

S: 1 November 2007

LANG-RO-FS

14 September 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR All Commanders and Family Readiness Group Leaders

SUBJECT: Christmas Families 2007

1. Every year, the Office of Family Programs assists with providing Christmas gifts for the children of needy families of the Louisiana National Guard. Families may still be struggling with financial hardships created by deployment and loss from hurricanes. The arrival of the holiday season can bring additional stressors to families already dealing with financial difficulties.

2. Request that you provide a referral of those families in your units that could benefit from the generosity of community sponsors to make the holiday season brighter this year.

3. All referrals will be kept absolutely confidential by this office. The following information is needed:

Soldier/Airman name, rank

Unit

Number of family members

Children's names, genders and ages

Children's clothing sizes: shirt, pants, shoes

Children's special wishes (i.e. books, baby dolls, sports equipment)

4. For those wishing to assist in this program, special Christmas trees will be set up at several locations throughout the state. Participants can select an ornament and buy gifts for a child. Ornaments will only list the child's unique identification number, sex, age and special wishes. Participants are asked to buy a toy and a clothing item for the child and return them to the Office of Family Programs for distribution.

5. Community sponsors are requested to provide items for the family's holiday meal or for extra gifts for the children or parents.

6. Referrals of families or community sponsors are needed NLT 1 November 2007 to allow sufficient time to obtain support for the families. We plan to deliver presents to families by mid-December.


7. Submit information as listed above to the State Family Assistance Center Coordinator, Gerald Cradeur, gerald.cradeur@us.army.mil, or Family Readiness Assistant, Joseph Roy, joseph.r.roy@us.army.mil.

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8. Thank you for your service to the Families of the Louisiana National Guard.

9. POC for additional information is MAJ Lida Eichenauer,
lida.eichenauer@us.army.mil, 318-641-5428/800-541-5860.


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