



Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council

A Federal Advisory Council -- Providing Independent Advice to SECDEF

Sponsored by USD(P&R) Supported by ASD(M&RA)

June 6, 2018 Meeting

Agenda

- **Meeting Called to Order**
- **Welcome and Opening Remarks – MFRC Chair**
 - Hails and Farewells
 - FY2018 -- A Year In Review
 - MFRC Communiques: 6 Mar and 6 Jun 2018 Issues -- Please distribute widely
 - Introduction of White House Guest -- Sara Egeland, Office of Mrs. Karen Pence
- **Procedural Guidance**
 - MFRC Overview, Participant Guidance, Meeting Proceedings
 - Setting Priorities for the Way Ahead – Selecting Offices of Primary Responsibility
 - No Written Public Submissions
- **Council Member Presentations, Deliberation & Voting**
 - Selection of 5 Recommendations for SECDEF
 - Selection of 2 Focus Area Topics for Council Review
- **Closing Remarks – MFRC Chair**
- **Meeting Adjourned**
- **Next Meeting – Thursday, 18 October 2018**
 - **Pentagon Library & Conference Center, Room B6 1300-1500**
 - **SAVE THE DATE**

MFRC Today

MFRC Chair

Ms. Stephanie Barna

18 Council Members:

14 Attending Today
2 Representatives Attending
2 Membership Vacancies

FY18 Focus Areas:

PTSD/TBI – Signature Injuries
of Current War
Community Partnerships &
Collaboratives (Disaster)
Spouse Licensure
Child & Youth Well-Being

MFRC Council Support Team:

Dr. Randy Eltringham

Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Mr. William Story

Alternate DFO

Ms. Melody McDonald

MFRC Human Resource Liaison & Logistics

Mr. Frank Emery

MFRC Travel & Logistics

MFRC Surge Support:

Mr. Eddy Mentzer

Escort Coordinator

Ms. Brenda McDaniels

Welcome Table and Support Materials



Welcome and Opening Remarks

MFRC Chair

FY18 -- A Year In Review

MFRC Communiques – Mar and Jun Issues

Hails and Farewells:

MG Kevin McNeely – Army National Guard (departing)

Brig Gen Jessica Meyeraan – Air National Guard (new member)

Ms. Marie Balocki – Director, Marine and Family Programs (new member)

RDML Karl Thomas – Director, 21st Century Sailor Office (departing)

RDML (Sel) Phillip Sobeck (new member)

Ms. Julie Margolis – Marine Corps Active Duty Spouse (departing)

Ms. Michelle Padgett -- Air Force Active Duty Spouse (departing)

Dr. Randy Eltringham -- Retiring 3 Aug 2018

Mr. William Story – Assuming the DFO Role Summer 2018

Procedural Guidance

MFRC DFO

MFRC Overview

MFRC Meeting Participant Guidance

No Written Submissions from the Public

Presentation and Voting Procedures

Setting Priorities and Choosing Primary Offices of Responsibility

FY18 Recommendations

FY19 Focus Area Topics

Presentation of Issues, Deliberation and Voting

MFRC Council Members

14 Proposed FY18 Recommendations for SECDEF (Select 5)

16 Proposed FY19 Focus Area Topics (Select 2)

General Meeting Guidance

- 1. The MFRC Council is a congressionally mandated, non-discretionary Federal Advisory Committee that provides independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Defense.**
 - MFRC must follow guidelines established by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 and DoDI 5105.04, Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committee Management Program, August 6, 2007.
 - The public is invited to provide written statements for review and consideration at any time and prior to each meeting.
 - MFRC documents are available for review on the MFRC webpage.
- 2. Council membership is set by law [10 U.S.C. § 1781a(b), as amended]. MFRC has 18 members. Only members may deliberate and vote.**
 - A formal motion must be made to bring an issue to a vote.
- 3. Advisors , representatives of Council members, and others may provide information or offer views during Council meetings if called upon by the MFRC Chair.**
 - MFRC meetings are open to the public.
 - Meetings are **not** Town Hall meetings unless specifically announced as such.
- 4. Annual MFRC FACT Sheets** -- Capture endorsed recommendations and selected focus area topics to be reviewed by the Council in the next FY.

How to Contact the Military Family Readiness Council

By eMail:

osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.family-readiness-council@mail.mil

By Mail:

Office of Military Family Readiness Policy
Attn: Military Family Readiness Council
4800 Mark Center Drive
Suite 03G15
Alexandria, VA 22350-2300

MFRC Webpage:

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/web/mos/military-family-readiness-council>

FY 19 Focus Area Topic Suggestions

	Topics	#	Top 2
1	Expansion of Safe Haven Evacuation Entitlements and Health National Coverage for National Guardsmen		
2	Trends in Military Family Member Suicide Rates		
3	Juvenile on Juvenile Sexual Assaults on Military Installations		
4	Accession and Medical Record Policies and Procedures Impact on Military Children Who Received Mental and Behavioral Health Services		
5	Support for Special Needs Families & Recent Improvements		
6	DoD Millennium Cohort Family Study – Findings and Follow-on Actions		
7	Child and Youth Well-Being		
8	Military Family Outcomes after Transitioning to the Civilian Sector		
9	Strategic Basing Decisions Related to Public Education for Military Children		
10	Effectiveness of Spouse Employment Licensure/Credentials Initiatives		
11	Spouse Education and Employment		
12	EFMP Standardization		
13	Child Care Accessibility in Military Child and Youth Services Programs		
14	Joint Military Family Readiness Centers and Standardization		
15	Soldier and Family Programs Tailored to Millennials		
16	Community Collaboratives and Partnerships		

Integrated MFRC FY 18 Draft Recommendation

	Recommendations	#	Top 5
1	Quality-Weighted Assessments of Community & Surrounding Area Support for Spouse Employment & Public Education		
2	Spouse Licensure Portability, Education Benefits & Mobility Support		
3	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children & Military Cultural Awareness		
4	JBLM CARES: Center for Autism Resources, Education and Services		
5	EFMP/ Assignment Coordination Performance Metrics		
6	Exceptional Family Member Program Standardization		
7	Community Collaboration and Coordination		
8	Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) Better Together Partnership		
9	Data-Sharing / Data Informed Collaboratives & Partnerships		
10	Well-Being of Children and Youth		
11	Childcare Accessibility & Funding		
12	Support for Child and Youth Services (CYS) Staff Dealing with Increasing Behavioral Issues		
13	Reducing Mental Health Stigma -- Impact of Accession & Medical Records Policy & Procedures		
14	Military Family Readiness		

Recommendation #: 1

Sponsor(s): Brig Gen Kathleen Cook

Recommendation: Include quality-weighted assessments of community and surrounding area support for spouse employment and public education in strategic basing or mission alignment decisions.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Promote the use of innovative strategies through an OUSD (P&R)-led working group to research, document, and analyze the impact of spouse employment and public school offerings on family readiness and report back to the Council within six months with outcomes and recommendations.
- Develop qualitative measures for spouse and family concerns that relate to quantitative scoring outcomes used in strategic basing decisions.
- Assess success of spouse professional licensure portability for temporary licensing, expedited licensing and/or reciprocity of licenses.
- Assess public schools supporting military-connected children for quality of education and safety/security of learning environments.
- Publish guidelines/policy for strategic basing assessments that incorporate SECDEF approved courses of action.
- Prepare SECDEF communication with the Council of Governors.

Recommendation #: 2

Sponsor(s): SMA Daniel Dailey & Brig Gen Kathleen Cook

Recommendation: Work closely with DOL and other government and non-government agencies to collaborate, share ideas and inform each other on the issues and initiatives that are helping military spouses with employment. Support the efforts of DSLO to continue their work with state legislators, other state officials, representatives from occupations, and military spouses to improve (1) license portability; (2) access to educational opportunities and benefits; and (3) mobility support for military spouses and family members.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Continue to work and collaborate to break down barriers that limit spouse education and employment opportunities for military spouses at any location.
- Establish working relationships with other government organizations (e.g., DOL), VSOs, MSOs, etc.

Continued on next page

- Continue to support the efforts of the Defense State Liaison Office to continue their work with state legislators, other state officials, representatives from occupations, and military spouses to improve employment opportunities.
- Monitor DSLO progress.
- Publicize state programs already in place which may allow licenses to transfer such as license transfers, license reciprocity and license by endorsement while continuing to standardize acceptance of good standing licenses across state lines.
- Address educational portability for children and adults, and employment opportunities, professional licensing and credentials needed to work across state lines.
- Examine educational benefits to gain a deeper understanding of how they affect Service and Family member readiness.
- Open the aperture of Tuition Assistance (TA) for use by both Service members and their spouses who want to pursue professional licensing and technical certifications.
- Continue to address mobility and portability areas of concern that support relocating military Service members and Families.
- Study the effects of continuous relocations on military families, including concerns over licensure/certification portability, school district requirements when transferring K-12 students, and lapses in medical care (e.g. breaks in continuity of care for family members).

Recommendation #: 3

Sponsor(s): LTG Gwen Bingham, SMA Daniel Dailey, National Guard

Recommendation: Use Military OneSource webinars, the DODEA Partnership website (www.dodea.edu/partnership/InterstateCompact) and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) website (www.mic3.net) as valuable resources to educate and engage all stakeholders, influencers, pre-school-12 educators, medical and family support professionals regarding military cultural awareness and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and associated resources and tools.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Encourage the Services School Liaison Officers (SLOs) and senior leaders to educate and inform their stakeholders to engage with military families at the following touch points: Service-level Headquarters, Regions, Installation SLOs, Service Schools designed for leadership at all levels, including military spouses and National Guard State Coordinators.
- Promote the use of innovative tool kits through an OUSD (P&R)-led working group composed of representatives from all of the Military Services (including the Guard and Reserve) and OSD Public Affairs (Outreach and Public Liaison) with a requirement to report back to the Council within six months of the group's establishment.
- Adopt a program similar to the Oregon National Guard initiative that provides outreach to TRICARE medical and family support professionals, educators and pre-school personnel via webinars with associated CMEs.

Recommendation #: 4

Sponsor(s): Ms. Karen Ruedisueli

Recommendation: Evaluate access to medical and special education resources for special needs families with a family member on the autism spectrum stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM)

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Examine trends for the number of special needs families stationed at JBLM.
- Review the number and content of compassionate reassignment requests to leave JBLM.
- Assess appointment availability/wait lists for medical care and therapies needed by families with a member on the autism spectrum at JBLM.
- Obtain feedback on special education services availability from the JBLM School Liaison Officer and local school districts serving the installation.

Recommendation #: 5

Sponsor(s): Ms. Karen Ruedisueli

Recommendation: Require the DoD Office of Special Needs to report on progress made against developing common performance metrics for assignment coordination to be utilized by all Military Services Exceptional Family Member Programs (EFMPs).

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Provide an overview of current performance metrics the Services use to assess their EFM programs with a focus on assignment coordination effectiveness.
- Determine if any current metrics represent best practices for evaluating EFMP assignment coordination effectiveness.
- Provide a status update on the efforts to standardize EFMP performance metrics, including obstacles to completing this task, with an emphasis on evaluation of assignment coordination effectiveness.

Recommendation #: 6

Sponsor(s): LTG Gwen Bingham, SMA Daniel Dailey

Recommendation: The DoD Office of Special Needs should continue to work with the Military Services to enhance and improve Exceptional Family Member Program standardization across all of the Services.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

-- Continue to collaborate and coordinate with the Services and other agencies to continue standardization efforts.

-- Continue to explore ways to standardize all aspects of the Exceptional Family Member Program to ensure the same level of service regardless of Military Service affiliation and location by focusing on: Access, Policy and Procedures, Reporting, Business Processes and Forms, Information Technology Solutions, and Respite Care.

Recommendation #: 7

Sponsor(s): LTG Gwen Bingham, SMA Daniel Dailey

Recommendation: Continue to use community collaboratives to gain access to a broad range of Military Family Readiness resources, services, and expertise needed by Service and Family members.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Continue to use community collaboratives to gain greater access to a broad range of Military Family Readiness resources, services, and expertise needed by Service and Family members.
- Reduce barriers for military agencies and installations to collaborate and partner with government and private sector organizations.
- Continue a proactive campaign to inform military and civilian agencies; develop metrics to measure success; and determine needs to focus efforts where and when they are needed most.
- Explore how Military OneSource and other digital platforms can be incorporated into this effort, especially using existing technology, social media platforms, and mobile applications.

Recommendation #: 8

Sponsor(s): LTG Gwen Bingham, SMA Daniel Dailey

Recommendation: Continue to support the important BGCA Better Together Military Public Private Partnership to ensure military Families have access to critical programs and services. Pioneer efforts aim to connect and support 250,000 military Families living off-installation over the next 3 years.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

-- Invite the Services and other agencies to educate and inform their stakeholders to engage with BGCA Better Together at the following touch points:

- Service-level Headquarters

- Installation Child & Youth Programs

- Service Schools designed for leadership at all levels, including military spouses

-- Promote this partnership through an OUSD (P&R)-led working group composed of representatives from all Services and OSD Public Affairs (Outreach and Public Liaison) with a requirement to report back to the Council within six months of the group's establishment.

Recommendation #: 9

Sponsor(s): Dr. Mary Keller

Recommendation: The Council should address the imperative for DoD to institute better and more transparent data sharing agreements and processes that involve and engage with reputable non-profit organizations and academic institutions and, in collaboration, design privacy-protected vehicles for timely exchange of information and ideas.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Examine current requirements and roadblocks to support accuracy as well as evidence-informed practices.
- Discover current examples of collaborations for the study and improvement of practical usage and communication of military life data sources (e.g., Annual Status of Forces Surveys, Spouse Satisfaction Surveys, and emerging data from the DoD Millennial Cohort Study).
- Determine how to make demographic data in the Defense Manpower Data System more readily and proactively available for study and research.
- Determine potential policy updates and/or changes in processes as well as reporting systems.
- Promote the establishment of systems for information sharing for both innovation and data sharing research collaboratives.

Recommendation #: 10

Sponsor(s): Dr. Mary Keller

Recommendation: Consideration of child and youth well-being for those with parents serving in the Active, National Guard and Reserve Forces should be an on-going priority for the MFRC.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Review the current and future state for Services capabilities and capacities to support quality, developmentally appropriate programs and services for children and youth (both on and off the installations as well as for the Reserve Components).
- Identify implications for children and youth with special needs (See the May 2018 GAO Report on EFMP).
- Examine the performance standards actions related to Service inconsistencies and EFMP programs and services (May 2018, GAO Report). Require a report back to the Council within six months.
- Address the trends, progress and areas for concern associated with child abuse and neglect (e.g., 2017 Report by Cozza, et. al.).
- Monitor the efficacy of follow-up processes for immediate family members after a Service member ideates or commits suicide (risk for children).
- Review standards, e.g., process and actions taken by OSD to evaluate/sunset programs (How is data used? By whom? For what purpose?).

Recommendation #: 11

Sponsor(s): LTG Gwen Bingham, SMA Daniel Dailey

Recommendation: Revitalize the Family Child Care (FCC) Program to meet increasing childcare demands, including demand for high quality, full-day care for eligible children and youth 6 weeks to 12 years that enhances the readiness and well-being of the workforce and their Families by reducing the conflict between parental responsibilities and mission requirements.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

-- Invite the Services to discuss and determine ways to meet the demand for childcare on post at the following touch points:

Service-level Headquarters
M&RA

Installation Child and Youth Programs
Support Agencies (CPAC, etc.)

- Promote ways to increase childcare on post.
- Ensure funding is provided to support identified childcare requirements.
- Ensure staff are brought onboard in a timely manner (e.g., background checks are completed within prescribed timelines)
- Determine ways to expand and revitalize Family Child Care programs.

Recommendation #: 12

Sponsor(s): LTG Gwen Bingham, SMA Daniel Dailey

Recommendation: Continue to expand partnerships established by DoD with external agencies (e.g. Kids Included Together) to support and assist CYC staff who are experiencing increasing behavioral issues with children and youth in their care.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Invite the Services and other agencies (e.g. Kids Included Together, CLASS, etc.) to inform and educate their stakeholders and engage with support agencies to better understand and provide staff with the training and support required to assist children with behavior issues at the following touch points: Service-level Headquarters, and Installation Child and Youth Programs.
- Conduct a study to determine the stress factors facing the direct care staff who are caring for children in Military Child and Youth programs. If the study has the outcome that staff are stressed then incorporate professional development built around the positive interactions that can help staff improve outcomes, netting measurable benefits for the children in their care.
- Promote positive guidance practices which create a knowledge base for Teacher-child interactions which (1) emphasizes teacher values; (2) demonstrates that interactions are a key component for quality care; and (3) uses positive guidance practices to support the development of an encouraging classroom where adults guide children to express and meet their needs in acceptable safe ways. Partnerships formed with families and peers are supportive and encouraging. Conflicts are seen as part of living in a community where adults help children learn effective conflict-resolution strategies and teach problem-solving skills.

Recommendation #: 13

Sponsor(s): Ms. Karen Ruedisueli, Dr. Mary Keller

Recommendation: Require the Services to report on the policies and processes related to accessing and evaluating military dependent (minor) medical records when a former military dependent enters military Service.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

-- Provide transparency to the process of accessing military dependent medical records by requesting the Services answer the following questions:

a. What is the scope of the issue?

How many military dependents' medical records have been accessed?

How many military kids have been denied enlistment or involuntarily separated due to information in their dependent medical records?

Under what circumstances do the Services access MHS dependent medical records?

Is this a random sample or prompted by something specific?

Which military entrants are subject to having their dependent medical records evaluated?

Enlistees? Service academy cadets and midshipmen? Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) students? Those entering via other commissioning sources?

b. What guidelines are the Services using when evaluating information in dependent medical records? How is dependent medical information used in "fit for duty" determinations? What other information (medical or otherwise) is used in conjunction with dependent medical records in "fit for duty" determinations?

What oversight is provided to ensure dependent medical record information is interpreted and used appropriately?

What is the appeal process for those who are recommended for involuntary separation based on information in their dependent medical record?

What is the policy for examining minor medical records of entrants who are not former military dependents?

- c. Who is charged with evaluating information in dependent medical records? What are their qualifications? What guidance do they receive before conducting such evaluations?
What oversight is provided to ensure dependent medical record information is interpreted and used appropriately?
 - d. What is the appeal process for those who are recommended for involuntary separation based on information in their dependent medical record?
 - e. What is the policy for examining minor medical records of entrants who are not former military dependents?
- Review DoD Instruction 6130.03 (Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Military Services) outlining the behavioral health conditions that cause an applicant to be “permanently disqualified.”

-- Learn about practices, equity and communication:

- a. Examine individualized practices and inconsistencies: e.g., Military Service branches are allowed to grant a waiver for or re-evaluation of such conditions.
- b. Discover if/when military-connected children whose parents encouraged behavioral health care at the earliest signs of concern are now, as adults, penalized under this DoD instruction.
- c. Identify salient evidence or examples indicating the application of medical / behavioral health standards for military/veteran connected youth compared to civilian-connected recruits.

-- Invite the Services and DHC to brief the Council on the implications for various stakeholders. Invite behavioral health professionals, both within and outside of DoD, to brief the Council on the privacy implications for those who seek behavioral health support for children and teens.

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-- Discover corrective actions that are in progress through personnel offices, DHA, legal and OSD Public Affairs.

-- Promote dependent health records and standards designed to decrease the likelihood of increased stigma, reduced access to care, and restricted emotional support and treatments of psychiatric illnesses, all of which could worsen military children's health.

-- Require a report back to the Council within 6 months.

Recommendation #: 14

Sponsor(s): Dr. Mary Keller

Recommendation: Revisit and agree upon the precise definition of “military family readiness” from a “life course” perspective as well as the current and near-term future of OSD and Service initiatives.

MFRC Intent -- Recommended Course of Action:

- Discover the key aspects, mechanisms and implications for defining and monitoring “military family readiness.”
- Request DoD demographers educate the Council on the current and projected future profile for the Force (Active, National Guard, Reserves) with special emphasis on dependents.
- Invite the Services to illustrate the current landscape for critical indicators of “military family readiness,” and the metrics for monitoring. How do the Services make adjustments for and respond to military occupations (e.g. Special Forces) and conditions (e.g. mission, location, family crisis)?
- Examine evidence-based ongoing practices and standards related to social media and the impact on family well-being related to the health of the Force.
- Focus on the Future: Given the 2017 JAMRS report on the percentage of recruits with a parent or sibling serving, the Council should discuss the family readiness implications for the future of the All-Volunteer Force. Special emphasis areas are:
 - Understand/discuss the data and trends from the recruiting commands
 - Understand/discuss the family implications for those leaving the Force (exit interviews, etc.)
 - Examine the current OSD and Services planning, pilots and practices in place now with an eye on the future needs of the Force
 - Address the trends and impact of family decisions related to geographic separations (risk, readiness, behavioral health, well-being)
 - Review the education benefit usage for children and spouses (e.g., Post 9/11 GI Bill)

Integrated MFRC FY 18 Draft Recommendation

	Recommendations	#	Top 5
1	Quality-Weighted Assessments of Community & Surrounding Area Support for Spouse Employment & Public Education		
2	Spouse Licensure Portability, Education Benefits & Mobility Support		
3	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children & Military Cultural Awareness		
4	JBLM CARES: Center for Autism Resources, Education and Services		
5	EFMP/ Assignment Coordination Performance Metrics		
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8	Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) Better Together Partnership		
9	Data-Sharing / Data Informed Collaboratives & Partnerships		
10	Well-Being of Children and Youth		
11	Childcare Accessibility & Funding		
12	Support for Child and Youth Services (CYS) Staff Dealing with Increasing Behavioral Issues		
13	Reducing Mental Health Stigma -- Impact of Accession & Medical Records Policy & Procedures		
14	Military Family Readiness		

FY19 Focus Area Topic Presentations

- 1-2 Minute (MAX) Explanations per Topic
- Council Deliberation
- Voting & Selection of Top 2 Priorities

Voting Procedure -- Same as for FY18 Recommendations
See Ballot for Topics

Results: Top 2 Priority Focus Area Topics will be reviewed during FY19 MFRC Meetings (one topic per meeting)

FY 19 Focus Area Topic Suggestions

	Topics	#	Top 2
1	Expansion of Safe Haven Evacuation Entitlements and Health National Coverage for National Guardsmen		
2	Trends in Military Family Member Suicide Rates		
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4	Accession and Medical Record Policies and Procedures Impact on Military Children Who Received Mental and Behavioral Health Services		
5	Support for Special Needs Families & Recent Improvements		
6	DoD Millennium Cohort Family Study – Findings and Follow-on Actions		
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14	Joint Military Family Readiness Centers and Standardization		
15	Soldier and Family Programs Tailored to Millennials		
16	Community Collaboratives and Partnerships		



Closing Remarks and Plans for Next MFRC Meeting

MFRC Chair

Next Meeting: SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, 18 October 2018, PLCC Room B6

1300 to 1500