

Jeanne G. Benden

Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager, MD ANG

Jeanne Benden enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1985. After serving four years, Jeanne left Active Duty and joined the Maryland Air National Guard (MDANG).

In 2004, Jeanne began working for the Maryland Army National Guard (MDARNG) Family Programs as a Family Assistance Center Specialist (FAC). During her two and a half years, she worked with many MDARNG Units and Families as they went through their Soldier Readiness Process (SRP), Mobility Briefs, Deployments, and Reunions. She has met with Units and Families during all phases of the deployment cycle.

In 2006, she was hired as the Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager for the MDANG. In her current position, she manages all family programs, policies, events, and activities for the MDANG. Due to the close relationships built during her time as a FAC, she has been able to foster a deeper sense of unity between the two Family programs. Jeanne is an active participant in the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. She was part of the team that implemented the program in Maryland. This program is community based providing education, assistance and referrals to Service Members and Families throughout the deployment cycle.

Jeanne was instrumental in the creation of the National Capital Region-Inter Service Family Assistance Committee (NCR-ISFAC). This voluntary military cooperative partnership is organized to provide multi-service networking for training and assistance to ensure Total Force Family Readiness. The purpose is to assist families regardless of service component.

Jeanne has been married to Lt Col Steven Benden for over 21 years. Together they have four children, Jacob-20, Hannah-18, Olivia-15, and Noah-13. Being a military spouse during these years has provided a unique insight into the challenges experienced by our families. The Benden family has dealt with numerous deployments both pre and post September 11, 2001. Due to the lack of support she experienced during these times, Jeanne worked with another spouse to create the Security Forces family support group, which was among the first within the MD ANG. This group has continued to remain strong over the past ten years supporting the members and families of the 175 SFS.

Jeanne's experience as a military member, a military spouse, and now an employee working for the MD ANG, provides a wide view of the needs and challenges of today's military families.