



## Your role in the Family Readiness System

### The bottom line

The majority of today's service members, their families and survivors do not live on a military installation, so community-based, civilian support is more important than ever. Military families are looking outside their front doors for solutions, and thankfully, you are there to help with everything from counseling to childcare. We recognize that working together we can provide the best possible support and that military-civilian collaboration strengthens communities. When you help any of our nation's military families, you become a crucial part of the military family support network and therefore, a part of the community of support.

### What's new in military family support

Because you play such an important role in supporting our military families, we want to share some of the changes happening at the Department of Defense. Recognizing the increasing demands of military life, the Department of Defense developed and defined the Family Readiness System, a network of agencies, programs, services and individuals, and the collaboration among them, that promotes the readiness and quality of life of service members, their families and survivors. The Family Readiness System helps service members and families more easily find the information and services they need for the challenges of everyday military life. It ensures that regardless of branch of service, active or reserve status, or geographic location, service members, their families and survivors can easily tap into a trusted network of support that maximizes both military and civilian resources.

### Strengthening military relationships

As a vital part of the Family Readiness System, you need to know how to reach out to the military community for questions, referrals and collaboration. The following information is provided to help you strengthen your relationship with your local military installation or organization.

- Visit <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>.
- Identify and contact your local installation team by visiting <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil>.

### When you need to refer

As a service provider, you have regular access to your service members while they are under your care. There may be times you need to refer a service member, a family member or survivor to another provider, civilian or military. During these conversations, please take the opportunity to talk about the variety of available military family programs. **The goal is greater awareness of available services and access points.**

Below are some key messages and talking points you can use when talking about family programs.

- The Family Readiness System includes both military and civilian providers. Whatever you need, family programs can help.
- The family programs network of support ensures that you will always have access to support, regardless of your geographic location.
- On the installation, in the community or online, family programs are here for you.
  - Find us on the installation at [insert contact information]. If we don't have what you need, we can refer you to someone who does.
  - Find us online at Military OneSource (<http://www.militaryonesource.mil>; 800-342-9647).