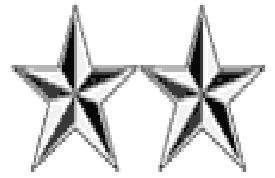




# MiniBursts



## Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc.

A Bi-Monthly Publication for all post 9-11 Maryland Reserve Component & Active Duty Service Members

February – May 2011

## Maryland Volunteer Leaders Meet



**Congressman Buck McKeon**  
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee

**Congressman Roscoe Bartlett**  
Chairman, Tactical Air Land Subcommittee

## FOUNDATION MEMBERS MEET CHAIR, HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE



LEFT TO RIGHT: MGBC Members Brian Kobus & Jim Olson, Congressman Bartlett, MGBC Member Robyn Rich, Congressman Buck McKeon, MGBC Members Dr, William Prescott, Bran Thompson & Patrick Reavey.

Congressman Bartlett knows the Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation (MGBC) Members well as their organization was founded in July 2007 by two members from his Veterans' Advisory Council in conjunction with the Ft. Detrick, MD Retiree Council. The program began as a program to help post 9/11 veterans and their families in Frederick County Maryland. Subsequent to that, the Foundation's liaison with government officials such as: Congressman Bartlett, US Department. of Labor (*MD Director*), Maryland's Adjutant General, Chair, Employer Support of the Guard Reserve (ESGR) and Secretary of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) has proven so successful in the past three years it has grown Maryland wide with a potential to become a national program. Congressman Bartlett asked Foundation Leaders to provide a report of their success to Congressman McKeon, Chair, House Armed Services Committee to inform him of their fine work.

Bartlett said he has supported the group since its creation because he doesn't want to see any veteran in his district or in the country lack basic help, and the foundation has shown itself capable of tracking down the most appropriate assistance. "I'm very concerned about the problem that our veterans have after they leave the care and keeping of the military, particularly our wounded veterans," Bartlett said in an interview. "And before the VA picks them up, too many fall through the crack. We have far too much divorce, there

are too many suicides, and it's kind of a repeat of the Vietnam War, we have far too many of them that are becoming homeless. This bothers me." "Anything we can do to help veterans, I want to do," he said. "You will find this group very knowledgeable and very aggressive and very helpful."



The Foundation has Maryland wide community support from American Legion (*Legion Riders*), AMVETS, Marine Corps League and VFW with AMVETS taking lead to help develop the Foundation's Maryland wide Veteran's Support Program.



The Foundation has community support of Frederick County Services Club's: Elks, Kiwanis, Lions, Moose, Rotary, and Ruritan with plans for Maryland wide support by the beginning of 2011 summer.

**EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT:** The Foundation in coordination with Maryland National Guard (MNG) worked with Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) Jobs Bank staff to highlight veteran's resumes for employers to have job seekers resumes routinely available. A revision was developed for veterans resumes to be readily identifiable for organizations friendly to hiring veterans and also to give employers a method to indicate on their company job vacancies that they are friendly to hiring veterans. According to the MNG Education Officer, the system reduced Guard Member requests for employment assistance by half. Community service clubs also play a role by informing employers in their neighborhoods as possible of the revised system.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION SUPPORT:** Requests for assistance from post 9/11 veterans are distributed to veterans' posts in the requestor's neighborhood. As many requestors seek financial assistance, community service clubs again weigh in and are being asked to include in their budgets a set amount of financial donations each year. Determination of the appropriate support needed is completed by the requestor's neighborhood veterans post with the concurrence of their board of directors. All donations are retained for use in the county that the donated funds.

**MGBC IN FINAL STAGES OF MARYLAND  
WIDE SUPPORT OF SERVICE CLUBS**

## Contact us for Assistance



You're assured Privacy and caring support when contacting us by email [MGBCintake@aol.com](mailto:MGBCintake@aol.com) or by toll free telephone (1) 877-99-4VETS (8387). The Foundation's contact point is with a volunteer American Legion Riders' "Women Partner" to promote sensitive woman-to-woman communications for requests made by female dependents.

### AN EMAIL FROM IRAQ REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

The home of a Maryland National Guardsman deployed to Iraq was heavily damaged New Years Eve when a drunk driver hit their home. After the accident, a county building inspector determined that the house was inhabitable until it was repaired. The wife, who was pregnant with four children, was forced to move in with her mother in law who just had a heart attack. It became even more complicated when their insurance company wanted to use a firm to repair the home that was not qualified while the wife wanted a local qualified firm to repair the house.

Both the Guardsman and the wife were frustrated and the Guardsman could be of no help to his wife. The Chairman of his unit's Family Readiness Group lived in a different state and was also unable to take action to repair the house and repair of the house was suspended until the dispute could be resolved. That's when the Guardsman, who knew about the Foundation, emailed the Foundation for assistance. The next day the Foundation contacted the Guardsman's wife, the insurance company, and enlisted the assistance of the **Commander of an American Legion Post** in the Guardsman's community.

Three days after the Foundation got involved along with the **American Legion Commander's efforts** and the interest of a local newspaper reporter contacted by the Foundation, construction was begun by the construction firm that the wife wanted to repair the home. A representative of the Foundation contacted the Guardsman's wife to confirm that

she was satisfied. She was totally satisfied and the Foundation closed the case.

**ACTIVE DUTY FINANCIAL HELP** On 3 occasions, Ft. Detrick service members experienced unexpected personal situations that were beyond their financial means to resolve. The **Foundation** provided a service member on emergency leave a no interest **\$2,000.00** note, later converted to a grant.

**PREVENTING HOME EVICTION** A Maryland Guardsman returned home from Iraq and learned that his previous job had been eliminated. He was unemployed for several months, but was able to find a new job and promised to make monthly payments to catch up with missed rent payments. However, the policy of his rental company was it had to be paid in full. The Guardsman was unable to obtain any financial assistance or loans to pay the rent in arrears and he was served with an eviction notice from a local county sheriff. The Guardsman was referred to the Foundation and the Foundation was able to arrange for sufficient funds to bring rent payment current three days before he and his wife were to be evicted.

**FT. DETRICK'S OFFICE OF MORALE WELFARE AND RECREATION** has an informal program for active duty families transferring into Ft. Detrick who experience pay delays of providing them with a needed amount of **\$25.00** Commissary Gift Certificates for family food. Because donations to fund the program were depleted the **Foundation** donated **\$500.00** to resolve their immediate problem.

**DEPENDENT FAMILY LIVING IN A HOTEL** Five children and their dog to living in a hotel and it gets worse - because the family could not pay rental costs for stored furniture it was scheduled for auction. As soon as the **Foundation** became aware of the situation from Ft. Detrick's office of Army Community Services, **Thurmont AMVETS Post 7** provided needed assistance to pay the hotel bill and the **Foundation** arranged for auction of furniture to be delayed until pay and allowances were restored. The case was finally resolved by the **Maryland Realtor's Association** assisting with locating a home and helping with rental payments.

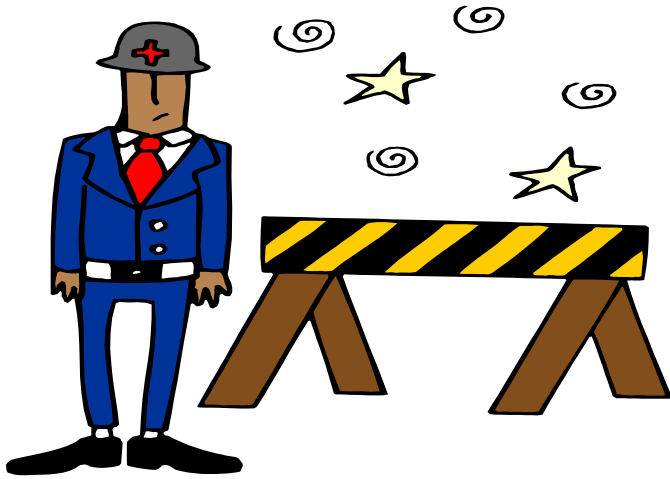
**RETURN FOR THE HOLIDAYS** A Maryland Guardsman who was severely burned in Iraq did not have funds for he and his wife (*She was staying with him in Texas*) to return back home to visit family during the holidays. Donations from the **Foundation and Middletown AMVETS Post 9** in the amount of **\$1,000.00** each enabled him and his wife to return for the holidays.

# BULLETIN

# BOARD



## UNDER CONSTRUCTION



## WE NEED A HELPING HAND

**HERE'S THE GOAL:** Provide a central directory that lists the many public and private sector veteran's assistance programs for post 9/11 veterans and this is our **start**. Please **CONTACT US** via our web site [mgbc-md.org](http://mgbc-md.org) and tell us of any veteran's assistance programs you know of that would be appropriate to include in our directory.

## AS OF: APRIL 10, 2011

*A Master updated Bulletin Board & bi-monthly Bulletin Board's are posted at [mgbc-md.org](http://mgbc-md.org).*

### Assistance

**Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc.**  
Complete Foundation Request Form on web site for prompt community support.  
[mgbc-md.org](http://mgbc-md.org) or call toll free (1) 877.99.4VETS 8387.

**American Legion** home page lists support programs - drill down on the below site to locate veterans' posts in your community.  
<http://www.legion.org>

**AMVETS** home page lists support programs - drill down on the below site to locate veterans' posts in your community.  
<http://www.amvets.org>

**Ft. Detrick's Office of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.**

Call: 301 619-3261

**Marine Corps League** Home page lists support programs - drill down on the below site to locate veterans' posts in your community.

<http://www.deptofmdmcl.org>

**Maryland DLLR, "Veteran" Priority Service ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE Maryland's One Stop Career Centers.**

<http://dllr.maryland.gov>

**Military One Source** 24/7 ARMY – MARINE CORPS – NAVY – AIR FORCE A virtual installation extension services

Call Now 1-800-342-9647

**VFW** home page lists support programs - drill down on the below site to locate veterans' posts in your community.

<http://www.vfw.org>

### Guard & Reserve 2011 Family Assistance Handbook

**Air Force**

[www.afrc.af.mil/library/family.asp](http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/family.asp)

**Army well-being**

[www.aemywell-being.org](http://www.aemywell-being.org)

**Coast Guard Reserve** (National Military Family Association)

[www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org)

**Marine Forces Reserve**

[www.marforres.usmc.mil](http://www.marforres.usmc.mil)

**National Guard Family Program**

[www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)

**Navy** [www.nffsp.org](http://www.nffsp.org) [www.lifelines.navy.mil](http://www.lifelines.navy.mil)

### Employment Disability Service

**Easter Seals, Disability Service** Program Coordinator  
301.920.9722 [jmcnurlen@eseal.org](mailto:jmcnurlen@eseal.org)

## Employment Issues

**ESGR** Issues with employers for taking time off to attend military duty, training etc., etc - ESGR Ombudsman, at no cost, will help Reserve Component Veterans solve employment disputes.

*In Maryland call: 1-800-336-4590, select option 1.*

## Employment & Training Opportunities

**Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWR)** Maryland wide no cost training of veterans for writing resumes that are highlighted along with highlighted employer vacancy announcements friendly to hiring veterans both posted in their on line jobs bank.

[mwe.jobs](http://mwe.jobs)

### Baltimore Jobs listing

[info@metroaltimorejobs.com](mailto:info@metroaltimorejobs.com)

### US Dept of Labor, Veterans Employment & Training Service

Transition Assistance Program – Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Program – Employment Services for Veterans – Veterans' Workforce Investment Program – Veterans Preference – Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program – Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program.

[www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets)

**Green Manufacturing Workforce Exchange** The Green Manufacturing Workforce Exchange (GMWE) is for manufacturing HR directors/managers in the Baltimore Region to exchange information and to register employees for the Green Enterprise Professional Development workshops and other green training workshops and classes for manufacturing.

[MESPInfo@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:MESPInfo@baltimorecountymd.gov)

## Events

*NOTE: Check to make sure items are current.*

**Army Emergency Relief Annual Campaign** 1 April – 15 May.

**Household Items Exchange Program:** If you have items you no longer need and would like to donate to a service member, contact Mary Nix at Ft. Detrick 301 619-3456 to register your items and learn more about the program.

**Keeping Kids Safe:** 29 April 1600 – 1800 at the Catoctin Center (Balfour Beatty Community Center)

**Military Spouses Appreciation Day:** 6 May 2011 at back of bldg 1520, the Community Support Center, from 1100 – 1400. This is an opportunity for Spouses to learn of upcoming events and community resources.

**Wounded Warrior Event:** 11 June 2011 Ft. Detrick Nallin Farm Pond Recreation Area.

## Home Repairs

**NOTE:** We have had success with veterans posts members & local county building associations for post 9/11 veterans for home repairs at discount or no cost. We will act in your behalf to locate home repairs.

[.mgbc-md.org](http://.mgbc-md.org) or call toll free (1) 877.99.4VETS 8387.

## Real Estate

**Homes for Heroes** Offers large savings to all military personnel when buying or selling homes – a different approach to affordable home ownership. Homes for Heroes aims to close the gap between the cost of housing for military personnel who serve our community and nation.

[BobHuzzy@msn.com](mailto:BobHuzzy@msn.com) or call 301.788.6600

## Wounded Warriors

**The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (CSAH)** was created to provide a way for individuals, corporations and others to help our severely wounded and disabled Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans and their families rebuild their lives.

<http://saluteheroes.org/>

## Etc., etc., etc

**SEND NEWSLETTER COMMENTS  
TO THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT**

[uglyirishmancsm@aol.com](mailto:uglyirishmancsm@aol.com)