

National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

What is it? Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) have significantly increased operating tempo and the frequency of deployments within the Army National Guard (ARNG), placing additional strain on our ARNG Soldiers and their Families. A primary ARNG goal is to provide our Soldiers and their Families with a delivery structure ensuring a *continuum of care*, with specific emphasis on the Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) process in consonance with the National Guard's developing Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program. DCS is a comprehensive process ensuring Soldiers and their Families are better prepared and sustained throughout the entire deployment cycle (before, during, and after). The ARNG G1 is the staff agent for Soldier and Family Services (SFS) and DCS within the ARNG.

The National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program provides sufficient information, services, referral, and proactive outreach opportunities for Soldiers, Families, employers and youth throughout the entire deployment cycle: pre-alert, alert/pre-deployment, deployment, post-deployment, and reconstitution (reintegration) and throughout their life cycles. The National Guard recognizes that each Soldier and Family is part of a support structure and a network of protection that helps them cope and even thrive in the face of life's challenges.

What has the Army done? The Soldier and Family Services division supports and assists the Yellow Ribbon programs in the States and Territories. The National Guard leverages the new *National Guard Soldier & Family Foundations* magazine to highlight ideas and initiatives across the nation. This magazine has feature articles about Family and Soldier resilience and publicizes Yellow Ribbon and other Family events on the State level.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future? The Yellow Ribbon program is designed to serve service members from all reserve components. The National Guard has established a coordinated effort for States and Territories providing concise and unified support to our Citizen-Soldiers and their Families, regardless of their component, for a safe, healthy, and successful reintegration following deployments and throughout their life cycles.

Why is this important to the Army? The National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program provides a robust, preventive, proactive support program for Soldiers and Families promoting preparedness through education, by conducting effective Family outreach, leveraging resources, and supporting the volunteer force. This will provide the *continuum of care* needed to ensure successful Soldier and Family reintegration.