



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

September 2009  
Volume 2, Issue 6

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

We just returned from our 6 day Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) and your Soldiers are currently cleaning the vehicles so we can turn them back into Camp Atterbury. Your Soldiers performance during the MRE was outstanding. The 724th TC received many kudos and accolades from the evaluators (OC/Ts & OPFOR). While we still have work to do and will never stop improving our skills, you should be very proud of how your Soldiers have responded to our mobilization training.

The first part of the 724th flew out this morning for Kuwait. Our 6 Soldier ADVON (Advance Party) will arrive in Kuwait tomorrow. Their main purpose is to coordinate all essential support for the arrival of the main body. Their task include (but are not limited to) arranging for transportation, lodging (tents), food, supplies and all other necessary life support while in Kuwait. The ADVON will also link up with the unit we are replacing and begin to coordinate follow on transportation to Iraq, additional training and all life support that is needed for the next year. We have been notified that we have a reserved flight for our departure to Kuwait upon our return from our 4 day pass. Due to operational security reasons I am unable to put that information in print. Your Soldier has the information and will be able to give you more details during their pass.

We are expecting limited communication connectivity while in Kuwait (since we will be in a transient status). So there is a chance you might not hear from your Soldier for an extended period.

Usually the first couple weeks to a month in theater are hectic but once we arrive at our base in Iraq we will have access to more the internet and phone.

The Soldiers have worked very hard and are excited about the 4 days pass and the opportunity to see their families again before departing for our tour of duty. I wish you all a happy and safe 4 day pass period.

“Support to the Line”

MAJ Sean Counihan

724<sup>th</sup> TC Commander

## FROM THE TOP

Hopefully all family members have been kept informed by the soldiers about our flight date and time. It is time for us to go do our mission. Your soldiers have been trained and are ready to go. During the MRE, field training to simulate our missions, they performed outstanding. As the Commander stated, the 724th received "kudos" and praise from the OC/Ts as the best transportation unit to come through here. The leaders were challenged and they responded very well. I am pleased with the way your soldiers have performed the past month. They will do very well during the following year.

It will take a little time to settle in at our base once we get there. There is a 2 week training period with the unit we are replacing, so they will be busy for awhile. Once that is complete, they should be settling into their mission routine and start to communicate home on a regular basis. If you don't hear from your soldier once we're at our base in Iraq, please contact me and I will ensure that that soldier contacts his family immediately.

Care packages. With the transition from the unit we are replacing, it will take a while to get settled in. Unless there is something that they can't live without, give them time to set up "home" before sending a large amount of packages. They will be able to shop at the PX on the base and will then be able to let you know what they need.

If there are any questions the Commander or I can answer, please ask. We'll answer what we are able to as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting your soldiers.

1SG Chris Haines  
First Sergeant

### **EO CORNER**

**NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH -  
15 September - 15 October**

Every year since 1968, by presidential proclamation, a week has been set aside to honor the contributions of Hispanic-Americans. Recognizing that a week was not long enough to recognize the Hispanic population's significant achievements and contributions, Congress voted in 1989 to expand this week to a month-long celebration, known as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

About 53,000 Hispanic-origin people were on active duty in 2003 in the United States. Hispanic Americans continue to serve today in the War on Terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

SFC Tom Brown  
EO Representative 724TC

### **FAMILY READINESS GROUP NEWS**

We will have a meeting This Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Bartonville drill center for all the families. If you want to attend and need directions, please contact me.

On behalf of your Family Readiness Group, I hope everyone enjoyed the unit's going away party on August 6 as much as my family did. Brooks Photo has posted the portrait photos they took on their website [www.btbrooksphoto.com](http://www.btbrooksphoto.com). You can purchase the photos online. I've checked them out

and they're great. We will also post any photos anyone took on the FRG website at: [www.724TransCo.citymax.com](http://www.724TransCo.citymax.com). If you want your photos posted on our website, please email them to me. Before you email them, if you can change the pixel size of the photos to no larger than **640 x 640 pixels** it would help a lot.

Regarding our FRG website, we're working to update it with current information and will keep it updated throughout the deployment. Please send me any photos or info you'd like posted to the website throughout the year.

We were blessed with so many donations from business, organizations and individuals for our going away party! I'd like to thank some of them here for their donations and help that made the going away party so successful. I will include additional sponsors in the next newsletter:

Sally Errion & SSG Matt Jones for the Food  
Jason & Robin Engel for the Venue Set up  
Emily Robison for arranging Entertainment  
Cathy Ashby and the Village of Bartonville  
Linda Friend, Waugh Foods, Inc.  
Bartonville Lions Club  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Brooks Photography  
Top Hat Productions  
Brad Ware, F.B.I., Child Identification Kits  
Amy Boettcher, Face Painting

As always, if you have any questions or need more information please contact me or one of my other active FRG members (They're the BEST!).

Mary Mullen  
FRG Co-Leader

### **FRG CONTACT INFO**

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**ARMY ACRONYMS**

<b>OPFOR</b>	Opposing Forces
<b>OC/T</b>	Observer/Controller/Trainer
<b>ADVON</b>	Advanced Party
<b>MRE</b>	Mission Rehearsal Exercise

**MILITARY HUMOR**

An army Major visits the sick soldiers, goes up to one private and asks "What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic syphilis, Sir"

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

"What's your ambition?"

"To get back to the front, Sir."

"Good man." says the Major. He goes to the next bed.

"What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic piles, Sir"

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

"What's your ambition?"

"To get back to the front, Sir."

"Good man." says the Major. He goes to the next bed.

"What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic gum disease, Sir"

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

"What's your ambition?"

"To get the wire brush before the other two, Sir"

**WELCOME TO NEW SOLDIERS!**

Not this month



**MILITARY PERKS**

**OUR MILITARY KIDS**

Deployment can be very hard on our children, but Our Military Kids has helped to ease the separation by offering a grant program that pays for children's activities. Listed below is the information that I retrieved from the website explaining how the program works, who is eligible, and what documentation is required.

**WEBSITE INFORMATION:**

Our Military Kids provides tangible support to the children of deployed and severely injured National Guard and Military Reserve personnel through grants for sports, fine arts and tutoring that nurture and sustain the children during the time a parent is away in service to our country.

The following list is a sampling of activities Our Military Kids funds under its grant program. We do not cover fees for child care, school tuition or religious trips. Please call 703-734-6654 if you have any questions regarding other eligible activities.

**Youth Sports Programs**

Archery

Sailing

Baseball

Lacrosse

Martial Arts

Bowling

Cross Country

Judo

Fine Arts Programs

Basketball

Choir/Voice

Performing Arts

Motorcross	Dance
Boxing	Music
Raquetball/Handball	Sculpture/Drawing
Cheerleading	Theatre
Rowing	

### **Tutor Programs**

(Assisting children to maintain performance at grade level)

Reading	Study Skills
Writing	Math
English	

### **Other Programs**

Boys & Girls Club	Chess
Driver Education	Creative Thinking
Camps	Scouting
Modeling/Beauty Pageants	School Trips

### **Who can receive a grant?**

Children aged 3 years through 12th grade of National Guard or Reserve military personnel either deployed overseas or severely injured may apply.

### **What documentation is required to apply?**

A copy of the military parent's deployment orders is needed to show that the parent is deployed overseas. For children of severely injured soldiers, a referral letter from a case manager is required. Applicants must also submit one of the following to establish the child's dependency on the military parent: a photocopy of the child's military dependent ID card OR a copy of Form 1172, Application for Uniformed Services Identification (DEERS) OR a copy of the child's birth certificate if the deployed service member is the biological parent of the child. Lastly, the application must be accompanied by a copy of a brochure, flyer, website page, or letter from the organization providing the activity or service. Please circle or highlight the registration fee that applies to the program the child is enrolling in as well as any information about who the check should be made payable to.

### **Does the family have to meet income qualifications before a child can receive a grant?**

No. Family income is not a consideration in determining whether a child is eligible to receive a grant.

### **Are there any restrictions on the types of activities for which grants are awarded?**

Yes. Our Military Kids does not award grants for day care, tuition reimbursement, or mission trips. Only those activities listed in the "Activities Covered" section of the website will be eligible for grants from Our Military Kids. If you do not see the activity your child has selected in the "Activities Covered" listing, please call our office to inquire whether that activity is covered.

### **What tutoring services qualify under this program and what documentation is required?**

Grants will be considered for services provided by companies or organizations in the following subjects: reading, writing, math, or study skills to assist children in maintaining academic performance at grade level. Grants paid to individual tutors will only be provided if s/he is a certified teacher who can show documentation (teacher's license, etc.) and is not a family member.

### **What documentation is needed to support the amount of grant requested by the child?**

The application must be accompanied by a copy of a brochure, flyer, website page, or letter from the organization providing the activity or service. Please circle or highlight the registration fee, rental fee, or instruction fee that applies to the program the child is enrolling in.

### **Will I receive a check in the mail?**

No. If your request for a grant is approved, a check will be sent and made payable to the organization indicated on the grant application form. The

applicant will receive formal written notification of acceptance or rejection by mail within 2 weeks of receipt of the application by Our Military Kids, Inc.

### **Does the family have to repay the grant?**

No. The grant does not have to be paid back unless the child does not participate in the activity indicated on the application.

### **May the same child apply for more than one grant?**

Yes. Children are eligible for two grants per deployment as long as, 1) the deployment is 365 days or more, 2) the service member has at least 60 days remaining on the orders at the time the second application is submitted, and 3) it has been six months since the first grant award.

### **May more than one child from a family apply for a grant?**

Yes. All children in a family may apply for a grant as long as the child meets all the criteria for eligibility. The \$500 limit applies to each child not to a family.

### **Please Note**

- One check will be written for one activity
- No grant award can exceed \$500 per child.
- Incomplete or illegible forms cannot be processed and will be returned.
- All funding from Our Military Kids grants must be used for the purpose stated on the application or full repayment of the grant amount will be requested.
- The amount of the grant aid offered will depend on the funding available at the time the application is received.
- Grant checks are made out to the organization providing the activity or tutoring with no exceptions.
- Applications for grants will be acknowledged in writing within 10 business days of receipt. The child will receive a congratulatory packet notifying him/her of

the award and the check will be sent to the activity provider.

### **Applying for the grant is very simple.**

Follow this link to apply online:

[www.ourmilitarykids.org/how-to-apply/apply-now.php](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/how-to-apply/apply-now.php)

Just select and download the appropriate application based on branch of service, and follow the instructions found at the top of the application.

Applications may be deferred if further information is needed to verify eligibility.

Grants are awarded at the sole discretion of the grant committee of Our Military Kids, Inc.

Need help completing your application? Call Our Military Kids at 703-734-6654 or email us at [OMKInquiry@ourmilitarykids.org](mailto:OMKInquiry@ourmilitarykids.org)