



U.S. Department of War



Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
Military Community and Family Policy

Military Community and Family Policy Overview

**National Defense University
Capstone Executive Spouse Development Course
26-3**

Mr. Stephen Simmons

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
Military Community and Family Policy*

Quality of life policies and programs that help our service members, their families and survivors be well and mission ready.

Topics

- Introduction to MC&FP
- Campaign Plan
- Military OneSource
- Key Initiatives and Focus Areas
- What Keeps You Up at Night?
- Call to Action



Military Community and Family Policy

MC&FP Mission

Contribute to force readiness and quality of life by providing policies and programs that advance the well-being of service members, their families, survivors and other eligible members of the military community.

MC&FP Vision

A continuum of support across military and civilian communities that enable service members, military families and survivors to thrive.

Secretary of Defense Priorities

- Revive Warrior Ethos
- Reestablish Deterrence
- Rebuild our Military

Policy Oversight

- Child Care Centers/Child and Youth Programs
- Exceptional Family Member Program
- Morale, Welfare and Recreation
- Resale (Commissary and Exchange)
- Family Support Centers/Family Readiness
- Defense-State Liaison Office
- Casualty and Mortuary Affairs/Military Funeral Honors

Execution

- Military OneSource
- Military and Family Life Counseling Program
- Spouse Education and Career Opportunities
- U.S. Department of Agriculture's OneOp



Quality of life policies and programs that help our service members, their families and survivors be well and mission ready.



Organization



DASW
Mr. Stephen Simmons



Principal Director
Ms. Lee Kelley



Chief, Strategy and Integration
Mr. Mike Odle

Chief of Staff
Terra Zvara



Senior Advisor
Dave Julian



Military Community Support Programs
Erika Slaton

- Military OneSource
- Military and Family Life Counseling
- Data Analysis, Research and Surveillance
- Strategic Outreach
- Digital Resources
- IT Enclave



Military Community Advocacy
Lolita Allen

- Family Advocacy Program
- Child and Youth Advocacy Program
- Coordinated Community Response



Office of Spouse Employment
Eryn Wagnon

- Spouse Education and Career Opportunities



Federal-State Legislative Resource Office
Sarah Stein

- DOD "Key Issues"
- State and Territorial Relations
- Interstate Policy and Compacts
- Strategic Basing



Human Resources/Personnel Security
Dr. Candace Bird

- Human Resources
- Personnel/Physical Security
- Background Checks
- Training and Professional Development



Casualty and Mortuary Affairs
Deb Skillman

- Casualty Assistance
- Mortuary Affairs
- Military Funeral Honors
- Personnel Accountability



MWR and Resale Policy
Glenn Garrison

- MWR Policy
- Resale Policy
- DOD Lodging
- Nonappropriated Funds Policy
- Strategy, Policy, Government Relations



Office of Military Family Readiness Policy
Amy Rodick

- Office of Special Needs
- Nutrition Readiness
- Online Learning



Child and Youth Programs
Michael Coltrin

- Child Development Programs
- Youth and Teen Programs
- School Liaisons

**Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
 and Principal Director**

- Child Development Centers
- Family Child Care Programs
- School-Age Care Programs
- Youth Services
- School Liaison Programs
- Thrive Online Parenting Program
- Virtual Lab School
- Early Learning Matters Curriculum

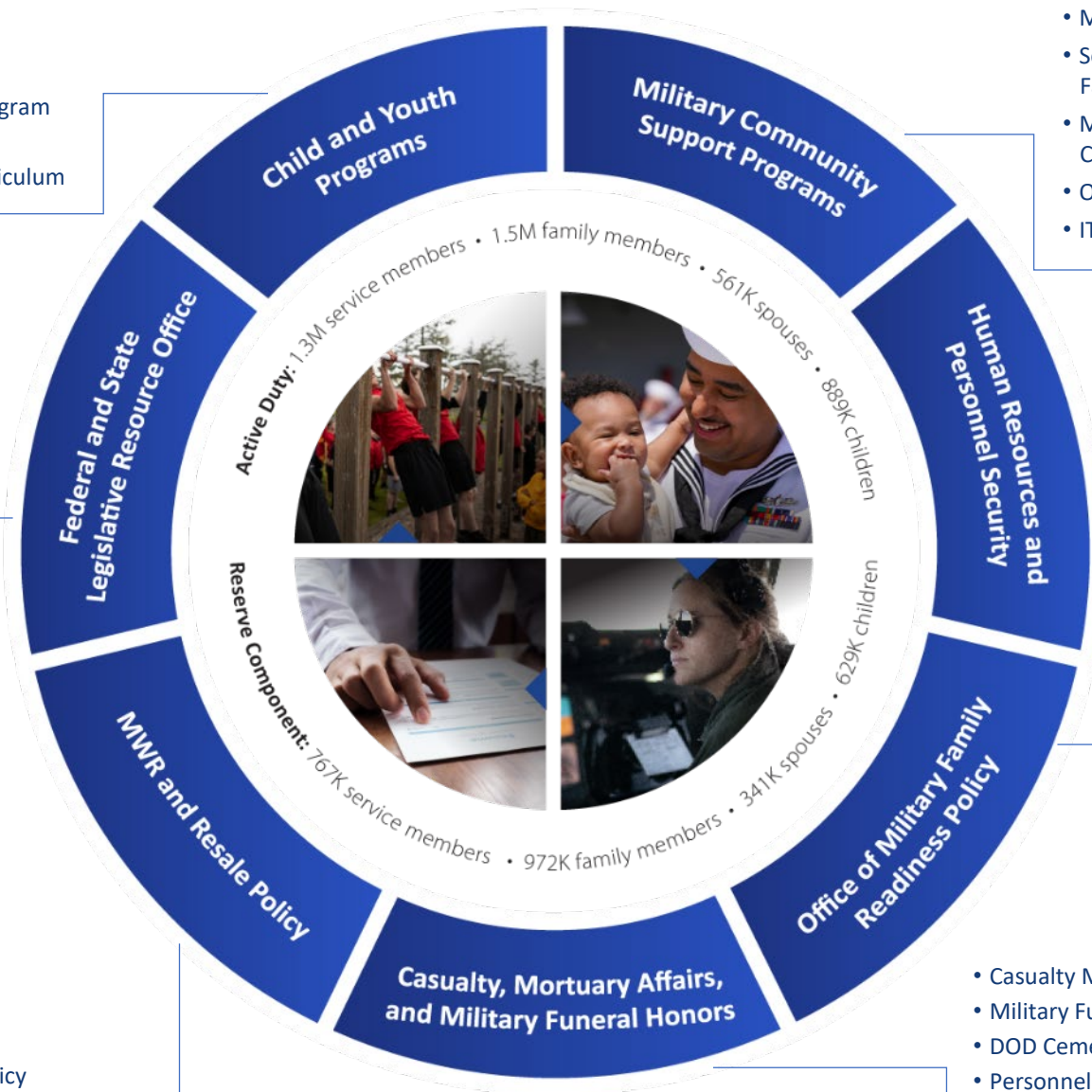
- Defense-State Liaison Office
- Advance DOD State Policy Priorities
- Educate State Policymakers
- Military State Policy Source Website
- State (and Territorial) Government Relations
- Policy Development — Quality of Life and Economic Well-Being
- Regional Liaisons
- Federal Congressional and Legislative Affairs

- Strategy, Policy, Government Relations
- MWR Policy
- Business Policy (Exchanges, Commissary and Lodging)
- Nonappropriated Funds Policy


- Data Analysis and Research
- Military OneSource
- Sesame Street for Military Families
- Military and Family Life Counseling
- Outreach Operations
- IT and Cybersecurity

- Office of Special Needs
- Military Family Readiness Policy
- Nutrition Readiness
- Online Learning
- Spouse Education and Career Opportunities
- Relocation and Deployment
- OneOp

- Casualty Mortuary Affairs
- Military Funeral Honors
- DOD Cemeteries
- Personnel Accountability
- Military In Lasting Tribute




MC&FP Campaign Plan *(coming *very* soon!)*



Restoring Our Warrior Ethos & Military Families

The Roadmap to Readiness

Stephen B. Simmons Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
Military Community and Family Policy



III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Together, we will ensure that quality of life is not a luxury but a strategic advantage. We will build strong families, strong communities and a stronger force – sustaining the warrior ethos that secures our future.

 Goal 1: Ensure Military Spouses can Build a Meaningful Career that Grows with their Family's Military Journey	 Goal 4: Activating Data to Drive Impact
 Goal 2: Strengthening Force Readiness by Improving Family Support	 Goal 5: Improving Strategic Communications and Change Management
 Goal 3: Modernizing Quality-of-Life Services	

 Military Community and Family Policy


Foreword

The power of our military rests not only in the courage of our warfighters, but in the strength of the families who stand beside them. As we embark on this campaign to restore the warrior ethos, we recognize that military families are the bedrock of readiness, the foundation of our force and the heart of our nation's defense. This is not just about programs or policies – it's about people. It's about ensuring that every service member, spouse and child has the tools, resources, and support they need to thrive in the face of unique challenges.


Our mission is clear: to rebuild the bonds of community, modernize our support systems, and create a culture where military families are empowered to succeed. From our newest recruits to our longest-serving military families, we are committed to delivering results – not rhetoric. This is about readiness through strength. Strength begins at home.

To the warfighter and their family: you are our customer, our priority, and our purpose. Together, we will restore the warrior ethos, rebuild our military and ensure that the sacrifices you make are met with unwavering support. This is our charge, our commitment and our promise.

Let's get to work.



Stephen B. Simmons
Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
MC&FP



Quality of life policies and programs that help our service members, their families and survivors be well and mission ready.



Tenets

- **Military readiness is our top priority; as we make improvements, we should also ensure we will “do no harm”**
 - Everything we do should tie to warfighting and lethality
- **We work for the President and the Secretary of War**
 - We will nest our work within their intent
- **Our customer is the military family/military community**
 - This includes the single Service members in the barracks and extended family like moms and dads
- **Our decisions should be data-driven, but made with empathy**
 - Our data should be forward-looking and help us make strategic, predictive decisions – but tempered with what is right (vs what is efficient)
- **Ruthlessly chase anecdotes and attack the root cause**
 - We should ask: does the anecdote align with our data? Did we miss a data prediction? What are we missing?



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Tenets cont'd

- **We are the Feedback Mechanism**
 - We should use our insights to support the services and DOD with forward looking insights
- **Identify and share problems along with solutions through honest self-reflection**
 - Raise problems early and give a range of options as potential solutions...Open and honest feedback
- **RAPID scale and delivery of solutions**
 - Don't fall into the trap of problem admiration through studies (paralysis by analysis); rather, ***do something*** about it.
- **Simplify**
- **Finally, don't be a jerk and most importantly, have fun**
 - Our team is dedicated and our work is hard...do not become jaded or tone deaf towards our customer
 - We should treat others well and enjoy our time together





MILITARY ONESOURCE

Access our support when, where and how it's convenient for you.

Call 800-342-9647

| Live Chat

| My Military OneSource App



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All these consultations and services are just a phone call or chat away. Need other support? We can connect you!

MilitaryOneSource.mil

Your digital hub linking you to a network of websites and digital tools

- Programs and services for travel, eLearning, moving, scholarships, job hunting, installation directories and member services
- Sign up for e-Newsletters for your areas of interest
- Mobile apps for easy access
- A universe of support for your quality of life



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Key Initiatives and Focus Areas

Family Readiness in Today's Environment

Military Spouse Employment:

- Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP)
- Military Spouse Career Accelerator (**New - 2026**)
- Office of Spouse Employment (**Launched - 30 Jan 2026**); SpouseWorks rebrand

Child Care:

- Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN)-PLUS
- Child Care In Your Home (CCYH)
- Armed Services YMCA CDC Partnership (**Grand Opening #3 – July 2026**)

Military Youth:

- Joint Service Teen Council (**next JSTC Summit: 6-12 June 2026**)
- Homeschooling (**Professional Books and PCS**)

Wellness:

- Relationships Campaign (**Ready, Set, Connect Virtual Summit: April 2026**) (recorded)
- Presidential Fitness Test
- Nutrition Readiness

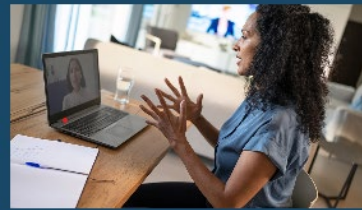


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Defense-State Liaison Office 2026 DoD State Policy Priorities



**Occupational Licensure
Interstate Compacts**



**Military Spouse Employment
Preference**



**Military Clause in State Family
Leave Laws**



**Solutions for Military
Homeschoolers**



**Concurrent Juvenile
Jurisdiction**



**State Response to Military
Interpersonal Violence**



**Military Community
Representation on State
Defense Councils**



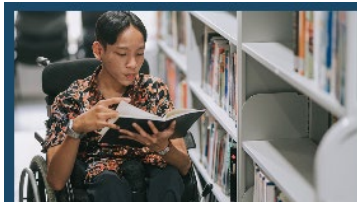
**State Exemption for Military-
Certified Family Child Care
Homes**



**State Support of Military
Families with Special
Education Needs**



Open Enrollment Flexibility



**Education Policy
Implementation and
Information Enhancements**



Quality of life policies and programs that help our service members, their families and survivors be well and mission ready.

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>





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Call to Action:

What Can We Do Together As Champions?

Supporting the warfighter and family with resources that foster well-being, readiness, and build community requires a **joint effort** to bolster resource **awareness** and **engagement**.

- Amplify Resources
- Promote social media content
- Leverage formal and informal networks to create more awareness
- Actively share mission critical resources: **Military OneSource, Military and Family Life Counseling Program, Spouse Education and Career Opportunities, etc**



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