



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

SEP 17 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Department of Defense "USA 4 Military Families" Initiative

Assisting military families continues to be a top priority, particularly when Service members are deployed for long periods to hostile locations. Support from the Department cannot answer all of their concerns and needs, such as assisting children of military families in schools and assisting military spouses with employment. We have reached out to state governments, nonprofits, and industries to join us in assisting Service members and their families through an initiative called "USA 4 Military Families."

As part of this initiative, I recently attended a Governors-only luncheon at the National Governors Association (NGA) annual conference in Seattle, Washington. The attached key issues document was given to the Governors at the session and subsequently forwarded to those who were unable to attend. The Governors at the session acknowledged their concern for military families (Active Duty, Guard and Reserve). In response, NGA has tasked Governors Kempthorne (ID) and Easley (NC) to champion the needs of military families and released a policy position paper including many of the topics covered in the attached document. I ask you to forward these documents to your major unit and installation commanders in the 50 states.

My staff is now in the process of reaching out to specific states to follow-up on this initial contact and I want to ensure these efforts are done in concert with on-going initiatives being accomplished by commanders. To assist in coordinating these initiatives, please provide a point of contact within each Military Service to coordinate efforts with my office and within the states. Mr. George Schaefer of my staff will anticipate receipt of the name of your point of contact by September 30 (703-696-9468, ext 167 or george.Schaefer@wso.whs.mil) Together we can make a positive difference in the lives of Service members and their families.

David S. C. Chu

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

