



**Debbie Turlip** is an advocate for families, especially military families. She has been a speaker at numerous military functions, to include the National Guard Family Programs National Workshop in Boston, the ANG National Chaplains Conference in Tennessee, and the Air National Guard Commanders Development Course in Washington, D. C.

Debbie is the spouse of Col. Tom Turlip, USAFR (Ret). While in command of the 203<sup>rd</sup> Red Horse Squadron, Virginia Beach, VA in 2001, Colonel Turlip and Debbie faced catastrophic mass casualty, when an aviation mishap killed eighteen guardsmen who were returning from their two weeks annual training.

Debbie was the leader of the unit's crisis response, coordinating the immense volunteer and community outpouring of assistance. She is the founder of the 203<sup>rd</sup>'s family readiness group, nicknamed "Charlie's Club." This group was highlighted at the National Guard Family Programs Workshop in New Mexico in 2003, where Debbie was a workshop presenter.

When the 203<sup>rd</sup> was activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom following the mishap, Debbie provided critical leadership to the family readiness group as they focused on war time deployment support, in addition to working through their loss.

Debbie is a recipient of the Virginia National Guard Commendation Medal.

Debbie, a gymnastics official for thirty-two years, serves as Virginia High School League State Rules Clinician and as a member of the National Federation of State High Schools National Gymnastics Committee. She is employed by Virginia Beach Schools Adult Learning Center as Program Planner for Professional and Personal Development. She is a graduate of George Mason University.