



## **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon**

DEPLOYMENT CYCLE SUPPORT

**FACT SHEET**

Feb. 2, 12

- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting Servicemembers and their families with community support, training, services and resources.

### **We do this by:**

1. Creating awareness through the Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign and synchronizing sustainable community support networks.
2. Connecting and coordinating organizations, agencies, and companies to provide resources and support to Servicemembers and their families.
3. Delivering a series of formal Yellow Ribbon Training events to Servicemembers and their families before, during and after deployment.
4. Providing an opportunity for Minnesotans to support Servicemembers and their families.

### **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is united to bring Servicemembers all the way home.**

- The Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign is made up of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network and the Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program.
  - Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network: Sustainable relationship between military personnel and key community leaders, resource providers and volunteers within defined areas throughout the community that provide locally accessible resources that meet baseline needs.
  - Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program: Governor's recognition program to recognize communities who create action plans, throughout defined areas within the community, which demonstrate sustainable commitment to Servicemembers and Military Family Members.
    - Yellow Ribbon outreach is designed to increase the awareness of the challenges Servicemembers and especially, families face as a result of the deployments. Minnesota does not have a large military presence and the facilities and services that are available on active duty installations are not available to our veterans.
    - To meet the needs of Servicemembers and families, many communities are organizing their efforts.

- A common theme is that Minnesotans want to support the troops but don't know how. The Yellow Ribbon Outreach creates awareness and creates a network of support within the community. In so doing, all Minnesotans have the opportunity to serve.
  - The gateway to find your local Yellow Ribbon Network is through a Family Assistance Center. All location information is at: <http://www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org/family-assistance-centers>
  - More than one hundred entities have been proclaimed Yellow Ribbon, recognizing their support to Servicemembers and their families. There are now Yellow Ribbon cities, companies and counties throughout Minnesota.
  
- The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Wellness – readily available, confidential resources for Servicemembers and families.
  - Programs under the umbrella include; Family Assistance Centers, Military Family Care Initiative, MN National Guard Youth Programs, Operation Military Kids, Military Family Life Counselors, Military One Source, Transition Assistant Advisors, Medical Transition Assistant Coordinator, the American Red Cross, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Strong Bonds Enrichment Retreats, State Family Programs and unit Family Readiness Support Assistants.
  - Other resources provided include; community outreach, building employment partnerships, education for Servicemembers on employment tactics and opportunities, information on benefits like education and grants, connection to military family events and outings.
  
- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Training Servicemembers and Families
  - Minnesota initiated the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration events based on MG Larry Shellito's vision that this generation of veterans should be treated with respect and have resources available to assist them in their transition from war to a civilian life and career. This vision was the inspiration for the national law. Minnesota has developed a comprehensive program which addresses the needs of Servicemembers and families before, during and after deployments.
  - We welcome Servicemembers and families from all components to participate in our events.
    - Training includes; Family Preparation Academies, Family Reintegration Academies, Initial Reintegration for Servicemembers, 30-day and 60-day Reintegration for Servicemembers and families, and 90-day and, new in Oct. 2009 - one year training for Servicemembers.
  
- Information is available at [www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org](http://www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org) or by calling 651-282-3825.