



Military Community & Family Policy

Military Family Readiness

Ms. Barbara Thompson

*Director, Office of Family Readiness Policy
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense*





Preparing families for military service

- Identify the definition of family readiness
- Describe the network of the Family Readiness System
- Articulate strategies to promote family readiness
- Identify resources available to assist military leaders and providers in promoting effective outcomes of family readiness



Military Family Readiness

DoD Instruction 1342.22, July 3, 2012

Definition of military family readiness:

- The state of being prepared to effectively navigate the challenges of daily living experienced in the unique context of military service; ready individuals and families are:
 - Knowledgeable about the potential challenges they may face
 - Equipped with the skills to competently function in the face of such challenges
 - Aware of the supportive resources available to them
 - Able to make use of those skills and supports in managing such challenges



Military Family Readiness

DoD Instruction 1342.22, July 3, 2012

Definition of military family readiness (*continued*):

- Includes:
 - Mobility and financial readiness
 - Mobilization and deployment readiness
 - Personal and family life readiness
- This term and its definition are included in Joint Publication 1-02, “Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms”



Family Readiness System

- The network of agencies, programs, services and individuals, and the collaboration among them, that promotes the readiness and quality of life of service members and their families
- Service members and their families have primary responsibility for their well-being; family readiness services enhance members' and families' ability to fulfill that responsibility



Family programs as part of the Family Readiness System

- **Multiple access points:**
 - Military and Family Support Centers
 - Reserve Component family programs
 - Military OneSource
 - Military Family Life Counselors
 - Medical command
 - Child development centers
 - Chaplains
- **Fully-integrated network**
- **Services include:**
 - Relocation assistance
 - Non-medical individual and family counseling
 - Personal and family life education
 - Personal financial management services
 - Information and referral services
 - Deployment assistance
 - Spouse Education and Career Opportunities
 - Exceptional family member services
 - Employment readiness
 - Child abuse prevention and response services
 - Domestic violence prevention and response services
 - Morale, Welfare and Recreation services
 - Emergency family assistance
 - Transition assistance



DoD Spouse Education and Career Opportunities



Career Exploration

Assists spouses in identifying career interests and aptitudes and obtaining information about today's job market and work opportunities, including portable skills and careers, entrepreneurship and federal employment options.

The Military OneSource SECO Career Center

800-342-9647

Comprehensive career counseling and assessments

Interest and skills inventories

Education, Training and Licensing

Provides assistance in identifying education, training, licensing and certification opportunities, as well as financial aid resources and scholarships for spouses.

My Career Advancement Account Scholarship — MyCAA

Non-DoD financial aid (Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, university scholarships, Pell Grants)

Post 9/11 GI Bill®

Career Connections

Assists spouses in connecting with corporations, government organizations and nonprofits to gain meaningful, long-term, portable employment.

Military Spouse Employment Partnership

<http://msejobs.militaryonesource.mil>

Regional and local employers

Employment Readiness

Connects spouses to the service-led employment readiness efforts that assist spouses in preparing to join or re-enter the workforce.

Job search strategies
Resume writing
Interviewing
Networking and mentoring

For more information visit <https://www.myseco.militaryonesource.mil/Portal/> or call a Certified SECO Career Counselor at 800-342-9647



Spouse Education and Career Opportunities

My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program (<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>):

- Financial assistance for spouses of active-duty service members in pay-grades of E1 to E5, W-1 to W-2 and O-1 to O-2 on Title 10 military orders are eligible for the scholarship.
- The program provides up to \$4,000 for education/training and license/credential in a portable career.
- Spouses can register for an account by visiting the My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Spouse Portal or by speaking with a certified career counselor by calling 800-342-9647.



Spouse Education and Career Opportunities

Military Spouse Employment Partnership

(<https://mseppjobs.militaryonesource.mil>):

- The MSEP is a Web-enabled employment and career partnership connecting military spouses with more than 270 corporate partners.
- Partners employers have committed to recruit, hire, promote and retain military spouses in portable careers.
- Employers have posted more than 3 million jobs to the MSEP Career Portal.
- Since 2001, more than 70,000 spouses have been hired by MSEP partners.
- Spouse Ambassador Network is a group of selected partners within the MSEP that have established community networks and want to leverage these networks to broaden knowledge about military spouse employment resources.
- More than 136,000 military spouses provided career counseling through the Military OneSource Spouse Career Center between March 2013 and March 2014.



Spouse Education and Career Opportunities

Military OneSource Spouse Career Center **(<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/seco>):**

- Free comprehensive counseling services are available to all eligible military spouses through the career center. Staffed by certified career counselors, the career center can assist military spouses with:
 - Career exploration — Counselors assist spouses in identifying their career interests and aptitudes. They provide information about today's job market and work opportunities, including portable skills and careers, entrepreneurship and federal employment options.
 - Employment readiness — Counselors assist spouses in preparing to join or re-enter the workforce and provide information and assistance with job search strategies, resume writing, interviewing, networking and self-marketing skills.
 - Career connections — Counselors educate spouses on how best to connect with corporations, government organizations and nonprofits, and how to leverage resources such as the Military Spouse Employment Partnership, Hiring Our Heroes Hiring Fairs, USAJOBS and more.
- Counseling services are available six days a week through specialty consultations with certified career counselors at 800-342-9647.

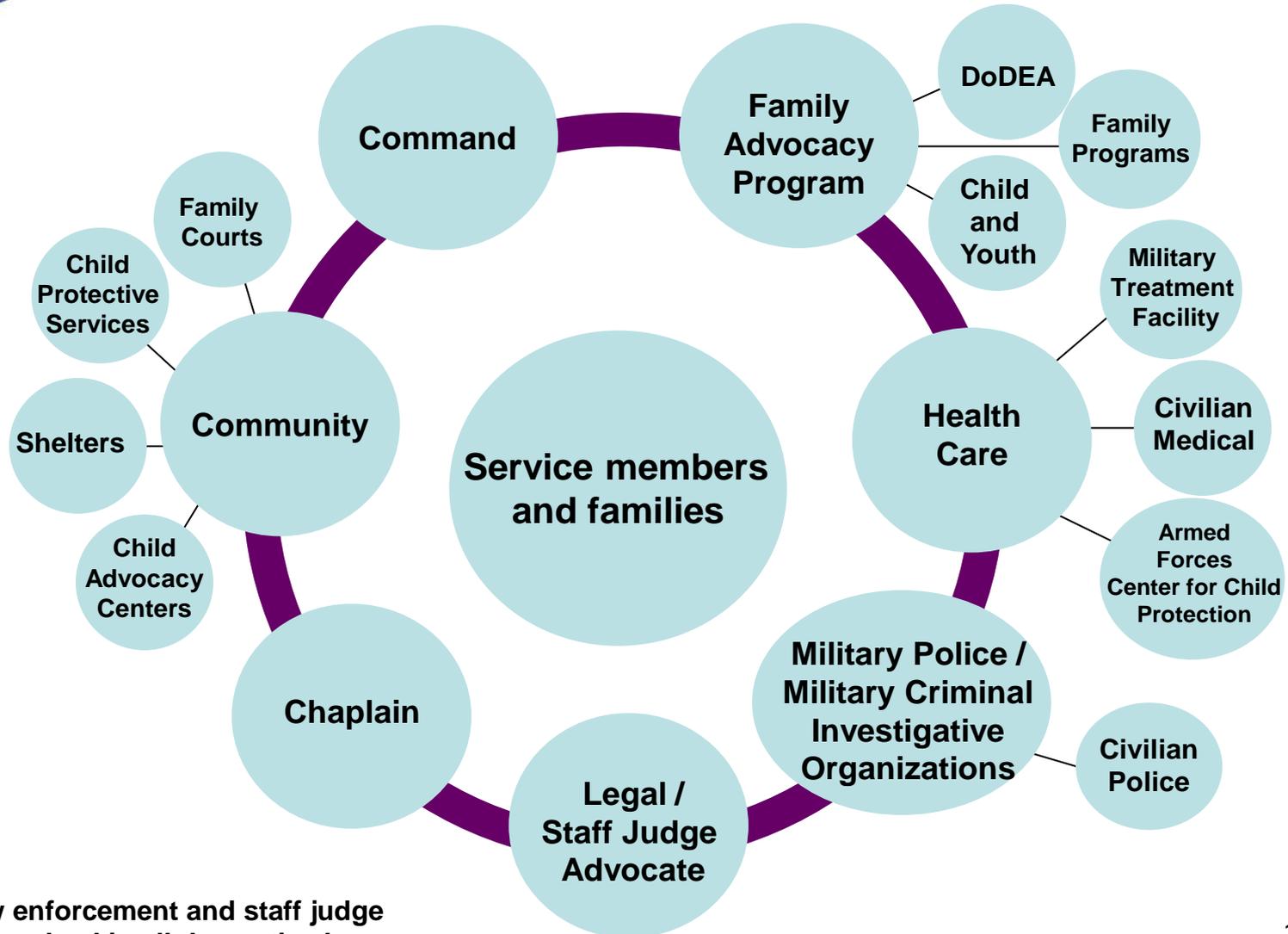


Family Advocacy Program goals

- Promote prevention, early identification, reporting and treatment of child and spouse abuse
- Strengthen family functioning in a manner that increases the resilience and readiness of military families
- Preserve families whenever possible without compromising the health, welfare and safety of victims
- Provide effective treatment for all family members, as appropriate
- Collaborate with state and local civilian social service, medical, law enforcement and legal agencies



Coordinated Community Response for Child Abuse/Neglect and Domestic Abuse



Command, law enforcement and staff judge advocate not involved in all domestic abuse cases (restricted reporting)



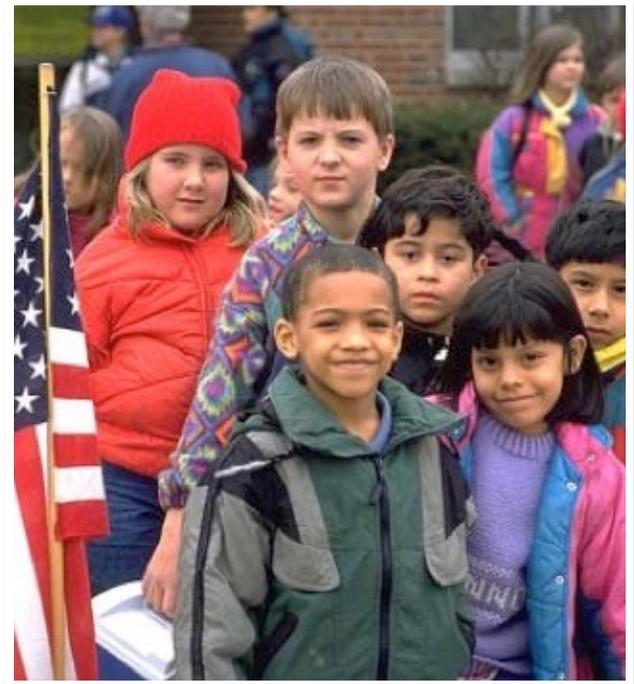
Child and youth programs

- More than 760 child development program facilities and approximately 3,300 family child care homes worldwide
- Serving 200,000 children (birth-12 years)
- Child care fee assistance programs:
 - Operation Military Child Care
 - Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood
 - Respite child care - 16 hours of care/month
 - The YMCA provides respite child care to families experiencing deployment, who do not have access to installation services
 - In addition to respite care services, families accessing the Department of Defense-sponsored YMCA fitness membership program can also take advantage of no cost, on-site child care while they are in the facility



Youth program overview

- Approximately 290 youth and teen centers worldwide
- Serves more than 470,000 youths per year
- Programs for youth ages 6-18
- Providing a wide variety of quality youth programs in settings on and off the military installation
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America:
 - Supporting military youth on and off installations both within and outside of the continental United States





Overview of Office of Special Needs

- The Mission of OSN to enhance and improve Department of Defense support for military families with special needs through the Exceptional Family Program.
- The Three components of the EFMP are:
 - Identification/enrollment
 - Assignment coordination
 - Family support
- The EFMP works to ensure military families have the same level of access to support services regardless of their military Service affiliation or assigned installation.

Military Families Learning Network



- Serving military family service professionals
- Concentration areas include:
 - Personal Finance
 - Family Development
 - Military Care Givers
 - Network Literacy
 - Community Capacity Building
 - Military Lifecycle Transition Support
 - Health & Nutrition
- Online communities:
 - Facebook – <http://facebook.com/militaryfamilies>
 - Twitter – <http://twitter.com/milfamln>
 - DoD authorized social sites
- Web conferencing: <http://learn.eXtension.org>
- Online asynchronous learning modules: <http://eXtension.org/militaryfamilies>





Military OneSource

Mission

- Military OneSource offers convenient, 24/7 access to confidential resource and referral support for service members and their families at no cost to improve the quality of their lives and the effectiveness of the military community.

Eligibility

- Active duty, National Guard and reserve (regardless of status)
- Immediate family members
- Retired or honorably discharged service members up to 180 days after separation
- Survivors
- Civilian Expeditionary Workforce



Non-medical counseling

Military and family life counselor, child and youth behavioral MFLC, personal financial counselor:

- Assignments up to 180 days both within and outside the continental United States:
 - At Military and Family Support Centers, child and youth programs, schools and youth summer programs
 - Embedded in military units
 - Unique ability to surge MFLCs to support service members returning from combat or in response to emergency situations at combatant or garrison commanders' request
 - Event support for up to three days for the National Guard and reserve at pre-deployment, deployment and reintegration events for service members and their families



Non-medical counseling

Military OneSource

- Traditional 50-minute counseling sessions in four formats:
 - **Face-to-face** counseling in an office setting with a provider in the local community (within the continental United States only)
 - Call 800-342-9647 for referral
 - **Telephonic** with a Military OneSource counselor
 - Call 800-342-9647 to schedule appointment (international calling available)
 - **Secure online** chat with a Military OneSource counselor
 - Chat online at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>
 - **Secure video counseling** with a Military OneSource counselor
 - Call 800-342-9647 to schedule appointment



Family support asset mapping

- Defense Manpower Data Center information/data, federal and state resources, and congressionally-authorized veterans service organizations
- Common access card, or CAC, enabled, designed for use by family program managers, state family program directors and other Department of Defense/service professionals
- Displays the location of military members and their families
- Layers support services over demographic data, providing a graphic representation to assist in analysis



Family support asset mapping



Source: U.S. Army



Service member and family resources

- **Army Community Covenant** – This resource allows users to reach out to installation commanders to identify points of contact in each area and to see what other communities are doing.
<http://www.army.mil/community>
- **Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and SaveandInvest.org** – This is a multifaceted program that includes online and on-the-ground training to make sure individuals are supported at key financial milestones. <http://www.finra.org> and <http://www.saveandinvest.org/MilitaryCenter/index.htm>
- **Joining Forces** – The Joining Forces website provides information and resources for supporting military members and their families.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces/get-involved>



Service member and family resources

- **Let's Move and Meetup Everywhere** – Let's Move! and Meetup Everywhere make it easy for parents, teachers, chefs, elected officials and others to take action by organizing or participating in face-to-face meetings dedicated to solving the problem of childhood obesity in their local communities. <http://www.letsmove.gov/lets-move-meetup>
- **Sesame Street Talk, Listen, Connect** – Talk, Listen, Connect offers strategies and resources to help children through difficult periods of transition and separation that can come with military service; the Military Families Near and Far website helps families create, communicate and stay connected. <http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/tlc>



Service member and family resources

- **Veterans Employment Coordination Service** – Veterans Employment Coordination Service is the Department of Veterans Affairs lead office to attract, recruit, hire and retain veterans, particularly severely injured veterans. <http://www.va.gov/jobs>
- **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program** – The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program promotes the well-being of National Guard and reserve members and their families and communities by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. <http://www.yellowribbon.mil>



Children and youth resources

- **Armed Services YMCA** – The YMCA provides membership and respite child care for deployed National Guard and reserve families at no cost; deployment must be for a minimum of six months and the deploying spouse can use the YMCA three months pre- and post-deployment. <http://asymca.org>
- **Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness** – The Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness helps expand and strengthen family, child care and youth development programs. <http://www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu/>
- **Military Child Education Coalition** – A nonprofit, worldwide organization, the Military Child Education Coalition’s work is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation and transition. <http://www.militarychild.org/>



Children and youth resources

- **Military Youth on the Move** – The Military Youth on the Move website provides youth with creative ways to cope with challenges related to moving. <http://apps.militaryonesource.mil/myom>
- **Mission Youth Outreach** – Mission Youth Outreach allows geographically-dispersed active duty, National Guard and reserve youth to attend a local Boys & Girls Club at no cost to the family. <http://www.bgca.org/meetourpartners/Pages/MilitaryPartnership.aspx>
- **Tutor.com** – Eligible military service members and their dependents can work with a certified, professional tutor or career specialist online 24/7 to get help with homework, studying and test prep; service members may also get help with resume writing and job searching. <http://military.tutor.com>



Children and youth resources

- **ZERO TO THREE** – ZERO TO THREE is a national nonprofit organization that informs, trains and supports professionals, policymakers and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. <http://www.zerotothree.org/about-us/funded-projects/military-families/>



Education resources

- **Alliance of Military and Veteran Family Behavioral Health Providers** – The alliance optimizes the preparedness of behavioral health providers working to enhance the resilience, recovery and reintegration of service members, veterans and their family members and communities throughout the military, post-military and family life cycles. <http://www.ecu.edu/che/alliance>
- **Military K-12 Partners** – The Military K-12 Partners grant program provides resources to military-connected local educational agencies to develop and implement projects. <http://militaryk12partners.dodea.edu>
- **Military Kids Connect** – Military Kids Connect offers military children an online community where they can learn about deployments, recognize and share feelings, and develop coping skills. Psychologists from the Department of Defense's National Center for Telehealth and Technology developed the site to build on military kids' strength and resilience, especially as they deal with the unique stressors of military life. <http://militarykidsconnect.org>



Education resources

- **Staying Strong** – The Staying Strong website is an online tool that supports military parents and educators through videos and other resources. <http://www.stayingstrong.org/>
- **stopbullying.gov** – This federal website provides information on understanding and recognizing bullying in schools and community. <http://www.stopbullying.gov>
- **Teachers College Press Guides to Support Students of Military Families** – Endorsed by the Department of Defense Education Activity, this collection of guides helps pre- and in-service educators understand and better serve children from military families. The guides are tailored to school administrators, teachers, school counselors, psychologists, social workers and parents. <http://www.tcpress.com/militaryfamilies.html>