

7 TOOLS

TO REINFORCE MILITARY FAMILY READINESS



REAL WARRIORS ★ REAL BATTLES
REAL STRENGTH

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Were it not for the strength of our military families and their willingness to sacrifice, we couldn't protect our nation and way of life like we do... No nation recognizes the importance of families more than the United States.

— Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford,
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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The Real Warriors Campaign understands the unique challenges military families face.

Use the resources in this brochure to manage common military stressors like deployments or military duties away from home, frequent relocations and psychological health concerns.

1 LEARN ABOUT BUILDING FAMILY READINESS

realwarriors.net/family-relationship

The Real Warriors Campaign website features articles and materials to help military families stay strong throughout all phases of military life. Know what to expect during reunions and goodbyes, how to identify adjustment challenges and when to ask for help and support.

“The Real Warriors Campaign, for me, has been a great resource that I pass along to other military spouses, friends, and anyone I know that is in contact with a service member. I let them know about the website and other resources. It has been a great way for us to tell our story and hear about the stories of other great warriors. I always reinforce that you are not alone.”

— Mrs. Sheri Hall, RWC volunteer and Army wife

2 CONTACT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

866-966-1020

Reaching out for help is a sign of strength. Military families, friends, supporters and service members themselves can always contact trained health resource consultants at the Psychological Health Resource Center by phone or online through Real Warriors Campaign Live Chat at realwarriors.net/livechat.

Consultants are available 24/7, in English or Spanish, to provide confidential guidance, answer questions and help find resources for service members and military families.



3 HEAR FROM REAL WARRIORS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

realwarriors.net/personal-stories

Watch videos of service members and their families who share their experiences reintegrating with loved ones after deployment. Remember to check realwarriors.net/personal-stories frequently for new videos of warriors who have sought and received care, and to hear from those who have supported them.



REACHING OUT IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH

Military families are not alone. For additional support:

Call the Military Health System (MHS) Nurse Advice Line at **800-874-2273** to be connected with a registered nurse 24/7

Locate your local military hospital or clinic at realwarriors.net/local-military-clinics

Speak with a military chaplain near you through realwarriors.net/chaplain

4 GET HELP FROM THE MILITARY CRISIS LINE 800-273-8255 and press 1

The Military Crisis Line connects service members and military families in crisis with confidential support 24/7. Those in need can access the Military Crisis Line at **800-273-8255** and press **1**, chat online by visiting militarycrisisline.net or send a text message to 838255 for immediate help.

Family members and loved ones are often the first to realize a service member may be in crisis and needs support. Responders are specially trained to help families and friends make sure their loved ones get connected to care. For more information, visit militarycrisisline.net

5 HELP YOUR CHILDREN NAVIGATE MILITARY LIFE militarykidsconnect.dcoe.mil

The stresses of military life, like moves and military separations, can be especially hard on kids. Preparing them for daily challenges and big transitions can help your entire family stay strong.

For activities, resources and information on helping military kids cope, visit Military Kids Connect at militarykidsconnect.dcoe.mil. There you will find age-specific resources for young children ages 6-8, tweens ages 9-12 and teens ages 13-17.

6 GET YOUR WARRIOR SUPPORT DURING TRANSITIONS pdhealth.mil/resources/intransition

Are you or your warrior looking at an upcoming change in status, new orders, relocation or a return to civilian life? If the answer is yes, and your service member is currently receiving psychological health care, transferring to a new provider can be easier than you think.

The Defense Department's inTransition program pairs service members with a personal coach to provide one-on-one support and help in finding a new provider. The program can also link your family to local support groups.

For inTransition coaching and tools:

800-424-7877 (toll-free inside the U.S.)
800-424-4685 (DSN, toll-free outside the U.S.)
pdhealth.mil/resources/intransition

7 BECOME A CAMPAIGN ADVOCATE realwarriors.net/advocate

Join the Real Warriors Campaign in our work to reduce stigma and spread the message that reaching out is a sign of strength. Visit realwarriors.net/advocate to learn how to become a campaign advocate.

Stay up to date on the latest by signing up for the monthly Real Warriors Campaign email update at realwarriors.net

Engage with the Real Warriors Campaign community on social media:

 twitter.com/realwarriors
 facebook.com/realwarriors

To order additional resources visit orders.gpo.gov/realwarriors

