

## VIRTUAL FAMILY READINESS GROUPS (vFRG)

- **BLUF: Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) are critical to maintaining the strength, morale, and information chain for Soldiers, Families, and Commands. vFRGs provide all of the functionality of a traditional FRG in an ad-hoc and on-line setting to meet the needs of geographically dispersed Families.**
- vFRG links the deployed Soldier, Family, FRG leader, unit and rear detachment commanders, and other Family readiness personnel on their own controlled access web portal to facilitate the exchange of information and provide a sense of community, using technology to automate manual processes and provide enhanced services and communications.
- vFRG leverages technology for providing up-to-date information and connecting Families and commands. The unit commander is responsible for maintaining the vFRG content and user access.
- A new key component of Army OneSource is the eArmy Family Messaging System. The messaging system is a state of the art multi-media tool for commanders to improve communication with Army Soldiers and Family members by broadcasting a message through various communication devices – cellular phones, e-mail, Short Message Service (SMS)/Text Messages within minutes to help fulfill their Family Readiness mission.
- Army has established approximately 2,000 vFRGs.
- Applications are accepted from battalion and higher level commanders at www.armyfrg.org on a daily basis with approval notification within a few days. Upon approval notification, required content is submitted by the commander's assigned POC for site development. A new site can be developed and launched within 1-3 business days.
- Unit administrators may select training via a self-paced computer-based training course or sign up for the weekly webinar conducted by the vFRG Team. Webinars are scheduled, are interactive, and provide step-by-step visualization. A User Guide is available online to all site administrators with screenshots and detailed instructions.
- vFRG can be found at www.armyonesource.org.

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**Q: How can geographically dispersed Families have access to resources and up to date and accurate unit information?**

**A:** Army established the vFRG as a resource for geographically dispersed Families.

**Q: What is a vFRG?**

**A:** vFRG is a web system that provides all of the functionality of a traditional FRG in an ad-hoc and on-line setting to meet the needs of geographically dispersed units and Families across all components of the Army.

**Q: What is the purpose of the vFRGs?**

**A:** Primary purpose of the vFRGs is to link the deployed Soldier, Family, FRG leader, unit commander, rear detachment commander, and other readiness personnel.

**Q: How does a unit get a vFRG site?**

**A:** Battalion commanders or higher can request a vFRG site by completing the online application under "Request a Site" located on the left navigation bar at the top of the vFRG home page ([www.ArmyFRG.com](http://www.ArmyFRG.com)).

**Q: How long does it take to get a site once the unit applies for it?**

**A:** Applications received are approved and receive notification including instructions via email within 1-3 days. Upon notification, content is collected and submitted by the commander's assigned POC for site development. A site can be developed and launched within a 1-3 business days if all of the required information is submitted.

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**Q: What responsibilities do Commanders have in the establishment of the vFRG?**

**A:** Commanders must authorize a vFRG site to be established for their commands. They identify a system site administrator to upload the required documents and links. Required documents include 2 of the following: Articles, Download Center materials and/or resources, Photographs, FAQs, and Hyperlinks. Commanders are responsible for approving all content added to their unit's vFRG.

**Q: How can Family members subscribe or get access to their unit vFRG site?**

**A:** Family members need to register for this site, which involves knowing what command the Soldier belongs to, its permanent location, and the last four of his social security number to be able to apply for access to his command site. The Soldier must ensure he/she subscribes to their unit FRG. The system will not ask the Soldier to establish a new account. Instead, the Soldier must have entered the Family Member into the invitation list. If the Soldier already has an Army FRG account, simply log on to Army FRG.

**Q: Is the vFRG system secure?**

**A:** Yes. The vFRG has been through extensive security and threat vulnerability testing to protect the users and information. FMWRC Family Programs Directorate is awaiting an Authority to Operate (ATO) since recently having completed the Department of Defense Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP).