



As someone on the front lines of military family support, you play a critical role in providing timely, accurate and relevant information to service members, their families and survivors. You provide information, services and support to military families around the world, at every stage of military life. These families rely on you as part of their trusted network of support, and your contributions directly impact mission readiness. Given the challenges of your position, we hope that the information below will assist you in speaking to recent changes in family support policy, with the ultimate goal of helping you ensure all families can access the services they need to manage the challenges of everyday life and those associated with the military life.

Since the original Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22, "Family Centers," was published in 1992, the need for robust family support programs has increased dramatically. As you know, today's force is much more geographically dispersed and is operating at a higher tempo than it was in 1992.

The Department of Defense has responded to these challenges by updating its policy to better meet the needs of today's military members and their families. The reissuance of Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22, "Military Family Readiness," (<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134222p.pdf>) published July 3, 2012, updates policy and provides a new framework for delivering family programs and services. The Family Readiness System approach integrates policy for many family readiness services into a single source and focuses on coordination and partnerships among all of those who support military families.

The new Family Readiness System approach means service members, families and survivors can reach out to an entire network of support through a variety of access points. In person, by phone and online, the Family Readiness System is there for every service member, family member and survivor, regardless of activation status or location. To help you share this message with military families, we have created a toolkit full of resources and information you can use to engage the service members and families you serve. Your toolkit includes:

1. **Policy Fact Sheet** - The fact sheet summarizes changes and updates to the Department of Defense Instruction.
2. **Family Readiness System Outreach Guide and Slides** - This resource includes talking points and key messages about family programs. The slides highlight new family program key messages and can be included in briefs service providers give to service members, their families and survivors.
3. **Sample Article** - The sample is designed for use in newsletters, websites and other publications to inform service members, their families and survivors about the range of available family support programs.
4. **Sample Advertisement** - These are examples of what might be included in a family program newsletter, website or blog. The advertisement can be used as-is or may serve as a starting point for developing an individualized ad consistent with approved family program messaging.
5. **Social Media Tactics** - The social media content includes several Facebook and Twitter updates to disseminate via your social media outlets.

Your job isn't easy and we appreciate all that you do to promote ready and resilient military families. Your work is critical to our military's success and we hope this toolkit is a valuable resource for you.