



ARMY FAMILY COVENANT: WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Family Programs and Services

“We are committed to Improving Family Readiness by standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services.”

- Created the Army Integrated Family Support Network (AIFSN) establishing and reinforcing partnerships between Active, National Guard, and Reserve Component support services, local and state community services, and corporate America. AIFSN will provide access to standardized services, program and support to all Soldiers and their Families regardless of their proximity to a military installation
- The Yellow Ribbon Program is the Army’s asset integrator ensuring Soldiers, Families, and employers have access to necessary information and support before, during, and after a deployment cycle
- The Army Reserve Family Programs’ Website is a virtual installation where geographically dispersed Families can access the same support and resources as their Active Duty counterparts. Mini-Reserve Centers in town and cities across the nation are being planned and will function like traditional Army Community Services centers found on installations
- Supported 249 enduring Army National Guard Family Assistance Centers
- Provided 1,029 Family Readiness Support Assistants down to the battalion level to provide support to Family Readiness Group Leaders
- Increased hourly child care funding for Family Readiness Groups
- Increased hours of respite care from 16 to 40 for Families with exceptional Family members. Provided approximately \$8 mil in exceptional Family member respite care funding. Funds support Families enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program with their medical or education needs
- Provided an additional 13 New Parent Support (NPS) Home Visitors for high risk Families. NPS Home Visitors are located at 33 locations in the continental United States and 29 locations overseas
- Provided 477 Army Community Service staff positions to meet operational demands and staffing shortfalls – 185 of these positions are filled
- Published FRSA Handbooks to standardize their roles and responsibilities
- Increased the number of Military Family Life Consultants throughout the Army including the National Guard and Reserve Components. Placed and additional 35 Military Family Life Consultants at home and abroad
- Provided Family Readiness Group resource materials Army-wide



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Soldier and Family Medical Support

“We are committed to Improving Family Readiness by increasing accessibility and quality of health care.”

Soldier Family Assistance Centers in the vicinity of medical facilities have been established to provide one-stop assistance

- Administrative and financial assistance
- Assistance with coordinating government entitlements, benefits and services
- Providing information and assistance in obtaining non-governmental benefits and services

Adapt Health care systems to improve access and quality

- 35 Warrior Transition Units stood up (9,866 Soldiers) with singular focus of Warrior healing and support to Army Families
- 163 new hired behavioral health providers adding 16,000 appointments per month
- Increased primary care visit by more than 7000,000 in Fiscal Year 2007
- 94% of patient appointments met access standards in Fiscal Year 2007
- Hiring 30 new Army Substance Abuse Counselors

Enhance care for Traumatic Brain Injury/Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (TBI/PTSD) to ensure availability of mental health care

- More than 80,000 Soldiers received TBI/PTSD chain teaching (July-October 2007)
- 10 TBI program validated across Medical Command to ensure high quality TBI care
- Neurocognitive testing on more than 50,000 Soldiers prior to deployment
- Advanced PTSD training for 180 Army mental health providers

Mitigate effects of deployments on children, spouses, and dual military Families

- Distributing 200,000 videos and training products to strengthen resilience in military children and Families
- Working with many local school districts to support the needs of children with deployed parents
- Expanded Battlemind training to include spouses. Battlemind products for children are under development
- Hiring 32 additional Marriage and Family Therapists

Mitigate effects of geographic isolation; leverage community-based resources

- Nine Community Based Healthcare Organizations serving 1,513 Warriors in Transition residing at home
- Increasing partnership with Veterans' Administration for improved seamless transition for Soldiers leaving the Army
- Implemented enhancements to the TRICARE Reserve Select Program, authorizing TRICARE Standard coverage for over 500,000 eligible members of the Selected Reserve and their Family members



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Child and Youth Services

“We are committed to Improving Family Readiness by ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care.”

Deployment Cycle Support

- Extended operating hours for Child and Youth Programs (beyond the normal duty day).
- Increased Respite Child Care from 5 to 16 hours per child per month.

Fee Reductions for Parents

- Eliminated Child and Youth Services (CYS) registration fees for Child and Youth patrons.
- Reduced Child and Youth Services program fees to ease financial burden on Families.

Support for Warriors in Transition

- Provided no cost hourly Child Care to Families and caregivers during medical treatment appointments.
- Offered Child Care fee reductions of 20% and waived fees for 4 garrison instructional classes and 2 CYS team or individual sports for children of Wounded Warriors.

Quality Programs for Children and Youth

- Granted 100% Department of Defense Certification of all garrison Child and Youth Programs (equivalent of state licensing requirements).
- Achieved 97% external Accreditation of Child Development Centers and School Age Programs by national professional accrediting agencies.

Construction of Child and Youth Facilities

- Funded 22 new Child Development Centers in FY07: 91 Child Development Center projects programmed during FY08-13.
- Funded one new Youth Center in FY07: 24 Youth Center projects programmed during FY08-12.

Partnerships with Child and Youth Serving Organizations

- Partnered with Boys & Girls Clubs of America (currently 189 affiliated Boys & Girls Clubs on garrisons).
- Partnered with U.S. Department of Agriculture for 4-H (currently 326 4H-Clubs on garrisons).

Operation: Military Kids provides community based outreach services for children of deployed Active, National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers in 34 states.



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Expanding Education and Employment Opportunities for Family Members

“We are committed to Improving Family Readiness by improving Soldier and Family housing.”

- Through School Liaison and Transition Support, more than 300 school districts provide support to military students transferring to new school systems - 114 new school districts added this year. Thirty-three states provide full in-state tuition rates to military Families. And, 91% of requests from Families seeing High School Senior Move Stabilization have been approved
- The National Endowment of the Arts 'Partnerships for Arts and Humanities for Soldiers and Families' partnered with 30 military communities to bring classic literature, teacher's guides, and reader's guides to more than 2,900 students
- The Army Employment Readiness Program (ERP) provides job search assistance, job skills training and information and referral services for Soldiers, Family members and eligible military ID card holders.
- In partnership with Fortune 500 Companies and Government Agencies, the Army Spouse Employment Program provides employment opportunities to military spouses. More than 23,400 spouses hired since partnership inception with more than 7,000 spouses hired in FY 07
- The Military Spouse Job Search website, www.msjs.org was launched in July 2005 as a portal for military spouse resumes and a place for ASEP partners and registered military spouse-friendly employers to post their job vacancies
- DoD and DOL launched the Military Spouse Career Advancement Initiative – which provides \$3,000 yearly toward education, training, certification and licensing



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Recreation and Quality of Life

“We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service.”

- Expanding recreation programs by adapting/increasing facility hours of operation, partnering with Child and Youth Services (CYS) to provide on site Child Care services and delivering non-facility based programs to meet the needs of the Army family.
- Providing sports, fitness, recreation and Library services to deployed military personnel. MWR employees volunteer to deploy to theater for six-month tours. They plan, coordinate and deliver competitive athletic events, live entertainment, Internet cafés, fitness facilities and social recreation programs.
- The Sports Program for Wounded Warriors, in conjunction with the World Class Athlete Program, developed a goal oriented sports program for physically disabled Soldiers remaining on Active Duty. This program provides opportunities for physically disabled Soldiers to remain active and pursue their athletic dreams.
- Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program is designed to be the collective voice for single Soldiers. Garrison BOSS programs are playing an ever-increasing role in supporting deployed units across the Army. The program concentrates on improving leisure and recreation opportunities for Soldiers and community service projects within the local community to improve Quality of Life for every member of the Military. Currently creating 49 full time BOSS positions across the Army.
- Training Soldiers in high adventure skills by offering Soldiers high adventure programs, such as rock climbing, mountain biking, white-water rafting, paintball, snowmobiling, and scuba diving, in a supervised and safety-conscious environment provides a stimulating alternative to self-destructive behaviors.
- Providing live entertainment with free admission at 30 Army garrisons. These events offer an opportunity for Soldiers of deployed units and their Families to celebrate their return.
- Providing Soldier entertainment “for the Soldier, by the Soldier” from April through October 2008, the U.S. Army Soldier Show will perform more than 100 shows at 60 Army garrisons. Additionally, the Soldier band USA Express, will perform for deployed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Standardizing and increasing the quality of fitness center strength and cardio exercise equipment Army wide. Through a centrally funded (\$20M) contract, obtained commercial grade, heavy use exercise equipment for all FMWR fitness facilities. This initiative ensures Soldiers and Families are provided a common level of service wherever they are assigned.



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