

INFORMATION PAPER

IMWR-FP
20 March 2008

SUBJECT: Family Readiness Groups (FRG)

1. PURPOSE: To provide information on Family Readiness Groups (FRG)

2. Background:

a. Family readiness is defined as the mutual reinforcement provided to Soldiers, civilian employees, retirees (regardless of marital status), and their family members—both immediate and extended. AR 600-20, para 5-10b7 requires unit commanders at all levels to maintain, as appropriate to the needs of their units, a unit Family Readiness Group (FRG) to encourage self-sufficiency among its members by providing information, referral assistance and mutual support.

b. An FRG is a command-sponsored organization formed in accordance with AR 600-20. All Soldiers, civilian employees, Family members (immediate and extended) and volunteers belonging to a unit are members of the FRG.

c. Generally, unit FRGs are established at the company or troop level; however, the commander may establish the FRG at the battalion or brigade level. Each FRG must have an appointed volunteer leader, treasurer and alternate treasurer as a minimum. A battalion or brigade steering committee, usually comprised of the commander/rear detachment commander, command sergeant major, chaplain, FRG senior advisor and unit FRG leaders, has command oversight of the FRG. Steering committee membership may vary, depending upon the commander's policy.

d. FRGs have three funding sources:

(1) Appropriated Funds. The FRG's mission essential activities are supported using the unit's appropriated funds, excluding BA11/OPTempo. FRG mission essential activities include government office space and equipment, paper and printing, Army and installation post offices and official mail, use of government vehicles, childcare for command-sponsored training, and reimbursable expenses of statutory volunteers. FRG mission essential activities may not be supported with NAFs or augmented with private money. Also, FRG appropriated fund resources may not be used to support private organization activities, internal fundraisers or commercial ventures. Commanders are required to approve a Standard Operating Procedure that describes the support available for FRG mission activities and the procedures for FRG leaders and volunteers to request support.

(2) Informal Funds. Commanders may authorize their FRGs to maintain one informal fund to support FRG social events and other non-mission essential activities. Informal funds are private funds from unsolicited donations (tangible goods or dollars valued at \$1,000 or less) or generated by FRG members through fund raising that are

CFSC-FP

SUBJECT: Mobilization and Deployment Support to Army Families

used to benefit the FRG membership as a whole. The expenditure of informal funds must be consistent with Army Values. The FRG informal fund shall not exceed an annual gross receipt (income) cap of \$10,000 per calendar year from all sources, including fundraising, gifts and donations.

(3) FRG Supplemental Mission Activity. The garrison commander may accept unsolicited gifts and donations made to the Army intended for FRG support, after consultation with the command's ethical advisor. The donations are deposited into the FRG Supplemental Mission Activity which is maintained by the installation Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Directorate. The donations are apportioned to the FRGs supported by the installation. FRGs access the funds by submitting a purchase order approved by the battalion commander to the MWR Directorate. The FRG Supplemental Mission Activity LOI is included on the Operation READY Smart Book.

e. The procedures for accepting donations or gifts for the Reserve Component may differ, depending upon location and activation status. Commanders are encouraged to seek guidance from their ethics counselors.

f. FRGs may not enter into external fundraising or commercial sponsorship agreements. Commercial sponsorship is an agreed upon arrangement under which a business provides assistance, funding, goods, equipment or services in exchange for public recognition or other promotional opportunities on the installation.

g. Army policies on FRG operations are included in AR 608-1, Appendix J.

Holly Gifford /703-681-3797

Approved By: Delores F. Johnson, Director, Family Programs