

Welcome to the Family Readiness Program Section of the Family Readiness Toolkit

This section covers the role of a Guard or Reserve family readiness program from the perspective of a family readiness program manager or director. As the program manager, you work at both the macro and micro levels of family readiness programs within your service. In general, you work for senior leadership at a major command or regional level. A portion of your responsibilities and time is spent in policy and program development, and you serve as the family readiness expert and advisor for both senior level and unit level commands. You have probably witnessed a significant growth in the emphasis on family readiness and related initiatives in both the military service and the Department of Defense Guard and Reserve programs. Your role as a program developer, mentor, and implementer is extremely important. Keep in mind that commanders are focused on unit readiness and may not always give family readiness the emphasis it requires. You are in the unique position of not only helping commanders at all levels to understand the importance of family readiness but of also assisting them in building an effective unit family readiness team and program.

This section focuses on family readiness components that are both program and unit wide:

- The role of the family readiness program
- Outreach to family members
- Family readiness groups
- The family readiness program as a liaison between family members, the unit, and agencies
- Working with volunteers
- Marketing

You have a unique and valuable perspective. The establishment, implementation, evaluation, and assessment processes for Guard and Reserve family readiness programs are continuous. There are always more things to do, new ideas and initiatives to try. The need for self-reliant families is ever increasing as the OPTEMPO and related family separations increase. Take advantage of the momentum in family readiness and share your ideas freely with other program staff and services. Now is the time to take part in Joint Family Readiness Workshops and Inter-Service Family Assistance Committees (ISFAC) with your colleagues, senior leadership, and the many talented and committed volunteers.

The contents of this Toolkit have been developed to assist you in your efforts to support family readiness. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided is current and accurate. However, because statutory and regulatory changes may have occurred since the publication of this Toolkit, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs cannot assume responsibility for its continued accuracy. Before taking any significant action based on the contents of this Toolkit, you should contact a subject matter expert in your chain of command to secure the most current information.