

Support Available During the “New Normal”

As the Adjutant General has pointed out, the Minnesota National Guard has been called on to take on unprecedented responsibilities and missions in the “new normal”. In turn, Soldiers and Airmen of the Minnesota National Guard are being depended on more than ever before. You are making sure your families are taken care of, continuing your education and managing your schedule around training and deployments. In short, today’s citizen warriors are fulfilling their obligation to the Guard and country while making sure they are building the life they want for themselves and their families.

There are many resources available to help support you and your families as we maintain our “Always Ready” posture. Remember, your first stop should always be your chain of command, but there are many organizations specifically tasked to help. I encourage you to check out the many different resources that are available to you and your families.

The Minnesota National Guard updates and maintains a website that can help you find information about the Guard, current Guard news, upcoming events, as well as links and contact information for programs and resources available to you and your family. For more information, visit www.minnesotanationalguard.org.

The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (BTYR) is a national re-integration program that was pioneered by the Minnesota National Guard. The BTYR offers a wide range of services and programs for Guard personnel in a number of areas. The BTYR is available to help servicemembers and family members in the transition from warrior to citizen. For more information, visit www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org.

The First Lady’s Military Care Initiative represents an outpouring of concern for Minnesota’s military families. Organizations throughout the state of Minnesota have turned their concern into action by registering their wiliness to help during times of deployment. If your loved one is deployed, we encourage you to search this site for a list of organizations near your home that are willing to provide volunteer services to military families. For more information, visit www.militaryfamilies.state.mn.us.

Military OneSource is a valuable tool available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Military OneSource is provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status) and their families. It is a virtual extension of installation services. For more information, visit www.militaryonesource.com.