

T.A.M.P.A - In The News

January 2010

www.USMCFamilySupport.org

On December 12th a large tractor trailer drove past the house, backed up, turned around, looked a bit lost and at that point I headed out the door convinced it must be our Wounded Warrior Handbook shipment. These handbooks are hot of the press adorned with a special cover designed specifically for T.A.M.P.A.



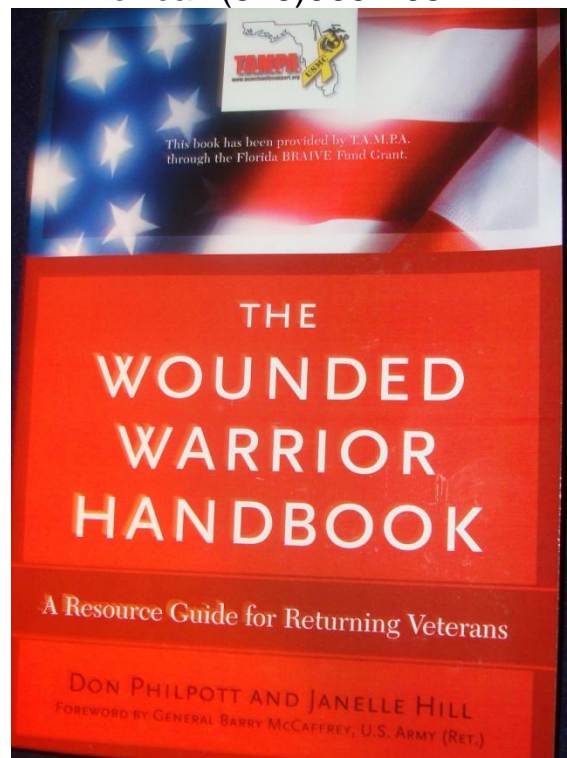
Now the real job begins as we distribute 800 of these handbooks, FREE of charge, to wounded warriors and their families across central FL. *Under the FL Braive Fund Grant Regulations we are required and limited to only cover specific counties in the state.* We desperately need your help to get these books distributed in a timely fashion.



If you have contacts for wounded warriors or contacts of organizations who can help us find the recipients for these books please get in touch with us asap. Also share this information with everyone on your contact list that may be able to help. T.A.M.P.A. secured the grant and got the books here, now we need your help to see that they get where they belong. Let's make this wall of books disappear in record time, join us in reaching out to Florida's wounded warriors who have already sacrificed so much for us.



To get involved with this project please email cyd@USMCFamilySupport.org or call (813)965-2682



Family, Food & Fun!

BEEF 'O' BRADY'S
Est. 1985
Family Sports Pubs

Jan. 23rd @ 4p.m.
9331 Adamo Dr.
Tampa 33619

It's Time for a Road Trip!

We are currently investigating the possibility of a summer trip (June) that we want all of our members to join in. Plans are under way for a trip to Marine Corps Base Quantico, the Marine Corps Museum & Washington, DC. This will be a 4 day charter bus 'whirl-wind' trip with an itinerary packed full of excitement. You won't want to leave your cameras behind! More detailed information will be available soon. This trip will require a \$50/per person non-refundable deposit (unless trip is cancelled by T.A.M.P.A. at which time all funds will be reimbursed) and will be handled on a first come/first serve basis. If you would like to get your reservations in, there is no time like the present. Current/Active T.A.M.P.A. members will receive priority on the reservation list. If there is additional room we would love to have friends and supporters of the group join us. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details.



Do you have an old tattered, faded American Flag laying somewhere and you don't know what to do with it? Flags which cannot be used anymore should be disposed of properly and with dignity. If you would like to have your flag(s) disposed of in a proper manner please bring them to any of our gatherings or events or mail them to us. We will make sure that they are retired in the proper manner by one of our sister organizations such as local Marine Corps League, American Legion, etc.



USMC Family Support Gathering Chili Cook Off Contest

February 13th @ 3:00p.m.
2612 N. Tampa St., Tampa 33602
w/ special guest judges & prizes
for Best Over All & Hottest
For rules and information email:
Bonnie@USMCFamilySupport.org

**February Gathering
Special guest speaker:
Daniel Abate;
Family Readiness Officer
Marine Corps Forces,
Central Command
MacDill AFB, Tampa**

T.A.M.P.A - In The News

January 2010

Robert & Weena McKenzie have moved to Daytona



Right before Christmas Robert & Weena packed up the house and the dog and headed across the state to their new home in Daytona. Robert will be pursuing his career in aviation mechanics and Weena will continue her work with DeVry University online teaching.

Robert is a current board member and also has done extensive work with our wounded warriors and deployed family support. Weena served as the Vice President for the group at one time.

While we will miss them terribly they are still a large part of the group and will continue to be active however and whenever possible.

A huge T.A.M.P.A. "thank you" to the McKenzie's for their support and hard work for the group over the past few years. We love you guys!

Transitioning to Civilian Life

January 12, 2010 By: CJ

Posted in Life in the Military, Veteran Benefits

The following was submitted to me as an op-ed. It was written by Lt. Col. Paul Capicik (USAF ret.) of American Sentinel University. In the piece Lt. Col. Capicik, a 26-year military veteran, covers a variety of important topics to service members transitioning to military life including how to prepare for a transition, training for a civilian career, and landing that first job.

How to Begin the Transition from Military to Civilian Jobs

One of the most important facets of any service members life is the transition out.

www.USMCFamilySupport.org

Especially as it pertains to finding a job, the transition from a military to civilian career will require planning and preparation. So how do you begin this transition?

Identify What will Affect your Transition

How well you have prepared yourself prior to leaving the service?

What type of job do you want to pursue?

What is your location flexibility?

What is your family status?

Three Keys for Preparing Yourself for Transition

I speak regularly with service members who tell me that they want a job that is different from those they have performed in the military.

How do you prepare for a job you've never done before?

1) Start planning your career before leaving the service. Don't wait until you are about to leave the service before you start planning for the type of career you want. Explore industries and job options early, then narrow down your options. Get the training you need in advance, whether that is a degree, a certification, internship experience or all of the above.

2) Determine the skills you'll need to distinguish yourself. While everyone in the military has a job to do, there is a significant shortage of jobs in the civilian world. What will set you apart in your job search? The answer is your military service, degree-specific training, applicable certifications, and work experience.

3) Start interviewing before you leave the service. Don't wait until the last minute to research where the jobs are and what fields are hiring. The best of all worlds is to be hired and have the job waiting for you before you get out.

Personal Traits can Create Advantages

Companies like to hire veterans. Many companies like to hire former service members because they know the military teaches teamwork, discipline, responsibility for starting and completing a project, and leadership. Identify personal examples of where you contributed to your mission or service in these areas.

Ability to relocate is an advantage. If you are flexible in where you relocate, you could have another advantage. It can be a significant incentive for an employer to consider you when

T.A.M.P.A - In The News

January 2010

they know that the military will pay to move you to their location.

Consider family interests. Don't leave your spouse and family out of the planning process. When you consider potential jobs, take into account schools, health insurance, and lifestyle for them. The better you plan for their move, the more likely they will have a successful transition, too.

Transition Resources are Available

There are many resources available to help you think about and plan your transition. Here are a few good ones:

Department of Labor:

<http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/main.htm>

(Note DOL offers this program in conjunction with DoD and VA)

Military.com:

<http://transitionstories.military.com/2009/07/11-things-i-figured-out-about-the-civilian-workforce.html>

Veteran Affairs: <http://www.oefoif.va.gov/>

Military transition consultant:

<http://www.bradley-morris.com/MilitarytoCivilianTransition.html>

Remember the three keys to transition success: Degrees, Certifications & Experience.

www.USMCFamilySupport.org

for us, during the holiday season. For only \$15 a wreath can be sponsored to adorn a local gravesite. We hope you will help in 2010.

Visit www.USMCFamilySupport.org to view pictures from this and other events.

A Special thanks to our member Ron Shaw who took the incredible pictures at this event.



Members toughed out the cold day and attended the first gathering of 2010 where they worked hard and packed 18 care packages for deployed troops. Remember, if you have someone deployed who would benefit from one of our boxes please contact us with the mailing address and estimated date of return and we will see that they receive some goodies full of love to help make their stay a bit more pleasant.



Wreaths Across America

A moving event which everyone needs to attend at least once. Our local military, sister organizations, veteran groups, boys & girls scouts, plus the Tampa Bay community really came out to help make this another wonderful success. We are planning to hold this event again in 2010 and will begin early taking sponsorships for wreaths. Begin now encouraging everyone you know to get on board to honor those who have sacrificed so much



Pinellas Park Christmas parade 2009

T.A.M.P.A - In The News

January 2010

www.USMCFamilySupport.org



T.A.M.P.A. members will be enjoying a wonderful BBQ picnic and horseback riding for the gathering in March. We have joined together with Quantum Leap Farms to offer our Marine families a day of relaxing and therapeutic horseback riding. Sometimes the stress of military life can weigh heavy on our hearts and cause us to feel as if the walls are caving in. Come learn how a day with a horse can make a huge difference.

More details in the February newsletter. This organization offers many different programs for our military and wounded warriors. Please check out their website and learn more about what you can do to help spread the word:

www.quantumleapfarm.org

Confessions of a Burglar

With many of our families traveling all over the United States and beyond to visit their Marines this is some good advice to think about:

"There are two things I hate the most: barking dogs and nosy neighbors."

"Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier."

"Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste, and taste means there are nice things inside. And those yard toys your children leave outside always make me wonder about the types of electronic gaming systems that could be inside."

"Yes, I really do look for newspapers to be piled up in the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer on your front door to see how long it take you to remove it."

"If decorative glass is part of your front entrance design, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can check and see if it's set. That makes it too easy."

"It's raining and you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forgot to lock your door. That's understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather."

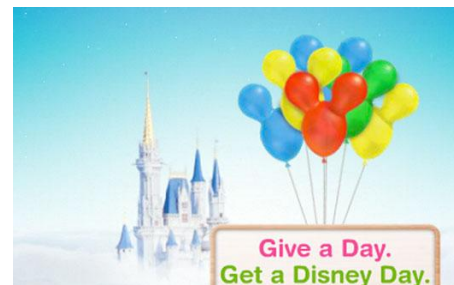
"I always knock first. If you happen to answer, I'll ask for directions or offer to do minor house repairs as a cover."

"Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? Come on. I always check it, as well as the other dresser drawers, the nightstand, and the medicine cabinet."

"Sometimes I walk around a neighborhood carrying a clipboard. Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and a carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook."

"I love looking in windows. I'm checking for sign that you're home and for those flat screen TVs or other electronics that I like. I'll drive through your neighborhood at night, before your close the blinds, just to pick my targets."

"If I were you I wouldn't announce your vacation on your Facebook page. We check those, too."



Disney wants to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating

T.A.M.P.A - In The News January 2010

organization in their communities. So they are celebrating these volunteers' good works by giving each of them a 1-day, 1-theme park ticket to the Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort, FREE. There's no better time to make a dream come true for others and let Disney make a few come true for you.

You must register at the Disney site in order to participate in this event. T.A.M.P.A. will be researching this as a group event so you will need to be officially signed up to join in. More details will come once our volunteer event has been secured. Don't miss out on an opportunity to help and get something back in return. If you cannot participate with the group there are many volunteer projects you can find on your own.

DOD Releases 2010 Housing Rates

The Department of Defense today released the 2010 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates. Military members will receive an average housing allowance increase of 2.5 percent when the new rates take effect, Jan. 1, 2010.

For members with dependents, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$37 per month. A typical junior enlisted member with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$25 per month higher than last year, while a senior non-commissioned officer with dependents will receive about \$42 more than last year. Three components are included in the BAH computation: median current market rent; average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer); and average renter's insurance.

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area. BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents. An estimated \$19 billion will be paid to nearly 1 million service members in 2010. An integral part of the BAH program is the

www.USMCFamilySupport.org

provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs, an individual member in a given location will not see his/her BAH rate decrease. This assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease. The continued improvement in housing allowances represents the Department's commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that provides members with a suitable and secure standard of living to sustain a trained, experienced, and ready force in the future.

For more information on BAH, visit <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>.



Please keep two of our Marine families in your thoughts and prayers; Joe Jennings father passed away and also Veteran Jesse James Woods (Julie Rae's son) father passed away. Condolence cards can be sent to:

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Jennings
1103 E. Sligh Avenue
Tampa, FL 33604

Jesse Woods
C/O 13671 Pinecrest Drive
Largo, Florida
33774

T.A.M.P.A - In The News

January 2010

www.USMCFamilySupport.org



Easter Project in the works...

Thanks to generous donations from local businessmen we have become the proud recipients of numerous Easter baskets, Easter grass and Easter eggs full of small toys. We will reach out to other organizations and supporters to help us with candy and stuffed animals to make the baskets complete. Plans are to possibly supply these baskets for the kindergarteners at Tinker Elementary located on MacDill AFB and children of our MARCENT & Reserve units. More information will be coming via email and the newsletter in the weeks ahead. In the meantime ask your grocer or local stores if they would be willing to help with supplies. If you need paperwork or a donation letter just contact us.



January Birthdays

- 07** Sgt Brodey, Husband of Melanie, Son of Denise & Jerry, Brother of Christine
- 10** Jorge, PMD of Sgt Jordan T.
- 11** Logan, Son of Amy & Sherman G., Brother of Leslie
- 12** Karen, PMM of PFC Matt
- 16** Miranda, Sister of Cpl Owen T. and Daughter of Dawn and Stephen S.
- 17** OIF Veteran Kenny, USMC `03-`07, Son of Tracy & Kenny, Grandson of Pat & Mel Greg, PMD of OIF Veteran Nick, USMC `03-`07
- 24** Mike B, PMD of Cpl David
- 25** OIF Veteran Adam, USMC `03-`07, Son of Cyd and Richard D., Brother of Kym, Ammie & Celine
- 30** Cpl Owen T., son of Dawn and Steven S.



T.A.M.P.A. has one so JOIN US!

January Anniversaries

- 18** Heidy and Eric R., PMP of Sgt. Stephanie
- 26** Andrea' & David, PMP of Cpl Joshua
- 28** Jo and Bill K, PMP of Sgt. Billy

If you would like a birthday/anniversary added to our list so it can be posted in the newsletter please send detailed info (as listed above) to: admin@USMCFamilySupport.org



Newest Addition to website online store. Not only for the Christmas tree but just to hang up and show how proud you are. Check out our store items and help

our cause while shopping.



P.O. Box 7915 Tampa, FL 33673
(813)965-2682