

RFI Category and Number: Deployment Support RFI #10

PREGNANCY/PARENTHOOD POLICIES RFI #10

RFI Question:

The Committee requests a written response from each of the Military Services (to include the Reserves and National Guard) to provide details on the following:

- 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?

RFI Response:

- a. Our Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) provide a wealth of deployment support information both for families and Sailors to successfully navigate the challenges of Navy deployments. Preparing for reintegration begins before the deployment. FFSCs offer pre-deployment briefings for commands or individuals as needed. They have a comprehensive Deployment Support Handbook that provides specific checklists to prepare for deployment, proven ways to handle the challenges that arise during deployment, and information for successfully adjusting during the return-and-reintegration phase at the end of deployment. Deployment Support Curricula are also delivered via webinar platforms for Sailors who are deployed in remote locations. Additionally, FFSCs have the ability to send Return and Reunion teams overseas or onboard ships to support course delivery. If a command cannot support R&R course delivery teams due to mission, command leadership-specific course curriculum is available to allow commands to deliver reintegration courses to their Sailors prior to homecoming. Counselors are available for one-on-one counseling to assist families with reintegration as needed. The Navy Reserve utilizes Yellow Ribbon workshops, a DoD sponsored program, to help returning Reservists adapt to reintegrating. Further, there are information handbooks specifically designed to help our Reserve and Active personnel who may be deploying as an individual rather than a traditional unit such as a ship or submarine. We also provide participants the opportunity to provide feedback after each course offering. Lastly, we conduct focus groups with customers for program feedback during certification review of each center.
- b. Redeploying mothers have access to support and information through a variety of resources. FFSCs provide specific reintegration information and assistance for returning parents, both mothers and fathers, active and reserve. They have recommendations on

how to reintegrate with children specifically by their age groups – toddlers require a different response than a teen, for example.

- c. In 2018, Commander, Naval Installations Command, in partnership with the Chief of Naval Operations (N170), conducted a Spouse Engagement Group (SEG) over a period of nine months, from January to September 2018. The SEG met with families and Service members around the world, visiting most of our Navy installations, to get feedback on not only our deployment support programs, but all family support programs offered to Navy Service members and families at our installations.
- d. Counseling is available for those who are facing challenges reintegrating from our Chaplains and Military Family Life Consultants.

POC or office responsible:

Office of the 21st Century Sailor (OPNAV N17)