

# **National Security Newsletter**

February 2024

Northwest Division

Issue #6

## **Family Readiness Groups**

What is a Family Readiness Group:

Soldier and Family Readiness Groups (SFRG), formerly known as Family Readiness Groups (FRG), is a unit's commander's program, comprised of soldiers, civilian employees, family members (immediate and extended), and volunteers belonging to a unit. It forms a network of mutual support and assistance and assists unit commanders in meeting military and personal deployment preparedness and enhances Soldier and Family readiness. The Secretary of the Army recently re-shaped FRGs as a result of feedback from the field to ensure they were meeting the needs of today's Army.

- Army Directive 2019-17 changes the FRG Program name to the SFRG program. The renaming links soldier readiness to the family. The new name is inclusive of all unit personnel, including single soldiers and their families, and welcomes them into the support network.
- It directs commanders to focus on the core goals and expectations of SFRGs to act as an extension of unit command. It provides official, accurate command information; connects soldiers and families to the chain of command, provides a support network, and connects SFRG members to on/off post community resources.
- Fundraising flexibility, enabling enhanced opportunities for activities in support of SFRG goals.

## Why is this important to the Army?

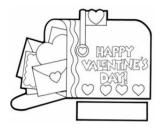
- Taking care of the soldiers, families, and civilians is an enduring Army priority. SFRGs links soldier readiness to the family. SFRGs
  provide a critical link between commanders and their soldiers and families. They provide official, accurate command information,
  connect soldiers and families to the chain of command, provide a network of support, and connect SFRG members to on/off post
  community resources.
- Invest significantly in housing and barracks.
- Provide robust virtual health capabilities and transition health care delivery to the Defense Health Agency
- Increase access to childcare.
- Promote spouse employment.
- Provide predictable and responsive services during PCS moves.
- Ensure soldiers and families with U.S. Army Alaska and at select installations with unique needs such as Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Irwin, California and Fort Polk, Louisiana receive critical Quality of Life needs. The Army has made significant infrastructure improvements at these locations and continues to invest in tailored programs, services and facilities that will helps soldiers and family members thrive.

February Newsletter Carolyn A. Baranowski National Security Committee Eastern Division Chairman

### Miss Colorado is Miss America!



Madison Marsh, a 22-year old second lieutenant in the US Air Force, is the first active duty member of the military ever to be crowned as Miss America. She is a graduate of U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.



# **Prayer for You**

I said a prayer for you today

And know God must have heard;

I felt the answer in my heart

Although He spoke not a word.

I didn't ask for wealth or fame,

I knew you wouldn't mind,

I asked Him to send treasures

Of a far more lasting kind.

I asked that He'd be near you

At the start of each new day,

To grant you health and blessings,

And Friends to share your way.

I asked for happiness for you

In all things great and small -

But it was for His loving care I prayed the most of all.

(American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains' Prayer Book)

## Reminders

**Be The One Day(s):** Help bring awareness to the "Be The One" initiative by wearing and promoting "Be The One" on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. See Resolution 13 approved in May of 2023 by The American Legion for more information on "Be The One" Day(s). http://www.betheone.org/

Upcoming Dates:

Valentine's Day February 14

President's Day February 19

## **Department Committee Chairs**

#### **Important Dates:**

May 15, 2024

• Year-end reports (Department chairmen reports due via email to division chairmen with a copy to national chairman).

June 1, 2024

- Department and Unit Award Nomination Form Completed and Submitted
- Salute to Service-members Award

## Reminder!

Upcoming Quarterly Zoom Meetings for National Security: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 EASTERN 8:00 PM CENTRAL 7:00 PM MOUNTAIN 6:00 PM PACIFIC 5:00 PM ALASKAN 4:00 PM HAWAII-ALEUTIAN 3:00 PM

Registration info will be sent prior to meeting. All Department National Security Chairmen & Department Presidents are invited to attend.

**My Contact Information:** Need to reach me? Feel free to reach out however you are comfortable!

Bettina Kossow American Legion Auxiliary Northwest Division Chair, National Security Cell Phone: (719) 440-3111 Email: bettinakossow1000@msn.com