

## **Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) for the Army National Guard**

**What is it?** Through a cooperative effort with Parent Services, Veteran Service Organizations, Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC), Casualty Assistance Centers (CACs) and communities across the nation, the Army National Guard provides ongoing support to Soldiers and Families through Military Funeral Honors (MFH), Casualty Assistance, and Survivor Outreach Services (SOS). Military Funeral Honors teams render professional military funeral honors, in accordance with service traditions, to all eligible veterans when requested by an authorized family member. The Casualty Assistance program assists the CMAOC and CACs with the mission of assigning Casualty Notification and Casualty Assistance Officers to assist families during their time of need.

**What has the ARNG done?** The ARNG MFH program operates in 52 of 54 States and Territories. The MFH program is supported by a training program at the Professional Education Center (PEC) in Arkansas, which certifies Soldiers as MFH trainers. This training program certifies over 100 Soldiers annually. These MFH trainers conduct in-State certification before Soldiers are authorized to perform funeral honors. In fiscal year 2010, the ARNG supported over 125,000 MFH commemorations. Casualty assistance includes full support to Casualty Operations, providing Notification Officers within 4 hours of initial casualty reports and Assistance Officers for as long as the family needs. In addition, the National Guard provides training to certify Casualty Notification and Assistance Officers to provide support of the highest standard to surviving family members who sacrificed so much.

**What continued efforts does the ARNG have planned for the future?** To ensure Survivors receive ongoing support, the ARNG has 104 Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Coordinators placed throughout the States and Territories in geographically dispersed areas based on survivor population densities.

**Why is this important to the Army?** The ARNG conducts 80% of all MFH commemorations for the Army and approximately 55% of all MFH commemorations for DOD. Outreach teams reassure survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family for as long as they desire. These coordinators provide long-term support throughout the grief process, facilitate support groups, provide information and referral services, coordinate child care as needed, and provide other services as required.