

# Our Enduring Duty to America's Service Members and Their Families

## ACCESS TO WI-FI

SEPT. 13, 2024

**INITIATIVE:** This initiative champions the expansion of internet connections for our service members.

- › **WHAT IS IT?** This initiative directs the military departments to carry out a series of pilot projects to provide Wi-Fi to enlisted service members residing in unaccompanied housing, or UH, at no cost to the service member.
- › **WHAT DOES IT DO?** It requires the military departments to establish pilot locations providing basic levels of internet service at no cost to service members residing in UH.
- › **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** Junior enlisted service members living in UH at pilot-selected locations are eligible.
- › **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** Service members need reliable and private internet connections to access online training requirements and resources such as telehealth appointments, Military OneSource and military and family life counselors. Wi-Fi access keeps service members connected with family and friends and provides entertainment during off-hours.
- › **WILL THERE BE FUTURE EXPANSION OF WI-FI ACCESS?** The Defense Department is establishing a long-term plan to build a Wi-Fi-connected force. The undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment will work with the military departments to track the pilot programs, share best practices and engage with internet service providers to develop innovative programs for the provision of Wi-Fi to members in UH.