

Steps to consider:	What to do, ask, or look for:	Notes (What did you find?)
<p>Connect with established organizations in your community that might already provide services to guard members and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contact local religious organizations and ask if they have guard members or families in their groups. -Contact Veterans Service Organizations (VFQ, AmVets, American Legion, etc.). -Contact community-based organization such as 4H, YMCA, or County Extension services. -Contact local schools or other youth programs. 	<hr/>
<p>Call any of the individuals you found in your search. ¹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ask what the greatest need is for the Guard members and couples in your community (remember, often they are struggling with reaching Guard members and families in the community). -Explain what MRE is, that you want to help, and what services you have to offer. -Ask if there is an event you can volunteer for to see where you can be of service. -Ask if you can set an appointment to discuss and show what you can do for them and the National Guard members and couples in your community. 	<hr/>
<p>Attend a deployment or reunion ceremony (often they are noted in the local news) or some other event you have learned about.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Observe who is there and what is being discussed. -Be sensitive that you are a guest and do not intrude on the activities. -As appropriate, engage in informal conversations and network with key individuals and guard members and families. Find out what they like best and what gaps in services they can identify. 	<hr/>

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Look in your own family or neighborhood for guard members and families.	-Ask their advice on connecting with other families and key individuals.	

¹ Note: Key individuals might often be hesitant or even restricted to share some information about specific units, deployment schedules, and so on. Be respectful of these limitations and ask only general questions in a supportive tone. Also, many individuals might be leery that you are trying to “sell” them something. You might be! Just be upfront about the purpose of your call.