



Bluegrass Regions 2009 Washington Fly-in:

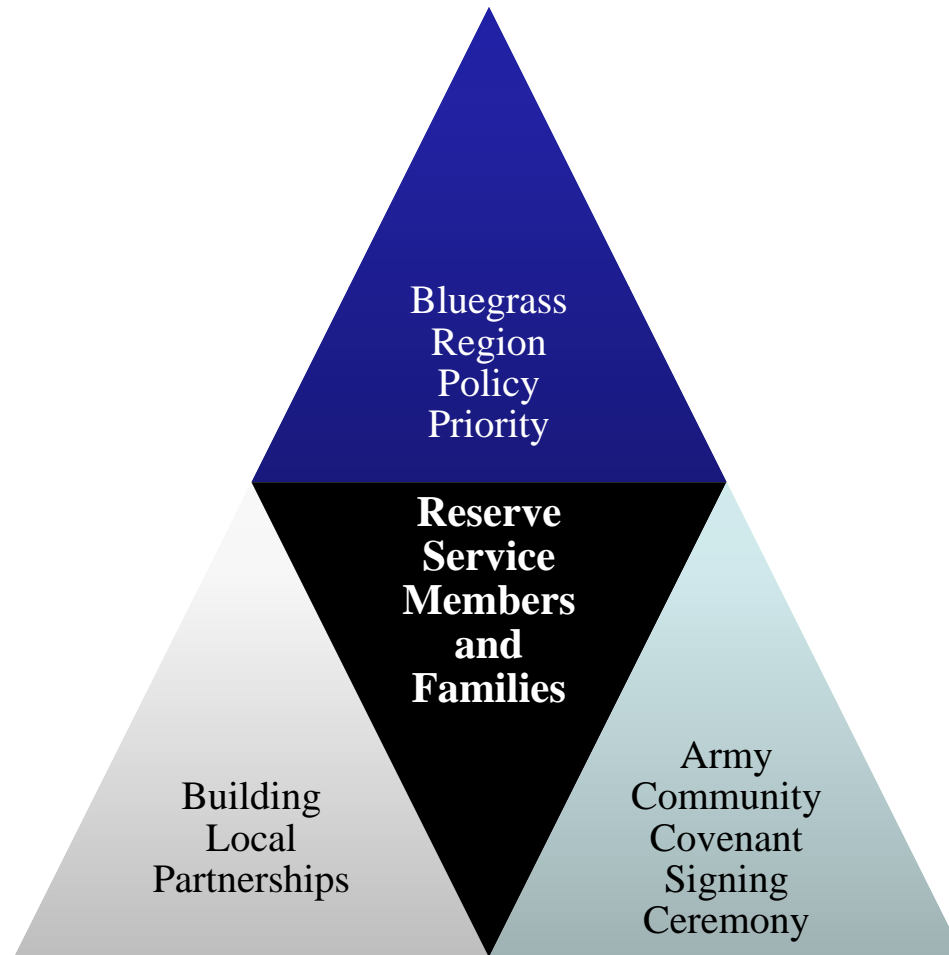
Policy, Partnerships and Soldier Support

July 8, 2009



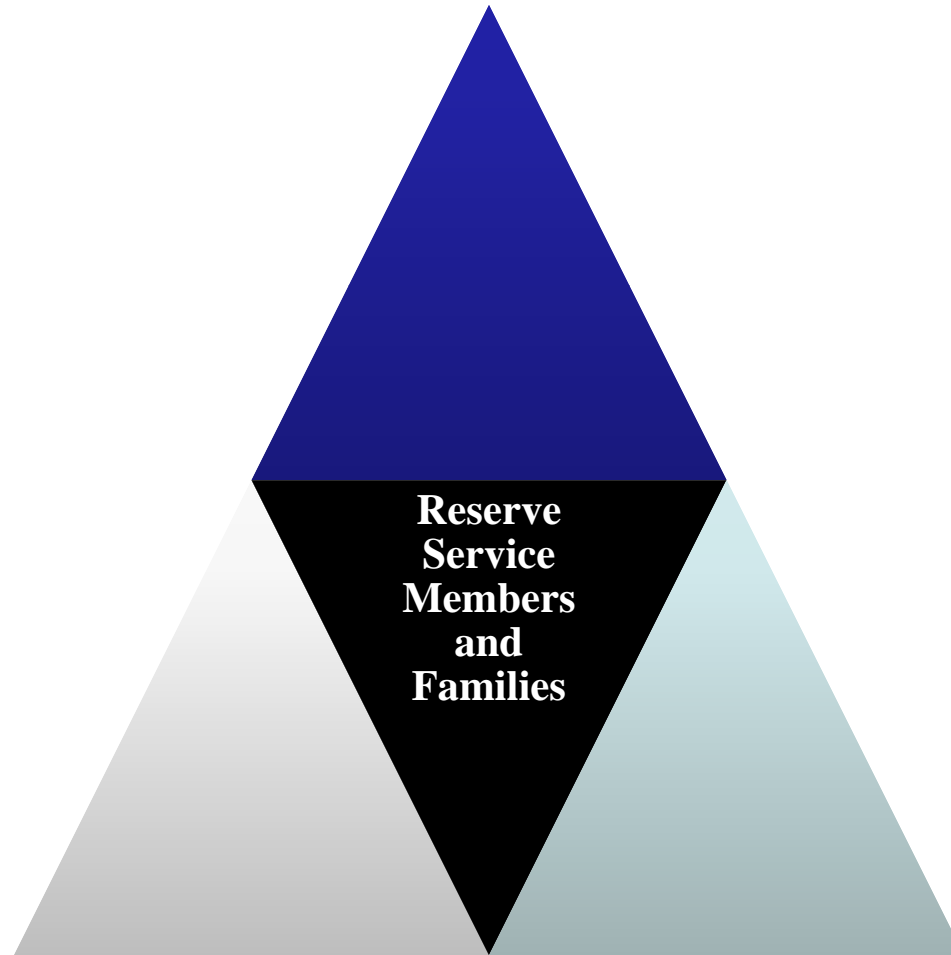
# Bluegrass Region Public Policy Group

Today's Conversation with CSSP-UNC



# Bluegrass Region Public Policy Group

Keeping the Focus on Service Members and Families



# Army Reserve Component Implications for the Bluegrass Region

Total Army Reserve Component service members in Kentucky as of March 2009:

- **7,296** Army National Guard
- **4,165** Army Reserve
- **11,461** total Army Reserve Component

Estimated total Army Reserve Component service members in the 8-County greater Lexington area as of March 2009:

- **1,758** Army National Guard
- **605** Army Reserve
- **2,363** total Army Reserve Component



# Army Reserve Component Implications for the Bluegrass Region

For the region:

- **21%** of total Kentucky Army Reserve Component service members live or work in the region
- Of that 21%,
  - **74%** are Army National Guard
  - **26%** are Army Reserve
- CSSP estimates that **approximately 5,247 Reserve Component service members, spouses, and children** in this area are directly affected by the deployment cycle



# Estimated Total Number of Army Service Members by County\*

County	Army Active Regular	Army National Guard	Army Reserve	Total
Bourbon	1	8	0	9
Clark	0	0	0	0
Fayette	6	397	490	893
Franklin	1	1,010	0	1,011
Jessamine	0	0	0	0
Madison	7	343	115	465
Scott	0	0	0	0
Woodford	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>2,378</b>

\*Army personnel data for multiple zip codes within all counties was aggregated to estimate totals by county: however, data for zip code 40311 (8.2% Bourbon County, 91.8% Nicholas County) was adjusted to reflect a more reasonable number of service members residing in Bourbon County since the nearest installation is in Carlisle, KY.



# Estimated Total Reserve Component Family Members, including Children

County	Army Active Regular	Army National Guard	Army Reserve	Total
Bourbon	2	18	0	<b>20</b>
Clark	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Fayette	14	883	1,084	<b>1,981</b>
Franklin	2	2,245	0	<b>2,247</b>
Jessamine	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Madison	17	762	254	<b>1,033</b>
Scott	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Woodford	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>5,281</b>



# Characteristics of Army Guard/Reserve Implications for the Bluegrass Region

- About **49%** of service members in the Guard and Reserve are married and about **43%** have at least one child under 18
- About **8%** of National Guard are women, in contrast with almost **18%** of Reserves
- The average age of an Army National Guard Member or Army Reserve is **higher** than Army active duty personnel
  - This difference is most pronounced for officers, but also significant for enlisted personnel (see table on next slide)



# Characteristics of Army Guard/Reserve

## Average Age Comparison of Service Members

Age	Army National Guard		Army Reserve		Army Active Duty	
	Officers	Enlisted	Officers	Enlisted	Officers	Enlisted
<b>25 or under</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>40.7%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>41.1%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>52.0%</b>
<b>26 to 30</b>	11.3%	15.0%	5.8%	14.9%	20.8%	19.5%
<b>31 to 35</b>	18.3%	12.8%	14.4%	12.0%	21.5%	13.5%
<b>36 to 40</b>	24.9%	12.3%	22.7%	12.3%	19.4%	9.7%
<b>41 or over</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>23.9%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>



# RAND 2008 Reserve Component Survey: **Positives Cited\***

Category of Positive Cited	Service Members	Spouses
Increased Family Closeness*	20%	29%
Financial Gain	26%	20%
Patriotism, Pride, or Sense of Civic Responsibility	15%	24%
Increased Independence, Confidence, or Resilience	14%	20%
No Positives	20%	13%

\*N = 269 Reserve Component members

\*N = 367 Reserve Component spouses



# RAND 2008 Reserve Component Survey: **Problems Cited\***

Category of Problem Cited	Army National Guard		Army Reserve	
	Service Members	Spouses	Service Members	Spouses
Emotional / Mental Problems	21%	38%	35%	46%
Household Responsibilities	25%	48%	18%	48%
Childrens' Issues	12%	31%	12%	30%
Employment	18%	12%	35%	12%
Legal or Financial*	8%	16%	23%	16%
Educational	11%	1%	15%	3%
Health Care-Related**	-	12%	-	15%
No Problems	32%	8%	18%	9%

\* n = 104 ARNG members; 102 ARNG spouses; 74 ARC members; 69 ARC spouses



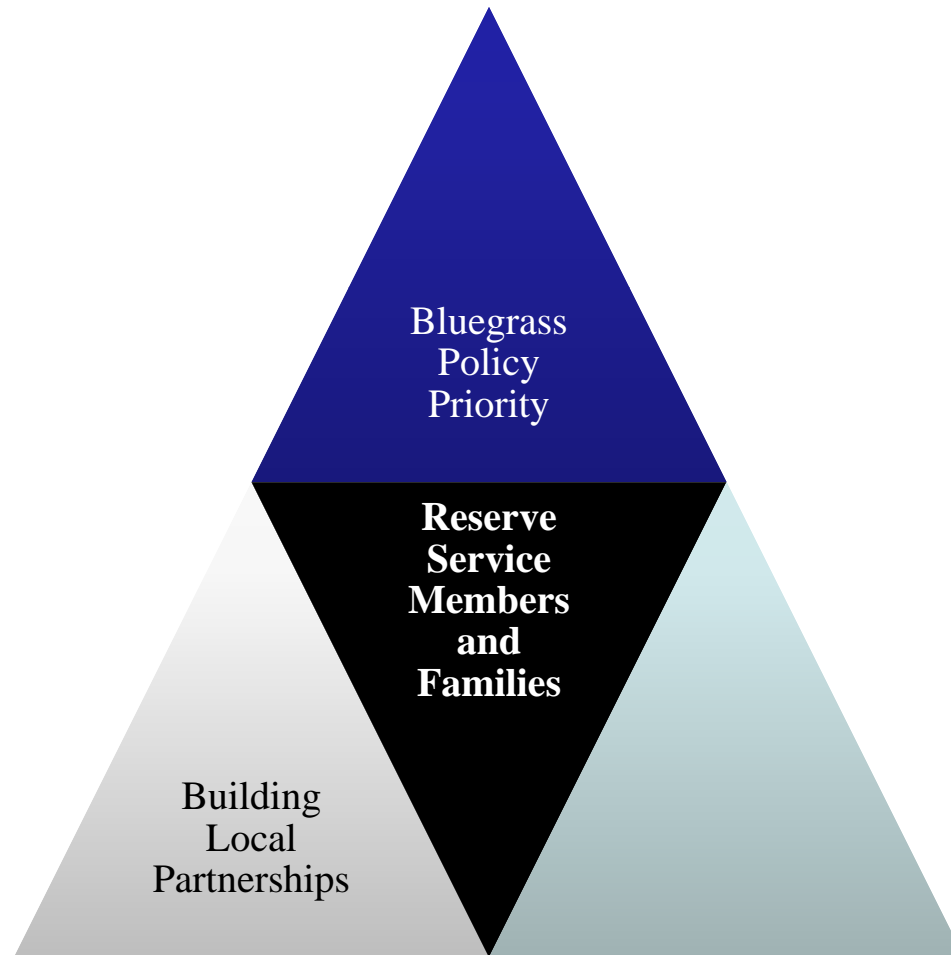
# RAND 2008 Reserve Component Survey: Resources Used\*

Resources	Army National Guard		Army Reserve	
	Service Members	Spouses	Service Members	Spouses
<b>MILITARY</b>				
TRICARE	64%	61%	42%	49%
Family Support Organizations	65%	65%	42%	45%
Military OneSource	15%	16%	8%	16%
<b>NON-MILITARY (INFORMAL)</b>				
Extended Family*	43%	55%	43%	49%
Religious Organizations**	48%	36%	31%	36%
Friends and Neighbors**	13%	28%	13%	21%

\* n = 104 ARNG members; 102 ARNG spouses; 74 ARC members; 69 ARC spouses



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# RAND 2008 Reserve Component Survey: **Suggestions for Better Support**

The RAND Survey noted responses from participants in the following categories:

- **Provide better or more information**
- Make changes to benefits
- **Improve family support programs**
- Make changes to Reserve Component operations
- **Improve local resources**

Responses shown in descending order and reflect total survey sample: Service members (N=296) and spouses (N=357)



# Local Partnership Opportunities: Behavioral Health

## Organizational Stakeholders

- A local or regional chapter of a professional organization for behavioral health professionals, and/or
- A local or regional system health care provider organization

## Actionable Partnership Opportunity

- Assure local behavioral health professionals have military-related behavioral health training on TBI or PTSD through on-line or regional trainings



# Local Partnership Opportunities: **Employment**

## **Organizational Stakeholders**

- A local or regional Chamber of Commerce, and/or
- A major local employer or group of employers

## **Actionable Partnership Opportunities**

- Target employment recruitment efforts toward returning Reserve Component service members or their spouses
- Establish a hiring “preference” that includes Reserve Soldiers or spouses
- Adjust work hours or environment to meet the challenges faced by Reserve families during deployment



# Local Partnership Opportunities: **Faith**

## **Organizational Stakeholders**

- Local or regional faith and/or interfaith organizations
- Warrior Transition Units, VA Medical Centers, and/or other health care organizations serving veterans

## **Actionable Partnership Opportunities**

- Outreach activities for these partners are extremely diverse and could include “Mothers’ Day Out” events (social events with childcare provided) during deployments, service projects in partnership with the VA or Wounded Warrior units (such as adapted sporting events, clothing modification for amputees, etc.)



# Local Partnership Opportunities: Financial Services

## Organizational Stakeholders

- Local or regional banks, credit unions, and other financial services providers
- Military community service organization (CSO) staff (finance specialists)

## Actionable Partnership Opportunity

- Military finance specialists and private financial leaders collaborate to convey information about financial benefits, programs, and access to financial counseling services for Reserve Component personnel and families.



# Local Partnership Opportunities: Legal Services

## Organizational Stakeholders

- Local and regional private law practices
- National Guard and Army Reserve JAGs
- State Bar Association and/or state bar-administered legal assistance programs for military personnel and their families

## Actionable Partnership Opportunities

- Increase participation in existing state bar programs for legal assistance to military personnel and their families
- Coordinate family law mentors for JAG attorneys during deployment and redeployment time frames



# Bluegrass Region Public Policy Group

## Possible Next Steps

### Local Partnerships

Aug – Sept 2009

1. Coordinate with KYNG and USAR
2. Begin local networking and planning group(s)
3. Agree on initial partnership or project parameters
4. Agree on roles and responsibilities for implementation

### Community Covenant Signing

For Late Fall 2009

1. Coordinate with KYNG, USAR and other military leaders
2. Select a ceremony planning group
3. Coordinate with ACC office and support
4. Establish dates, venue and ceremony activities



# References

## Sources of Data for 8-County Estimates

- “Deployment Experiences of Guard and Reserve Families: Implications for Support and Retention,” RAND: 2008.
  - “2005 Demographics Report,” Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy): 2005.
  - Army Reserve Component Data, Army Personnel System: 31 March 2009.
  - American FactFinder, US Census Bureau: 2009.
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### RAND surveyed:

- **297 Reserve Component Service members**
- **357 spouses of Service members**

### Topics surveyed include:

- Characteristics
- Problems Cited
- Positives Cited
- Resources Used
- Suggestions for Better Support

