

**Department of Defense
Personnel and Readiness**

Report on Review of Family Support Programs

Report to the Deputy Secretary of Defense

**Pursuant to Chapter 5.5, “Support to Families,” in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012
Defense Planning and Program Guidance (DPPG)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is pursuant to Chapter 5.5, “Support to Families,” in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Defense Planning and Program Guidance (DPPG). The DPPG tasked the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), in coordination with the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (D, CAPE) and the Secretaries of the Military Departments, to conduct a review of defense-wide family support programs to identify gaps and duplicative efforts, as well as seek opportunities to develop joint programs and share resources.

During the course of the review, potential gaps and overlaps in programs and services have been identified. However, these programs have important distinctions and merit further collective review among the Services and OUSD(P&R). We recommend continuing the review of family support programs with the following objectives:

- validate the extent to which the findings in this review represent actual gaps or overlaps in programs;
- link program review to family readiness future force needs and outcomes as well as describe the full range of appropriate family support services that the Defense Department will provide to balance affordability with readiness.

A summary of potential issues in this arena follows.

- Gaps in Exceptional Family Member Programs (EFMP): Until enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010, there had been no legal or policy requirement for community support through the EFMP, and only Army and Marine Corps had these programs.
 - In FY 2010, to comply with the Congressional requirement for community support, OSD Defense-wide funding was provided to the Services to augment EFMPs to expand community support services where they existed or to provide where they did not.
 - EFMP family support is a gap for mobilized Guard and Reserve families.
- Potential Overlaps in:
 - Non-medical counseling: DoD-wide non-medical counseling and that at Navy Fleet and Family Support Centers and Marine Corps Community Services counseling centers provide similar functions; though delivery and availability differ substantially.
 - Information and Referral Services: the propagation of multiple information resources serving military families is well-known. This report highlights Military OneSource and Army OneSource.
- Opportunities for Joint Collaboration in:
 - Spouse Employment and Education: the current Army Spouse Employment Partnership could be assessed for DoD-wide applicability to include all of the Services.
 - Financial Readiness Counseling: OSD’s augmenting of services provided by military installations could be further developed; i.e., making more counselors available by phone and in the local community.

There are two components to the review: a report and appendices. The report addresses the questions posed by the DPPG. The appendices detail the family support programs provided by the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy (ODUSD(MC&FP)), along with programs provided by each of the Military Departments. To provide uniformity in program language, we used the Common Output Level Standards (COLS), as defined in Department of Defense Initial Guidance for BRAC 2005 Joint Basing Implementation, issued by Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, Transforming Through Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 - Joint Basing, January 22, 2008.