

INFORMATION PAPER

IMWR-FP
12 May 2009

SUBJECT: Family Readiness Group (FRG) Funding

1. PURPOSE: To respond to the ACSIM request for information on FRG funding.

2. FACTS:

a. The FRGs are a commander's responsibility. In accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 600-20, Army Command Policy, the FRG mission is to act as an extension of the unit in providing official accurate command information; providing mutual support between the command and the FRG membership; advocate more efficient use of available community resources; and help Families solve problems at the lowest level. Army policy regarding the FRG mission, operation and responsibilities is specified in AR 608-1, Appendix J, FRG Operations.

b. There are four types of funding that may be used for FRG funding: Appropriated funding (APF), FRG informal funds, supplemental mission funds, and non-appropriated (NAF) funding. Congress authorizes APF to the FRG mission annually. The FRG in turn is budgeted by the unit commander within regulatory guidelines. The FRG mission expenses funded by appropriated funds include day-to-day operations such as mail, equipment, vehicle use, travel, child care, and volunteer expenses. The commander may also authorize their FRG to have one informal fund with a funding cap of \$10,000. The FRG informal funds are acquired through internal fund-raising activities and unsolicited donations to cover FRG social activities. Informal funds may only be used for non-mission activities such as socials, parties and outings, volunteer recognition, and food and refreshments. FRGs may also receive some monies from their garrison FRG supplemental mission activity account. These funds are acquired through unsolicited donations made to the garrison. They may only be used for the same activities as informal funds and for reimbursement of volunteer expenses if APF is not available. The supplemental mission fund cannot be used to fund FRG mission activities. These supplemental mission funds are managed by the garrison ACS and, when available, are distributed by the garrison commander upon request from units to meet FRG quality of life needs. The NAF assists in providing funding for registered FRG volunteer expenses. Examples include annual volunteer recognition awards, plaques, and mementos.

c. The focus of a FRG is mutual support. The FRGs are not established to be fund-raising organizations and as an official Army program they are limited in their fund-raising activities by the Joint Ethics Regulation and AR 608-1, Appendix J to internal fund-raising activities. Fundraising requires commander approval after consultation with the unit's legal advisor. The FRGs are discouraged from internal fund-raising efforts.

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