

# **Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)**

## **Army Community Service**

### **Fort Wainwright, AK 99703**

#### **What is the Exceptional Family Member Program?**

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is a mandatory enrollment program that is based on public law and Department of Defense mandates. It works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated medical, educational, housing, community support, and personnel services to families with special needs.

#### **Who must enroll in the program?**

The following groups of Soldiers with Exceptional Family Members (EFM's) are required to enroll in the program:

- Active Army.
- U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Soldiers in the USAR-Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program and other USAR Soldiers on active duty exceeding 30 days.
- Army National Guard AGR personnel serving under the authority of Title 10, United States Code and Title 32, United States Code.

Department of Army civilian employees do not enroll in the program. However, they must identify dependent children with special education and medically related service needs and family members with medical needs when processing for an assignment to a location outside the United States where family member travel is authorized at Government expense.

#### **How does a Soldier enroll in the program?**

The Soldier contacts the nearest Army military treatment facility EFMP point of contact to begin the assessment process and obtain the enrollment forms. Once the forms are completed, they are forwarded to the appropriate regional medical center for coding and on to Army personnel agencies to enroll the Soldier in the program. At Fort Wainwright, contact Ms. Cathy Binder, EFMP Medical Chief, at Bassett Army Community Hospital, telephone 907-353-5151, and leave a message for EFMP enrollment consult.

#### **How long is the Soldier enrolled in the program?**

Soldiers are enrolled permanently in the program unless a change in a family member's medical or special education needs warrant case closure or the Soldier is separated from the Army. Soldiers are responsible for keeping their EFM's medical and/or special education documentation current. A review is required as the EFM's condition changes or at least every three years, whichever comes first.

#### **Does enrollment have an impact on a Soldier's career?**

Information about enrollment is not given to selection boards. Therefore, it does not adversely affect a Soldier's selection for promotion.

## **Who is an Exceptional Family Member?**

An Exceptional Family Member is a family member (child or adult) with physical, emotional, developmental, or intellectual disorder that requires special treatment, therapy, education, training, or counseling.

## **What are criteria for enrollment?**

- a. Family members with serious or chronic medical problems, physical disabilities, and mental health disorders (such as ADD/ADHD, allergies, asthma, autism, cerebral palsy, chronic fatigue, cystic fibrosis, depression, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, mental health counseling, visually impaired).
- b. Family members that require intensive follow-up support (such as high-risk newborns, cancer patients).
- c. Family members that require early intervention or special education services.

## **Why enroll in the EFMP?**

Early enrollment in the EFMP is the Soldier's guarantee that the Army will do its best to match the Soldier's grade and specialty with a location that can provide support the special needs of the EFM(s). Soldiers who are enrolled are still subject to worldwide assignment and, just like any other Soldier, may be called upon to serve an unaccompanied tour.

All family members must be screened for special needs before obtaining command sponsorship at a location outside the continental United States (OCONUS).

## **Are special education needs always considered in the assignment process?**

Special education needs are only considered in assignments outside the United States. Assignments within our 50 States and Trust Territories are not based on the educational needs of children. Every local school system has provisions for special education programs.

Early intervention programs are also available through the community for children from birth up to three years of age who are diagnosed with or at risk for developmental delays. Child-find services are available for older children.

## **What EFMP services are available to me?**

Advocacy	Relocation Assistance
Community Recreation	Resource Directory
Housing Modification Requests	Respite Care
Information and Referral	School Liaison
Legal	Support Groups
Lending Library	Workshops and Classes
Medical and/or Counseling Services	

## **To learn more about EFMP, please contact:**

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