



Quality of Life (QOL) Task Force Update



Task End State: Ensure installation housing is the home of choice for Soldiers and Army LOE 1: HOUSING & BARRACKS Task End State: A more integrated, efficient, and effective healthcare system. LOE 2: HEALTHCARE Task End State: Quality, affordable, and predictable child and youth programs. LOE 3: CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES Task End State: Improve career and employment opportunities for Army spouses. LOE 4: SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT Task End State: Provide predictable and responsive services and support. LOE 5: PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION (PCS) MOVES Task End State: Community-based primary prevention programming, support and resilience LOE 6: PRIMARY PREVENTION, SUPPORT & RESILIENCE initiatives that are aimed at improving the well-being across the Total Army of our Soldiers, Families and civilian work force. Task End State: Greater trust in the program and greater satisfaction with enrollment, LOE 7: EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM assignment, and family support processes. Task End State: Improve economic security and overall well-being of Soldiers and LOE 8: FINANCIAL READINESS Families Task End State: Provide the highest level of support at locations that most need it. LOE 9: ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE Task End State: Provide the highest level of support at locations that most need it. LOE 10: MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

www.army.mil/qualityoflife

AUSA 2024 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

14-16 OCTOBER | WASHINGTON, DC

A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

ANTOAL MEETING & EXT OSTITI

https://meetings.ausa.org/annual/2024/index.cfm



- Pre-registration open on-line
- Free; all attendees must be registered and have badge to enter
 - Multiple Family Forums and Army Leader Town Hall

MEDCOM SPOUSE SUPPORT/RESOURCES

Stay connected by joining educational events

MEDCOM SENIOR LEADER SPOUSE FORUMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMEDD PCC

The AMEDD PCC Spouse Forum is designed to help new command spouses prepare for their role as a member of the command team. The Forum will be conducted virtually allowing participants to be engaged while remaining mobile.

17 September 2024 / 1000 - 1400 EST

https://dod.teams.microsoft.us/l/meetup-join/19%3adod%3ameeting_bd0b17ac11414a818b63a3dab43373a0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%228903a443-af33-4ed4-acf5-ee613bcb2f59%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222607b117-81db-48f4-ae09-be3f9a94dccf%22%7d

QUARTERLY SENIOR LEADER SPOUSE FORUMS

[MEDCOM GO/SES/Flag-level CSM Spouses; Medical Treatment Facility Command Team Spouses (0-6 and 0-5 commands); SRU Brigade and SRU Battalion Command Team Spouses. Purpose: Provides real-time program training, updates and Army initiative presentations by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Hosted by the spouse of The Surgeon General (TSG) and Commanding General, USAMEDCOM).

24 September 2024 / 1330 - 1430 EST

https://dod.teams.microsoft.us/l/meetup-join/19%3adod%3ameeting_51103994be694ef08040e5eab86b930e%40thread.v2 /0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%228903a443-af33-4ed4-acf5-ee613bcb2f59%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2234177251-e50e-400d-91a5-10040c3b9e00%22%7d

RESILIENT LEADER WEBINARS

The Surgeon General and Commanding General, United States Army Medical Command (USA MEDCOM), invites MEDCOM spouses to participate in the USA MEDCOM Resilient Leader Series. Open to all MEDCOM Spouses for the purpose to build Readiness and Resilience of our MEDCOM Spouses through pertinent and practical topics.

Invitation to connect through Zoom Government sent prior to each event

SPOUSE ROUND TABLES

Provides an opportunity for AMEDD spouses to participate freely and fully in conversations in order to gather military life insight, suggestions and concerns.

Get information at your fingertips!

SENIOR SPOUSE GUIDE

The guide provides a multitude of resources and daily guidance from Senior Leader Spouses for new Senior Leader Spouses. Topic areas include "Involvement", "Spouse Travel Policy", "Military Terms", "Protocol" and much more! https://armymedicine.health.mil/Family-Readiness-Programs

ARMY MEDICINE SENIOR SPOUSE (AMSS) NEWSLETTER

The newsletter includes news from the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army, VTC information, Family Programs information, National Health Observances, Regional Highlights, and other articles of interest.

SPOUSE AWARDS

https://store.militarywives.com/product_info.php?cPath=29_127&products_id=656

U.S. Army launches first campaign spotlighting Army civilian careers



The Department of the Army introduced its first-ever marketing campaign focused on Army Civilian careers. For individuals who are looking for a career where they can have impact at scale, or those looking for a new challenge in their career, "Find Your Next Level" highlights the unique career paths available to Army Civilians and the vital skills and expertise they bring to make the Army successful.

"Today's workforce seeks meaningful careers, but few see Army Civilian Careers as a source of those opportunities," said Brig. Gen. Antoinette Gant, chief of the Army Enterprise Marketing Office. "Find Your Next Level" aims to bridge this gap by demonstrating how today's professionals can apply real-world job skills to impactful projects and careers they can't find anywhere else."

Army Civilians play a critical role in the Army's success, using their skills in over 500 career paths across many fields, including contracting, finance, cybersecurity, engineering and beyond. With more than 265,000 employees, the Army Civilian workforce is one of the largest groups of Civilian employees within the Department of Defense and dates back to the founding of our country in 1776.

"Army Civilians benefit from professional advancement and long-term stability through a wide range of careers," said Peter Hosutt, acting director of the Army's Civilian Human Resources Agency. "Civilians also receive comprehensive training opportunities that allow them to grow existing professional skills and cultivate new ones, ensuring continuous growth on a path of their choosing while serving our nation."

"Find Your Next Level" features two campaign videos that share an inside look at two Army Civilian Careers that highlight the overall scale and impact of Civilian roles and the opportunities that await Civilians seeking careers with purpose:

"Boxes" captures an Army Civilian physical scientist and his team as they drill into the ice to take ice core samples, demonstrating the unique and global nature of a Civilian career.

"Sky" shows an Army Civilian satellite engineer working at an expansive satellite array with a team of people, transforming an intimate working moment into a high-scale project.

To guarantee the accurate portrayal of featured careers, both videos were inspired by the career experiences of real Army Civilians who served as subject matter experts on the campaign.

"Find Your Next Level" will be featured across national media, including television, print, digital billboards, streaming video, social platforms and audio channels, encouraging today's workforce to imagine what the future of their career might look like with the Department of the Army. "Boxes" will be distributed in Spanish to capture a wider audience and showcase the dynamic environment of the Department of the Army.

The launch of the campaign coincides with the debut of a new Army Civilian brand, which includes a new Army Civilian logo and supporting creative elements reflective of the overall Army brand launched in 2023.

For more information on how you can "Find Your Next Level" as an Army Civilian, visit ArmyCivilianCareers.com.

New Army policy expands reimbursement for spouse business costs



The U.S. Army is expanding its financial support for military spouses by enhancing the reimbursement program for business costs and relicensing fees. The new directive permits reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for business-related expenses, in addition to the already authorized \$1,000 for relicensing fees resulting from a relocation.

"Army spouses face unique challenges, especially during a relocation," said Lt. Gen. Kevin Vereen, Deputy Chief of Staff for G-9. "We owe it to them to provide any opportunity to not just have a job but build a fulfilling career."

Spouses often face logistical and financial challenges in transferring licenses or businesses to new jurisdictions. This new directive aims to alleviate these barriers, ensure continuity in their careers and enhance the well-being and readiness of Army families.

The new policy, which builds upon previous efforts initiated in 2018, aligns with the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act Public Law 117-263, which authorized expanded reimbursements, and Fiscal Year 2024 NDAA Public Law 118-31, which adjusted eligibility criteria to include those moving from active duty to the reserve component. It also includes those authorized a final move or placed on the temporary disability retired list.

Qualified relicensing costs cover exam fees, continuing education, certifications, business licenses, permits and registrations. For business owners, reimbursement is available for equipment relocation, new technology purchases, IT services and inspection fees.

Details on qualifying expenses and how to apply for reimbursement are available on the Military OneSource portal at Licensure Reimbursement PCS Moves.

Upwards

Upwards is the largest childcare network in the United States, committed to providing families with access to quality, affordable care.

We understand that finding and securing childcare can be a challenge. That's why we offer a range of ways to help families navigate the process, including connecting them with trusted providers through our technology-based marketplace and partnering with government entities to improve access to sponsored care.

But our services don't just stop at families. We also support childcare providers in operating sustainable businesses and help employers of all sizes offer their employees childcare benefits.

At Upwards, we believe everyone deserves access to quality childcare — not just families who can afford it.

You can find more out more about Upwards at https://upwards.com.



Army Exceptional Family Member Program Central Office will better support Soldiers and Families



Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth announced establishment of a central office for the Army Exceptional Family Member Program that will improve the stationing process for families who have members with special medical or educational needs. The single office will oversee implementation of the EFMP and will coordinate health care services, permanent change of station order processing and family support services.

"The foundation of Army readiness depends on taking care of our Soldiers and families," Wormuth said. "Each Army family is unique, and the EFMP Central Office will provide tailored support for over 40,000 families enrolled in EFMP."

The Exceptional Family Member Program is a mandatory enrollment program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, educational, medical and personnel services to families with special needs.

Soldiers on active duty enroll in the program when they have a family member with a physical, emotional, developmental, or intellectual disorder requiring specialized services so their needs can be considered in the military personnel assignment process. The overall goal of EFMP is to keep families together by allowing them to accompany their service member to their duty locations.

Dr. Agnes Schaefer, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, said improving the quality of life of Soldiers and their families is the Army's top priority.

"We are listening and working to take necessary steps that continue to improve the Army EFMP to best serve our Army community," Schaefer said. "There is more work to be done, but we are excited to share this important step with the force."

The EFMP Central Office will review complex cases received from installations.

"EFMP-support agencies at the installation level are well postured to assist families, but when a support agency or family member needs additional assistance to find the right resources, the EFMP Central Office team members are there to help," said Lt. Gen Kevin Vereen, Deputy Chief of Staff for G-9.

Families should first leverage their local Army Community Service or military treatment facility professionals if they encounter barriers to the education of health care of their children or other family members. However, if additional support is needed, the EFMP Central Office will assist.

In addition to working on special cases, the central office will focus on advocacy for EFMP families at the HQDA and Office of the Secretary of Defense levels. The office recently updated the EFMP system, now known as Enterprise-EFMP, to provide more information and resources at https://efmp.army.mil.

Soldiers and families with EFMP concerns that have not been resolved at the local level are encouraged to contact the central office at usarmy.pentagon.hqda-dcs-g-9.mbx.efmp@army.mil. All correspondence must include the local military treatment facility and military personnel division location.

Active AFAP Issues

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) program provides a mechanism for all demographics who comprise the Army's global force--Soldiers (Active Army and Reserve Components), retirees, DA civilians, and Family members, including survivors, in order to identify quality of life that impact the Total Army Family. The AFAP process prioritizes and assigns lead agencies to issues for resolution.

These are the 36 active issues currently being worked at the Army level toward resolution.

Tab	Proponent	#	Issue Title	Entered AFAP	Origin	Status	
SOLDIER SUPPORT							
1	G-9	751	Official Designation of Remote or Isolated U.S. Installations	2021	Army	Active	
2	G-1	717	Priority Assignment Preference on a Remote and Isolated Installation	2020	Dugway PG	Active	
3	G-1	718	Two-Year Remote and Isolated Duty Assignment	2020	Dugway PG	Active	
4	G-9	740	Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC) Contract Limitations	2021	USASOC	Active	
5	G-9	745	Soldier Knowledge of Exceptional Family Member Program Resources	2021	Langley-Eustis	Active	
6	G-9	756	Annual Command Wellness Checks for All Soldiers	2022	SMA	Active	
7	G-1	757	Post 911 GI Bill	2023	USASOC	Active	
	FAMILY SUPPORT						
8	G-1	715	Increase to Family Service Group Life Insurance Coverage	2019	Fort Cavazos	Active	
9	G-1/G-4	743	Second Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) OCONUS Entitlement	2021	USAG Wiesbaden	Active	
10	G-1	746	Command Sponsorship for Newborns of OCONUS Active Duty Soldiers with less than 12 months of Assignment	2021	USAG Wiesbaden	Active	
11	G-4	759	PCS Claims Process	2023	USASOC	Active	
12	G-9	760	Funding/Resources Gaps for Domestic Violence Victims	2023	Fort Liberty	Active	
13	G-4 & G-9	761	Move.mil Vulnerability Resulting in Danger to Victims of Domestic Violence	2023	Fort Carson	Active	
MILITARY HEALTHCARE							
14	OTSG/DHA	697	Active Duty Soldier TRICARE Alternative Medical Services	2017	Fort Liberty	Active	
15	OTSG/DHA	698	Active Duty Soldier TRICARE Chiropractic Coverage	2017	Fort Liberty	Active	
16	OTSG/DHA	711	Exceptional Family Members Expedited TRICARE Prime Access to Care Standards at New Duty Stations	2019	Fort Greg-Adams & JB San Antonio	Active	
17	OTSG/DHA	732	Out-of-Pocket Pharmacy Cost for TRICARE Prime Remote Beneficiaries	2020	TRADOC	Active	
18	OTSG/DHA	752	Access to Behavioral Health Care for Active Duty Service Members and	2021	MDW	Active	
19	OTSG/DHA	753	Dependents who are Victims of Sexual Trauma Access to Behavioral Health Care for Department of Defense (DoD) Civilians	2021	MDW	Active	
20	OTSG/DHA	754	who are Victims of Sexual Trauma Remote Access to Behavioral Health Care for Soldiers and Families	2021	Fort Cavazos	Active	
21	OTSG/DHA	762	Mental Health Services for Dependents on or Near the Installation	2023	Fort Johnson	Active	
07.30-04			•	2003000000		Service And Australia	
22	OTSG/DHA	763	TRICARE Reimbursement for Behavioral Health	2023	USASOC USAREUR-AF -	Active	
23	OTSG/DHA	764	OCONUS Behavioral Health Care Services for Space available Beneficiaries	2023	Weisbaden	Active	
			CIVILIAN SUPPORT				
24	G-1	702	Army-wide Voluntary Re-Assignment Program for Civilian Employees	2017	USAG Japan	Active	
25	G-1	709	Temporary Quarters Subsistence Expense (TQSE) Method Authorized when Department of the Army Civilians Move	2019	JB Myer HH	Active	
26	G-1	750	Taxation of Moving Expense Reimbursement for DoD Civilians	2021	USAG Wiesbaden	Active	
27	G-1	765	Bereavement as a Covered Category for Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP)	2023	Fort Carson	Active	
28	G-1	767	Advocacy for Injured and/or III DA Firefighters	2023	Fort Carson	Active	
29	OHD	768	Routine Health Assessment for DA Firefighters	2023	Fort Carson	Active	
			RETIREE SUPPORT				
			SURVIVOR SUPPORT	25			
30	G-1	769	Employment Priority Placement for all Surviving Spouses	2023	USASOC	Active	
31	G-1	770	Professionalize the Casualty Assistance Function - CAO Support	2020	SAWG	Active	
32	G-1	771	Line of Duty (LOD) Investigations/Fatal Incident Briefs	2022	SAWG	Active	
33	G-1	772	Retention of Derived 10-Point Preference for Remarried Spouses	2020	SAWG	Active	
34	G-1	773	Remarried Surviving Spouses retain SBP	2020	SAWG	Active	
35	OTJAG	774	Distribution of Death Benefits under the Heart Act of 2008	2021	SAWG	Active	
36	OTSG	775	Grief and Behavioral Health Counseling for Survivors	2018	SAWG	Active	
CAREGIVER SUPPORT							

The Army Caregiver Program issues new resource guide for caregivers and families of wounded, ill or injured Soldiers



The Army Caregiver Program has issued a new resource guide for caregivers and families of wounded, ill or injured Soldiers.

Titled "Army Caregiver Fact Sheet," the resource guide provides a one-stop guide for families and caregivers who's loved one has been injured. This will help to ensure that caregivers have the information needed and readily available in the event of a medical emergency.

The fact sheet carefully guides new caregivers through the many steps that must be taken to care for their Soldier during an unanticipated crisis.

From travel to the Soldier's bedside through medical care and eventual recovery, this resource outlines Army requirements, documentation, important contacts, and other available assistance.

Also included is information on invitational travel authorizations and special compensations.

Please visit <u>www.arcp.army.mil/family_caregivers/process/inpatient</u> to view and download The Army Caregiver Fact Sheet.

Calling all Caregivers!

Join the Army Caregiver Program Working Group!



Your participation is vital to the success of this program. Be our guide as we build an Army Caregiver network and centralize resources on a user friendly platform located at:

https://www.arcp.army.mil/family_caregivers

As a caregiver, you are the link that will help to identify, evaluate and provide recommendations on the overall program while strengthening communications between the Army staff and the Caregiver community.

Quality of Life Panel Report

House Armed Services Committee



Vision Statement

The Quality of Life Panel is united in our commitment to improving the Quality of Life for our service members and their families. Through bipartisan collaboration, we strive to create a future where military families thrive in support of our national security.

Fundamental to improving and sustaining an All-Volunteer Force, it is imperative we commit the right amount of resources to address quality of life concerns for service members and their families. To that end, this Panel is focused on ensuring appropriate pay and compensation; access to affordable child care; adequate and safe housing; access to quality medical care; and support programs for military spouses.

PAY AND COMPENSATION

The Panel believes that all service members are entitled to fair and competitive compensation commensurate with their training, education, and responsibilities.

Recommendations for Pay and Compensation:

- Junior Enlisted Pay Increase
- Increase Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)
- Improving Calculation Methods for Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS)
- Improving Calculation Methods for Cost-of-Living Allowances (COLA)
- Increase Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) to 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Expansion of BAH Authority for Sailors on Sea Duty

CHILD CARE

The Panel is committed to ensuring military families have access to quality and affordable child care, which is necessary to supporting the military's recruiting, retention, and readiness goals.

Recommendations for Child Care:

- Standardized Benefits for Child Care Staff Across the Services
- Competitive Pay for Department of Defense Child Care Personnel
- Elimination of Child Care Fee Assistance Waitlists
- Oversight of Child Development Programs Staffing Shortages and Facility Requirements
- Oversight of Community Child Care Partnerships
- Assessments of the "Come Grow with Us" Child Care Staff Recruitment Effort
- Analysis of Hiring Authorities Available for Department of Defense Child Care Staff
- Analysis of Transferability of Benefits Between Child Care Centers

HOUSING

The Panel is committed to ensuring service members, single or with families, are provided housing that is affordable and safe, and maintained to the best possible living standards.

Recommendations for Housing:

- Full Funding of Facilities Sustainment Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) Requirements for Unaccompanied Housing (UH)
- FSRM Funding Transparency
- Analysis of Costs for Unaccompanied Housing (UH) vs. Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)
- Explore Alternative Funding Mechanism to Facilitate Privatized UH or Other UH Solutions
- Report on Future UH Privatization Projects
- Evaluation of the Shortage of UH Oversight Staff
- Internet Connectivity in UH Facilities

ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE

The Panel believes timely and accessible health care is an imperative for maintaining a healthy and ready force.

Recommendations for Access to Medical Care:

- Evaluation of Access to Care Standards
- Oversight of Access to Care Data Reporting
- Establishing Access to Care Standards for Urgent Behavioral Health Appointments
- Increased Access to Specialty Providers
- Analysis of Hiring Authorities Available for Department of Defense Civilian Health Care Providers and Administrative Support Staff
- Combating Military Medical Provider Shortages

SPOUSE SUPPORT

The Panel commends the contributions military spouses make, often at the expense of their own careers, and believes support programs should provide them with opportunities to excel in their personal and professional endeavors.

Recommendations for Access to Medical Care:

- Expand the Military Spouse Career Accelerator Pilot Program and Strengthen Relationships with Chambers of Commerce
- Supporting Interstate Licensure Compacts
- Evaluation of the Military Spouse Employment Partnership Program
- Expansion of Child Care Access to Military Spouses Seeking Employment

The full report can be found at https://armedservices.house.gov/improving-quality-life-servicemembers-and-their-families.



Our mission is to educate and empower military spouses to elevate their families by making smart money moves. As the DoD's official resource, MilSpouse Money Mission is made for military spouses with trusted information they can use to be more empowered and actively involved in making financial decisions for their families' financial well-being and achievement of financial goals.

Visit MilCommunity (https://www.milspousemoneymission.org/military-spouse-tips) for short, real-world financial tips from milspouses. Learn from others who have experiences to share from their military journey.

Fisher House Foundation



Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veteran families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world.

Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room.

Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$610 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members as well as the Hotels for Heroes program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay at hotels near medical centers without charge. The Foundation also manages a grant program that supports other charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses, and children of fallen and disabled veterans.

By the Numbers:

Daily capacity: 1,300 families

Families served: More than 500,000 since inception

Number of lodging days offered: 12 million +

15,000 students have received \$27,000,000 in scholarship awards

Over 70,000 airline tickets provided by Hero Miles to service members and their families, worth nearly \$105 million

In addition to the Fisher Houses, the Fisher House Foundations has several other programs:

- Hero Miles: Assistance with Airline Tickets
- Hotels for Heroes: Assistance with Lodging
- Fisher Service Award for Military Community Service: Grants for Nonprofits
- Scholarships for Military Kids and Spouses

To learn more about the Fisher House Foundation, please visit https://fisherhouse.org/about.

FAMILY PROGRAMS TEAM



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AMERICA'S ARMY:

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

Family Readiness Program

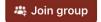
MEDCOM Family Readiness Facebook

- Information for MEDCOM Families
- Way to communicate/share needs, ideas, questions, and concerns



MEDCOM Family Readiness

Private group · 34 members







Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS)

- Web application
- Find, apply, record, and track
- All service hours must be logged
- Awards based on logged hours
- To access VMIS, visit the following website: https://vmis.armyfamilywebportal.com