



## State of Wyoming Military Department Office of the Adjutant General

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### For immediate release

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### Wyoming Guard opens survivor assistance office

CHEYENNE – An Army Survivor Outreach Services Office, known as an SOS, was opened in the Wyoming National Guard to assist family members of any military service branch with issues that arise when a loved one is lost.

Bill Spellman is the casualty assistance officer manning Wyoming's SOS desk. As a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Spellman uses his experience to help families navigate through the benefits, laws and regulations that come up when a military member or a military dependent dies.

"We're here forever, or at least as long as they need us to be," Spellman said. "This includes helping survivors receive their benefits, find comfort among others who suffered losses, or put them in touch with counselors."

The program focuses on long-term support that includes continued assistance, financial counseling and personal counseling to any surviving family members, for as long as they desire. Family members may range from military servicemen who lost a spouse or child, to family members who lost a serviceman in peacetime or in war.

"Wyoming has a long heritage of taking care of its military forces and their families," said Maj. Gen. Ed Wright, Wyoming's adjutant general. "This program adds to that spirit of community support."

For more information, contact Spellman at 307-772-5563, by cell phone at 307-256-9860, and by email at [bill.spellman@us.army.mil](mailto:bill.spellman@us.army.mil). The SOS is located at the Wyoming National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters, 5500 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne.