

Family Readiness Group (FRG)

- a.* An FRG is a command-sponsored organization of Service members, civilian employees, Family members (immediate and extended) and volunteers belonging to a unit. These organizations will provide mutual support and assistance, and a network of communications among the Family members, the chain of command, and community resources. FRGs, with guidance from the State Family Program (SFP) staff and their assigned Family Readiness Support Assistant will assist unit commanders in meeting military and personal deployment preparedness and enhance the Family Readiness of the unit's Service members and Families. They will also provide feedback to the command on the state of the "Family" unit.
- b.* Family Readiness is the mutual reinforcement and support provided by the unit to Service members, civilian employees, and Family members, both immediate and extended.
- c.* The rear detachment commander/military POC is the unit commander's representative at home station while the unit is deployed and may be the Family liaison to the deployed unit. All logistic support for the FRG (e.g. meeting rooms, office equipment/computers, newsletters, telephones, and volunteer support) is authorized by the rear detachment commander/military POC during deployment.
- d.* Unit commanders will ensure that their FRG include all Service members, civilians, and Family members regardless of rank structure or Family size, composition, language spoken, and other demographics. Volunteer leaders must create a balanced and representational organization. The Family Program (FP) will serve in a support role.

Family Readiness Group (FRG) Roles and Functions

- a.* With guidance from the SFP staff, the FRG mission is to act as an extension of the unit in providing official, accurate command information. Mutual support between the command and the organization's membership is necessary. The unit will advocate more efficient use of available community resources and strive to help Families solve problems at the lowest level. Continuity is important for all volunteer groups which will position the FRGs for success during high intensity surges.
- b.* Indicators of successful Family Readiness Programs in non deployed units may include the following: a commander, a unit Family Readiness Liaison and a FRG all who have attended Family Readiness sponsored training, a current e-mail distribution listing, quarterly updated phone tree and annual family information briefing.
- c.* When structuring FRG activities, unit demographics, deployments, and mission should be considered.
- d.* FRG is an official military program. The FRG activities and appropriated fund expenditures are subject to DoDD 5500.7-R, DoDD 7000.14-R, 31 USC 5311, and all other applicable statutory and regulatory restraints on official activities, use of appropriated funds, and fundraising.

Family Readiness Group (FRG) Roles and Functions continued...

e. Certain FRG activities are essential and common to all. They include staff and committee meetings, publication and distribution of newsletters, maintenance of updated Family rosters and Family readiness information, establishment of telephone trees and e-mail distribution lists and scheduling educational briefings for family members. Volunteer activity level can vary depending on unit mission and on whether the unit is in pre or post deployment, deployed, or in a training/sustainment period at the home station.

f. FRG social activities can enhance Family and Service member camaraderie, provide stress relief, and reduce Family loneliness during deployments. Social activities will not be funded using appropriated funds. The FRG members may use money contained in an informal fund to pay for social activities (by the FRG and for the FRG).