



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Nebraska Army, Air National  
Guard Chosen to Host Operation  
Purple Summer Camp**

**Released by  
LTC Bob Vrana**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LINCOLN, Neb. -- The National Military Family Association announced today that the Nebraska Air and Army National Guard Family Programs and YMCA Camp Kitaki have been chosen to host a popular *Operation Purple* Summer Camp in 2006.

NMFA developed this free summer camp program, sponsored this year by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and TriWest Healthcare Alliance, in response to the need for increased support for military children, especially those whose parents are or will be deployed. The National Guard will join a select list of dedicated teams to host more than 2,500 deserving children at 26 locations in 22 states.

"NMFA is excited to announce the Nebraska National Guard as a participant in this very worthwhile program," said Tanna Schmidli, NMFA Chairman of the Board/CEO. "We look forward to working together to indeed, make a difference in these children's lives"

The National Guard is working in a partnership with YMCA Camp Kitaki, Army Reserves, Marine Reserves, Navy Reserves, Offutt AFB, and others to bring this camp to the state. The Camp will be held at YMCA Camp Kitaki located just outside of Louisville, NE.

Applications will only be available online. Registration begins **March 15<sup>th</sup> and ends May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Each camp is "purple" meaning it is open to children of any member of the uniformed services including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and United States Public Health Service plus the National Guard and Reserve.

Camp Kitaki is a YMCA resident camp that serves children ages 9-17 with progressive camping experiences based on their prior experience and areas of interest. Camp Kitaki serves more than 2,500 children each year, incorporating the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility into programs developed to help strengthen children's spirits, minds and bodies. Camp Kitaki also provides special needs camping opportunities for children with cardiology conditions, asthma, arthritis, learning disabilities or A.D.D., impaired hearing, and cystic fibrosis.

The NMFA *Operation Purple* website at [www.operationpurple.org](http://www.operationpurple.org) has more information about the camp and camp registration. Applications will only be available online.

"TriWest recognizes that as military parents deploy in our nation's defense, their children face an array of challenges," said TriWest President and CEO David J. McIntyre Jr. "As an extension of our mission to support the well-being of America's military family, we are proud to support NMFA's *Operation Purple* Summer Camp."

## **About Nebraska Family Program Office**

The Family Program Office exists to support all military members and their families with any issues relating to being in the military, separation, reunion and reintegration. The program works extensively with partner organizations to ensure a wrap around approach to service integration. With six full time Family Assistance Coordinators across the state of Nebraska and numerous

military and civilian volunteers, the organization annually educates and entertains the National Guard and military communities with a variety of events and activities.

#### **About NMFA**

The National Military Family Association is the only national organization whose sole focus is the military family and whose goal is to influence the development and implementation of policies that will improve the lives of the families of the seven uniformed services. For more than 35 years, its staff and volunteers, comprised mostly of military family members, have built a reputation for being the leading experts on military family issues. Visit [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org) for more information.

#### **About The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation**

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation ([www.msdf.org](http://www.msdf.org)) was established in 1999 by the Dell family to improve outcomes for under-served children in a measurable way. Based in Austin, Texas, the Foundation funds programs that foster and improve education, health and safety for children around the world. With an endowment of more than \$1 billion, the Foundation has committed more than \$225 million to global children's issues and Central Texas community initiatives to date.

#### **About TriWest Healthcare Alliance**

TriWest Healthcare Alliance is a Phoenix-based corporation that partners with the Department of Defense to provide access to cost-effective, high-quality health care for 2.7 million members of America's military family in the 21-state TRICARE West Region, which is comprised of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and western Texas. For more information, visit [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com).

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