



## Sample Article

### Updated Instruction Focuses on Total Force Military Family Readiness

On July 3, 2012, the Department of Defense released an updated policy governing military family readiness programs to better position service member and family readiness programs to respond to the needs of today's military force, their families and survivors.

"There are 1.4 million active-duty military members and about 1.1 million Ready Reserve members - 70 percent of these service members and families live off an installation," said Barbara Thompson, director for the Office of Family Readiness Policy, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. "The new policy lays the foundation for a Family Readiness System that helps military families more easily find the information and services they need for the challenges of everyday life and those associated with the military."

Department of Defense Instruction 1342.22, "Military Family Readiness," (<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134222p.pdf>) updates policy, responsibilities and procedures for developing, delivering and evaluating military family readiness services. The instruction integrates policy for core family readiness services into a single source, including requirements for financial education and counseling, relocation assistance, emergency family assistance, spouse employment and requirements for delivery of services to the Reserve Components.

"The instruction ensures that regardless of branch of service, active or reserve status, or geographic location, families can easily tap into a trusted network of support that maximizes both military and civilian resources," said Thompson.

The Family Readiness System is a network of support, which can be accessed in person, by phone or online. There are two primary ways to tap into the Family Readiness System:

- Local, military installation-based Military and Family Support Center or National Guard and Reserve Family Assistance Center – Call (insert local Military and Family Support Center #), visit (insert address) or search for a location online at <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil>.
- Military OneSource – Call 800-342-9647 or log on to [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil). Available 24-7/365.

"At every stage of military life, military members and their families can rely on the Family Readiness System," said Thompson.