

**SUBJ:** DACOWITS RFI #10 - March QBM

**FROM:** Health, Safety, and Work-Life (CG-11)

**TO:** DACOWITS Committee

**THRU:** Office of Diversity & Inclusion (CG-127)

## **PREGNANCY/PARENTHOOD POLICIES**

According to recent studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), “Almost nothing is known about the family and individual adjustment of military mothers who have deployed...” There are a host of scholarly articles addressing psychological conditions, such as anxiety, depression, family violence, etc. resulting from returning deployed family members. In many, if not most military families, women are the primary care giver; studies suggest more than 70 percent. Given the importance of the military mother to the family unit, the Committee is interested in the policies that support servicewomen’s reintegration into the family after deployment.

The Committee requests a **WRITTEN RESPONSE** from the Military Services to include Reserves.

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### **DACOWITS:**

- a. Describe your Services’ reintegration program for deployed Service members.
- b. What programs are in place to support deployed servicewomen, who are mothers, as they reintegrate back into their family?
- c. How does your Service assess the effectiveness and impact of these family adjustment programs?
- d. What additional support is provided to mothers as they return to their families from deployment?

### **CG Response:**

- a. Describe your Services’ reintegration program for deployed Service members.
  - In 2008, Congress mandated the creation of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) for Reserve members and their families. Public Law 110-181 (NDAA 2008) requires YRRP events to be held for Reserve members who deploy OCONUS under contingency orders for a minimum of 90-days including their families (as listed in DEERS).
  - The Coast Guard Reserve Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) promotes member readiness and resiliency by connecting families with timely information and

resources before, during and after military deployment IAW DOD INSTRUCTION 1342.28 DOD YELLOW RIBBON REINTERGRATION PROGRAM (YRRP).

- Patrol Forces Southwest Asia (PATFORSWA) deployments to Bahrain utilize the Navy's Fleet and Family Support Center for Reintegration briefings and resources.
- Programs and assistance offered and required per the NDAA:
  - (1) Marriage counseling.
  - (2) Services for children.
  - (3) Suicide prevention.
  - (4) Substance abuse awareness and treatment.
  - (5) Mental health awareness and treatment.
  - (6) Financial counseling.
  - (7) Anger management counseling.
  - (8) Domestic violence awareness and prevention.
  - (9) Employment assistance.
  - (10) Preparing and updating family care plans.
  - (11) Development of strategies for living with a member of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury.
- Active Duty Deployments lack policy and resources to provide similar services to that of the Reserve Component.

b. What programs are in place to support deployed servicewomen, who are mothers, as they reintegrate back into their family?

- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
- Coast Guard Support (CGSUPRT) Counseling and Resources
- Health, Safety and Work-Life Regional Practices
  - Staff can provide briefings per request
  - Family Resource Specialists can provide Information & Referrals
  - Employee Assistance Program Coordinators
- Partnerships with DoD Programs

c. How does your Service assess the effectiveness and impact of these family adjustment programs?

- Reserve components (RCs) invite individuals to complete the YRRP retrospective survey, housed within the YRRP EventPLUS system, a minimum of twice per year. RCs will send out e-mail invitations to eligible individuals who have attended a YRRP event and those who registered but did not attend a YRRP event.
- RCs complete a one-page YRRP post-event questionnaire at the conclusion of each YRRP event.

- YRRP ADVISORY BOARD. Pursuant to Section 582 of Public Law 110-181, as amended, the YRRP Advisory Board will analyze YRRP and provide recommendations on areas of success and areas for necessary improvements.
  - Active Duty Deployments lack policy and resources to provide similar services to that of the Reserve Component.
- d. How does your Service assess the effectiveness and impact of these family adjustment programs?
- No additional services other than stated in question b.
- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
  - CGSUPRT Counseling and Resources
  - Health, Safety and Work-Life Regional Practices
    - Staff can provide briefings per request
    - Family Resource Specialists can provide Information & Referrals
    - Employee Assistance Program Coordinators
  - Partnerships with DoD Programs