



Military Community and Family Policy Fact Sheet

Military Family Readiness

The state of being prepared to effectively navigate the challenges of daily living experienced in the unique context of military service.

Additional information

For full text of Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134222p.pdf>

For a summary of changes

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/134222/summary-of-changes>

Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22, “Military Family Readiness”

Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22, “Military Family Readiness,” published July 3, 2012, updates policy, responsibilities and procedures for delivering family readiness services to service members, their families and survivors.

Background

Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22 serves as the department’s primary source of family readiness policy guidance. In recognition of the changing nature of today’s all-volunteer military force and in response to lessons learned from more than a decade of combat operations, the instruction modernizes the department’s approach to family readiness. The instruction's establishment of a Family Readiness System outlines diverse options for accessing a network of integrated services to help families easily find the support they need for everyday life in the military. This approach underscores the importance of partnerships and collaboration among all those who serve military families. The policy also provides guidance for regular assessment of service member and family needs, annual reporting on service usage, accreditation of services and program evaluation to ensure family readiness goals are being met. Policy updates will help the department better meet the needs of all service members and their families, regardless of branch of service, active or reserve status, or geographic location.





The Family Readiness System

The Family Readiness System is the network of agencies, programs, services and people, and the collaboration among them, that promotes the readiness and quality of life of service members, their families and surviving family members. The Family Readiness System features a variety of access points, such as installation Military and Family Support Centers and Military OneSource, through which families can connect with the Family Readiness System and find services, including:

- Child abuse prevention and response services*
- Child development programs*
- Domestic violence prevention and response services*
- Deployment assistance
- Exceptional family member support*
- Emergency family assistance
- Family readiness in the Reserve Components
- Information and referral
- Morale, welfare and recreation services*
- Non-medical individual and family counseling*
- Personal and family life education
- Personal financial management services
- Relocation assistance
- Transition assistance*
- Youth programs*

*While Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22 addresses these services as a part of the Family Readiness System, separate policy governs these services.

Implementation Plan

- The Department of Defense components are required to issue implementing guidance in accordance with the Department of Defense Instruction.
- Military Community and Family Policy works closely with the services to implement policy requirements and promote clear and consistent messaging about the Family Readiness System.
- The full text of [Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22](#) and a [summary of changes](#) are a available online.

