

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Richard Stockton College to Host Military Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program to Area Servicemembers

Workshops and Seminars Will Help Returning Servicemembers of the 177th
Fighter Wing and 108th Air Wing and Their Families

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Galloway Township, NJ- On **Saturday, September 18, 2010**, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will host a Military Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. The event and child care registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the Elizabeth B. Alton Auditorium (A-Wing).

Servicemembers of the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Air Wing and their families are expected to participate in the reintegration program, which is designed to help servicemembers and their families transition from military service to civilian life. Workshops, informational vendors and guest lectures are scheduled throughout the morning and afternoon. Topics that will be covered include managing post-deployment finances, coping, post-deployment family conflicts and the transition to civilian life.

Returning to a civilian lifestyle after active duty service presents physical, emotional and financial obstacles. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a national effort by the Department of Defense to establish a program to provide members of the military and their families with sufficient information, services, referral and proactive outreach opportunities throughout the entire deployment cycle.

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About the 177th Fighter Wing: The 177th Fighter Wing, located in Atlantic City, is a New Jersey Air National Guard F-16 fighter unit with both a Federal and State Mission. Their Federal mission is to provide alert aircraft and crews to respond to airborne threats in NORAD's Eastern Area Defense Sector, to train and deploy combat-ready citizen-airmen, aircraft and equipment for worldwide operations in support of US Air Force objectives, and to operate and maintain the Warren Grove Weapons Range. Their state mission to support the citizens of New Jersey includes providing a Quick Reaction Force, emergency management expertise, crash/fire/rescue support, an explosive ordnance disposal team, HAZMAT response team and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training and response.

This past spring, the 177th Fighter Wing deployed an entire aviation package—to include aircraft, equipment and 280 personnel—to Balad Air Base, outside of Baghdad, Iraq. For the first half of 2010, the unit has had 37 Security Forces members guarding Sather Air Base, at the Baghdad Airport. Two 9-person teams of fire-fighters and servicemembers spent several months in the Middle East and Central Asia. During this same time period, individuals and teams from every section of the unit deployed to areas spanning the globe and in support of a myriad of missions, from precision strike and close air support to humanitarian relief. Sometime next year, they will deploy on another Air Expeditionary Force mission to the Asian Pacific region.

About Stockton's Office of Veteran Affairs: Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said, "To support the needs of a growing student-veteran population, the College's Office of Veteran Affairs serves as a resource to our students, but they also serve as a resource to the community." Stockton College, which is designated as a military friendly school by the ServiceMember Opportunity College, embraces its student-veteran population. Stockton is also a member of Operation College Promise, the veteran project of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities. The College's student-veteran club, the Stockton Veteran Organization (SVO), will welcome incoming veteran students on September 16 with a reception from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the G-Wing Lounge to introduce them to the staff of the College's Office of Veteran Affairs and to provide information on the resources available, which include a veteran's lounge, monthly student-veteran meetings, scholarship opportunities and a course that explores the veteran experience.

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