

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

[www.USMCFamilySupport.org](http://www.USMCFamilySupport.org)



### Operation Tinker Bunny Baskets

We have a wonderful project planned for the kindergarteners of Tinker Elementary at MacDill AFB. With generous donations from Winthrop Group in Tampa, we have been provided with baskets, grass and plastic eggs. We need your help to make these baskets full of all the goodies that kids love. We are seeking snack donations of chocolate bunnies and assorted Easter candy, fruit snacks, individually wrapped rice krispy treats, etc.

We will also need approximately 150 beanie baby sized stuffed animals, small books, crayons, stickers, toys or trinkets to complete the baskets.

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.

All goodies will need to be delivered to T.A.M.P.A. no later than Friday, March 27 in order for the baskets to be completed and delivered to the school in time. If you need your items picked up you will need to make arrangements in advance. Please feel free to share this information with any groups or organizations who may wish to help.

Monetary donations can also be made via our website and mail. Please be sure to mark your donation *Operation Tinker Bunny Baskets*.

T.A.M.P.A. members will be stuffing the baskets at the gathering on March 27<sup>th</sup> and will be delivering the baskets to MacDill AFB (date to be announced).



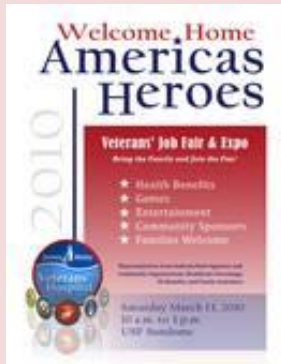
We have something new and exciting we'd like to share with you! It's the new T.A.M.P.A. toolbar - once added to IE or Firefox, each time you shop at more than 1,300 stores (from Amazon to Zazzle!) a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to T.A.M.P.A. - at no cost to you (and you may even save money as the toolbar provides coupons and deals as well!). The toolbar also has a **search box** and each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated to T.A.M.P.A./ Tampa Area Marine Parents Association.

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/tampa-area-marine-parents-association>

### ..... Adult Volunteers Needed!



Cpl. Michael Sherman, USMC, is trying to establish a Young Marines unit in Hillsborough County/Tampa Bay Area (based in Gibsonton) and is having trouble finding adults willing to volunteer help with setting up and maintaining the unit. If you can help or know of someone who may be interested in helping with this program please contact him at (813)827-7123.



*you are interested in volunteering to help with manning the booth, set up or take down please contact [Admin@USMCFamilySupport.org](mailto:Admin@USMCFamilySupport.org)*

**March 13 - 10a.m.-3p.m.  
Welcome Home American Heroes  
& Veterans' Job Fair**

USF SUNDOME - Tampa Campus  
4202 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa, 33620  
The James A Haley Veterans' Hospital is hosting the third annual Welcome Home America's Heroes Celebration for Florida's active-duty military members and veterans who have returned from military service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Welcome Home Celebration is designed to show appreciation for Florida's military veterans who recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, and to provide them with vital information about their VA benefits. Besides this being a fun and entertaining afternoon, the event will, most importantly, provide an opportunity for these military members to meet with VA and community agency representatives to learn about health care, education, employment opportunities and benefits.

Returning military and their family members will be treated to free health screenings, educational seminars, information on employment, benefits and more. There will be free food and entertainment, prizes and giveaways.

For More Info: (813)910-4031 or  
[VHATAMwelcomehome@va.gov](mailto:VHATAMwelcomehome@va.gov)

*T.A.M.P.A. will have a booth set up at this event in hopes of distributing Wounded Warrior Handbooks. If*

.....

**T.A.M.P.A. Support Gathering  
March 27 @ 3:00p.m.  
2612 N. Tampa St., Tampa 33602  
T.A.M.P.A. will provide pizza for everyone to munch on while we work preparing Easter baskets for Tinker. If you would like to bring drinks or snacks to share it would be appreciated.**

.....

**DC Road Trip Date Set**

The Board set the date for T.A.M.P.A.'s road trip to visit the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico and Washington DC this summer. The dates will be either Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, June 27 or Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> - Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> (depending on availability of charter service, lodging facilities, etc.) 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 space we will gladly offer seats to anyone interested in joining in on all the fun. More details coming soon.

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

## February 2010

[www.USMCFamilySupport.org](http://www.USMCFamilySupport.org)

Hottest Chili: Congratulations Joe J.  
Proud Marine Dad of Sgt. Joe Jr.



### Chili Cook-Off A Wonderful Success!

The weather was crisp and perfect for a nice warm bowl of chili. For some of us 'warm' was an understatement for the spicy flavor that we would taste.

Marine family members are fierce competitors and as everyone arrived, crock pots full of chili in hand, the competition was on! There was even rumor of judges being bribed (shame on you Susan G.)

Special thanks to Daniel Abate (MARCENT), Nadine Piazza (Armed Forces Military Museum), Marilyn Custer (Freedom Excursions) and the Jernigan Family for judging all the chili.

The winners of the 2010 T.A.M.P.A. Chili Cook-Off are:

Best Chili: Congratulations Eric R.  
Proud Marine Dad of Sgt. Stephanie



### Free Tax Filing for Active Duty Families

Defense officials are again encouraging military families to take advantage of the free electronic tax filing services offered through Military OneSource.

People can access the H&R Block at Home program by going to the Military OneSource website and clicking on "Tax Filing Services." More than 200,000 service members filed their tax returns through this resource last year, officials said.

The program is open to active duty, Guard and Reserve service members, regardless of activation status, as well as spouses, dependent children and family members standing in for a deployed service member.

Participants can e-file up to three state resident returns for each federal return. However you should ensure you are filling through Military OneSource. People who file through H&R Block directly may be charged for services. The program is set up for basic returns. People who wish to upgrade to the premium program also may incur charges.

For tax assistance, filers can call a Military OneSource tax consultant from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST, seven-days-a-week, at 800-730-3802.

Along with the consultants, people with complicated tax returns can visit a legal assistance office on a military installation for more in-depth advice. Additionally many bases have volunteers who assist military families with their tax returns. Check with your local base to find out where and when these volunteers can help you.

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

February 2010

## Lowe's military discount now year-round

By Karen Jowers - Staff writer

Most members of the military community no longer will have to wait for a special holiday discount to buy shovels, paint, and other home improvement needs.

Home improvement retailer Lowe's has expanded its 10 percent military discount to all day, everyday, for active-duty, National Guard and reserve, retiree and disabled service members, and their families, company officials announced Wednesday.

Those who want to receive the discount must present a valid military ID card.

All other military veterans will receive the 10 percent discount on the holiday weekends of Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

The discount is available on in-stock and special-order purchases of up to \$5,000. It cannot be used on sales at Lowes.com, on previous sales, or on sales of services or gift cards.

"Lowe's was founded on the heels of World War II by veterans Jim Lowe and Carl Buchan and has always been a supporter of the military," said Larry D. Stone, Lowe's president and chief operating officer, in a statement announcing the new policy.

"The year-round discount program is one way we are reaffirming our commitment to the thousands of men and women who are serving throughout the world, as well as their family members at home."

[www.USMCFamilySupport.org](http://www.USMCFamilySupport.org)

AMERICAN HEROES DAY

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

The Florida Strawberry Festival will honor our American Heroes by offering **FREE** admission. All active, reserve and retired military and military veterans along with Law Enforcement, First Responders (EMS & Fire Fighters) will be admitted free all day when they show a valid ID. *Did we ever tell you that you're our heroes?* These people put their lives on hold and on the line everyday so that we may enjoy the freedoms we have here in America! AT 3:30 p.m. Aaron Tippin (who is most recognized for his patriotic smash hit single "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly," among others) will perform on the GTE FCU Soundstage. ***There's a hero if you look inside your heart!***



***One of our members, Ron S., had his Military Parent Award (from the 2009 Family Birthday Ball) professionally mounted and framed recently and wanted to share the fabulous results with everyone. Although it was a bit pricey, he feels it was worth every penny and would gladly share the information with any other members who may wish to do the same with their award.***



**T.A.M.P.A.  
HAS ONE...  
JOIN US!**

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

February 2010

## Corps slashes 300 jobs in cost-cutting move

By Dan Lamothe - Staff writer

The Marine Corps will cut 300 currently empty jobs from the service as part of cost-cutting measures put in place to reduce the size of the service.

The empty job slots, known as boatspaces, were described in Marine administrative message 025/10, dated Jan. 15. They will be cut as part of a larger, seven-point plan to help officials with Manpower & Reserve Affairs, based at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., cut the size of the service to about 202,100 Marines by Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year. As of Jan. 21, the Corps had 204,280 Marines, said Maj. Shawn Haney, a Manpower spokeswoman.

In an interview with Marine Corps Times, Lt. Gen. Richard Zilmer, Manpower's commander, said the service must reduce its size after several years of rapid growth to 202K.

"What we're operating in now with this growth, this meteoric rise to 204K, it's costing us money that we had not projected," Zilmer said during an interview at Manpower headquarters, based at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. "The force is [supposed to be] 202,000, and that's what we want to work our way down to."

A breakdown of the military occupational specialties affected by the cuts:

### MOS AND CURRENT 2010 GOAL/PREVIOUS 2010 GOAL

0151 Administrative clerk 156/176  
0351 Infantry assaultman 37/57  
0411 Maintenance management specialist 44/50  
0621 Field radio operator 246/276  
0622 Digital multi-channel wideband transmission equipment operator 30/40  
0844 Field artillery fire control man 38/43  
1142 Electrical equipment repair specialist 24/34  
1171 Hygiene equipment operator 18/28  
1391 Bulk fuel specialist 37/42  
2111 Small arms repairer/technician 48/58  
2311 Ammunition technician 52/62  
2831 Multichannel equipment repairer 4/12  
2834 Satellite communications technician 6/28  
2844 Ground communications organizational repairer 73/83  
3043 Supply administration and operations clerk 169/179  
3531 Motor vehicle operator 304/334  
4341 Combat correspondent 27/32  
5811 Military police 76/91  
5939 Aviation communication systems technician 25/30  
6112 Helicopter mechanic, CH-46 9/14  
6122 Helicopter Power Plants Mechanic, T-58 2/4  
6172 Helicopter crew chief, CH-46 11/13  
6414 Advanced aircraft communications/navigation systems technician, intermediate maintenance activity 21/26  
6531 Aviation ordnance technician (organizational/squadron level) 69/84  
6672 Aviation supply specialist 77/87  
7051 Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Specialist 45/65

[www.USMCFamilySupport.org](http://www.USMCFamilySupport.org)

## VA Announces \$12 Million for Jacksonville National Cemetery

Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced Nov. 5 an \$11.8 million contract to develop the next phase of the Jacksonville National Cemetery, which opened for burials in January 2009.

"VA is committed to providing the benefits that the veterans of northern Florida and southern Georgia have earned," said Secretary Shinseki. The contract calls for the creation of 13,600 gravesites, including pre-placed crypts, in-ground cremain sites, columbaria niches and a memorial wall. The project will also incorporate roads, signage, landscaping and site furnishings.

The 68-acre development is expected to provide an estimated eight years of burial benefits for veterans and their families. The project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2011.

.....

*HBO's The Pacific premieres March 14<sup>th</sup>. From Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and Gary Goetzman, the producers of Band of Brothers, comes a new epic miniseries about Marines in the Pacific Theater in World War II. A must see!*



*T.A.M.P.A - In The News  
February 2010*

*www.USMCFamilySupport.org*

*We always love to brag on our Marines and so we've added a couple of pictures of them during their busy schedules. If you have a recent picture/clip you would like to share please submit it for future publication in the newsletter.*



*Garrett T. got in a little bit of a mess when his vehicle got stuck in the horrible Afghanistan terrain. Don't you love the way he's smiling!*



*There he is, our very own Joe Jr. (towering in the back of the special guest) Paris, France Embassy Duty*



The **Iwo Jima Flag Raising** celebrated its **65th Anniversary** on **February 23rd**. On the small Japanese Pacific Island of **Iwo Jima** in 1945 during the battle of **Iwo Jima** in 1945 five US Marines and Navy corpsmen raised the **flag** of the **United States** on the top of **Mt. Suribachi** - an iconic moment in U.S. military history.

**The Battle of Iwo Jima** was a tough, hard fought battle, part of the United States Island hopping strategy after the fall of the Philippines. Mt. Suchibari was a key strategic point on Iwo Jima.

The famous photograph that captures the Iwo Jima Flag raising is actually the second flag raising on top of Mt. Suchibari. The first flag raising occurred earlier in the day but it was too small to be seen.

A second crew was sent so along with Joe Rosenthal the photographer (who went on to win a Pulitzer Prize for the image).



*Members and friends of T.A.M.P.A. help honor Sgt. Angus as he returned home for the final time. Let us never forget.*



**Newest Addition to website  
Shopping Spot  
Wounded Warrior Support Magnets**



**If you would like to order this item or see others that we have for sale:**  
<http://www.usmcfamilysupport.org/ShoppingSpot.asp>



Heidy R.'s grandmother passed away earlier this month and Heidy traveled to Puerto Rico to help the family with the funeral. If you would like to send the family a card to show your support: 7233 Hollowell Drive, Tampa, 33634.

.....

In the upcoming months T.A.M.P.A. will be very busy with lots of great gatherings, outings and experiences that you won't want to miss out on.

Be sure to visit the website, FB and watch for emails with details. Here are just a few:

- St. Patrick's Day Parade*
- Armed Forces Museum*
- T.A.M.P.A. 6 year Birthday Picnic Celebration*
- Quantum Leap Farms*
- Ladies Slumber Party/Mens Nite Out*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Luau*
- DC Road Trip*



**February Birthdays**

- 01 (89)** LCpl Gordon S., USMC
- 01 (79)** Katie S., PMS of LCpl Gordon S.
- 11** Juli Rae, PMM of OIF Veteran Jesse
- 21** Pat T., PMG of OIF Veteran Kenny
- 23** Cpl Gabe, son of Andria and Ed M.
- 28** Sgt Jordan, son of Charlene and Jorge T.



**February Anniversaries**

- 14** (81) Andria and Ed M., PMP of Cpl Gabe
- 19** (77) Nancy and Ed W., PMP of SSgt Matt

***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](mailto:admin@USMCFamilySupport.org)***



Tampa Area Marine Parents Association, Inc. a/k/a T.A.M.P.A. is a civilian organization with 501(c) (3) non-profit status is not a government agency and is solely supported by the generosity of its members, individuals, corporations and foundations in support and appreciation of our American military men and women.  
Federal Tax ID #02-0775646