



FROM YOUR OMBUDSMAN



Hello Base Portsmouth Families,

The countdown begins. We have moved our clocks forward, and spring is around the corner. Before long, we'll complain about the heat, more traffic and beach vacationers, and our short-lived New Year's resolutions. Graduations, promotions and advancements, transfer season, and retirements will be upon us. My husband said, "if you stay in (USCG) long enough, either you will transfer or your peers will."

This year, the countdown is personal. I am one of thousands of military spouses who have proudly watched their mates answer the call, wear the uniform, board the boat and safely return, and quiet the questions from an anxious child. In the summer of 1982, my husband entered boot camp. This summer, he will retire. I can't imagine having the same employer for 30 years!

I would encourage you to support your spouse in their professional and educational endeavors. If they want to start or complete a degree or certification, there are funds available. If they want to advance, help them study. If they desire to promote, become their biggest cheerleader. Don't allow anyone, even yourself, to diminish their very important role within the United States Coast Guard and our great nation.

Semper Paratus!

Feel free to contact me at cmhdillard@yahoo.com

Warmly,
Channon Dillard

DID YOU KNOW...?

On Base Portsmouth, refrain from using or texting on your cell phone while driving. Please use a hands free device if you *must* use your cell phone while driving. Holding your phone while using the speakerphone *does not* count as hands free!

YMCA Armed Services has postponed its Bread Program until further notice. If you are interested in being considered for a long-term volunteer position to facilitate the program, please contact Kim Fadely at kim.fadely@asymcahr.org. Long-term volunteers are required to assist 2 days a week, totaling 8 hours a week.

Do you need help with your taxes? The VITA Program is here to help. From Feb. 6th through April 15th, call (757) 638-2794 to make an appointment.

USO Day at King's Dominion for EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program)/Special Needs Children is scheduled for Friday, June 22 from 10:30 a.m. until the park closes. This day is for active duty military children with severe medical conditions. To qualify the EFM must be 18 years or younger, chronically ill, have a life threatening illness, be terminally ill, or be in the use of mobility device. For more information call Kelly Beck at (757) 686-4025.

On May 1, 2012, MetLife will become the dental carrier for the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). Please know United Concordia (UCCI) will remain the contractor for the Active Duty Dental Program (ADDP). For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/tdpcontract and benefit updates are available at www.tricare.mil.

Are you interested in serving as a liaison between the Command and families? Can you provide referrals and resources to CG families? Consider becoming the Ombudsman for Base Portsmouth. Feel free to contact me via mail or call Anne Patterson at (757) 686-4030.

DID YOU KNOW...

There has been an expansion of the Coast Guard's Child Care Subsidy Program. To enroll or for more information, please contact Judy Gonzales at 1-866-508-0371 or email usacoastguardchildcare@gsa.gov.

If you are a parent of a high school or college student, it is never too early to think about financial aid and scholarships for college.

- The Coast Guard Foundation Scholarship Program is soliciting applications for the 2012-2013 academic school year. These foundation scholarships are made possible by major benefactor organizations, to include: The Arnold Sobel Endowment Fund (Sobel), The Coast Guard Foundation Scholarship Fund (Foundation), The Commander Ronald J. Cantin Scholarship Fund (Cantin), The Daniel J. Christovich Scholarship Fund (Christovich), The Westbrook Scholarship Fund (Westbrook), and The Clay Maitland Coast Guard Foundation (Maitland). The application process for the Sobel, Foundation, Cantin, Christovich, Westbrook, and Maitland are the same. Applicants will compete for all of these scholarships via one application packet. Application instructions and requirements are available from the CG Work-Life website at WWW.USCG.MIL/WORKLIFE/SCHOLARSHIP.ASP or the Coast Guard Foundation website under the Scholarship section at WWW.COASTGUARDFOUNDATION.ORG. Additionally you may contact the Family Resource Specialist (FRS) at your Health, Safety, and Work-Life Regional Office at 1-800-872-4957.

If you are seeking financial support for college...

- Additional scholarship opportunities for spouses, military children, and federal employees can be viewed at the Office of Work-Life website at WWW.USCG.MIL/WORKLIFE/SCHOLARSHIP.ASP.
- Questions regarding scholarship opportunities may be directed to the Family Support Service Specialist, Ms. Mitchia (Shay) Tull-Cook at (202) 475-5159 or emailed to HQS AT HQS-SMB-FAMILYSUPPORTSERVICES@USCG.MIL.

NASA is looking to increase the number of students with disabilities pursuing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers and has a hiring goal of two percent. Summer 2012 internships run for ten weeks beginning in early June through early August and are available at NASA centers nationwide. The online application is available at <http://bit.ly/nasaintern> or <http://intern.nasa.gov/> and offers will be made by email after February 1, 2012. To learn more, or for help with applying, email Kenneth.A.Silberman@nasa.gov or by voice at 301-286-9281.

Traditional Camp through Operation Purple Program – Operation Purple camps offer a free week of summer fun for military kids with parents who have been, are currently, or will be deployed. The deployment phase is between September 2011 and December 2012. Camps will be held in Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, North Carolina, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia. The Operation Purple Program was created in 2004 in response to the call from military parents to “help us help our kids.” The mission of the Operation Purple Program is to empower military children and their families to develop and maintain health and connected relations, in spite of the current military environment. The program is open to children and families of active duty, National Guard or Reserve service members from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service and NOAA. For more information, visit www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/. Applications will be available March 19, 2012.

DID YOU KNOW... (CONTINUED)

Tidewater Military Family Services Council has a camp scholarship program. Camp scholarships are open to all children of Active Duty Military Services Members including Coast Guard and Reserve. For application information, please email or call sburns@lpsi.com or (757) 961-1796. Deadline to enter is May 1, 2012.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

On Base Portsmouth

BASE PORTSMOUTH COLLEGE FAIR 2012

Are you looking to explore the educational opportunities available to you? Are you looking for an Associates, Bachelors, or Masters degree? How does Dr. look in front of your name? Or maybe you're just looking to take a few classes. Whatever educational opportunity you seek, there will be over 25 colleges waiting to answer your questions at the 2012 Base Portsmouth College Fair.

When:	Thursday, April 19	Where:	Portside, Base Portsmouth
Time:	From 1000 until 1300	Who:	OPEN TO ALL W/ MILITARY BASE ACCESS

Events sponsored by USO of Hampton Roads and Central Virginia

April 21 Party for the Planet at the Virginia Zoological Park, Norfolk

April 28 Family Festival at Portsmouth Naval Hospital

2012 Summer Military Concert Series

July 4 Justin Lee at Fort Lee

July 13 Sarah Evans at Joint Base Langley-Eustis (Eustis)

August 17 Chris Daughtry

Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families

This show features Elmo and his friends Rosita, Cookie Monster, Grover, and their new friend Katie, a military kid who is moving to a new place. The tour is part of Sesame Street's Talk, Listen, Connect initiative for military families.

May 3 and 4 - 6PM Show at JEB Little Creek/Fort Story theater

May 5 - 2PM & 6PM Show at NAS Oceana base theater

May 6 - 2PM Show at NAS Oceana base theater

May 7 - 2PM & 5PM Show at JB Langley-Eustis Shellbank Youth Center Gym

May 8 - 9:30AM & 5PM Show at JB Langley-Eustis Shellbank Youth Center Gym

May 9 and 10 - 6PM Show at Naval Station Norfolk base theater

Patriotic Festival and Air Show

Annual Military Salute to the Armed Services at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

Military demonstrations & displays. A show by the Blue Angels on Saturday and Sunday. National entertainment at the 5th St. Stage:

June 1: Miranda Lambert

June 2: Steel Pulse

June 3: Scotty McCreery