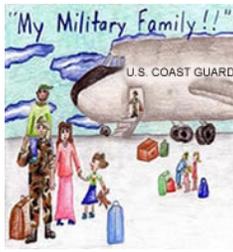


MSU CHICAGO NEWS



A Note from the Ombudsman



I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Holly Rock and I am very excited to be serving the families and members of MSU Chicago! My husband, MST1 Sean Rock, and our two children, Abigail (3) and Jaxon (2), moved to Naperville last August from Charleston, SC.

I have been a part of the Coast Guard family for almost six years now and we have been stationed in Seattle (USCGC Polar Sea); San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charleston, SC; and now Chicago.

Please feel free to contact me at msuchicagoombudsman@yahoo.com or 630-815-6690 if you have any questions or needs.



Congratulations to the following families on their new additions!

Brad & Karolyn Rosello
Broderick Mitchell Rosello
29 January
7 lbs. 9 oz.

Brian and Genelle Jones
Brian Jones, Jr.
1 February
9 lbs. 5 oz.

Bryce & Lakota Yturbe
Koby Brylynn Yturbe
4 February
9 lbs. 10 oz.

Jerry & Stephanie Federer
McKenzie Marie Federer
28 March
6 lbs. 8 oz.

Service Opportunities

We have the opportunity to do some service for one of the local foundations in our area.

The Propionic Acidemia Foundation
(www.pafoundation.com)
is in need of birthday cards for the children that are affected by this disorder. I am hoping that we will be able to provide at least 50 handmade cards for the foundation to send out to each of these individuals on their birthdays.

We will be meeting at the Burr Ridge office in the conference room on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Please come and help us bring a little sunshine into these children's lives!



If you know of any service opportunities, please contact Holly Rock and we will get the word out!

Financial Management

As many of us have seen over the past year, the economy has taken a downturn. Money is becoming tighter and hopefully, we have been able to manage it well. Here in the Chicago area, we received an increase in our Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) as well as our Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), which we are very grateful for. An email was sent out to the members regarding Financial Management and the expectations that have been set forth. There are also a lot of aids and tools that were given in this email and I would like to share some parts of it with all of you.

“During this economic period where we are experiencing a sluggish housing market and rising prices for fuel, food, and other necessities, there is growing concern throughout our workforce about financial solvency. As we approach another transfer season, there has been particular concern expressed with respect to the housing market, specifically, members are concerned that they may encounter difficulty in selling their home at a decent value. These pressures may put additional stress on our workforce and have the potential to impact our workforce readiness. To assist CG members in dealing with these issues during this difficult time, we have made a number of resources and tools available.”

“Part of being able to meet mission demands is ensuring we are prepared on the home front—Readiness begins at home. Financial solvency is a key element to ensuring that readiness. If you are in need of assistance, you should reach out for help before the burden gets too great, because only you know where you stand financially. Members who fail to meet their financial obligations bring discredit upon the service, burden the command administratively, may become subject to disciplinary action, and jeopardize their eligibility for a security clearance, schools, assignments and command. Financial distress can also distract civilian employees from their work and put at risk their security clearances. It is therefore critical that you are proactive and take steps to ensure your financial readiness.” ~RADM Clifford L. Pearson, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources

Tools available:

1. Work Life Website: <http://www.uscg.mil/worklife> Once there, click on “Financial Management” icon and scroll down to “Related Web Sites”. Of particular interest or junior members is the “360 Degrees of Financial Literacy”
2. Financial Assistance counseling can be obtained by calling the EAP hotline: 1-800-222-0364. When you place this confidential call, you can discuss your financial concerns and ask about receiving financial counseling by telephone.
3. Service members may also consult CG Legal Assistance attorneys for help in addressing issues relating to financial and consumer matters. If needed, they can offer options and explore potential remedies under state and federal law, particularly the service members Civil Relief Act. To find a Legal Assistance Attorney, go to: <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil> and select the “Locate Legal Services” icon.
4. “Military Saves” is a year-round “financial readiness” campaign whose objective is to involve all levels of leadership in an intentional, sustained effort to create a culture that encourages members to reduce debt, develop a financial plan, and save money for the future. Go to <http://www.militarysaves.org> to learn about how to get out of debt, how to save on auto purchases, save for emergencies, save for a home, and save at work, and learn about savings and investments.

Fair Winds & Following Seas



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February

SK1 Matt Herakovich-Retired

March

CWO2 Steve Wilkinson-Retired

May

CWO4 Jeff Carie - Retired

SNMST Matt Ridings-Release from Active Duty

YN2 Marc Blalock-Pacific Area, Alameda, CA

June

LCDR Kiley Ross-11th District, Alameda, CA

YN1 Mike Piper-National Pollution Fund Center, Arlington, VA

MST2 Josh Baeten-MSD St. Croix, St. Croix, USVI

MST3 C.E. Santacana-Sector San Juan, San Juan, PR

July

LT Corey Gardner-Meeks-Release from Active Duty

MST2 Keith Hickey-MSU Morgan City, Morgan City, AL

Welcome Aboard!

June

LCDR Sean Brady-Marine Safety Center, Washington, D.C.

CWO2 Jack Hambidge-Sector Seattle, Seattle, WA

YN1 Paul Dillon-Recruiting Office Chicago, Chicago, IL

July

MSTC Ken Brockhouse-Air Station Kodiak, Kodiak, AK

MST3 Brett Reynolds-Sector San Diego, San Diego, CA

Something to Do?

Here are some websites to help you find some of the fun things to do in our area:

Naperville

Naper Settlement:

<http://www.napersettlement.org/>

DuPage Children's Museum:

<http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org/>

Oswego

Bounce Town:

<http://www.bouncetownparty.com/default.htm>

Chicago

The Art Institute of Chicago

<http://www.artic.edu/aic/>

The Museum of Science and Industry

<http://www.msichicago.org/>

The Field Museum

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/>

The Shedd Aquarium

<http://www.sheddaquarium.org/>

Brookfield Zoo <http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/>

Call the Illinois Tourist Information Center at 312-793-2094 or 800-223-0121 for more information or look at <http://www.enjoyillinois.com/> which has links to many counties, villages and destinations within the state.

National Park System--for those who like camping, hiking or doing things outdoors.

<http://www.nps.gov/>

Illinois: <http://dnr.state.il.us/>

Wisconsin: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/>

Missouri: <http://www.mostateparks.com/>

Michigan: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

Iowa: <http://www.iowadnr.com/>

Indiana: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/>

Kentucky: <http://parks.ky.gov/>

Suggestions? Please email me at msuchicagoombudsman@yahoo.com and it will be included in the next newsletter!

Work Life

Now that transfer season is upon us, here is a little refresher as to the people we have as resources to help us transition to our new duty stations:

Transition Relocation Manager

Bill Schmidt 216-902-6355

william.a.schmidt@uscg.mil

Health Promotions Program

Rhea Daniels 216-902-6354

rhea.a.daniels@uscg.mil

Family Resource Specialist (Special Needs Program)

Cindy Pratt 216-902-6353

cindy.l.pratt@uscg.mil

Family Advocacy Specialist (Family/Domestic Violence)

Carol Richardson 216-902-6352

carol.m.richardson@uscg.mil

Employee Assistance Program Coordinator

Dolores Cherry 216-902-6356

dolores.a.cherry@uscg.mil

EAP Phone Number 800-222-0364

Career Development Advisor

GMCS Donald Keeling 216-902-6363

donald.g.keeling@uscg.mil

Headquarters' Work Life Web Page

www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wk/wkw/index.htm

D9 Work Life-ISC Cleveland

1240 East Ninth Street

Cleveland, OH 44199-2060

800-872-4957 Ext. 309

Fax: 216-902-6360

