

Senior Spouse Update

Current as of July 9, 2026

On July 9, 2026, Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Military Community and Family Policy, Stephen Simmons, and Associate Director of the **Office of Special Needs**, Tomeshia Barnes, provided a quarterly update to 107 senior military spouses. During that update, Mr. Simmons and Ms. Barnes presented information highlighting OSN support programs, including the **Exceptional Family Member Program**.

To open the virtual meeting, Mr. Simmons provided a recap of the **SpouseWorks** rebrand briefing that he presented during a **Spouse Ambassador Network** meeting held in June. He emphasized that the rebrand will bring all spouse employment support, resources and lines of effort together in a “one-stop shop” location - [SpouseWorks.MilitaryOneSource.mil](https://www.militaryonesource.mil). He also stressed that there will be no changes to support, resources or partnerships.

During her presentation, Ms. Barnes provided an overview of the EFMP with an emphasis on the importance of family support services. To underscore the importance of receiving feedback from families enrolled in the EFMP, Ms. Barnes highlighted the [EFMP Feedback Form](#), which allows families to contact OSN to ask questions or provide feedback on the program. Ms. Barnes also presented information on the **EFMP Outcomes Accountability Model**, which focuses on the following strategic objectives: Access, Execution and Satisfaction. Finally, Ms. Barnes discussed **Project Coordinating Optimal Network Navigation Enhanced Care Transitions**, which is a data-driven initiative designed to identify and address challenges that military families with disability-related needs may face in accessing support and maintaining continuous care.

Following a question and answer session that allowed attendees to share feedback and seek clarity on various topics, Mr. Simmons closed the meeting by touting changes to how the EFMP is evaluated by shifting the focus from outputs to outcomes. He also reminded attendees of the importance of receiving direct feedback from families, especially those receiving support from the OSN.

More information on the OSN and EFMP presentation can be found in the attached slide deck.

Links Discussed by Mr. Simmons and Ms. Barnes

- **Office of Special Needs:** <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/special-needs/>
- **EFMP - Exceptional Family Member Program:**
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/special-needs/efmp/>
- **EFMP Feedback Form:**
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/gov/efmp-feedback-form/>
- **EFMP Exceptional Advocate eNewsletter:**
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/epublications/the-exceptional-advocate-enewsletter-archives/>

Links to Other Helpful Resources

- **Military OneSource Benefits page:**
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/benefits/benefits-finder/>
- **Military OneSource eNewsletter:**
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/epublications/military-onesource-enewsletter-archives/>