



Keynote Presentations

Tuesday, 8:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Grand Ballroom, East Tower, Gold Level

General Carter F. Ham

Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army

Mrs. Christi Ham

General and Mrs. Ham have been an Army family for over thirty years, raising a son and daughter while living on-and off-post, both stateside and overseas. Their experience ranges from a post-Vietnam Army that was little focused on family readiness issues to their significant involvement with families facing the challenges of military service in today's complex security environment. The Hams will address the many changes in family readiness programs over time illustrated by their personal experiences. As we look toward an uncertain future, global operations will continue to stress the total force and demand continued sacrifice by our service members and their families. General and Mrs. Ham will share their insights and recommendations on how we, collectively, might further adapt our programs and services as a way ahead to sustain our families while best meeting future operational requirements.

Wednesday, 8:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Grand Ballroom, East Tower, Gold Level

Dr. Stephen J. Cozza

Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Uniformed Services University

The children and families of military service members constitute a large and integral part of our military communities. They reflect the diversity of our nation and live in regions around the country, on military installations and in civilian neighborhoods, where others may not understand or recognize their unique service. Strong military families are not invulnerable to the stresses that war or trauma may bring. With continued combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), increasing concern is being raised about the impact of war on military families and children and the potential adverse effects. While some literature is available that examines the general health and wellbeing of military children and families, much less research has specifically focused on the impact of parental combat exposure and its consequences. Such exposure directly affects children through parental combat deployment (single, multiple, or extended), parental combat injury or post-traumatic illness, or parental deaths. This presentation will review known information about military children and families, focusing specifically on the impact of these high stress events.

Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, East Tower, Gold Level

Dr. Kenneth R. Ginsburg

Associate Professor, Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

In today's world, all children need to develop strengths, acquire coping skills, and be prepared for life's challenges; in other words, they need to be resilient. This presentation will introduce the seven C's model of resilience published by the American Academy of Pediatrics and discuss how to put what we know about resilience into action in our everyday interactions with children, teenagers, and parents. This process starts with changing how we view youth and recognizing the important contributions we expect children and adolescents to make in our world. The presentation will address how the military child has inherent challenges to resilience because of multiple parental deployments that challenge the irreplaceable connection to one of the most important persons in his/her life. The good news is that the military community can rise to the occasion and assure that there are other protective forces in the lives of the children of those who serve our country.