

## **CT Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Council**

### **Military Discounts**

Certain Chamber members voluntarily offer military discounts, typically ranging from 10-20 percent off of services or merchandise. In an effort to help advertise these discounts to military members, the Chamber is in the process of finalizing a sign/logo for businesses for posting in the vicinity of their cash register which should alert military members (and retirees) to request the discount. The Chamber would also appreciate our "getting the word out" about discounts. This might be something our MWR folks might wish to send out in an Academy-wide email (perhaps appending the Chamber's list with additional discounts offered by non-Chamber businesses). The Chamber posts the list of (member) businesses offering discounts on their website: <http://www.chamberect.com/military-discount.html>

### **Host Family for Coast Guard Academy Cadets**

The Chamber is interested in how they may be of help in "getting the word out" about the Academy Cadet Sponsor Program. I provided Meghan Whitehead (the Chamber's POC for this initiative) with Carey McNeil's contact information.

### **Host Family for Sailors Program**

Originally envisioned by the Chamber as a program mirroring the Coast Guard Academy Cadet Sponsor Program, this idea may be evolving into an initiative which provides sailors with a welcome to the area, and an introduction to businesses and services available to them during their school, TAD period, or assignment/tour. The Chamber would like to partner with MWR and the Chiefs' Mess/Master Chief network either to take newly reported junior enlisted personnel around the area... or to provide a "liberty brief" of some sort. The group is also contemplating an on-line "virtual tour" of businesses/services that sailors could view for area familiarization. This idea is still very much "under construction."

### **S.E.E.D.S. Program**

Envisioned as "a group of dedicated business professionals providing [military] spouses and families with resources to explore personalized business opportunities," SEEDS is a program designed to help military spouses explore entrepreneurship/small business ownership. The group will host an event tomorrow (Thursday, May 7th) at the Sub Base entitled "Spouses Going Global: Redesigning Your Career" in order to introduce military spouses to certain business concepts and opportunities (e.g. Pampered Chef, Lia Sophia, Arbonne, RE/MAX, etc). While it might be a bit late to advertise tomorrow's event within our Academy community, SEEDS would like to put on a September event - perfect timing for newly reported members' spouses to attend. What is particularly interesting about this program is that it has the potential to catch on nationwide & could be a terrific external partner to our USCG Work-Life program. I recommend the appropriate person(s) working our USCGA Work-Life programs connect with Lorraine Sanborn 860-448-2243 and check out the SEEDS website: <http://www.militaryseeds.com/>