

ESTABLISHING AN INTER-SERVICE FAMILY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

WHY AN ISFAC??

Our Citizen-Soldiers, all service members and their families, constantly make tremendous sacrifices in service to our great nation. These sacrifices and their service is something that can never be taken for granted. Extended deployments have increased the need for integrated response to geographically separated or isolated military members, families, retirees, and DOD civilians. It is important that our citizen soldiers and their families, regardless of branch of Service or component, receive fair and continuous services as they continue to serve our country.

A number of states have formed Inter-Service Family Assistance Committees that have made great strides in assisting military personnel and their families. They have identified a number of issues that significantly impact the lives of military personnel and their families during moves, deployments and transitions, and effectively initiated collaboration with the various support agencies to provide key services and assistance. The essential contributions and sacrifices of these brave service men and women are enormous and should continue to be recognized.

SAMPLE CHARTER

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Article XXXX of the Constitution of XX and Section XXX of the Code of XX, I hereby formally establish the XX Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC). Primary ISFAC members shall be appointed by the Governor. Members shall include state legislators, the Secretary of Public Safety, the Secretary of Education or designee, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources or designee, the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness or designee, the Commissioner of Veterans Services or his designee, representatives from the National Guard (Army and Air); the US Army and the Army Reserve; the US Navy and the Navy Reserve; the US Air Force and the Air Force Reserve; the US Marine Corps and the US Marine Corps Reserve; the US Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve; local government officials, community business leaders, representatives from organizations who's focus is support to military families, representatives from veteran service organizations and other support organizations.

The Secretary of (XXXX-Public Safety) shall serve as the permanent co-chair with the other co-chairman position selected by the group on an annual basis. The ISFAC shall meet, at a minimum, quarterly upon the call of the chairmen. Members of the ISFAC shall serve without compensation. State officials may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

The purpose of the ISFAC is to provide assistance to families regardless of Service or Component with the goal of strengthening existing family assistance delivery systems in the event of mobilizations, deployments, or natural disaster through the interaction of committee members.

The ISFAC shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To increase awareness, involvement and cooperation of the business community of the State in support of these military personnel and their families.
2. To increase awareness, involvement and cooperation of the state agencies in support of these military personnel and their families.
3. To increase awareness, involvement, and cooperation of non-governmental agencies and organizations in support of these military personnel and their families.
4. To increase awareness, involvement, and cooperation of local government in support of these military personnel and their families.
5. To increase awareness, involvement and cooperation of major financial institutions in support of these military personnel and their families.
6. To increase awareness, involvement and cooperation of general and mental health care providers in support of these military personnel and their families.
7. To increase awareness involvement, and cooperation among members of the State Bar in support of these military personnel and their families.
8. To increase awareness, involvement and cooperation of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Committee in support of these military personnel and their families.
9. To increase awareness, involvement, and cooperation of Chambers of Commerce in support of these military personnel and their families.
10. To increase awareness, involvement, and cooperation of the various military resources in support of these military personnel and their families.
11. To increase awareness, involvement, and cooperation in response to crises as appropriate.
12. To enhance service delivery to military personnel and their families by fostering cohesive working relationships among ISFAC members.
13. To enhance communication with military commanders regarding family readiness issues and concerns and provide recommendations.
14. Established pre-planned delivery systems in the event of mobilization or contingency through committee members' interaction.
15. Organize subcommittees to focus on specific issues as needed.
16. Establish Memorandums of Understanding or other formal partnership arrangements as appropriate.

Staff support shall be provided by the Secretary of Public Safety, the Department of Military Affairs, and such other agencies as may be designated by the Governor.