



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD  
LATHAM, NY 12110-3514

MNAR-CH

29 December 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Strong Bonds Program (SBP) Memorandum of Instruction (MOI)

1. The New York National Guard (NYNG) Chaplaincy is the proponent for the NYNG Strong Bonds Program (SBP). The SBP will assist Service Members (SM) and their Families in relationship building by developing healthy communication skills, demonstrate problem solving, practice stress reduction, and learn effective listening.
2. The SBP will be an 8 to 10 hour program divided into two days of training. The training is conducted by a Chaplain or designated certified trainer to groups of no more than 30 couples, Families or 60 individuals.
3. The SBP is designed to be conducted in an offsite location over a weekend, the SBP materials can be taught to smaller groups on a weekly basis or be available through the Chaplains for those wishing to learn the skills. SBP funds are not available for these types of events but can be unit sponsored and beneficial.
4. The SBP is available to SM and their Families that are enrolled in DEERS.
  - a. Couple events are for married SM and their spouses.
  - b. Family events are for SM and their Family.
  - c. Single events are for single SM only, no guests.
5. We encourage SM and their Families to attend at least one SB event per year. Once registered for a SB event, the following applies:
  - a. SM will inform their Chain of Command of their attendance and get prior approval for attendance if the SBP event conflicts with their normal training. SM place of duty will be at the event if attended while on orders. SM may attend Strong Bonds events on IDT, SUTA, AT days, or ADOS orders, with command approval.
  - b. Once a SM and/or Family Member has committed to attending, they enter into an obligation and expectation of attendance. Failure for a SM to attend and complete the training shall be considered a violation of integrity and if on orders, they shall be considered a "No Show" and will be counseled. This will be reported back to their command.

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- c. Cancellation of attendance must be made 48 hours prior to the event.
  - d. Mileage to and from the event will not be reimbursed, per diem is also not authorized.
  - e. Certificates of performance will be provided at the completion of the event.
6. SM, Family Members, and Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) are encouraged to be involved in recommending both the sites and best suited SBP curriculum for their units. They are encouraged to read and thoroughly understand this MOI prior to attending an event. SB events will be open to all on a first come, first served basis. Registration is available by going to the DMNA webpage <http://dmna.state.ny.us/family/famredi.php> or emailing [mark.getman@us.army.mil](mailto:mark.getman@us.army.mil) or [eric.w.olsen2@us.army.mil](mailto:eric.w.olsen2@us.army.mil).
7. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at 518-461-2527 or [eric.w.olsen2@us.army.mil](mailto:eric.w.olsen2@us.army.mil).



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