

**2011 Military Spouse Appreciation Event for Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) and Hurlburt Field
Operation Empowerment ~ Imagine, Believe, Achieve
May 18, 2011 – Emerald Coast Convention Center, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida**

The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) partnered with Jobs Plus, Eglin Airmen & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC), and Hurlburt Field A&FRC to host the 2011 Military Spouse Appreciation Event for military spouses located within Okaloosa County in Northwest Florida. This event was held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in Fort Walton Beach, FL from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m..

The event was kicked off with a 'Call to Order' by Dr. David Miller, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties; the presentation of the Colors by Marines from VMFAT-501 stationed at Eglin AFB; the Pledge of Allegiance; and the singing of the National Anthem led by Air Force TSGT Yakeem Jones from the 96th MSG/CCK at Eglin AFB. Following the opening proceedings the Military Spouse Appreciation Day Proclamation was read by Cynthia Lorenzo, Director of the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation.

The purpose of this event was to show appreciation for the service that our military spouses do behind the scenes, and share resources and support that are available to them. In the words of Florida Congressman Jeff Miller, "While your husbands and wives serve as our heroes in defense of our country, you truly are our Heroes of the Homefront. The sacrifices each of you makes can never be repaid. When a service member joins the military, it becomes a family commitment to the call of duty...thank you for your sacrifices and your services. This nation owes you a debt of gratitude."

This full day event included two presentations by Lori Bell, the 2010 Military Spouse of the Year; a live panel discussion hosted by Andi Hurley, SpouseBUZZ Live Founder and Editor; and workshops hosted by the A&FRC's, Jobs Plus, and MSCCN.

Individual workshops included:

- Identify Your Power Zone (Eglin A&FRC)
- How to Improve Your Marriage without Talking About It (Hurlburt Field A&FRC)
- Operation Employment (MSCCN/Jobs Plus)

There were over 150 military spouses in attendance from the Air Force, Marine Corps, Army, National Guard, and Navy.

For MSCCN this was an honor and a privilege to not only participate as military spouses, but to also support and celebrate our fellow spouses.

Funding for this event was gifted by ASMBMA, a long time supporter of the MSCCN and the military community.



(Top) Launch of Military Spouse Appreciation Event; (Middle left) Attendee- , 2010 Military Spouse of the Year – Lori Bell, and Stacy Bayton – Executive Dir. MSCCN; SpouseBUZZ Live Members; (Middle Right) Stacy Bayton, Executive Dir. MSCCN during Employment Brief; (Bottom) Attendees at Operation Empowerment.