

## October 6, 2008

(Daily Press, October 6, 2008) Families of deployed members of the National Guard and Reserve, active-duty service members on independent duty and their families, and active-duty service members and their families assigned to selected bases are now eligible for free family memberships at participating YMCAs, the Defense Department announced.

The free memberships for Guard and Reserve families will be available when the service member is deployed for a minimum of six months. The deploying service member will also be eligible for three free months before and after the deployment to help promote family participation.

Active duty families assigned to independent duty stations, such as recruiting and ROTC assignments, and not currently receiving support from the service component will also be eligible for free memberships at participating YMCAs. Single service members are eligible for fitness center memberships up to \$50 a month.

Active duty families at selected bases — including [Langley Air Force Base](#) in Hampton — will also be eligible for free YMCA memberships as part of a pilot program. Memberships will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis with 300 to 450 family memberships available per joint base location.

Additionally, 32 hours a month of free respite child care will be available for families of deployed National Guard and Reserve and geographically dispersed active duty service members in 10 states, including [Virginia](#).

Participating YMCAs have agreed to cap their monthly fees and waive all joining fees so there is no cost for service members and their families for membership.

Signing up for the program requires a YMCA/DoD eligibility form, a copy of deployment orders and military ID.

The eligibility form is available at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). A completed eligibility form, a copy of deployment orders (where applicable) and the military ID are all that are needed for the local YMCA to process memberships.

*The Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We have been building strong kids, strong families and strong communities on the Peninsula and in surrounding communities since 1896. Our mission is "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all." The YMCA is open to everyone regardless of age, race, gender, national origin or religion; and makes scholarships available so everyone who wants to participate may do so.*