers," said David Janes, national chairman of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve on July 11. "I thank them and congratulate them for having received this recognition for their contributions to their employees and the Nation."

The 15 recipients of this year's Secretary of Defense Freedom Awards are:

Alticor, Incorporated -- Ada, Michigan

Citizens Financial Group -- Providence, Rhode Island

Eaton Corporation - Cleveland, Ohio

Enterprise Rent-a-Car -- St. Louis, Missouri

IDA Corporation - Boise, Idaho

Los Angeles Police Department -- Los Angeles, California

Louisiana Department of Safety & Corrections -- Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Pioneer Financial Services -- Kansas City, Missouri

Ryland Homes -- Calabasas, California

Sears, Roebuck and Company -- Hoffman Estates, Illinois

South Dakota State University -- Brookings, South Dakota

State of Delaware -- Dover, Delaware

Toyota Motor Sales, USA Incorporated -- Torrance, California

USAA -- San Antonio, Texas

Wachovia Corporation -- Charlotte, North Carolina

Then-Secretary of Defense William Perry instituted the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award in 1996 under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. The award publicly recognizes employers, who were nominated by their employees who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve, for exceptional support above the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. The award is the highest in a series of Department of Defense employer awards that include the Patriot Award, the ESGR Above and Beyond Award, and the Pro Patria Award.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a DoD agency established in 1972. The organization strives to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and, if needed, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees.

As the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions, ESGR continues to be the informational agency for their civilian employers, officials said.

Award ceremonies will take place in Washington on Oct. 15, marking the 10th anniversary of the awards program.

End

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Army Families Online

Provided by Well-Being Liaison Office (WBLO)

Army Information Line 1-800-833-6622

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 - Customer Satisfaction Questionnaire
- ▶ WBLO Information
 - WBLO Mission
 - Army Veterans
 - Deployment Cycle
 - Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3)
 - FLO Notes
 - Frontline Stories
 - Glossary
 - News
 - Photo Gallery
 - SmartBook
 - Well-Being

SiteTools ▼

Homeland Security
Advisory System

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS



Disabled Soldier Support System



Contact the Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3) at 1-800-833-6622
between 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.
Army DS3 can also be contacted via e-mail at ArmyDS3@hoffman.army.mil.

[Visit Army Families Online](#)



Always with you ...
"On Freedom's Frontline"

DS3 Program Overview

On April 30, 2004, the Department of the Army introduced a Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3) Initiative that provides its severely disabled Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow-up with personal support to assist them as they transition from military service to the civilian community.

[More...](#)

Disabled Soldier Resources

DS3 Program Details

Program Details explains each of the three phases the DS3 has established to assist severely disabled Soldiers, from the initial process of notification and evaluation; to medical care and medical board evaluation; and finally through the reintegration back into the Army or retirement and transition to civilian employment.

[More ...](#)

Disabled Soldier News



Wounded Soldiers make cross-country trek [7/13/2005]

BALTIMORE (July 12, 2005) — A 4,200-mile bike ride would be challenging for anyone. For someone missing a limb, it would seem impossible. But Army veterans Heath Calhoun and Ryan Kelly are proving just how possible it is



Chaplain helping heal battle stress [7/13/2005]

LANDSTUHL, Germany (July 12, 2005) — Sometimes the most painful war wounds are the ones that cannot be treated with conventional medicine. That is the case with Staff Sgt. William B. Winburn, who by his own admission will need a lot of mental pushups to get past his stint in Iraq.



Couple helps war-wounded GIs [6/29/2005]

WASHINGTON (June 29, 2005) — When Karen Grimord found out in August 2004 that war-wounded servicemembers were spending long days and nights at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany without any entertainment in their hospital rooms, she decided to do something about it.



Iraq's prime minister visits Walter Reed patients [6/27/2005]

WASHINGTON (June 24, 2005) — Iraq's prime minister visited recovering war wounded at Walter Reed Army Medical Center June 23 and told the service members that the Iraqi people are grateful for America's sacrifices.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Contact VA at 1-800-827-1000.

American Veterans (AMVETS)

Contact AMVETS at (301) 459-9600.

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

Contact BVA at (202) 371-8880.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Contact DAV at (202) 554-3501.

National Amputation Foundation, Inc. (NAF)

Contact NAF at (516) 887-3600.

[More ...](#)

Disabled Soldier Links

[American Red Cross](#)

[Military Chaplains Association of the USA](#)

[Noncommissioned Officers Association \(NCOA\)](#)

[Association of the United States Army \(AUSA\)](#)

[The American Legion](#)

[Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States](#)

[For more information about these and other resources ...](#)

DS3 Photo Gallery

To view images related to Army DS3 ... Click [here](#).

[National Veterans Wheelchair Games come to Minneapolis](#) [6/22/2005]

WASHINGTON (June 21, 2005) — More than 500 disabled veterans will compete in the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world, the 25th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, June 27 – July 1 in Minneapolis. Veterans from the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan will join the other competitors at the Games this year.

[More](#)

Disabled Soldier FAQs

The Frequently Asked Questions section answers those questions most commonly asked of the DS3 staff, and helps define what type of help one can expect to receive from the DS3.

[More ...](#)

Contact DS3

Contact the DS3 at 1-800-833-6622 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday). Army DS3 can also be contacted via e-mail at ArmyDS3@hoffman.army.mil.

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