

2009 Regional Joint Services Family Assistance Workshop



The Department of Defense Office of Military Community & Family Policy (MC&FP) is pleased to announce the 2009 Regional Joint Services Family Assistance Workshops.

These workshops familiarize family support personnel with programs and resources available to them and to the families they serve. Content includes Military OneSource, MilitaryHOMEFRONT, child and youth services, spouse employment, counseling, transition and financial readiness, Heroes to Hometowns, and state liaison activities. The Workshops provide participants with hands-on experience and the opportunity to develop plans for communicating what they learn to leaders, other providers, and to Service members and their families.

Workshops are open to all Active Duty, Guard and Reserve family support program personnel. Participants may include installation family support staff from Army Community Services, Fleet and Family Services, Airman and Family Readiness Centers, Marine Corps Community Services, and command and unit level readiness personnel. Education, child and youth, family health and religious ministry staff also should attend. Concurrent with their roles in supporting military members and their families, other helping organizations, such as the American Red Cross, are welcome to attend.

The remaining 2009 workshop locations are:

19-20 March 2009 – Norfolk, Virginia

27-28 May 2009 - Arlington, Virginia

14-15 April 2009 – San Antonio, Texas

June – Charleston, South Carolina

The 2009 workshop cities target the Joint Basing locations to ensure timely, appropriate “purple” resources and tools are available to installation family program personnel as they progress with integration activities.

Registration is open so participants may attend any location on a first come-first served basis. They are asked, however, to consider the location that is closest to his or her duty station or job location. All travel must be coordinated and funded by the participant’s command.

To get more information or to register for upcoming workshop, log on to MilitaryHOMEFRONT (www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/service/conference). Click on the Service Providers tab and select Conferences and Workshops from the left hand column.



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Highlights from the 2008 Workshops



96% Percent of the participants who attended a Regional Joint Services Family Assistance Workshop in 2008 said they learned new information that will help them provide better services and information to their clients

Total Participants: 1020

Average attendance per workshop location: 85

Of the 85, 16 were Guard and/or Reserve

Below are actions taken by participants after attending the workshop:

“I have shared the slides from the conference with our Airman and Family Readiness Center staff. The Personal Financial Management Program Manager is using the information to develop slides to brief our squadron and our First Term Airman’s Course (FTAC). The individual we have covering Readiness is using a lot of the information to send out in our Deployed Family newsletter. We will also have many of the materials from Military OneSource at our Deployed Spouse Spa Day. Finally, when we brief commanders at the start of the New Year, we will use the great information that was provided at the Workshop.”

— *Airman and Family Readiness Center Director*

“I was working in Norfolk when OneSource was introduced, and it was not, initially, well received by some of my counterparts. There was a fear that MOS was designed to replace them, but during the conference I noticed a shift in attitudes. They were actually excited to take the information back to their counterparts. The conference helped everyone see the big picture and where they fit.”

— *Joint Family Resource Center Senior Analyst*

“Since the Workshop I’ve been able to speak at the ombudsmen assembly and present the information that we received at the Workshop for Military OneSource. Our CO was also present, and actually stated that he has it in his favorites. In addition to the ombudsman assembly, the information was presented at a Return & Reunion briefing for EOD, and I’ve also incorporated a few slides and information in the Smooth Move and Spouse Orientation briefs. Also, with the use of the new Military OneSource folders we pack those full of information for individuals to take along with them when they come in for one on one services for deployment or relocation.”

— *NAS Sigonella Work and Family Life Educator*

“I originally was going to brief only our medical group leadership, but after discussing the information with several of them I have expanded the brief to include everyone at our group roll call meeting. In addition I will be briefing all the medical staff at our next professional staff meeting for the medical group. I still can’t believe what is on the Military OneSource and MilitaryHOMEFRONT Websites!”

— *Women’s Health and Pediatric Flight Commander*

“Since my return from the conference, I have briefed our command leadership representative and also our Security Officers on Military OneSource’s counseling services. This has been especially important in our Special Operations Community because almost everyone is required to have a SECRET or above clearance, and special operators are some of the least likely people to seek mental health counseling, for fear of the effects on their career if it is known that they did so.

This topic, along with information on how to seek counseling assistance through Military OneSource, Military Life Counselors or medical professionals, will also be covered during Payday Activities briefings for all Service members.”

— *Family Readiness Coordinator*