

Increased benefits announced

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FMWRC Public Affairs

In the spirit of the Army Family Covenant, the U.S. Army unveiled their plan for Survivor Outreach Services Oct. 6 at the Association of the United States Army Family Forum I, "Army Family Covenant, A Year in Review."

Survivor Outreach Services is a joint effort between the Installation Management Command, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command and the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operation Center.

"We are dedicated to supporting Survivors, and letting them know that the Army will not forget them," said Lt. Col. Betsy Graham, chief, Long Term Family Case Management Branch. "They will continue to be part of the Army Family for as long as they desire."

Following the Chief of Staff of the Army's opening remarks on the Army Family Covenant, a formal joint briefing on SOS was presented by Col. Carl Johnson, chief, Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center, and Delores Johnson, Family Programs director at the Family and MWR Command.

"This Army program was largely developed based upon feedback we received from our Survivors," said Johnson. "It is designed to ensure we take a more proactive approach to meeting the needs of Survivors, while also helping others prepare in advance for the unexpected."

By expanding and improving services to Families of the fallen, SOS will ensure a holistic and multi-agency approach by providing services at the installation level and across all components to reach Reserve Component and geographically dispersed Families.

Following the formal an-

ouncement, a working session will convene in Crystal City, bringing together eight surviving parents, 20 surviving spouses, and six non-governmental organizations, including the National Military Family Association, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Helping Unite Gold Star Survivors, God Star Wives, Soldier Angels, and Veteranscorp, Inc.

"Our objective for that meeting," said Vickie LaFollette, FMWRC Chief of Army Family Enrichment, "is to listen to the Survivors' concerns after presenting the gaps in service we've identified and our recommended solutions. Following the meeting, we will present what we've learned to Army leadership."

Survivor Outreach Services will provide additional staff at 33 casualty assistance centers Army-wide, training

for casualty assistance officers, and specialized resources to help casualty assistance officers support Families of deceased Soldiers. Benefit specialists knowledgeable of all entitlements and special benefits available to survivors will be added to the Casualty Assistance Center staff. In addition, the Army will hire certified financial counselors to help Families address funeral and estate planning issues.

To ensure survivors receive ongoing support, SOS support coordinators will be available in the Army Community Service centers. These coordinators will provide long-term support throughout the grief process, coordinate support groups, provide information and referral services, coordinate child care as needed, and provide other services as required.

For more information, visit Army OneSource at www.myarmylifetoo.com.

Look for new human resources training on web

The Army Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System Training Blackboard Learning Management System Open for Self Enrollment/Required Training Office is pleased to announce the Army DIMHRS web-based Blackboard Learning Management System is now open for Train-the-Trainers (T3s) self-enrollment.

Located at <http://ssi.learn.army.mil>, the Blackboard will house all DIMHRS training courses and materials used to teach the entire Army community how to successfully navigate through DIMHRS. All Soldiers will be able to complete the distance learning through the Internet or by downloading them to a computer.

Dates for Train-the-Trainer (T3/Change Agent) Training is currently under review and new dates will be distributed soon. The training now includes 48 hours of online learning and 80 hours of classroom instruction (128 hours). Once enrolled on the Blackboard, T3s can begin the required online learning to obtain the T3 certification at any time. T3s must self-enroll, complete the course and bring the certificate to T3 training on their scheduled training date to be determined. T3 certification must be completed prior to reporting for classroom training.

In addition to the T3s, the Army will train four other audiences; DIMHRS Administrators (DAs), Human Resources (HR) Specialists, Managers, and Self-Service Members. Self-enrollment is open to all users.

DIMHRS Administrators training took place from Aug. 11 Aug. to Sept. 5 at: Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Camp Robinson, Ark.; U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Alex-

andria, Va.; Europe, Korea, and Hawaii and included 8 hours of distributed learning and one week of classroom training.

Human Resources Specialist training will be delivered online through the Blackboard and is available now. The training is developed as eight targeted modules (up to 128 hours). Training Support Packages (provided to T3 Trainers after completion of their training) will also be available for commanders who wish to deliver training in a classroom setting. Completion of the Basic Foundation Course must be completed by Feb. 28, 2009.

Manager training will be delivered online through the Blackboard and is available now. The training includes 48 hours of select materials that requires manager, supervisor, or commander approval.

The **Self-Service** Course will be delivered online through Army Knowledge Online, Business Transformation Agency, Human Resource Command, and Soldier Support Institute Websites. The DIMHRS' help menu has embedded "just-in-time" functionality-tutorials available as needed for self-service applications.

All members of the Army community, including Soldiers, civilians and contractors must complete their respective course(s) by Feb. 28, 2009. Users who are not designated as a DIMHRS Administrator or Train-the-Trainer can complete the **Basic Foundation Course** or **Self-Service Course** on the DIMHRS Web site.

Visit www.armydimhrs.army.mil for more information about DIMHRS training.

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