

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

“bringing you all the way home”



Program Guidance

24 October 2008

Montana National Guard

Deployment Cycle Support Program

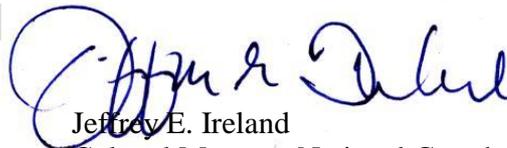


Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON

The State of Montana and the Montana National Guard are committed to supporting the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of our unit members. Not only is this the National Guard way, but as Soldiers, Airmen, and Families we share in the responsibility to watch out for one another. As the operational tempo and deployment cycles continue, Guardsmen and their Families will experience increased stress. These mission driven stressors, in many cases, affect both the physical and mental health of our Guardsmen and their Families.

The Montana “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” (BYR) program is a component of the Deployment Cycle Support (DSC) that was established to better prepare our Guardsmen and their Families before, during, and after deployments. Modeled after the Minnesota program, BYR provides a proactive continuum of information and care to ensure that Guardsmen and their Families receive appropriate care and services throughout every stage of the deployment cycle.

The BYR program will be offered to all Montana reserve components to provide additional education and resources before, during, and after the deployment cycle. The Montana National Guard is committed in doing everything possible to ensure mission success on the battlefield and on the home front.



Jeffrey E. Ireland
Colonel Montana National Guard
Director Manpower and Personnel





BACKGROUND

The DCS program is a mandatory requirement for all Soldiers and Airmen in the Montana National Guard who are scheduled to deploy, or are currently deployed, in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) for a period greater than 180 days. Family members of these Soldiers and Airmen are strongly encouraged to participate. The program is optional for those who deploy for fewer than 180 days and for all other Reserve Component forces. BYR/DCS is conducted in 3 distinct phases.

PHASE I - Pre-Mobilization Preparation

This phase begins upon receipt of a mobilization warning order from Joint Force Headquarters Montana J3 Mobilization (JFHQMT-J3-MOB) (AIR ORDER??) and ends upon departure to the mobilization station. JFHQMT-J1-DCS will work with the affected unit to develop a training plan that includes:

- a. Family Readiness Leader Conference. Family Readiness Volunteers and Unit Leaders (deploying and rear detachment) attend a one day training session that provides basic Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteer training, provides unit leaders with the tools they need to manage their family readiness program and culminates with a Family Readiness “Action Plan” to support their deployment. If volunteers or unit leaders are unable to attend this conference, coordination will be made with J1-DCS to schedule FRG Volunteer and unit rear detachment Full Time Support (FTS) training.
- b. Pre-Deployment Academy. Deploying Service Members and Families attend a one day workshop that offers multiple training options that address common challenges they may face during a deployment. Additionally, Service Members and Families will obtain access to a wide range of resources and agencies that will be available during their deployment.

PHASE II – During Deployment Support

This phase begins upon arrival at the mobilization station, continues through the mobilization period, and ends upon arrival back at the de-mobilization site.

- a. Advanced Family Readiness Group Training. JFHQMT-J1-DCS will offer advanced training for FRG leaders and rear detachment leaders periodically throughout the mobilization. This specialized training will provide additional skills and knowledge to help them manage their program(s).
- b. Family Reintegration Academy (FRA). The purpose of this training is to prepare family members for the challenges of reintegration. Family members will receive access to vital resources, licensed professionals and referral services. This is typically a one day training event and will be conducted 30-60 days preceding a unit’s return from deployment.



Phase III - Post Deployment Reintegration

This phase begins upon arrival at the de-mobilization site and ends upon successful completion of the 60 day re-integration training.

- a. **Identify At Risk Service Members.** Deployed Commanders will continually monitor Service Members that fall in a high risk category. Examples include those injured or exposed to significant traumatic events. The purpose is the early identification of those Service Members who may need additional readjustment assistance. This increased awareness will provide the ability to extend timely assistance, referral, and the development of appropriate readjustment training.
- b. **Initial Reintegration Training.** Deployed Unit Commanders will insure that all Service Members attend initial reintegration training offered at the demobilization site.
- c. **30/60 Day Reintegration Training Events.** Commanders will insure that all Service Members attend these one-day reintegration events. Commanders will enforce IDT attendance principles as if these events were a scheduled unit drill. Service Members with validated conflicts will be rescheduled into a makeup event. Family members are strongly encouraged to attend.
- d. **90-Day Reconstitution Event.** Army Commanders will conduct a MUTA-6 to complete their Post-Deployment Health Risk Assessment (PDHRA), TB Tine Test, Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) and other administrative and logistical activities required by the chain of command. Air Commanders will coordinate with the Medical Group for the conduct of the PDHRA event. The units next higher HQ is responsible to plan and execute this reconstitution event. This is not a function of the JFHQMT-DCS Team. Additionally, the units planning this event will resource all administrative and logistic activities, with the exception of J1 medical. Medical resources must be requested in writing to JFHQ-J1-OSS at least 120 days in advance of the event.
- e. **Individual Re-Deployments.** Commanders will insure that all Service Members who are released from active duty (as individuals) attend the next scheduled reintegration event hosted by JFHQMT-J1-DCS; i.e. MIRT or 30-day event. This includes Service Members on Community Based Health Care Organization (CBHCO) who are recovering from illness or injury at their unit of assignment. Family members are strongly encouraged to attend.

PHASE I - BEFORE DEPLOYMENT



Action Office – J1 DCS Team

FAMILY READINESS LEADER CONFERENCE

The Family Readiness Leader Conference is a 4-7 hour training event designed for Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteers and Unit Leaders of the deploying unit and the rear detachment. The training is designed to provide basic Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteer training and to provide unit leaders with the tools and understanding they need to support their family readiness program. The training culminates with the production of a Family Readiness “Action Plan.” This plan is specific to the unit and will serve as a family guide during deployment. If volunteers or unit leaders are unable to attend this conference, coordination will be made through the JFHQMT-J1-DCS to schedule follow-on FRG Volunteer and unit rear detachment (FTS) training.

PRE-DEPLOYMENT FAMILY PREPARATION ACADEMY

The Pre-Deployment Family Preparation Academy is a 7 hour program designed to empower and resource Service Members and their spouses, parents, significant others and children to address the effects of combat operational stress and general issues prior to deploying. Utilizing subject matter experts, previously deployed Service Members and representatives from military, government, and civilian agencies; participants will have an opportunity to connect with service providers and dialogue about the challenges of deployment and understand what resources are available to them by various agencies in the state, in a small group setting.

A “round robin” format will offer participants the following workshops. Additional booths will offer services from numerous military, government and civilian agencies.

- 1) TRICARE Medical & Dental
- 2) Resource Portals: Military One Source
- 3) Family Assistance: Family Assistance Centers, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and Community Outreach
- 4) Personal Finance: Paying bills, Adjusting to different pay & system
- 5) “Putting Your House in Order”: Reading the LES, interest rates, auto leases, preparing for deployment and power of attorney
- 6) “Keeping Your Marriage Strong While Deployed”
- 7) Single Service Member: “Parents of Deployed Service Members: How to cope when the child you love is at war”
- 8) “Surviving Deployment as a Single Parent”
- 9) Children’s & Teen’s Program: “When Someone You Love Goes to War”



This phase occurs between 60 and 90 days before a unit deploys. This critical function touches both the service member and the family to ensure adequate preparation is conducted prior to a deployment. It is designed to educate everyone on a variety of items. Some of these items are on the following initial list:

Pre-Deployment Academies will be held at a location outside of unit armories on a weekend acceptable to the unit. ITA's will be pre-coordinated to cover meals, lodging, and mileage for family participants.

DRAFT





Phase II - DURING DEPLOYMENT

Action Office – J1 DCS Team

REINTEGRATION ACADEMY

The During Deployment Reintegration Academy is a 4 hour program designed to empower and resource spouses, parents, significant others and children to address the effects of combat operational stress and to prepare for reintegration. Using subject matter experts and representatives from military, government, and civilian agencies; participants will be given the opportunity to reconnect with service providers to discuss the challenges of reintegration and receive additional information on various resources that are available to them from various agencies.

Reintegration Academies are designed to educate families on what to expect upon return of their Service Member. Numerous topics ranging from TRICARE to parenting to the Emotion Effects of War on their returning Service Member will be covered.

A “round robin” format will be used to offer the following workshops. In addition, there will be informational booths from numerous military, government and civilian agencies.

- 1) Combat Stress
- 2) Making Marriage Work
- 3) Reconnecting Service Members with their Children
- 4) Parenting a Single Service Member
- 5) Veterans Administration
- 6) County Veteran Service Officer & MT Disabled Veterans Administration
- 7) Returning to Work: ESGR and Department of Economic & Employer Development
- 8) TRICARE
- 9) Military One Source
- 10) Family Assistance Centers/JAG/Taxes

This phase may be conducted using internet based Webinars. Webinars allow participants to attend training events from any location with a computer and internet access. This method minimizes travel costs and increases the flexibility and frequency of training. Reintegration Academies will be scheduled between 60-90 days prior to the return of a unit.



PHASE III - INITIAL REINTEGRATION

Action Office – J3 MOB

PHASE III DEMOB

This function will occur at Phase 3 DEMOB at the demobilization site prior to the Service Member returning to home station. (Phase 3 DEMOB may be conducted at home station immediately upon return from the MOB site.) The purpose of this event is to evaluate records and to educate Service Members on a variety of items to minimize the time spent at home station before being released to the families.

Below is a list items for the Phase 3 DEMOB items:

DD-214's
Awards
TRIWEST
VA
Full timer brief

Several headquarters representatives will participate in this event to include; Medical Command, G-1 Army Personnel, and the Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA).





AFTER 30 DAY REINTEGRATION

Action Office – J1 DCS Team

The 30 day reintegration occurs on the first scheduled drill after redeployment. 30 Day Reintegration Training is focused on addressing the challenges that married couples, married couples with children, single Service Members and divorced couples face after a deployment. Utilizing subject matter experts and representatives from military, government, and civilian agencies; Service Members and their families will have an opportunity to reconnect with service providers and dialogue about the challenges of reintegration and understand what resources are available to them by various agencies in the state. The training will be accomplished over the course of one day and be conducted in small groups through a round-robin format with additional information provided via provider display booths.

Reintegration skills
Social workshops
BATTLEMIND training
JAG
Taxes
VA
ESGR
Medical
Job Fair

30-day events will be held at centralized locations throughout the state. Events will typically be conducted in a hotel or conference center on a weekend acceptable to the unit. ITA's will be pre-coordinated to cover meals, lodging, and mileage costs for family participants.

This phase will be conducted in one IDT period on a normal weekend drill period to ensure the largest possible attendance.





AFTER 60 DAY REINTEGRATION

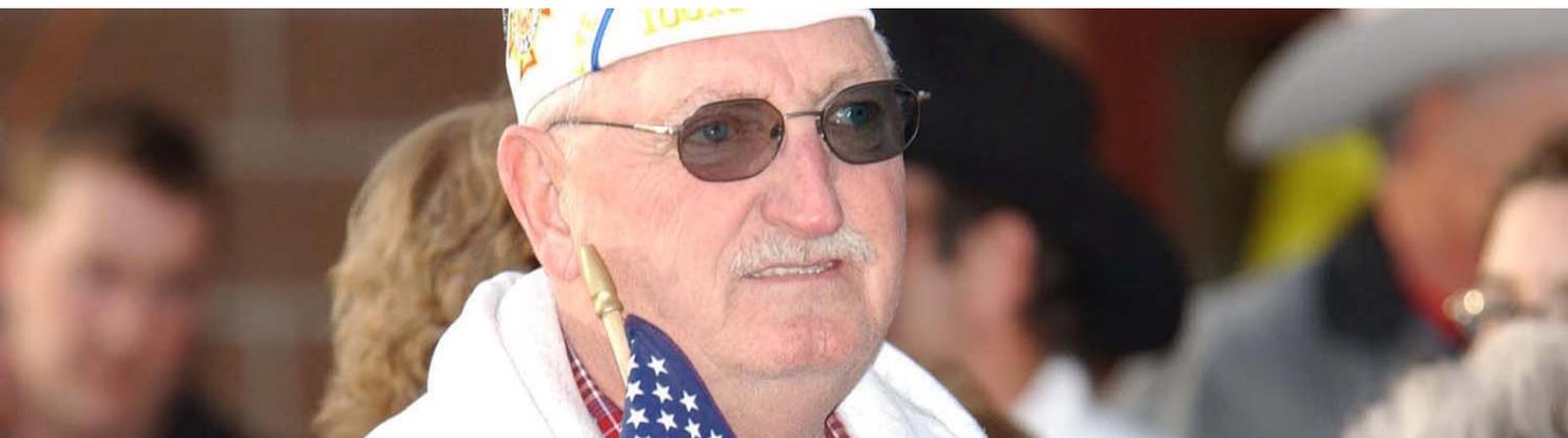
Action Office – J1 DCS Team

The 60 day reintegration phase continues the education process to ensure a successful reintegration. 60 Day Reintegration Training is focused on training Service Members on how to address negative behaviors related to combat stress. Utilizing subject matter experts in the area of Anger Management, Chemical Abuse, Gambling Abuse and Law Enforcement, Service Members will be given information and strategies to help deal with the normal effects of combat. This will be accomplished over the course of one day with training conducted through briefings complimented with provider display booths.

Anger management
Chemical Abuse
Gambling Abuse
Law Enforcement

60-day events will be held at centralized locations throughout the state. Events will typically be conducted in a hotel or conference center on a weekend acceptable to the unit. ITA's will be pre-coordinated to cover meals, lodging, and mileage costs for family participants.

This phase will be conducted in one IDT period on a normal weekend drill period to ensure the largest possible attendance.





90 DAY RECONSTITUTION

Action Office – Individual Units and Higher Headquarters

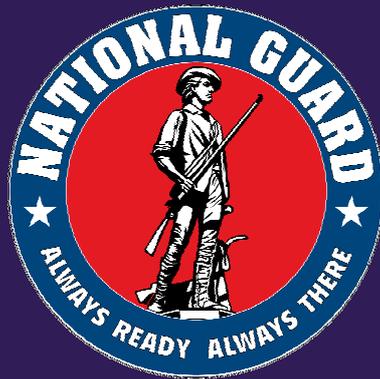
Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA)

90-day PDHRA events are conducted during one IDT period; normally on a scheduled weekend drill period but not later than 180 days from redeployment. The unit will coordinate the event through the State Surgeon's Office or the Medical Group. Depending on the size of the unit, the PDHRA will be accomplished through either an on site team or the use of on-line and telephonic means.

FREEDOM SALUTE

The ARNG Freedom Salute ceremony will be coordinated and scheduled by the unit through their Higher Headquarters. This event will require family members to be placed on ITA travel orders. ANG ceremonies will be scheduled through the Mission Support Group (MSG).





Montana National Guard
J1 Director Manpower and Personnel
Deployment Cycle Support Program