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INFORMATION PAPER

AFRC-FP

3 November 2015

SUBJECT: Army Reserve Family Programs (ARFP) Programs and Services

1. Purpose: To provide information regarding ARFP programs and services supporting the readiness and resiliency of Army Reserve Soldiers and Families.

2. Points or Facts:

a. The ARFP Mission: To provide Army Reserve Soldiers, Families, command teams and Civilians with relevant and responsive programs and services throughout the geographically dispersed Army Reserve community.

b. The ARFP programs and services assists Reserve Soldiers and Families with building the resiliency necessary to effectively cope with the unexpected and unique challenges of the Army Reserve life. The ARFP provides manpower to assist command teams with delivering and implementing services, training, and assistance before, during, and after deployments as well as resources to address complex emergencies, and natural disaster response missions. ARFP provides the following programs and services to AR Soldiers, Families and command teams to support unit-level Family Readiness Programs.

(1) Army Reserve Family Programs (FP) Directors and Coordinators at major commands are responsible for the overall execution of FP programs and services within the command. FP Directors and Coordinators manage the command's FP budget and provide Family Programs consultation, training, volunteer management, transition, mobilization and deployment support.

(2) Fort Family Outreach and Support Center is the critically important component in Army Reserve Family Programs' suite of programs and services. Fort Family bridges Soldiers and their Families with people and resources, providing a clear path to the information or resources required. The Outreach and Support Specialists staffing Fort Family are knowledgeable and trained to provide focused services for all aspects of military life for Army Reserve Soldiers and Families; from non-time-sensitive quality of life issues to crisis management assistance, Victim Advocacy for Suicide Prevention and SHARP, and matters regarding mobilization and deployment support.

(3) Army Strong Community Centers (ASCCs) support the Army's commitment to provide services and assistance for Soldiers, Families, and DA Civilians from the closest source regardless of component or location. The ASCCs were designed to fill gaps in services and support geographically dispersed Soldiers, Retirees, Veterans,

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and their Families. There are currently six ASCCs: Brevard, NC, Bristol, CT, Coraopolis, PA, Oregon City, OR, Rochester, NY, and Walker, MI.

(4) Life Skills Education and Training Services provide training in personal life skills and Family resiliency to meet the challenges of the military lifestyle. Life skills training include Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness, financial readiness, parenting, Army Family Team Building, Deployment Education, and training for command teams to maintain an effective Family Readiness Program.

(5) Child, Youth & School Services (CYSS) connects Soldiers and Families with children (0-18) with people and resources, providing a clear path to the information or resources required to support their needs. CYSS provides childcare/youth supervision solutions, support for unit and command events (Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Family Days, Battle Assemblies, Family Program Trainings), youth development opportunities, student/school support services and community partnerships with youth enrichment programs focused on promoting resilience and connecting Army Reserve Youth.

(6) Army Reserve Survivor Outreach Services provides services that offer the ability for Families to remain connected to the Army Family in times of loss, regardless of the Fallen Member's duty status or component. The Survivor Outreach team provides a support coordinator and a certified financial counselor to surviving Families for as long as the Family desires. Support Coordinators function as the long term support personnel for Survivors, facilitating access to support groups, life skills education and counseling resources. Financial Counselors provide assistance to Surviving Families through investment and estate planning education, working closely with Benefits Coordinators and other organizations and agencies to address the needs of Surviving Families.

(7) Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is an Army-wide initiative to identify and prioritize quality of life issues for Soldiers, retirees, survivors, DA civilians and their Families. The AFAP provides the Army Reserve community a "voice" in shaping their quality of life and identifying issues related to the current environment.

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