



# Family Connection

APRIL 2008

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[COMPASS Builds a Network of Support](#)

[Military Motherhood Award](#)

[It's Tax Time](#)

[Operation Purple Camp](#)

## COMPASS Builds a Network of Support

By Cyndi Ann Hicks

New Navy spouses often find themselves with questions about military life. COMPASS is a twelve hour program developed by spouses for spouses. It is designed to welcome all spouses by providing answers and support when dealing with the challenges of Navy life.

This Naval Services FamilyLine Program features a standardized curriculum that includes such need-to-know topics as the Navy mission, its history, organization, customs and traditions, rights and benefits, deployment, pay, moving, interpersonal communication, and investing in self and community.

The mentor-facilitators have experience in Navy life and possess a desire to help other spouses feel comfortable. Participants gain knowledge by asking any questions they have in a non-judgmental climate.

Additionally, participants begin to build a support network that includes all the resources available to Navy spouses, such as FFSC, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Chaplain, Ombudsman, etc. For some participants, COMPASS offers a social outlet, for others, it offers an opportunity to volunteer in their communities. What's more, COMPASS embraces the whole family by supplying information on local things for children to do.

Interested spouses can register for the next free COMPASS workshop or learn how to become a mentor at [www.gocompass.org](http://www.gocompass.org).



## Operation Purple Camp

Operation Purple camp program was created in 2004 to help military children struggling with having a parent deployed. Any military child can apply; however, priority is given to those children who have a parent/guardian or family household member deployed between May 2007 and September 2008. If all spaces are not filled with campers who meet the deployment criteria, the remaining camp slots are filled with any military child from any service branch, the National Guard, Reserve, PHS and NOAA. "Deployment" is defined loosely as it is recognized that TDY and travel can often take service members away from family for significant periods of time.

Registration for the free summer camps begins March 24th and ends May 5th for all Operation Purple camp locations. Details on how to register and the necessary forms to apply for camp are available at <http://www.operationpurple.org>. Click on the applicable state for camp registration, application, and contact information. This year 100 weeks of camp in 62 locations, in 37 states and territories are available.





## Military Motherhood Award

To recognize moms who always manage to put their families first through all the challenges of a military lifestyle, Operation Homefront and [CinCHouse.com](http://CinCHouse.com) are accepting nominations for their inaugural Military Motherhood Award. The award is sponsored by Lockheed Martin. The winning mom will be awarded \$5,000 and flown to Washington, D.C. for a May 8, awards ceremony. The event will be co-hosted by Congresswoman Susan Davis (D-Calif.) and Sen. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.).

Nominations to the Military Motherhood Award will be accepted on [www.CinCHouse.com](http://www.CinCHouse.com) through the month of March. Anyone may nominate a friend or themselves. Operation Homefront will then select the top 20 nominations and allow the CinCHouse community to vote for the top five. Our panel of judges will then select the winner.

To nominate someone for the Military Motherhood Award, go to [www.CinCHouse.com](http://www.CinCHouse.com). For more information about the contest and event contact Meredith Leyva at 757-410-4926 or [meredith@operationhomefront.net](mailto:meredith@operationhomefront.net).

## It's Tax Time

If you haven't done your income taxes yet free help is available:

- Military OneSource tax consultants are available Monday–Friday, 7 am to 11 pm EDT, by calling 1-800-730-3802 and by e-mail to help you with personal tax-related questions and financial planning.
- Service members and their families can get help at many installations through the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). Check with your legal center to see if this service is available at your installation. VITA volunteers will help you file your taxes free of charge.
- If your spouse is serving in a combat zone or in direct support of those in the combat zone and receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay your deadline for filing income taxes is 180 days after your last day in the combat zone or hazardous duty area. Go to <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html> to see a list of combat zones. In addition to the 180 days, the extension includes the number of days left in the filing period when you entered the combat zone or hazardous duty area. The filing period is January 1 through April 15. So, if you or your spouse entered the combat zone on March 31, you would add 15 days to your 180-day tax filing extension.



**ECRC IA HELPDESK**  
[ecrc.hq.fct@navy.mil](mailto:ecrc.hq.fct@navy.mil)

**ECRC IA FAMILY HELPDESK**  
[ecrc.fs.fct@navy.mil](mailto:ecrc.fs.fct@navy.mil)

**ECRC IA WEBSITE**  
[www.ecrc.navy.mil](http://www.ecrc.navy.mil)

The constant current source for IA information.

For **EMERGENCIES**  
 Staff Duty Officer  
 (757) 763-8640

24 HR Toll Free Family Hotline  
 1-877-364-4302



## Meet with other IA family members from around the world in the comfort of your own home!

To participate in the IA Family Connection:

### You will need:

1. A computer with broadband Internet access.
2. A telephone.

### To join:

1. Go to the browser address listed next to the date you want to attend. It will take you to a registration website where you'll be asked for a few pieces of information.
2. You will receive a confirmation email from WEBINAR providing the Internet browser address for the session as well as the telephone number to dial.

### To attend session:

1. Insert the website address for the session into your browser window. It will scroll and a box will come up on your screen.
2. Click "Download GoToMeeting". To download GoToMeeting.
3. Click "run".
4. A bar will appear in the middle of the page as it downloads.
5. If you arrive before the facilitator, a window will let you know. Do not exit the window. Just wait for the meeting to start.
6. Once completed, the computer will ask you to enter: Name & email address.
7. "Waiting to View Screen" will appear. You are connected.
8. Dial in on your phone by calling:  
**1-800-791-2345 Code: 40560**

These virtual IA family member discussion groups are hosted by Commander Navy Installations Command and Fleet and Family Support Centers worldwide.

## IA Family Connection

---

Meet with other IA family members from around the world in the comfort of your own home. Share experiences—everything from the uniqueness of IA duty to R&R to homecoming.

**Tuesday, April 8, 2008 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EDT**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/238662307>

**Thursday, May 8, 2008 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EDT**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/675009136>

## My Sailor's Coming Home!

---

Homecoming — there's nothing more exciting! Are you ready? During this 60 minute discussion we'll talk about changes, expectations, and helping your Sailor readjust to family and friends after being deployed. We'll also touch on what to do if you are concerned your loved one may have experienced too much stress due to serving in a combat zone with options for help, if needed.

**Wednesday, April 16, 2008 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EDT**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/125585085>

**Thursday, May 1, 2008 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/418507249>

## Are You Ready for Deployment?

---

IA/GSA deployments are a bit different than a typical deployment that you may or may not have experienced. Join us in this 60 minute discussion to:

- Learn what you need to do to get ready for deployment.
- Get updates about organizations that can help if you need it.
- Gather tips to help make this a smooth deployment.
- "Meet" other family members whose Sailors have recently deployed.

**Tuesday, April 22, 2008 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/920788066>

**Tuesday, May 13, 2008 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EDT**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/902192606>

## Children and Deployment

---

Deployments can be tough for children of all ages. Learn how your child may react and ways to support your child during this 60-minute discussion.

**Wednesday, April 30, 2008 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/430887049>

**Wednesday, May 28, 2008 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/970133567>