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Here at AmeriForce, we want to support deploying service members in the most useful ways we possibly can through this Deployment Guide. Returning soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have told us repeatedly that the steps they took to prepare for deployment were critical in helping them focus on their mission while deployed.

That's why the biggest section of Deployment Guide 2010 is "Getting Ready." In this section, we have information on assuring child custody while deployed, the kinds of documents to prepare for you and your family, helping kids cope with deployment, planning your higher education using the Post-9/11 GI Bill and much more.

Not only are you preparing for enormous changes in your life as you deploy, the Department of Defense and our nation's lawmakers are administering massive changes in how the armed forces operate and are managed. Much of that is still ongoing.

For example, the new GI Bill benefits apply to tuition at private schools, but only up to the tuition level of the most expensive public school in the same state. In some states the GI Bill can fund all or most of the college tuition bill at a private school. In other states, it only funds a fraction of private school costs.

Legislators are trying to work out this discrepancy, but until they do, that should play a factor in the choice of schools for you or your family members.

Our mission with Deployment Guide 2010 is to stay on top of changes in military life so we can best support your mission.

If there's any way we can make these Deployment Guides a better service to you, we would like to know about it. Feel free to participate in the vision of AmeriForce's Deployment Guides by contacting me at editor@AmeriForce.net.

It is a great honor to serve you. May your deployment be smooth, your mission successful, and your return a celebration to remember!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Graves'.

Tom Graves
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