

## INFORMATION PAPER

29 March 2007

SUBJECT: Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee

1. The Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) is a voluntary integrated team organized to provide multi-service networking for training and assistance to ensure Total Force Family Readiness. Their purpose is to provide assistance regardless of Service or Component. The various Services' family assistance systems are an important resource in supporting family readiness and providing assistance and support to Commanders, military members and their families. The goal of the ISFAC is to strengthen these existing family assistance delivery systems in the event of mobilization, deployment, or natural disaster through the interaction and pre-planning of committee members.
2. Extended deployments have increased the need for an integrated response to geographically separated or isolated military members (Active and Reserve), families, retirees, and DOD civilians. By regulation and statute, the National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Command (JFHQ) within each state, commonwealth, territory, and the District of Columbia are responsible to coordinate family assistance for all military in the State and in the geographically dispersed areas beyond the support capability of military installations.
3. The ISFAC provides an opportunity and forum for various Federal, State and Local agencies, care and service providers, and other organizations to network and identify opportunities to eliminate a duplication of effort. The ISFAC establishes pre-planned delivery systems in the event of mobilization or contingency through committee members' interaction. ISFACs have been organized to cover different geographical areas: sub-state levels; state levels; and multi-state levels.
4. ISFACs should be comprised of representatives of all the following organizations:
  - All relevant Federal, State and Local government departments and agencies
  - All military services within that state
  - All major veteran service organizations within that state
  - Civilian organizations established to assist military families
  - Relevant community service organizations
  - Organizations with a role in disaster response, e.g., police, fire, hospitals, etc.
5. It is important to understand what issues are being faced by Active duty, Reserve and Guard members and their families, such as frequency and size of deployments and mobilizations. Discussion of these issues among committee members is one way in which to identify all the areas of concern. Problems and/or gaps in service are identified as well as steps that need to be taken to enhance the support systems' efforts; e.g., mobilize community agencies, train program staff, obtain command support & involvement, develop communication systems between group members, and establish MOU's or other formal partnership arrangements.
6. This includes meeting the identified need of military personnel, family members, and commands by providing information, referral, education, and preventative services to enhance family readiness. Ultimately, ISFACs reduce duplication of services and efforts, enabling military families to receive assistance from the closest resource regardless of affiliation and to help resolve family issues in a cooperative Inter-Service/Inter-Agency environment.

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