

BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER
ON
AIR FORCE DEPLOYMENT REINTEGRATION SERVICES

PURPOSE

To provide a response to the Defense Advisory Committee On Women In The Services Request for Information #10 (March 2019) on deployment reintegration services for Service women and mothers returning from deployment. (*Note: Air Force Reserve response provided separately.*)

DISCUSSION

- Per Department of Defense and Air Force policies and directives, *Airman and Family Readiness Centers* (herein referred to as “Centers”) offer support to Service members and their families before, during, and after deployment to promote positive adjustment to deployment, family separation, and family reunion
- *Centers* ensure ongoing outreach, communication, activities, and events throughout all phases of deployment to promote prevention and early identification of family problems that may compromise military or family readiness
 - All *Centers* conduct mandatory, standardized reintegration briefings within two to seven days of members’ return to home station and prior to members entering any leave status
 - Attendees are connected to services available to returnees and their family members and receive connections to additional resources to address challenges such as parenting after deployment and reconnecting interpersonal relationships
 - Family reintegration services (newsletters, support groups, wellness checks, etc.) are offered in collaboration with unit commanders, supervisory personnel and unit level key spouse volunteers; customized reintegration services for Service women who are mothers are offered on a case-by-case basis with information/referral to appropriate key agencies
- Department of Defense *Military Family Life Counselors* are available at each installation to provide free, non-medical counseling for issues ranging from leaving loved ones and living and working in harm's way to reintegrating on return from deployment
- Reintegration support effectiveness is measured using formal and informal assessment tools (workshop/event evaluations, commander consultations, and customer feedback) which are analyzed for trends, issues and successes
- The Air Force is piloting a Women’s Health Transition Assistance Program, with the Veterans Health Administration at six installations, which specifically addresses women’s issues while they are in the Air Force, with an emphasis on health care resources

SUMMARY

The Air Force administers reintegration/post-deployment support for all Airmen and families with sufficient flexibility for installations to tailor for populations involving service women and mothers.