



# 724<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company Family Readiness Group

May / June 2009  
Volume 2, Issue 3

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Since this is my first entry into the monthly newsletter let me start by saying that Tecia and I are honored & excited to be part of the 724<sup>th</sup> family. I want to thank everyone involved in making the Change of Command Ceremony a success. I would also like to thank CW2 Heady for all his help and efforts with the transfer of command.

After spending 3 weeks with the unit at Reserve Training Center – West (RTC-W), Fort Hunter-Liggett, CA, I am very impressed by the level of professionalism and experience possessed by the Soldiers of the 724<sup>th</sup>. This time away allowed us to develop platoon cohesion and grow as a company. The challenge now is to sustain that momentum in the upcoming months as we draw closer to our mobilization date.

As for the schedule over the next two months, we have Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) in Minnesota in June followed almost

immediately by 3 day Battle Assembly weekend from the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Make sure that you have all your pertinent documents and medical & dental information with you for the SRP. During the June Battle Assembly Soldiers in Lexington, Kentucky is having their Yellow Ribbon Event on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>. Both 1SG Haines and I will be in attendance at this event. In July the Soldiers in Illinois will attend their Yellow Ribbon Event.

In closing I want to stress that our mobilization date is quickly approaching. If you haven't already started to get your affairs in order for deployment now is the time. Make sure that your spouse, significant other, parent(s) or whoever is representing you are set up for success in handling your personal and financial affairs. Overseas deployment doesn't justify abandoning your personal and financial obligations. If you are having trouble deciding what needs to be done or this is your first time deploying, don't worry, there are resources out there to walk you through this process. One resource that I located on the internet is Military.com, which has a deployment center website that provides information and helpful tips for deploying Soldiers and family members. Check it out at: <http://www.military.com/deployment>. Just click on the Reserve/Guard Deployment section to get started.

“Support to the Line”  
MAJ Sean Counihan  
724<sup>th</sup> TC Commander

## FROM THE TOP

Mobilization is coming fast. We have our SRP the 16th and 17th of June. Make sure you have all your documents needed for the SRP. Then we have a MUTA 6 Battle Assembly on the 19-21 June. There will be a Yellow Ribbon Event at Kentucky for the cross-level soldiers from the 125th the same weekend. Our Yellow Ribbon Event is scheduled for the July BA. There is still training to be done, with HET driver and maintenance training and possibly CLS right after June BA. Finally, there is a dedication ceremony at the Bloomington Reserve Center for PFC Goodrich and SGT Krause. All are encouraged to attend. Escorts and Color Guard will be provided by the 724th. Uniform is Class A for escorts and color guard and ACU for all others. Vet Center counselors will be discreetly on site.

1SG Christopher Haines

## FROM THE EO OFFICER

The policy of the U.S. Army is to provide equal opportunity and treatment for soldiers, civilian employees, and their families without regard to race, color, religion, gender, or national origin and to provide an environment free of sexual harassment. Soldiers are not accessed, classified, trained, assigned, promoted, or otherwise managed on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. This policy has the following attributes:

- a. Applies both on and off post.
- b. Extends to soldiers, civilian employees, and family members.
- c. Applies to working, living, and recreational environments.

Month: April/May

Dates: Sunday to Sunday for Week

Incorporating Yom Hashanah

Observance: "Days of Remembrance" for

Victims of the Holocaust Authority/comment:

Public Law 96-388, Oct. 80

Month: May

Dates: 1-31

Observance: Asian Pacific Heritage Month

Authority/comment: First Presidential

Proclamation, May 91

SFC Tom Brown

EO Representative 724TC

## Family Readiness Group News

The Unit's departure for deployment is coming up soon. We are planning a large Going Away Party for the Soldiers and their Family Members in Bartonville on August 6 from noon until 5 p.m. Look for more info about the party in future newsletters.

July Battle Assembly will be a Yellow Ribbon Pre-Deployment Retreat. **Bartonville/Quincy family members who are attending the Yellow Ribbon Event, please review the child care information at the end of this newsletter.**

The retreat for Bartonville and Quincy Soldiers will be a two day event and held in Bartonville at an, as of yet, undetermined site. The 125<sup>th</sup> Soldiers' Yellow Ribbon retreat will be a one day event in June held at their drill hall. The Soldiers all have information regarding the retreat.

I have recently obtained a roster of 125<sup>th</sup> Soldiers and will be in touch with those soldiers and family members in the very near future. We're looking for a family member from the 125<sup>th</sup> to form a Family Readiness

Group in Lexington. If you want more information and/or want to volunteer, please call me at 217-377-4564 or email me at mullenmarm@yahoo.com.

The FRG Cookbook is ready for publication! We have also designed a t-shirt and sweatshirt and are beginning to take orders. An order form is attached. We have had some shirts printed as samples and you can see them at the Yellow Ribbon retreat and the going away party. We'll sell the shirts and cookbooks at the Going Away Party.

Lastly, the FRG will host an Ice Cream Social for the Bartonville Soldiers on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at noon immediately following BA. The Quincy soldiers will have a Family Day in Quincy on June 21<sup>st</sup> when they return from BA in Bartonville.

As always, if you have any questions or need more information please contact me.

Mary Mullen  
FRG Co-Leader

### FRG Contact Info

#### Co-Leaders:

##### Mary Mullen

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mullenmarm@yahoo.com

##### Amanda DeValkanaere

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LaReese Ballmer

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### WELCOME TO NEW SOLDIERS!

Please welcome to the 724<sup>th</sup>:

PV1 Amanda Suga, Galesburg IL

PV2 Matthew Erbe, Plainfield IL

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### BATTLE ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

19-21 June 09

### ARMY ACRONYMS

SRP	Soldier Readiness Program
HET	Heavy Equipment Transport
BA	Battle Assembly
MUTA	Multiple Unit Training Assembly
BN	Battalion
CLS	Combat Lifesaver

### Military Humor



## MILITARY PERKS



### YMCA MEMBERSHIP

Families who do not live near a military installation will still have access to family programs and support services through a Defense Department initiative with the Armed Services YMCA.

Eligible troops and families nationwide will be able to join local participating YMCAs free.

Officials expect to provide the free memberships to more than 27,000 active-duty members and military families under the \$31 million, two-year contract. There are 2,686 YMCAs nationwide.

Those eligible include:

- Families of deployed National Guard and **Reserve members**.
- Active-duty members on independent duty assignments, such as recruiting duty.
- Spouses and family members who have moved — such as to live with their parents — while their service member is deployed.
- Active-duty families assigned to newly established joint bases created by the base realignment and closure process. There are a limited number of memberships at these bases, either 300 or 450 depending on the location.

Troops and families can sign up for six-month intervals. Service members can be included, also free, during the three months before or after a deployment.

Participating YMCAs can be found online. Forms and more information can be found at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

### MILITARY ONE SOURCE

A very valuable asset that we all have at our disposal is the Military One Source website. This site has a wealth of information on the military perks that matter most. You can get information on childcare, counseling, education, relocation, parenting, stress - you name it - Military OneSource is here to help you with just about any need. Available by phone or online, their service is provided free by the Department of Defense for active-duty, Guard, and Reserve service members and their families. The service is completely private and confidential, with few exceptions. Their number is: 1.800.342.9647 and the website address is: [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

If you are interested in more information about either one of these great perks, you can e-mail me at [christiwist@hotmail.com](mailto:christiwist@hotmail.com) or call me at 309-714-0348 and I will get any additional info that you need.

Christie Benjamin

## **Yellow Ribbon Childcare Information**

### **July 11-12, 2009**

There will be no childcare services at the Yellow Ribbon Event. Your options are:

1. Use child / family care you normally use and pay for it out of your own pocket and at your own 'risk.'
2. Children can sit with family members during the event. There MAY be separate age appropriate rooms available for break times with a TV/video/movies. But children have to be accompanied by a family member while in the room.
3. Parents can contact the local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency:

Serving Bureau, Putnam, La Salle, Stark, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, Fulton, and Tazewell counties Child Care Connection

Illinois Central College

5407 North University Street

Poplar Hall

Peoria, IL 61635

[ccc@icc.edu](mailto:ccc@icc.edu)

Phone Numbers

Referral

309-690-7300

800-421-4371

Subsidy

309-690-7300

800-301-3304

The agency works with regulated providers, and will also have information on any complaints or violations on the providers. Again this will be at the parents expense and 'risk.'

Source:

Nicole Peltier

Army Reserve Family Programs Assistant

# Order Form

## The 724<sup>th</sup> Family Readiness Group Unit T-Shirts & Sweatshirts

### **Soldier:**

**Color:** Grey/Black Print

### **Front Left Logo:**



### **Back:**

We Proudly Serve

**T-Shirts (S/S)** Children S-L \$8  
Adult S-XL \$10 Add \$2 for Sizes 2XL-4XL

**T-Shirts (L/S)** Children S-L \$11  
Adult S-XL \$14 Add \$2 for Sizes 2XL-4XL

**Sweatshirts (Crewneck)** Children S-L \$14  
Adult S-XL \$16 Add \$2 for Sizes 2XL-4XL

**Hoodie Sweatshirts** Children S-L \$17  
Adult S-XL \$20 Add \$2 for Sizes 2XL-4XL

**Make checks payable to 724 TC FRG.**

**To order contact or mail order form and payment (payable to 724 TC FRG) to:**

**Name** Mary Mullen, 110 N Turner Dr, Mahomet, IL 61853  
**Phone** (217) 377-4564  
**Email** mullenmarm@yahoo.com

### **Family Member:**

**Color:** Maroon/Gold Print

### **Front Left Logo:**



### **Back:**

Our Families Also Serve

# 724<sup>th</sup> TC Unit Shirt Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate style, color and size of shirt(s) to purchase below:

## Adult Shirts

<b>Soldier Logo (Grey)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2X</b>	<b>3X</b>	<b>4X</b>
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crew Neck Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hoodie Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Family Logo (Maroon)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2X</b>	<b>3X</b>	<b>4X</b>
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crew Neck Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hoodie Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Children's Shirts

<b>Soldier Logo (Grey)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crew Neck Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hoodie Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Family Logo (Maroon)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crew Neck Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hoodie Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>