



# Key Personnel and Readiness Issues Supporting Service Members and Families (For 2012)



- 1. Facilitate Service members receiving licensure and academic credit for military education, training and experience:** By not receiving credit, separating Service members may be held back from finding employment or finishing a degree. States can establish policies that ensure separating Service members do not have to repeat requirements completed during their military career to obtain academic credit or an occupational license.
- 2. Facilitate military spouse transition through licensure portability and eligibility for unemployment compensation:** Mandatory military moves require spouses to leave employment and start again in a state with new licensing requirements. States can help by expediting licensing through endorsement, temporary licensure and streamlined processes. States should also recognize that these mandatory job separations should afford military spouses eligibility for unemployment compensation.
- 3. Minimize School Disruption for Military Children During Transition and Deployment:** Military life creates challenges for children who attend an average of 8 schools in 12 years, plus parental separation during deployments. States can help by participating in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children which establishes common guidelines for handling class and course placement, records transfer, immunizations, graduation, and extra-curricular opportunities.
- 4. Increase Access to Quality, Affordable Childcare for Military Families:** Demand for child care continues to outpace capacity. The desired outcome is that states integrate DoD standards into their Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) for child care programs. Through statewide QRISs, DoD can identify providers eligible for 'approved' status (subsidized care) and partner with other providers to help them reach that status.
- 5. Ensure Deployment Separation Does Not Determine Child Custody Decisions:** Extended separations due to military service necessarily alter short-term custody/visitation arrangements and can have long-term consequences. State can appropriately balance the interests of service members while preserving the best interests of the child; address delegation of visitation rights; and expedite court dockets and use electronic communications to accommodate military demands.
- 6. Improve Absentee Voting for Military Members and Their Families:** Citizens need assurance their vote will be counted. States can approve the Uniform Military and Overseas Voter Act (UMOVA) which supports the flexible processes for absentee voters in the areas recommended by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Office.
- 7. Provide authority for establishing Veteran Treatment Courts (VTCs):** Nearly 1 in 5 of veterans is suffering from Acute Stress Disorder (ASD), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), substance abuse, or other psychological problems. When not properly treated, these problems can contribute to veterans committing crimes. States can help by authorizing VTCs, which provide opportunities for rehabilitation (instead of incarceration) for veterans and service members experiencing mental health problems.
- 8. Promote Consumer Protections and Enforcement of the Predatory Lending Regulation:** Military consumers are vulnerable to unscrupulous practices. Additionally, some lending practices create a cycle of debt, thus detracting from financial wellbeing and military readiness. States can help by working with the military community on consumer concerns and by fully enforcing the DoD Regulation on payday, vehicle title, and refund anticipation loans.
- 9. Comport State Laws with DoD Rules on Disposition:** Many states require disposition of remains be determined through state-specific documentation or by a priority sequence of next of kin. States can alleviate potential family disharmony during a time of bereavement by recognizing the person authorized to direct disposition (PADD) selected by the service member on DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data), in accordance with Federal law.
- 10. Coordinate State-wide Public-Private Support:** Some issues require a comprehensive approach, best facilitated by state governments. Efficiently supporting military families requires coordination. States can mobilize resources, and create committees that can facilitate state-wide coordination and long range planning.