



**DoD Joint Service Conference:
Improving the Quality of Life for
Military Families with Special Needs**



Joint Service Working Group

- Rebecca Posante, Director, Office of Communications, OSD
- Isabel Hodge, EFMP Program Manager/Family Support, OSD
- Lorie Sebestyen, EFMP Program Manager/IDEA & Assignments, OSD
- Susan Johnson, Assistant Deputy for Child, Youth and Schools, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)
- Sharon Fields, EFMP Manager, Headquarters, Army
- Kathy Robertson, Deputy for Family Readiness, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)
- Evonne Carawan, Director, Personnel Readiness and Community Support, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)
- Rhondavena Laporte, EFMP Manager, HQ USMC
- Marcia Hagood, Policy Analyst/EFMP Manager, Personal and Family Readiness Division, N35, USN
- Linda Stephens-Jones, Assistant Deputy (Force Support & Family Programs), Office of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)
- Teresa Barrow, Airman & Family Services Specialist, HQ USAF
- Kelly Hruska, Government Relations Deputy Director, National Military Family Association



An Historical Moment

For the Exceptional Family Member Program:

- **The first joint Service working group devoted to EFMP awareness, whom I just introduced**
- **The first EFMP family support conference with all Services, Guard and Reserve**
- **The first legislation supporting military families with special needs, which I'll discuss in a moment.**
- **The first Congressional Caucus to address military families, including those with special needs AND strong White House interest in military families.**



Where We've Been

- 1954, *Brown Vs the Board of Education*, Kansas established that education was a right that must be available to all on equal terms
- 1971, *Pennsylvania ARC vs. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, established that schools in the state must provide a free appropriate educational to all school aged children with mental retardation
- 1972, *Mills vs. the Washington DC Board of Education*, expanded the class of children with disabilities beyond mental retardation to include all children with disabilities



Special Education Policy

- 1975, *Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142)* – landmark law that is now known as the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*
- 1981, *DoD Instruction 1342.12, Education of All Handicapped Children in the DoD Dependents Schools*
 - 1993, Added preschool & early intervention services
- 2005, *DoD Instruction 1342.12, "Provision of Early Intervention and Special Education Services to Eligible DoD Dependents"*



Anti-Discrimination

- 1973, *Section 504 of the Vocation Rehabilitation Act* – prohibited the discrimination based on disabilities in any organization receiving federal funding.
- 1990, Americans with Disabilities Act, The ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability.



Assignment Policy

- 1986, DoD Instruction 1010.13, *Provision of Medically Related Services to Children Receiving or Eligible to Receive Special Education in the DoD Schools Outside the United States*
- 1992, DoD 1010.13-R, *Overseas Assignment of Sponsors Who Have Children With Disabilities Who Are Space-Required Students in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DODDS)*
- 2005, DoD Instruction 1315.19, *Authorizing Special Needs Family Members Travel Overseas at Government Expense*



Standardization

- 1997, Standardized EDIS (Educational and Developmental Intervention Services)
- 2003, Standardized enrollment forms, DD 2792 and DD 2792-1
- 2009, Standardized the EFMP logo.



Other Milestones

- 2001, *EFM Connections* website – now MilitaryHOMEFRONT
- 2003, First joint service seminar on EFM family support issues (New Orleans)



National Defense Authorization Act for 2010

- Signed by President Obama on October 30th
- Landmark legislation for military families with special needs
- Mandates a standard program across the military departments including a family support program.
- Establishes a Department of Defense *Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs*.
- Requires the Department to develop a comprehensive policy on support to military families with special needs



Requirements

- Identify and address gaps in DoD services
- Expand the EFMP family support program
- Monitor the military departments for the assignment of service members who have family members with special needs.
- Expand EFMP assignment coordination to installations within the US.
- Monitor the availability of programs provided by the Federal, State, local and non-governmental agencies to military families with special needs.

For Families

For military families with special needs, the legislation requires:

- **Assignment to locations where care and support are available**
- **Stabilization of assignments for a minimum of 4 years**
- **Individualized service plans (medical and educational)**
- **The NDAA 2010 requires support for ALL military families with special needs.**



Our efforts have already begun.

- **This year OSD provided additional funding to all Services for respite care for families with special needs.**
- **We funded this conference.**
- **We are embarking on an EFMP awareness campaign.**



Playgrounds

- **Kaiserslautern**
- **Grafenwoehr**
- **Fort Gordon**
- **Fort Polk**
- **Fort Sill**
- **Fort Bragg**
- **Fort Lewis**
- **Fort Bliss**
- **Fort Stewart**
- **Fort Carson**
- **Fort Benning**
- **Fort Sam Houston**
- **Fort Belvoir**
- **Fort Riley**
- **Fort Drum**
- **Fort Lee**
- **Fort Campbell**
- **Fort Knox**
- **Fort Meade**
- **Fort Hood**
- **NAB San Diego**
- **NAS Oceana**
- **NAS Jacksonville**
- **NAVSTA Pearl Harbor**
- **NDW Anacostia**
- **NSA Naples**
- **NAS Sigonella**
- **MCB Quantico**
- **MCB Camp Pendleton**
- **MCAS Cherry Point**
- **MCAS Miramar**
- **MCB Camp Lejeune**
- **Andrews AFB**
- **Lackland AFB**
- **Travis AFB**
- **Wright-Patterson AFB**
- **Nellis AFB**
- **Aviano AB**
- **RAF Lakenheath**
- **Kadena AB**



Thank you
for our
playgrounds



Exceptional Families

Exceptional Service

