



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Army Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Respite Care offers Families some valuable rest**

By Rob McIlvaine  
FMWRC Public Affairs

ALEXANDRIA, VA. – For Active Army and Active Guard and Reserve Families who are responsible for regular care of persons with disabilities, the Exceptional Family Members Program Respite Care Program provides a temporary rest period. Care may be provided in the Family's home or other settings such as special needs camps and enrichment programs.

The Army EFMP put respite care in place to give eligible Families, especially now with multiple deployments, the opportunity to receive respite care when it's needed. Families apply for the Respite Care Program at the nearest installation Army Community Service (ACS) EFMP Office.

Eligibility for Respite Care Program is based on EFMP enrollment and the medical or educational condition of the Family member requiring care.

Qualifying Families are eligible to receive up to 40 hours of funded EFMP respite care monthly for each certified Family member and can receive up to \$45 per hour for care.

During fiscal years 2007 and 2008, FMWRC received \$8.2 million in supplemental funds for EFMP respite care. In FY 09, respite care has been included in the base operating funds for ACS and is no longer funded by supplemental funds.

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) published revised guidelines for use of FY 09 EFMP respite care funds on June 11, to further standardize and expedite service delivery Army-wide. These guidelines will become effective August 3, 2009.

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Page 2

Brigadier General Al Aycock, Deputy Commanding General, IMCOM, states that as part of the Army Family Covenant, it is important to ensure that the Army's EFM Respite Care Program is run well and that we get the word out to the Families who need it.

According to Sharon Fields, program manager for FMWRC Respite Care Services, the Department of Army will release a media campaign to advertise and inform Families worldwide about the changes involving respite care.

"Our primary goal is to ensure consistency and continuity of our Respite Care Program, regardless of where our Soldiers and Families are located," Fields said.

The ACS staff will be required to use the Family Services Needs Matrix to determine allowable respite care hours and cost per month. The matrix is updated as the EFM condition changes or annually, whichever comes first.

Stateside garrisons will access a national network of respite care providers through an IMCOM contract with Alignstaffing.

Special needs care is around the clock," Fields said. "When a Family has a special needs child or adult, respite care provides a break for the primary caregiver."