



<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/military-family-readiness-council>

MEMBERSHIP

MFRC has 18 members who represent specific constituents. They serve two or three year terms with annual renewals.

Chair: USD(P&R)

Alternate Chair: ASD(M&RA)

- Director of the Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs
- 1 Representative from each of the Military Services (Flag and General Officers responsible for family readiness)
- 1 Representative from the Army National Guard or Air National Guard (rotates)
- 1 Spouse or parent of Service members from each of the Military Services (2 from Active and 2 from Reserve Components)
- 3 Representatives from Military Family Organizations
- Senior Enlisted Advisors from all four Military Services, two of which can be their spouses (rotates)

See "Meet the Members" on the MFRC webpage for biographies of current members.

MISSION: The MFRC is a federally mandated advisory committee that reviews, evaluates and monitors military family readiness policies, programs, plans and initiatives. It provides independent advice to the Secretary of Defense and the four congressional defense committees. The MFRC charter, legislation, DoD policies, meeting minutes and annual reports are available on the MFRC webpage.

SCOPE: Established in 2008, the MFRC has assessed topics such as:

- Blended Retirement System & Financial Literacy
- Child & Youth Well-Being, Child Care & Family Care Plans
- Children of Deployed Service Members
- Community Partnerships & Collaboratives (including Disaster Preparedness)
- Defense State Liaison Office Top Ten Issues
- Deployment & Reintegration Programs for Active & Reserve Components
- Exceptional Family Member & Family Advocacy Programs
- Force of the Future and Educational Benefits for Service & Family Members
- Gold Star Family Support
- Integration of Family Support & Health Care Support Systems
- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- Military OneSource, Community Outreach and Engagement
- Needs Assessments, Program Evaluations, Funding and Budget Constraints
- Non-Medical Counseling and Personal and Family Life Education
- PTSD and TBI as they impact Military Family Readiness
- Relocation Assistance, Transition Assistance & Mapping Initiatives
- Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (including Spouse Licensure)
- Veterans Online Shopping Benefit

MEETINGS: A minimum of two MFRC meetings are held each year. Meetings are open to the public. Attendees and key advisors may observe meeting proceedings but may not participate unless called upon by the MFRC Chair. The public is invited to submit written statements for consideration by the Council prior to each meeting. During the final meeting of the year, Council members vote on recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and suggest topics for review the following fiscal year. Recommendations are tracked to capture status information and accomplishment data.

GUEST SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS: Subject matter experts from across the Department of Defense are invited to make presentations on selected focus area topics. They present data which address questions posed by Council members. Military Service leaders may also be invited to make verbal and written presentations. Additional background and educational materials are provided prior to and following MFRC meetings for purposes of clarification, corrections for the record and in response to Council member requests for additional data. Family readiness advisors are present at meetings to answer questions that may arise during MFRC meetings.



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FY17 MFRC RECOMMENDATIONS to the Secretary of Defense:

- #1: Use the relaunch of the Military OneSource website as an opportunity to engage all stakeholders and influencers regarding Military OneSource and its associated programs, resources and tools.
- #2: Support the integration of military family programs and resources into military treatment facilities through new and innovative avenues.
- #3: Support the expansion of a “Partnering for Readiness” Initiative between the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and military family readiness organizations.
- #4: Expand efforts in community partnerships and collaboratives to gain greater access to a broad range of military family readiness resources, services and expertise needed by Service and family members, and which are especially useful for Reserve Component members and families.
- #5: Continue standardization of the Exceptional Family Member Program across all Military Services. Strengthen collaboration between service providers caring for family members with special medical and educational needs.
- #6: Maintain Defense State Liaison Office efforts with states to increase licensure and certification transferability between states. This remains a top concern for military spouse employment and affects Service member and family financial readiness, Quality of Life and retention.
- #7: Update the MFRC on Defense State Liaison Top 10 Military Lifestyle Issues and Veterans Employment Protections.

FY17 RECOMMENDATIONS for Immediate Action (IA):

- #1-IA: Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children: Assess current status and parental satisfaction level with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in each state.
- #2-IA: Veterans Online Shopping Benefit (VOSB): Use Military OneSource and other community outreach strategies to educate military Service and family members about the impact of the new Veterans Online Shopping Benefit (VOSB) on current sales and customer shopping experience at Military Resale facilities.
- #3-IA: Financial Literacy & the Blended Retirement System: Monitor implementation of the Blended Retirement System.
- #4-IA: Support for Gold Star Families: Ensure DoD and Military Service policies for Gold Star family support are consistent.
- #5-IA: Continue Support for Families with Special Needs, including Family Support, Health Care and Special Education: Focus on improving the medical care aspects and integration of services between medical, education and family support for families with special needs.
- #6-IA: Reduce the Risk of Child Abuse and Neglect: Review research findings related to the unique challenges female Service members may experience with regard to reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect.

FY18 FOCUS AREAS (Meeting Topics for Review and Assessment):

- (1) PTSD & TBI as Signature Injuries of Current War
- (2) Community Partnerships and Collaboratives (Focus: Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Response)
- (3) Spouse Licensure
- (4) Child & Youth Well-Being