



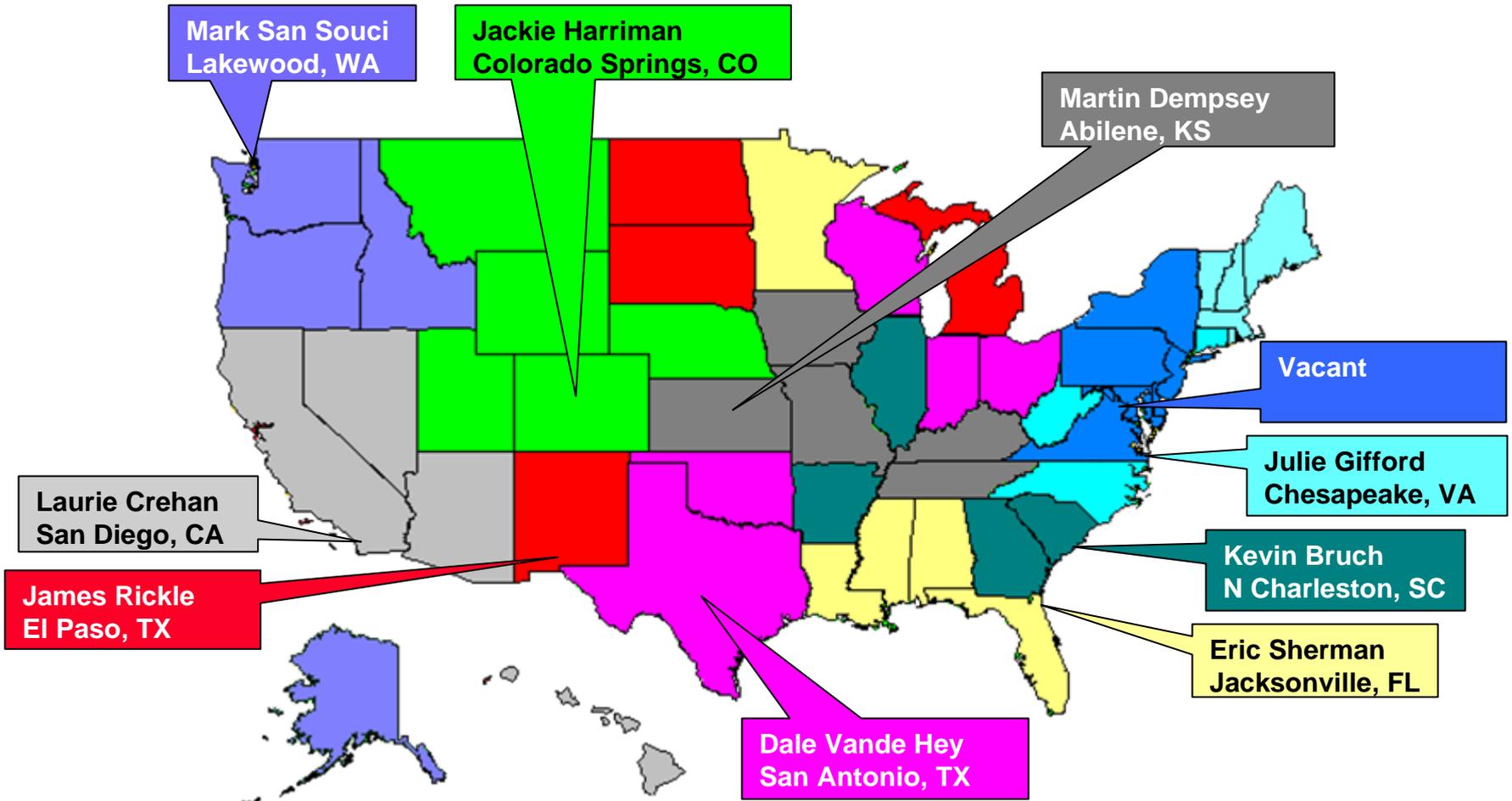
DoD-State Liaison Office

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DoD-State Liaison Function

- Goal: Provide DoD leadership an opportunity to participate in state-level debates on issues affecting Military members and their families.
- Currently focused on 10 ‘Key Issues’
- What do we do: Educate state policymakers/leaders, not-for-profit associations, and businesses on the ‘Key Issues’
- What don’t we do: Lobby
- How do we work:
 - Central office raises awareness of DoD leadership with State legislative process and works with OSD & Service policymakers
 - Regional Liaisons “ERA” with state policymakers/leaders and network with community groups

Regional Liaisons



10 Key Issues

- Care of the Guard and Reserves
- Assistance to Severely Injured Service Members
- In-State Tuition*
- Military School Children During Transition and Deployment
- Spouse Employment
- Unemployment Compensation
- Predatory Lending
- Voting
- Foreign Language Requirements
- Accessible Support for Military Family



Care of the Guard and Reserve

Issue: The commitment of members and families to the security of our nation calls for reciprocal support from states/agencies.

Measurement tool: “State and Territorial Support For Members of the National Guard, the Reserves and Their Families”

DSLO actions: Work with National Governors Association to market improvements in six areas

Outcome: States now offer a total of 1,153 specific support points for Guard and Reserve, an increase of 631 since 2004, with 241 of these added in 2008.

Assistance to Severely Injured

Issue: Life-altering sacrifices = need for uninterrupted care!

Goal: Participation in programs like “Heroes to Hometowns”

DSLO actions: Working with states to develop effective partnerships such as between NG JTF, American Legion Adjutants, and State VA Directors

Outcome: 34 states report successful collaborations



In-State Tuition Benefits*

Issue: Frequent moves = out of states rates!

Goal: Allow in-state tuition for Service members and families where assigned, and continue those rates for students following the reassignment of their parents

DSLO actions: Work with legislatures and universities

Outcome: 36 states now meet this criteria and only one state still offers no in-state tuition for military members and their families.

Recent Development – New Federal Law: Higher Education Opportunity Act, H.R. 4137, Section 114 – mandates all states provide in-state tuition starting July 2009

Military School Children in Transition

Issue: Frequent moves = many schools = delays & uneven standards!

Goal: Participation in an interstate compact providing a uniform policy to resolve challenges military children face in enrollment, eligibility, placement & graduation.

DSLO actions: Work with stakeholders and legislatures

Compact:

- Developed in conjunction with Council of State Governments with assistance of 18 stakeholder agencies
- Compact has the force of law when accepted by state
- Became active when it was accepted by the 10th state in July 08

Interstate Compact Status

- Enacted into law: AZ, CO, CT, DE, FL, KS, KY, MI, MO, NC, OK
- Introduced: NJ, PA, OH
- Not yet active: MA, NY
- Enacted Taskforce legislation: IL, MD, WA, (CA once signed)
- Carry-over to 2009: VA
- Potential for 2009: AL, AR, GA, HI, ID, ND, NE, NM, MS, NH, NV, SC, TX, UT, WY



Spouse Employment

Issue: Frequent moves = difficult licensing = stunted careers & limits much needed income

Goal: States accommodate spouses through policy adjustments, including compacts and national standards for teachers, nurses, real estate agents, etc.

DSLO actions: Work with nonprofit organizations and legislatures

Outcome:

- In 2007, 8 states authorize ABCTE- portable teacher certification
- 50 States assist spouses to certification as teachers in ‘Spouses-to-Teachers’ program
- 23 States adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact, or made similar provisions, for transferring nurse spouses

Unemployment Compensation

Issue: Spouses who leave a job due to military reassignment do not qualify for UC in many states

Goal: States grant eligibility for much needed financial support when job resignation based on mandated military moves

DSLO actions: Work with legislatures

Outcome: 24 States now grant benefit, over double the number since 2004



Predatory Lending

Issue: Some lending practices create cycle of debt for unsuspecting Service members and families

Goal: States to enforce Federal law and apply state protections to non-resident military members

DSLO actions: Work with Federal and state regulators

Recent Developments:

- New DoD Regulation (32 CFR Part 232) in effect 1 October 2007
 - 36% APR limit on payday, vehicle title and refund anticipation loans
- DoD developing MoUs with state regulators to:
 - Conduct examinations of lenders
 - Enforce within the extent of state authority

Voting

Issue: Citizens need assurance their vote can be successfully cast and counted while serving/deployed overseas

Goal: States authorize flexible processes for absentee voters recommended by the Federal Voting Assistance Office (www.fvap.gov)

DSLO actions: Work with FVAP and legislatures

Outcome: Eight states have increased the flexibility of their absentee voting processes sufficiently to be rated green since 2004, bringing the total to 14 states meeting at least seven of the nine best practices

Foreign Language Requirements

Issue: Foreign languages are important to national security and economic competitiveness.

Goal: States work with their business, education and community sectors to develop a foreign language plan

DSLO actions: Encourage states to develop their own state plans

Outcome: Three states have established prototype plans which can be used by states as a template to develop state-specific plans



Accessible Support

Issue: Stressed military families and support agencies do not always connect!

Goal: States mobilize both military and civilian resources through an integrated team to assist families

DSLO actions: Facilitate states developing effective methods to coordinate care through state, military and nonprofit agencies

Outcome: 44 States participate in Inter-Service Family Assistance Forums of one sort or another – increase coordination with high-level state agencies/officials

Thoughts/Questions?

www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil

