



<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 MFRC member biographies.

MISSION: The MFRC is a legally 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, relevant legislation, DoD policies, MFRC meeting minutes and annual reports, and resources such as the MFRC Communique (an electronic newsletter that shares guest speaker information, resources and recommendations) are posted on the MFRC webpage.

SCOPE: Established in 2008, the MFRC has addressed 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 Skills for Living 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: Three MFRC meetings are held each year. Meetings are open to the public. The public, including troops, families, members of the community, key staff and advisors, observes meeting proceedings but does not participate unless called upon by the MFRC Chair. Members of the public are 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 be submitted to the Secretary of Defense. They also make focus area suggestions for review by MFRC the following fiscal year. Progress on recommendations and accomplishments are tracked and provided for the record.

GUEST SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS: Subject matter experts from organizations inside and outside 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.



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Additional background and educational materials are provided to Council members prior to and following MFRC meetings for purposes of clarification, corrections for the record and in response to Council member requests for additional information. Family readiness advisors from across the Department of Defense are present to answer questions that may arise during MFRC meetings.

FY18 MFRC RECOMMENDATIONS forwarded to the Secretary of Defense:

- (#1) Increase awareness of and opportunities for spouse employment by supporting:
 - a. Quality-weighted assessments of community and surrounding area support for spouse employment and K-12 public education
 - b. Continued efforts focused on spouse licensure portability, education benefits and mobility support
- (#2) Enhance services for special needs military families by:
 - a. Evaluating the resources for special needs families at the Joint Base Lewis McChord Center for Autism Resources, Education and Services (JBLM CARES)
 - b. Requiring the DoD Office of Special Needs (OSN) to report on EFMP/ assignment coordination performance metrics
 - c. Requiring OSN to continue to enhance and improve Exceptional Family Member Program standardization
- (#3) Ensure military families have access to a broad range of resources, services, programs and expertise through:
 - a. Community Collaboration and Coordination
 - b. Continuing the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) Better Together Partnership
- (#4) Report on accession and medical record policies and procedures and the impact on military children who received mental and behavioral health services
- (#5) Revitalize childcare accessibility in military child and youth services programs and ensure funding
- (#6) Modernize the definition of military family readiness from a “life course” perspective
- (#7) Provide support for child and youth services staff dealing with increasing behavioral issues

FY19 FOCUS AREAS (Topics for Review by MFRC During FY19):

- (#1) Accession and medical record policies and procedures and impact on military children who received mental and behavioral health services
- (#2) Service and family member programs tailored to millennials