# STUDY SPONSOR

Office of Military Community and Family Policy U.S. Department of Defense





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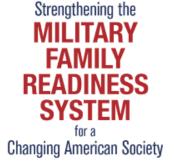
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#### STATEMENT OF TASK

- What can be learned from the positive experiences military families have and the protection conferred on them through supports provided by the DoD and service branches?
- How do the challenges presented by military life, such as frequent moves, exposure to trauma, and economic and other stresses for parents, influence children's socialemotional, physical, biochemical, and psychological development?
- What are the mechanisms by which resilience can be fostered in military children and families?
- What is needed to strengthen the support system for military families?



#### STUDY METHODOLOGY

- Six in-person closed session meetings to deliberate findings, conclusions, and recommendations
- Virtual meetings and conference calls
- One public information-gathering session
- Comprehensive review of the scientific literature
- Memos from 14 individual experts and 8 organizations
- Commissioned papers on digital interventions, big data analytics, community engagement programs, implementation science, and success factors for effective systems of support for military families



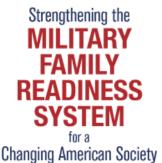
# SUPPORTING THE WELL-BEING OF MILITARY FAMILIES IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURING THE READINESS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.



#### WHAT IS THE 'MILITARY FAMILY READINESS SYSTEM'?

- A portfolio of programs and services aimed at promoting the quality of life of Service members and their families
- Serves both active duty and reserve component Service members and families
- Majority of services & activities delivered by individual military Services
- Includes community partners





#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- 1. DoD recognizes the centrality of families to the performance of service members and has built a Military Family Readiness System to actively support families. There is no U.S. civilian equivalent.
- 2. Continuous conflict over the past two decades and the associated increases in operational tempo, prolonged duration, and regular reliance on the reserve component, with an all-volunteer force, have increased the need for and demands on the Military Family Readiness System.





#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- 3. DoD and the Service branches do not employ a coordinated and comprehensive approach to matching the unique needs of individual families to available programs.
- 3. DoD programs for military families should be evidence-based, or evidence-informed, and include the infrastructure to continuously assess program quality, relevance, and population impact so programs may be adapted or retired when necessary.
- 4. DoD must be ready to rapidly develop and deliver interdisciplinary family-centered services for emerging threats to military family well-being within a Military Family Readiness System that is flexible, adaptive, and responsive to the needs of families as they exist.

