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# **USAG GRAFENWOEHR ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN CONFERENCE**

## **BRIEF-OUT 3 MARCH 2011**

**“AFAP...CHANGING THE ARMY ONE ISSUE AT A TIME”**

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# The Army's 4 Most Valuable Services

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## Workgroup I

1. TriCare/Healthcare
2. Army Community Service
3. Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation (F&MWR)
4. Housing

## Workgroup II

1. Army Community Service
2. Tuition Assistance
3. Military Family Life Consultants (MFLCs)
4. Child Development Center

## Workgroup III

1. Commissary
2. Child Youth Services (CYS)
3. Fitness Centers
4. Exchange/TriCare (tie)



# Mobilization/Deployment and Family Readiness Strengths

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1. FMWR Programs (CYS, ODR, Fitness Centers)
2. ACS Programs (Mob/Dep, AER, SRP, Info/Referral)
3. FRGs (info, activities, friendships)
4. Rear-D (support, info, guidance)
5. Events (special events in the community – concerts, fests, BBQs)
6. Medical/Dental (more appointments available)



# Mobilization/Deployment and Family Readiness Challenges

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1. Separation
2. Hourly slots at CYS
3. Housing – difficult to resolve situations without sponsor
4. Single Soldier Housing
5. Need more coping mechanisms
6. Transportation (especially for medical appointments)



# Top 5 Critical Active HQDA AFAP Issues

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1. #524 – Direct all 50 states, the District of Columbia & US territories to grant unemployment compensation to military spouses who leave a job because of a permanent change of station (PCS) move.
2. #671 – Cap Military Child Development Program fees at 25% of the military Family’s Total Family Income (TFI).
3. #596 – Establish a searchable convicted Sex Offender Registry & make it available to the military community. Require all convicted sex offenders who are authorized a DoD ID to register with the installation Provost Marshall’s Office (PMO) and be entered into the registry.
4. #653 – Fund a formal program to provide service dogs for Wounded Warriors.
5. #626 – Add post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and uniplegia (the complete & irreversible paralysis of one limb) as a schedule of loss for Traumatic Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (TGLI).



# Top 9 Conference Issues

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## Work Group I

1. GRAF11-027 School-Aged Children Resiliency Program
2. GRAF11-011 High School Transition Program
3. GRAF11-039 Special Needs Summer School Program

## Work Group II

1. GRAF11-069 (GRAF11-074, 079, 084 combined) Improved & Increased Services Needed at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs)
2. GRAF11-097 Language Barrier Pertaining to Consumer Protection
3. GRAF11-084 Transportation to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

## Work Group III

1. GRAF11-037 (GRAF11-077 combined) Mandate Department of Defense (DoD) Regulation for Command Sponsorship
2. GRAF11-067 (GRAF11-102 combined) Military Family Life Consultants' (MFLCs) Lack of Military Experience
3. GRAF11-080 Logo Changes in Department of the Army



# Workgroup Briefings



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# Work Group I

Spokesperson: Maja Smith



# Work Group I

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## Issue Title: GRAF11-027 School-Aged Children Resiliency Program

**Scope:** Army children experience the same stressors as their parents, resulting in emotional and behavioral issues. Due to the lack of formal resiliency training programs for children and the current Army Operational Tempo (OPTEMPO), children are unprepared for the seven stages of deployment (Train-Up/Preparation, Mobilization, Deployment, Reset, Redeployment, Post-Deployment, Reconstitution). The lack of these coping skills ultimately leads to negative emotional & physical behaviors.

### Recommendations:

1. Establish and implement a children's resiliency program which incorporates the parents.
2. Ensure the relevant program is age-appropriate and incorporates real Army-life experiences.
3. Hand-on, kinesthetic activities, rather than standard PowerPoint presentations.



# Work Group I

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## **Issue Title: GRAF11-011 High School Transition Program**

**Scope:** High school graduates are unprepared for the passages from military life to civilian life. Due to the lack of a formal transition program, high school students have limited coping skills due to the lack of a formal program and possibly parental oversight.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Create a formal program, with parent and student attendance, to prepare graduating students leaving military life.
2. Life-skills workshops.
3. Re-establish the “Real World” Program



# Work Group I

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## **Issue Title: GRAF11-039 Special Needs Summer School**

**Scope:** Not all special needs children are included in the Summer School Program. As a result of this, chances of regression are increased. Special needs children need year-round therapeutic-structured programs to maintain educational and developmental goals set by their parents, teachers and therapists.

**Recommendation:** Allow all special needs students to participate in a Summer School Program.



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## Work Group II

Spokesperson: Chrissy Van Meter



## Work Group II



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### **Issue Title: GRAF11- 069, 074, 079, 084 – Improved and Increased Services Needed at Military Treatment Facilities**

**Scope:** Within the Bavarian Medical Command footprint, there is a lack of accessible and specialized military health care service, which affects morale and readiness for Active Duty military and their Families. Our military facilities do not consistently meet Department of Defense guidelines for Access to Care Standards. Out of area and host nation referrals due to the disproportionate provider to patient ratio create a disconnect in continuity of care.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Military members are entitled to receive the majority of their care in their Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs); this can be achieved by increasing the number of available specialties as well as the number of providers.
2. Expand urgent care access beyond normal duty hours.
3. Continue to conduct assessments semi-annually measuring community satisfaction in the MTFs, based on the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle; using this assessment as a tool to increase providers/services.



## Work Group II

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### **Issue Title: GRAF11-097 Language Barrier Pertaining to Consumer Protection**

#### **Scope:**

Language barriers undermine Consumer Protection Services. Army garrisons currently do not provide free translation services of host nation consumer and service documents for Soldiers and their Family members. This causes undue stress, creates financial hardship and prevents soldiers from clearing installations.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Institute free translation services that include mediation services, if needed, at the garrison level in host nation countries; ensuring timely and real time translations of the host nation language into English or layman terms.
2. Expand the capability of Military One Source database to include consumer and service documents.



## Work Group II

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### **Issue Title: GRAF11-084 Transportation to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center**

**Scope:** There is currently no shuttle from USAG Grafenwoehr to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for patients to attend appointments for services not offered in their Medical Treatment Facilities. Ramifications include: missed training time affecting unit readiness, inefficient use of unit funds for medical purposes, and safety concerns. A lack of transportation causes missed appointments and stress on Families and Soldiers.

**Recommendation:** Provide a workday shuttle with pickup points at various garrisons.



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## Work Group III

Spokespersons: Lonnie Colbert & Ebony May



## Work Group III

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### **Issue Title: GRAF11-037/77 Mandate Department of Defense (DoD) Regulation for Command Sponsorship**

**Scope:** The current command sponsorship regulations and requirements are service-specific; therefore do not meet the needs of all OCONUS-bound dependents regarding social services and education of military community operations. AR 55-46, Travel Overseas, which covers command sponsorship, is designed to accommodate the Army's needs and requests. It doesn't work with all Armed Forces regulations and forms, which in turn creates confusion, inadequate placement, and instability within the military community. The end results are dependents being unprepared and impeding mission readiness.

**Recommendation:** Implement DoD-mandated regulation encompassing a checklist that incorporates social services screening and provides education of dependents relocating to respective OCONUS locations. This in turn will standardize the command sponsorship process creating an effective and time efficient program.



## Work Group III

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### **Issue Title: GRAF11-67/102 Military Experience for Military Family Life Consultants (MFLCs)**

**Scope:** MFLCs are limited in their ability to cope with a member of the military community due to a lack of military cultural experience. Not having this first hand knowledge inhibits the MFLC's ability to connect with military community and understand its unique issues.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. Create or increase existing scholarships for military community members to be recruited as MFLCs.
2. Create a marketing campaign directly targeting the military community, aimed at military members becoming official MFLCs.



## Work Group III

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### **Issue Title: GRAF11-080 Logo Changes in Department of the Army**

**Scope:** Each year the Army spends exorbitant amounts of money designing and changing logos. In this time of fiscal crisis & cutbacks, these funds are desperately needed elsewhere to support our Soldiers and their Families. With each design change comes additional expenses of changing all printed/ electronic media to incorporate the new graphic/slogan, etc. Bottom line is that this is an unnecessary and wasteful appropriation of resources.

**Recommendation:** Department of the Army make a policy prohibiting changes to logos for a period of 5 years. Implement a plan to properly resource all products associated with previously depicted logos. By the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> fiscal year all logo marked items be exhausted through means of utilization, recycling, donation or a combination thereof.



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