

Statement

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For Manpower & Personnel
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Reserve Affairs**

HEARING

Before the

**House Armed Services Committee
Subcommittee on Personnel**

“Family Programs”

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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
MILITARY PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE

COLONEL CORY H. LYMAN

Colonel Cory Harline Lyman assumed the duties of the Assistant Director for Individual and Family Support Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs on March 12, 2008. Prior to this assignment Colonel Lyman served in key positions in the National Guard Bureau. His responsibilities have included the following: Chief, Air National Guard Office of Cultural Transformation (Dec 2006-Mar 2008); Chief, Plans and Operations in the National Guard Family Program Office (Jul 2005-Nov 2006); and ANG, Military Equal Opportunity Program Manager (Jun 2001-Jul 2004).



Colonel Lyman successfully completed Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AF Base, Alabama (1998-99) and The Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University, Fort McNair, District of Columbia (2004-05).

After having completed Basic Military Training as an Honor Graduate in 1981, Colonel Lyman began his military career as an enlisted member. In 1987, he entered the Academy of Military Science at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, TN and as a distinguished graduate he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant. Prior to his order to active duty service, Colonel Lyman completed 19 years as a traditional Guard member in the Utah Air National Guard where he served in the Family Support Program during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, followed by service as a Public Affairs officer; and as the Chief, Equal Opportunity.

Colonel Lyman attended the University of Utah and received a Bachelors Degree in Music Education in 1985 and a Master of Social Work Degree in 1987. He practiced for 14 years as a Clinical Social Worker at two different University psychological service centers while maintaining a private practice. Midway through his professional practice Colonel Lyman returned to pursue further education and received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Social Work from the University of Utah (1997). He now resides in Northern Virginia with his wife and five children. Col Lyman is the recipient of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster) and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Testimony House Armed Services Committee (Subcommittee on Personnel)
By Colonel Cory Lyman
July 22, 2009

Chairwoman Davis, Congressman Wilson, and members of the subcommittee: thank you for your invitation to discuss the status of Family Programs from the Reserve Affairs' perspective.

Great responsibilities have been placed on the shoulders of Guard and Reserve members and their families. These increasing demands have been accompanied by visionary and effective deployment cycle support systems for Reservists and their families.

On behalf of the Department of Defense, I express deep appreciation for the unflagging support given by this committee to the care and support of dedicated and patriotic Reserve Component members and to their marvelous families who also serve and sacrifice.

Reserve component Family Programs address Reservist family issues that differ in meaningful ways from the needs of Active component families. For instance, Reserve component families are community-based and connected; they are also dispersed geographically throughout more than 4000 communities nationwide. These realities create challenges and also offer great opportunities to link with community resources.

As they return from deployment, Reserve component members and their families experience satisfying and rewarding reunions that also may include some very real obstacles and challenges. To help Reserve component members throughout the

deployment cycle, the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program was developed. This program is focused on the Reserve component member and works hand-in-hand with the Family Program to enhance family readiness and help to smooth the potential challenges of military deployments.

We are committed to the success of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and we appreciate the committee's continued support of this visionary program.

We will continue to expand our collaboration efforts with the many agencies and programs (see diagram attached) that help deliver critical Family Program and Yellow Ribbon resources to every Guard and Reserve member and their family members nationwide.

With regard to the currency of family support policies, the Department of Defense seeks to maintain policies that provide full deployment-cycle-support to members of the Reserve component and their families. Department directives and instructions that are published to support the Family Program are, in my opinion, sufficient to the present and anticipated future demands. However, there are currently several policy revisions and actions underway. Specifically, a DoD instruction is now in coordination that will replace Directive Type Memorandum 08-029, dated July 22, 2008. This memorandum launched the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and the DoD instruction should be ready for release in eight to ten weeks. Also, Military Community and Family Policy is currently circulating a draft Directive on Military Family Readiness (to update DoDD 1342.17, December 30, 1988, *Family Policy*). These policies support vital programs to ensure the readiness of the members and families in the National Guard and Reserve.

For military families the impact of deployment “ripples” through the lives of spouses, children, parents, grandparents, siblings and significant others. Because of their geographic dispersion and community-based roots, Reserve component members and their families experience some unique impacts of military service including challenges posed to command communication and access of families to support services. These challenges are addressed through extensive outreach efforts by family support professionals and dedicated Family Program volunteers, by extensive web-based resources (e.g.; guardfamily.org, militaryhomefront.dod.mil), by 24-7 toll free support and referral programs (e.g.; militaryonesource), and by committed and caring commanders who also understand that family support is a vitally important readiness issue.

DoD-sponsored programs are also established to support our Reserve component families across the deployment cycle. As mentioned earlier, the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is a core deployment support program. Its resources are generally situated at the National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in all 50 States and 4 Territories; this program is available to serve all Reserve component members and their families. In less than a year of operation, the DoD Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program has tracked the completion of 1,350 reintegration events and has delivered critical information to over 129,000 Reserve Component members and their families. The Department works continually with partners such as the Department of Labor, Department of Veteran’s Affairs and the Small Business Administration to improve existing programs and initiate new efforts to support members and their families. For

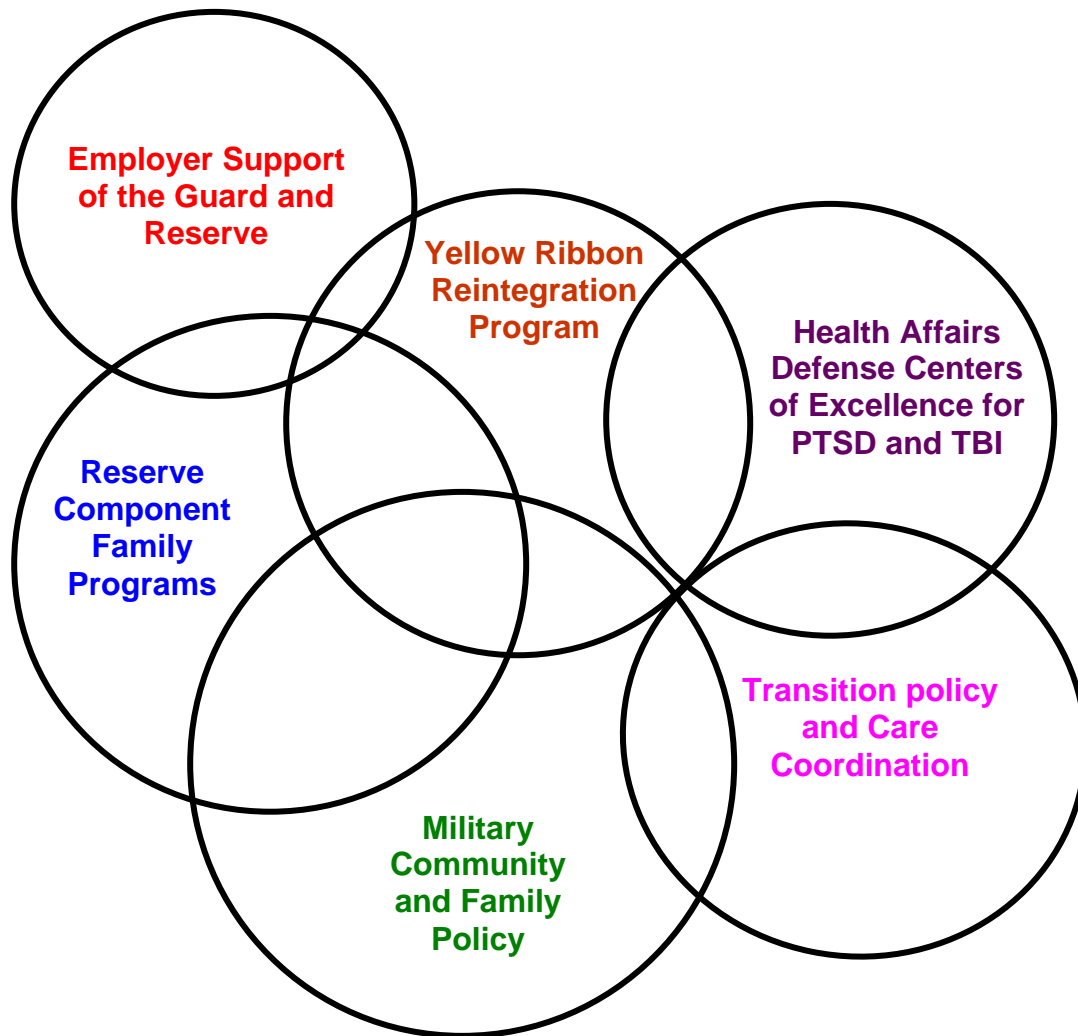
example, in cooperation with our Federal partners, a Yellow Ribbon Entrepreneurial Support Program is now under development. Finally, Military Community and Family Policy is now finalizing plans to add support teams called “Joint Family Support Assistance Program” teams (or JFSAP teams) at appropriate Reserve component HQs to further facilitate their contact with Reservist families. These JFSAP teams are established in all States and Territories and include Master’s Degree-level Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC) and Military OneSource consultants.

From time to time, Reservists may face employment and re-employment challenges where the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve offers valuable resources and intervention. Likewise, Reservists sometimes experience interruptions to their education and there are a range of DoD and private support programs in place to assist (e.g.; Servicemember Opportunity Colleges, Montgomery GI Bill, and DoD Tuition Assistance programs).

The Department of Defense recognizes the enormous sacrifices made by members of the Guard and Reserve to serve our country and we know that some sacrifices result in life-long changes and challenges. With that in mind, I mention efforts to support wounded, ill and injured service members and their families who require resources and healing. Well-developed programs for the Wounded, Ill and Injured are established in the Active Component and these support National Guard and Reserve members who suffer injuries during deployments. Such programs include the Army and the Air Force Wounded Warrior programs, as well as, the Marine Wounded Warrior Regiment, and the Navy Safe Harbor program. In addition, each of the Reserve components have appointed

a headquarters-level director of psychological health, along with qualified mental health practitioners in the field to help in the assessment and referral of those who are coping with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). These efforts are augmented by resources such as the increasingly well-known and widely used Military OneSource; add to this the innovation of the well-developed Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, and finally the DoD Wounded Warrior Resource Center with its 24/7 toll free help line (1-800-342-9647).

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today about these vitally important programs and efforts to maintain the trust and keep faith with our dedicated National Guard and Reserve members and their families. We are grateful for your essential interest and support. I look forward to answering your questions.



Inter-Relationship of Family Programs