



2011 AFAP Conference Report-Out Session



Teen Work Group

Spokespersons: **Michaela and Patrick**



TITLE: Expand AAFES Music Section

SCOPE: AAFES does not have a music store. There is currently no place to buy or fix instruments on base. Music lovers need a place to purchase music, CDs, sheet music and accessories.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Provide a larger inventory of music and music supplies in AAFES stores to include band and orchestra instruments, sheet music, etc.



TITLE: Substandard Conditions at the Religious Activities Center

SCOPE: The A/C in buildings is in need of maintenance. The restrooms are disgusting; buildings are outdated and have a foul smell. Many people who use the facilities are young children who are being exposed to unsanitary conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Relocate the Religious Activities Center to Freedom Park School.
2. Rebuild the Religious Activities Center.



TITLE: Teen Collaboration in Community Events

SCOPE: Teens have a minute voice in artistic community events and are not given many opportunities to express their points of view. Music events, festivals and fairs are all planned with no input from teens. More teen input will increase teen attendance at events and therefore increase revenue for MWR.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Invite teens to organizational meetings for community events.
2. Develop a community survey to determine the venue of artists and social events in the community.



Red Work Group: Spider Monkeys

Spokespersons: Kim and Michael



Issue # 1107



TITLE: Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) for Soldiers Who Experienced the Death of a Dependent

SCOPE: The Army does not have a program in place to assist Soldiers when they experience a death in their Family. Currently, the SOS is receiving calls for assistance from Soldiers who have lost a dependent. This is not a part of the SOS mission. Warrior resiliency is affected by a lack of services available for Soldiers who experienced the death of a dependent.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Expand the mission of SOS to include services for Active Duty dependent deaths.



Issue # 1130



TITLE: Absence of DOD Policy on Training Requirements Arbitration Panel Process to Mitigate Hold Under.

SCOPE: DOD does not have a formal policy in place for surplus students reporting. Lack of policy creates up to 12 months wait time for training. Absence of policy directly impacts unit mission readiness, Soldier morale, and Family readiness.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Develop and implement policy that reduces Hold Under Soldiers in DOD schools. Utilize existing US Army TRAP process as a model to enact change across the Department of Defense.



Issue # 1109



TITLE: Transfer of Leave Between Soldiers

SCOPE: Soldiers who have an emergency may be denied leave by their chain of command for having a negative balance. DOD civilians have the capability to transfer leave to other DOD civilians who have no leave. Negative leave balance is an increased burden and an additional stressor on the Soldier and Family.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Update AR 600-8-10 to authorize leave to be voluntarily transferred between soldiers during emergencies.



Orange Work Group: Orange Juicers

Spokespersons: Sylvia and Mark



Issue # 1126



TITLE: 24 Hour Faith Based Support Services for the Military Community

SCOPE: There is an inadequate amount of 24 hour Faith Based Services available for the Military. Religious personnel positions have been reduced and have decreased availability of service. Military communities are unable to find adequate Faith Based services which could impact the out-come of emergency situations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Increase the availability of Faith Based Support Services to accommodate the Military Community on a 24 hour basis.



Issue # 1103



TITLE: Banned Dogs Breeds On-Post

SCOPE: Six breeds have been banned by DOD Policy. Marine Corps policy requires a temperament test for banned breeds to acquire a waiver for family housing. Dogs should not be banned based on breed, but based on individual temperament.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Implement Marine Corps waiver policy for banned dog breeds.



Issue # 1120



TITLE: Active Duty Personnel Paying for Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Facilities

SCOPE: Active Duty Personnel have to pay to enter some MWR facilities. MWR facilities are provided to boost morale and improve welfare to increase the well-being of Active Duty Personnel through recreation. Allowing Active Duty Personnel free access to MWR facilities in itself boosts morale.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Authorize Active Duty personnel to receive free admission to all MWR facilities.



Yellow Work Group: Yellow Jackets

Spokespersons: Kris and Angela



Issue # 1006



TITLE: Support for Family Members with Non-Medically Diagnosed Learning Disabilities Scope

SCOPE: There is a lack of resources for Family Members with learning disabilities, i.e. Dyslexia without medical diagnosis. Tricare only covers support services for Family Members with learning disabilities when they have underlying related medical diagnosis. The added stress undermines Service Members readiness. This Issue also causes undue financial hardship and stress on the entire family.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Establish a program that supports and advocates family members with non-medical diagnosed learning disabilities.



Issue # 1117



TITLE: Orthodontic Restart Costs for Family Members

SCOPE: When a family member changes orthodontists because of a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move, the Service Member is responsible for paying the orthodontic start up costs. United Concordia does not cover these costs. This causes financial hardship on Service Members and their Families.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Require United Concordia to cover all orthodontic start up costs associated with PCS moves.



Issue # 1116



TITLE: Comprehensive Medical Screening for Service Members

SCOPE: The Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) is not as comprehensive as the former five year medical physical (i.e. cholesterol testing is not part of the PHA). While the Army still requires certain comprehensive tests and screenings for service members at age 40, with additional tests and screenings at age 50, Service Members are not always aware that they are still entitled to a these tests at any age. Service Members may incur serious health risks because certain tests are no longer required before age 40.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Include a field in PHA Phase 1 where a service member can request a comprehensive physical. Include a list of the medical tests that are required for service members over the age of 40 and 50 years old on the PHA. Require Service Members to indicate whether or not they request any of these tests.



Green Work Group: Gators

Spokespersons: Cassandra and Sara



Issue # 1111



TITLE: Extended Hour Allotment Program for Child Care

SCOPE: Soldiers in duty position that are required to work extended hours incur additional child care fees. The Garrison Commander sets the hours at Child and Youth Services (CYS). The hours are outside of the scope of Service Member work call. Service Member's required place of duty is not always in the time realm of the established child care hours causing financial hardship.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Initiate supplementary allowance program IAW AR 608-10, Chapter 3, Section 2 and offer a 24 hours CYS facility.



Issue # 1102



TITLE: Standardized Self Defense Course offered for Family Members at all installations

SCOPE: Some installations offer self defense courses. Attending a self defense course promotes a sense of personal safety and empowers the family members to protect their household. Many families feel the danger magnified when the Service Member (SM) must leave for an extended period of time for either deployment or training.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Require a standardized self defense course for family member's on all installations.



Issue # 1133



TITLE: No DA regulations for Housing Utility Bills

SCOPE: A home with 4-5 people could consume more utilities than a home with only 2 people residing with that home type. No current DA set of regulations to formulate utility baseline for on post privatizing housing exists. To protect families from incurring out of pocket expenses when moving into on post housing.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Develop DA set of regulations to formulate utility baseline for on post privatized housing to incorporate family size.



RESULTS



Top 5 Strengths



- Wounded Warrior Program
- Army One Source
- Strong Bonds Program
- Creation of FRSA position
- Spousal Retreats



Top 5 Challenges



- Back to Back deployments
- Give family members more voice to refer the Soldiers with PTSD; Long term evaluation needed
- Suicide rate increased
- Communication to spouses
- Sponsorship



Top 6 DA Issues



- Issue 524: Military Spouse Unemployment Compensation
- Issue 572: Family Member Eyeglass Coverage
- Issue 600: Family Care Plan (FCP) Travel and Transportation Allowances
- Issue 614: Comprehensive Behavioral Health Program for Children
- Issue 644: Shortages of Medical Providers in Military Treatment Facilities (MTF's)
- Issue 653: Funding Service Dogs for Wounded Warriors



Top 5 Issues



- Issue 1006- Support for Family Members with Non-Medically Diagnosed Learning Disabilities Scope
- Issue 1107- Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) for Soldiers Who Experienced the Death of a Dependent
- Issue 1111- Extended Hour Allotment Program for Child Care
- Issue 1117- Orthodontic Restart Costs for Family Members
- Issue 1116- Comprehensive Medical Screening for Service Members