



# Supporting the Warfighter: A Family Approach

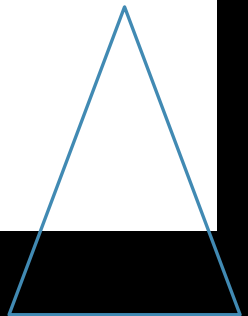
CPT Jamie L. Webb, LCSW



# Disclaimer

The views expressed and presented are my own and do not necessarily represent the views of the United States Army or Department of Defense.

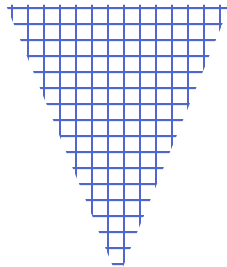
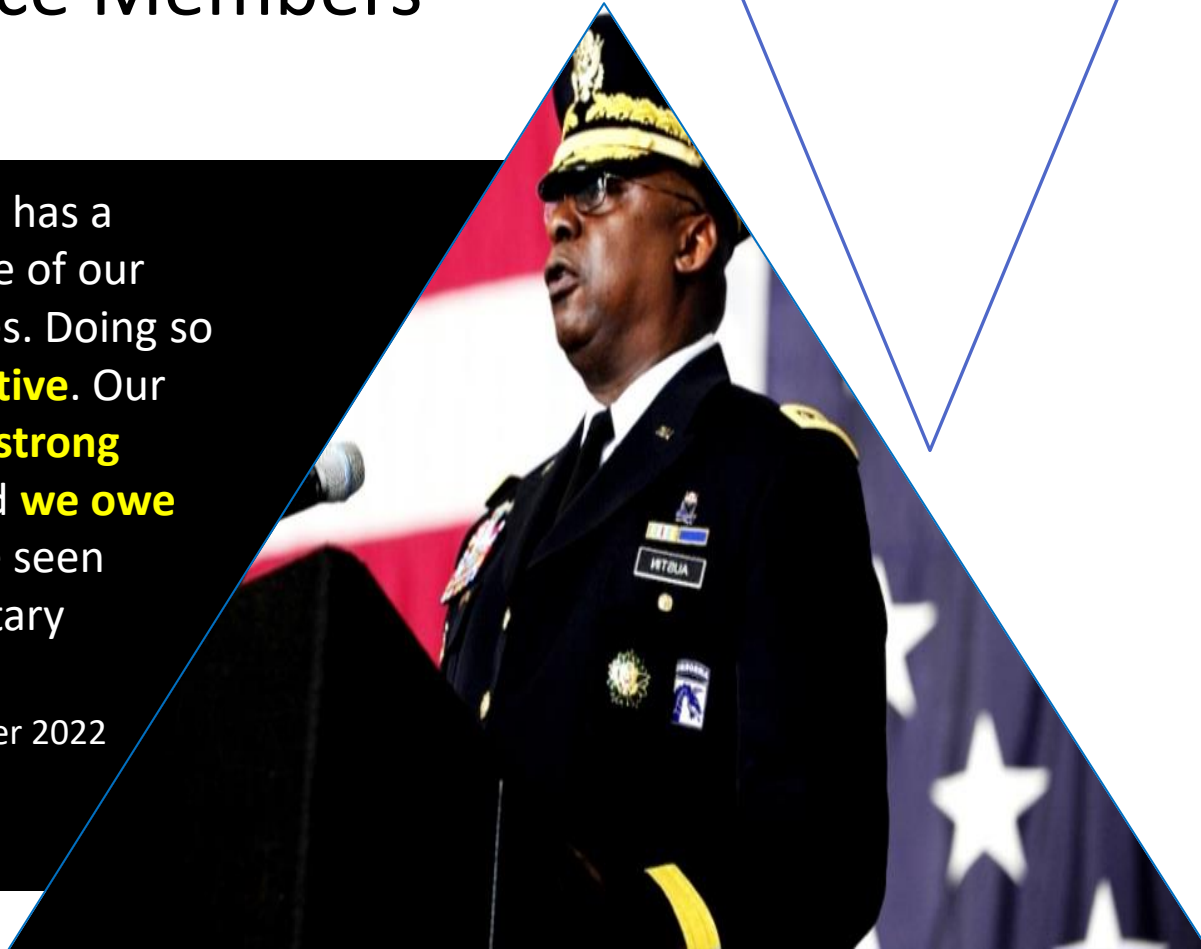
The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense Visual Information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.



# Taking Care of Service Members and Families

“The Department of Defense has a **sacred obligation** to take care of our Service Members and families. Doing so is a **national security imperative**. Our military families provide the **strong foundation** for our force, and **we owe them our full support**. I have seen firsthand how much our military families sacrifice.”

- Lloyd J. Austin, September 2022





# Objectives

- Identify at least two unique challenges faced by modern-day military families.
- Outline the various available formal and informal support resources.
- Recognize current gaps in resources and potential areas for improved support for military families.

# 2021 Demographic Overview

## Total DoD Force:

Military Personnel: N=2,129,656

- Enlisted: 1,756,989 (82.5%)
- Officer: 372,667 (17.5%)
- Male: 1,728,001 (81.1%)
- Female: 401,651 (18.9%)

Family Members: N=4,685,893

- Military Personnel with Children: 790,411 (37.1%)
- Military Personnel without children: 1,339,245 (62.9%).

Children account for approximately two-thirds of Total DoD Force family members (1,602,261 / 62.7%) while approximately one-third (944,329 / 36.9%) are spouses.

Across the total DoD Force, there are more family members (54.6%) than military personnel (45.4%)

## Active Duty:

Active Duty Personnel: N=1,335,848

- Married: 668,009 (50.0%)
  - Female Spouses: 537,744 (90.5%)
  - Male Spouses: 56,365 (9.5%)
  - Dual-Military Marriages: 93,320 (14.0%)
- Never Married: 601,224 (45.0%)
- Divorced: 64,515 (4.8%)
- Other: 2,100 (0.2%)

AD Personnel with Children: 472,410 (35.4%)

AD Personnel without Children: 863,438 (64.4%)

Single Parents: 51,937

- Male: 32,921 (63.3%)
- Female: 19,052 (36.7%)

There are more AD family members (1,551,972 / 53.7%) than AD members (1,335,848 / 46.3%).

# Challenges Faced by Military Families

Employment

Finances

Relocation

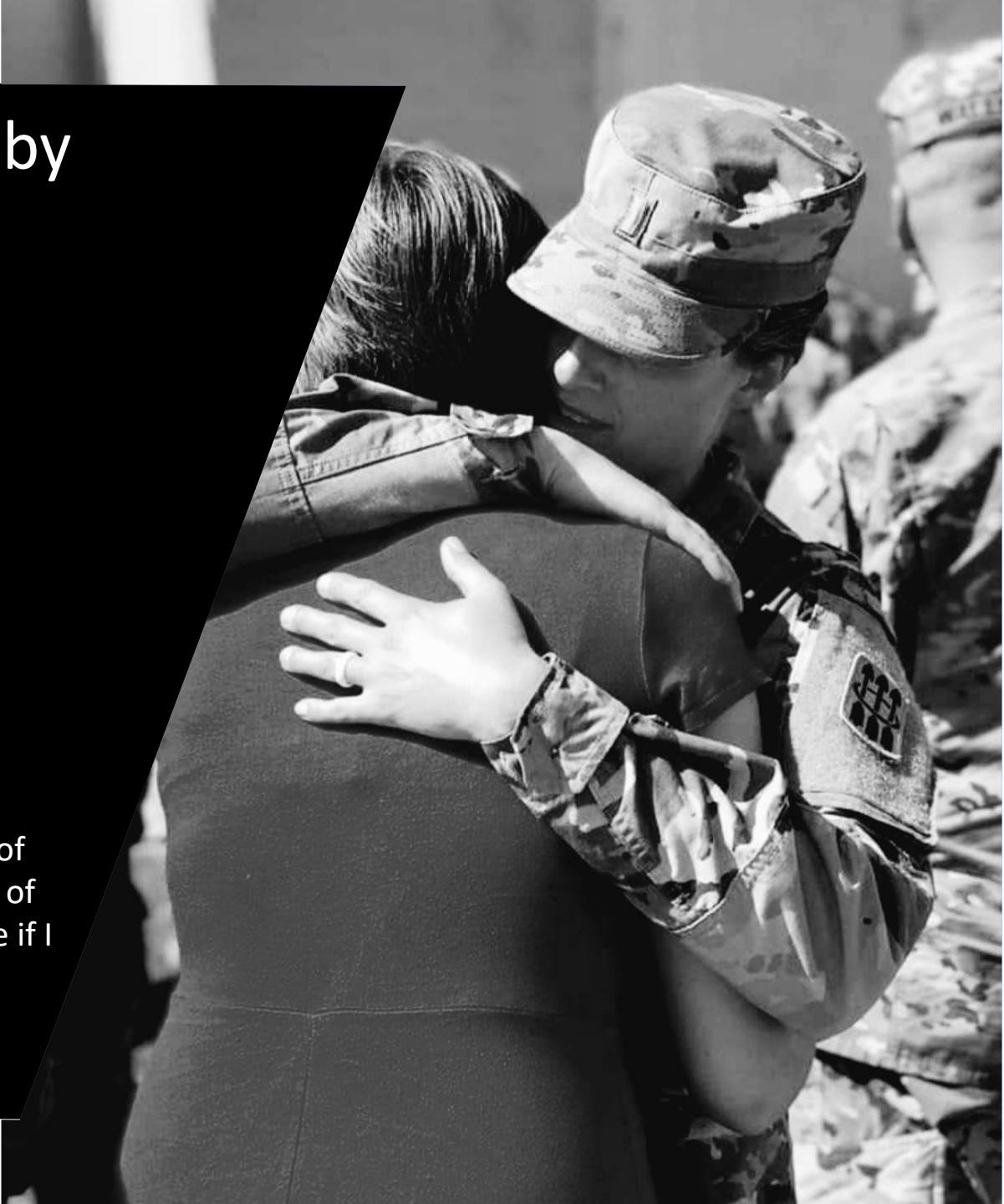
Lack of Social Support


Time Away from SM

Lack of available/affordable childcare

“I’m on all the spouse pages. I have virtual access to tens of thousands of other military spouses. I can’t think of one who would be there to help me if I needed it.”

- Spouse, Ft. Cavazos





Employment Readiness

Financial Readiness

Family Advocacy Program

New Parent Support Program

Exceptional Family Member Program

Survivor Outreach Services

Soldier & Family Assistance Center

Army Volunteer Corps

Mobilization, Deployment, & Support  
Stability Operations

Army Family Team Building

Victim Advocacy Program

Community Services Council (CSC)

Home Based Business

Relocation Assistance



# Army Community Services (ACS)

## EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM

### Employment Readiness Program

- Job Fairs (virtual & in person)
- Assistance with applications
- Career assessments & counseling
- Resume building
- Classes
- Licensure reimbursement

## FINANCIAL READINESS PROGRAM

### Financial Readiness Program

- Personal financial readiness:
  - Indebtedness
  - Consumer advocacy & protection
  - Money management
  - Credit
  - Financial planning
  - Insurance
- Army Emergency Relief (AER)
- Financial Frontline: Online self-service financial literacy & education





UNITED STATES ARMY  
**CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES**

- Child Development Centers (6wks. – 5yrs.)
- School Aged Centers (K5 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Babysitter Referral Services
- Alternative Childcare
- Parents Day/Night Out
- Instructional Programs (formerly SKIESUnlimited)
- Youth Sports & Fitness (year-round)



**Informal Support Resources:**

- Soldier & Family Readiness Group (SFRG)
- Social Media Groups/Pages
- Play Groups
- Peer Support Groups







# What's Missing?

Identifying gaps in  
services/programs/opportunities.



BRIDGING THE GAP

# Building Community & Connection in an Evolving Environment

- Spousal Sponsorship Program
- Spouse's & Teens Nights Out
- Family Networking Opportunities



Questions?



# References

Blue Star Families. (2022). *Military Family Lifestyle Survey*.  
<https://safe.menlosecurity.com/doc/docview/viewer/docNA3A606028A39cde1f29be2d0b579753a6aaa975d4b66f3169887e6a24774b11ad08d3a25b06f>

U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) (September 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2021). Active Duty Military Family File. Alexandria, VA.

U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) (2021). DoD Appropriated Funds (APF) Civilian Master File. Alexandria, VA.

U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) (September 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2021). Reserve Components Family File. Alexandria, VA.

U.S. Department of Defense (2021). *2021 Demographics Report: Profile of the Military Community*.  
<https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2021-demographics-report.pdf>

