

Biography for Mrs. Jennifer Mancini

Jennifer Mancini has 18 years experience as a Navy spouse; 11 years experience as a Navy Ombudsman for multiple Navy platforms at Echelons III, IV, and V to include Fleet, Shore, Riverine, and Expeditionary commands. She has served six years as a Navy Certified Ombudsman Trainer, is a trained United States Marine Corp Family Readiness Officer, and has accepted invitations to assist in several projects lead by Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC) and Fleet and Family Services Center (FFSC).

During her time within Echelon IV and V commands Jennifer advocated in many different facets to increase the support for Navy families to include the creation of command Family Readiness Groups (FRG), act as advisor to the FRG board members and the development and implementation of Ombudsman website pages to increase communications throughout the community.

She represented Navy families during several Department of Defense (DoD) Town Hall meetings and at the Expeditionary Forces' first Certified Ombudsman Training Symposium held by CNIC. She also attended focus groups held by FFSC held to address particular areas of interest in Family Readiness.

Jennifer's volunteer history for CNIC includes participating in the revision of the Ombudsman Program Training Manual, holding the position as the Navy's first Ombudsman to set on the Ombudsman Program Advisory Board (OPAG). She coordinated many working groups to include the creation of the Family Readiness Individual Augmentee (IA) Gram, details of the 40 year Anniversary of the Ombudsman Program, and she has written articles regarding NECC and the Force communities in the command's monthly issue of Family Connections. With these opportunities she has consistently brought to the forefront Ombudsman and Family Readiness issues and/or concerns brought forth from military members and their families from across the Navy.

One of Jennifer's greatest honors was being invited by the National Military Family Association to testify on behalf of all Navy families in front of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Subcommittee, in Washington, D.C. She proudly brought to the forefront the growing concerns and needs of our Navy families,

advocating for improved mental health support, inconsistencies within current Navy Family programs, stressing the urgency of the need to address these issues.

Currently Jennifer represents Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), as their Force Ombudsman. She has had the pleasure and honor of serving four Admirals at NECC. As the Force Ombudsman she offers mentorship, guidance and a voice to be heard by the Admiral. Her position allows the flow of communication up and down the chain of command which allows her to act as an advocate for the lower echelon commands as well. She was a key contributor in the creation of NECC's first Family Readiness Program manual and the first Navy EOD/MDSU Ombudsman Battle book. She assisted in the planning and execution of all four of the NECC Family Readiness Symposiums and co - facilitated the first Riverine/EOD Ombudsman and FRG Leader Advanced training.

Most recently Jennifer and fellow command volunteers were supported by Commander, NECC and the Force Master Chief to work solutions, to think outside the box and learn and exchange best practices with our sister services. They presented the Commander with an adaptive Family Readiness program concept for his consideration, that combines the most current programs from DoD, Army, U.S. Marine Corps and National Guard in an effort to address the specific needs of NECC's Expeditionary communities. By combining adaptations of the Military Personnel Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program (UPFRP) (MCO 1754.9), avenues in which to integrate DoDs' Total Force Fitness, Army Care Team program and remaining within Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) guidance, they were able to fill the gaps that were identified throughout the development process. In providing a baseline of guidance and support for the lower echelon leadership, training for all components of the Family Readiness team, and encouraging the execution of the program from their individual command needs and through a team approach, this program will further enhance and reinforce core Navy programs and values.