



Retired  
Senior  
Volunteer  
Program

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Contact: Taprina Milburn  
RSVP Communications Coordinator, 405.605.3110  
taprinam@gmail.com

RSVP of Central Oklahoma  
7401 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Oklahoma City, OK 73141  
(405) 605-3110 | fax (405) 605-3108  
www.rsvpokc.org

### **Husband and Wife Team Volunteer Each Week Welcoming New Soldiers to Oklahoma**

OKLAHOMA CITY—Terry and Bonnie Ballantine believe volunteering at the YMCA Military Welcome Center, located at Will Rogers World Airport, each week is a double blessing.

“You get to give, and you get back,” said Terry, a retired Air Force pilot and Desert Storm veteran.

Each Tuesday, the couple, who volunteer through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Central Oklahoma, deliver meals for Edmond Mobile Meals in the morning and in the evening, along with other volunteers, many of whom are retired military, greet new recruits who fly into Will Rogers World Airport on their way to basic training.

“It’s a time to brief them on what to expect during basic training, to welcome and encourage them to make the most of the opportunity of being in the military,” Terry said. “It will be challenging, but whatever you do in the military, you can take with you into your civilian life and you can stand a little taller because of the service to your country.”

After the briefing, about three busloads of Soldiers head to Fort Sill for 10 weeks of basic training.

“Being a volunteer at the Military Welcome Center is invigorating. You get there and meet young men and women who are putting their lives on the line. This is an elite group of people-- among the less than one percent of people their age who volunteer to serve their country. It makes you proud, and gives you hope for the future,” the Edmond resident said.

To learn more about volunteering with RSVP of Central Oklahoma, call Laura McPheeters at 405-605-3110 or email [lmcpheeters@rsvpokc.org](mailto:lmcpheeters@rsvpokc.org).

#### **About RSVP of Central Oklahoma:**

Since 1973, RSVP of Central Oklahoma has helped senior adults continue to live with purpose and meaning by connecting them with rewarding community volunteer opportunities, including RSVP’s Provide-A-Ride Senior Transportation Program. RSVP is a partner of Senior Corps and the United Way of Central Oklahoma. To learn more about becoming a volunteer, call Laura McPheeters at 405.605.3110 or visit [rsvpokc.org](http://rsvpokc.org). You can also follow RSVP on Facebook at [facebook.com/RSVPokc](https://facebook.com/RSVPokc).